Summer in South Holland
Thursday, July 4th
VETERANS MEMORIAL PARK
520 E. 160TH PLACE

• 85TH ANNIVERSARY •
4TH OF JULY
Independence Day Celebration

LIVE MUSIC
SOUTH HOLLAND BAND
KID TRAIN RIDES & MORE
DON'T MISS THE SPECTACULAR
FIREWORKS SHOW AT DUSK!
ALL ACTIVITIES FREE!
FROM YOUR MAYOR

Dear South Holland Residents and Friends,

We find ourselves in that glorious time of year—the onset of the long-awaited summer season, a time of promise and anticipation. Summer brings out the best in our already beautiful Village. The trees are fuller, the flowers brighter, the lawns greener. In addition, South Holland brims with activity, as many of our special events take place during these vibrant summer months.

In this issue of South Holland Living, you will learn about those events, along with some of the people and places we admire. In particular, we highlight a South Holland family who has made impressive improvements to their home on Parkside Avenue, a married couple who own and operate one of the Village’s most popular restaurants, and a former South Holland kid who turned his troubled past around and now travels the country teaching youth about STEM education.

These stories are a snapshot into the pillars of South Holland: our families are strong, our business corridor is solid and growing in demand, our schools and churches are investing in the lives of residents, and our service organizations are selflessly giving back to those in need. This is truly what ‘South Holland living’ looks like, and I couldn’t be more proud.

Be safe, have fun, and may God bless you and your family as you enjoy this great summer of 2019!

Don A. De Graff
Mayor
Did you know...

... that when trees are cut down, the remaining tree stump must also be removed?

... that all basketball hoop standards must be kept and maintained in good condition with no visible damage?

... that no drain tile or downspouts carrying roof drainage should be connected and/or discharging into the sanitary sewer system?

... that standing water should be removed from properties? This includes ponds no longer being used, clogged gutters, buckets or other items in the yard that hold water and contribute to mosquito growth.

For more information about Village ordinances, call the Building and Code Department at 708.210.2900.
WHAT’S HAPPENING AROUND SOUTH HOLLAND

TREE CITY USA
South Holland was named a 2018 Tree City USA by the Arbor Day Foundation in honor of its commitment to effective urban forest management. The Village received this recognition by meeting the program’s four requirements: a tree board or department, a tree care ordinance, an annual community forestry budget of at least $2 per capita, and an Arbor Day observance and proclamation.

“If ever there was a time for trees, now is that time,” says Dan Lambe, president of the Arbor Day Foundation. “Communities worldwide are facing issues with air quality, water resources, personal health and well-being, and energy use. South Holland is stepping up to do its part. As a result of your commitment to effective urban forest management, you are helping to provide a solution to those challenges.”

ON THE ROAD
South Holland roads are undergoing some major improvements this summer. First, 37 streets (a total of 7 miles) are being resurfaced, a major project that will greatly improve driving quality for motorists. In addition, Van Dam Road at Route 6 is under construction to allow for a larger intersection. Also, illuminated street signs are going to be installed at major intersections along Route 6 for better safety and overall esthetic appeal. We thank you for your patience during these projects and look forward to the end result: a smoother, safer drive through the Village of South Holland.

‘TIS THE SEASON
It is that time of year when South Holland Fire Department members channel the holiday spirit of gift giving by sponsoring the annual Christmas in July food drive. Together with village churches, businesses, employees and residents, firefighters collect nonperishable food items during the entire month of July. Donations can be made from 8 a.m. to 9 p.m. any day at Fire Station 1, 16230 Wausau Avenue. The beneficiary of this initiative is Restoration Ministries, which operates a food pantry in support of families in the region.

