



Nov | Dec 2022

A
VILLAGE
WITH
VISION

Celebrating Vision 2022 and Beyond



WINTER WONDERLAND

Friday,
December 2, 2022
6:00-8:00pm

- ❄ Tree lighting
- ❄ Skating rink
- ❄ Christmas movie
- ❄ Trolley Rides
- ❄ Cookies and
hot chocolate

southholland.org

FROM YOUR MAYOR



Dear South Holland Residents and Friends,

As we approach the end of this year and of our strategic plan, Vision 2022, it's amazing to me how time flies! It's been a great run. There is a specific order to every strategic plan. It's the formula that God used in creation. First there is the design, then the creation, then the provision, then the ability to sustain that plan. This is the formula that we used to implement and execute Vision 2022. In this issue, you'll see the evidence of how this formula has been successful in the life of our South Holland community.

In this holiday season, it's important to give thanks for what's been accomplished. It's clearly evident that God has had His hand in this process from beginning to end.

This Christmas, as we give thanks, we so look forward to the hope, joy, peace and love that comes with the birth of Christ. It's a marvelous season of expectation and a wonderful catalyst for us to look forward to some wonderful things in 2023 and beyond.

As we begin 2023, we begin our next strategic plan, titled "Coming Together 2030." It consists of three main tenets:

Serving: Our purpose/mission is to serve.

Connecting: In order to serve properly, you need to connect with others.

Enhancing: By connecting, we can enhance who we are and what we're doing.

These three tenets provide the basis for how we—as a community of residents, churches, schools, businesses, and service organizations—will provide the foundation for Coming Together 2030.

In this issue, we have the opportunity to read about the many truly remarkable accomplishments made as a result of Vision 2022, and a further detailed explanation of Coming Together 2030.

This is truly the beginning of a new era. We are coming out of a period of time when we were alone in our living rooms, and now we are coming together. As we begin a new year, it's an exciting opportunity for our Village of South Holland to come together and unite. WE are a village that will purposely continue to engage each other in a communal spirit as we approach 2023 and beyond.

A handwritten signature in black ink, which appears to read "Don A. De Graff".

Don A. De Graff
Mayor



4th Annual WINTER SPORTS SHOWCASE

Sunday, December 4 • 2:00-6:00pm

Learn skills in each of the following sports:

BASEBALL • BASKETBALL
FOOTBALL • SOCCER

*** FREE * CHEER SESSION FROM 12:30 - 1:30 PM**

For boys and girls ages 3-10.

Limited spots are available for both the cheer session and the showcase.

Pre-registration is required. Register at southholland.org or the Community Center.

REGISTRATION FEE:

\$20 BY NOVEMBER 28, \$25 AFTER NOVEMBER 28



South Holland Community Center
501 E 170th Street • South Holland, IL 60473
www.southholland.org • 708 331-2940



VISION 2022

A Look Back at the Village of South Holland's 10-Year Strategic Plan

In 2012, the Village announced a strategic plan that would enhance the future vibrancy of South Holland. The core tenets of Vision 2022 included:

- **Responsive and Progressive Leadership**
 - A Connected Community
 - Clean, Bright and Beautiful
 - Signature Spaces and Places

With these specific tenets as a guidepost, the Village staff worked diligently and efficiently to accomplish the many goals outlined in the plan.

**In all, more than 200 goals and initiatives
were completed and accomplished
throughout the course of Vision 2022!**

**The following pages highlight just a snapshot of the work
that was accomplished over the past ten years.**

RESPONSIVE AND PROGRESSIVE LEADERSHIP

Build a stable community through our relentless pursuit for greatness as we strengthen municipal services, partnerships, and policies; support effective programs; and build a diverse workforce

ADMINISTRATION

A BALANCED BUDGET

Throughout all of Vision 2022, the Village has maintained a healthy, balanced budget, as it has for more than 50 years. Under the direction of the Village administrators, our fiscal readiness and stability set us apart and ensures economic growth continues as a priority for our community. When we have a balanced budget, we are able to strategically provide for a higher quality of life.

