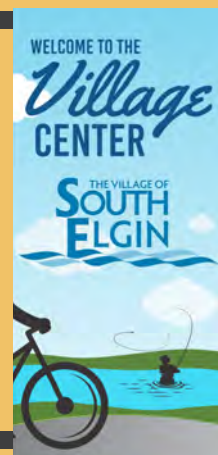


Village Light

FALL
2025



EDITION 07
VOLUME 04



INSIDE
COMMUNITY HOUSING
SURVEY

PARKS & REC
PROGRAMS

INTERNET TRANSACTION
ZONE

POLICE NEWS



ONE FAMILY. UNDER ONE ROOF. ACROSS THREE DIFFERENT CENTURIES.

It's 1847. South Elgin's incorporation as a Village remains another 50 years in the future. As newborn babies in 1847, a lifetime of inventions await Thomas Edison and Alexander Graham Bell. In 1847, we're still a full 25 years *before* Laura Ingalls Wilder Little House on the Prairie stories take place. And 1847 is the year Abraham and Matilda Gulick purchased the farmhouse at what is now 207 W Middle Street, South Elgin.

Today, a mere 178 years later, Abraham and Matilda's house perched above Route 31 remains a picturesque charmer in the Village. More incredibly, it still belongs to the same family.

continued next page



SHARE YOUR VOICE: HELP SHAPE SOUTH ELGIN'S HOUSING FUTURE

Take Our 10-Minute Housing Survey on page 11 by September 12!

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INSTAGRAM.COM/
VILLAGEOFSOUTHELGIN

WEBSITE

SOUTHELGIN.COM

COVER STORY CONTINUED

Sue Ellyn (Kelley) Merkau lives there now with her husband, Ralf. Previously, Sue Ellyn's mother, Bernice Kelley (aka Bunny) called it home from her childhood until near her passing in 1999. Bunny's aunt, Lillian (Gulick) Smith raised her in that house. Lillian had received the home from her parents, the original owners, Abraham and Matilda. If you're following along with the lineage, here's a bit more to consider: Sue Ellyn's mom attended Willard Elementary in South Elgin. So did Sue Ellyn. And so did her children and grandchildren!

After Willard Elementary, Sue Ellyn became part of the first graduating class at Larkin High School. "We never stopped at a store or a place to eat on our way home after school," she recalls. "Because none of it existed. It was just a handful of farms between there and here."

While in high school, the Elgin YMCA hosted a dance for local



Late 1800s photo of Sue Ellyn's family home. More about the people in the photo at southelgin.com/stories.

students. That's where she met a fairly recent immigrant unaware asking a girl to dance would change the rest of his life. Ralf Merkau, born in Berlin Germany in 1944, had lived in Algonquin since he was 10 years old. When they met at the YMCA Dance they had already established their own

lives. "And that worked for us," Sue Ellyn said. "We were in different high schools. We had our own friends, our own interests and our own activities. We were already our own, fully formed, independent person."

They married in January 1965 during a sweeping power outage caused by a fierce ice storm. Their candlelit service didn't require electricity anyway, and the keyboardist opted to play the piano instead of the electric organ. The Tucker's (of South Elgin Tucker's Grocery fame) made it to the ceremony, but many didn't due to fallen trees and other hazards. When Sue Ellyn says one key to a good relationship is the ability to "adapt to change because life will send you many of them," she speaks from experience gained from the first minutes of their marriage.

The young couple lived on Middle Street just two houses west of the original family homestead. Ralf had an established career as a cook when their first son, Todd, was born. "I saw families enjoying dinners and celebrations while I was working all of those weekends, nights and holidays," Ralf said. "That's when I became a laborer for Illinois Hydraulics working Monday through Friday." It led to his career as a bricklayer. And more importantly it opened weekends and holidays to spend with Sue Ellyn, Todd and his two younger siblings, Kelley and Erik.

