The Future of South Holland
MEMORIAL DAY PARADE

MONDAY
MAY 27, 2019
11:00 AM

PARADE BEGINS AT 170TH STREET AND SOUTH PARK AVE AND CONTINUES TO VETERANS MEMORIAL PARK 160TH PLACE AND SOUTH PARK AVE

FOLLOWED BY A REMEMBRANCE CEREMONY AT 1PM AT VETERANS MEMORIAL PARK
Dear South Holland residents and friends,

Spring has sprung! It’s that time of year again when we together experience rebirth and regeneration.

One of the many aspects that make South Holland unique is the fact that we are rooted in heritage and tradition, yet also with an eye for progress and renewal. It’s why Future is the third component of our Faith, Family, Future motto... we pursue a fresh perspective wherever possible to keep our community thriving.

With that in mind, we made the decision to bring a new look to South Holland Today—our bimonthly magazine—with content and a new design that we feel readers will find relevant and appealing. Our aim is to inform residents of news and Village initiatives, as always, but also to provide a look inside the life of South Holland—telling the stories of our residents, churches, schools, businesses, and special events in a way that fosters a more connected community. This is why we have transitioned the name of our new magazine to South Holland Living, which more clearly conveys the life and vitality of our Village.

I hope you will find our new publication a pleasure to read and enjoy, and that the stories in it will make you even more proud to be a resident of the Village of South Holland. Enjoy this wonderful springtime season. There’s so much to look forward to!

Don A. De Graff
Mayor
DID YOU KNOW?

LEARN ABOUT THE VILLAGE ORDINANCES THAT HELP KEEP SOUTH HOLLAND A CLEAN, BRIGHT AND BEAUTIFUL COMMUNITY.

Did you know...

... that garbage containers should not be placed on the curb prior to 4:00pm on the day before scheduled pickup, and should be removed from the curb by 8:00pm on the day of pickup?

... that your house numbers must be visible from the street and must be 4 inches high?

... that properties with a swimming pool must be fenced with a locking gate or a foldable ladder at the pool?

For more information about Village ordinances, call the Building and Code Department at 708.210.2900.

HELP SUPPORT SPECIAL OLYMPICS!
The Village of South Holland is hosting the upcoming events to benefit our local athletes who are part of the Special Olympics.

MAY 17
COP ON A ROOFTOP
Visit Dunkin Donuts to make a donation and meet South Holland police officers.
Dunkin Donuts | 460 E 162nd St

JUNE 2019
TORCH RUN
Help carry the Flame of Hope that will travel to the Special Olympics Summer Games! Confirmed date to be announced.

SEPTEMBER 14
HERITAGE HAUL
Fifty percent of each registration fee for this 5K/10K/Half Marathon will benefit the Special Olympics! southholland.org/haul

Visit southholland.org for more info on these events!
NEW PARTY ON THE BLOCK
Every year, the Village encourages neighborhoods to plan block parties in an effort to get to know your neighbors. With warmer weather on the way, now is the time to begin planning your block party.

When you book a block party with the Village, we will provide road blocks and signage for your street, plus a limited number of picnic tables and emergency vehicles for children’s viewing (pending availability). The party organizer will also receive a host gift. All of these items are free of charge and distributed on a first-come, first-serve basis. It is recommended that you submit your request as early as possible.

Reserve your block party date by completing the registration form at southholland.org, or pick up a hard copy form at the Customer Service Center, 16220 Wausau Ave.

ROAD CONSTRUCTION COMING
The intersection of Van Dam Road and Route 6 is undergoing a redesign in order to accommodate the higher volume of traffic that area has seen since the arrival of the Love’s Travel Stop. Specifically, the redesign will include a better turning radius for semi trucks.

Construction is scheduled for completion by the end of November. At some point, most likely near August, Van Dam Road will be closed for 10 days (Route 6 will remain open). We will post further updates as that closure nears.

YARD CLEANUP MADE EASY
Beginning April 1 through November, pickup of yard waste will take place on the same day as your regular garbage collection. Please use the toter designated for yard waste. When the toter is full and there is still more waste to dispose of, you may use brown paper yard bags.