RESIDENTIAL RENTAL ORDINANCE

Upon completing a study that revealed that rentals account for a noticeable impact on municipal resources (most notably Police, Fire and Code Enforcement), the Village passed an ordinance establishing a maximum number of residential rental licenses at 15 percent of the total homes in the community, or 10 percent of the total homes in any U.S. Census Block, whichever is less. Since establishing this ordinance in 2020, residential rentals have already decreased by 22 percent.

CUSTOMER SERVICE CENTER

The Customer Service Center, located on the Village Hall campus, was designed to be a one-stop shop for all services such as permits, water payments, licensing, etc. These tasks were formerly serviced in several different locations. This move saves residents time by offering one convenient place with a great staff ready to serve them.

NEW PUBLIC WORKS FACILITY

The Village is building a brand-new facility for the Public Works department, at 155 W 162nd St. The existing Public Works facility, which was built when our population was much lower, can no longer accommodate the modern fleet and services. The new facility will have more space for work and storage, and also includes a salt dome for environmentally responsible road salt storage. The current facility will be turned into a full-service vehicle maintenance facility for all Village equipment.



Customer Service Center



New Public Works Facility

COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT

PAPERLESS TECHNOLOGY

The Community Development department adopted a new software program that integrates all areas of the department: permitting, licensing, rentals and code enforcement. This allows the team to have a more integrated view of what is going on with any given property throughout town and allows for more seamless communication. With the use of new tablets, inspectors can access the database from anywhere around town and can enter results without needing any paperwork.

NEIGHBORHOOD REVITALIZATION PROJECT

We have obtained \$300,000 of grant money to fund the Neighborhood Revitalization Program, which allows the Village to obtain abandoned homes throughout town, turning them over to developers for rehabilitation, and then putting them back on the market.

SOUTH HOLLAND BUSINESS ASSOCIATION

In 2022, the Village and the South Holland Business Association (SHBA) launched a new partnership that brings SHBA under the umbrella of the Village, wherein the Village will provide the staffing and funding to help take SHBA to an exciting new level. This partnership has already yielded increased SHBA memberships and has reinvigorated the South Holland business community.

FIRE DEPARTMENT

LIFE-SAVING EQUIPMENT

The South Holland Fire Department is now using two pieces of equipment that have greatly improved efficiency and patient outcomes: mechanical stretchers, which minimize back injuries to firefighters/paramedics; and the AutoPulse Resuscitation System, a CPR device that automatically pumps the chest of victims of sudden cardiac arrest. This device is now credited with saving 18 lives!

EDUCATION AND OUTREACH

The Fire Department launched the Fire Cadet Program to provide teens an opportunity to learn about a career in fire safety. Likewise, the Citizens Fire Academy educates residents in CPR, first aid instruction, basic fire science principles, and the use of specialized equipment and fire apparatus. The Annual Open House provides an opportunity for kids and adults to have lunch with the firefighters, explore the fire engines and vehicles, witness a live extrication and fire burn, and more.



POLICE DEPARTMENT CRIME-FIGHTING TECHNOLOGY

The South Holland Police Department has adopted the use of advanced technology in order to keep South Holland safe. The Tip411 program allows residents to send anonymous crime tips to the Police Department via text (Text SHPD and the tip to 847411). The SHPD was also one of the first communities in the region to install license plate readers to better locate those who have recently committed or are wanted for criminal activity. The readers send instant alerts to officers so they can locate individuals who are a threat to community safety.

COMMUNITY OUTREACH

Over the past few years, the Police Department has made it a priority to connect with the community, through events like National Day Out, where families come to the Police Department for a cookout, games, music and more. We also have Bingo events for our senior residents twice a year: at the holidays and in the summertime. The SHPD also holds the Citizens Police Academy, a 12-week program that gives participants an understanding of the challenges our officers face every day, and the steps our officers take to ensure the safety of our community.