EQUIPPING OUR FUTURE
In May, the South Holland Police Department partnered with McKinley Junior High School to commemorate the school’s 2019 8th grade ribbon pinning ceremony. At this event, the Police Department awarded the graduating class valedictorian, salutatorian, and 3rd runner-up by presenting each student with a Hewlett Packard laptop computer. The award is presented to students who exemplify academic excellence and display great leadership within their respective class.
BACK TO (FIRE) SCHOOL
The South Holland Fire Department is pleased to announce the third annual Citizens Fire Academy, a nine-week class that meets each Thursday evening beginning August 8. The Citizens Fire Academy is an opportunity for residents to get an inside look at the work and training South Holland firefighters perform on a daily basis. Topics include CPR and first aid, fire suppression and prevention, medical helicopter landings, and more. The Academy is limited to 20 students, so early registration is encouraged. Residents interested in registering should submit an application at southholland.org in the Fire Department tab. For more information, call 708.331.3123.

PUBLIC ART COMES TO TOWN
Beginning in July, a collection of bronze, family-oriented statues that convey our community values will be placed in multiple locations throughout the Village. Their locations will be mapped and publicized on the Village’s website and social media so residents can visit the statues, take pictures with them, and spread the word to visitors and friends. This public art project will bring even more appeal to our community and lends intrigue to South Holland’s greatest landmarks.

RENTAL REVIEW
In a commitment to protect South Holland’s home values and our community values, the Village board has placed a six-month moratorium on the issuance of licenses to rent out a home. During this time, the administration will analyze the data on rental properties versus owner-occupied properties and the respective toll taken on municipal resources (property maintenance issues, police calls, etc.). Once all of the data is gathered, a recommendation will be made to the board as to how to move forward.

The rental moratorium lasts through the beginning of November. For questions or more information, contact Village Hall at 708.210.2904.

CARRYING THE TORCH
In early June, South Holland law enforcement officers took to the streets carrying the torch for the athletes of Special Olympics Illinois. The Torch Run is the largest year-round fundraising vehicle benefiting Special Olympics. Each year, officers in Illinois run more than 1,500 miles carrying the “Flame of Hope” through the streets of their hometowns to ultimately deliver it to the State Summer Games. The driving force for the Torch Run is to help raise awareness and funds for athletes and to enrich their lives through sports, education and athlete health.
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.

When you sign up before August 31, you’ll receive 20 percent off of your registration fee. Register now at southholland.org/haul.

ADULT SOFTBALL LEAGUES

The South Holland Recreational Services Department is offering men’s and coed softball leagues this year, running from August 20-October 17. The men’s league plays on Tuesdays from 6-9pm, and the coed league’s games are Thursdays from 6-9pm. Registration for all Fall 2019 league teams begins on July 15. There is a fee of $750 per team to participate. Register at the South Holland Community Center, 501 E. 170th Street.

FAMILY FITNESS

Families can get fit and have fun together at the Community Center’s Family Swim Nights and Family Shoot Around.

SWIM NIGHTS | 7-9PM
June 21
July 12
July 26
August 9
August 23

SHOOT AROUND (BASKETBALL)
Sundays through September 8
11am-2:30pm

View the FIT Book at southholland.org for more information.
COP ON A ROOFTOP

The South Holland Police Department participated in the annual Cop on a Rooftop event to raise awareness and donations for Special Olympics. On May 17, police officers stood on the roof and hung out in the lobby of our local Dunkin Donuts to help raise donations and get to know residents. More than $1,400 was raised for the Special Olympics programs specifically within the South Holland area. Several Special Olympics athletes attended the event as well.
MEMORIAL DAY

The annual tradition of honoring those who paid the ultimate sacrifice took place on Monday, May 27. Community members gathered to remember the sacrifices made and salute soldiers for their service. The event began with a parade that traveled from South Park Avenue and continued to Veterans Memorial Park. The parade featured local veterans riding in antique cars, the Thornwood High School Color Guard, Civil Air Patrol, Spirit of God Fellowship—whose float showcased a board with the names of those who have fallen—and many more. The parade was followed by a Remembrance Ceremony at Veterans Memorial Park, where Mayor Don De Graff gave a heartfelt speech honoring veterans.
NEW RESIDENT BREAKFAST

The Village invited those who have recently moved to South Holland to a breakfast where they could learn more about the Village, meet town officials and other residents, and visit with vendors. Dozens of families filled the Community Center for the event, where they were treated to a full breakfast and heard from Mayor Don De Graff about the Village’s many assets and offerings. Several organizations and businesses set up booths to greet the new residents and provide information on how to get involved.
**June 22**  
GARDEN WALK  
10am-2pm, Veterans Memorial Park, 160th Place and South Park Ave  
The 21st annual Garden Walk begins at Veterans Memorial Park. Tickets are $5 and are available at Village Hall, 16226 Wausau Ave. Also available morning of walk.