To request special pickup of outdoor landscape debris, contact the Public Works department at 708.339.2323.
VILLAGE NEWS
WHAT’S HAPPENING AROUND SOUTH HOLLAND

STICKER TIME
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 2019-20 vehicle stickers are available starting May 1 and must be displayed by July.

Sticker Prices:
- Passenger Car: $40
- Truck and motor home: $55
- Truck C and higher: $95
- Motorcycle: $20

Those 65 years and older receive a 50 percent discount. Late fees are incurred after July 1.

FOR THE LOVE OF PANCAKES
Save the date—and your appetite—for the South Holland Fire Department’s annual All You Can Eat Pancake Breakfast on April 6 from 7 to 11am at Fire Station 1 (16230 Wausau Ave). This fun-filled morning includes a delicious breakfast, fellowship, raffle, and conversations with the firefighters. Tickets are $8 per person; children 4 and under are free.

POLICE GIVE BACK
The South Holland Police Department is participating in two events that, with the community’s help, will benefit Special Olympics Illinois.

Dunkin Donuts began Cop on a Rooftop as an annual event to raise awareness and get donations for Special Olympics. All of the money raised will help the Special Olympics programs specifically within the South Holland area. On May 17, South Holland police officers will stand on the roof at our local Dunkin Donuts to help raise donations. Our driving force in this event is to help raise money for athletes and enrich their lives through sports, education and health.

In June, law enforcement officers will also participate in the annual Torch Run, where they will carry the Flame of Hope that will eventually be delivered to the Special Olympics Illinois State Summer Games. Anyone in the community is invited to participate. More details will be posted as the event nears.

6 APRIL | MAY 2019
LITTLE LEAGUE
The South Holland Little League season is in full swing! Come out and support your favorite team!

April 20: Opening Day
May 27: Majors and Minors All-Star Game
Also, cheer on the SHLL players in the Memorial Day parade!
June 23: Closing Ceremonies

Each of the above events take place at Veterans Memorial Park, 160th and South Park Ave. Visit southhollandlittleleague.org for specific team calendars.

JETS FOOTBALL AND CHEERLEADING
2019 REGISTRATION DATES
South Holland Community Center
501 E 170th St

April 6: 9am-noon
May 1: 6-9pm
May 25: 9am-noon
June 9: 6-9pm

Or register anytime online at shjets.org.

14TH ANNUAL HERITAGE HAUL | 5K, 10K, HALF MARATHON
SEPTEMBER 14, 2019
Veterans Memorial Park

Sign up now for the popular Heritage Haul! Fifty percent of your registration fee directly benefits the Special Olympics, including the athletes who attend Thornwood High School in our own community. Your registration includes a race bag filled with a long-sleeve race shirt and many goodies. Cash prizes and medals will be awarded to top finishers.

Register now at southholland.org/haul
VOLUNTEER APPRECIATION DINNER/
MAYOR’S LEADERSHIP AWARDS

Every two years, the Village board and administration treats their faithful volunteers who serve on a board, commission or committee to a special banquet with food, gifts and music. This is also where the Mayor’s Leadership Awards are presented to the individuals who exemplify the Village’s values of faith, family, and future. The dinner took place at the South Holland Community Center.
OUT AND ABOUT

FACES FROM EVENTS AROUND THE VILLAGE

BARTECH RIBBON CUTTING

The BarTech Group is an electrical construction contracting firm that has made a new home in South Holland. The BarTech staff and Village officials and administration celebrated the company’s arrival with a ribbon cutting at their office on 161st Street.

THE VILLAGE OF SOUTH HOLLAND IS ACCEPTING APPLICATIONS FOR CROSSING GUARDS

Applications can be picked up at the South Holland Village Hall, 16226 Wausau Avenue Monday–Friday, 9am–5pm

APPLICATIONS MUST BE RETURNED BY FRIDAY, MAY 31, 2019
APRIL 2
CONSOLIDATED ELECTION DAY
Polls open 6 a.m. to 7 p.m.
Municipal and school board elections are on the ballot on this day.

APRIL 6
SOUTH HOLLAND FIRE DEPARTMENT PANCAKE BREAKFAST
7-11 a.m., Fire Station No. 1, 16230 Wausou Ave.
The Fire Department’s annual All You Can Eat Pancake Breakfast includes a breakfast meal, fellowship, raffle, and a chance to meet the firefighters. Tickets are $8 per person; children 4 and under are free.

