

SOUTH HOLLAND

May | June 2025

Living



Honoring Our Past, Building Our Future

Memorial Day Parade



Monday, May 26, 2025
11:00 am

**South Park Ave from 170th St
to Veterans Memorial Park**

**Take time to remember and honor military personnel
who have died while serving in the United States Armed Forces
at South Holland's Annual Memorial Day Parade!**

For parade details, visit southholland.org.

FROM YOUR MAYOR



Mayor De Graff at Memorial Day Parade

Dear South Holland Residents and Friends,

May has arrived, and we're reminded in this issue of the many vibrant events we've been enjoying as we continue "coming together" as the community of South Holland.

What a beginning to the month of May! On "May Day" we prayed together as we celebrated the National Day of Prayer, led by our South Holland Ministerial Association. Two days later, more than 120 volunteers came together to spring clean areas throughout our Village, and then we celebrated the kickoff of our Little League season at Veterans Memorial Park.

This summer is shaping up to be one of the most memorable yet! We'll begin with our Memorial Day Parade, followed by the reflective and meaningful observance of Memorial Day in Veterans Memorial Park. Then comes Juneteenth, a celebration of freedom, heritage, and progress that brings our community together in such a powerful and uplifting way. Of course, the 4th of July will be filled with patriotic pride, fireworks, and family fun.

We'll also enjoy an incredible lineup of musical concerts over the summer. Our new Faith, Family, and Future music series, in addition to our South Holland Band and Master Chorale concerts, will provide a variety of music and memories for South Hollanders to savor.

What truly makes this 2025 summer so special is the upcoming groundbreaking of our brand-new Family Athletic Center. This is more than just a building, it's the beginning of an exciting redevelopment of Town Center and a commitment to the vibrancy of South Holland's future. The opportunities it will provide are endless and can be deeply meaningful for years to come.

Enjoy this issue of *South Holland Living* magazine. It's reflective of the ongoing success of our strategic plan, *Coming Together 2030*, affecting everything we do, not only for this spring and summer, but well into our future.

Don A. De Graff
Mayor

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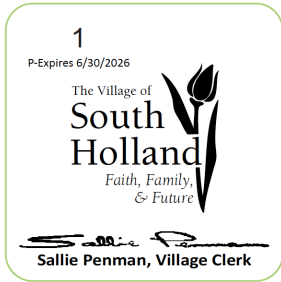
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WHAT'S HAPPENING AROUND SOUTH HOLLAND



VEHICLE STICKERS

The 2025–26 vehicle stickers are now available for purchase. Any vehicle registered to a South Holland address is required to have a South Holland vehicle sticker. This applies whether the vehicle is parked on the street, in a driveway, or garage. The stickers must be displayed before July 1.

Sticker Prices

Passenger Car: \$40

Truck and motor home: \$55

Truck C and higher: \$95

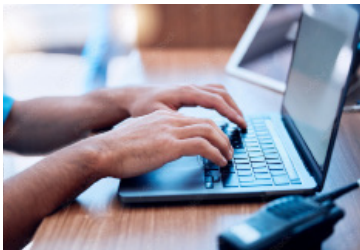
Motorcycle: \$30

Stickers are available at the Customer Service Center, 16220 Wausau Ave. You can also purchase your tickets online at southholland.org/vehiclestickers.



GRASS MAINTENANCE

The Village asks that grass be trimmed so as not to exceed 6 inches in length. This helps keep South Holland looking clean, bright and beautiful. For further guidelines on how to keep your neighborhood vibrant and welcoming through property maintenance, visit southholland.org/propertymaintenance.



ONLINE POLICE REPORTING SYSTEM

The South Holland Police Department makes it easy for residents to file a police report online—anytime, anywhere. Whether you're reporting property damage, a hit-and-run, lost items, or theft, you can do it straight from your smartphone or computer. It's fast, secure, and available 24/7. Get started now at southholland.org/policereport.