NEW POLICE DEPARTMENT FACILITY

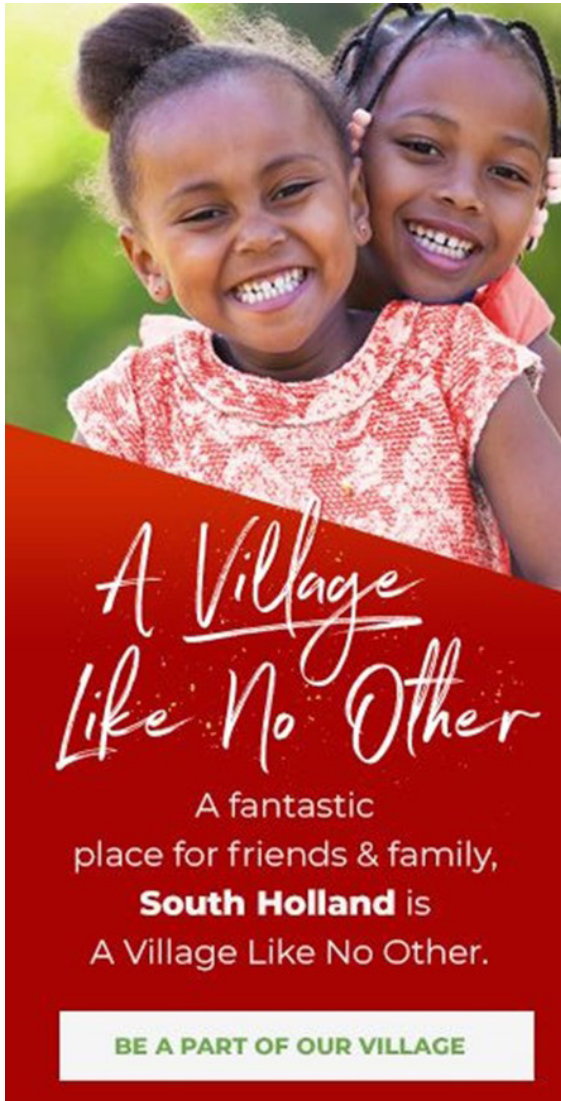
In 2016, the SHPD moved into a larger, more centralized building on South Park Avenue. The new facility boasts over 33,000 square feet, with private meeting rooms, a bright, modern waiting area, and advanced video technology to ensure the safety of detainees, visitors and officers.



New Police Department Facility

A CONNECTED COMMUNITY

Well-informed and fully engaged citizens who are part of a network of cross-cultural relationships through the creation of public communications and expansion of social and cultural opportunities



Branding Campaign



South Holland Master Chorale

COMMUNICATIONS & MARKETING BRANDING CAMPAIGN

In 2020, we launched the Village Like No Other campaign, which was developed for the purpose of attracting young families to South Holland. This was a multi-faceted campaign, consisting of videos, online ads, and billboards. The Village Like No Other tagline appropriately identifies South Holland as a model and distinctive community in the south suburbs.