APRIL 13
NEW RESIDENT BREAKFAST
9 a.m., South Holland Community Center, 501 E 170th St.
New residents to South Holland are invited for a buffet breakfast, a brief presentation about what South Holland has to offer, and the chance to visit with South Holland clubs and organizations. New residents interested in attending can email dluna@southholland.org or call 708-210-2904.

APRIL 19
GOOD FRIDAY
Most South Holland municipal buildings and administrative offices will be closed. Police and fire services will be available as usual.

MAY 2
ANNUAL MAYOR’S PRAYER BREAKFAST
7:30 a.m., Spirit of God Fellowship, 16350 State St.
Everyone is welcome to the annual Mayor’s Prayer Breakfast, hosted by the South Holland Ministerial Association. Admission fee is $5.
MAY 21
COMMUNITY JOB FAIR
10 a.m. to 2 p.m. South Suburban College, 15800 S. State St.
South Suburban College, Thornton Township, and the Village of South Holland are partnering to offer a Community Job Fair for job seekers. This free event is open to the public. All candidates should dress professionally and bring resumes to distribute to employers.

MAY 27
MEMORIAL DAY
11 a.m., South Park Ave.
South Holland will hold its annual Memorial Day Parade and Remembrance Ceremony starting with the parade, which kicks off at 11 a.m. from 170th Street and South Park Avenue. The parade heads north to Veterans Memorial Park, where the annual Remembrance Ceremony is hosted by Mayor Don De Graff and the Village Board in honor of military veterans. The ceremony is scheduled to begin at 1 p.m.

AT THE LIBRARY
VISIT THE SOUTH HOLLAND PUBLIC LIBRARY (16250 WAUSAU AVE) FOR THESE FUN SPRINGTIME EVENTS!

TUESDAYS APRIL 2-30
BEGINNING STEPPIN
7 p.m.
Ignite the dance floor! Whether you are a beginner, an advanced dancer, or someone with two left feet, join the fun and learn some new moves.

APRIL 11
DECLUTTERING AND ORGANIZING YOUR KITCHEN
7 p.m.
Learn the best tips, tricks and strategies for keeping a clutter-proof home. Hosted by Colleen Klimczak.

APRIL 16
EGG ART EGG-STRAVAGANZA
6:30 p.m.
Celebrate the season by creating beautiful egg art! Have fun decorating Easter eggs and baskets and eating treats. This program is for all ages but is most appropriate for families with children under 12.

APRIL 25
EGG DROP
6:30 p.m.
Can your egg survive a 15-foot drop? Build an Egg-Straordinary contraption with us to find out. This program is for all ages but is most appropriate for families with children under 12.
MAY 2
FROM EGG TO ANIMAL
6:30 p.m.
Beginning April 9, come see our incubating chicken eggs. They’ll hatch in about three weeks, and on May 2 you can meet them! Learn about egg development and baby chicks. We’ll take turns petting our new friends, make a craft, play games and have a great time. This program is for all ages but is most appropriate for families with children under 12.

MAY 4
MAY THE FOURTH BE WITH YOU
noon to 3 p.m.
Come dressed as your favorite Star Wars character and get ready to make your own light saber. At 1 p.m. we’ll show the hit new movie Solo: A Star Wars Story (rated PG-13).

MAY 7
WEARABLE FLOWER ARRANGEMENT
7 p.m.
Create a corsage for that special person in your life. Supplies are limited. Registration required. Hosted by Crystal O’Halloran and the South Suburban Garden Club.

MAY 9
MOTHER’S DAY MANIA!
6:30 p.m.
Make a gift and card to share with someone special. This program is most appropriate for families with children under 12.

MAY 9
MOTHER’S DAY DANCE PARTY WITH THE TANGO STREET DANCE STUDIO
7 p.m.
Enjoy an evening of good music and fun with friends. Feel free to dress your best. Come alone or bring a friend.

MAY 11
BEAVER SHREDDING
10 a.m. to noon, West Library Parking Lot
The South Holland Public Library is partnering with First Merchants Bank to provide shredding services. Drop off your items at the Library’s west parking lot. Limit of two boxes.

