

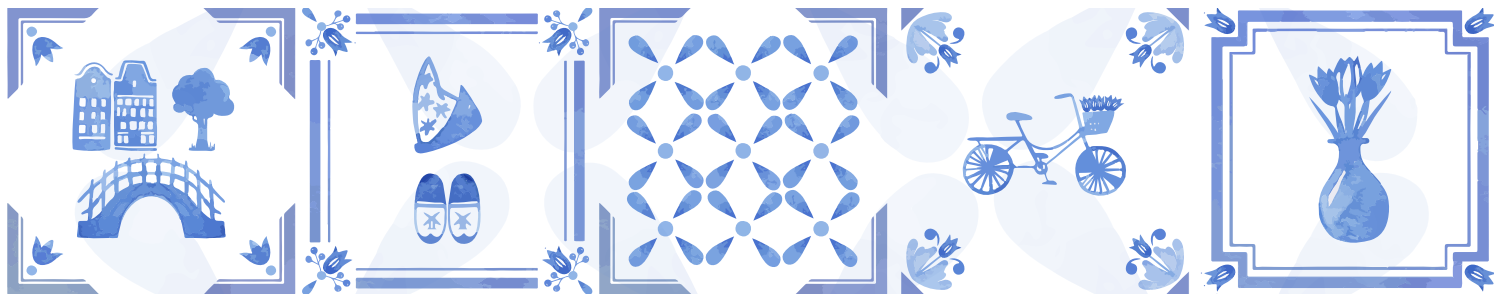
SOUTH HOLLAND

Living

Sept | Oct 2023



Autumn Gatherings for All Ages



Heritage Fest

at Paarlberg Farm

Labor Day ~ Monday, September 4
10am-4pm
17234 Paxton Ave, South Holland, IL

✕
Take a step
back in time
at this
annual festival
celebrating local
history
and heritage!

✕
Crafters
Quilters
Wood Carvers
Historical societies from neighboring
communities
South Holland Municipal Band
and South Holland Master Chorale
Food Vendors
Cunis Ice Cream, Oliebollen, Pie, and More!



For more information, call 708.596.4917

FROM YOUR MAYOR



Mayor De Graff enjoying
the new pickleball courts
at Paarlberg Park

Dear South Holland Residents and Friends,

It's been an amazing summer! The summer of 2023 was filled with fun, including an increased number of block parties—opportunities to make new friends and to renew relationships with neighbors—along with a variety of well-attended events... from an outstanding Memorial Day Parade, to the spectacular 4th of July fireworks show at Veterans Park, to a timeless Cruise Night, and the best attended Education Fair we've ever witnessed.

As you read through this edition, you'll see that we're only gaining more momentum as we enter the fall season. There are many events and initiatives that reflect the spirit of who we are as a Faith and Family community. We are so thankful for our South Holland public and private schools. In this issue we recognize the recipients of our annual Red Tulip Award, just a few of our many outstanding teachers here in South Holland. You'll also read about an interesting program entitled "Aging in a Changing Region." We've been recognized as a successful and diverse community to be part of this interesting study that will begin this fall.

Our strategic plan, Coming Together 2030, is off to a great start. Our key community groups (churches, schools, businesses, service organizations and neighborhood group organizations) are all beginning to formulate new ideas that they are executing well and sharing with each other.

Enjoy this issue as we begin to anticipate the cooler autumn weather. It's my prayer that we as a community of Faith and Family will generate the warmth that results from our intentional interactions and planned events with each other. Why is this important? Because we care for and want to find ways to serve each other with the gifts and resources we've been provided. That's the South Holland way!

Don A. De Graff
Mayor

VILLAGE BOARD

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WHAT'S HAPPENING AROUND SOUTH HOLLAND



NEW VILLAGE APP

The Village is proud to announce the launch of the Village of South Holland app for IOS and Android. The app features information that residents and businesses look for frequently, such as job opportunities, online payments, events, and more. The goal is to help make finding information easier and more accessible by being in the palm of your hand 24/7. The app can be downloaded for free at the Apple store or Google Play store.



