

# SOUTH HOLLAND

*Living*

May | June 2024



The Kickoff to a South Holland Summer

# Memorial Day Parade



*Monday, May 27, 2024*  
*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!

**A Remembrance Ceremony will follow the parade at Veterans Memorial Park.**

**Learn more at [southholland.org](https://southholland.org).**

## FROM YOUR MAYOR



*Mayor De Graff and Veteran Frank Laos, Jr. at the Memorial Day Remembrance Ceremony*

Dear South Holland Residents and Friends,

Do you remember where you were and what we were doing at 2:07pm on Monday, April 8? Many of us will recall this time and date in our lives as one we'll never forget; one where a major portion of the United States enjoyed "coming together" to participate in a memorable event. Here in South Holland, we witnessed a 95% eclipse with the moon passing directly through a line of the sun's path. This amazing solar eclipse brought us together as a nation. It was a stark reminder of God's creative design and precise planning.

God's design and planning also provide us with four beautiful and distinct seasons of the year. In preparation for each uniquely different season, the leadership of each of our key stakeholder community groups in South Holland takes very seriously their role to design and plan. This results in memorable, productive, and faith-and-family fun seasonal events for us to enjoy together as a community. In a word, that's what our "Coming Together 2030" Strategic Plan is already accomplishing in a big way.

Leading us is an active Village administrative team, committed church leaders, dedicated public and private school teachers, a healthy and innovative South Holland Business Association, and many remarkable residents and service organizations, all working together to uniquely identify us as "A Village Like No Other."

Enjoy this remarkable issue of our *South Holland Living* magazine as you review what's been happening and what we can anticipate, looking forward to the fun and interactive plans in store for us as we enter the Summer of 2024!

Don A. De Graff  
Mayor

## VILLAGE BOARD

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### Communications, Branding & Marketing Manager

Julia Perla Huisman

### Contributing Writers

Bob Bong  
Josh Bootsma  
Carrie Steinweg  
Ronda Williams

### Photographers

Lawrence Bickerstaff  
Josh Bootsma  
Manuel Corazzari  
Angela Jackson  
Michael McGee

### Designer

Jenni Hoekstra

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# VILLAGE NEWS

## WHAT'S HAPPENING AROUND SOUTH HOLLAND



### VEHICLE STICKERS

The 2024-25 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 C and higher: \$95

Truck and motor home: \$55

Motorcycle: \$30

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



### ONLINE POLICE REPORTING SYSTEM

The South Holland Police Department has launched a new program that allows residents to file a police report online. Up until this point, all police reports had to be filed in person at the Police Department; now you can submit a report immediately from your smartphone or computer. Incidents such as property damage, lost property, theft, hit-and-run, and more can be reported online. Visit [southholland.org/policereport](https://southholland.org/policereport) for more information and to file a report.



### 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. If you are in need of a lawn mowing service, visit [southholland.org](https://southholland.org) for a list of local companies that can help.



### ROUTE 6 RESURFACING

Route 6/159th Street will receive a much-needed resurfacing this summer, from Halsted to Torrence Avenues. The end result will be wonderful, even though the construction process may cause some delays at times. At least one lane of the road will be open at all times, but we do encourage you to take alternate routes when possible. For information and updates on the Route 6 construction, visit [southholland.org](https://southholland.org).

# OUT AND ABOUT

## FACES FROM EVENTS AROUND THE VILLAGE

### ARTISTS' GALLERY

A record-breaking 26 artists displayed their art in the 2024 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 chilly but fun day. 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

### RIBBON CUTTINGS

#### Unity Christian Academy

The Village celebrated the ribbon cuttings of two South Holland businesses/organizations, Unity Christian Academy (UCA) and Schaffer Funeral Service. UCA held a building dedication and ribbon cutting for their new school campus at 700 E 170th St, a larger facility with much room for growth.



#### Schaffer Funeral Service

Schaffer Funeral Service, located at 649 E 162nd St, is the new owner of the former Smit Funeral Home. Owners Lolita and Antonio Schaffer held a moving ceremony to commemorate the space, followed by the cutting of the ribbon.





