

The South Orange Gaslight



Low-cost animal services considered

Interested in low-cost animal vaccinations or spay/neuter procedures for your cat or dog? The South Orange Health Department is surveying Villagers for the Associated Humane Society to determine whether there's enough interest among Villagers to set up a fall date for the society's mobile clinic. For information on services offered, vaccinations and fees, call Animal Control Officer Dick Ash at (973) 378-7715, x7711. ▲

Weekends are for sundown concerts

Live music performed by local talent! That's the draw on Friday and Saturday nights as the Main Street "Downtown after Sundown" concert series continues through the summer.

Weather permitting, concerts run from 7:30 to 10 p.m. in two locations: Spiotta Park (corner of Village Plaza and South Orange Avenue), and at the corner of Sloan Street and South Orange Avenue. Bring a blanket or chair and dine al fresco while enjoying the sweet sounds of South Orange!

July and August concerts are sponsored by Investors Bank.

For the weekly concert schedule, visit www.MainStreetSouthOrange.org. ▲



Free health checks on Sept. 8

Concerned about your health? The Village Department of Health is hosting its sixth annual free health fair for residents on Sept. 8 from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. at the Sloan Street fire station.

Screenings will be conducted to test eyes, blood pressure, spines, skin (for cancer), prostate, hearing and blood glucose (fasting required). Residents can give blood (non-fasting) or get a nutrition, figure or body-mass-index analysis.

Free radon test kits and toothbrush kits will be distributed. Kids can enjoy face painting and educational handouts. ▲

Runners! *Save the date*

The 2012 Newstead 5K race will take place Saturday, Sept. 22 as a benefit for the Achieve Foundation. More than 400 runners are expected to join the fun. To become a sponsor or for race details, go to www.newstead5K@achievefoundation.org.

Fixing the Future, a film at SOPAC

The documentary "Fixing the Future" will be shown at Clearview SOPAC on July 18 at 7:30 p.m. In this one-night-only event, www.EssexTimeExchange.org, a local time bank/hour exchange, joins more than 50 organizations nationwide to promote innovative job creation. After the screening, David Brancaccio of "Now on PBS" and other luminaries will be featured in an onscreen panel discussion.

Citizens Public Safety COMMITTEE

Public safety newsletter launched

S.O. Safe, a newsletter about public safety news and initiatives in the Village, has been launched by the South Orange Citizens Public Safety Committee. Hard copies are available at Village Hall, or read it online at http://issuu.com/sosafe/docs/s.o.safe_spring2012.

Learn how to keep your family safe

The local celebration of National Night Out will take place Tuesday, Aug. 7, from 7 p.m. to 10 p.m. at Flood's Hill. Enjoy a public safety fair, live music, an outdoor movie, and a kids' zone. Meet your neighbors and learn what you can do to keep your family safe.

Play golf, help the rescue squad

The annual golf outing and 60th anniversary dinner of the South Orange Rescue Squad is scheduled for Monday, Oct. 15 at Maplewood Country Club. For details or registration, e-mail Sheena Collum at scollum@mac.com. ▲

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

July/August
2012

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- Come to S.O.'s July 4th bash!
- Acclaimed artist Larry McKim offers four art classes at Baird
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- Community groups praise Pkg. Auth.'s free jitneys
- Special insert: 2012 Summer Concert Series
- Alexis Ballard and Sarah Hilton named June Villagers of the Month

Farmers' Market now open

Why buy shipped goods, when you can enjoy Jersey Fresh? Fruits, vegetables, flowers, pickled veggies, baked goods, prepared foods, homemade gelato and ices are available at the Main Street South Orange Farmers' Market every Wednesday until Oct. 31. Hours are 2 to 7 p.m. in the Sloan Street parking lot. (Market manager sought. See page 2.)

