

SOUTH HOLLAND *Living*

Sept | Oct 2024

Autumn in Our Village

7th Annual
Village of South Holland



2024 BREAST CANCER WALK & DRIVE

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

Saturday, October 12 | 9:00am
Veterans Memorial Park
500 E 160th Place

This walk and car caravan is dedicated to honoring the resilience of breast cancer survivors. Let's unite to raise awareness within the South Holland community!

Learn more at southholland.org.

FROM YOUR MAYOR



Mayor De Graff at the 2023 Fun Run 5K

Dear South Holland Residents and Friends,

It's that time again. The kids are back in school! It's so hard to believe the summer of 2024 is almost behind us. That said, I'm very thankful for the warm and sunny days we enjoyed this summer. There was, however, one exception. We all remember the violent storm on July 15, which caused significant tree and property damage. We can all be thankful there was no loss of life resulting from the storm. I'm also grateful for the excellent job our Public Works department did in clearing the tree limbs and branches scattered across our entire Village.

Overall, however, we in South Holland had a great summer together, filled with exciting programs, special events, and fun community activities for all ages. You'll see in this issue clear evidence of a very active 2024 summer season.

Now, as we get into more of the routine of our church and school autumn season, we continue to look forward to our "Coming Together" strategy, developing our "Faith" journey, and building upon our "Family" relationships.

You'll also see more great events planned for us in the next few months. The Fun Run 5K, always an entertaining event, already has a record-breaking number of participants, and this year's race benefits the Family Centered Educational Agency, also featured in this issue. In addition, we look forward to the Harvest Fest for kids, the Breast Cancer Walk/Drive for all ages, and more autumn-related family events.

We can certainly look forward to an exciting 2024 Fall season as we continue our mission to bring joy and fulfillment into our "Future" as a community of South Holland, Illinois.

Don A. De Graff
Mayor

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



2024 SOUTH HOLLAND FUN RUN 5K



Saturday, September 21
Opening Ceremony: 7am
Veterans Memorial Park • 500 E 160th Place

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



**Register
Today!**

Sign up at southholland.org

**A portion of every
registration fee benefits the
Family Centered
Educational Agency**



The Village of
South
Holland
Faith, Family,
& Future

THANK YOU

to our 2024

FUN RUN 5K Sponsors!

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WHAT'S HAPPENING AROUND SOUTH HOLLAND



JULY STORM CLEANUP

When the storm came through on July 15, it brought down many trees and fallen branches. The Village would like to thank its property owners for placing your branches on the curb as requested. The Public Works department utilized extra resources and personnel to remove all debris over the course of a few weeks. They collected over 500 truckloads of material and 1,700 tons of chippings! All of the chippings were distributed at the new disc golf course at DeYoung's Grove Park.



WATER PAYMENT OPTIONS

The Village offers multiple ways to pay your water bill. Our electronic payment system is a user-friendly way to pay water bills online via credit card. You can schedule recurring payments, receive your bill via email, and pay by text. You can also pay using one of the methods below:

- Pay by Direct Debit (where fee is automatically paid from your checking account)
- Pay in-person at the Customer Service Center, 16220 Wasuau Avenue
- Pay over the phone at 855.786.5265

For more information and to use the online water payment tools, visit southholland.org.



CENTER FOR HARD TO RECYCLE MATERIALS

South Suburban College is home to the new Center for Hard to Recycle Materials, a permanent drop-off facility where residents can dispose of electronic waste, household recycling, clothing, small furniture and appliances, and more. The Center is located at 15800 State St in the overflow parking lot. Visit cookcountyil.gov/CHaRMCenter for hours and more information.



GUIDELINES FOR PRIVATE GATHERINGS

If you are looking to host a gathering at your home, it's helpful to know the ordinance in place regarding private gatherings (Ordinance 2023-28). Since neighborhoods have limited parking, and because neighbors should be able to enjoy a peaceful environment in their home, any group gathering at a house that has, or is expected to have, more than 50 people must obtain a Neighborhood Event Permit. You would also need to give written notice to everyone living within 500 feet of the house so they are aware that a gathering is taking place. Visit the Customer Service Center for the Neighborhood Event Permit and the notice form needed to deliver to neighbors.

