LIVING IN UNITY

A Strong and Stable Community
THE VILLAGE OF SOUTH HOLLAND IS HOSTING TWO DRIVE-IN MOVIES THIS SUMMER!

A NIGHT AT THE MOVIES!

JULY 25
(rain date July 30)
TROLLS WORLD TOUR

AUGUST 29
(rain date September 3)
OVERCOMER

Lot opens: 7:30pm | Movie begins: 8:30pm
First Reformed Church - 15924 South Park Ave

Tickets are for South Holland residents only. Register in advance at the South Holland Community Center beginning July 13. ID is required.

southholland.org
FROM YOUR MAYOR

Dear South Holland Residents and Friends,

Recent events in our country have forced all of us to have conversations about the world in which we live, and the people we do life with. We all desire unity, compassion, and empathy from others, and each of us hopes that our families, social circles, and communities would reflect these qualities as well.

In this issue, our Deputy Village Administrator Pat Mahon wrote an essay about how South Holland has successfully established principles of fairness, equality, morality and ethics to create a strong and stable community. She shares tangible work we have done over the past 25 years to build a balanced approach to housing, to proactively embrace unity in our diversity, and to offer the highest quality of services to South Holland residents. I, along with the Village board, fully endorse Pat’s article.

We are thankful for what we’ve been able to establish in the past, and I’m even more excited about the future and the opportunity to build upon this foundation even further. We have created our Vision 2022 strategic plan, are continuously implementing it, and will continue to plan for our future. This is only the beginning... as we reflect upon the work accomplished over all these years, we look ahead, eager and excited, for our next 25 years.

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 according to Illinois State law, the sale, possession, and use of fireworks is prohibited? Wire or wood stick sparklers are permitted, however.

... that the use of park facilities for groups of more than 30 people require a permit? Permits can be requested by contacting the Recreational Services Department at 708.331.2940. No tents, grills, or groups of 10 or more allowed in the park on the July 4 weekend.

... that all trees, shrubs, bushes, buildings, fences, or any other structure must not encroach upon any public street, sidewalk, alleyway or public property without prior permission from the Public Works Department?

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


JOIN OUR MAILING LIST FOR VILLAGE UPDATES

Just send your email address by text message:
Text SOUTHHOLLAND to 22828 to get started.
VEHICLE STICKER SALES

The 2020 vehicle stickers went on sale July 1. This is a later date from previous years because of COVID-19 and its economic impact on many residents. Stickers must be affixed to windshields by September 1. Stickers can be purchased at the Customer Service Center on the Village Hall campus, 16220 Wausau Drive, Building A.

VILLAGE HALL CAMPUS NOW OPEN

After several weeks being closed due to COVID-19, the Customer Service Center and Village Hall reopened to the public on June 15. The lobby of the Customer Service Center is set up to ensure social distancing from others, and we encourage everyone to wear masks. If you still prefer contactless transactions, you can place payments in the drop box on the circle drive of Village Hall. You can also visit southholland.org to access digital forms and permits.

ROAD REPAIRS

This summer we embarked on a $2 million street resurfacing project that will improve the quality of about 5 miles of our roads. Visit southholland.org for a list of roads that are being resurfaced. We are also softening the curve of the road on 172nd Street just east of Halsted Avenue, so that route will be a safer one to travel. Additionally, we have been making enhancements to the intersection by Love’s Travel Center, which is vital for future development.

PHASE 4 REOPENING


Here are some of the provisions allowed in Phase 4:
• Groups of 50 people or fewer may gather.
• All health care providers are open.
• All outdoor recreation is allowed.
• Restaurants may open their dining rooms with capacity limits.
• All retail shops, cinemas, theaters, spas and health and fitness clubs may open with capacity limits.

The South Holland Community Center is reopening in phases throughout the month, beginning with the pool on July 6. Visit southholland.org for the new safety guidelines being implemented with each reopening.
Every year for the past 15 years, South Holland has been host to the Heritage Haul, a 5K/10K/half marathon race that takes runners through our beautiful neighborhoods. This year, because of the limitations of COVID-19 and the corresponding safety guidelines, we have opted to change the scope of our annual race.

We still want to gather as a community in a health-promoting activity but also have fun while we’re at it. So this year’s race will be a Fun Run! It is a 5K race only, with staggered start times for the safety of our participants. Runners are encouraged to wear costumes or accessories, and we will have some fun surprises along the course to keep participants entertained. Everyone who finishes the race will receive a finisher’s medal, a bag of goodies, and a hearty roar from our cheering section. There are also cash prizes for our top finishers.