MOVING EAST...ONE HOUSE AT A TIME

Ralf used his masonry skills and personally built a brick home for his family. It's where they lived and raised their family while Sue Ellyn's mom continued to live in the historic family home next door. In the late 1990s, as Bunny's health declined, it



Sue Ellyn Merkau and her husband Ralf with marriage certificates from generations of her South Elgin ancestors.

brought a sharp, fork-in-the-road question for Ralf and Sue Ellyn: what do we do with a home that's been in our family more than 150 years? Sell it? Rent it? "I couldn't imagine living next door to someone else living in our family home," Sue Ellyn said. "It wouldn't have been fair to either party."

Ralf proposed an alternative: renovate the home entirely using the same foundation, with the original framing, exterior walls and floorplan. He installed new plumbing, new electricity, new drywall, and constructed a thoroughly updated house with historic bones. "We also added a first-floor bedroom," Ralf said. Life sent them changes, and as always, Ralf and Sue Ellyn adapted.

"We've been moving east one house at a time since we got married," Ralf smiled. "And we're still on the same block."

This Village Light story came together with a conversation at Ralf and Sue Ellyn's kitchen table. They had gathered a tidy stack of vintage photos and newspaper clippings to help provide a framework of names and dates and stories. Their living room wall showcases an array of framed marriage certificates from descendants who lived in the same house. There's a corner displaying artwork of Abraham Gulick's handwritten ledger pages with doodles drawn in the open spaces by ancestor children from the Civil War era. Behind Sue Ellyn's spot at the kitchen table is their beautiful new kitchen, and beyond that a cozy sitting room. Just a bit further, there's the back porch and a gurgling pond filled with shimmering, well-fed goldfish. "There's no reason for us to ever move," she said. We have all the amenities we could ever want – restaurants, hospitals, parks. It's a much different place than all those years ago. But South Elgin is still going in the right direction."



To see more photos and information, please visit southelgin.com/stories.

VILLAGE UPDATES

VILLAGE EARNS TRIPLE CROWN FOR FINANCIAL REPORTING

For the sixth consecutive year, the Government Finance Officers Association (GFOA) has awarded the Village's Popular Annual Financial Report (PAFR) with a Certificate of Achievement Award for excellence in financial reporting for the fiscal year ending April 30, 2024.

With this honor, the Village completed a prestigious Triple Crown recognition from the GFOA for obtaining awards for the PAFR, the Annual Comprehensive Financial Report, and the Annual Budget. The Village is one of 38 esteemed governments in the State of Illinois and 403 in the United States to earn this distinction. The Village is committed to providing accurate and understandable financial reports to our residents and businesses. These documents are available on the Village's website under the Transparency Portal at southelgin.com/transparency.



SMART METER REPLACEMENTS COMPLETE. JOE GROSS WINS MVP OF METER REPLACEMENTS!

The Village of South Elgin became one of the first municipalities in Illinois to switch water meters from traditional ones to the far more accurate Smart Meters. The meters allow homeowners and business owners to track water consumption, and determine if there is excessive usage due to toilet leaks, a running garden hose, etc. The project required several trained members of our Public Works Department to manually replace meters in every home and business over the course of a few years; a final total of 8,946 of replacements.

Joe Gross stepped into the Water Meter Replacement Program several months after it started, but he led the way with 3,180 smart meter installations. That's three years of moving furniture, inching through crawl spaces, kneeling on cement floors, cold-calling neighbors upon completion of an installation, last-minute schedule changes, and immeasurable other challenges. If someone's meter needed changing, Joe didn't miss the opportunity. In recognition for his incredible work ethic, his ability to handle tough situations, and his willingness to go above and beyond, the Village Board presented Joe with an MVP cutting board. His contributions made a real difference, and we're grateful for his effort. Thank you, Joe!

MEGAN GOLDEN EARNS OUTSTANDING AWARD

Earlier this spring, The Village's Director of Administrative Services and Deputy Administrator, Megan Golden, earned the Legacy Project Outstanding Member Award for superior dedication to local government, public service, and an unwavering support of the Legacy's mission.

The Legacy Project includes 200 members dedicated to help women succeed in public service through: Career-building, Professional development, Leadership skills, and Networking.