CENTRAL BARK DOG PARK

Got a dog that needs some room to socialize, play fetch, or release some zoomies? Take them to Central Bark, a members-only dog park with the following amenities:

- Key card access gates
- Lights
- Separate small and big dog play areas
- Pet waste bags
- Drinking fountains for dogs and humans
- Spacious amounts of shade for hot days

Residents and non-residents can become members of the park after supplying membership fees, proof of vaccinations, and proof of a current animal license. Visit southholland.org/centralbark for membership details.

OUT AND ABOUT

FACES FROM EVENTS AROUND THE VILLAGE

ARTISTS' GALLERY

A record-breaking 28 artists displayed their art in the 2025 South Holland Artists' Gallery, held at the Community Center. The Gallery opened with a reception for the artists and their friends and family, followed by the public gallery the following day. A variety of art was represented, including paintings, photography, digital art and woodcarving.



OUT AND ABOUT

FACES FROM EVENTS AROUND THE VILLAGE

EASTER EGG HUNT

South Holland children visited Veterans Memorial Park for an Easter Egg Hunt on a beautiful spring day in April. Kids ages 1-10 searched for eggs filled with candy, and in addition, each participant received an Easter basket generously sponsored by various South Holland businesses. Families also had the opportunity to take photos with the Easter Bunny.



OUT AND ABOUT

FACES FROM EVENTS AROUND THE VILLAGE

PANCAKES WITH THE POLICE

The South Holland Police Department invited residents to join them for breakfast at the Heritage House. The gathering featured a presentation by Police Chief Shawn Staples about public safety and ways the SHPD is engaging with the community, followed by time for questions and conversation.



SD BEAUTY EMPORIUM RIBBON CUTTING

The Village held a ribbon cutting for SD Beauty Emporium, a new beauty supply store located at 432 E 162nd St. Owned by Paula Karll (who also owns Shear Designs Salon in South Holland), SD Beauty Emporium provides a variety of hair maintenance, cosmetics and beauty products.



CALENDAR OF EVENTS



Coming Together on Juneteenth

May 18, June 1

SOUTH HOLLAND MASTER CHORALE CONCERTS

May 18: 4pm,

Thorn Creek Reformed Church, South Holland;

June 1: 4pm,

St. John the Evangelist, St. John, IN

**Enjoy a free concert by the South Holland
Master Chorale, titled "Durufle Requiem: A
Concert for All Souls."**

May 26

MEMORIAL DAY PARADE

11am, South Park Ave

South Holland will hold its annual Memorial Day Parade, which kicks off at 11am from 170th Street and South Park Avenue. Following the parade, there will be a remembrance ceremony at Veterans Memorial Park.

June 3

MAYOR'S COFFEE

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

**Residents can hear from and speak with Mayor
Don De Graff. Coffee and refreshments are
provided.**

June 6

CONCERT IN THE PARK

*7-9pm, Veterans Memorial Park,
500 E 160th Pl*

The Village is hosting a series of Concerts in the Park this year, in a Faith, Family, Future series. The first concert—Faith—features a gospel band made up of talented musicians from South Holland churches. Attendees are welcome to bring food and drinks, in the style of Ravinia. Tickets are \$10 and can be purchased at southholland.org.

June 7

COFFEE WITH FIREFIGHTERS

9am, SoHo Cafe, 16129 South Park Ave

Residents can meet and talk with members of the South Holland Fire Department on the first Saturday of every month. Note: This month's gathering meets at SoHo Cafe due to construction at the Fire Department.

June 10

COMMUNITY POLICING MEETING

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.

June 12

SOUTH HOLLAND MUNICIPAL BAND CONCERT

7pm, Veterans Memorial Park, 500 E 160th Pl

Join the South Holland Municipal Band for a concert in South Holland's premier park! Entry is free; bring a chair or blanket and enjoy live music from the longest-running municipal band in the south suburbs!

June 13

SUMMER BINGO

12pm, South Holland Community Center, 501 E 170th St

The South Holland Police Department is hosting a summer bingo event for South Holland residents ages 55 and up. Food will be provided, and prizes will be awarded.

June 21

COMING TOGETHER ON JUNETEENTH

Noon-4pm, Veterans Memorial Park, 500 E 160th Pl

Join the South Holland Ministerial Association and the Village of South Holland for a celebration of African-American history. The event includes inspirational speakers, live music, historical displays, vendors, food trucks, and more!