Library Events

(973) 762-0230 • www.sopl.org

Special Programs

- “The Marriage of Figaro,” a joyful romp on courtship and marriage, will be performed for free by the Shakespeare Theatre of New Jersey’s Next Stage Ensemble on Thursday, July 19, at 7:30 p.m. Bring the family.
- “Garage Gaming,” ages 16 and up, July 18, 7 p.m. Bring your friends for after-hours video gaming and ping pong.
- “Explore India,” a dance workshop, Aug. 1, at 7 p.m., all ages welcome.

Library Discussions

- Thursdays, 1 p.m.*
- July 12 - “What makes it Country Music” (part 2).
 - July 26 - Singer/songwriter April Peters.
 - Aug. 9 - “Becoming Shakespeare; How Bill Became the Bard.”
 - Aug. 23 - “Sonnets as Wisdom.”

Summer Reading Fun

- Monday Family Fun, 7 p.m.
- Family Wednesdays, 1 p.m. (starts July 11)
- Story times resume June 25
- Friday movies and popcorn at 1:30 p.m. (starts July 6)
- Wrap-up festivities, Aug. 20, 1 to 4 p.m. and 7 to 9 p.m.

Recurring Events

- Wednesdays at the Movies: July 11, Newsies; July 25, The Muppets Movie; Aug. 8, E.T.; Aug. 22, We Bought a Zoo. All shows at 1 p.m.

• Knitting Workshop July 16 and Aug. 20 at noon, led by Nan Samons and Sunny Bitman.

• Gaming for Your Entertainment, Wednesdays, July 18, Aug. 1, and Aug. 15, at 1 p.m. ▲

Four educators awarded grants

Columbia High science teachers *Heidi Welner* and *Mark Harley* will conduct zero gravity experiments at NASA’s Johnson Space Center in Houston this summer. To attend, they applied for partial funding through the Achieve Foundation’s Michelle T. Riecke Fellowship program. Riecke grants are awarded to district educators who pursue summer learning related to their teaching.

Achieve also awarded two recent administrator grants:

- Columbia Assistant Principal *Faye Lewis* received a grant for the MAC Scholars Summer Enrichment Academy. The program seeks to improve peer culture and academic excellence among minority students

- *Judy LoBianco*, district supervisor of physical education, nursing and health, will use her grant to send two teachers to a week-long National Physical Education Institute in North Carolina. LoBianco also will speak there.

Public Works Services

Saturday Container Drop-Offs

July 28, Aug. 25 and Sept. 29 ■ 8 a.m. - 1:45 p.m.

Clear out your extraneous stuff! DPW provides disposal containers at the DPW Yard at 300 Walton Avenue. Please arrive before 1:30 p.m. Two proofs of residency are required. Commercial or industrial companies are excluded. Call DPW to ask about permissible drop-offs.

Electronic Drop-Offs

Four Saturdays remain in the 2012 schedule for free electronic disposal. Villagers can drop off at the Public Works Yard in South Orange or the Maplewood Recycling Center. Proof of residency is required. Call DPW to ask about permissible drop-offs. Hours are 8 a.m. to noon on these dates:

- July 14, Maplewood
- Sept. 15, South Orange
- Oct. 20, Maplewood
- Dec. 15, South Orange

If you cannot drop off on a designated Saturday, call for an alternative date: in South Orange, the prior Thursday; in Maplewood, the prior Friday. (Drop-off locations remain the same.) For details, call Maplewood at (973) 762-1175, or South Orange at (973) 378-7741, x221.



Branch Pickup appointments now available

Branches must be 4 inches or less in diameter and bundled with cord. No roots or stumps permitted. Call DPW at (973) 378-7741, x221 to schedule a pickup.

DPW Hours - The recycling facility at 300 Walton Avenue is open Tuesdays and Thursdays, 8 a.m. to 4 p.m.; Saturdays, 8 a.m. to noon. Closed to the public Mondays, Wednesdays and Fridays.