SOUTH  
HOLLAND

# 4<sup>TH</sup> OF JULY

*Celebration*

THURSDAY, JULY 4, 2024



Veterans Memorial Park  
500 East 160th Place

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



## **FAMILY FUN FESTIVAL - NOON-4PM**

**Kiddie Bike Parade • Inflatables • Games  
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.**

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## **SPECTACULAR FIREWORKS SHOW - 9PM**

**Fireworks Show in the Park!**

**Park Opens: 6pm**

**Fireworks Begin: Shortly After Dusk**

**In order to make the event a more enjoyable experience, we have implemented the following security measures for the fireworks show only:**

- Kids 18 and younger must be accompanied by parent or legal guardian
- No backpacks
- 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.**



# CALENDAR OF EVENTS



Memorial Day Parade

**May 19, June 2**

**SOUTH HOLLAND MASTER CHORALE  
CONCERTS**

*May 19: 4pm, All Souls Catholic Parish, Lansing;  
June 2: 4pm, St. John the Evangelist,  
St. John, IN*

Enjoy a free concert by the South Holland Master Chorale, titled "A Mass for Troubled Times / A Call for Peace."

**May 27**

**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 1**

**COFFEE WITH FIREFIGHTERS**

*8:30am, Fire Station 1, 16230 Wausau Ave*

Residents can meet and talk with members of the South Holland Fire Department on the first Saturday of every month.

**June 4**

**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 11**

**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 22**

**COMING TOGETHER ON JUNETEENTH**

*Noon-5pm, 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, a Black farmers' market, food trucks, bounce houses, 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. Visit [southholland.org](http://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.

**May 29**

### PLANTING WITH THE SOUTH HOLLAND GARDEN CLUB

7pm, Community Room

Make a planter and plant a flower with the South Holland Garden Club. Registration required.

**June 1-Aug 3**

### SUMMER READING: UNDER THE BIGTOP

Join us this summer for a fun-filled adventure at the Library. Score big prizes for reading and attending programs all summer long.

**June 11 and June 14**

### JUNETEENTH COLLABORATIVE PAINTING

June 11: 11am; June 14: 2pm;  
Collaboration Space

Celebrate Juneteenth with a collaborative painting where each stroke tells a story of freedom, unity, and resilience. Registration required.

**June 21**

### SPEEDSTER CELEBRATION! SONIC THE HEDGEHOG BIRTHDAY PARTY

4pm

Celebrate the birthday of our favorite blue speedster! Registration required.

## CLASS OF 2024

*Congratulations  
to all  
graduates!*

# FAITH IN

# Motion

## LIFE CAN BE PUZZLING

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

About a year ago, I was putting together a 24-piece puzzle with my 6- and 2-year-old granddaughters McKenzie and Zuri. I was excited to share time with them because they live in a different state, we don't get to see each other often, and it was Zuri's 2nd birthday. And did I mention that this was the day that our state released all COVID-19 restrictions? While putting together the puzzle, I was reminded of how puzzling life had been these past few years. I was also grateful because God chose this time to share a few lessons for when life gets puzzling.

While McKenzie and I were making good progress in completing the puzzle, Zuri kept pulling apart what we were doing. We found the four corners of the puzzle and put them aside; when we looked up, Zuri had picked them up and put them back into the box. We found all the edges and began to put them together. Before we knew it, they were back in the box, mixed in with the other pieces. I initially thought that this would be frustrating for McKenzie, but she taught me a lesson. She said, "Don't worry, it's okay. At least we know where all the pieces go."

Sometimes our lives can seem this way. We have pulled out a piece of the puzzle and it seems like it has been "put back in the box." God reminds us that even when it seems like everything is put back in the box and all mixed up, at least you know the pieces are all a part of the puzzle.

After we had completed a few puzzles, I overheard McKenzie say "Mommy, puzzles are not boring like I thought they were." Her mom explained that McKenzie had



**Rev. Dr. Carmin Frederick-James**

wooden puzzles made for children younger than her with 5-10 pieces, which were unchallenging. McKenzie had not yet been challenged to complete puzzles with more pieces, more complex images, or ones that required more dexterity. Turns out she was up for the challenge, and it increased her excitement to be able to solve something she thought was boring.

In life, we will become bored. This is when God calls us to opportunities that have more pieces, are more complex, and require more dexterity. We too, are up for the challenge.

As we completed the puzzle, McKenzie would pause and celebrate after she connected one piece to another. While I

was waiting to celebrate the completed puzzle, she stopped, making time to celebrate after each connection. Many of us don't take the time to celebrate along the way. We are waiting for a certain age or a particular accomplishment—when I get this amount of money saved, I will celebrate... etc. God wants us to celebrate each step of the way.

