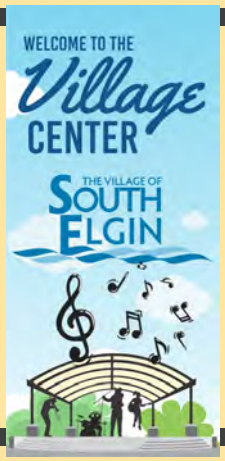
Village Light

SUMMER 2025

EDITION 07
VOLUME 03



INSIDE
BACK TO SCHOOL NIGHT OUT

SUMMER ROAD CONSTRUCTION

DEPUTY CHIEF POLKINGHORN RETIRES

PARKS & REC PROGRAMS

KANE CO RECYCLING EVENT



SUMMER TIME AND THE LIVIN' IS BUSY!

Join us for a full summer filled with evening concerts, lunch hour concerts, movie nights, cruise nights, a fishing contest, pickleball at the freshly renovated Sperry Park, hot days at the splash pad and more! Here are just a few of the highlight events of summer 2025:

May 28: Opening Night Concert featuring ARRA!

June 18: Multi-Cultural Night featuring Angelina Victoria, multiple food vendors and more!

July 2: Independence Day concert featuring The 144th Army Band!

August 1: Back to School Night Out! It's our Back to School Night Bash combined with National Night Out for 6 hours of family-friendly fun, food, bounce houses and the Blooze Brothers!

Check out pages 4-7 for the full list of free, friendly, community fun!

ENJOY THE JUNE 18 MULTI-CULTURAL NIGHT! SEE PAGE 3!

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SOUTHELGIN.COM

VILLAGE UPDATES



EDUARDO ARIZAGA NAMED 2024 SEPD OFFICER OF THE YEAR

Congratulations to South Elgin Police Officer Eduardo Arizaga! Still in the early stage of his career, Officer Arizaga has already stood out as exemplary. Selected by his own peers, South Elgin officers commended Arizaga's role-model attitude, his eagerness to learn and the thorough nature of his investigations following an incident. A brilliant future awaits Officer Arizaga!

APRIL ELECTION: NEW TERMS AND A NEW CLERK



Former Village Clerk Margo Gray served the Village from 2001-2025. We thank her for twenty-four years of dedication and service. The Village wishes her the best. Pam Blair won the April 1 consolidated election and became the new Village Clerk effective May 5, 2025. In related election news, Village President Steve Ward and Trustees Mike Kolodziej, Greg Lieser and Jennifer Barconi ran unopposed and were re-elected for another 4-year term.

WELCOME RECENT ADDITIONS

Jack Mertes, Public Works
Jessica Vasalos, Administrative Services
Alma Bautista, Administrative Services
Jesse Rico Jr, Parks & Recreation
Natalia Vargas, Police



DEPUTY CHIEF POLKINGHORN RETIRES

Deputy Chief Brian Polkinghorn retired following 25 years with South Elgin Police Department. He leaves behind a sterling legacy as a mentor and positive contributor to his profession and the department.



"Brian served and represented the Village with honor," Chief Jerry Krawczyk said. "He will definitely be missed."

The South Elgin of Brian's rookie year is profoundly different - yet strikingly similar - to the Village we know today. "When I started in 2000," Brian recalled, "A truck just sat along Randall flipped on its side as a billboard sign for a nearby landscaping business. There wasn't much else on that road. In fact, our police radios didn't work west of McLean." Without computers, police officers wrote reports by hand and used Polaroid cameras to photograph evidence.

However, one thing has remained the same. "The sense of family the entire Village shared became apparent to me quickly," Brian said. "And the incredible support we receive as a police department stands tall compared to many communities."

During his 25 years with SEPD, Brian's role evolved from patrol officer to detective to Sergeant to Deputy Chief. But those are titles and roles. Where Brian made a difference was through his spirit of service - an Air Force veteran providing guidance for the Veterans Task Force, a volunteer with Illinois Special Olympics, and a leader in the development of new officers as well as the new Public Safety Center.