Megan Golden (second from left) along with Village colleagues at this year's Legacy Conference in Naperville.

A Village employee since 2005, Megan's credo is problem solving skills plus integrity equips you to solve almost anything. This approach ripples throughout Village operations in everything from policy to budget decisions to assessing job applicants to enhancing Village efficiencies. Congrats to Megan, a dedicated, responsive, and a tireless advocate for Village staff and the residents of our Village.

SETTING UP YOUR SMART WATER METER TO MONITOR FOR LEAKS AND EXCESS USAGE

Within days of installation, you should have received an email (if you have given us your email address). It will come from Meter.ie and will look like the graphic shown to the right. If you did not open the email and set-up an account within 72 hours of your meter installation, you will need to contact the Village at 847-742-5780 to re-send you a link. Once your account is established, the customer portal will allow you to see your water consumption on a day-to-day basis. It also allows you to set up an alarm, so you are able to track a possible leak within your home. Or if you are out of town, the online portal will allow you to view unexpected water usage at your home or business (perhaps from a leaky toilet seal, or a dripping hose spigot). Learn more at southelgin.com/smartmeter.



PARKS AND RECREATION



CELEBRATE NATIONAL DANCE DAY!

September 20 • Pantan Mill Park

Join us for Latin rhythm dance instruction from 5:30 to 6:30 PM! Then get ready for an adult double feature: Footloose and Dirty Dancing. The movie starts at dusk. Grab dinner from Fernando's Street Kitchen—the food truck will be on site serving up delicious eats!



**CHECK OUT THE FALL BROCHURE
FOR MORE PROGRAMS AND EVENTS!
[SOUTHELGIN.COM/PROGRAMS](https://southelgin.com/programs)**



PARK IMPROVEMENTS ON THE HORIZON FOR TREDUP AND SEBA PARKS

We're currently in the design phase for Ralph E. Tredup Park! Residents will have the opportunity to weigh in on playground options and preferred amenities. The project is expected to go out for bid in mid-to-late September, with a contract awarded in October. Weather permitting, construction will begin in November or early spring 2026. Surfacing at SEBA Park is scheduled to be replaced, with work anticipated to begin in early September.



Construction photo taken July 31, 2025 of the new paddle sport launch. At the time of printing the newsletter, the Village anticipates an August installation of the actual dock and landscape repairs for safe access to the launch.

LATE SUMMER OPENING EXPECTED FOR ACCESSIBLE PADDLE SPORT LAUNCH

The Village of South Elgin is proud to have been selected by the Kane County Development Department as one of the recipients of a new Accessible Paddle Sport Launch—part of a broader initiative to enhance the Fabulous Fox River Water Trail.

Located at SEBA Park (east side of the Fox River Trail), the new launch offers residents and visitors an exciting new way to enjoy the river—with accessibility for all!

We're thrilled to expand inclusive recreation opportunities and look forward to seeing you on the water!

PARKS AND RECREATION

NEW! SCHAUMBURG FARMERS MARKET TRIP

Age: 50+ years old

Join us on a trip to Schaumburg to check out their Farmers' Market. You can sit back and enjoy the ride while we take care of the driving. There will be locally grown fruits, vegetables, meats, flowers, plants, gourmet cheeses, and dog treats, along with food vendors selling items like empanadas, pierogies, and coffee. JD

Location: Public Services Building

Section #	Day	Date	Time	R/NR
33028-01	F	10/17	9am-2:30pm	\$10/\$12

NEW! CHRISTKINDLMARKET TRIP

Age: 50+ years old

'Tis the Season for a Holiday Adventure! Join South Elgin Parks and Recreation for a festive trip south (Aurora location)—to experience the charm of the North Pole! Let the holiday spirit warm your heart (and a hot cocoa warm your hands) as we explore the magical Christkindl Markets. It's the perfect way to soak in the season and maybe even find that special something for someone on your list with one-of-a-kind gifts. Leave the driving to us—just sit back, relax, and enjoy the holiday cheer! JD