OUT AND ABOUT

FACES FROM EVENTS AROUND THE VILLAGE

FOURTH OF JULY CELEBRATION

South Holland celebrated the Fourth of July with a full day at Veterans Memorial Park. At the Family Fun Festival during the day, attendees enjoyed games, inflatables, 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

BLOCK PARTIES

Several South Holland neighborhoods held block parties this summer, to bring neighbors together in a festive atmosphere. The Village's Block Party Trailer, filled with equipment and games, helped make each block party a success! Village firefighters visited most of the parties and sprayed their hose for kids to run through on hot days. Some block parties had fun perks like live music and inflatables for the kids, while others simply enjoyed good food and the company of their neighbors.



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.



OUT AND ABOUT

FACES FROM EVENTS AROUND THE VILLAGE

RED TULIP AWARDS

Every year, the Village recognizes South Holland teachers for demonstrating outstanding service by going above and beyond their daily duties to effectively change student lives. This year, six teachers were selected for the Red Tulip Awards: Caprice Cook of McKinley Junior High, Dr. Steven Edgar of Thornwood High School, Hannah Morgan of Unity Christian Academy, Tracy Rodenberg of Madison School, Shirley Smith of Madison School, and Kimberly Swett of Madison School.



OUT AND ABOUT

FACES FROM EVENTS AROUND THE VILLAGE

SOUTH HOLLAND SPORTS TAILGATE

South Holland residents and friends were invited for a day of sports and a celebration of local student-athletes. Attendees were treated to tailgate-type foods, sporting activities for all ages, and the opportunity to connect with representatives from South Holland sports organizations (like the Jets and Little League), who were on hand to answer any questions about their leagues.



CALENDAR OF EVENTS



September 10 and October 8 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 12 MAYOR'S COFFEE

7:30am, South Holland

Community Center, 501 E 170th St

Residents can hear from and speak with Mayor Don De Graff. Coffee and refreshments will be served.

September 21 FUN RUN 5K WALK/RUN

*7:30am, 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 the Family Centered Educational Agency. Register at southholland.org.

October 5 LUNCH WITH FIREFIGHTERS

*11am-12:30pm, Fire Station 43
16230 Wausau Ave*

Meet your firefighters! Residents of all ages are invited to join the South Holland Fire Department for lunch and tours of our fire engines and ambulance vehicles. The event is free and will take the place of the October Coffee with Firefighters.

October 6

SOUTH HOLLAND MASTER CHORALE CONCERT

4pm, Location TBD

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

October 8

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 12

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.

Register at southholland.org.

October 24

HARVEST FEST

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

South Holland kids and their families are invited to the Community Center for a special fall-themed event featuring a costume contest, dance party, pumpkin decorating, and more. Pre-registration is required and runs from

September 9-October 11. Visit the Community Center to register.

AT THE LIBRARY

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

September 21

NERDVANA

11am-3pm

Come out to enjoy all things nerdy! There will be something for all ages to enjoy. Please visit shlibrary.org for the complete list of times and activities.

October 10

HSI COLLEGE FAIR

4:30pm

Find out what local colleges are doing to attract, support, and encourage students from Hispanic backgrounds. Hear from representatives from local schools such as St. Xavier University, Purdue University Northwest, and Governors State University.

October 23

CELEBRANDO CULTURAS - HISPANIC HERITAGE MONTH! PARTY

6-8pm

Celebrate Hispanic Heritage Month with a party at the Library, featuring musical performances, special character appearances, and more.

October 31

BLUEY'S BOO! BASH

11am

Bingo and Bluey will be visiting the Library and celebrating Not-So-Spooky Storytime with Song and Dance. Photos to follow. Registration is required.

FAITH IN

Motion

DON'T GIVE THE ENEMY A SEAT AT THE TABLE

By Pastor Preston Winfrey of Pioneer Missionary Baptist Church

In life, it is necessary for us to make good decisions. Making good decisions has everything to do with knowing what your options are and selecting the best ones. Making good decisions can include people, places, and things.