"They say as a police officer, you have a front row seat to the greatest show on earth," Brian said. "You meet amazing people. And you have moments to help people when they are experiencing one of their lowest points in life. I will always be grateful to have had that opportunity to serve the people of South Elgin."



Brian will not be leaving the field. His next chapter will involve investigating human trafficking and major crimes for the Kane County State's Attorney's Office. We wish him well, and we thank him for his service to the Village!

RECENT RETIREMENTS INCLUDE JODEE SWANSON AND SYLVIA OLSEN

Two employees of the Administrative Services Department also retired earlier this spring. Utility Billing Clerk and former Customer Service Associate JoDee Swanson retired with nearly 19 years of service. Accounting Manager Sylvia Olsen retired after nearly ten years with the Village. We thank them for their contributions and wish them the best!

VILLAGE UPDATES

EQUITY & BELONGING COMMITTEE SEEKS YOUR STORY AND PARTICIPATION

The Equity & Belonging Committee has one principal goal: promoting a Village filled with residents who feel they belong here and contribute here. To that end, the Committee will continue their *You Belong Here* theme established in 2024.



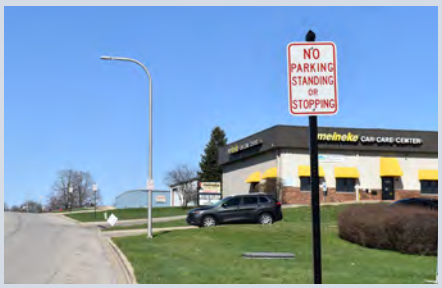
At various events this summer, you'll find the South Elgin Stories booth. We are gathering South Elgin origin stories, and we would love to hear yours! It's your individual stories that tell a bigger story about the entire Village – whether it serves to build bonds among our community now, or documents this moment in time for future generations to enjoy.

You can record your story in the booth. Or you can submit your own video, audio clip or written narrative with photo(s) to cpierce@southelgin.com. Or call 847-742-5780 x5312 to schedule a time to record your story at Village Hall.

Visit **southelgin.com/belonging** to see examples of stories and idea prompts you might consider including in your own story!

NO PARKING ON SUNDOWN NEAR EMISSIONS TESTING FACILITY

Please observe the No Parking, Standing or Stopping sign located between the driveway for Meineke Car Care (337 Sundown) and Sundown Plaza shopping center and Burger King to the east. A long line of vehicles awaiting emissions testing can disrupt traffic from entering/exiting the shopping center, and create a dangerous narrowing of the road with heightened potential for traffic incidents. The Village is continuing to work with the owners of Meineke and Sundown Plaza for a long-term solution.



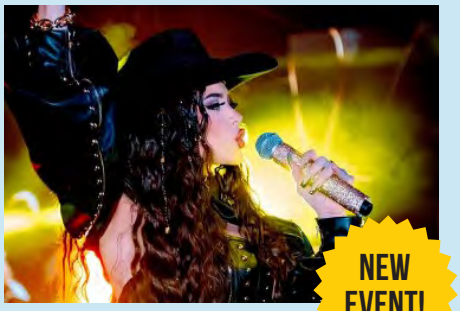
If your vehicle is due for an emissions test, we recommend getting it done before the end of the month when demand peaks.



Trustee Jim Breunlin was one of the speakers at the March 26 groundbreaking for Kenyon Woods Middle School expansion.

KENYON WOODS MIDDLE SCHOOL EXPANSION PROJECT

School District U-46 held a groundbreaking ceremony March 26 at the site of the Kenyon Woods Middle School expansion. The 47,000 square foot addition will allow the addition of 6th grade students beginning August 2026. South Elgin Trustee Jim Breunlin had the opportunity to represent the Village and share remarks and insights about the roots of his own teaching career beginning as a U-46 educator. To see a video and learn more about the project, visit **u-46.org/Page/20768**.



NEW EVENT!

