

The South Orange Gaslight



Jitney emergency route established

A weather emergency route for South Orange jitney service has been established on the Newstead and North Wyoming route.

When severe snow, ice or other weather conditions create potential



driving hazards, certain parts of the route are inaccessible to the jitneys, and riders waiting for pickup will be advised to shift to another section of the route.

To find out if an emergency route is in use, riders can call the South Orange Parking Authority at (973) 378-7715, x2036, or check the website, www.southorange.org/parking.asp.

The Newstead and North Wyoming route includes steep hills, unlike the Montrose/Tuxedo Park or Irvington/Academy/Valley routes, where no alternate routes are planned.

During weather emergencies, there will be no service at three locations along the Newstead and North Wyoming route:

- Longview, beyond Crestwood Drive - Commuters on Laurel Avenue and Harding Drive should go to Wyoming Avenue. Service will U-turn at Crestwood Drive, go back to Glenview Drive, to South Orange Avenue and Wyoming.
- Overhill Road - Commuters on Mayhew Drive should go to

Wyoming Avenue.

- Franklin Place or Franklin Terrace - Go to Wyoming Avenue. Service will U-turn at Franklin Place/Blanchard Road, then back to South Orange Avenue and South Orange Station/SOPAC Circle.

Jitney service will be suspended on all routes when the governor declares a state of emergency or when New Jersey Transit does not operate bus service. ▲

Heat bill assist available for qualified residents

Lots of folks need help paying heating bills. The state of New Jersey offers assistance through two programs and applications will be accepted through April.

■ *The Low Income Home Energy Assistance Program* helps with regular heating bills or emergency needs. To qualify, household residents must have gross income at or below 200% of the federal poverty level.

■ *The Universal Service Fund Program* helps with natural gas and electric heating bills. To qualify, a household must have gross income at or below 175% of the federal poverty level, with more than 3% of annual income going toward electric or natural gas. Those with electric heat must spend more than 6% of annual income on electricity.

Actual assistance provided depends on income, household size and fuel type. To learn how to apply, call La Casa De Don Pedro, Essex County's community action agency, at (973) 485-0795 or 0796. ▲

Famed Villagers to perform at SOPAC

Rosena Hill (Come Fly Away, The Color Purple) will light up the stage at SOPAC on Friday, Jan. 27 in a tribute to Sarah Vaughn and the musicians who influenced her sound.

Hill, pictured at right, is a South Orange resident, who will share the stage with her husband and fellow Villager, Grammy-nominated trombonist Jason Jackson (Vanguard Jazz Orchestra, Dizzy Gillespie Band), and with legendary jazz pianist Cyrus Chestnut.

Hill will be heading back to Broadway this spring in the cast of "Rebecca," a musical based on the novel by Daphne du Maurier. Before she goes, catch her at SOPAC, as part of a remarkable trio of contemporary talent, performing the songs of a musical legend. Showtime is 8 p.m. Tickets range from \$25 to \$40. For information, call at (973) 275-1114 or visit SOPACnow.org. ▲

Trustee meeting schedule adjusted

The South Orange Board of Trustees has designed a new meeting schedule for more efficient decision-making.

As of December, regular board meetings are being held the second and fourth Monday of each month, with discussion and formal action at both sessions.

In the past, Trustees held conference agenda meetings for informal discussion, and regular business meetings for formal action. Conference agenda meetings will no longer be held.

The new schedule is expected to improve the flow and timeliness of board decisions. ▲

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

**January
February
2012**



Inside

■ Sign up Jan. 21 for the community garden

■ Voters mostly favor referendum questions

■ Catch a "Shooting Star" at Dreamcatcher in January

■ Register now for spring sports

■ Three MLK events

■ Bradley Takahashi named January Villager

Welcome to two new downtown businesses:

Wellness Lounge, a new holistic center at 14 South Orange

Avenue, opened Nov. 26 offering massage therapy, yoga, stress management classes, antioxidant screening, line dancing, and colon therapy. Eco-friendly books and products are available along with free Wi-Fi and relaxation rooms. Hours are noon to 9 p.m. daily. For information, call (973) 275-3868.