Too often in life, we are naïve in our thinking concerning people, places and things. How often have you heard a person say, "I have lots of friends"? Typically, when you're young, you make those statements because you do not have enough solid information. Unfortunately, some people seemingly never grow beyond this way of thinking. There are a few reasons why I believe some people think this way:

- Sometimes they are trying to prove a point that no one can tell them what to do.
- Many times, they will allow people who do not mean them well to make life choices for them.
- Sometimes out of ignorance of reality, they live on the premises of "what should be."

In 1 Corinthians 15:33, the lesson we learn is this: Do not be deceived or led astray. Do not wander, roam aimlessly, or be led away from the truth into error and sin. Hanging with the wrong company or companionship can potentially corrupt or destroy good morals. Likewise, it is important to know who and what to avoid so that you don't get bit and be left with regrets for the decisions you've made.

There is a story about a drunken hippie who saw a snake frozen on the ground. He picked up the snake and put it in his bosom where it could thaw out. When the snake



Pastor Preston Winfrey

thawed out, it bit the man. The hippie expressed his disappointment to the snake and asked, "Why did you bite me? I saved your life." The snake replied, "You knew I was a snake when you put me in your bosom."

What lesson can we learn from this story? Be mindful of whom you allow in your inner circle. Learn to evaluate people for who they show themselves to be. Don't take their word for who they say they are. Pay close attention to their actions, which speak much louder than their words. Who has priority seating at your table in life? Have you made the mistake of inviting enemies to dine with you? If so, I want to encourage you to have the courage to take your stand, and say, goodbye, game over, lights out! If where you are headed is not where you want to be, don't go.

Harvest Fest

Thursday, October 24

6:00-7:30pm

South Holland Community Center

For kids and their families

- Costume judging contest
- Candy bags (while supplies last)
- DJ and dance party
- Craft projects
- Pumpkin decorating
(bring a pumpkin from home)



Pre-registration is required and runs from September 9 - October 11

SPACE IS LIMITED!

This event is for South Holland Residents only. ID is required for registration.

UPWARD BOUND

HOW THE FAMILY CENTERED EDUCATIONAL AGENCY IS CHANGING STUDENTS' LIVES

Story and photos by Josh Bootsma



Around 30 years ago, Dr. Jonathan McKenzie heard a question that changed his life.

While working at a college where his job was to help students succeed, he continued to run into the limits of what his department was capable of. One day, he told a man seeking aid that he couldn't help him. "Then why are you here?" said the man in response.

In seeking an answer to that question, Dr. McKenzie and Rev. Dennis Morrison started brainstorming and praying, and eventually started the Family Centered Educational Agency in 1997 to better help students achieve their goals.

"I realized, if we're going to be in the community, we need to be responsive to the needs of the community," McKenzie says.

That attitude of community responsiveness has seen the Family Centered Educational Agency start in 1997

in the Village of Phoenix's multipurpose center, move to a small building on Wausau Avenue in South Holland in 2002, and settle into its new home earlier this year at 17000 South Park Avenue in South Holland.

Beyond its physical size, the organization's impact on students has grown as well. FCEA has helped 25,000 students graduate high school since 1998, and over 6,000 graduate college. Since 2014, the organization has given over \$600,000 in scholarship money.

The non-profit helps students through federal programs like Upward Bound, which was established by the Economic Opportunity Act of 1964 and the Higher Education Act of 1965. FCEA uses program dollars to focus on helping low-income students or students whose parents did not attend college.

Jamal Hawkins helps put this grant money to work as the Director of Trio Upward Bound and Educational Opportunity Centers. He's in Thornridge High School two days a week working with students, and in Englewood—where FCEA has another location—two days a week.

"Our first goal is secondary completion—to graduate high school and to get students prepared for college," Hawkins says. FCEA does this through tutoring, classes, counseling, college visits, and other means.

The **Family Centered Educational Agency** is the charity selected for the **2024 South Holland Fun Run 5K!** A portion of every registration fee is donated to FCEA.

The Fun Run is September 21, 7am, at Veterans Memorial Park. Visit southholland.org/funrun to register and to help support local students via the FCEA!





The media team at the Family Centered Educational Agency, from left: Ulises Esparza, Daniel McKenzie, Deandra Stokes, and Isaac Hawkins.