MULTI-CULTURAL NIGHT WEDNESDAY, JUNE 18 FROM 5:30-8PM PANTON MILL PARK

- Food trucks and local restaurants serving a variety of sampler and entrée sized portions
- Featuring Chicago's own and rising music superstar, Angelina Victoria!
- Entertainment and community informational tables
- Stop by the South Elgin Stories booth!
- Visit **southelgin.com/pantonmillpark** for event information and updates

GAIL BORDEN SOUTH ELGIN TO RE-OPEN SATURDAY, JUNE 21

Gail Borden LIBRARY

The Grand Re-Opening celebration takes place June 21 from 11am-2pm, and all are welcome. The library now fills the entire building located at 127 S McLean, and nearly triples its original space. The Library says it's not an expansion but a transformation; creating more access to reading, technology and meeting spaces.

Along with the ribbon cutting ceremony, the event includes prizes for the first 200 guests, live music, an interactive scavenger hunt, kids crafts, treats and more. While the event runs until 2pm, the Library will remain open until 5pm. For more details, please visit: **gailborden.info/SEbranchexpansion**.







BLACKHAWK PARK
TUNAKAHUNA FISHING CONTEST
SOUTH ELGIN PARKS & RECREATION

Children 15 and under, come get hooked with South Elgin Parks and Recreation Department at the 2025 Tuna Kahuna Fishing Derby on June 14, 2025. The derby will start at 9am sharp. We will have the Biggest and Smallest Fish Champion again this year. Come show off your catching abilities. Bait will be offered for sale and there will be concessions for purchase. Pre-registration is available online or onsite the day of the event at 8am. **Register now! Section #23610-01**



FREE FISHING CLASSES - FISHING 101

All ages are welcome to come out to Blackhawk Pond and enjoy some sun, fun, and fishing with Parks and Recreation. Let's have some fun and enjoy some fishing even if you are a seasoned vet or a beginner. Staff will be onsite to help teach the basics and get you on your way to catch the "biggen." These classes are free but registration is required. Bait will be provided. For the class schedule, visit **southelgin.com/registration, section #23608**.



SPLASH PAD AT PANTON MILL PARK

Summer Splash Pad Hours (May 25-September 6)
Monday-Thursday: 11am-7pm
Friday-Sunday: 10am-7pm

Note: Splash Pad will operate when temperatures exceed 75 degrees. Hours subject to change due to weather conditions.



PARKS AND RECREATION

PRESCHOOL REGISTRATION FOR SCHOOL YEAR 2025-26

Registration is available online at **southelgin.com/registration** and at the Village Hall, 10 N. Water Street. If you have any questions, please e-mail Krista McKinney at kmckinney@southelgin.com.

PRESCHOOL PALS INFORMATION

South Elgin Preschool Pals offer the opportunity for your child to learn and develop age-appropriate benchmarks through a fun and engaging atmosphere. Our teachers build curriculum that will foster natural interests and understanding with basic concepts. The program and curriculum emphasize social/emotional skills, a nurturing, fun, and safe environment which encourages them to learn. The program and curriculum includes: reading, writing, art, music, math, science, small and large motor activities, dramatic play, circle time, and group discussions and will help prepare your student for kindergarten and beyond. To view the class availability, please visit **southelgin.com/preschool**.







NEW! PICKLEBALL LEAGUES

Age: 18+ years old

Whether you are new to pickleball or a seasoned vet, join SEPR in league play at Sperry Park. League play will run six weeks total with a Sunday round-robin tournament completing the season. Please bring your paddle. Each game will have 45 minutes to complete the set points. Tuesday, Thursday or Saturday leagues! Details available on page 16 of our summer guide at **southelgin.com/programs**.

Section #23021 - Tuesday Leagues
Section #23022 - Thursday Leagues
Section #23023 - Saturday Leagues

WE'RE EXCITED TO SHARE THAT CONSTRUCTION ON A PICKLEBALL COURT IN PANTON MILL PARK IS SET TO BEGIN IN LATE SUMMER 2025!

