

The South Orange Gaslight



Your comments please! on the Village Charter

Village residents are invited to a public forum the evening of Monday, Nov. 29, to provide input on a study now under way to assess the Village's current Charter.

A nine-member volunteer Charter Review Committee was appointed in August to review the charter and prepare a report on its functioning, including any suggested amendments. The committee includes seven volunteer resident members: four at-large members, the Village President, and two Village Trustees. The Village Counsel and Village Clerk are assisting.

A charter review is supposed to occur every 12 years, as set forth in the Village charter. Unlike most New Jersey communities, South Orange is governed by a special charter, an act of the state Legislature, which can be amended.

Committee members are inter-

South Orange is governed by a special charter, an act of the state Legislature.

viewing, surveying and gathering information from elected and appointed Village officials, past and present, and from elected officials in comparable communities. They're also reaching out to South Orange residents through the Nov. 29 forum and another to be scheduled in early 2011. The committee's objective is to identify opportunities for improvement, if any, and appropriate alternatives. At the same time, the committee will consider whether an alternative form

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Historic Connett Bldg. to be revived

Any day of the week, the community meeting space at the South Orange Public Library is bound to be booked. "All those groups that used to meet in somebody's house are now coming here," says Library Director Melissa Kopecky.

Expanded community space was one of several primary drivers when the library's Board of Trustees began squinting at the Connett Memorial Building, the architectural gem not 20 feet from the current library. Now, their contemplation has turned into dollars.

The library was recently awarded a historic site management grant from the Garden State Historic Preservation Trust Fund (an initiative of the NJ Historic Trust) to assess the physical state of the Connett Building, with an eye toward future planning for the whole one-block library campus.

The \$50,000 grant is matched at one third by the Village, allowing a two-part planning effort that includes assessing the physical health of the building, then developing a strategy for future use. The plan will enhance all library facilities and address community needs.

The process of choosing architects has begun and the building's physical assessment will start soon. The essential question says library Trustee Karen Hilton, is, "How do we re-vitalize the building, guided by the library's mission and the community's wide-ranging interests?"



This 1896 photo shows the reading room, circulation desk and stacks in the Connett Building as it once looked.

Within two years, the library board anticipates having a plan for integrated use of the Connett, the current library and the surrounding outdoor space. The Connett is "a magnificent old building," said Kopecky. "There's no other public space like that in town." She talks about the board's vision of restoring two grand meeting rooms in the Connett, and about working with the community to determine library space needs, from meeting space, to the library collection, to technological needs.

"This gives us a chance to create library and community anchor spaces for the future," said Hilton.

Located at the corner of Taylor Place and Scotland Road, the Connett was built in 1896 with a donation of land by Eugene Connett. It served as the Village library for nearly 75 years. Needs changed and the new building was completed in 1968. Today the Connett is the home of EIES of NJ, an organization that provides access to the printed word for the blind.

It's the whole idea of re-envisioning space, and historic space at that," said Kopecky. "It's not just about efficiency, it's also exciting." ▲

The Gaslight is published six times yearly for the residents & business community of South Orange Village.

November
December
2010

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SOPAC names Bollinger its new executive director

Michael Bollinger, a former administrator of arts centers in Virginia and Missouri, has been named the new executive director of the South Orange Performing Arts Center. Bollinger started on Sept. 13 after a nationwide executive search. He succeeds Ondine Landa Abramson who held the position since 2006.

Bollinger recently served as executive director of Virginia's Suffolk Center for Cultural Arts, and previously, as artistic producing director of Missouri's Lyceum Theatre. He was the founding director of Missouri's Mainstage Theatre Company. Bollinger has presented more than 100 performances ranging from orchestra to family entertainment to Grammy Award-winning artists. He has produced and/or directed more than 200 plays and musicals, including performances at The Smithsonian Institution. ▲



New SOPAC Exec. Director Michael Bollinger

Twp. forms Cable TV and marketing committees

The former South Orange Public Information Committee has been dissolved and two new committees have replaced it.

The Cable Television Committee will advise the Board of Trustees on cable and fiber-optic TV as well as future competitive alternatives. They will consider community need, regulatory issues and technology matters. Committee members will include three trustee liaisons and four Village residents, each serving two-year terms.

The Public Information and Marketing Committee will advise the trustees on the exchange of information between Village government and residents, property and business owners, students and visitors. They will consider print, electronic and broadcast media. They will also advise the board on marketing the Village to prospective residents, property and business owners, students and visitors. ▲

Did you know?