**June 27**  
SCHOLARSHIP GOLF CLASSIC  
Registration begins at 8am, shotgun start at 9:30am, Glenwoodie Golf Club, 19301 State St, Glenwood  
This year’s South Holland Business Association annual Scholarship Golf Classic will take place at Glenwoodie Golf Club. Cost is $125 per golfer. Scramble format.

**June 29, July 27, August 24**  
MOVIES IN THE PARK  
Dusk, Veterans Memorial Park, 160th Place and South Park Ave  
Free movies are shown on Saturday evenings in the summer on a big screen at Veterans Park. Concessions will be open throughout the movie. Remember to bring chairs or blankets. The movies are Ralph Breaks the Internet (June 29), Incredibles 2 (July 27), and The LEGO Movie (August 24).

**July 4**  
INDEPENDENCE DAY  
All nonemergency municipal facilities such as the Village Hall will be closed Thursday, July 4, in observance of Independence Day. A July 4 celebration will take place all day at Veterans Park.

**July 6**  
COFFEE WITH FIREFIGHTERS  
8:30-9:30am, Fire Station 1, 16230 Wausau Ave  
Residents can meet and talk with members of the fire department on the first Saturday of every month.

**July 25**  
SOUTH HOLLAND BUSINESS ASSOCIATION MEMBER’S APPRECIATION PICNIC  
11:30am, Veterans Memorial Park, 160th Place and South Park Ave  
The annual picnic will be held in the picnic pavilion at Veterans Memorial Park.
**July 25**

**SOUTH HOLLAND MUNICIPAL BAND 75TH ANNIVERSARY CONCERT AND RECEPTION**
7pm, VanOostenbrugge Park, 157th and Orchid
The band will perform at the park, followed by a reception at Legion Hall to celebrate their 75th anniversary.

**July 27**

**ELECTRONIC RECYCLING**
8am-noon, South Holland Public Library, 16250 Wausau Ave
Electronic recycling will be taking place behind the library. This service is for only South Holland residents who would like to discard anything electronic such as old computers and televisions. The next recycling date is Oct. 26.

**July 27 and August 24**

**TOWN CENTER SOCIALS AND CRUISE NIGHTS**
4-8pm, Town Center Commons, 161st and South Park Avenue
The Town Center Social is back with a full series of activities and games, as well as live music, food and raffle prizes, and this year there will also be a car cruise featuring classic, antique, custom and exotic vehicles.

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**AT THE LIBRARY**

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

**THROUGH JULY 26**

**SUMMER LIBRARY CHALLENGE**
In the annual Summer Library Challenge, “To the Library and Beyond,” kids and teens from birth through 12th grade are encouraged to read 16 hours through the summer. Prizes are awarded based on the number of hours read. The Challenge ends on July 26 at 6pm, when the library will celebrate with a screening of *Spider-Man: Into the Spider Verse*.

**TUESDAYS THROUGH JUNE 25**

**TEEN GAMING**
3pm
Participate in open gaming on the PlayStation 4 and Nintendo Switch every Tuesday. Tournaments will be held throughout the summer.