McKenzie stopped each time and clapped as she said, "Yay, I got another one." It became contagious. At first, I clapped with her, then her mom clapped and said "Yay" too, then my husband clapped and said "Yay"—before we knew it, we were all celebrating every step until this 24-piece puzzle was completed!

Can you imagine what would happen if we all celebrated each step? You got your first sale at your new job as a salesperson—stop and celebrate! You wrote the first paragraph of the book you are writing—stop and celebrate! You are learning to drive, and you drove around the block for the first time—stop and celebrate! It's your first day of reading the Bible in a year—stop and celebrate! You and your spouse made it through your first year of marriage—stop and celebrate! It's the first day after you gave your life to Christ—stop and celebrate!

2024 SOUTH HOLLAND

# FUN RUN



**Saturday, September 14**

**Veterans Memorial Park • 500 E 160th Place**

**Scan to  
learn more  
and register!**



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

*Coming Together  
on*

# JUNE TEENTH

Saturday, June 22

Noon-5pm

Veterans Memorial Park | 500 E. 160th Place

Join us for a celebration of African-American history!

FOOD  
TRUCKS

BLACK  
FARMERS  
MARKET

BOUNCE  
HOUSES

LIVE MUSIC

JESSE  
WHITE  
TUMBLERS

INSPIRATIONAL  
SPEAKERS

HEALTH AND  
WELLNESS  
VENDORS

AND MORE!



# GREEN THUMB Secrets

15 TIPS FOR GARDENING AND PLANTING



This garden was featured in the 2023 South Holland Garden Walk.

For some people, gardening is a delightful hobby that comes naturally to them. For others, it's a struggle. It can seem daunting to know what to plant, where to plant it, and how often to water. Thankfully, the South Holland Garden Club is here to help! Club members Robin Scheldberg and Rose Arias share their tips for planting... and maintaining your sanity along the way.



**1.** Start small. Realize that you are going to be responsible for deadheading your plants and watering every day.

**2.** Decide on the location of the garden. Is it full sun, no trees, or is it all trees, no sunshine? The north side of your property is best for shade-loving plants, the south for sun-loving flowers. Consider the conditions. Do you have areas that stay wet or soggy after a rain? They're probably not a good spot for a garden.

**3.** Don't plant anything in the ground until after Mother's Day.

**4.** Some plants need a good soaking, not just a handful of water. Watering in the daylight is healthier for plants than watering at night. Temperatures can change and this can cause fungus and root rot.

**5.** Try no-fail plants like perennials. These come up every year without any work on your part. They don't require much watering either.

**6.** Creeping Thyme and Creeping Sedum are excellent ground covers. They fill in the garden areas, provide color, and keep the weeds down too.

**7.** Open-faced flowers attract butterflies and other pollinators. Bugle-shaped flowers attract hummingbirds.

**8.** Mix annuals and perennials. Perennials are great because they come up when they are expected but their blooms are limited. Some might bloom in May or June and then that's it for a season. Annuals are the 'color' in the garden and can keep blooming for the entire season.

**9.** You can also plant vegetable plants in your flower garden. Marigolds are the perfect deterrent for pests that usually invade tomato plants.

**10.** Use Google Lens to identify a weed from a flower.

**11.** Read your plant tags. Just because you love the colors doesn't mean it's the right plant for your garden. Read about how tall your plants are going to get. You don't want an 18-inch plant in front of a smaller plant, or you will have to replant those elsewhere.

**12.** Improve your soil. South Holland was all farm fields back in the day, so there might be a combination of clay, sand, and soil. Do your research!

**13.** Embrace compost. There are great composts available at Menards and Home Depot that won't break your wallet. If you are up to a small challenge, consider making your own. Use coffee grounds, banana peels, egg shells, and even paper, and allow these things to naturally break down and create a wonderful nutrient-rich sort of fertilized soil. Never use anything from animals in your compost. That will mold and destroy your efforts. Be considerate of your neighbors and compost in an area away from them. Compost can have powerful odors. It can also attract garter snakes and other wildlife.