Location: Public Services Building

Section#	Day	Date	Time	R/NR
33029-01	Th	12/4	10:30am-3pm	\$10/\$12

NEW! MILLION DOLLAR QUARTET CHRISTMAS

Age: 50+ years old

Instructor: SEPR Staff

From the creators of Million Dollar Quartet, your favorite Rock 'n' Roll legends return this Christmas for a brand-new holiday musical experience at the Marriott Theatre. Jam-packed with the sounds of the season and the chart toppers that made the "Million Dollar Quartet" famous, the gang is up to their usual antics as we journey through stories of Christmas past, present, and future. Lunch will be served before the show. We will depart and arrive from the Public Services Building. No registrations or refunds after October 24, 2025

Location: Public Services Building

Section #	Day	Date	Time	R/NR
33026-01	W	12/17	9am-5pm	\$90/\$95



TO REGISTER, VISIT [SOUTHELGIN.COM/REGISTRATION](https://southelgin.com/registration).

SOUTH ELGIN EXPERIENCE

THANKS FOR A GREAT SUMMER OF CONCERTS, MOVIE NIGHTS, CRUISE NIGHTS, ZUMBA, AND MORE!



AND DON'T MISS LIVE MUSIC THIS SEPTEMBER!

Sept 3 • 6:30-8pm: Eric Case Band

Americana, Classic Country, and soulful Rock 'N' Roll

Sept 4 • 12-1:30pm: Comstock Lode Band

Rock, Southern Rock, Country Western, and R&B

Sept 9 • 6:30-8pm: The Shagadelics

70's Disco tribute act will thrill you with their funky tunes

Sept 10 • 6:30-8pm: Sunset Strip

80's glam rock bringing you back to the hairband scene

Sept 11 • 12-1:30pm: Wildwood Country

Get ready for fun country vibes and Line-Dancing

★ SOUTH ELGIN'S ★ PUMPKIN PATCH FESTIVAL

SATURDAY, OCTOBER 4 • 9AM-1PM • SEBA PARK



ACTIVITIES INCLUDE:

Costume pet parade 10am • Pyramid of Hay • Craft show • Inflatable •
NEW! Pumpkin Decorating Contest for Local Businesses & Service Organizations* •
Pumpkin painting station *with purchase* • Face painter and more!

AVAILABLE FOR PURCHASE:

Pumpkins • Mini-Pumpkins • Hay Bales
Corn Stalks • Concessions

VISIT [SOUTHELGIN.COM/PUMPKIN](https://southelgin.com/pumpkin) FOR EVENT DETAILS AND
[SOUTHELGIN.COM/PETPARADE](https://southelgin.com/petparade) FOR RULES AND REGISTRATION.

*For details, reach out to Jess Day at JDay@southelgin.com



AN Almost WINTER DAY

SATURDAY, NOVEMBER 22 • 2-5PM • SEBA PARK

Activities Include:
S'More station, Cookie decorating, Balloon animals, Craft station, Snowball slingshot, Letters to Santa, Tree decorating contest, Ice sculptor, Concessions for purchase

VISIT SOUTHELGIN.COM/RECREATION FOR DETAILS.

Pictures with Santa
2-4:45pm (bring your camera)

Village Tree Lighting
5pm at Panton Mill Park



BREAKFAST WITH SANTA

Age: All Ages

Join us for Breakfast with Santa!! We will serve pancakes, eggs, bacon and a beverage. Plus crafts, coloring reindeer food, and of course a visit from Santa! Everyone will have individual time to visit with Santa and a photo op. KM

Parents: Please bring your own camera, pictures are not provided. **Location:** Village Squire, 480 Randall Rd.

Min/Max: 40/100

Section#	Day	Date	Time	R/NR
33603-01	S	11/22	9-10:30am	\$18/\$28

LUNCH WITH SANTA

Age: All Ages

Join us for Lunch with Santa. Bring down the family and hang out with the big guy himself. Meals are as follows: **Kids:** Cheeseburger or Chicken Fingers; **Adults:** Cheeseburger or Chicken Sandwich. All meals will include fries, and a beverage. Don't forget about the individual time every child will get with Santa and of course crafts, coloring and reindeer food. KM

Parents: Please bring your own camera, pictures are not provided. **Location:** Village Squire, 480 Randall Rd.