MAY 18
MUSICAL SPRING CONCERT HOSTED BY THE SENSES TO SOUL SCHOOL OF MUSIC
2 p.m.
Sit back and relax for an afternoon of music performed by the students from the Senses to Soul School of Music students.
Good day and happy Spring to you!

Our inspiration springs from Deuteronomy 28:1. In this verse, Moses is speaking and decreeing blessings over his children as they prepare to cross over into the promised land.

“Now it shall be, if you diligently listen to and obey the voice of the Lord your God, being careful to do all of His commandments which I am commanding you today, the Lord your God will set you high above all the nations of the earth.” (Deuteronomy 28:1 AMP)

God’s promises to every believer are always hinged on two things: listening to His voice and following His instructions. When we listen to God and obey His commands (His Word), it sets in motion events toward the fulfillment of that word.

Consider this—His voice is the train and His Word are the tracks on which the train rides. The track is already set to go in the proper direction. As long as the train stays on the tracks, it will reach its final destination. However, like many train systems, things often happen to impede or hinder the progress of the train. The tracks may at times be blocked with debris such as trees and rocks. At other times, the tracks might be blocked because something or someone tried to cross and got stuck on them. Keep in mind, the tracks are fine, it is the obstacles on the tracks that block or slow down the progress of the train.

God’s voice is the train and we are the riders. When we get on the train, the only thing we are asked to do is ride and have faith that the conductor (the Holy Spirit) will get us to our destination safely. We cannot tell the conductor how fast or how slow to go. We cannot advise the conductor to switch tracks and take another route on another track. What we can do is put our faith in the conductor, then sit back and enjoy the ride.

Jeremiah 1:12 says, “God will watch over His Word to perform or complete it.” The enemy will come and try to block the tracks with debris (doubt, unbelief, impatience) but we must continue to trust the conductor and stay on track.

When we listen to and obey God we will fulfill the first promise of a list of blessings in Deuteronomy 28. God promises to “set us on high above the
nations of the earth.” Don’t forget, the tracks are His Word. The conductor announces, “We are going to higher places, so we will be switching over to Psalms, track number 75:6-7,” where it says, “For promotion cometh neither from the east, nor from the west, nor from the south. But God is the judge: he putteth down one, and setteth up another.”

Now that we are on that track (the Word), all we need to do is stay on that track, listen to the voice of the conductor and watch God take us from one level of faith to another.

What are you believing God for? Whatever it is, remember this: stay on the train, ride on the tracks, listen to the conductor and you will reach your destination! Enjoy the journey!

Have a blessed and prosperous Spring season!
A new eatery opened in December with a vast menu that will have something for just about everyone: Cabo San Lucas Grill at 997 E. 162nd Street. Owner Sergio Martinez is a native of Mexico and he brings a number of authentic Mexican dishes to customers made from family recipes. However, he also wanted to offer some of the typical American fare that residents may be accustomed to. The result is a mash-up of food offerings—some that are heavy and comforting, some that are healthier, and all that are fresh and made from scratch.

The spot is open for breakfast, lunch and dinner, all of which are available to order at any time of day. So, if you want to grab some enchiladas on your way to work at 8 a.m., you can do that and if you’re feeling like eggs and sausage at 8 p.m., you can have that, too.
Manager Liz Sesmis said that Martinez aims to make the food affordable and offers several specials, like $1.50 tacos on Thursdays and a grilled chicken breast special with fries and pop for $6.99. “He wanted to show the food of his culture and what he knows, but he decided to open it like a Tex-Mex place so when you stop here there’s a little of everything,” Sesmis said. “He wants customers to feel like they’re home.” If you dine in, you get a complimentary appetizer of chips and homemade salsa. However, you can place an order for carry out, use the drive-thru or get delivery, as well. Groupon is also running some current deals with the restaurant.

Among the Mexican specialties on the menu are the al pastor, chiles rellenos, horchata, chicken flautas, guacamole, chilaquiles, enchiladas, tortas, chimichangas, sopes and elotes. There are also gyros and some other Greek items on the menu and they make their own tzatziki sauce. Follow the “Cabo San Lucas Grill” Facebook page for more information, food photos and updates.