Farmers Market Manager needed

Wednesdays, 1 to 8 p.m., now through Oct. 31. Must be able to carry and set up a tent and table. Contact Carole at (973) 763-6899 or director@mainstreetsouthorange.org

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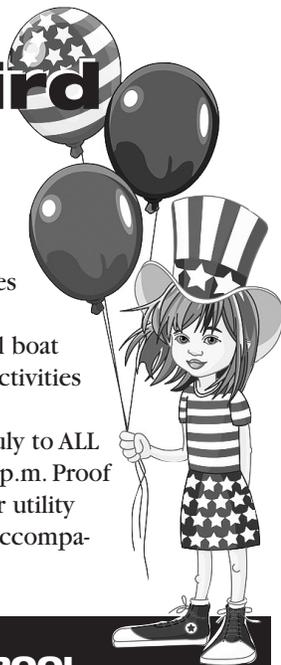
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REACTOR

At The Baird



COME TO A HOMETOWN JULY 4th BASH!

This year's 4th of July fun and festivities will include the bicycle rodeo, the Village parade along Meadowbrook Lane, a model boat exhibit at the duck pond, and afternoon activities at the pool (DJ, dunk tank, sand art).

The pool will be open on the 4th of July to ALL South Orange residents from 10 a.m. to 8 p.m. Proof of residency (I.D. badge, driver's license or utility bill) will be required. Children MUST be accompanied by an adult. ▲

ADULT NIGHTS AT THE POOL

Bring your floats and friends to enjoy two nights of musical entertainment and dinner from Stony's. All South Orange adult residents will be welcome. (Proof of residency required).

- Sunday, July 15, 6-8 p.m., "Jay Dougherty & The Jazz Party Pool Sharks," songs from the Great American Songbook.
- Sunday, Aug. 12, 6-8 p.m., "The Stuff Brothers," from easy listening to blues/rock.

SUMMER ART CLASSES

with **Larry McKim** (*High School and Adults*)

Teacher/artist Larry McKim will offer four special classes this summer. McKim has taught at numerous New Jersey colleges and at Columbia High. He has received multiple art fellowships, and his art has been displayed in 15 one-person exhibitions and 50 group exhibitions. (Learn more about him at www.larrymckim.com.)

■ **Color Theory** - McKim teaches Betty Edwards' practical method of working with color, whether painting on canvas or silk-screening. July 9 to 20, (10 weekday sessions), 1:30 to 3:30 p.m., \$220, and \$40 for materials.

■ **Mixed Media Landscape** - Experiment with watercolor, oil pastels, pencil and acrylic while examining the late-day shadows on the pond near The Baird. July 9 to 20, (Monday to Thursday), 4 to 6 p.m., \$176, and \$30 for materials.

■ **Life Drawing** - Study the shapes and postures of the human form, viewing live models each week. Use charcoal, brush, paints and ink media. All skill levels are welcome. July 23 to Aug. 3, (10 weekday sessions), 1:30 to 3:30 p.m., \$220, plus \$80 for materials and model fee.

■ **College Portfolio** - Build your portfolio for college admission, advanced placement studio art, or art exhibitions. Sessions will flex with student need. July 23 to Aug. 3 (Monday to Thursday), 4 to 6 p.m., \$176, and \$30 for materials.

SUMMER SPORTS

(973) 378-7754
www.thebaird.org

Summer Camps - A variety of camps await your child this summer. For details and registration, visit www.thebaird.org, and select "View Activities."

Cool Rocket/Science Camp - Children ages 6 to 11 explore the science of flight, construct unique paper airplanes and build model rockets for launch. Four sessions at The Baird, \$180/week.

- July 23-27, 1-5 p.m.
- July 30-Aug. 3, 1-5 p.m.
- Aug. 6-10, 1-5 p.m.
- Aug. 13-17, 9 a.m. to 1 p.m.