EMERGENCY ALERT SYSTEM

Are you signed up to receive emergency alerts from the Village? We encourage all South Holland residents and business owners/managers to sign up for Smart911 Emergency Alerts. With it, we have the ability to place thousands of phone calls per minute (to both landlines and mobile phones) and to send out texts immediately. Visit southholland.org to sign up and for a breakdown of how the alert system is used.



PICKLEBALL COURTS OPEN

Pickleball has now officially come to South Holland! In June, Mayor De Graff and Village staff celebrated the completion of the pickleball courts located at Paarlberg Park. The courts (four total) are lighted and equipped with a sport court surface. They are open 7am-10pm daily. Come out to the courts to meet some new people, get some exercise and have some fun!



STATEMENT ON PROPERTY ASSESSMENTS

In August 2023, South Holland property owners received a property value reassessment notice from the Cook County Assessor. For many property owners, the revised assessments were higher than usual. "We as Village leadership are deeply disappointed by the shocking increases in assessed value," says South Holland Mayor Don De Graff. "While we are all willing to pay our fair share, this latest round of assessments by the county assessor is excessive. We will help our residents and businesses, in whatever way we can, to take advantage of the appeal process." The county gives residents until September 5 to appeal. Visit southholland.org for information on the appeal process.

OUT AND ABOUT

FACES FROM EVENTS AROUND THE VILLAGE

FOURTH OF JULY CELEBRATION

This year's Fourth of July Celebration returned to Veterans Memorial Park. At the Family Fun Festival during the day, attendees enjoyed a Kiddie Bike Parade, inflatables, a petting zoo, live music, and more. At the fireworks show that evening, families gathered around the park for fellowship, music and fireworks that lit up the night sky.



OUT AND ABOUT

FACES FROM EVENTS AROUND THE VILLAGE

CRUISE NIGHT

Hundreds of spectators strolled South Park Avenue on a beautiful summer evening to view more than 100 classic, custom, antique and exotic vehicles. Participants also enjoyed food, live music, yard games, and gas card giveaways.



OUT AND ABOUT

FACES FROM EVENTS AROUND THE VILLAGE

PITCH HIT & RUN

Kids ages 7-14 participated in a competition that creates a safe and fun environment for kids to stay active and learn or continue to play baseball and softball. During the competition, participants were tested on a series of movements that are important in baseball/softball (pitching, hitting and running). The winners advanced to a team championship.



GARDEN WALK

The South Holland Garden Club hosted a Garden Walk, where participants toured beautiful gardens throughout South Holland. The event started at Veterans Park and then proceeded to the selected gardens, all of which featured stunning displays of plants and visual landscapes.



OUT AND ABOUT

FACES FROM EVENTS AROUND THE VILLAGE

BLOCK PARTIES

Several South Holland neighborhoods held block parties this summer, in an effort to bring neighbors together. This was the first year of the Village's Block Party Trailer, which was a big hit! Some block parties had fun perks like live music, a video game truck, and inflatables for the kids, while others simply enjoyed good food and the company of their neighbors.



5th Annual WINTER SPORTS SHOWCASE

Sunday, December 3 • 2:00-6:00pm

Learn skills in each of the following sports:

BASEBALL/SOFTBALL • FOOTBALL
BASKETBALL • SOCCER

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

For boys and girls ages 3-10.

\$20 by November 27, \$25 after November 27

**PRE-REGISTRATION IS REQUIRED AT SOUTHOLLAND.ORG
OR AT THE COMMUNITY CENTER.**

Join us for a fun and entertaining 5K run/walk
through the streets of South Holland!