Min/Max: 30/60

Section#	Day	Date	Time	R/NR
33601-01	S	11/22	11am-12:30pm	Child \$18/\$28 Adults \$24/\$34

LETTERS TO SANTA

Ho, Ho, Ho...Santa will be sending letters from the North Pole. All mail must arrive at Village Hall no later than December 11th. Letters should be dropped off at Santa's mailbox inside of Village Hall. Santa's letter will be personalized, so make sure that you include what toy you would like for Christmas, whom you will spend your holiday with and all of the good things you have done this year. Don't forget your address – just so Santa doesn't have to search too hard! Want to make your letter extra special? Join us at An Almost Winter Day on November 22 to write and decorate your letter to Santa! This activity is free and open to all ages. JD



TO REGISTER, VISIT SOUTHELGIN.COM/REGISTRATION.



LAST BRANCH PICK-UP OF 2025: WEEK OF OCTOBER 13

Fall branch pick-ups take place the weeks of September 8 as well as October 13. The program will start again the week of April 13, 2026. If winter ice storms or windstorms cause widespread damage in the Village, a special pick-up will be announced via southelgin.com and Village social media. To learn more about requesting a pick-up, please visit: southelgin.com/branches.

HOW TO AVOID A MULCH VOLCANO



Mulching brings benefits to tree health by helping to retain moisture and improve soil conditions. However, incorrect mulching can lead to disease and even death of trees. One of the most common examples of incorrect mulching is “volcano mulching,” in which excessive amounts of mulch materials are applied around the base of trees and piled against the trunk, creating a volcano shape. Ideal mulching does NOT touch the trunk of your tree; doing so can lead to improper root growth, decay and infestation.



FALL LEAF PICK-UP INFORMATION

The Village provides landscaping/yard waste collection from March 1 through December 15 (or first snowfall) on the same day as garbage and recycling pickup. This includes grass clippings, leaves, vines and similar items. Small bushes, brush/branch clippings, when securely bound with string or twine in bundles not exceeding four feet in length will be collected too. For full details about senior leaf pick-up, storm drain clearing, Christmas tree pick-up, and more, visit: southelgin.com/leaf.

SAVE THE SANITARY SEWER SYSTEM: DON'T FLUSH “FLUSHABLE” WIPES

Are flushable wipes really flushable? Nope. Nope. Nope. Those wipes might get past the toilet, but they don't bio-degrade like toilet paper, and they often collect in the bends and turns of the pipe. Our Public Works crew has found clogs in our sanitary sewer lines containing wipes, diapers and assorted items that simply aren't plumbing-friendly. And clogs can cause ugly back-ups within your own sewer pipe too. Flushable is a misleading term and a marketing gimmick. Toilet paper disintegrates in water. Wipes don't.



GAIL BORDEN RE-OPENS EXPANDED SOUTH ELGIN BRANCH

The Gail Borden South Elgin branch reopened in June with expanded space and expanded hours. The Village thanks the library's dedication and commitment to the Village. The facility will serve all residents as a valuable resource for programming, meeting space and materials. To learn more about the library's expansion into the entire building space, new hours and more, please visit: gailborden.info/SEexpansion.





NOT ALL SUMMER ROAD PROJECTS ARE THE SAME. FOUR DIFFERENT WAYS SOUTH ELGIN ROADS GET REPAVED.

1. In-House Paving: Our Public Works Streets & Forestry crew re-pave smaller roads throughout the Village. During the summer of 2025, Public Works repaved the following roads: Spruce, Riverview, N Main Street (plus a portion of Silver Glen bike path). These in-house paving projects are woven around branch pick-up weeks, parkway tree plantings, pothole repairs and other projects.