**14.** Clean your garden tools after working in your garden. Failing to do so can cause wear and tear on your shovels.

**15.** Always, always, always wear garden gloves when planting in your soil. Some plants can cause skin irritations.

## 5 WAYS THE SOUTH HOLLAND GARDEN CLUB CAN HELP YOU

1. Visit the South Holland Public Library for a planting presentation on May 29, 7pm.
2. Attend South Holland's Memorial Day Parade to get free garden seeds from the Garden Club.
3. Go to the annual South Holland Garden Walk on July 20 to get ideas for your garden.
4. Buy your bulbs in the Fall at the Heritage Fest on September 2, for early color in the spring.
5. Join the Garden Club for seminars on all manner of plant life!

**The Garden Club meets on the 2nd Wednesday of each month at 6pm at the Heritage House (443 E 157th St). Master gardeners are on hand to help with questions. Gardeners of all skill levels are welcome. 💧**

# PINNING DOWN SUCCESS

THE INSPIRING STORY OF CASSIE TOLLIVER,  
FOURTH-GRADE WRESTLING PHENOM  
By Ronda Williams



In the bustling halls of Madison Elementary School, amidst the chatter of fourth-grade adventures and the hum of learning, there's one student who stands out from the crowd: Cassie Tolliver. With her bright smile and boundless energy, Cassie is a force to be reckoned with both in and out of the classroom. But it's on the wrestling mat where she truly shines, leaving a trail of triumph in her wake.

Cassie's journey into the world of wrestling began with a playful tussle among cousins—a spirited exchange that caught the eye of her uncle, who saw in her the makings of a formidable grappler. "He thought I would be a good wrestler," Cassie recalls. "So, he took me to a practice, and I decided to give it a shot."

At first, Cassie wasn't sure if wrestling was her cup of tea. But as she laced up her wrestling shoes and stepped onto the mat, she found herself drawn to the thrill of competition and the challenge of mastering new techniques. Three years and countless practices later, Cassie has cemented her status as a wrestling prodigy, competing against both boys and girls with equal gusto.

"I like the feel of it," Cassie says. "Using my weight and technique to put my competitors in different moves—it's the best part."

For three consecutive years, Cassie has stormed through state championships, claiming third place in her debut year and clinching the championship title two years in a row. She is the first girl to win the Illinois state championship in her age group. As the sport gains popularity among girls, Cassie's victories have been a testament to her skill, determination, and unwavering focus. But wrestling isn't just about winning for Cassie—it's about building confidence, both physically and mentally. "Sometimes when I lose, I don't like to cry on the mat," she admits. "It shows that I am weak." With each match, Cassie learns resilience and fortitude, traits that serve her well both on and off the mat.

In addition to wrestling, Cassie is a multi-talented athlete, dabbling in tennis, dance, cheerleading, and more. Despite her busy schedule, she maintains an impressive record on the A and B honor roll, proving that dedication and hard work are the keys to success in all endeavors.

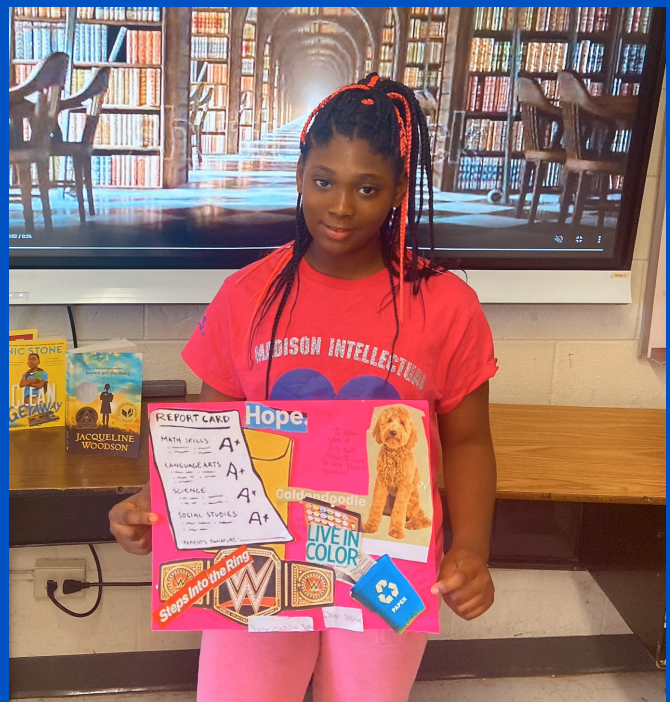
As Cassie basks in the glow of her latest triumph, she's quick to acknowledge the support of her family, teammates, and most importantly, her coach, Tim Springs. A wrestling legend in his own right, Coach Tim has been guiding Cassie's journey for the past three years, instilling in her the values of discipline, perseverance, and a never-say-die attitude.