Mountain House Spa, a fashionable water-cure hotel, was built in 1830 at Ridgewood and Glenside roads to house 150 guests, all supervised by two physicians. The hotel burnt down in 1890 and its only reminders are Mountain Station and Mountain House Road, both built to accommodate the popular resort.

Village regulates placement of temporary structures

The Township has defined new placement standards for many types of temporary structures on private property. Whether it's a dumpster, a portable toilet or a storage container, the Village licenses the structure's use so that it doesn't obstruct traffic or annoy neighbors.

In all cases, the preferred placement is a paved surface behind the house or public building, but a waiver could be granted in special circumstances.

Among the specifics of ordinance #10-23, amended when???:

- Portable storage containers are allowed as long as they're not parked on the front lawn or in the adjacent street.
- Portable garbage bins (at least one cubic yard in size) can be placed in public streets for up to 30 days, at the curb in front of the applicant's parking area.
- Temporary garages are not allowed.
- Temporary structures used in construction, such as garbage bins and sanitation facilities, are allowed with proper permits.

No Permit Required

No permit is required for the following temporary structures:

- Accessory buildings such as storage sheds and pump houses.
- Temporary structures for religious observances.
- Small, seasonally used tents.

Permit Fees

A 30-day permit is \$100. One 30-day renewal can be obtained with consent of the Village's police chief or construction official.

Permits for temporary structures are \$25 for 30 days, \$100 for 90 days, and \$250 for 180 days. Thirty-day permit renewals are \$50.

The time limit for temporary structures is 180 days, extended with a variance granted by the Planning Board or the Board of Adjustment. ▲

Need senior info?

Here's S. Orange's source

Senior citizens and their caregivers often need access to usable information and resources about social security, healthcare, senior education, consumer protection and more.

In South Orange, the go-to place for all such needs is South Orange Senior Services, part of the Village's Department of Recreation and Cultural Affairs. Coordinator Marian Roffman, a licensed clinical social worker, says her office exists to provide information and referrals concerning "the dignity and welfare of seniors, especially those who are frail or vulnerable."

Seniors, their family, friends and neighbors are welcome to call or visit Senior Services. The office at The Baird is open Tuesdays and Thursdays from 9:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. Or contact Marian Roffman at (973) 378-7754, x2, or mroffman@southorange.org. ▲

Emergency notice system improved

The Village emergency notification system has been improved and rebranded. Formerly known as "C3," it is now called Gov-Interact or "Gov.I." Along with municipal notification, the system now offers:

- Service Requests - If you want to report any non-emergency, such as a pothole or a Village tree down, hop on Gov.I and enter the service request. You can even upload a picture or video of the problem. The Village will immediately receive the information, and you can track the problem until it's fixed. (For emergencies, call 911.)

- Business Listings - Local businesses can register with the town so that residents can find them in business category listings.

Gov.I is a software application that invites citizen-users to create customized profiles based on their

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PIERRO GALLERY

www.pierrogallery.org

Four Points of View

Nov. 21 - Dec. 19

Opening reception, Nov. 21, 1-4 p.m.

Regional artists look at the world through differing lenses. The exhibit includes: paper cuts by Beatrice Coron, New York City; fiber art by Myra Serrins, Sherman, Conn.; paintings by Pilar Hyman of South Orange and Haeley Kyong of Franklin Lakes. The exhibit will be curated by Gary Park.

WINTER ARTS CLASSES

(973) 378-7754, x1 • arts@southorange.org

The Baird's winter arts classes begin in January, with registration starting Nov. 15. Reasonably priced classes in visual arts, music and dance are taught by working professionals and offered at all age levels, infant through adult. Check the website for class details and registration information.

Visual Arts

- Fun With Art: ages 2-3 with caregiver, Mondays with Miriam Sumner.
- Art Exploration: ages 3-5 and grades K-1, Mondays with Miriam Sumner.
- Art Expressions: grades 1-5, Thursdays, instructor to be announced.
- Ceramics and Glass Workshop: grades K-4, Saturdays with Joan Tamasco.
- Comic Book Capers: grades 1-3 and 4-6, Tuesdays with Vicki Arlein.
- Concocting in Clay: grades 1-5, Mondays with Don Nose from Platypus Pottery.
- Drawing with Lynne Buschman: grades 5-8 and 9-12, Thursdays.
- Silk Screen Printmaking: grade 7-adult, Wednesdays with Larry McKim.
- Portfolio Development: grade 7-adult, Mondays with Larry McKim.
- Art with the Master: adults on Tuesdays with Philip Sherrod.
- Jewelry-Intro to PMC: age 15-adult, Wednesdays with Terry Kovalcik.