July 4

4TH OF JULY CELEBRATION

Noon-10pm, Veterans Memorial Park

Families are invited to a fun-filled day in our premier park that features food, live music, and a slew of fun activities, culminating with a spectacular fireworks show in the evening. New this year: South Holland residents can enter the fireworks show for free; non-residents will be charged \$10 (\$8 in advance). Visit southholland.org for more information.

AT THE LIBRARY

The following programs are held at the South Holland Public Library, 16250 Wausau Ave, unless otherwise indicated. Visit shlibrary.org for a list of all upcoming events.

Through May 22

MENTAL HEALTH MONTH

May is Mental Health Month! Stop by the Library all month long to participate in programs to promote your self-care goals.

May 14 and 28, 6pm: Pens and Planners Club

May 19, 10am: Morning Meditation

May 19, 7pm: Yarn N' All

May 22, 3pm: Mindful Motion

May 26

SHPL at the MEMORIAL DAY PARADE

11am, South Park Ave

The Library will be walking in the 2025 South Holland Memorial Day Parade, and we would love to have you walk with us! Contact the Library for details.

May 29

WRITING WORKSHOP SERIES

6pm

A Women's History-themed writing workshop to spark inspiration and creativity will kick off this series set to span March-May.

June 2-July 31

LEVEL UP AT THE LIBRARY:

SUMMER READING PROGRAM

Read, listen, visit and participate to win prizes and beat summer boredom with fun activities, crafts and books. Sign up and check in at the Library all summer long. Open to all ages!



SOUTH
HOLLAND

4TH OF JULY

Celebration

FRIDAY, JULY 4, 2025



Veterans Memorial Park
500 E 160th Place

The Village of
South
Holland
*Faith, Family,
& Future*



FAMILY FUN FESTIVAL - NOON-4PM

Games • Inflatables • Petting Zoo • Pony Wheel
Food Vendors • Live Music • And More!

Tents and grills are not permitted. The park will close at 5pm to prepare for the fireworks show, and will reopen at 6pm.

SPECTACULAR FIREWORKS SHOW - 9PM

Fireworks Show in the Park!

Park Opens: 6pm

Fireworks Begin: Shortly After Dusk

***NEW* ENTRY FEE:**

South Holland Residents: **FREE**

Non-SH Residents:

\$10 at the door, \$8 in advance

(purchase at southholland.org or at Community Center)

In order to make the event a more enjoyable experience, here is a reminder of our security measures for the fireworks show only:

- Kids under age 18 must be accompanied by parent or legal guardian
- No grills or tents
- All items brought into the park are subject to search upon entry.
- All guests will be subject to a metal detection screening.

**FOR MORE INFORMATION,
INCLUDING PARKING, VISIT
SOUTHOLLAND.ORG.**



FAITH IN

Motion

BI-WEEKLY SOUL SCRUB FINDING PEACE IN THE CLUTTER OF LIFE

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

Life, as we all know, can feel like a runaway train. Between work, family, and the constant hum of notifications, it's easy to feel weighed down by stress and emotional baggage. I found myself carrying around a lot of "stuff" that wasn't even mine (empaths, you know what I'm talking about!). That's why I started my "soul scrub," a little ritual I do every Monday and Thursday at 1:30pm.

It's my time to hit pause, to shed the hurry and the worry, and to reconnect with what truly matters. I think of it as a way to clear the mental cobwebs, like the scripture in Psalm 51:10 says, "Create in me a pure heart, O God, and renew a steadfast spirit within me." It's about making space for peace and, honestly, for God to work in my life.

And you know what? It really works. I feel lighter, more centered, and more ready to face whatever the week throws my way. Maybe you'd like to join me in a little soul decluttering? Here's how I do it:

1. Tidy My Space, Tidy My Mind:

It might seem small, but my surroundings affect my mood. I've noticed that when my space is cluttered, my head feels cluttered too.

My trick: I toss three things I don't need and put three things back where they belong. It's amazing how much lighter I feel after just a few minutes of tidying.

2. Free My Mind with Freewriting:

My mind is a constant stream of thoughts, to-do lists, and worries. I need a way to get it all out.