Stuff Village Mercantile, an antiques shop at 50 West South Orange Avenue, opened in early December. Co-owners Roy Scott and Steve Rella offer everything from fainting sofas and antique juicers to classic candy, glassware and jewelry. Items are sourced from estate sales, garage sales and internet sites, then refurbished as needed. Store hours are Tuesday to Sunday, 11 a.m. to 7 p.m. For information, call (973) 763-9090. ▲

Electric vehicle chargers coming to South Orange

If you drive an electric vehicle, you'll soon have a place to charge it in the Village.

Sustainable Jersey has awarded a \$9,475 grant to the Village for the purchase and installation of three electric vehicle chargers in the central business district. No timetable has been released. Township officials do not yet know the purchasing timeline.

Three spaces for electric vehicles will be located near the New Jersey Transit parking lot. Owners will be able to park and charge their cars for a nominal fee, likely on an hourly basis.

The fee, not yet established, will be payable with the South Orange Parking Authority Smart Card, currently in use at pay-by-space lots and at electronic meters. ▲



Look for 2012 electronic recycling dates in the March/April Gaslight.



Enjoy a Village Valentine's Day

Bring your Valentine downtown the week-end of Feb. 10 to 12, and on Valentine's Day, Tuesday, Feb. 14. Enjoy abundant romantic dining and find special gifts aplenty right here in South Orange.

Main Street South Orange ...

We Believe in Romance.

We Believe in Downtown.

Community garden sign-ups Jan. 21

It may seem early to think about sowing seeds, but not for community gardeners.

Registration for the South Orange Community Garden's third season will begin Saturday, Jan. 21 at 9 a.m. at The Baird. Sign-ups will be on a first-come, first-served basis since last year's plots were quickly over-subscribed.

Permits for the 2012 season are \$50 each, covering the use of one 4x12-foot garden plot. In addition, each gardener must pay a \$30 security deposit, to be refunded in November or December after the gardener's plot is cleared, keys are returned, and a modest number of garden volunteer hours are served.

The community garden is located in Riverside Park (formerly, the Third Street Playground Park) on West Third Street, between Vose Avenue and Church Street. The 49 raised-bed garden plots are used for organic (only) gardening of vegetables, fruits and ornamental flowers. The season runs from March 17 to Oct. 31.

For more information, visit www.southorange.org/community-garden. ▲

Local author has 'gone to the dogs'

South Orange author and illustrator Brett Banjo has published "Let Sleeping Dogs Lie," the first in a series of books dedicated to the bond between pets and their people.

For dogs, the books promote language recognition, improve listening and concentration skills, and ease separation anxieties. Children learn to transform a "have to" chore to a "want to" experience, and adults learn to strengthen the bond with their four-legged friends.

Banjo encourages special moments of quiet and soft play.

For more information, call the author at (973) 763-4733 or visit www.banjopress.com. ▲

When branches threaten a power line near you

If storm memories have you worried about tilting trees or branches that overhang power lines, you should know that a Village tree maintenance plan is in place.

Since Hurricane Irene, the Department of Public Works has been inspecting the Village for trees and branches that threaten power lines.

All residents are encouraged to do the same on their own properties.

To report a threatening tree or branch on your property, call PSE&G customer service at (800) 436-7734. The representative will ask you for cross streets or a house number near the particular tree. An inspector will arrive as soon as possible, depending on the imminent danger reported. ▲

Referendum questions largely favored by voters

South Orange voters mostly gave a green light on three nonbinding referendum questions on the Nov. 8 election ballot. The issues and the voting were as follows:

- Name Change - Should we change from "Township of South Orange Village" to "South Orange Village"? Vote results: 2,075 in favor; 585 against.

- Title Changes for Village Officials - Should we change from "Village President" to "Mayor"; from "Board of Trustees" to "Village Council"; and from "Trustee" to "Councilmember." Vote results: 1,567 in favor; 1,080 against.

- Stipends for Officials - Should the Village President get a \$2,400 annual stipend, and trustees \$1,800 each. Voters were split: 1,336 in favor; 1,302 against.

The Board of Trustees may adopt the changes by ordinance, and because they effect the Village Charter, a formal state legislative bill would be required to enact them. ▲

At The Baird

DREAMCATCHER

www.dreamcatcherrep.org • (800) 838-3006

Shooting Star - The New Jersey premiere of this new play by Steven Dietz will be performed Jan. 13 to 29 by Dreamcatcher Repertory Theatre.

