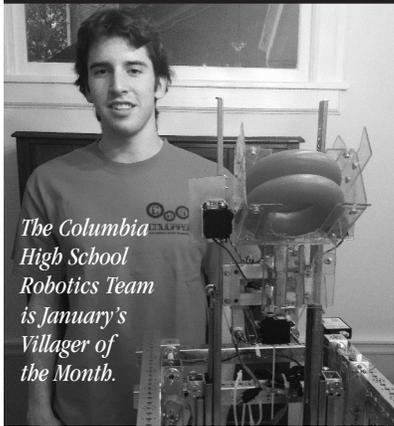


The South Orange Gaslight



The Columbia High School Robotics Team is January's Villager of the Month.

Team Captain Adam Richardson is shown with their latest robot. Story on page 4.

Register now for S.O. Community Garden 2013

It's cold and gray now, but the growing season is just around the corner. Registration for the 2013 South Orange Community Garden begins Saturday, Jan. 12 at The Baird.

The garden is located at Riverside Park on West Third Street near Church Street. Its 48 raised-bed garden plots are available first-come first-served for a fee of \$70.

Each gardener (member) receives a 4-by-12-foot plot to grow vegetables and flowers. Gardeners take home what they grow. Any excess vegetables are donated to local food banks.

In addition to tending their own plots, members help maintain common grounds inside and around the garden.

The garden will open in March. All members will help prepare the garden for the season ahead, and work sessions will be scheduled to maintain common grounds. Gardeners are invited to monthly planning meetings.

Please note: the executive committee is seeking gardeners to help manage the garden. ▲

Be an election poll worker

The Village Clerk's Office encourages all residents to vote and to become involved in the election process. One rewarding way to get involved is to become a poll worker.

The Essex County Board of Elections provides training and assigns worker sites on Election Day. Efforts are made to assign workers to their own neighborhood polling sites.

Poll workers earn \$200 for municipal, primary, and general elections, and pro-rated pay for school elections, which constitute a shorter day.

"Citizen involvement is essential to conduct open, accurate and fair elections," said South Orange Clerk Robin Kline.

For information, e-mail clerk@southorange.org or call (973) 378-7715, x7725. ▲

Twp. committees need more members

- The South Orange Environmental Commission needs one full member and two alternates. E-mail environmentalcommission@hotmail.com. Information at www.southorangeenvironment.org.

- The South Orange Energy Policy Committee - members recommend energy-saving policies. E-mail walterclarke2@optonline.net.

For the following committees, get details at www.southorange.org/volunteerApply or call the Village Clerk's Office at (973) 378-7715.

- Open Space Advisory
- Transportation Advisory
- Citizens Public Safety

Honk if you like Mapso!

Who are all those people running and biking around the Village wearing "Mapso" jerseys?

They belong to the high-energy triathlon team, Mapso Tri Club. (Mapso is short for Maplewood/South Orange). The club is sanctioned by USA Triathlon to help multi-sport athletes at all levels with education, training and enjoyment.

Villagers Andrew Katz, Michael Fagin and John Bye together with Maplewood resident Bryan Magnus founded Mapso in 2010. The club's current membership of 125 athletes includes 20 people from South Orange and 25 from Maplewood, ranging in age from 27 to 65, and spanning the gamut of capability.

A Mapso sub-group helps seasoned triathletes hone their advanced skills. Among them is Villager Christine Kachinsky who has competed in two Iron Man World Championships in Kona and is currently the top-rated female triathlete in New Jersey (according to USA Triathlon).

For those brand new to triathlon, Villager Barbara Quinn leads moderate-pace rides and runs every weekend.

When you're driving around town and you see one of the club jerseys, don't hesitate to honk and shout out "Mapso"!

To learn more about the club, visit www.mapsotri.com. ▲

No more 1st Night

Sadly, "insufficient volunteer resources" have brought an end to First Night of Maplewood and South Orange. The organization provided 20 years of New Year's Eve fun in South Orange and Maplewood. ▲

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

January
February
2013

Inside

■ Three special events for MLK Day

■ Free rabies clinic Jan. 5

■ Sign up now for artists studio tour

■ Register your kids for soccer, baseball and Baird Preschool

■ It's Oscar Time! Join the discussion at the library

■ January Villagers of the Month: the super cool CHS Robotics Club!

Happenings

■ Community Coalition's forum rescheduled

Due to Hurricane Sandy, "Sustainable Integration Solutions," the Fall Forum of the South Orange Maplewood Community Coalition on Race, was postponed. A February date is in the works. Check the website for updated details: www.twotowns.org.