My go-to: I grab a pen and three pages of paper and just write. No editing, no judging, just letting my thoughts flow. The physical act of writing, instead of typing, feels really freeing.

3. Name My Feelings, Let Them Go:

I realized I was carrying around a lot of emotions I couldn't even name. That's a recipe for feeling overwhelmed.

What I do: I use an "Emotion Wheel" (you can find them online) and write down three emotions I've felt in the last three minutes, hour, and day. Just naming them helps me understand them and let them go.

This bi-weekly practice has become a lifeline for me. It's a way to create space for peace, clarity, and a deeper connection to myself and my faith. I encourage you to give it a try. I'd love to hear about your experience! Maybe we can all find a little more peace together.



Rev. Dr. Carmin
Frederick-James

THE FAMILY *Athletic* CENTER

A NEW HEARTBEAT FOR SOUTH HOLLAND'S YOUTH





This fall, something extraordinary is coming to the heart of South Holland. The Village is thrilled to announce the groundbreaking of the Family Athletic Center (FAC), a state-of-the-art, 20,000-square-foot indoor turf facility designed specifically for our community's children ages 5 to 13. Located in Town Center at the southeast corner of South Park Ave and 160th Place, the FAC promises to be a place where young athletes, families, and neighbors come together to play, cheer, and grow.

A SPACE BUILT FOR PLAY AND POSSIBILITY

The centerpiece of the FAC will be a sprawling 12,000-square-foot artificial turf field, offering year-round opportunities for soccer, baseball, flag football, lacrosse, rugby, and more. No matter how cold our winters are, our kids will have a place to stay active, develop skills, and make memories with friends.

But the FAC is more than just a field. It will feature batting cages for aspiring sluggers, ping pong tables for friendly matches, and even the possibility of a golf simulator. Every detail is designed to spark excitement and keep young minds and bodies engaged.





A PLACE FOR THE WHOLE FAMILY

Sports are more than games—they're about community. That's why the FAC's second-floor mezzanine will offer stadium-style viewing, complete with high-top tables and chairs. Moms, dads, grandparents, siblings, and friends can all be part of the action, sharing in the athletic activity from a comfortable, elevated vantage point.

The South Holland Recreational Services department is already hard at work planning a full calendar of leagues, tournaments, and special events. Whether your child is a seasoned athlete or just looking to try something new, there will be a program for everyone.

Additionally, while the majority of the programming will be designed for kids, the FAC will also be an exciting place for senior activities in the mornings and fun adult programming in the evenings. The FAC will indeed serve the entire family.

INVESTING IN OUR FUTURE— WITHOUT RAISING TAXES

As excitement builds, so will the energy in Town Center. To ensure a smooth experience for all, the Village will transform 161st Street into a cul-de-sac at its west end and add new municipal parking lots throughout Town Center. These improvements will make it easy for families to access the FAC and enjoy all the events our downtown has to offer.

Best of all, South Holland residents can celebrate knowing this project is a true investment in our community's future, paid for entirely by grant funding and existing Village savings—without any increase in taxes.

LOOKING AHEAD TO OPENING DAY

With construction beginning this fall and a grand opening slated for August 2026, the Family Athletic Center will soon stand as a testament to South Holland's commitment to its youth and families.

"The Family Athletic Center embodies the Family and Future aspects of our Village values," says Mayor Don De Graff. "It's a place where children and families can come together, enhance their fitness and athleticism, learn the values of teamwork, and experience growth right here in our own community. We can't wait to welcome you all to this new chapter in our village's story."

Stay tuned for updates as we watch the vision for the FAC come to life. Here's to a future filled with play, pride, and possibilities—right here in South Holland! 💧

Unlikely VISITORS



HOW A GROUP OF BIRDS FROM SOUTH AMERICA MADE THEIR WAY TO SOUTH HOLLAND

Story and photos by Josh Bootsma

Among the finches and sparrows you'd expect to see flitting around the Chicago area, South Holland residents have come to love another, unexpected bird: the Monk Parakeet. These exotic birds, native to South America, look like ones you'd be more likely to find in a pet store rather than the trees and bird feeders of South Holland.