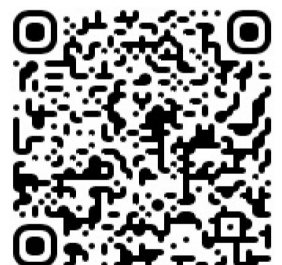
2023 SOUTH HOLLAND FUN RUN 5K



Saturday, September 16
Opening Ceremony: 7am
Veterans Memorial Park • 500 E 160th Place

- ▶ **Costumes/Accessories Encouraged**
- ▶ **Finisher's Medals**
- ▶ **Cash Prizes**
- ▶ **"Fun" Stations Along the Course!**

**Scan to
learn more
and
register!**



CALENDAR OF EVENTS



September 4 HERITAGE FEST

10am-4pm, Paarlberg Park, 17234 Paxton Ave
The South Holland Historical Society is hosting the annual Heritage Fest on Labor Day. The event celebrates local history and heritage, with crafters, wood carvers, traditional Dutch food, and performances by the South Holland Municipal Band and Master Chorale.

September 12 and October 10 COMMUNITY POLICING MEETING

September 12: 7pm, October 10: 10am, South Holland Community Center, 501 E 170th St
The South Holland Police Department hosts a Community Policing Meeting on the second Tuesday of every month, alternating mornings and evenings. This is an opportunity to address any questions or concerns for the Police Department.

September 16 FUN RUN 5K WALK/RUN

*7am, Veterans Memorial Park,
500 E 160th Pl*

Join us for a fun and entertaining 5K run through the streets of South Holland. Costumes and accessories are encouraged. This event raises money for Tabitha House for Women. Register at southholland.org.

September 23

UNITY IN THE COMMUNITY ICE CREAM SOCIAL & MUSIC IN THE PARK

*5-7pm, Veterans Memorial Park,
500 E 160th Pl*

Enjoy an evening of worship music in the park, performed by multiple South Holland churches, and ice cream from SoHo Sweets.

September 26 MAYOR'S COFFEE

*7pm, South Holland Community Center,
501 E 170th St*

Residents can hear from and speak with Mayor Don De Graff. This month's Coffee will feature a special presentation on the Aging in a Changing Region program.

October 7

FIRE DEPARTMENT OPEN HOUSE

10am, Fire Station 1, 16230 Wausau Ave

Visit the South Holland Fire Department to meet your firefighters and learn more about what they do every day. In addition to food, station tours, and entertainment, a live vehicle fire and extraction will take place.

October 10
PARADE OF LIGHTS

*7pm, Thorn Creek Reformed Church,
1875 E 170th St*

The annual Parade of Lights honors the memory of South Holland firefighters and all others who have fallen. Fire and rescue vehicles conduct a "lights only" parade to honor those who have experienced a fire, loss of life, or fire-related injuries. Residents are invited to stand along the route with candles or lights for this solemn remembrance.

October 14
BREAST CANCER WALK/DRIVE

9am, Veterans Memorial Park, 500 E 160th Pl

Join us for a car caravan and walk that recognizes both female and male breast cancer survivors. Proceeds benefit breast cancer research efforts at the University of Chicago. Register at southholland.org.

October 15
SOUTH HOLLAND MASTER CHORALE CONCERT

4pm, First Reformed Church, 15924 South Park Ave

The South Holland Master Chorale opens their season with a special concert. A reception with light refreshments will follow the performance.

October 26
TRUNK OR TREAT

6:30pm, South Holland Community Center, 501 E 170th St

Village of South Holland employees will decorate their vehicles and hand out candy to families driving through the parking lot.

AT THE LIBRARY

The following programs are held at the South Holland Public Library, 16250 Wausau Ave, unless otherwise indicated.

September 15-October 15
CELEBRATING HISPANIC HERITAGE MONTH

Every Friday

In recognition of Hispanic Heritage Month, every Friday between September 15 and October 15, children are welcome to pick up a craft showcasing a different country from Latin America. Supplies are limited.

September 21
HOW TO MAKE "AGUAS FRESCAS"

7pm

Take part in a fun tutorial on how to make traditional Hispanic fresh fruit-flavored water. Adult event.