■ On Stage at SOPAC

SOPACnow.org • (973) 275-1114

- Jan. 13, 7 p.m. - "In The Book Of," theater, Midtown Direct Rep, \$15.
- Jan. 26, 11 a.m. - "Pinkalicious the Musical," Cupcake eater lands in the doctor's office with Pinkitis, \$11-\$16.
- Jan. 26, 8 p.m. - Jessica Molaskey with Martin Pizzarelli and a special guest, \$30-\$55.
- Jan. 27, 3 p.m. - Duo L&L, cello and piano, Juilliard@SOPAC, \$15-\$20.
- Feb. 1, 8 p.m. - jazz pianist Omar Sosa and horn player

Paolo Fresu, \$20-\$35.

- Feb. 2, 8 p.m. - John Waters, "This Filthy World," a one-man show, \$30-\$75.
- Feb. 7, 7:30 p.m. - Christopher O'Riley, pianist, multi-genres, \$20-\$35.
- Feb. 10, 2 p.m. - Super Scientific Circus for families proves that science can be fun and funny, \$11-\$16.
- Feb. 10, 7 p.m. - Vivian Sessoms, blues concert, \$15.
- Feb. 14, 8 p.m. - Jon B: My Valentine, R&B concert, \$25-\$50.
- Feb. 17, 7 p.m. - Winard Harper, jazz, \$15.
- Feb. 24, 3 p.m. - Christina and Michelle Naughton, pianists, Juilliard@SOPAC, \$15-\$20.

■ SOPAC art exhibit -

Paintings and drawings by New York City artists C. J. Collins and Shawn Washburn will be on exhibit at SOPAC through March 5.

44 grants, \$50,000 in educational value

The Achieve Foundation has awarded 44 grants totaling \$50,000 to teachers in South Orange & Maplewood schools. The grants will allow teachers to enhance student learning experiences in all nine district schools.

Grants ranging from \$160 to \$4,500 will pay for projects and equipment including 3D printers for CAD technology, student-made films and "Read Across the Americas."

The community is invited to donate through Jan. 31 for approved grants. Eligible grants are listed at www.achievethefoundation.org. Go to Direct Grant Funding.

■ **Get trained for the Achieve Volunteer Tutoring Program.** Help kids in K-12. Call Amy Forman, (973) 762-5600, x1851.

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1. Sunday, Jan. 13, the South Orange Civic Organization will present its 43rd Martin Luther King, Jr. program, "The Future of Integration in the Post Civil Rights Era." The 3 p.m. event at South Orange Middle School will feature Nancy Gagnier, executive director of the Community Coalition on Race, as keynote speaker, with musical selections by Mel White, known for her peace-related music.

This year's Beloved Community Award recipients are Lee Boswell-May of South Orange and Ulysses Grant Dietz of Maplewood, each recognized for promoting and supporting community cultural life through music and art.

May, a retired mediator/arbitrator, has helped organize Giants of Jazz and helped bring the Jazzmobile to Newark. She also coordinates a jazz vespers service at Bethany Baptist

Church in Newark. Dietz is chief curator at the Newark Museum and a former trustee of the Community Coalition on Race. Also active in the Lion's Club and his church, Dietz' public work often involves promoting diversity and inclusion through art.

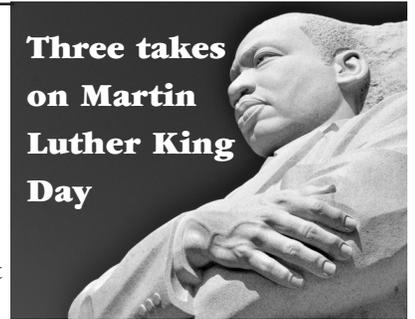
Free rabies clinic

The S.O. Health Department will hold a free rabies clinic on Saturday, Jan. 5, from 9 to 11 a.m. at the rescue squad, #4 Third Street. Cats must be in carriers, dogs on leashes. For details, call (973) 378-7715, x7711.

Golfers: Save The Date!

The 15th Annual CHS Cougar Boosters Golf Classic will be held on Monday, May 6 at Maplewood Country Club. All proceeds will benefit extracurricular activities at Columbia High School. For registration or sponsorship details, go to www.CHS CougarBoosters.org, or contact Al Farah at CHSGolfOuting@gmail.com, (973) 763-6817.

Three takes on Martin Luther King Day



Church in Newark.

Dietz is chief curator at the Newark Museum and a former trustee of the Community Coalition on Race. Also active in the Lion's Club and his church, Dietz' public work often involves promoting diversity and inclusion through art.

2. Wednesday, Jan. 16, the South Orange Public Library will host a 7 p.m. MLK Musical Celebration, featuring the Genesis Voice Youth Choir, formerly the First Baptist Church Youth Choir.