Music

- Rhythm Sticks: infant to age 4 with caregivers, Tuesdays and Fridays with Pauline Barrett.
- Guitar: grades 2-3, 4-5 and 6-8, Saturdays with Tom Morris.

WINTER RECREATION

(973) 378-7754 • www.thebaird.org

Winter athletic programs for children are highlighted below. Complete details and registration information are available at The Baird and online.

- Lacrosse Clinics: girls, grades 3-12, Wednesday nights.
- Sunday Indoor Soccer: programs for adults, and children grades 3-8.
- Learn to Ski: grades 3-8 (at Mt. Peter, NY).
- Pee Wee Tennis: indoors, ages 3-6.
- Platform Tennis: outdoors, ages 7-15.
- Jaguar Indoor Track: ages 7-16.
- Tae Kwon Do: children and adults.
- Tae Kwon Do: special needs children.

Middle School Basketball League

The in-town recreation basketball league for South Orange and Maplewood players in grades 6 through 8 requires no tryouts, but evaluations will be held to create evenly matched teams. It's fun and competitive Saturday basketball. Registration is underway. Enrollment is limited.

Winter Recreation Hours

From December through March 2011, The Baird will be open Sundays from noon to 4:30 p.m.

DREAMCATCHER REPERTORY THEATER

www.dreamcatcherrep.org
973-378-7754, x2228

"THIS" by Melissa James Gibson
Through Nov. 14

In the New Jersey premiere of this 2009 Off-Broadway hit, a group of old friends facing middle age grapples with parenthood, mortality, betrayal and the meaning of life. The New York Times called it the "best new play to open Off-Broadway this fall."

Friday and Saturday performances are at 8 p.m., Sundays 2 p.m. Tickets: adults \$30, students and seniors \$25 (discount if purchased online).

A Very Special (Holiday) Special

Kick off the holiday season with an evening of comedy sketches and song brought to you by Dreamcatcher's resident performers on Friday, Dec. 3 and Saturday, Dec. 4 at 8 p.m. All tickets are \$20. Save \$5 online.

Giants of Jazz 13 honors Bob Cranshaw



It's time again for "the greatest one-day jazz event in New Jersey."

Giants of Jazz 13, acclaimed by the Star-Ledger and thousands of music lovers, is scheduled for Saturday, Dec. 4

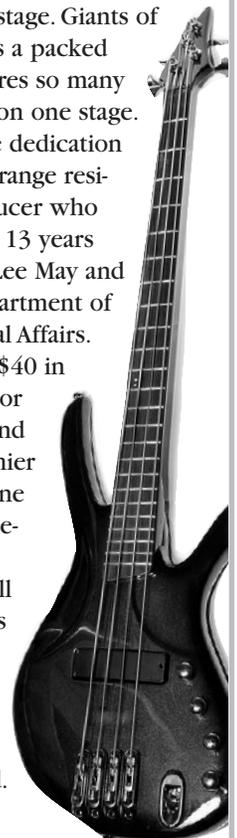
at South Orange Middle School.

This year's Jazz Masters Award will go to bassist and guitarist Bob Cranshaw, the man credited with turning the electric bass into an instrument in its own right instead of a substitute for the upright bass. In the 70s, thanks to him, the electric bass became an instrument that was heard and not just felt. Cranshaw's storied career has extended from recording, to television (Sesame Street, The David Frost Show and Saturday Night Live), to theater, night clubs and concerts.

A host of renowned musicians will join Cranshaw on the stage. Giants of Jazz consistently draws a packed house because it features so many world-class musicians on one stage. They are drawn by the dedication of John Lee, a South Orange resident, bassist and producer who initiated Giants of Jazz 13 years ago. He is assisted by Lee May and the South Orange Department of Recreation and Cultural Affairs.

Show tickets are \$40 in advance, \$45 at the door and \$35 for students and seniors. Reserved premier seating is \$55. For online purchase visit www.thebaird.org.