Cabo San Lucas Grill
997 E. 162nd St.
708.556.4318
For many years, South Holland Mayor Don De Graff has recognized village residents and workers for their outstanding service in the areas of faith, family values and future service to the community.

This year, the village honored Anthony and Kim Bolkema as Faith leaders, Vanessa Bradley for Family leadership and Sean Faulkner as a Future leader. All four of this year’s award recipients share what Mayor De Graff calls “the same thread of service.”

“They are all servant leaders,” he said. “They love people. They love the Lord. They are stellar. They stand out.”

“Sean is in charge of our parks,” De Graff said. “He provides a bright future for the village. Vanessa’s leadership in family values has been exemplary. Anthony and Kim together have an appetite to serve the Lord. It’s nice that the village has role models for residents to emulate.”
Anthony Bolkema said he and his wife “were just humbled by the award. It was an honor just to be nominated.”

Anthony is a youth pastor and worship director at First Reformed Church while Kim is a teacher at Calvary Academy. They moved to South Holland in 2008 and then moved their ministry from a church in New Lenox to South Holland in 2010.

“We were looking for a house and we knew South Holland was where we wanted to be,” Anthony said. “This is home to us. We desire to be here.”

As part of their ministry, Kim and Anthony started a youth group called OASIS, which they designed as a place where students can rejuvenate and re-center their lives in their journey of being called by Christ as pilgrims. In 2010, only three of the students were from their church. Today, they have expanded its reach to include more than 40 students from Thornwood, Calvin Christian, Unity Christian Academy and Calvary Academy, as well as several schools from outside of South Holland.

Anthony was recently awarded the Gerald & Doris Borchet Prize for Worship Research from the Institute for Worship Studies. He is a student and is finalizing his thesis and will conclude his studies this year.

The couple and Anthony’s sister, Julia Keep, volunteer at Calvin Christian School and lead a praise team and provide instruction for middle school kids to learn piano, bass, percussion and other instruments along with worship songs.

For three years, Anthony has led a creative writing group at Calvin called NaNoWriMo (National Novel Writing Month) where he helps a dozen students write and publish their own novels every November. Anthony also has led worship for the Regional Diversity Conference at Trinity Christian College in Palos Heights.

In addition to their ministry, they are raising two sons of their own as well as acting as foster parents to children of parents with addiction problems, and a baby boy who was born prematurely and is now flourishing. They give credit to the Lord for all they are able to do.
FAMILY LEADERSHIP AWARD
VANESSA BRADLEY

Vanessa Bradley and her husband Garrick have been residents of South Holland for a quarter-century, and “for 25 years she has been a role model to married couples, families, children and students within the village of South Holland,” read her nomination. She and Garrick raised three children who all attended village schools.

Her nomination reads, in part, “I can’t think of anyone more deserving than Vanessa Bradley … for being a role model to others by volunteering her time and efforts to organizations that benefit the lives of others, and for participating in educational, sports and other activities for the youth and adults alike.”

After hearing she had been recognized with a Family Leadership Award, Vanessa said, “I was surprised and excited at the same time. It was a little bit of a shocker.”

She attributes her success as a parent and role model to her motto, “Don’t sit on the bench … participate.” Toward that end she has volunteered her time to serve on numerous boards and to be involved with several service organizations.

She has been elected to both the Thornton Township 205 High School Board of Education and the South Holland Library Board, where she currently serves as president. She’s also involved with the Band Parents Association and the Parent Teacher Organization.

She is co-leader of the South Holland Black Girls Run group, which encourages young girls to get out and be active. “There are 45 girls in the run group,” she said. “We encourage them to enter races. They can run as individuals or as group members. It’s up to them how they want to compete.”

“I love South Holland,” she said. “I don’t want to go anywhere else.”
FUTURE LEADERSHIP AWARD
SEAN FAULKNER

The Future Leadership Award was given to Sean Faulkner for his outstanding work with South Holland’s parks.

Sean grew up in South Holland and will celebrate his 25th year as a village employee in May. He started in 1994 as a part-time park maintenance laborer and rose through the ranks.

He, too, said he was “humbled and shocked” after getting the award. “Awards are not why I go out and do my job,” he said. “I try to set an example for the guys in my department. To lead by example.”