Cougar Baseball Camp - Children ages 7 to 14 focus on fundamentals while honing throwing mechanics, defensive techniques, mental aspects of the game and more. Three one-week sessions are held at Meadowland Park. Fee: \$300 for one week, \$560 for two weeks, \$800 for three weeks.

- June 25-29, 9 a.m. - 3 p.m.
- July 9-13, 9 a.m. - 3 p.m.
- July 16-20, 9 a.m. - 3 p.m.

Oben Flag Football Camp - Children ages 5 to 13 learn basic skills from USA Football-certified coaches. Age-appropriate skills and drills include passing, catching and running. The camp at Floods Hill takes place Monday to Thursday, July 30

to Aug. 2 (Friday, Aug. 3 rain date). Fee: \$245.

Multi-Sports Camps - U.S. Sports Institute camps at Meadowland Park will run Aug. 13 to 17. Details and registration at www.USSportsInstitute.com.

- Sport Squirts, ages 3-5, 4:30-5:30 p.m., \$75.
- Ages 5-14, 9 a.m. - 12:30 p.m., \$145.
- Ages 5-14, 1-4 p.m., \$115.
- Ages 6-14, 9 a.m. - 4 p.m., \$175.

Beginner Golf - U.S. Sports Institute beginner golf clinics for boys and girls will be held Aug. 20 to 24. Ages 5 to 7, from 4:30 to 6 p.m. Ages 8 to 11, 6 to 7:30 p.m. Details and registration at www.USSportsInstitute.com.

Weekly Tennis Camps for all ages and abilities will be held at the Meadowland Park tennis courts. Details and registration at www.USSportsInstitute.com.

Fall Soccer - Registration begins July 1 for the fall season of South Mountain Soccer. Boys and girls in grades 3 through 8 (all skill levels), will play for 10 weeks, with one training per week and a game each weekend. No tryouts. Register at The Baird or online at www.thebaird.org.

DREAMCATCHER

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

Dreamcatcher Junior presents vaudeville

Students in the Summer Theatre Conservatory will present an original show dedicated to vaudeville on Friday, July 27 at 7:30 p.m. Songs, dances and sketches will be woven together in a fun-filled evening for the whole family. Tickets are \$10. Call (800) 838-3006, or visit www.dreamcatcherrep.org.

Round Trip Free! Parking Authority uses jitneys to partner with community groups

Dorothy Taylor is a retired school administrator who likes helping kindergarten and first grade students build vocabulary and get comfortable reading. "It's one-on-one work and I can see it energizes them," she says.

Dorothy was one of 10 South Orange seniors involved in the most recent "Reading Buddies" program at South Mountain School Annex. Since most volunteers didn't have cars, they relied on jitneys from the South Orange Parking Authority to bring them to the kids.

Jitneys picked up the volunteers at a down town assisted living facility, took them to the annex for the one-hour sessions and returned them afterwards.

The cost of the jitney rides? Nothing.

Reading Buddies is one example of "how we give back and contribute to the community," said Parking Authority Executive Director Mark Hartwyk. "We foot the bill for these kinds of expenses. Our buses aren't just sitting idle all day."

Last year, the Parking Authority (SOPA) made thousands of dollars in landscape improvement in the Sloan Street parking lot. They added two state-of-the-art pay stations in the Taylor Place parking lot, and introduced the Smart Park Card, a parking debit card that lets drivers pay without coins.

Hartwyk can recite a litany of recent parking lot improvements around town, but the real measure of SOPA's success, he says, boils down to one question: "How did we contribute?"

Part of the answer comes from community groups that rely on free, or nearly free, jitney service.

Like the organizers of the

South Orange/Maplewood Baseball/Softball Parade held last month in South Orange. One thousand players, their families, friends and pets gathered for what South Orange Recreation Director Kate Schmidt calls "the all-American event."

The convergence of people would be a nightmare if everyone had to track down parking before the parade.

"Jitney service is essential," said Schmidt. Continuous loops to remote parking make "a much more pleasant experience for everybody."