**MONDAYS THROUGH JUNE 24**

**BRIDGE CLASS**
4:30pm
Hone your bridge-playing skills in this advanced bridge class. All supplies will be provided.

**THURSDAYS THROUGH JUNE 27**

**CHESS FOR BEGINNERS**
6pm
If you have never played chess, or have not played for a while and need a refresher, join this beginning chess class. There will also be open play for skilled players. Registration required.
I know that “putting all my weight down” must be a strange statement in a season when people are concerned about fitting into those swimsuits and other summer outfits. After all, who wants to appear to others as being out of shape and uncomfortable in their clothes this summer? Before I get you thinking about what and what not to eat, and about your exercise regimen, let me assure you that I am not speaking of weights and measurements. I am speaking about issues of trust and faith in the Living God during these difficult and trying times.

I am the first to agree with you that we are living in difficult times. The only time I think things were better was before the “fall of mankind.” Now since the fall from the friendship and fellowship with God, we have experienced hard times. I cannot remember a time where there were so many catastrophes this close to where I live. Wind, fire, earthquakes, flooding, not to mention the violence in our homes, schools, and even in the church. The economy is twisted and many are pointing the finger at the next person. It appears that our nation is in much conflict, with seemingly no real resolutions in view.

I believe I know where we can go and I know what we can do. First, we can go to a place of safety. This place is “THE ROCK” (Psalm 61:1-2), a safe place where you can find security. When you go to this ROCK, the second thing I would encourage you to do is to put all of your weight down on the ROCK (Proverbs 3:5-6). Listen, my friend—God is our refuge and strength and He is our very present help in the time of trouble. You are not too heavy for God to hold. Trust God to take care of you. He invites you to put your weight down on Him. I have trusted Him and you can do the same.
Kirk Edwards comes from a family of cooks. His family had a restaurant in Chicago when he was growing up. His brother owns his own restaurant in Kentucky. Kirk learned the tricks of making good barbecue from his father.

He was urged to bring his barbecue to the South Holland Farmers Market. After three years and many requests to have his food available more often, he and his wife, Denina, opened a brick and mortar carry-out. Kirk’s BBQ opened at 16102 South Park Avenue in August 2016.

Just before they opened, they were featured on ABC-7’s Windy City Live. Last September the restaurant was also featured on the TV show Chicago’s Best for their turkey tips—“served regular or jerk-style for those who like it a little spicier,” Denina says. Those appearances helped boost their already bustling business.

Denina says that the most popular menu item is called the “Suzie Q,” a combination meal that includes tips, hotlinks and chicken. Taffy grapes are another popular item. Dipped in caramel and then nuts, Kirk says they taste almost like a taffy apple and they are an item that customers love to enjoy for dessert.

A wide variety of entrees make up the menu, from catfish and shrimp to fried chicken wings to turkey links to rib tips. Several more items have been added since the opening. “People kept asking for things and if we heard it enough, we
Kirk and his wife Denina run the popular restaurant on South Park Avenue.
did it,” Kirk says. French fries and coleslaw can be ordered on the side.

Kirk’s BBQ also does catering orders that are available for pick-up. You’ll also find additional menu items on the catering menu that you cannot get every day, among them spaghetti, green beans and dirty rice.

Wednesdays are a good time to visit Kirk’s BBQ to take advantage of the weekly special of jerk mini tips for $6. The rib tips happen to be Kirk’s favorite item on the menu.

“We treat all our customers as though they were like family,” Kirk says. “They’re the ones who kind of pushed me into doing this and we try to satisfy them as much as we can.”

“We are very appreciative of our customers for their ongoing support,” Denina adds.

Kirk’s BBQ
16102 South Park Ave
708.574.6001
Tues-Thurs 1-9pm, Fri-Sat 11am-10pm
Justin Shaifer has come a long way since he was a young boy growing up in a single-parent household in South Holland.

He graduated from Hampton University with a degree in Marine and Environmental Science and had the highest grade point average in his department. He’s 24 now and a PhD student at Columbia University in New York. He’s also a professional keynote speaker and popular STEM (science, technology, engineering and math) advocate.

That’s a far cry from his days as a student at Greenwood and McKinley schools in South Holland. “My mom didn’t have a lot, but she always made sure I had what I needed,” he says, admitting he was a handful growing up.