TREDUP PARK UPDATE

We are in the final stages of preparing our design and construction documents. Another community meeting for Sugar Ridge residents will be scheduled for this summer. Get ready, as construction is set to begin in September/October 2025.



NEW ACTIVE ADULT TRIP! DENNY DIAMOND AT WHITE FENCE FARM

Age: 50+ years old

Forget the Dodgers, this is a real home run! Come celebrate the music of Neil Diamond and Barry Manilow, two of Brooklyn's finest exports. You'll be tappin' your toes and singin' along all night long! Join SEPR and enjoy great music and even lunch will be served before the concert starts at the White Fence Farm. We provide the transportation, and you enjoy the fun and food. The cost is $60 R/ $65 NR. No refunds or registrations after June 26, 2025.

Location: Meet at the Public Services Building, 1000 Bowes Rd, South Elgin

Section #	Day	Date	Time
23024-01	Th	7/17	10am-4:30pm



CHECK OUT THE SUMMER BROCHURE FOR MORE PROGRAMS AND EVENTS! SOUTHELGIN.COM/PROGRAMS

2025 PANTON MILL PARK
SUMMER CONCERT SERIES

WEDNESDAY NIGHT CONCERT SERIES - 6:30-8PM

Don't miss
MULTI-CULTURAL NIGHT
June 18
5:30-8pm



May 28 - ARRA
A high-energy classic rock tribute band



June 4 - InFunktious
Blues and rock-driven band that gets funky



June 11 - Joe Stamm Band
A signature Black Dirt Country Rock sound



June 18 - Angelina Victoria
A mix of pop, Latin rock, folk, and regional Mexican music



June 25 - John Elvis Lyons and the Jailhouse Hound Dogs
Recreating Elvis concerts of the 1970's jumpsuit era



July 2 - The 144th Army Band
A unit within the Illinois Army National Guard



July 9 - Jeff's Invention
Rock, blues, and jam band playing covers and originals



July 16 - The Shagadelics
70's disco tribute act will thrill you with their funky tunes



July 23 - Second Hand Soul Band
Energetic Motown, Funk, and Soul music



Aug 6 - Jonny Lyons and The Pride
Rock and Roll, Country, Blues, Soul, Surf, and Rockabilly



Aug 13 - Tim Gleason & the Whiskey Disco Band
Country, rock, pop, and dance



Aug 20 - The Wayouts
Delivering Garage Rock hits from the 1960s



Aug 27 - Cecy Santana
Samba, Jazz, Funk, Rock 'N' Roll, and Pop



Sept 3 - Eric Case Band
Americana, Classic Country, and soulful Rock 'N' Roll



Sept 10 - Sunset Strip
80's glam rock bringing you back to the hairband scene

THURSDAY LUNCH TIME CONCERT SERIES NOON-1:30PM



May 29 - Billy Elton
Celebrating the music of Billy Joel & Elton John



June 5 - The Stingers
Rock, Soul, Funk, R&B, Disco, and Blues



Sept 4 - Comstock Lode Band
Rock, Southern Rock, Country Western, and R&B



Sept 11 - Wildwood Country
Get ready for fun country vibes and Line-Dancing



MOVIE NIGHTS

Bring your friends, family, and neighbors to the outdoor movie series at Panton Mill Park (10 N Water Street). Concessions will be available starting at 6:30pm, and movies begin at dusk. Join us for MOVIE BINGO before the movie!

JUNE 20 — **MOANA 2**
JOIN US BEFORE THE MOVIE STARTS AND PLAY MOVIE BINGO!

JULY 11 — **TRANSFORMERS ONE**
JOIN US AT 5 PM TO PLAY GAMES AND MOVIE BINGO BEFORE THE MOVIE STARTS! CONCESSIONS WILL BE AVAILABLE EARLY!

AUG 8 — **DOG MAN**
JOIN US BEFORE THE MOVIE STARTS AND PLAY MOVIE BINGO!