COMMUNITY PRIDE APPAREL

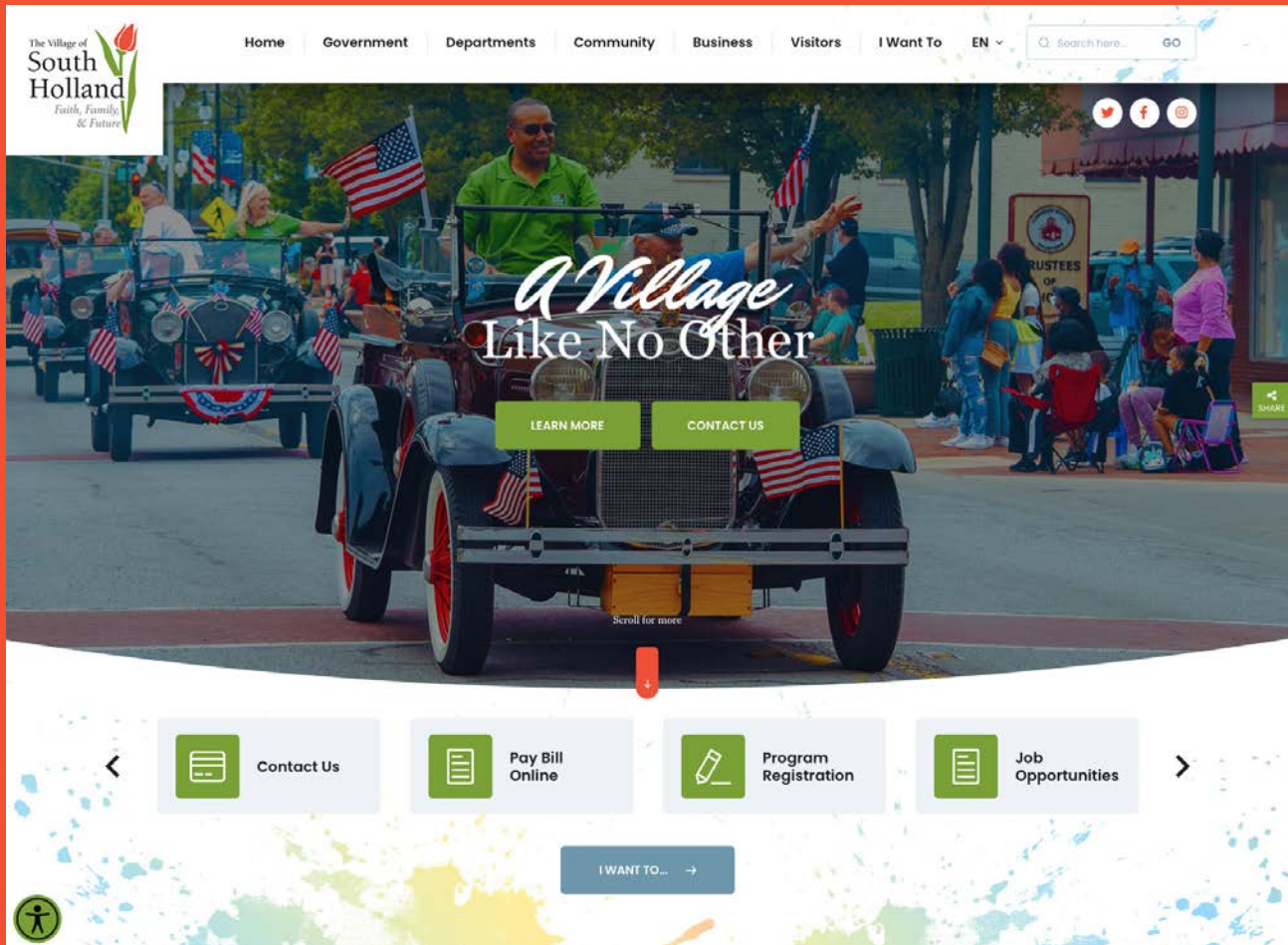
The Village now has an apparel line featuring clothing with fun, trendy designs so South Holland residents and friends can show their love for South Holland with a t-shirt, hoodie or hat. The apparel is available for purchase at southholland.org.

SOUTH HOLLAND MASTER CHORALE

As a way to foster and promote the arts, we partnered with what was once the South Suburban Chorale to form the South Holland Master Chorale. The Chorale has often been recognized as one of the premier singing ensembles in the region. They perform from October through May in various concerts throughout South Holland and neighboring communities.



Community Pride Apparel



New Village Website

DIGITAL MEDIA

Throughout the entirety of Vision 2022, we have implemented and improved upon online platforms in order to keep residents informed. In addition to increased use of social media, we recently redesigned the Village website, southholland.org, which is attractive, user-friendly, and accessible to the sight- and hearing-impaired. We also send out a weekly email newsletter to inform our subscribers about upcoming events and initiatives.

COMMUNITY EVENTS

In an effort to connect the community, we have revamped many of our longstanding events and also added new ones. The Fun Run, formerly Heritage Haul, is a 5K race where costumes are encouraged and "fun stations" line the course. We've also added the Cruise Night, where antique and custom cars line South Park Avenue and spectators can stroll the street while enjoying food and live music.

SOUTH HOLLAND LIVING

In 2019, we rebranded our bimonthly publication to become South Holland Living, which uses high-quality photography and compelling writing to tell the stories of South Holland residents and business owners while also sharing news and information from Village Hall.