For information, call (973) 378-7754. Tickets also are being sold at Rocket Ship & Print in South Orange and The Tenth Muse Gallery, No. 165 in Maplewood.



Major Jackson to read at Seton Hall

Nationally acclaimed poet Major Jackson will conduct a free reading of his works at Seton Hall's Walsh Library Gallery on Wednesday, Nov. 10 at 7 p.m.

Jackson is the author of three poetry collections: "Holding Company" and "Hoops" as well as "Leaving Saturn," which was a finalist for the National Book Critics Circle Award. Jackson's poems and essays have appeared in Agni, American Poetry Review, Best American Poetry, Boston Review, The New Yorker, The Paris Review, Poetry, Tin House, and other literary periodicals. He is a recipient of a Pushcart Prize, a Whiting Writers' Award, and has been honored by the Pew Fellowship in the Arts and the Witter Bynner Foundation in conjunction with the Library of Congress. He lives in Burlington, Vermont, where he is the Richard Dennis Green and Gold Professor at the University of Vermont. He is a core faculty member of the Bennington Writing Seminars and serves as the poetry editor of the Harvard Review

For more information on the reading, call the Arts Council at (973) 313-6338 or e-mail Nathan.Oates@shu.edu.

Events at Marylawn of the Oranges

• *A pancake breakfast with Santa Claus* will be provided by the junior class on Saturday, Dec. 12 from 10 a.m. to 1 p.m.

• *Christmas Concert and Show.* Students from the



gospel choir and drama club will perform Tuesday, Dec. 14 at 7 p.m. Admission is free and refreshments will be served.

• *Freshmen for a Friday.* Eighth grade students can visit Marylawn any Friday from Nov. 12 to Dec. 10, to shadow Marylawn freshmen and see what high school is like.

Marylawn is located at 445 Scotland Road. For information, call (973) 762-9222 x12, or visit online at www.marylawn.us.

King celebration, save the date

Mark your calendar for the South Orange Civic Organization's 41st annual Martin Luther King Celebration, "Education, Equity and Expectations," on Sunday, Jan. 9 at 3 p.m., at South Orange Middle School, 70 Ridgewood Road.

It's the super classics of classical music

Works by Mozart, Beethoven and Bizet will be featured during the first performance of the South Orange Symphony's 62nd season on Saturday, Nov. 20 at 8 p.m. at South Orange Middle School. Direct Robert Helmacy will lead the symphony in a program that includes Mozart's overture to "Abduction from the Seraglio," Beethoven's Symphony No. 6 and music from Georges Bizet's "Carmen." Admission is free. For information call (973) 729-5275 or visit southorangesymphony.org.

Take a ride with SOMbike.com

Group rides for bicycling enthusiasts are available with SOMbike.com, an organization that promotes safe bike riding in South Orange and Maplewood.

• Midweek Morning Rides - Every Tuesday and Thursday,

9:30 a.m. Meet at the NJ Transit parking lot and Maplewood Avenue. Rides are 10 to 20 miles, depending on the group.

• Alternate Sundays - Long rides meet at 7 a.m. Family rides meet at 10 a.m.

For details on all rides, visit www.sombike.com.

Host a dinner party and raise funds

Save the date: Saturday, March 5 will be the 7th annual Night of 100 Dinners! Host a dinner party to raise funds and spread the word about what the Achieve Foundation is doing to support outstanding education in the local public schools. For more information, contact Eileen Neri, (973) 763-6244 or ecneri@verizon.net.

On Stage at SOPAC
SOPACnow.org • (973) 275-1114

- Nov. 4, 7:30 p.m. - The String Orchestra of New York City, \$25/\$15.
- Nov. 6, 4 p.m. and 8 p.m., Max Weinberg Big Band, \$68/\$55/\$42.
- Nov. 9, 7:30 p.m. - Grammy-nominated jazz pianist Judy Carmichael, \$25/\$15.
- Nov. 13, 8 p.m. - Contemporary singer/songwriter Aimee Mann, \$68/\$55/\$42.
- Nov. 14, 3 p.m. and 7 p.m. - Dance Theater of Harlem Ensemble, \$25/\$45.
- Nov. 18, 8 p.m. - Norbert Leo Butz and Friends, Broad-

way tunes and Southern roots music, \$45/\$35.

• Nov. 19, 8 p.m. - Paula West: Jammin' Away the Blues, \$50/\$40/\$30.

• Nov. 21, 7 p.m. - Renowned singer/songwriter Melissa Manchester, \$45/\$35.