SEPT 20 — CELEBRATE NATIONAL DANCE DAY!
ADULT DOUBLE FEATURE: FOOTLOOSE & DIRTY DANCING
JOIN US FOR LATIN RHYTHM DANCE INSTRUCTION FROM 5:30 TO 6:30 PM!



CRUISE NIGHTS

Show off your cool ride or just come down to Panton Mill Park to check them out. Parking lot will be open from 6-8pm. No registration required for attendees or participants. Food truck and Dairy Queen will be available! Questions? Call 847-622-0003.

JUNE 17 — 6-8PM

JULY 15 — 6-8PM

AUG 19 — 6-8PM



ZUMBA IN THE PARK

Come down to the Panton Mill Park Sound Stage and join a FREE, fun, outdoor Zumba® class! Bring water and comfortable shoes.

JUNE 10 — 6:30-7:30PM

JULY 8 — 6:30-7:30PM

AUG 12 — 6:30-7:30PM

FOOD TRUCKS
WEDNESDAYS • 6-8PM



FOR SUMMER UPDATES: SOUTHELGIN.COM/PANTONMILLPARK

FRIDAY, AUGUST 1ST

BACK to SCHOOL

Night Out

4-6PM

FAMILY FRIENDLY ACTIVITIES,
FIRST RESPONDER VEHICLES,
SAY HELLO TO SEPD OFFICERS,
LOCAL ORGANIZATIONS,
AND FOOD TRUCKS





500 BACKPACK GIVEAWAY*

*Tickets will be distributed starting at 4pm. Child must be present, only one ticket per child allowed. Tickets must be turned in at 7pm to receive a backpack. First come, first serve.

FEATURING:

THE BLOOZE BROTHERS BAND

6-8PM • PANTON MILL PARK

POLICE SOUTH ELGIN

2025 NATIONAL NIGHT Out
POLICE • COMMUNITY PARTNERSHIPS

THE VILLAGE OF SOUTH ELGIN
PARKS & RECREATION

FREE SHUTTLE SERVICE AVAILABLE EVERY 20 MINUTES FROM SOUTH ELGIN HIGH SCHOOL

PUBLIC WORKS



2025 ANNUAL STREET MAINTENANCE PROGRAM

Following the contractor bid process, the roads shown below are now scheduled for resurfacing or reconstruction by the Village of South Elgin during summer 2025. On a related note: after two previous summers of resurfacing roads within Thornwood Subdivision, the Village will concentrate repairs/resurfacing east of the Fox River and return to complete Thornwood the summer of 2026.

MARK STREET	South Drive to Williams Drive
WILLIAMS DRIVE	Mark Street to Linda Court
LINDA COURT	North Drive to Williams Drive
EARL LANE	Mark Street to West End
NORTH DRIVE	Fulton Street to Center Drive
SOUTH STREET	Cherry Street to Pine Count
PINE COURT	South Street to South End
FULTON STREET	North Drive to 919 Fulton Street
MILL STREET	South Elgin Blvd to Eastview Ave
EAST AVE	Middle Street to Mill Street

Additional Summer Road Work: Public Works will have a crew patching, repairing and repaving additional streets as time allows this summer. Find updates on these projects handled by Village Streets & Forestry crew as well as the contracted paving projects by visiting **southelgin.com/RoadProgram** or calling Public Works at 847-695-2742.

VILLAGE AWARDED FUNDS FOR RESURFACING PROJECTS

The Village earned Federal Surface Transportation (STP) funds through the Council of Mayors for two road resurfacing projects.

- Summer 2025: South Elgin Boulevard/Raymond Street from E Main Street to the north end of Village limits.
- Summer 2026: Spruce Street/E Main Street from Gilbert to Kenyon Road

These projects will involve Illinois Department of Transportation coordinating the funding, and the Village along with HLR Engineering managing the construction. The 2025 project has an anticipated construction period of July-September 2025. The 2026 project will take place next summer. Both projects will require coordination with nearby schools and the east side fire station. As details become available, the Village will share them at **southelgin.com/projects** as well as social media and the weekly e-newsletter.