Snowed in overnight at an airport, college lovers Elena and Reed have an unexpected and life-altering reunion, and a present they couldn't have predicted. With laughter and ache, Shooting Star takes a candid look at the middle of our lives, and how we got there.

Performances will be Fridays and Saturdays at 8 p.m., and Sundays at 2 p.m. For tickets: www.dreamcatcherrep.org or (800) 838-3006. For information, (973) 378-7754, x2228.

CULTURAL ARTS CLASSES

(973) 378-7754, ext. 1 • arts@southborange.org

Baird cultural arts classes are taught by professional artists under the direction of the Department of Recreation and Cultural Affairs. Most classes start the week of Jan. 9. For class descriptions and registration, go to www.thebaird.org and select "View Activities."

Teens and Adults

Visual Art

- Approaching Landscape
- Starting in Oil Paint
- Art with a Master
- Medieval Manuscript Illumination
- Introduction to Bookbinding
- Handmade Books
- Draw!

Short Subjects

- 3 or 4 sessions only*
- Patchwork Placemats
 - Paper Lithography and Drum Leaf Bindings
 - Color Theory
 - Abstract Painting with Acrylics
 - Silkscreen T-Shirts
 - Reduction Relief Printmaking

Dance and Music

- Middle Eastern Dance
- Flamenco Dancing
- Advanced Guitar

Pre-School to Grade 5

- 3D Village
- Clay time
- Rhythm Sticks
- Ballet
- Pre-Ballet 1 (ages 2-3)
- Pre-Ballet II (ages 2-3)
- Pre-Ballet II (ages 3-4)
- Ballet I (age 5)
- Ballet II (ages 6 and up)
- Earth Wind and Fire
- Comic Book Capers (grades 1-3 and 4-6)
- Beginning Guitar (grades 2-4 and 5-8)

Grades 5-8

- Draw! Beginning
- Eyes Through The Lens: Children's Photography
- Hand Built Clay
- Advanced Guitar

SPORTS & FITNESS

(973) 378-7754

www.thebaird.org

■ **Senior Fitness** - Wednesdays and Fridays, 10:15-11:15 a.m. Build strength and increase endurance and flexibility. Drop in and try the class without obligation.

■ **Tae Kwon Do** - Learn practical self defense while acquiring discipline, body conditioning, self-confidence and reduced stress. Multiple classes for children and adults, all ages and skill levels.

■ **Tae Kwon Do for Special Needs** - Saturday classes begin Jan. 14. Ages 6-10, 1-2 p.m. Ages 11 and up, 2-3 p.m.

■ **Pee Wee Tennis** (ages 3-6) - Indoors at The Baird on Wednesday afternoons beginning Jan. 18. Register at www.USSportsInstitute.com.

■ **Platform Tennis** (children and adults) - Outdoors at The Baird beginning Wednesday, Jan. 18. Register at www.USSportsInstitute.com.

Register Now!

Spring Baseball and Softball for Girls

Registration: Jan. 21-22 and Feb. 4-5, from 1-4 p.m. at The Baird. Baseball, ages 5-15 (as of April 30, 2012). Softball, K to Grade 8.

South Mountain Soccer

Boys and girls, grades 3-8. Registration: Feb. 1-15 (or when fully enrolled). Program runs mid-March thru mid-June.

Preschool At The Baird

For South Orange and Maplewood residents, ages 2 ½ to 4 ½. Register now for the 2012-2013 school year. Registration starts Jan. 3. Features pre-K curriculum, art, music and creative movement.

PIERRO GALLERY www.pierrogallery.org

Essex Under 35 On display Jan. 19 - Feb. 18

A group of emerging artists born after 1977 who have lived or worked in Essex County will be featured in this mid-winter juried exhibit. Rocío Aranda-Alvarado, curator at El Museo del Barrio in Manhattan will serve as the juror.

The exhibit will open with a reception on Jan. 19 from 6 to 8 p.m. The closing event, a panel discussion on Feb. 18 at 2 p.m., will focus on how the artists have been influenced by the nearby New York City art world, and by suburbia.