While the nature of the race will be fun and lighthearted, we are taking seriously the safety of our participants and will have a number of procedures in place to ensure everyone is distanced properly and that health is the main priority.

After what has been a challenging few months, we invite you to let loose, get some exercise, meet your neighbors, and have a blast while doing so!

Register for the South Holland Fun Run at southholland.org.
JOIN US FOR A FUN AND ENTERTAINING 5K RUN THROUGH THE STREETS OF SOUTH HOLLAND!

SATURDAY, SEPTEMBER 19
Veterans Memorial Park - 520 E 160th Place

• COSTUMES ACCESSORIES ENCOURAGED
• FINISHER’S MEDAL
• CASH PRIZES
• GOODIE BAGS

SIGN UP AT SOUTHHOLLAND.ORG.

STAGGERED START TIMES AND OTHER DISTANCING MEASURES WILL BE IN PLACE TO KEEP EVERYONE SAFE.
SHMA PRAYER WEEK

In the wake of the civil unrest that took place following the tragic death of George Floyd in Minneapolis, pastors of the South Holland Ministerial Association (SHMA) gathered for a week of intercession called “Covering Our Village in Prayer.” Every day during the week of June 1, SHMA pastors, Village employees, and community members prayed at various sites throughout the Village: the Police and Fire Departments, Village Hall and the Community Center.
OUT AND ABOUT

FACES FROM EVENTS AROUND THE VILLAGE

The prayer week was organized by Pastors Rich Zekveld and Phil Terwer.
Loving like Jesus is the best way to live. When we love like Him, we can step outside ourselves and clearly see our loved ones and their needs. We can shed layers of selfishness, resentment, anxiety, pettiness, and entitlement. Most of all, we can rise above our human imperfections and step into transcendental love.

Jesus’ model of love challenges us to stop settling for anything less than “the most excellent way.”

When it comes to love, Jesus raised the bar astronomically. He teaches us to love our enemies, turn the other cheek and walk the extra mile. To our human minds, this sounds completely outrageous—but that’s the point.

If we want to love like Jesus, we must open our hearts and our minds. We need to be able to fully utilize our emotions, reason, thoughts, and feelings. We can’t bring perfect love into our imperfect lives without this kind of complete vulnerability.

Why? Because opening your heart allows love to change your mind. When Jesus touches your heart, your mind can follow suit and be completely transformed.

Allowing your heart into the conversation will revolutionize your thinking. We believe that’s what Paul meant when he said, “You’ll be changed from the inside out” (Romans 12:1).

If you’re in search of reasonable love, you’ll miss out on a love that’s extraordinary, on the opportunity to find a love you didn’t realize you had.

Jesus’ ideal model of love can rub off on our imperfect life. Why? Because, loving like Him is more attainable than we realize. Jesus’ example and teachings show us at least five ways we can love more like Him.

1. Be mindful. We need to connect more deeply with our lives and the people in them, rather than living a detached, disconnected existence.

2. Be approachable. It’s important for people to feel safe approaching us; in other words, we must become less exclusive in our interactions with others and more welcoming to those who seek us out.

3. Be full of grace. We must be willing to relate to others in a less judgmental way.

4. Be bold. We have to shed our fears. “For God gave us a spirit not of fear, but of power and love and self-control.” (2 Timothy 1:7)

5. Be self-giving. We need to become less self-absorbed and more invested in those around us.
Over and over, Jesus demonstrated these qualities to show us that they’re not unattainable ideals. Indeed, there’s a doable way to get an earthly hold onto a heavenly ideal.

It’s a common misconception that loving like Jesus means that you must become a doormat, a weak wimp, or a spoilsport. Some believe that loving like Jesus means we must deny ourselves everything, miss out on all the fun, and smother our joy. But that’s not true.

We can practice love in our daily relationships. When we give of ourselves and do good to others, we use higher level brain functions that trigger neurochemical reactions in our brains.

Learning to love like Jesus isn’t illusive, out of reach, or pie-in-the-sky theology. It’s available to you and me right now. At times, we will fail—but even then, dust yourself off and start over. It’s not easy, but it can be done! 🔥

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**ELECTRONIC RECYCLING**

**Saturday, July 25 • 8am-noon**

South Holland Public Library

Rear parking lot

16250 Wausau Ave

Bring your electronic items to be properly disposed. Electronic waste refers to electronic devices that are broken, outdated, discarded, or at the end of the useful life. This includes cell phones, laptops, desktop computers, monitors, tablets, PDAs, televisions, printers, fax machines, scanners, and many other electronic devices. This service is for South Holland residents only.
Many South Holland restaurants and food businesses were able to remain open during the coronavirus pandemic.