2. Contracted Road Program: Using budgeted funds, the Village bids and awards contracts to repave larger areas such as neighborhoods or long stretches of road. Last summer this program tackled a large portion of streets in the Thornwood subdivision. This summer, upon completion of a water main replacement project on the east side, the annual road project replaced multiple roads near Mark Street. The contracted annual road program often includes major upgrades beyond a new layer of asphalt, including rebuilding roadbeds, storm water drains, curbs, gutters, and sidewalks.

3. State-funded Projects: The McLean Boulevard reconstruction and 2024 Illinois Route 31 Culvert replacement were state-funded rebuilds of state-owned roads. At the time of printing the newsletter, McLean Boulevard had all four lanes of concrete poured with median, curb and traffic signal installation in progress. Sound wall installation began in August with a late summer re-open still anticipated.

4. Alternative Funds: Each year, the Village looks for outside funding to supplement the Village's funds to maximize the road improvements in the Village while minimizing costs. The Federal Surface Transportation Program (STP) provides funds for local public agencies through the Council of Mayors. The Council of Mayors system awards Federal STP funds to qualifying projects. Recently the Village submitted applications to resurface both South Elgin Boulevard/Raymond Street and Spruce Street/E Main Street. Both projects were awarded STP funds. Construction on South Elgin Blvd/Raymond Street from E Main Street going north to the Village limits will take place late summer 2025. Construction of Spruce Street/E Main Street from Gilbert Street to Kenyon Road will take place during Summer 2026.

Please see southelgin.com/projects for updates on these and other Village road and construction projects.



McLean Boulevard reconstruction nears completion.

NEW WATER TOWER BEING PUT INTO SERVICE

At the time of printing the newsletter, the new water tower at Kingsport and Lone had reached the painting stage. Upon completion of the exterior coating, the tower's controls will be installed.

It will then be sterilized, filled with water, and put into service early this fall. In



addition, the tower will be outfitted with a new weather alert siren. There are more steps required for the Village's multi-year Water Quality Improvement Plan. Once the new tower goes into service, the existing tower near McLean and Spring will be dismantled to allow enough space for drilling a new deep well into a higher-quality aquifer (approx. 2000 feet deep). This will allow the Village to abandon the lower-quality shallow wells with expectations of providing significantly better quality water Village-wide with an added bonus of reduced corrosivity; a benefit for the lifespan of coffee makers, dishwashers and water heaters throughout the Village.



The new water tower at Kingsport and Lone Drive will store 1.25 million gallons.

POLICE DEPARTMENT

SEPD PROMOTIONS, ADDITIONS AND NEWS

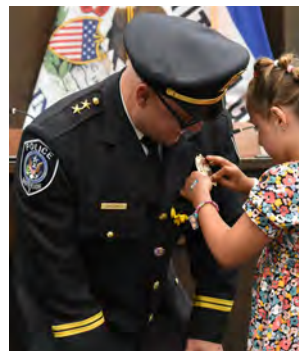
Congratulations to newly sworn-in Deputy Chief Anthony Martinez! To achieve such a rank, one must compile years of experience along with plentiful accomplishments. Deputy Chief Martinez has accomplished both. Celebrating his 26th year with the South Elgin Police Department this September, DC Martinez became a Sergeant within our Detective Unit in 2019, and has served 10 years with the Kane County Swat Team. He is also a Commander within the Kane County Major Crimes Task Force, and graduate from the Northwestern Staff and Command School.

Earlier this summer, Sergeant Will Werneske graduated from the prestigious Northwestern University School of Police Staff and Command, a nationally recognized law enforcement leadership program. This advanced coursework prepares experienced law enforcement professionals for senior roles by covering topics like budgeting, leadership, decision-making, organizational behavior, and more. We're proud of Sergeant Werneske's commitment to excellence and continued growth in service to South Elgin!

Officer Joshua (Josh) Lisenby became a sworn-in member of the South Elgin Police Department, Monday, July 21, 2025. He is a lateral-hire police officer, meaning he was an active-duty police officer for another department (Fox Lake, IL) before seeking new opportunities in South Elgin. He arrives with a wealth of experience and knowledge, including: range instructor, lead homicide investigator certified, evidence technician certified, juvenile officer certified and more. Welcome aboard, Officer Lisenby!