September 28
MAGIC SHOW AND FACE PAINTING

4pm

Children and families are welcome to enjoy an enchanting magic show and face painting by Bilingual Performers Pocket Circus!

October 5
SALSA DANCE LESSON BY LATIN RHYTHMS

6:30pm

Come put your best foot forward and learn how to dance the salsa! Adult event.

October 12
HISPANIC HERITAGE MONTH FESTIVAL

6pm-8pm

Come and enjoy cultural food, folkloric dance, success stories provided by The Smithsonian, a fun scavenger hunt highlighting some of the countries in exhibit, kid crafts, and so much more!

6th Annual
Village of South Holland



Think Pink and Blue... Men Get It Too!

Saturday, October 14 | 9:00am
Veterans Memorial Park
500 E 160th Place

Join us for a driving caravan and ceremony
to recognize breast cancer survivors!
Proceeds from this event will benefit breast cancer
research efforts at the University of Chicago.

Register at southholland.org.

FAITH IN

Motion

NECESSARY ENDINGS

By Rev. Dr. Carmin Frederick-James,
Associate Pastor of Covenant United Church of Christ

It all began in August of 2022. It was the beginning of a necessary ending, my son's final year of high school. There was a lot of excitement and anticipation about the new adventures that were ahead of us. We started to make a list of all that needed to be done—personal statements to be written, college applications to be submitted, scholarship interviews and applications to be completed, college visits to be made, a checklist to be prioritized, and the list goes on. In our focus on the beginnings the excitement was almost palpable, and our list of exciting new possibilities began to grow. But we had forgotten to add one thing to our lists: grieving. Grieving what we knew to be a necessary ending, but an ending all the same.

In his daily devotional *Emotionally Healthy Spirituality Day by Day*, Peter Scazzerro says, "The capacity to grieve is almost lost in our culture. People use work, TV, drugs, alcohol, shopping, food binges, busyness, sexual escapades, unhealthy relationships and even serving others at church—anything—to medicate the pain of life... year after year we deny and avoid the difficulties and losses of life, the rejections, and frustrations." Our capacity to grieve is almost lost in our culture. And yet, endings and learning to grieve them are indispensable if we are going to change and grow into the people God has called us to be.

So, what does God want us to do when we, like so many, have lost our capacity to grieve the necessary endings? Here are a few tips from Genesis 1:1 and 2:2-4:



Rev. Dr. Carmin Frederick-James

God wants us to SEE the ending. Ellen Goodman, an American journalist and powerful voice for women, is quoted as saying, "There's a trick to the 'graceful exit.' It begins with the *vision* to recognize when a job, a life stage, or a relationship is over—and let it go." In God's creative process, God did a lot of *seeing* of both beginnings and endings. God sees it and says that it is all GOOD. All of it. The beginnings and the endings are all GOOD!

God also wants us to NAME the endings. When God was completing the work of creation after each day, God named what was created. It's as if God wants us to put a name tag on our necessary endings. High School Graduation—put a name tag on it. That old job—put a name tag on it.

**Genesis 1:1 and
Genesis 2:2-4 (CEB)**

1 When God began to create the heavens and the earth—

2:2-4 On the sixth day God completed all the work that He had done, and on the seventh day God rested from all the work that He had done. God blessed the seventh day and made it holy, because on it God rested from all the work of creation. This is the account of the heavens and the earth when they were created.

The death of a loved one—put a name tag on it. Divorce—put a name tag on it. A Name Tag is an engagement tool, and we must engage our necessary endings so that we might move toward acceptance of them.

Not only does God want us to name the endings, but God also wants us to rest from it. In endings, sometimes whatever the thing is, we want to keep working at it trying to solve it, trying to understand or make sense of it. Much of this we can't do until we rest from it. If God rested from work, why can't we? Matthew 11:28 says to "Come to me, all you who are weary and burdened, and I will give you rest." In our necessary endings we can see them, name them and we can rest from them because God is in control!