3. Monday, Jan. 21, the Community Coalition on Race will host an interfaith observance and volunteer fair.

The 3 p.m. service is co-hosted by the First Baptist Church of South Orange and Morrow Memorial United Methodist Church of Maplewood. The service will be held at Morrow Memorial at 600 Ridgewood Avenue in Maplewood. Rev. Dr. M. William Howard, Jr., pastor of Bethany Baptist Church in Newark, will be the featured speaker. Voices in Harmony choir and a jazz ensemble will provide music.

Look for volunteer opportunities in South Orange and Maplewood throughout the holiday weekend, all culminating in a volunteer fair at Morrow Memorial at 4:30 p.m. on Jan. 21. For information on MLK volunteer opportunities, visit www.twotowns.org.

Groups wishing to participate in the fair may contact Audrey Rowe at (973) 761-6116, x4 or info@twotowns.org. ▲

At The Baird

SPORTS & FITNESS

(973) 378-7754
www.thebaird.org

Artists Tour Registration

Artist registration for the tenth annual South Orange Maplewood Artists' Studio Tour begins Jan. 1. The tour on June 1 is a regional phenomenon that last year attracted more than 50 artist studios, galleries and group exhibitions, and drew art lovers from across the metropolitan area. Register online at www.studiotoursoma.org.

Cultural Arts Classes

(973) 378-7754, ext 1 • www.thebaird.org

Winter classes for the whole family are listed below. Most begin Jan. 9. Details and registration online.

For Kids

- Clay Time - make things with clay
- Comic Book Capers I & II - make your own comic book
- Earth, Wind and Fire - fun projects in clay and mosaic
- Art Studio I & II - explore drawing, painting and more
- Cereal Box and Cardboard Rolls - cardboard sculpture
- Children's Photography
- Creative Music - for preschoolers
- Music Preludes - for infants and toddlers, with caregiver
- Play Guitar! I & II
- Pre-Ballet/Creative Movement, age 2 with caregiver
- Pre-Ballet - the language of ballet learned through games
- Ballet 1 - beginning technique and vocabulary
- Funky Freestyle - contemporary dance, ages 3-4

For Adults

- Art with a Master - mid-day painting class
- Life Drawing - with model
- Drawing - basic form, technique and materials
- Medieval Manuscript Illumination
- Adult Ballet - for beginners

Dance

- Step and Shuffle
- Flamenco Dancing
- Middle Eastern Dance
- Winter Yoga

La Cinémathèque Film Club

(973) 378-7754, ext 1 • www.pierrogallery.org

Learn about some of Italy's most renowned filmmakers. Educator, artist and filmmaker, Gerard Amsellem introduces each film and leads a post-screening discussion. Tickets are \$12 general admission; \$10 with student ID. Purchase at www.thebaird.org, or in person at The Baird.

- Jan. 13, 2 p.m. - "Seven Beauties," directed by Lina Wertmuller
- Feb. 10, 2 p.m. - "Death in Venice," directed by Luchino Visconti

■ Senior Fitness -

Wednesday and Friday fitness classes run from 10:15 to 11 a.m. Build strength while increasing endurance, flexibility and balance.

■ **Tae Kwon Do** - Learn practical self-defense while building body conditioning and self-confidence and reducing stress. Classes are available for all age and skill levels, children and adults.

■ **Tae Kwon Do for Special Needs** - Parents of children with autism learn to

exercise effectively with their children. Saturday classes begin Jan. 5. Ages 6-10, from 1-2 p.m. Ages 11 and older, from 2-3 p.m.

■ **Pee Wee Tennis** - Indoor, Wednesday afternoon classes for ages 3-5 begin Jan. 23. Register at www.USSportsInstitute.com.

■ **Platform Tennis** - Instruction for children ages 8-12 is offered outdoors at The Baird on Wednesdays beginning Jan. 23. Register at www.USSportsInstitute.com.

Registration Begins

Spring Baseball and Softball - South Orange and Maplewood residents can register Jan. 26-27 and Feb. 9-10, from 1-4 p.m. in Maplewood and South Orange. For program and registration details, go to www.sombaseball.org or www.eteamz.com/msosoftball.

Spring Season, South Mountain Soccer - Registration begins Feb. 1. Children in grades 3-8 get training and play competitive games from mid-March through mid-June. Register by Feb. 15 online or at The Baird.

Preschool at The Baird - Application for the 2013-2014 school year begins Jan. 2. The school is a licensed learning center serving South Orange and Maplewood residents ages 2 ½ to 4 ½. Registration forms and program details are available online or at The Baird.