RECREATIONAL SERVICES

WINTER SPORTS SHOWCASE

The Winter Sports Showcase was started in 2019 as a means of introducing South Holland's youth to the value of team sports. At this one-day event, kids ages 3-10 are instructed on the fundamentals of baseball, softball, football, basketball, cheerleading and soccer.

PITCH HIT & RUN

The Village now hosts Major League Baseball's Pitch Hit & Run competition, allowing kids from all over the region to showcase their baseball and softball skills. In the two years that we've hosted the event, nearly 200 kids have participated. In the 2022 competition, one South Holland competitor, Charleigh Widelski, advanced to the national finals at the MLB World Series.



Pitch, Hit & Run

CLEAN BRIGHT BEAUTIFUL

Ensure our community is clean, bright and beautiful through outstanding public service and community engagement



Public Art

ADMINISTRATION

PUBLIC ART

As a means of promoting the arts and beautifying our village, we've installed bronze statues in several locations throughout the village. The life-size statues feature mostly children and depict themes of family, education, and diversity. They are located at some of South Holland's most notable spaces like the Community Center, Library, and Paarlberg Park.



Enhanced Signage

ENHANCED SIGNAGE

Throughout Vision 2022, we have added new signage that identifies South Holland or a particular area of town. On the corner of Route 6 and South Park Avenue, we installed a beautiful feature corner that identifies Town Center, our downtown area. We also added signs along the light poles of Freedom Circle (Cottage Grove and 166th Ave) that honors our fallen military. Finally, we updated the “gateway” signs at all entrance points into the village, to a modern, classic look that tells people they have entered our great community.

PUBLIC WORKS

LED STREET LIGHT CONVERSION

Thanks to a grant from ComEd, the Village has officially replaced 821 streetlights with LED heads, bringing South Holland to a 100% LED streetlight conversion. This means our streets will be consistently well-lit, as the brightness and color of LED street-lighting do not degrade over time. Also, because of the high efficiency and long lifespan of LED lights, the Village will see a significant cost savings as a result of this project.

SEASONAL CLEAN TEAM

We look for energetic, hard-working individuals to work in Public Works in the spring and summer to help pick up branches, clean up trash in the streets and parkways, cut grass, and many more tasks that help keep South Holland clean, bright and beautiful.





NEW AND ILLUMINATED STREET SIGNS

We updated a majority of the village's street signs to include the Village logo. This simple addition shows motorists where they are and also instills pride in the community. In addition, illuminated street signs were added along Route 6 from Vincennes Road to Woodlawn East Avenue. Illuminated street signs increase visibility and make driving safer and less stressful for locals as well as visitors.



WOODLAWN AVENUE BRIDGE PROJECT

The Woodlawn West Avenue Bridge over the Little Calumet River, originally constructed in 1957, had deteriorated over time and was approaching its useful life. So, with the help of federal funding, the Village built a brand-new bridge, complete as of June 2020. This new bridge is a significant and vital improvement to South Holland's infrastructure.

SIGNATURE SPACES AND PLACES

Develop special places in the community that will provide local destination points for our residents, attract visitors, and give people a sense of pride in their hometown

ADMINISTRATION

CENTRAL BARK DOG PARK

After many requests from residents, we built the Central Bark Dog Park in 2022. Located next door to the Community Center, this new dog park is situated on a beautifully wooded one-acre, fenced-in lot and includes many amenities for dogs and dog owners alike.



Central Bark Dog Park



Heritage House

HERITAGE HOUSE

The American Legion/VFW Hall, located at Van'O Park, was completely renovated into a beautiful facility that South Holland residents could rent out for more intimate functions of 50-60 people. The newly named Heritage House features a bright and spacious banquet room as well as a kitchen stocked with brand new appliances, cabinets and countertops.

SOHO SWEETS

In 2021, the Village converted a historic home on South Park Avenue into a café that serves breakfast, lunch, coffee and ice cream. The attractive space has become an optimal destination for both South Holland residents and visitors, and is expected to prompt further economic development in the Town Center district.