- Nov. 30, 7:30 p.m. - Navy Band Northeast, jazz music, free admission.
- Dec. 3, 7 p.m.; Dec. 4, 4 p.m. and 7 p.m. - The Nutcracker performed by the New York Theater Ballet, \$42/\$32.

• Dec. 5, 11 a.m., 2 p.m. - "A Great Big Miracle," performed by Midtown Direct Rep, \$20.

• Dec. 5, 7 p.m. - Red Horse: Eliza Gilkyson, John Gorka and Lucy Kaplansky, folk music, \$45/\$35.

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South Orange Parking Authority

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New South Orange Smart Card

A Simple Way to Pay for Parking in 2011

All Pay-by-Space parking machines and electronic meters accept the new South Orange Smart Card, a fast, easy way to pay for parking. You may continue to pay with coins but why not make it easier? Simply purchase a card for any amount from \$10 to \$200 dollars (available in \$10 increments), slide the card into the reader at the meter, and your desired amount of time is deducted from the card.

When your balance runs low, recharge your card right at the new payment machines at the NJ Transit lot or in the Parking Authority office.

New Parking Pay Machines at NJ Transit Stations

In collaboration with NJ Transit, the Parking Authority offers two new parking payment machines at the NJ Transit main station and one new machine at the Mountain Train Station. Pay-by-space machines accept Visa, MasterCard, Discover and American Express, plus debit cards, the South Orange Smart Card, cash, and tokens.

Commuter Parking Options

Parking spaces at Temple Sharey Tefilo-Israel are now offered to South Orange residents on the Mountain Station waiting list free of charge for the rest of 2010 and

at half price for 2011.

The Parking Authority and the Village Board of Trustees have created more than 130 resident commuter permit parking spaces at the Mews, Our Lady of Sorrows, Temple Sharey Tefilo-Israel, Waterlands, West Third Street and North Ridgewood Road. Currently, resident permits are available on a first-come first-served basis for the remaining spaces at Our Lady of Sorrows and Temple Sharey Tefilo-Israel.

New Scooter Shelter Permits

The Village has installed 15 sheltered parking spaces for motorized scooters across from the main train station in Firehouse Lot 3 on lower First Street. Effective immediately, Resident Commuter Scooter Permits are available on a first-come, first-served basis. The permits are \$20 per year, currently good through 2010 and all of 2011. Call or stop by the office for an application or information.

Jitney Service

SOPA runs early morning and late-evening jitney service to and from the South Orange Train Station. All morning arrival schedules have been adjusted to be in sync with Midtown Direct departure

times, and to reduce platform waiting.

Late-evening jitneys operate Village-wide after every Midtown Direct arrival until 11:30 p.m. — a great solution when working late or enjoying an evening in NYC. Jitney route schedules are available on the bus, in the SOPA office or on the Village website, www.southorange.org/parking.asp. Annual jitney bus passes are \$150, or pay on the bus, \$1 each way.

Seasonal Permits Available

Approximately 30 resident commuter seasonal permit parking spaces are located along the east side of Meadowbrook Lane. Permits for the spaces are \$130, valid Nov. 15 through March 15, when park usage is significantly reduced.

SOPA Office Hours

The South Orange Parking Authority office is located in Village Hall on the second floor. Hours are Monday to Friday, 8:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m.

For More Information

Website: www.southorange.org/parking.asp
E-mail: nrodriguez@southorange.org
Phone: (973) 378-7715, x2037
Fax: (973) 378-7836

The South Orange Parking Authority's mission is to provide and maintain parking for South Orange residents, businesses, and visitors. SOPA's operations are self-funded from parking and permit fees.

Holiday Open House set for Dec. 4

Glowing lights, decorated windows and plenty of shopper specials will make downtown shopping a treat during the Holiday Open House sponsored by Main Street South Orange on Saturday, Dec. 4, from 10 a.m. to 6 p.m.

Shoppers will find special deals in downtown shopping and dining. And, while making the rounds among the stores, they will be encouraged to vote on the best merchant window decorations.

For the kids, Santa will be visiting in the firehouse where refreshments will be provided.

This year, Village Aglow will coincide with the Holiday Open House and the downtown area will glow with the season's warmth. ▲

New fee for metal pickup

The Department of Public Works has applied a new fee for curbside pickup of metal and appliances. Residents are now required to pay \$75 per stop. To schedule a pickup, call Public Works at (973) 378-7741.