Restaurants that catered to drive-through and carryout customers were not nearly as affected by Governor JB Pritzker’s shelter-in-place orders as other kinds of eateries that were forced to close dining rooms, send staff packing and resort to delivery, carryout and curbside service to keep their business alive from mid-March to the end of May.

In June, restaurants were able to offer outdoor seating. State guidelines required restaurant servers to wear masks and gloves, and place tables six feet apart. Employees were required to have their temperatures taken at the start of their shifts. Restaurants were allowed about half of their normal guest count.

These same guidelines were in effect once the Restore Illinois plan entered Phase 4 on June 26, but with indoor dining rooms allowed to reopen at limited capacity. Many South Holland restaurants had to make adjustments for this new normal. We spoke with two of them.

BLUEBERRY FIELD

At Blueberry Field restaurant, owner Pattie Haras quickly pivoted from a sit-down breakfast and lunch eatery to curbside carryout when the governor’s order was first issued in March. “It was scary at first,” she says. “We quickly converted to carryout.”

Blueberry Field reopened its dining room on June 29. “The state said we could reopen on June 26, but we decided to wait a couple of extra days,” says assistant manager Cassandra Gonzalez, of...
South Holland. “We are trying to do the best we can. We want the restaurant to be as safe as possible for customers.”

She says Blueberry looked at what Indiana restaurants have done in reopening as their guide. The biggest change, she says, is their slightly reduced hours, from 7am to 3pm, and a lot fewer tables for customers.

“On the main floor, we cut back from 21 tables to five or six,” she says. “Upstairs, where we had space for catering, we have about five tables.”

Gonzalez has transformed as well. “I went from being hostess to a waitress. I had to learn the menu. Most importantly, I had to learn to work while wearing a mask.”

**CUNIS CANDIES**

Cunis Candies has been a South Holland institution since moving into the village in 1971. While the sweet shop was able to remain open to customers, owner Kathy Biesiada made the decision to offer curbside pickup during the height of the pandemic.

“Mom was very careful,” says her daughter, Mary Biesiada. “She wanted to keep everyone safe during the quarantine. We offered curbside pickup service three days a week.” That changed when Cunis reopened to walk-in customers on June 17.

The menu is staying the same, she says, but there were a couple of changes. “Customers and staff have to wear a mask,” Biesiada says. “Everyone has been good
about following that. One customer came in without a mask and they ran back out to their car to get one when we asked. Also, we are limiting the number of customers in the store at any one time to six.”

Biesiada says employees have their temperatures checked daily and there is a supply of bleach water at the counter, which is wiped down frequently. Hours are being reduced to noon to 8 p.m. for the foreseeable future.

She says it was good to see customers again. “With curbside service, you didn’t get to interact with anyone. It’s nice meeting face-to-face again. The people we’ve had in the store seem to be happy to be out.”

Biesiada says the family-owned business had to let two staffers go when they went to curbside service. “But my mom paid them both the entire time they have been gone. She really wanted to look out for them. This is a good place to work. Staff stays for a while.”

Mary Biesiada has enjoyed seeing customers in person again at Cunis Candies.
It seems as though it’s been ages since I’ve sat down to write an editorial. I’ve certainly missed it. If only the demands of everyday life allowed me time to continue to write each month. Unfortunately, that is not the case; however, current events in our country have made me reflect on our Village and how the last 25-plus years have shaped the community we are today. We’re excited about the past work that has been done because it has laid a solid foundation and created a strong platform for us to keep making progress.

The proactive approach to leading during a time of a changing community started years before I began serving as Deputy Village Administrator. It began in the early 1990s when Mayor De Graff was elected. He worked intentionally to ensure diversity was viewed as an asset. His actions have been guided by the principles of fairness, equality, morality and ethics; and this has created a strong and stable community.