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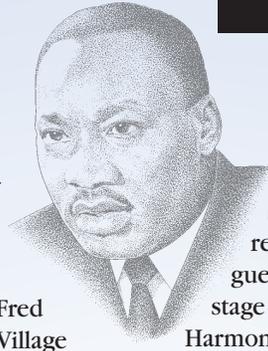
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Three Celebrations of Martin Luther King Day



1. Sunday, Jan. 8 - The South Orange Civic Organization will presents its 42nd Martin Luther King program, starting at 3 p.m. at the South Orange Middle School.

Keynote speaker Robert Marchman of Maplewood will present "Martin Luther King Jr: Enduring Spirit of Community." Marchman is the



Marchman

executive vice president for the Financial Industry Regulatory Authority and the first

African-American vice president of the New York Stock Exchange.

As part of the annual tradition, SOCO will present its "Beloved Community" award,

recognizing individuals who advance the goals of Dr. King. Former Maplewood Mayor Fred Profeta and former Village Trustee Arthur Taylor, both long-time civic leaders, will share this year's honor.

2. Tuesday, Jan. 10 - The South Orange Library will host its annual Martin Luther King, Jr. celebration at 7 p.m. with a musical performance by the First Baptist Church Youth Choir. Everyone is welcome. Refreshments will be served.

3. Saturday to Monday, Jan. 14-16, the Community Coalition on Race will host a three-day MLK celebration, culminating with their annual service at 3 p.m. on Sunday at Prospect Presbyterian Church in Maplewood. Khalil Gibran Muhammad, director of Harlem's Schom-

berg Center and a new South Orange resident, will be the guest speaker. Sharing the stage will be the Voices in Harmony Choir and local faith communities presenting select readings.

The Coalition is extending the holiday with a weekend of volunteerism. Community projects, from Saturday to Monday, will be listed in advance on the Coalition website and in local media. Residents can select projects to participate in.

Organizations can sponsor a project, establish a donation drop-off for their cause, or hold a holiday-related discussion, storytime or craft event for children or adults.

Following the Monday service, a volunteer fair and reception will be held in the church fellowship hall.

For more information, e-mail info@twotowns.org, or call (973) 761-6116, x4. ▲

On Stage at SOPAC

SOPACnow.org • (973) 275-1114

- Jan. 22, 5 p.m. - Blues in the Loft, an up-close concert, \$15.
- Jan. 27, 8 p.m. - Sounds of Sarah Vaughn, \$25-\$40.
- Jan. 28, 8 p.m. - Singer songwriter Suzanne Vega, \$40-\$55.
- Jan. 29, 3p.m. - Toomai String Quintet, \$15/\$20.
- Jan. 31, 7:30 p.m. - Guitarist Emanuele Segre and the Brooklyn Chamber Music Society, \$8-\$25.
- Feb. 4, 8 p.m. - Carolyn Dorfman Dance Co., \$20-\$35.
- Feb. 10, 8 p.m. - Singer Jane Monheit, American standards and jazz, \$30-\$45.
- Feb. 11, 11 a.m. - Mammoth Follies, a family puppet show, \$12/\$15.
- Feb. 12, 5 p.m. - Jazz in the Loft, an up-close concert, \$15.
- Feb. 18, 8 p.m. - Eric Roberson with guest Angela Johnson, R&B and soul, \$25-\$40.

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FREE rabies clinic

The South Orange Health Department will hold a free rabies vaccination clinic for dogs and cats on Saturday, Jan. 21 at The Baird garage, 5 Mead Street, from 9 to 11 a.m. A licensed veterinarian will administer the vaccines.

If your pet's latest rabies vaccination will expire before Nov. 1, 2012, now is the time for renewal. Check your last rabies vaccination renewal form for the expiration date on file with the Village.

First time vaccinations will provide immunity for one year beginning 30 days after the vaccination. Renewals provide immunity for three years.

Animal licenses can be purchased at the clinic; the tag will be mailed to you.

- All dogs must be leashed and cats must be in carriers.

- Be sure to bring the vaccination renewal application with you.