South Orange River Day in May creates another use for jitney service. Last year's cleanup barely touched the part of the Rahway River that extends from Third Street to the Maplewood border. That's because volunteers had to walk one mile round trip from the main cleanup site to get there. This year, jitneys transported volunteers to the remote site, and a longer stretch of the river was beautified.

The charge for such services is nominal or nothing at all, even though in its regular operations, SOPA pays more than \$130,000 a year in driver salaries and benefits.

Amy Jo Curran, assistant director of the HK Community Fund, said jitneys were vital to her six-week after-school program for middle schoolers, and "we offered to pay. But at the very end, he (Hartwyk), said, 'No thank you, it's our privilege to help.'"

Curran noted, "We're a very small grassroots nonprofit, so we were thrilled to be able to use that money in other ways."

Jitneys are used during South Orange's annual historic

house tours, with visitors riding from one house to the next.

The South Orange Maplewood Adult School runs a summer sports program for children who hop on jitneys at the middle school and head out to their respective camp sites. Later, jitneys take some of them to after-care at the YMCA.

"The Board of Ed used to do that," said Adult School Director Sue Marcus. "But they no longer can, so it's very important to have the jitneys. They make life easier for a lot of parents."

Besides jitney transport, SOPA finds other ways to contribute in the community. The authority forfeits parking income when it loans its lots for community events such as Main Street's "Celebrate South Orange" or the weekly farmers' market.

They also assisted the South

Orange/Maplewood Bicycle Coalition when they began sponsoring Bike to Work Week.

Even local cops know that SOPA jitneys are a non-profit blessing.

Every summer, 25 tweens sign up for the South Orange Police Department's "Junior Police Academy." Field trips are a big part of the program — trips to the county policy academy and prosecutor's office, the New York City Police Museum, and the Newark Police Emergency Services Unit.

Three or four officers accompany the students on free jitneys. "I try to limit the goofing around," says Det. Mark Garrett, who runs the academy, "but we do bond on the bus because it's down time."

In the police world, bonding with local kids is gold. And if not for those free jitneys, the Junior Police Academy probably wouldn't exist. "The program fee wouldn't cover the cost of renting a regular bus," said Garrett. ▲

Pay-by-cell parking

It's raining! Do you want to fumble with coins at the parking meter?.

Soon, you won't have to. The South Orange Parking Authority (SOPA) is launching a new program to let drivers pay for parking while inside the car, on the train platform, or even *on* the train.

ParkNOW, a program provided by Mobile NOW LLC, and already in use in Cranford, lets drivers use their cell phones to call in a parking space number and the length of time they plan to park. The appropriate fee is deducted from the driver's credit card, including a 40-cent user fee for Mobile NOW.

SOPA Executive Director Mark Hartwyk said the pilot program is geared toward train commuters and people who use 12-hour metered spaces around the library.

Initially, 200 spaces will be designated with pay-by-cell signs. The spaces will be offered on a first-come, first-served basis, no matter the payment method.

SOPA enforcement officers will use hand-held devices to validate ParkNow payments. Nonpayment could result in a \$40 ticket. ▲

comes to S.O.

2012 Free Concerts in the Park

Wednesday, July 11

Random Test Reggae Band

2012 Concerts in the Park kicks off with the pulsating rhythms of the Caribbean

Wednesday, July 18

Tramps Like Us

Performing the music of Bruce Springsteen and the E Street Band

Wednesday, July 25

South Orange Jazz All-Stars

Featuring Claudio Roditi, John Lee, and many jazz musicians who call South Orange "home"

Wednesday, August 1

Ray Rodriguez Y Swing Sabroso

Back by popular demand! Hot Latin music with a 10-piece band

Wednesday, August 8

Rock The Hill

Featuring local garage bands

**Flood's Hill
Meadowland Park
Wednesdays
7:30 p.m.**

Rain Site: South Orange
Performing Arts Center

Presented by
Village of South Orange
The Baird
S.O. Performing Arts Center
973-313-ARTS (2787)
SOPACnow.org

Free Concerts in the Park made possible in part by the NJ State Council on the Arts/Department of State, a partner agency of the National Endowment for the Arts.