Take a moment today to increase your capacity to grieve. See what endings are currently happening in your life. Name them. Rest from them. Watch how God moves in mighty ways!

The South Holland Ministerial Association Presents

Unity in the Community

ICE CREAM SOCIAL
&
MUSIC IN THE PARK

Saturday, September 23 | 5-7pm
Veterans Memorial Park
500 E 160th Place



TRUNK-OR-TREAT

**Thursday, October 26
6:30-7:30pm**

South Holland Community Center parking lot

Village of South Holland employees will decorate their vehicles and hand out candy to families throughout the parking lot!



South Holland residents only.

Ages 3-12

Register at the Community Center

AGING IN A CHANGING REGION



South Holland is a unique community in that it holds fast to tradition but also embraces progress. The motto “Faith, Family, Future” captures the dichotomy of a traditionally rooted community that is always moving forward.

As such, South Holland is made up of multiple generations of residents. While it can be easy to focus on the up and coming generation, the Village wants to be sure that its aging residents are properly cared for as well. As of 2020, 16.7% of South Holland residents were age 65 and over, which is slightly more than in Cook County overall. In addition, another 22.8% of South Holland residents were between ages 50 and 64.

It is likely that the very residents who are finding themselves reaching older age in South Holland are those same folks who came here as much younger people, liked what they found, developed friendships and professional and faith-based relationships, and planted deep roots in the community.

South Holland was recently chosen as one of five municipalities from throughout the region to participate in the Aging in a Changing Region program, which is evaluating how South Holland supports its older adult residents as they Age-in-Community (wherever they live and whatever their needs or wants are). This program is being provided at no cost to taxpayers, thanks to a generous grant from the RRF Foundation for Aging.

Aging in a Changing Region is a two-part program that helps municipalities place an aging lens on top of local operations. After gathering information from residents of all ages, action items will be determined. These action items could include updates to a zoning code, transportation or other means.

UPCOMING WORKSHOP

The Village is holding a workshop session where residents and stakeholders will have a chance to learn more about Aging-in-Community and share their thoughts.

The workshop will be held on Tuesday, September 26 at 7pm in conjunction with Mayor's Coffee at the South Holland Community Center. No advanced registration is required—simply show up and participate!

In addition to the workshop, all residents—regardless of age—are invited to complete and submit a Resident Input Form, which is available at southholland.org. Paper copies are also located at the Customer Service Center, 16220 Wausau Ave.

This initiative is intended to be consistent with the Coming Together 2030 plan, in which the Village will partner with residents, businesses, churches, schools, and service organizations to connect, serve, and enhance each group, and therefore the community as a whole. Come help identify strategies by which Aging-in-Community can become an important component of South Holland Coming Together. 🏡

AGING IN A CHANGING REGION WORKSHOP

Tuesday, September 26, 7pm

in conjunction with Mayor's Coffee

**South Holland Community Center
501 E 170th St**



Residents of all ages are welcome!
Learn more about the program and
provide feedback based on your own
experience living in South Holland.

**Learn more
at southholland.org.**



**Scan to fill out a
brief survey**

FAIRWAY FUN

HITTING THE LINKS AT SOUTH HOLLAND'S NEW INDOOR GOLF LOUNGE

By Josh Bootsma
Photos by Jenni Hoekstra



Avid and casual golfers alike can get detailed metrics on their swing, learn from a pro, or play 18 at Pebble Beach—all here in South Holland.

Home to a state-of-the-art golf simulator, Fairways Indoor Golf Lounge has already accommodated many local golfers looking to hit the virtual links at 503 W Taft Drive.

Owner and founder Rick Edwards has been in the marketing world for years, and he and his wife are the owners of Chicagoland Fat Loss Camps in the area, including a location in South Holland. Edwards first had the idea to create Fairways when his wife asked him what new project he wanted to take on.