For more information, call the Health Department at (973) 378-7715, x7711. ▲

2 schools, DPW garage go solar

Solar panels are being installed at Clinton Elementary and South Orange Middle School where new roofs can support the weight of the panels. Work is expected to wrap up before the end of the school year, bringing significant energy savings.

OnForce Solar Inc. is installing and maintaining the panels at no cost to taxpayers. The company will keep the energy certificates earned from producing renewable energy and sell them on the open market. The district will buy the solar-produced electricity at a near-60% reduction off normal rates.

More than 1,100 solar panels will be installed at South Orange Middle School, producing 39% of the building's total electricity. Clinton will produce 19% of its solar power.

OnForce Solar also will install panels on the Public Works garage. ▲

Achieve grants \$47,000 in teacher projects

The Achieve Foundation of South Orange & Maplewood has announced 26 teacher grants valued at more than \$47,000, which will pay for innovative projects in all nine public schools. The initiatives are in six subject areas, with 45% of the funds devoted to science, technology, engineering and math projects.

Since grant applications exceeded funding resources, Achieve is now accepting "direct funding" from the community to support 22 additional projects that did not receive grants.

If you'd like to help a teacher carry out an educational project, please send your donation by Jan. 31. To find about proposed projects, log onto www.achievefoundation.org or contact grants committee chair Patti Coleman at grants@achievefoundation.org or (973) 761-0727. ▲

Children's Library Programs

- Lego Club, Jan. 9, 23 and Feb. 13, 27, (6 and up), 3:45 p.m.
- Toddler Story Hour (2½ +), Tuesdays, 11 a.m., starts Jan. 24.
- Babies Story Hour (up to 2½), Wednesdays, 10 a.m., starts Jan. 25.
- Book Group, ages 7-9, Jan. 11,

4 p.m.

- Good Tymes String Band, Jan. 12, Feb. 9, 1 a.m.
- Ms. Marilyn and Friends, Jan. 26, Feb. 23 11 a.m.
- Seton Stories, Fridays, 10 a.m., starting Jan. 26.
- Make a Valentine! Feb. 10, 3:45 p.m. ▲

Library Events

(973) 762-0230 • www.sopl.org

Let's Talk Oscar! Join a discussion of Academy Awards film nominees with writer and film critic Allen Barra on Tuesday, Feb. 21 at 7 p.m. Barra is a contributing writer for American Heritage magazine, the New York Sun, the Wall Street Journal and the Village Voice. His latest book is, "Yogi Berra: Eternal Yankee."

Food Film Series - Food for Thought," a three-part Tuesday film series focused on food and its effects begins Jan. 31. Each film, shown at 7 p.m., will be followed by a discussion with a film expert.

- Jan. 31 - "Chocolat"
- Feb. 28 - "Super Size Me"
- Mar. 27 - "Babette's Feast"

Honoring G.W. Carver - The NAACP of Maplewood and the Oranges will present a film and panel discussion on George Washington Carver in honor of Black History Month on Feb. 23 at 6:30 p.m. at the library.

Library Discussions

Thursdays, 1 p.m.

- Jan. 5 - "Funny Women."
- Jan. 12 - "Writing Your Own Narrative: Lessons on Civility in Public Discourse."
- Jan. 19 - Author Chandler Burr discusses his latest book, "You or Someone Like You."
- Jan. 26 - "What Makes it Country Music?"
- Feb. 2 - "South Korea-North and South, Part 2."
- Feb. 9 - New York Times

reporter Andy Lehren, topic to be announced.

- Feb. 16 - "Words and Music of John Lennon."
- Feb. 23 - "Education and Immigration Reform."

New Resources for Job Seekers

The library now provides online career information systems for job seekers, for use in the library or outside with a library card.

Job and Career Accelerator Explore suitable occupations, from over 5 million up-to-date job postings. Create resumes and cover letters, master interviewing and networking techniques, and improve computer skills with online courses.

Career Transitions - Includes informative videos and an interview simulation tool.

The Career Gateway - Tools, resources and leads in specific fields. Find training programs and link to placement services.

Interested? Attend an introductory workshop: Jan. 12 at 7 p.m. or Jan. 23 at 10 a.m. No registration is necessary.

The Library Board thanks all participants in the recent survey and town hall meetings. Survey results are available at www.sopl.org, "About Us." Forthcoming reports will include more project information.