ESTABLISHING CONNECTIONS
One of the first proactive steps was establishing the Balanced Approach to Housing Program. It was a novel approach at the time to develop a working relationship with the Realtors Association. This was historic and particularly important because it addressed redlining, panic peddling and blockbusting practices by realtors. As
Caring for our friends and neighbors

an outcome of this Program, the Village was one of the first communities in the south suburbs to pass a Fair Housing Ordinance in 1995. Building a cooperative relationship with the Realtors Associations and passing the Fair Housing Ordinance to hold them accountable was done to ensure fairness and equality in our community.

Our involvement with fair housing did not stop with the passing of the Fair Housing Ordinance, as we were long-time members, and leaders, of housing organizations such as Diversity, Inc. and today continue to be members, and play a key role, with other housing organizations such as Housing Choice Partners, South Suburban Housing Collaborative and South Suburban Housing Center.

We also began hosting monthly meetings, the Central Committee Meetings. They brought together all the key community groups in order to be inclusive, build positive relationships, and function as an open government, and increase communication with the leadership of our churches, schools, businesses, realtors, service organizations and neighborhood groups. With the input from these meetings, we developed the Model Community Initiative.

We set out to be a Model Community where we deliver the highest quality of essential services to our residents; progressively address all
“I am proud to be part of a community where residents of all ages, races, and walks of life genuinely care about their neighbors. South Holland is a diverse community but a united one that seeks the good of others.”
-Trustee Cynthia L. Nylen

“It is wonderful to see the progress South Holland has made over the years in proactively seeking to build relationships, foster community, and progress toward a brighter future. I am hopeful that South Holland will keep growing in all the best possible ways and will continue to be a model community.”
-Trustee Andrew Johnson, Jr.

“Remaining a faith-based community is what has set South Holland apart from the beginning, and continues to this day. Our faith is what keeps residents united, values strong, and generates a pride for our community. When people see the strength of South Holland, they see a faith that shines brightly.”
-Trustee Prince Reed

In investing in our future generations, factors related to South Holland’s success as a community; and exercise regional leadership for the benefit of other communities. To be that model, it was imperative to diversify our workforce, at all levels. This led to the hiring of an African American Administrator, Police Chiefs, Directors, Managers and Supervisors. We needed different perspectives at the table that would be a part of the decision-making process.

As a Model Community, we also wanted beautiful places for our residents to gather and recreate. The idea of the South Holland Community Center was born, and then built. Veterans Park was completely remade into the premier park in the region. These projects, along with a host of other beautification projects, were done to make the community more attractive than it has ever been.

To invest in our youth, we created Student Government Day as an opportunity for our 7th and 8th grade children to interact and learn how a healthy local government functions; we formed monthly Community Policing meetings to foster first-name-basis relationships between residents and our police officers; and we assigned School Resource Officers to our high school to build bridges between students and police officers.

We developed the Neighborhood Groups Organizing Committee, which works hard to achieve strong neighborhood groups that organize social gatherings on their blocks so neighbors can get to know, love and care for one another. These initiatives, and much more, were the result of bringing people together from all walks of life and working collectively for the betterment of South Holland.
CASTING A VISION
As we continued to grow as a community, to be unified, fair and inclusive, and to lead in the region, we developed Vision 2022. This comprehensive, forward-thinking plan for the future of South Holland calls for making even more advancements in Responsive and Progressive Leadership; creating A Connected Community; making the place we live, work, worship and recreate Clean, Bright and Beautiful with Signature Spaces and Places for us all to enjoy.

This led to things like our Police Department hosting, annually, National Day Out where the community is invited for fun, food, games and prizes with our police officers; starting a Citizen Police Academy, a Junior Police Academy and Secure Our Seniors Program. Public Works developed a plan to continually update the playground equipment in our 30 parks; and to keep the Village clean, bright and beautiful. The Fire Department hosts the enormously successful Citizens Fire Academy and they are always advancing the technology in our paramedic program to provide the best possible life-saving service to our residents. Recreational Services is currently undertaking renovations at the Community Center so it can continue to be one of our signature places; and they have embarked on the creation of the South Holland Sports Commission designed to invest in our children through sports.

All of these things were the proactive initiatives of a Village Board, Mayor and Administration committed to excellence, fairness, equality, morality, ethics and the desire to be a Model Community for others to emulate.

I continue to be humbled, and grateful, to be a part of a local government that truly believes in the essential principles of loving people, and treating people as you want to be treated. One that does everything it can to facilitate these principles, and one that has been leading this way for over 25 years. We are not perfect, but we are stable and strong because our local government and our residents share a mission of unity, equality and excellence. What I know for sure is we have never been stronger and more ready economically, socially and spiritually to face our future! 🍊
As Marcella Watts sat in the kitchen of the Tabitha House, she saw something familiar in the faces of the women around her.