It rained, we shined

Torrential rains didn't dampen the spirit of the inaugural South Orange International Blues Festival, held Sunday, Sept. 12. Planners said audience tenacity in spite of the rain proved that South Orange is a viable venue for future festivals.

The rain was so heavy that one of three concert venues, the Cameron stage, washed out. Acts were shuffled to accommodate more performances at Flood's Hill.

Some in the audience pitched tents, some went home to change clothes and return, and others stood rain-soaked for hours so they wouldn't miss a beat.

David Stryker, the Blues Mob with Michael Hill, and the Colin John Band were among the performers who risked ruining their instruments and sound equipment in the downpour. ▲

Of the 566 municipalities in New Jersey, South Orange Village is one of only four with a village type of government. The others are Loch Arbour, Ridgefield Park and Ridgewood.

In 1981, the name was changed to "South Orange Village Township" to take advantage of federal revenue-sharing policies. The change was intended to allow South Orange to qualify for a pool of federal aid allocated to municipalities that allowed townships to receive as much as double the revenue-sharing aid per capita received by the four other types of New Jersey municipalities — borough, city, town or village.

- from Wikipedia

Library Events

(973) 762-0230 • www.sopl.org

Library Lecture Series

Thursdays, 1 p.m.

• Nov. 4 - "The War That Never Ends: World War 1 and the 20th Century," with William Rogers, associate graduate school dean and professor of American history at Drew University.

• Nov. 11 - "WikiLeaks: Secret Documents, The War Logs," with New York Times investigative reporter Andrew Lehren.

• Nov. 18 - "A Changing Political Landscape after the Election?" with Betty Newman.

Dec. 2 - "Poland and its Neighbors," a talk and slide show presented by Black Maria Film Festival Founder/Director John Columbus.

• Dec. 9 - "If on a Winter's Night: Music and Poetry," with Seton Hall English Professor John Wargacki.

Dec. 16 - Annual Holiday Party. Entertainment by Jim and Christie Harrington and family.

Jan. 6 - "The Problem WITH Race Relations," presented by Adrienne Roberts, professor of history at City College of New York.

Regular Programs

• S. O. Book Review Group - Nov. 22, 7:30 p.m., "Fieldwork," a thriller by Mischa Berlinski. Dec. 20, 7:30 p.m., "Hope in the Unseen," nonfiction by Ron Suskind.

• Wednesdays at the Movies - Nov. 3 and 17, Dec. 1 and 15, 1 p.m.

• Creative Writing Workshop - Nov. 10 and Dec. 8, 1 p.m.

• Knitting Workshop - Nov. 15, noon to 1 p.m.

Ayelet Waldman to talk with S. Orange readers

Author Ayelet Waldman will join the library book group via telephone on Jan. 31, to discuss her new book "Red Hook Road." The session begins at 7:30 p.m. and will include the author's thoughts on the art and science of writing.

Any reader who owns Red Hook Road or another Waldman book can get an autographed bookplate by

contacting Ellen Chiller Janow before Nov. 15.

Children's Programs

• Toddlers (with adult) - Tuesdays, 11 a.m., stories and crafts.

• Chess and Board Games - Tuesdays, 3:30 p.m., all ages.

• Books and Babies (with adult) - Wednesdays, 10 a.m.

• Banjo Music - second Thursday, 10 a.m.

• Seton Stories - Fridays, 10 a.m., all ages. ▲

Biz buzz

Two business relocations

• *The Fur Salon* is now at 15 Village Plaza.

• *Liza's Designer Labels* has moved to 131 South Orange Avenue.

Four new businesses

• *Munchie's Jamaican Restaurant*, 307 Irvington Avenue. Owners Reed and Sylvia Taylor serve authentic Jamaican fare like fried dumplings and jerk chicken with large helpings of warmth and friendliness.

• *Sparkhouse Studio* at 19 Scotland Road offers an array of collectible toys. Owner Mike Casaren has also established an in-store art gallery and classes.

• *LaVera Pizza*, at 329 Valley Street, is opened daily from 11 a.m. to midnight. Owner Raul El Shereif offers eat-in or take-out dining.