"I said, 'I just want to be one of those old guys on the golf course whacking away at the ball anytime I want to be,'" Edwards says.

A Matteson resident, Edwards' first idea was to bring an indoor golf facility to Matteson, but real estate costs proved prohibitive. Instead, he looked to the same development in South Holland where he and his wife own the Chicagoland Fat Loss Camp on Taft Drive. After preparing the space and installing three golf simulators, Fairways Indoor Golf Lounge opened in February.

"When we got our first customers, I was very excited. We've had about four or five events here already. People love it," Edwards says.



The intention of Fairways is to cater to local golfers with all types of needs. A serious golfer who wants to learn more about his or her specific swing metrics can hit balls in the simulator and learn about their speed, their spin, and many other data points. Someone needing lessons can learn from PGA pro Erika "Birdie" Shavers. A foursome of friends looking to enjoy a round of golf without walking or weather can play at any one of many famous courses available in Fairway's simulators. Topgolf-style games are also available.

Besides Edwards and Shavers, others involved in Fairways are Edwards' business partner Gregory King and Customer Engagement Associate Ashley Gardner.

Beyond individuals looking to play golf and improve their game, Edwards hopes to make connections with local schools who would value indoor practice time in the volatile Chicago weather.

"My mind is all around high school contracts, college contracts, and we're looking to develop two pilot programs for two high school districts that don't have golf at all," he says.



Fairways is also connected to national non-profit First Tee, which seeks to empower kids through the game of golf. The non-profit uses Fairways as its south suburban location.

Though still refining his South Holland location, Edwards is already aspiring to open other locations in the area, including a large facility in Chicago.

"The scale of where God is telling me to go with this, we're making some real in-roads and I just want to do something different for the community and the culture. As much as there's a lot of African Americans in golf that you hear about, in this segment of business [indoor golf simulators], there's only four in the country," Edwards says.

Fairways uses a membership model, though walk-ins can play for \$50 an hour. For South Holland residents only, Fairways is offering memberships at \$20 per month as part of a 3-, 6-, or 12-month contract. Additionally, residents will receive 10% off when they book an event. Pricing and hours information is available on the business's website, fairwaysgolflounge.com.

"I'm just excited to bring golf to people," Edwards says. 🔥



Red Tulip

AWARDS

THREE LOCAL TEACHERS RECOGNIZED FOR THEIR WORK

By Carrie Steinweg

Every year, the South Holland Education Commission honors teachers with the Red Tulip Award. The Commission accepts nominations for certified teachers in South Holland who have demonstrated outstanding service by going beyond their daily duties to effectively change student lives. The following three educators were selected as this year's Red Tulip Award winners.

MARCIE FERRELL
Kindergarten Teacher
Greenwood School

Marcie Ferrell has a calm, inspiring and empathetic way about her that every parent hopes for their child to experience in their first year of elementary school. When Ms. Ferrell was a second grade teacher, Principal Dr. Carla Cunningham had the opportunity to work alongside her. "While Ms. Ferrell is indeed noteworthy, I have also been impressed by her work ethic and drive," Cunningham said. "She has been front and center in many of the initiatives that are moving our students' lives forward at Greenwood. This is a testament to the character and drive of Ms. Ferrell."

Cunningham described Ferrell's teaching style as "servant leadership," highlighting her ability to set clear goals and high expectations and then support her students in achieving their highest potential. She looks at not just how she can benefit kids in the moment, but looks to help individuals long-term. "She is continually looking for ways to serve with her efforts year-round,"



said Cunningham. "She is always willing to put in the necessary work to ensure that her students are learning and creates a compelling vision for the future of her students by helping them understand their role in achieving that vision."

She also encourages students to write as part of the Young Authors event, giving them satisfaction in seeing value in their work and writing efforts. She puts in plenty of time beyond her teaching day with after school activities, as well.

"I am honored to be able to work with scholars of today and tomorrow," Ms. Ferrell said. "It's a blessing to be able to assist them during this important time in their lives. For me, it is a way to make a difference in the world."