Pierro Gallery

(973) 378-7754, ext 1 • www.pierrogallery.org

On Display Jan. 17 - Feb. 23

Snow in North Jersey

Eight contemporary metro-area artists explore the spaces between real and imagined landscape using various mediums. Featured artists are Tim Daly, So Yoon Lym, Jason Seder, Karina Skvirsky Aguilera, Lisa Dahl, Anne Percoco, Koji Shimizu and Ryan Higgins. The exhibition is inspired by a poem of the same name, "Snow in North Jersey," written by August Kleinzahler. Curator: Brendan Carroll.

Related Events

- Opening Reception: Jan. 17, 7-9 p.m.
- Artist Talk: Feb. 7, 7 p.m., moderated by Sandy Martiny.

In Touch

with Village Government

General Info.

(973) 378-7715
Emergency, 911
Clerk's Office, x1
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, rpatic@comcast.net, or call (908) 823-9001

Library Events

(973) 762-0230 • www.sopl.org

■ **Foreign Film Series** - presented by filmmaker, artist, educator, Gerard Amsellem.

- Jan. 29, 7 p.m., "The Seventh Seal"
- Feb. 26, 7 p.m., "The 400 Blows"

■ **It's Oscar Time!** - Join film critic and author Allen Barra to discuss this year's Academy Award nominees, Feb. 19 at 7 p.m.

■ **Acclaimed Authors David Lubar and Wendy Mass** will discuss their books for young readers and their love of reading on Feb. 10 at 2 p.m. Sparkhouse toy store and Friends of the Library will host the event, which is open to the entire family.

■ **Black History Month Lecture** - Drew University black history professor Lillie Edwards will present "Rethinking the Civil Rights Movement," Feb. 28, at 7:30 p.m.

■ **Library Discussion Group**
Thursdays, 1 p.m.

- Jan. 3 - The Link between Media Violence and Violent Behavior
- Jan. 10 - Presidential Politics and Digital Media
- Jan. 16 - Rockwell: The Accidental Four Freedoms
- Jan. 24 - Tracing Our Ebony Roots
- Jan. 31 - How Refugees Integrate into American Life
- Feb. 7 - Haiti: Pictures and Poetry
- Feb. 14 - The Lyrics of Valentine's Day
- Feb. 21 - Mozart
- Feb. 28 - Presidential Elections, Transitions

■ **Recurring Events**

- Book Review Group - Jan. 28, help select reading choices. Feb. 25, "Cleopatra: A Life," by Stacy Schiff. Both sessions at 7:30 p.m.
- Creative Writing Workshop - Jan. 9, 23 and Feb. 13, 27 at 1 p.m.
- Knitting Workshop with Nan Samons, Jan. 28, Feb. 25, at noon.
- Wednesday films, 1 p.m. - Jan. 2, 16, 30, Feb. 13, 27. Call for titles.

■ **The Children's Department** hosts storytimes, music programs, lego club and more. Check online or at the library.

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Hooray CHS Robotics Team!

Our Super Cool January Villagers of the Month

It's been called "the hardest fun you'll ever have" - designing, building and programming robots.

Two dozen students in the Columbia High School Robotics Team are variously known as math/science geeks, software techies and fix-it freaks. But advisor Allan Tumolillo, a CHS physics teacher, said, "What this team has done is make science cool."

One thing all team members know is how the unique strengths in each individual can help achieve a splendid group outcome.

In their first year, the CHS team placed second in the 2010 First Tech Challenge World Championships in St. Louis, an incredible achievement for a novice team.

FIRST Tech competition requires teams of up to 10 students to design, build and program robots from a basic kit. Teams build on a standard platform, then during one-on-one team competition, they face off on a 12-by-12-foot field.

Robots must be remotely controlled and teams have only a few minutes to complete tasks prescribed for the competition.

Starting locally, teams compete at ever-higher levels, up to the world championship held each April.

To build the best robot, teams must develop strategy and sound engineering principles. That means considerable outreach in the community to find answers and assistance.

Currently Columbia has two robotics teams, varsity and junior varsity, with a third likely to start due to growing interest.

Many participants take calculus and other advanced courses, "but that's not a requirement," said Tumolillo. "Other kids are good with software and some just like to build things. Those are the kids who can look at something and know exactly how to put it together."

Tumolillo, known on campus as "Mr. T," is a second-career physics teacher, previously a technology analyst in the financial sector.

He says the whole point of the Robotics Team is discovering and developing a passion for science, engineering, technology, and math. Along the way, students gain self-confidence, develop people skills, and bring honor to their community by exceling at something difficult.

Thank you to the CHS Robotics Team for doin' us proud! ▲

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