“When I look at you, I look at myself,” she said with tear-filled eyes to the small group. “I don’t know you ladies, I don’t know where you’ve been, but I want to tell each and every one of you that I love you so much.”

On June 9, Watts delivered packages of soap, lotion, and other products that she’d assembled to residents of the Tabitha House for Women in South Holland and Restoration Ministries in Harvey. The Tabitha House is a residential home owned by Restoration Ministries focused on helping women overcome drug and alcohol addictions. Restoration Ministries has a corresponding program in place for men at its main location in Harvey.

Having endured addiction and homelessness earlier in her life, Watts understands the unique difficulties that come with recovery. “If it wasn’t for God pulling me out from...
where I was at, I know I would be dead today,’ she said.

At the urging of her friend and counselor Pam Evans, Watts decided to use her stash of unsold Avon and other products to be a blessing to others. Watts is taking preliminary steps to move with her son to Arizona, and when she talked with Evans about her large inventory, Evans challenged her to be generous with it.

“She calls me and she says, ‘Sow and serve.’ And I was just like, ‘I like it! Where do I sow and where do I serve?’” Watts said with a smile. A South Holland resident, Evans connected with the Tabitha House and Restoration Ministries, and arrangements were made for Watts to deliver around 35 packages between the two locations.

Though they met only months ago, Watts and her “tia” Evans have already grown close, and Evans is proud of her former client. “Who would think that in the middle of a pandemic that anybody would love them enough to come and say ‘Hey, you know what, I don’t have much but I understand where you are and here’s what I’ve taken the time to make.’ I call them the love baskets,” Evans said.

As Watts plans to move her life to Arizona while attempting to leave her mental and emotional baggage behind, the testimony she shared at the Tabitha House is just as true for her as it is for the women she shared it with:

“All you need is God and to trust in him. And never give up. Never, ever.”
Not long after Force Energy Group donated 10,000 masks to the City of Chicago, Lucas Payne stepped in and donated another 10,000 masks to the Chicago Firefighters Union.

Payne, who is president of Force Medical Supply in South Holland, says his goal was to get PPE into the hands of those who need it most.

For years, Force Energy Group has sourced LED lighting and other products direct from international manufacturers to provide factory-direct pricing to consumers. Since the pandemic started, Force Energy Group has utilized its resources and contacts around the globe to source, manufacture, and distribute Personal Protective Equipment.

In late March, Force Energy Group joined the Illinois Essential Equipment Task Force created by Governor JB Pritzker. They formed Force Medical Supply, registered with the FDA, and began sourcing, importing and manufacturing personal protective equipment.

Payne is considered to be an expert in Personal Protective Equipment, having successfully navigated the market to find reputable suppliers and products.

To date, Force has shipped millions of gowns, gloves, hand sanitizers, and face masks to municipalities, state and federal government entities as well as businesses all across the United States. Clients include the State of Maryland, the Federal Bureau of Prisons, Morris Hospital, and Dow Chemical. Force has also donated masks to the Archdiocese of Chicago, Saint Sabina, and Asis Home Healthcare, all who serve areas hardest hit by coronavirus in Chicago.

"I believe we in the business community have a fundamental responsibility to engage in the fight to beat COVID-19," Payne says. "I am particularly concerned about the most at-risk populations such as first responders, those who are sick at home and their caregivers, the homeless and other venerable populations. We want to make sure they get masks too and will focus our donation efforts to those people.

"Most of all we want to thank the doctors, nurses, health-care workers, frontline workers, and first responders for your incredible service and sacrifice. We honor and appreciate you."

If your organization is in need of PPE, visit forcemedicalsupply.com.

Lucas Payne is the president of Force Medical Supply, a division of Force Energy Group based in South Holland that provided PPE to organizations all over the nation.
NEW! PRE-SCHOOL NEW!
42 WEEK SCHEDULE
August 17, 2020 - June 4, 2021

$366 / month SH Resident • $369 / month Non-Resident

Payment Plan August - June

The South Holland Department of Recreational Services Pre-School is based on the recreation philosophy "Learning Through Play." Age-appropriate activities are provided in game form to develop skills while having fun!

Register at
The South Holland Community Center
501 E 170th Street

Visit southholland.org for more information.
Even through trials, South Holland remains...

In This Together

#SouthHollandStrong