Things got so bad his mom shipped him off to live with grandmother on Chicago’s South Side. “I was acting up so much,” he says. “I was jumped once in front of the Aurelio’s [in Homewood].” “I wasn’t a dumb kid,” he says. “I just never saw a reason for school.” That changed as a student attending Mount Carmel High School in Chicago. His grades and attitude improved and he wound up at Hampton, a historically black university in Virginia.

Justin Shaifer is a former South Holland native who now travels the country speaking about STEM education.
wonders of science and STEM, in particular. “STEM is the present and the future,” he says. “I let the kids know that STEM can help solve problems.”

Toward that end, he founded Fascinate Inc., an organization created to excite underrepresented students about STEM.

He created the Mr. Fascinate persona, who goes around the country telling kids about the importance of science and education. He also performs teacher training and develops culturally responsive STEM curriculum for institutions in New York City. He is known there for his work on the Magic Cool Bus Project. “The Magic Cool Bus is a mobile museum in New York that allows kids to engage with STEM technology,” he says.

His STEM-centric content has received more than 2.5 million views on all platforms. He never would have imagined that kind of exposure in his younger days in South Holland. “I was a super-shy kid,” he says. “Public speaking was very uncomfortable.”

Now he speaks to students across the country and has made more than 50 speeches to more than 20,000 students in two years. “The reason I think I’ve gotten this far is my motto, ‘Attack discomfort until you lack discomfort.’”

It’s not easy, he admits. “It takes persistence and luck.”

He ran into South Holland Mayor Don De Graff a few weeks ago at the same restaurant he was beaten up in front of all those years ago. “I think he was impressed by how much I had transformed,” Justin says. He hopes to someday bring his message to South Holland, back where it all started.

To learn more about Justin, visit justinshaifer.com or follow @mr.fascinate on Instagram.
When Adam and Sara Jabaay purchased their home on Parkside Avenue 11 years ago, it looked drastically different than it does now. Not only did it come with dark wood paneling and dated fixtures throughout, but the couple has since changed quite a bit of the home’s structure as well. They’ve also added a family member
since then—their daughter Emma is now 5 years old and going into kindergarten this fall.

Adam, who works at AJ’s Decorative Glass in South Holland and is the motorsports director for Gridlife, did all of the home’s remodeling himself, and Sara, a 4th grade teacher, decorated the home in a modern farmhouse style (“with a touch of whatever crafts Emma tapes to the wall,” she jokes).

Some of the remodeling projects included: overhauling the kitchen with new fixtures, appliances, subway tile and a vaulted ceiling; a new deck; a custom garage door;
reclaimed oak flooring (which they were fortunate to find in an abandoned storage unit); windows opening up to patio doors; and a finished playroom and bathroom in the basement. The end result? A bigger, brighter, more inviting space for their family of three—plus dog Callie—and guests.

“I love that I can look anywhere in [the home] and see all the time and love Adam poured into making it ours,” Sara says.

The couple has lived in South Holland all of their lives, and they say they take great pride to live where they do. “We love our neighborhood!” Sara says. “We couldn’t ask for better neighbors.”
South Holland Town Center Social and

CRUISE NIGHT

July 27 and August 24
4:00-8:00pm

Town Center Commons
South Park Avenue north of Route 6
South Holland, Illinois

Live Music • Food Vendors
Bounce Houses • Face Painting
Fun for Kids and Adults!

CRUISE NIGHT
Open to classic, antique, custom and exotic cars, trucks and motorcycles.
Limited specialty car space available.
FREE to all cruisers and spectators.

VISIT SOUTHHOLLAND.ORG FOR MORE INFO.
South Holland Garden Club presents

The 21st Annual

Garden Walk

Featuring Gardens in South Holland and surrounding communities

Saturday, July 13, 2019
10:00am to 2:00pm (rain or shine)

Tickets & Map are only $5.00 and are available at the Customer Service Center - 16220 Wausau Avenue and on the day of the walk at the large Gazebo in Veteran’s Park.

For more info visit: Garden Club of South Holland Facebook

southholland.org