L to R: Deputy Chief Anthony Martinez, Sergeant Will Werneske and Police Chief Jerry Krawczyk.



Deputy Chief Anthony Martinez (L to R): Chief Krawczyk and Officer Josh Lisenby



VILLAGE ESTABLISHES CHILD CUSTODY EXCHANGE AND INTERNET TRANSACTION ZONE

In the public parking lot of the new Public Safety Center at 50 S Water, you'll find a couple of signs marking a safer zone for conducting online purchases or child custody exchanges. You're not only directly outside the police station, the area provides 24/7 video recording too.

SEPD ENCOURAGES HALLOWEEN SAFETY

Halloween trick-or-treating hours in the Village are 3-7pm. The South Elgin Police Department reminds all families to prioritize safety during trick-or-treating. We encourage parents and guardians to accompany young children, ensure costumes are visible with reflective materials, and use flashlights after dark. Trick-or-treaters should walk on sidewalks where available, use crosswalks, and never dart into the street between parked cars. Drivers are urged to slow down in residential neighborhoods and remain vigilant for children crossing the road.

Additionally, residents handing out treats should keep their porches and walkways well-lit and free of obstacles. We advise parents to inspect all candy before children consume it and to remind them never to enter a stranger's home. Halloween is a time for fun and community spirit, and with a few simple precautions, we can help ensure that everyone enjoys a safe and happy evening.



COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT

WELCOME NEW BUSINESSES!

The South Elgin Community Development Department and South Elgin Economic Development (SEED) would like to welcome the following businesses to the Village of South Elgin as of June 27, 2025:

- **Raptor Tap House** - 304 Spruce Street
- **Ballast Wax IL 5 LLC** - 506 Randall Rd (waxing center/spa)
- **Journey Auto Repair** - 116 E State Street
- **Tom's Repair** - 1797 N La Fox Street (truck repair)

• **Ocean Blue Investment Group, dba Tracey's** - 341 N McLean Blvd (Video Gaming Café)

• **Liberty Tax Service** - 332 Randall Road

• **Julie's Café** - 806 N La Fox Street

Please contact SEED for future South Elgin business inquiries.

SEED
P.O. Box 678
South Elgin, IL 60177
847-742-SEED (7333)
seedsouthelgin.com
contact@seedsouthelgin.com



SOUTH ELGIN HOUSING SURVEY OPEN THROUGH SEPTEMBER 12, 2025

The Village seeks your input on housing needs, priorities, and preferences in the community. We invite all who live or work in South Elgin to take part in the planning process by completing our Community Survey on Housing by September 12, 2025. The survey takes just 10 minutes, visit southelgin.com/HousingSurvey. For respondents who prefer Spanish: southelgin.com/EncuestaComunitaria.

Printed paper copies of the survey are also available at Village Hall (10 N Water Street) from 8:30AM-5PM Monday through Friday with a drop-box to collect completed ones.

In 2025, the Village received a generous grant from the Metropolitan Mayors Caucus' Homes for a Changing Region Program for technical assistance to complete a housing needs assessment and Housing Action Plan. The Homes for a Changing Region program helps municipalities identify solutions to their most pressing housing challenges, creating a balanced mix of housing types to serve the needs of multiple generations of residents and workers.