Children's programs at bottom left

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"MAKING IT HOME"

Bradley Takahashi January Villager of the Month

Bradley Takahashi plays saxophone in a band with five neighbors. It's one of two bands in the same few blocks. "We wanted to be able to play our music on the streets, drink beer, let the kids have fun, and not get arrested," he said. "Somebody told us the town would let us do that. We couldn't believe it!"

That was 20 years ago. Bradley and his wife Jennifer now have two grown children, ages 24 and 22, and the block parties have never stopped. Bradley's still blowin' his sax and Jennifer still backs up on vocals and keyboard.

"Emotional Rex" is the name of the band. Next door to the Takahashi's are the lead girl singer and her brother, the lead guitarist. Around the corner is the lead keyboardist.

Bradley also was among the original arrangers of the huge Halloween party at the Maplewood Woman's Club, where his band performs; and once a year they participate in the Newark-based "Battle of the Bands," a fundraiser for the Food Bank of New Jersey and Newark Habitat for Humanity.

Bradley says he isn't very good at the saxophone, and "because I say that, people think that I really *must* be good.

"Really . . . I'm not that good."

His offhand take on his own leadership is reflected elsewhere in his life.

When the South Orange/Maplewood Community Coalition on Race was first formed, Bradley was there to help. "How many towns do you know where the locals come out and drive you around the neighborhood and tell you about things? It's like having a friend or an old neighbor who moved in ahead of you."

Bradley says he didn't raise his own hand for the New Resident Tour Committee. "One of my neighbors signed me up. She thought I'd be good at it."

And so he is. "It's like the first day

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South Orange, NJ 07079

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Village Web Site: www.southorange.org

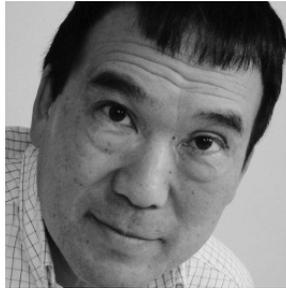
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Finance, x6
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or call (908)
823-9001



of college on the cafeteria line," he says.

"Everybody's asking, 'Where are you from? What's your major?' It's fun meeting new folks coming in."

Bradley and Jennifer have lived in South Orange since

1989. She is a fine arts painter. Their son is "an indie band guy," and their daughter, another artist.

"Me? I'm the drudge," says Bradley. He holds a law degree and *carefully* explains that he does "some legal stuff internally for this money management firm" in Short Hills.

Jennifer calls him "a miniature Dodge Foundation. Your work lets your kids and me do artistic stuff," she tells him.

Bradley's sharing spirit extends to local commerce. He owns a downtown building that houses several businesses, including Stony's Burgers, and he hasn't raised the rents in five years.

He also had a formative hand in Project Greenway, which showcased local talent (including bands) while raising funds for Rahway River restoration.

Bradley loves South Orange because, "It has allowed me to be myself. I'm not having to pretend to be something I'm not and yet there are plenty of opportunities to meet people and be of use.

"The town is filled with people who are sort of outward-thinking, basically optimistic. They say, 'Hey let's do this.' And then they do it. They are people with good will, good intentions that bleed into the social fabric."

While Bradley demurs a bit on being chosen Villager of the Month,

he makes a statement about himself that perhaps explains the choice.

"It's like when you go in the department store and ladies are spraying the stuff, it smells nice when you go in." That's Bradley's role in South Orange, the essence of all that's happening. ▲

Pay for parking the convenient way

Why fumble with coins? The best way to pay for parking in downtown South Orange is to use the Smart Park Card offered by the South Orange Parking Authority. The card can be used throughout the Village at pay-by-space parking machines and electronic meters.

Drivers simply pull into a space, walk to the meter or machine, plug in the space number (at machines), insert the card and select the time needed in the spot. The appropriate fee is automatically deducted.

Smart Park Cards can be purchased for any amount from \$10 to \$200 at the SOPA office. When the funds run out, cardholders have two options for recharging: the SOPA office or the NJ Transit pay-by-space machine.

Need more details? Call SOPA at (973) 378-7715, x2037 or visit www.southorange.org/parking. ▲

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