• *AT&T Mobility / A&D Wireless*, 54 South Orange Avenue, specializes in communication products and services, including pre-paid and monthly cell phone service, phone accessories and corporate/school discounts of 8% to 28% off monthly bills. ▲

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Administrator, x2
Construction, x3
Tax Collector, x4
Assessor, x5
Finance, x6
Engineer, x7
Parking Auth., x8
Health Officer
x7710
Animal Control
x7711
Fire Dept.
378-7751
Library
762-0230
Police Dept.
378-7775
Public Works
378-7741
Recreation & Cultural Affairs
378-7754
Rescue Squad
762-3410
Recycling Info. & Street Dept.
378-7741
Water Service
266-8869

To submit information for *The South Orange Gaslight*, send to Editor Robin Patric, rpatric@comcast.net, or call (908) 823-9001

Villager of the Month Tom Morrisroe



Thomas Morrisroe was an aircraft repairman in Ben Hoa, Vietnam in 1967 and 1968, — a 21-year-old sergeant

with the 3rd Tactical Fighter Wing of the U.S. Air Force. He wasn't in the thick of combat, but he knew plenty who were.

Close proximity to war "helps you appreciate life a lot more," says Morrisroe. "What you took for granted before, you certainly appreciate when you come back home."

That thankfulness has extended more than 40 years beyond Morrisroe's military duty. During the heat of the Iraq War, he initiated a care package program through the South Orange Lions Club. His daughter's good friend, an Army sergeant, regularly e-mailed Morrisroe, sending pictures of fellow platoon members. Morrisroe came to know of the soldiers' privations.

"They didn't have access to small items," like body wipes, eye drops, razors, mouthwash or foot powder. Since showers were sometimes impossible, for as long as a week, small personal hygiene items became treasures.

Morrisroe formed a group of South Orange Lions Club members who sent care packages to the young soldier, who in turn distributed them to fellow soldiers. The project continued for more than a year.

"We also sent types of food they couldn't get there."

Morrisroe is a 60-year Village resident. He and his wife Maureen raised four children here and he still runs his 40-year-old business, Morrisroe Contracting.

As a devoted community member, he has served on the Village Planning Board and the South Orange Democratic Committee, currently as vice chairman and district leader. He also belongs to the VFW, the Knights

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of Columbus and the Elks.

But it's the Lions Club of South Orange where "I have my heart," says Morrisroe. "It does something for other people and that's what I like doing." A past club president and secretary, he is the current district chair of the statewide Diabetes Awareness Committee, and trustee of a Lions district charitable foundation.

Two years ago, Morrisroe was recognized by the Essex Freeholders for his military service and he treasures the honor. But his real military devotion goes to the foot soldiers of today. "When you see kids that come to your house and play with your kids and then they're going to war, and you know what they're going to face, it really is hard. It's a big sacrifice in their life. If there's something you can do for them that would be beneficial, it's great if you can do it."

▲

Emergency notice

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preferences, interests, and service needs. Users can submit service requests, subscribe to emergency alerts, explore community event calendars, find local businesses, network with other users, upload audio and video files, and more.

If you were already a C3 subscriber, you will need to update your account password and profile information for Gov.I use. All current users received an e-mail with a link to update their password. If you have not registered yet, go to the Village website, www.southorange.org. Click on the "GoInteract S.O." sign-in, in the upper right corner of the page. Or contact Mauricio Garcia at Village Hall, (973) 378-7715, x7718, or mgarci@south-orange.org. ▲

On Stage at SOPAC

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- Dec. 7, 7:30 p.m. – American Brass Quintet, \$25/\$15/\$8.
- Dec. 10, 8 p.m. – James Braly: Life in a Marital Institution, comedy theater, \$30/\$20.
- Dec. 12, 3 p.m. – Juilliard at SOPAC, a holiday jazz concert, \$15/\$12.
- Dec. 18, 8 p.m. – McCoy Tyner Trio, jazz piano, tickets \$58/\$48/\$38.



McCoy Tyner

Village Charter

Cont'd from page 1

of government, as permitted under New Jersey's Optional Municipal Charter Law (the Faulkner Act), might be more beneficial for the Village.

After the review, the committee will prepare and present a report to the Board of Trustees. Depending on the committee's recommendation and resulting action by the trustees, any of three procedures may be necessary to implement a change: legislative action, formation of a charter commission, or one or more public elections.

The Nov. 29 public forum starts at 7:30 p.m. in Village Hall. In addition, the public is welcome to attend all Charter Review Committee meetings, which routinely are posted on the Village calendar. ▲