MCLEAN CONSTRUCTION UPDATE

The McLean Boulevard project continues to move forward with progress expected to significantly increase throughout the summer. While an Illinois Department of Transportation mandate altered the disposal of excavated topsoil and delayed progress during the fall, utility relocation and roadwork resumed during the winter, and included installation of more than a mile of sewer pipe and underground work for the new traffic signal at North Lancaster.

Currently, the north end of the project between Spring St and Sunbury Rd is being reconstructed. This portion of roadway will be constructed in halves, beginning with the lanes on the east side. Barring unforeseen disruptions, the contractor's schedule calls for all pavement to be complete by late summer or early fall 2025 with the road fully re-opened. Additional work to the sound wall, multi-use path and landscaping will likely continue after the traffic re-opens.

As part of this project, the intersection at McLean and Spring will be improved and resurfaced. The intersection will remain open. Please be alert to temporary lane reconfigurations at the intersection during construction.

Direct your questions about the McLean Boulevard project to the onsite resident engineer, Ed Herlihy at **edh@thomas-engineering.com**. The Village posts updates at **southelgin.com/projects** and our social media platforms.



NEW BRANCH PICK UP SCHEDULE IN EFFECT

The new branch pickup plan approved by Village Trustees in February is now in effect. The new plan sends out Village crews one time per month from April through October. Branch pickup does NOT take effect from November 1 through March 31 unless it's necessitated by an emergency due to an ice storm, high winds or other damaging weather event. Pickup requests can be submitted via an online form available at southelgin.com/branches, or by leaving a voicemail at 847-930-6050 before 7am of the second Monday of the pickup month.

Upcoming pickup weeks for the remainder of 2025 include: June 9, July 14, August 11, September 8 and October 13. The full program details and requirements are available at **southelgin.com/branches**.



HOW'S YOUR RPZ VALVE?

Because a faulty Reduced Pressure Zone (RPZ) valve can potentially allow untreated/contaminated water into a residential drinking water supply, the EPA requires a certified plumbing inspection of the RPZ valve by mid-June every year. Questions? Contact Village Hall at 847-742-5780 or visit **southelgin.com/backflow**.



50/50 TREE REPLACEMENT PROGRAM REQUESTS DUE BY JULY 31

The 50/50 Parkway Tree Replacement Program allows residents to share the cost of planting trees along the parkway. For a final cost typically more attractive than purchasing a tree, hauling it home, digging the hole and planting it, homeowners simply choose a tree from the species offered, submit a completed application, and Public Works does the rest. Applications must be received by the July 31 deadline each year for consideration. For details and an application, please visit: **southelgin.com/5050**.



VILLAGE TO HOST KANE COUNTY RECYCLING EVENT AUGUST 2

The Village will host a Kane County Recycles "Electronics and More" in the parking lot of our Public Services Building, 1000 Bowes Road from 9am-12pm. Categories of accepted items at this pop-up event include electronics, clothing, shoes, textiles, newspapers, magazines, catalogs, hardcover books, softcover books, board books, junk mail and more.

NOTE: There are exceptions within each of these categories!
For a comprehensive list, please visit **southelgin.com/recycle** or contact Kane County Recycles at 630-208-3841 or via email at **recycle@kanecountyil.gov**.
This event will accept televisions and monitors, but they require a disposal fee ($25 for screens smaller than 21" and $35 for screens 21" and larger).

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 March 25, 2025:

- **Encourage Nutrition** - 576 Randall Road (Health Food Sales)
- **Legit Dogs and Ice** - 322 Randall Road (Fast Casual Restaurant)
- **Glamour Salon** - 800 N La Fox Street (Hair Salon)

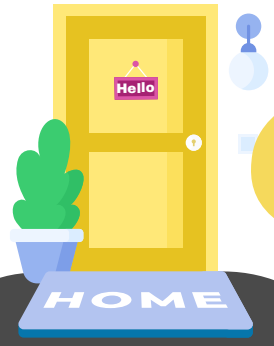
Please contact SEED for future South Elgin business inquiries.