SoHo Sweets

COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT

NATIONAL RETAILERS COME TO SOUTH HOLLAND

Vision 2022 brought an emphasis on economic development and as a result, several national retail fast-casual restaurants claimed South Holland as home—most notably Panera, Chipotle, and Starbucks, all located along the Route 6 corridor. This development not only provides more dining options for those who live and work in South Holland, but also attract similar companies to do business here.

HOTEL CORRIDOR REDEVELOPMENT

The three-year enhancement of all of our Halsted Street hotels has upgraded that corridor with national brands that reflect their corporate brand standards and those of the Village. This greatly increases the opportunity to attract business and family travelers alike, bringing additional revenue potential to the village.



Panera Ribbon Cutting



Starbucks Grand Opening



Hotel Corridor Redevelopment

PUBLIC WORKS

VETERANS PARK NORTH ENTRANCE

The north entrance of Veterans Memorial Park has been revamped to enhance the beauty surrounding the army tank and war memorial. Improvements include a large backlit sign, wider walkway, beautiful landscaping, additional benches and swings, and statues commemorating our fallen heroes. This is now an ideal space to sit and reflect on the sacrifices our armed forces have made for our country.

VETERANS PARK OBSERVATION DECK

Through a matching grant from ComEd Openlands Green Region Initiative, this project established a wildlife area and observation deck, complete with maintenance, free decking, educational signage, and migratory birdhouse. This allows the public to view migratory wildlife, raises ecology awareness, and enhances the local ecology system.

NEW PLAYGROUND EQUIPMENT

Old and out-of-date swings at several parks have been replaced with new state-of-the-art equipment, in order to be in compliance with national playground safety standards. Since 2013, new playground structures have replaced non-compliant units at 20 parks throughout the village.

RECREATIONAL SERVICES

YOUTH SPORTS CLUBHOUSE

The Village built the Youth Sports Clubhouse, an attractive new space for our youth sports programs. Here, the South Holland Little League and Jets Football/Cheer Organization can store their equipment, keep their uniforms, view game films and hold meetings.

ENHANCED RECREATIONAL PROGRAMMING

The Recreational Services department has continuously added new recreational programs at the South Holland Community Center to best serve the needs of its members and the community. The goal has been to provide a balance of programming for seniors, kids and active adults. Some of the programs developed include suspension training, Tai Chi, yoga, core and kickboxing, and even media training.

COMMUNITY CENTER REMODEL

Over the past few years, the South Holland Community Center underwent a major face-lift. Renovations included a brand-new front desk that was moved to the central part of the lobby, a glass-walled conference room, completely renovated locker rooms, new signage, and aesthetic improvements to the banquet rooms. 🔥



Veterans Park Observation Deck



Youth Sports Clubhouse

**View the
complete list of
the 200 projects
completed through
Vision 2022 at
southholland.org!**

What's Next?

NEW STRATEGIC PLAN FORGES COMMUNITY AND RELATIONSHIPS

As Vision 2022 was nearing its close, Mayor Don De Graff, the Village Board, and Administration began talking about what the next strategic plan for South Holland could look like. Under Mayor De Graff's vision, this next plan will have a primary focus on relationship building. After nearly two years of isolation during the pandemic, it became clear that our new vision should bring people together again, and for the Village to take the lead in facilitating that.

Thus, Coming Together 2030 was born.

The purpose of the Coming Together plan is to unite, support and empower the five key groups that make up the community of South Holland. By coming together, we will strengthen our village, break down barriers, and enhance the life and vitality of South Holland.

The five key groups mentioned above are:

- Residents
- Churches
- Schools
- Businesses
- Service Organizations

Over the coming decade, the Village Board, Administration and staff will work closely alongside those groups to strengthen them, form valuable partnerships, and provide resources accordingly. Initiatives include efforts such as connecting churches with service opportunities to minister those in need, working with the schools to develop internship and apprenticeship programs throughout the village, reigniting our neighborhood groups and block parties, and connecting residents with the many businesses throughout our community.