Staff at the Family Centered Educational Agency in a flex space at the new South Holland facility.

FCEA also works with adults ages 27 and older through the federal Educational Opportunity Center program, which encourages adults to return to school, complete GED programs, or apply for financial aid. Talent Search is another program FCEA offers, providing outreach to students as young as middle schoolers and encouraging them to consider a college education.

The Family Centered Educational Agency's new facility on South Park Avenue is the former home of Robinson Engineering, and has been remodeled to fit the needs of the organization. A large conference room, a student hang-out space, flexible work spaces for staff, a new kitchen, a media office, and a prayer room are all part of the new facility.

Diwante Shuford, a graduate of FCEA, thinks the new space is great. "This is amazing. A lot more technology and resources to provide to students," he says.

Shuford, age 33, is in his third year of residency as an emergency room technician at Advocate Christ Medical Center in Oak Lawn. Married with a 2-year-old, he credits the Family Centered Educational Agency with equipping him with the tools he needed to succeed. While he was a student at Thornton High School, Shuford saw a flyer for FCEA advertising a college prep program, and he immediately signed up.

"I knew a program to get into college would be beneficial, so I took it super seriously," he says. "It exposed me to a lot of things. I had never really left Dolton and Harvey. I got to go to Puerto Rico, I got to go out of state for the first time. And when it came to applying to college, I got a ton of scholarships because I was there every single day and they were helping me. Truly, FCEA was beneficial toward me. I became a physician overall because of them."

Armed with around \$90k in scholarships, Shuford attended University of Illinois Urbana-Champaign. Beyond working in the emergency room, he volunteers at high schools, is a motivational speaker, and has led Stop the Bleed trainings, which are designed to help people respond to trauma situations. "Upward Bound, it gets you to where you need to be," he says.

More recent program grads Ulises Esparza and Isaac Hawkins have returned to FCEA to work on the organization's media team. "Without Ms. Tasha Johnson (Upward Bound Senior Program Director), I'm not sure I would have graduated high school," Hawkins says. "And now, I'm blessed to be a part of this department with these people."

"This program has completely changed my life," Esparza says. "If I wasn't here, I probably wouldn't be into film at all."

Hawkins and Esparza work on the media team with Daniel McKenzie (son of founder Dr. Jonathan McKenzie), and Deandra Stokes.



Diwante Shuford, FCEA graduate

"We were only funded to serve 60 students when we started," Daniel McKenzie says. "We just grew and grew. It really was a product of the south suburbs and serving students in District 205."

In addition to its South Holland and Englewood programs, the Family Centered Educational Agency also has a location in Corpus Christi, Texas. "We serve about 3,000 students a year between the three sites," McKenzie says.

The first face many people see when entering FCEA's new building is that of Ashley Patterson, a program graduate who has returned to work for the organization after 6 years as a teacher.

"I was the first of my family to go off to college," she says. "When I joined the program, Dr. McKenzie was like, 'What do you want to be when you grow up?' I said, 'I want to be a lot of stuff like a lawyer, a teacher.' And he said, 'You can do all of that, you can major in one thing and minor in another. You can do anything you put your mind to.'"

Motivated to set an example for her younger cousins, Patterson graduated from high school, and then college, with the guidance and help of FCEA. Now, she's happy to be back working for the organization that has helped her and so many others get closer to their goals.

"Every time I walk through the door, everybody greets [me] with love," she says. "It feels like home." 🏡

Family Centered Educational Agency

17000 South Park Ave.
South Holland
708.210.1771
familycentered.org

Scan here if you'd like to donate
to the mission of FCEA



10TH ANNUAL

Military Tribute

THANKING OUR VETERANS

WEDNESDAY, NOVEMBER 6

SOUTH HOLLAND COMMUNITY CENTER
501 E. 170TH STREET
708.331.2940 • SOUTHOLLAND.ORG

Lunch: 10:30-11:30am • Program begins: 11:30am

Please register at the Community Center
by October 23.