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

SUMMER MAINTENANCE TO-DO LIST

Reduce mosquitoes: Empty collectors of stagnant water such as buckets and planters

Keep it Tidy: Mow regularly and eliminate weeds



Improve the Flow: Change the AC filter, and clean bathroom and dryer vents

Watch your Step: Inspect/replace damaged decking and outdoor stairs

Improve the Flow Part 2: Clear gutters and downspouts

Trim it Back: Prune bushes and clear branches from sidewalks and paths

Prep for the Fall: Schedule inspection for chimney/fireplace

CALENDAR OF EVENTS

Late May
19 Village Board Meeting – 7pm
21 Planning & Zoning – 7pm
26 Administrative Offices Closed
27 Recreation Board Meeting – 7pm

June
2 Village Board Meeting – 7pm
14 Tuna Kahuna – 9-11am
16 Village Board Meeting – 7pm
18 Multi-Cultural Night – 5:30pm
18 Planning & Zoning – 7pm

July
4 Administrative Offices Closed
7 Village Board Meeting – 7pm
16 Planning & Zoning – 7pm
21 Village Board Meeting – 7pm

August
1 Back to School Night Out – 4pm
2 Kane Co Recycle (South Elgin) – 9am
4 Village Board Meeting – 7pm
18 Village Board Meeting – 7pm
20 Planning & Zoning – 7pm
25 Recreation Board Meeting – 7pm
26 Police Pension Fund – 11am

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

BUILDING PERMITS FOR HOME IMPROVEMENTS

Homeowners often tackle major home improvement projects in the summer months. South Elgin residents are reminded to obtain permits for certain remodeling and building projects, including kitchen and bathroom renovations, roofs, fences, driveways, decks, patios, sheds, swimming pools, and lawn irrigation systems to name a few.

A building permit gives you legal permission to start construction of a building project in accordance with approved drawings and specifications. The Village encourages homeowners to discuss your plans with Community Development Department staff before beginning construction to determine whether the project requires a permit.

Please contact the Community Development Department at 847-741-3894, Monday through Friday, 8:30am to 5pm, to discuss your construction plans and for information on the building permit application, submittal requirements, and review process. More information and applications available at **southelgin.com/permits**.

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.

THE VILLAGE OF SOUTH ELGIN
10 NORTH WATER STREET
SOUTH ELGIN, IL 60177

ECRWSS
U.S. POSTAGE PAID
SOUTH ELGIN, IL 60177
PERMIT NO. 110

TO LOCAL POSTAL PATRON
SOUTH ELGIN, IL 60177

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:

As you begin your new term as Village President, what are your plans?
This summer we'll be replacing water main on the east side that's 75 years old. We'll be working on more repaving projects, the water quality improvement project and the things that make daily life for our residents better, more reliable and more functional.

We're beginning our fifth year of music and events at Panton Mill Park. What would you tell someone who hasn't yet experienced the park activities?
I'd say you don't know what you're missing. And whether it's a concert, a cruise night or a movie night, you'll be happy you gave it a try. Our brand is to provide free, friendly and safe community fun. We bring in solid musical acts, and it costs nothing to attend. You can even bring your own food and an adult beverage. Or you can grab a meal from our food truck vendors. We've even added extra parking spaces on both sides of the river (Public Safety Center and former Hoffer Plastics lot). My wife and I are so excited, we bought new lawn chairs for this summer's concert series!

We're promoting South Elgin Stories this summer. What was your moment when you felt South Elgin was your home?
I'm grateful for the time I've served on the Board and as Mayor, but that was never my ambition for living here. After moving here in the late 1980s, and the kids went to school and joined little league, we started meeting people with shared experiences. South Elgin became home and it's never changed since.

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: Jennifer Barconi, Jim Breunlin, Mike Kolodziej, Greg Lieser, Chris Merritt, Scott Richmond
Clerk: 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