"Watching scholars' progress is phenomenal to see throughout the year. I so enjoy being a part of guiding them to reach their potential in becoming productive citizens and the answer to what the world needs and not wants."



MICHELLE ORTH

Fifth Grade Teacher

Madison School

When the pandemic hit, teachers were faced with unprecedented obstacles and had to pivot and find ways to reach students who were no longer sitting in desks in their classrooms, but sitting in front of computer screens in their bedrooms or at their dining room tables. During the early days of the pandemic, Michelle Orth, a fifth grade teacher at Madison School, decided to launch Action 7 News.

"It allowed students in her class to express themselves on camera, while learning remotely. She would share with the staff the emotions and feelings students were battling with during the pandemic," said Principal Dr. Jerald McNair. "She began to teach the students how to be journalists by learning how to speak in front of a camera, articulate their point of view and interview others. When the students returned to in-person learning, Action 7 News expanded to the entire school."

Orth's project evolved into the school-wide Media Broadcasting Club and was featured on Channel 2 News in Chicago on two occasions. After the initial broadcast, the Illinois Press Foundation awarded the school with a \$1500 grant to help upgrade and purchase additional equipment.

Orth is also a head coach of the South Suburban College volleyball team where she inspires more young adults. "I am so honored to win the Red Tulip Teacher Award," Orth said. "Being a teacher has always been my calling. As I enter into my 24th year of teaching, I am constantly reminded of the difference I can make in the lives of my students. I am truly blessed to work with amazing teachers and administrators."





JULIE JANN
Second Grade Teacher
Calvin Christian School

An educator for 24 years, Julie Jann has spent the past 8 of them teaching at Calvin Christian School. Helping students develop into strong readers is a big passion of hers. She has a master's degree in reading and is a strong advocate for best practices in reading instruction in not only her classroom, but the whole PreK-2nd team that she leads.

Jann is also the faculty sponsor of the Scripps Spelling Bee and has led the school's chapel committee for the past five years. "A primary grade level leader on the Education Team, Julie plays a vital role in bringing out the best in students and staff," said Principal Randy Moes. "And when not in the classroom, you can find Julie outside on the playground flying kites with her students, or preparing Calvin's large garden plot for its spring fruits and vegetables."

Jann said she is blessed to work in the Calvin Christian School community. "I love seeing students learn and grow. I'm thankful for the award and I am honored to represent all the hardworking teachers of South Holland." 🔥



Always Be Notified

Sign up for South Holland alerts and receive important notifications via text message.



SEVERE WEATHER
ALERTS



TRAFFIC
UPDATES

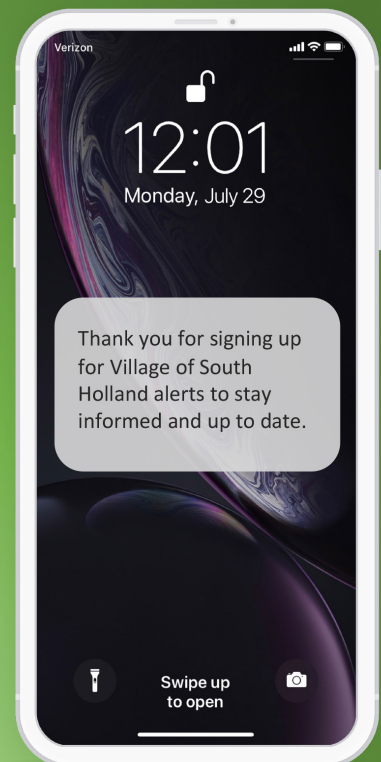


EMERGENCY
NOTIFICATIONS



EVENT
REMINDERS

Sign up at
southholland.org/smart911



*****ECRWSSDDM*****

LOCAL POSTAL CUSTOMER



Mayor's Coffee

**Tuesday,
September 26
7:00pm**

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



southholland.org