Today's appreciators of the parakeets can thank exotic pet-seekers of the 1960s for the birds' appearance in the U.S. It's unknown how exactly the small parrots gained their freedom and took to the streets of Chicago, but they first did so in the late 60s and established a colony in the Hyde Park area in the 70s.

It's also unknown why the birds have made South Holland their home. Betsy Neibert, a South Holland resident of 28 years, remembers first seeing them on her parents' birdfeeder decades ago. Six years ago, she started seeing them in her own yard on 161st Street.

"My daughter would spend a lot of time in our front room by our big window. And all of a sudden, one day the parakeets started coming to our feeder," she says.

The largest number of parakeets the Neiberts have seen on their bird feeder at one time is 28—a squawking swarm that proved why a group of parrots is called a pandemonium. "It was a pandemonium!" Neibert says.

A block away on Parkside Avenue, 8-year South Holland resident Tim Toeset has seen 20 birds in his yard at a time, and tries to keep their favorite seeds in his feeders to attract them.

"From experience, we know what they like," says Toeset. "They like safflower seeds, they like black oil sunflower seeds, and they will also eat from our suet container."

And when the feeders are empty, the birds are quick to ask for a refill, something both Toeset and Neibert have noticed. "They sit way high up in the trees and they yell at me when the feeder's not full," Neibert says.

Unlike other parakeets, Monk Parakeets live communally, building multifamily nests of sticks, often in trees or on power poles. It's likely a combination of this communal living and food supplied by their human friends that allows the birds to survive Chicago winters.



"They're even more striking in the snow because they're still bright green, where most other birds dull down their color in the winter," Neibert says.

Their beauty is beloved by the community year-round, and Neibert notices people who walk past her yard to catch a glimpse of the parakeets. Likewise, Toeset—an avid birdwatcher who's kept a list of every type of bird he's seen from his yard in the last 8 years—loves the exotic birds.

"It's so unique that South Holland has this flock of parakeets. I think it adds a really special flavor to living here," he says. "A lot of people don't know anything about them and never see them, but we have them here. It just adds a special character to the Village." 🌿

MURAL COMING SOON!

Coming to a Mural Near You!

This summer, the monk parakeets will be part of a striking new mural being painted in South Holland. Renowned artist Cameron Moberg will bring this vision to life, creating a beautiful landmark for South Holland residents and visitors alike. We will share the mural's location and details in the coming weeks. Follow the Village of South Holland on Facebook and Instagram for updates!

The Village of South Holland would like to
thank our generous sponsors of the
2025

Easter EGG HUNT

AAA Freight, Inc.
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Elevate Senior Living
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Reliance Safety Lane

INTRODUCING

Lenny THE Litterbug

SOUTH HOLLAND'S NEWEST ECO-HERO



South Holland's fight against litter just got a charismatic upgrade with Lenny the Litterbug, a whimsical yet hardworking mascot designed to inspire cleaner streets and community pride.

In 2024, the South Holland Public Works department introduced a high-efficiency litter vacuum to replace manual trash collection, freeing staff for critical projects while keeping parks and roadways spotless. Recognizing its potential as a teaching tool, the Clean Bright Beautiful Committee (CBBC) came up with an idea to transform the vehicle into a roving mascot. Wrapped in vibrant graphics and outfitted with LED-lit wings and antennae by the Fleet Maintenance Garage team, "Lenny" now turns heads while sucking up debris.

Lenny debuted at South Holland's Spring Cleaning event on May 3, part of the Coming Together 2030 initiative. Over 100 volunteers—including local schools, businesses, and the South Holland Ministerial Association—revived the spirit of the former "Take a Bite Out of Grime" campaign, demonstrating renewed community collaboration.

Where to Spot Lenny Next

Catch this eco-friendly bug at schools, Village events, and the Memorial Day Parade (May 26). Beyond its public appearances, Lenny's mission includes educating residents on waste reduction, embodying South Holland's commitment to a Clean, Bright, and Beautiful future.