"For her size, she is athletic, agile, and she works hard," Coach Tim says. Under his tutelage, Cassie has blossomed into a force to be reckoned with, leaving opponents in her wake and inspiring a new generation of girl wrestlers.

As Cassie looks to the future, her sights set on even greater victories, she knows that she's not alone in her quest for excellence. With her family by her side, her teammates cheering her on, and Coach Tim in her corner, the sky's the limit for this pint-sized powerhouse from South Holland. 🔥



Cassie credits her wrestling coach Tim Springs for guiding her to success.



Cassie is a 4th grader at Madison Elementary School.

# A WALK IN THE PARK

EVERYTHING TO KNOW ABOUT SOUTH HOLLAND'S 30 PARKS



Veterans Memorial Park

South Holland is unique for a community this size, in that it is home to 30 beautiful parks. These parks vary from small tot-lots to large community parks and a very large sports complex. We now even have a dog park! This summer, as you look to visit these parks for strolling, exercise, or family gatherings, keep in mind the following information.

### **Where can I find a list of all of the South Holland Parks?**

There is a list available online at [southholland.org/parks](https://southholland.org/parks). We've categorized the parks into three categories: Regional (key to the south suburban region), Local (key to South Holland and neighboring towns), and Neighborhood (key to the neighborhood in which they are located). On the website, each park has a link to its location on Google Maps, as well as a list of each park's amenities.

### **When do I need a park permit?**

If you want to reserve a pavilion or building structure in a park for a party or gathering (greater than 20 people), you must obtain a park permit. Visit [southholland.org](https://southholland.org) or the South Holland Community Center for more information about the permit process. Permits are issued on a first-come, first-served basis. They are not needed for activities such as a walking group or a game of touch football, only for events requiring the reservation of a structure within a park. *Please Note: Park permits are only available to South Holland residents.*



**Do the parks have athletic fields?**

Seven of our parks are home to athletic fields, including baseball, softball and soccer:

- Babe Ruth, Gouvens, Macarthur, Municipal, Paarlberg, Thorn Creek, Veterans Memorial

Visit [southholland.org](http://southholland.org) or the South Holland Community Center for more information about reserving an athletic field.

**Where can I play tennis or pickleball?**

Tennis courts are available at Gouvens and Hollandale parks, and are available for rent as well. And in 2023, the Village built a brand new pickleball court at Paarlberg Park! There are four courts total. They are lighted, and a new restroom facility is on site. The courts are open from 7am-10pm.

**NEW THIS YEAR...  
A DISC GOLF COURSE!**



We are pleased to announce the newest addition to DeYoung Grove Park: a state-of-the-art disc golf course! Nestled amidst the scenic beauty of the park, this course offers an exciting challenge for both seasoned players and newcomers alike. Visit [southholland.org](http://southholland.org) for more details.





### Can I take my dog to the park?

While we do not permit dogs in our parks, per Village ordinance, residents are welcome to bring their furry friends to our dog park, Central Bark! Situated on a beautifully wooded one-acre, fenced-in lot, your dog will have the ability to play and run free. Central Bark is a members-only park. Fill out a registration form online ([southholland.org](https://southholland.org)) or at the South Holland Community Center.

Visit [southholland.org/parks](https://southholland.org/parks) to view the list of amenities and locations of our South Holland parks. 🐾



## THE VILLAGE OF SOUTH HOLLAND WOULD LIKE TO THANK OUR GENEROUS SPONSORS OF THE 2024 EASTER EGG HUNT!

Exhibit Source, Inc.  
Gibraltar Chemical Works  
Lagestee-Mulder  
Reliance Safety Lane & Service  
State Farm Insurance - Russ Johnson

South Holland's Own Dog Park!

south holland  
central  
bark

510 Thornwood Drive  
South Holland, Illinois

Open daily from dawn to dusk

To apply for a  
membership to Central Bark,  
visit the Community Center  
front desk.



[southholland.org/centralbark](https://southholland.org/centralbark)

\*\*\*\*\*ECRWSEDDM\*\*\*\*\*

LOCAL POSTAL CUSTOMER

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SO. HOLLAND, IL  
PERMIT #4

# Mayor's Coffee

**Tuesday,  
June 4  
7:00pm**

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



[southholland.org](http://southholland.org)