There are three major themes of the new plan:

- Serving
- Connecting
- Enhancing

The powerful combination of these themes leads to a community that gives back, has strong relationships with one another, and embraces progress and development. This ties in closely with South Holland's long-standing motto of Faith, Family, Future.

Much more will be shared about Coming Together 2030 in the coming months. We look forward to embarking on this new adventure alongside our South Holland residents and friends! 🔥

Coming
Together
2030

"Coming together is a beginning, staying together is progress, and working together is success."

- HENRY FORD

VILLAGE NEWS

WHAT'S HAPPENING AROUND SOUTH HOLLAND



PUBLIC WORKS FACILITY GROUNDBREAKING

In October, the Village broke ground on a new facility for the South Holland Public Works Department! The existing Public Works facility, which was built when our population was much lower, can no longer accommodate the modern fleet and services. The new facility will have more space for work and storage, and also includes a salt dome for environmentally responsible road salt storage. The new facility will be located at 155 W 162nd St.



YARD WASTE PICKUP

The South Holland Public Works department would like to remind residents that Republic Services will stop picking up yard waste from their totes on November 30 through the winter months. Pickup will resume April 1. From December through March, the yard waste totes can be used for regular garbage.



SNOW ORDINANCE

Please be aware of the Village's snow ordinance, which states that vehicles shall not be parked on any street if snow exceeds two inches or more. This helps us plow the streets effectively and efficiently. When shoveling snow in a driveway, we recommend depositing the snow to the right side (when facing the street) to minimize plows from blocking you in.

OUT AND ABOUT

FACES FROM EVENTS AROUND THE VILLAGE

FUN RUN 5K

More than 250 participants ran or walked the streets of South Holland for the Fun Run 5K. Participants took to the streets in costumes, accessories and bright clothing and were greeted with “fun stations” like the Thornwood High School band, jugglers, a unicyclist, and a DJ. Nearly \$2,500 was raised for three local youth organizations—South Holland Jets, South Holland Little League, and ROC ED.



OUT AND ABOUT

FACES FROM EVENTS AROUND THE VILLAGE

BREAST CANCER WALK/DRIVE

This year marked the fifth year of the annual Breast Cancer Walk/Drive “Men Get it Too” event. Close to 450 participants drove and walked South Park Avenue from 170th Street to Veterans Memorial Park with family and loved ones to continue to raise awareness to the disease of breast cancer. The day concluded with a ceremony to recognize our survivors and a balloon release at Veterans Park. Proceeds from this year’s event will benefit cancer research at the University of Chicago Medical Centers.



OUT AND ABOUT

FACES FROM EVENTS AROUND THE VILLAGE

ARTISTS' GALLERY

South Holland artists displayed their work at the Artists' Gallery in October. Held at the Community Center, the Gallery featured the artwork of 14 artists, including painters, photographers, woodworkers and more. The gallery kicked off with a Friends & Family Reception, featuring opening remarks by Mayor De Graff, hors d'oeuvres, a string quartet from South Suburban College, and a celebratory atmosphere.



OUT AND ABOUT

FACES FROM EVENTS AROUND THE VILLAGE

TRUNK OR TREAT

South Holland kids, dressed in costume, enjoyed a drive-thru Trunk or Treat at the Community Center just before Halloween. Village of South Holland Trustees and employees decorated their vehicles and handed out candy to families driving through.



RIBBON CUTTINGS

It's been an exciting season of new and growing business in South Holland! This fall, we celebrated the ribbon cuttings at four different locations: Balloon Queens, Mint Dentistry, Popacorn Popcorn Shop, and the South Holland Youth Sports Clubhouse (pictured on page 16).



ALARM PERMITS

If you have a security alarm system for your residence or business and have not yet registered for a permit or renewed your permit for 2022, please do so at

southholland.alarmreg.com

or at the

South Holland Police Department
16330 South Park Ave

This is important for emergency response to your home or business should it become necessary.



Deadline is January 1, 2023



*****ECRWSEDDM*****

LOCAL POSTAL CUSTOMER



Mayor's Coffee

**Tuesday,
December 6
7:00pm**

**South Holland Community Center
501 E. 170th Street**



southholland.org