Before



After

HOW NOT TO LITTER

Littering often happens without people even realizing it. Many everyday actions—small and seemingly harmless—can add up to a big problem for our community and environment. To help raise awareness, here are some common ways litter sneaks into our neighborhoods without us noticing:

1. Gum and Candy Wrappers

Tiny wrappers get dropped accidentally or shoved into pockets and fall out later. They're lightweight and often go unnoticed.

2. Fast Food Debris

Napkins, straws, ketchup packets, and receipts often blow away when eating outside or tossing waste into an overflowing bin.

3. Overflowing Trash Cans

People try to be responsible by placing trash in a full bin, but the wind or birds scatter it, essentially turning it into litter.

4. Trash Flying Out of Cars

Loose items like receipts, food wrappers, or even plastic bags can blow out of windows or open truck beds while driving.

5. Dropped Receipts or Flyers

Many people don't realize that those little paper slips they drop after leaving a store or, getting a flyer on their windshield, are technically litter.

6. Pet Waste Bags Left Behind

Dog owners may bag the poop but forget or neglect to pick it up later, leaving the bag behind—littering twice, really.

7. Yard Waste Dumping

Some people think dumping grass clippings, leaves, or even branches in wooded areas or parks is harmless, but it can disrupt ecosystems and is considered illegal dumping in many places.

8. Personal Care Items

Things like floss picks, cotton swabs, or even facial tissues dropped or flushed incorrectly can end up as street or waterway litter.

9. Micro-litter from Packaging

Pull-tabs from drink cartons, tamper seals, bottle cap rings—these tiny pieces often get tossed or dropped without a second thought.

10. Confetti and Balloons

Celebratory items like plastic confetti or released balloons may seem festive, but once they settle, they become harmful litter, especially to wildlife.

11. Cigarette Butts

Smokers may flick cigarette butts on the ground, thinking they're small and biodegradable, but they're actually plastic and highly polluting.

12. Litter from Windy Conditions

Bags or cups set down momentarily on a bench, car roof, or picnic table can blow away quickly, especially if people assume they'll get it "in a sec."

13. Improper Bag Tying

Trash bags that aren't sealed properly can leak or spill contents, especially during transport or collection.

14. Leaving Items Behind

People might forget jackets, coolers, toys, or picnic trash in parks or beaches, especially after group events—often thinking someone else will grab it.

As you read through these examples, consider how simple changes in your habits can make a big difference. This summer, we encourage every South Holland resident to take a moment to pick up any litter you see, properly dispose of your trash, and help keep our village clean.

And if you need a little extra help, don't forget—Lenny the Litterbug is out there, ready to lend a hand! 🔥



20 CONCERTS 25 IN THE PARK

Faith, Family, Future Series

Join the Village of South Holland for a series of concerts this summer!

FAITH
June 6

Gospel Concert
Featuring musicians
from South Holland
Churches



FAMILY
July 18

Party Foul
Upbeat cover tunes
from a favorite
party band!



FUTURE
August 8

House Music
DJ Hula Mahone
spinning up
house beats

7-9pm • Veterans Memorial Park
Tickets: \$10 per person

Learn more and get your tickets at southholland.org.

FREE CONCERTS

Featuring the South Holland Municipal Band!
All concerts take place at Veterans Memorial Park

June 12, 7pm
July 4, 2pm

July 24, 7pm
Aug 14, 7pm





The South Holland Ministerial Association
and the Village of South Holland Presents

*Coming Together
on*

JUNE TEENTH

Saturday, June 21
Noon-4pm

Veterans Memorial Park | 500 E. 160th Place

Join us for a celebration of African-American history!

FOOD
TRUCKS

BLACK
FARMERS
MARKET

GOSPEL
MUSIC

BOUNCE
HOUSES

JESSE
WHITE
TUMBLERS

INSPIRATIONAL
SPEAKERS

PRAYER
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LOCAL POSTAL CUSTOMER

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SO. HOLLAND, IL
PERMIT #4

SOHO SWEETS
IS NOW...



Same great food, new name! Your favorite cafe on South Park Ave is now called SoHo Cafe to better reflect what we serve!

STOP IN TODAY!

Mon-Sat 7am-7pm

Sun 10am-2pm



southholland.org