As park superintendent for the Public Works Department, Sean said he works with his staff to help South Holland parks meet his extremely high standards. “I do what I can to help out,” he said.

For the last couple of years, Sean has been updating playground equipment that in some cases is more than 40 years old. He’s also coordinating a park sign replacement program in conjunction with the updates.

A dedicated park worker, Sean has completed certifications as a Certified Parks & Recreation Professional, a Certified Arborist and Certified Playground Safety Inspector. He has an Illinois Turf Public Applicator Pesticide License, and is trained by the American Heart Association in Adult CPR and AED and Child CPR and AED.

“The village has been very good to me and my family.” He has been married since 2002 to his wife Jen and has two sons, Ryan and Gavin.

The Mayor’s Leadership Awards nominees are reviewed by a committee that makes its recommendations to Mayor De Graff. This year’s awards were presented February 12.
There was a time when I was young, where South Holland was my day-to-day adventure, and both my friends and the town around me yielded new experiences every day. I remember when I was about ten years old, and almost every beat of life brought new joy to my face. I had just crossed into a new sense of independence. In it, the world’s discoveries seemed at arm’s reach. At least until the streetlights came on. It is here the happiest of my childhood memories lie. Full of grass-stained jeans and scraped-up knees, my youth was truly vibrant.

Every now and again, though, in this time, I found myself amongst a larger marching ground, Chicago. On field trips and family days, we’d load up the car and drive out to what seemed like a faraway land. Here, there were buildings far taller than any trees I had climbed and more people on one street than I had ever seen in a Walt’s or Jewel. Trips to museums and city landmarks encapsulate our adventures. Each one was a new thrill ride and a world that was to be discovered. But despite this, it was always South Holland, my home, where my true joy and comfort resided. The excitement from a city thrill would wear off after some time. Or at least that’s how it was at first.

Soon, my solace of firefly catching and street basketball came to a screeching halt. In the moment, I was not able to feel these delights wane. But at some point, I took a step back and saw that those days had been long gone. I supposed that it was what it meant to grow up. Still though, I relished in my time exploring who I could be. I was discovering in new ways, identifying my passions and realizing my path. My mind and body radiated a bliss that mirrored my youth. But like a mirror, this elation did not show the whole of me. For behind this was desire that longed for change. And Chicago became the picture of the dream.

So, I enrolled in college, packed my bags for a new home, and moved into the city where I felt my strivings could flourish. Here, I found new inspiration to create and collaborate. I have been able to expose myself to a new lifestyle and new people, traversing great heights of wonder and exposing paths for my future. And now within less than two years, I’ve curated a registry of knowledge and perspective.

Yet, in this reveling journey, at times of quiet and self-reflection, I am reminded of the city’s likeness to a thrill ride. Of how its great heights and enjoyment can be juxtaposed with daunting lows and disheartenment. And that the high of the ride often lasts only for so long. It is in these moments of introspection that my mind wanders back to South Holland. The place where, though I may not have the solution to my strivings, I have built the grounds for my aspiration. So, I venture Chicago and walk the lively streets, illuminated by the glow of the city, all while wearing my grass-stained jeans reminding me of where my ambitions began... the Village of South Holland.
Isaiah Easter is a lifelong resident of South Holland and now a film student at DePaul University. He enjoys creative writing and has self-published a book about economical style called Thrifty Threads.
ENJOY THE MUSIC OF SOUTH HOLLAND!

COME ENJOY A PERFORMANCE THIS SPRING
BY OUR MUNICIPAL BAND AND CHORALE!

SOUTH HOLLAND MASTER CHORALE
April 28, 4pm
St. Anne Catholic Church - 3010 Ridge Rd, Lansing

May 5, 3:30pm
Covenant United Church of Christ - 1130 E 154th St, South Holland

SOUTH HOLLAND MUNICIPAL BAND
May 27, 7pm
Veteran’s Memorial Park - 160th Place and South Park Ave

SAVE THE DATE!
THE BAND WILL CELEBRATE ITS
75TH ANNIVERSARY AT THE JULY 25 PERFORMANCE
AT VAN OOSTENBRUGGE PARK,
WITH A RECEPTION TO FOLLOW.