CALENDAR OF EVENTS

September

- 1 Administrative Offices Closed
- 2 Village Board Meeting – 7pm
- 3 Concert in the Park – 6:30pm
- 4 Lunch Hour Concert – Noon
- 8 Chat with the Mayor – 6pm
- 9 Concert in the Park – 6:30pm
- 10 Concert in the Park – 6:30pm
- 11 Lunch Hour Concert – Noon
- 15 Village Board Meeting – 7pm
- 17 Planning & Zoning – 7pm
- 20 Adult Double Feature:
Dance Instruction – 5:30-6:30pm
Footloose & Dirty Dancing – Dusk
- 22 Recreation Board Meeting – 7pm

October

- 4 Pumpkin Patch – 9am-1pm
- 6 Village Board Meeting – 7pm
- 15 Planning & Zoning – 7pm
- 20 Village Board Meeting – 7pm
- 27 Recreation Board Mtg – 7pm

November

- 3 Village Board Meeting – 7pm
- 11 Veterans Day Ceremony – 10am
- 17 Village Board Meeting – 7pm
- 18 Police Pension Fund – 11am
- 19 Planning & Zoning – 7pm
- 22 An Almost Winter Day – 2-5pm
- 27 Village Offices Closed
- 28 Village Offices Closed

Note: For concerts, movie night and children's programming, see pages 4-7 in this issue or visit southelgin.com/pantonmillpark

COMMUNITY SURVEY on HOUSING in SOUTH ELGIN

southelgin.com/HousingSurvey

- ✓ TAKES ABOUT 10 MINUTES
- ✓ COMPLETELY ANONYMOUS
- ✓ DEADLINE: SEPTEMBER 12, 2025

CHAT WITH THE MAYOR



MONDAY, SEPTEMBER 8 FROM 6-7PM

It's BYOQ! Bring Your Own Question! Join us at the Public Safety Center, 50 S Water Street for an evening chat with Village President Steve Ward. Bring your question. Bring your thoughts. We'll provide the open conversation and refreshments.



10 NORTH WATER STREET
SOUTH ELGIN, IL 60177

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A LITTLE OFF THE TOP 3 QUESTIONS FOR THE VILLAGE PRESIDENT

Our Village President (and our Barber-in-Chief), Steve Ward has served the Village of South Elgin since 1992 as a member of the Planning & Zoning Commission, Village Trustee, and as the current Village President since 2013. President Ward and his wife Nancy are married with five children, and he has called South Elgin home since 1988. He owns Ralph's Barber Shop in Elgin (his father, Ralph Ward, originally owned the namesake shop), where he has cut hair since 1977. President Ward took time in April to answer a few questions:



What did it mean to you having South Elgin Little League and Jim Hansen Park host the state tournament this summer?

It means I'm old. Seriously, it's a testament to volunteering and getting involved in your community. Thirty-some years ago, before Sugar Ridge and River Ridge subdivisions existed, and the park was called Concord, we were out there laying sod late at night in a field lit up with car headlights with people like our former Mayor Jim Hansen and retired Trustee John Sweet. In fact, John's surveyor skills helped layout the fields perfectly. I love how it has developed into what it is today. It's like our own Field of Dreams. If we build it, they will come. And they sure did!

As a business owner, homeowner, and adopt-a-park volunteer, your civic involvement runs deep. How does that benefit you and the community?

Even if I weren't Mayor, I'd still be watering flowers at Jim Hansen Park and volunteering around the Village—I'm proud to call South Elgin home. When one neighbor renovates, others often follow. I believe in leading by example. These days, with so many demands on our time, building community can be as simple as hosting a block party. Parks & Rec even rents a "Rec to your Deck" trailer with games and a grill, and sometimes our police stop by too. It all adds up to a stronger, more connected community.

Fall is upon us. What do you recommend?

Well, we know what season follows this one, so get outside as much as possible and enjoy today.

The Village Light requests your questions for the Village President. Please email your inquiry to cpierce@southelgin.com

VILLAGE BOARD OF TRUSTEES



Village President: Steve Ward
Trustees (L to R): Greg Lieser, Scott Richmond, Jennifer Barconi, Mike Kolodziej, Chris Merritt, and Scott Richmond
Clerk (3rd from Left): Pam Blair

CONTACT US

Village Hall	847-742-5780
Public Works	847-695-2742
Community Development	847-741-3894
Parks & Recreation	847-622-0003
Police Administration	847-741-2151
Emergency	911

Mail comments to:

Village Administrator
Village of South Elgin
10 N Water St., South Elgin, IL 60177