In The Know

6 WAYS TO STAY INFORMED ABOUT WHAT'S HAPPENING IN SOUTH HOLLAND

The Village of South Holland takes pride in keeping its residents well-informed through a variety of communication channels. From traditional print media to modern digital platforms, the Village employs a multi-faceted approach to ensure that important information reaches every corner of the community. Residents can stay current on local news, events and initiatives through the methods outlined below. This comprehensive communication strategy reflects South Holland's commitment to transparency and engagement, making it easier than ever for residents to stay connected with their local government and fellow community members.



Here are 6 ways to stay “in the know” in South Holland:

1) Weekly Update Email

South Holland's Weekly Update is an email sent out every Thursday morning to inform subscribers of the latest news in the Village such as events, announcements, breaking news, and more. All subscribers' information is kept completely confidential and not sold to or utilized by any outside organization. Visit southholland.org/intheknow to sign up for the Weekly Update.

2) Social Media

One of the primary ways the Village communicates with its residents is through social media, where we share the latest news, events, photos, videos, and useful tips. Our Facebook page serves as the main platform for delivering the most current information. Additionally, you can follow the Village of South Holland on Instagram, X (formerly Twitter) and YouTube.

Search the following names on each platform:



3) News List

The News List is featured on the home page of our website, southholland.org. This is where the latest stories are posted. Information includes events, construction projects, Village updates, programs, and more.

4) South Holland Living

The publication you're reading right now is one of the primary ways the Village communicates with its residents. South Holland Living is a bi-monthly magazine that features the life and vitality of South Holland and provides beneficial information to residents, businesses, and community partners. The magazine is published six times a year by the Communications, Branding & Marketing Department of the Village of South Holland. The magazines are bulk mailed to all postal customers in South Holland zip code 60473, and a digital copy can be viewed at southholland.org.

5) Smart911

The Village utilizes Smart911 emergency alerts to enhance public safety. By alerting residents to imminent or ongoing emergencies, we can help people take necessary precautions to mitigate risk or damage, to evacuate if needed, or to follow instructions to save lives and property. You can sign up to receive the alerts via text message, email, and/or voice message.

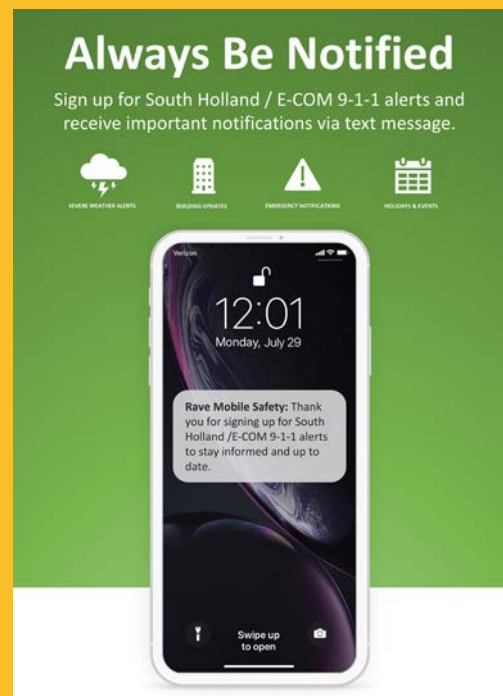
With Smart911, you can also create a personalized profile for first responders and law enforcement. This ensures they have vital information, such as medical conditions or allergies for everyone in your household, to provide the best care when needed most.

Smart911 emergency alerts are provided by the Village of South Holland at no cost to the public; however, message and data rates may apply depending on your provider and phone services. Please refer to your mobile phone's service plan for more information. Visit southholland.org/smart911 for more information and to sign up.

6) Village of South Holland App (use photo that was in Village News)

Information about the Village of South Holland is at your fingertips! The Village has its own 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.

For the full list and links to the platforms mentioned above, visit southholland.org/intheknow. Stay connected and engaged so you can experience the best that South Holland has to offer!





6th Annual WINTER SPORTS SHOWCASE

Sunday, December 8 • 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.

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

Winter Wonderland

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

**Holiday festivities and activities
at Veterans Memorial Park**

southolland.org

*****ECRWSSDDM*****

LOCAL POSTAL CUSTOMER



Mayor's Coffee

**Thursday,
September 12
7:30am**

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

**Meet Mayor Don De Graff
and
enjoy coffee and refreshments!**



southholland.org