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In Touch

with
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General Info.
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Emergency, 911
Clerk's Office, x1
Administrator, x2
Construction, x3
Tax Collector, x4
Assessor, x5
Finance, x6
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**Recreation &
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Street Dept.**
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266-8869

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or call (908)
823-9001

Villagers of The Month



Sarah Hilton

One, two, three, four, five. Sarah Hilton wasn't expecting to tutor a child in basic counting. After all, how

do you reach back to your own pre-numbers state of mind?

But she figured it out. "It was a matter of breaking down the things we think about every day," she said.

Sarah's inspiration as a tutor for the Achieve Foundation was a single moment in a three-year span of high school volunteerism that, altogether, helped shape her hopeful outlook on life.

"I think it's important to teach people to do things for other people," she said. "It's a feeling you can't get any other way."

Sarah's greatest role model has been her own mother, Karen Hilton, who calls herself "a professional volunteer." The handy example continually inspired Sarah to do more.

She spent two years tutoring for Achieve and an overlapping three years volunteering in the children's room at South Orange Public Library. There, she shelved books, worked at the circulation desk, helped kids find books, and ran a craft class once a month.

"I learned how to teach people at the library," said Sarah. "It's something I really enjoy and I wouldn't have found that if I hadn't volunteered."

She also volunteered as a Sunday morning teacher's aide at her church.

Teaching may *not* be Sarah's pro-

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fessional destiny. Come September, she'll be a freshman at Wheaton College, in Norton, Mass., studying studio arts and double-majoring in an academic discipline, a plan that leaves her open to possibility.

"I'm excited to get out into the world," she said.

Since her volunteerism will likely continue, she has a bit of advice for those who haven't caught the bug: "It doesn't have to be something you don't enjoy," said Sarah. "There are always ways to volunteer doing things you like." ▲



Alexis Ballard

A good psychologist gives wise advice and Alexis Ballard has been told she has the knack.

"It makes me happy to help people," she said.

But the weightier part of advising is good listening, and as a volunteer in South Orange, Alexis learned how to bend her ears.

Just ask Desiree Watson, owner of Wellness Interactive on South Orange Avenue.

Last summer, Alexis became a volunteer at Wellness, stocking shelves, running errands, handling general office duties, and eventually giving tours.

"I got to observe how they run the business," said Alexis. "Everybody has positive energy there so people want to come back."

For Watson, having Alexis as a helper was a

sheer pleasure. "Sometimes it can be difficult to work with young people because you want them to learn, but you also want them to listen. Alexis is a great listener. She takes everything in."

For example, she took an interest in the company's lifestyle workshops, observed staff operations and became knowledgeable enough to conduct facility tours for prospective members.

"She was a delight," said Watson.

Alexis applied the same enthusiasm to her volunteerism at South Orange Public Library, where she donated two hours a day, Monday through Thursday during last year's summer break.

Starting in September, she will attend Fairleigh Dickinson University in Madison to study psychology.

"Some day, I want to have my own psychology business," she said.

Perhaps the "other" focus she gained as a Village volunteer is helping her reach that goal. "I like to get things done for other people so they don't have to worry," said Alexis.

"That makes me happy." ▲

Wine, fitness, art & more!

Summer at the Adult School

Plenty of summer fun is in store at the South Orange-Maplewood Adult School. Check out the Summer Wine Pairing Dinner with Diane Letulle on July 10. Take golf or tennis lessons. Enjoy a weekend in the Berkshires, Aug. 10 to 12.

For more traditional courses, choose from fitness, art, computers, Photoshop, upholstery, or the new "Move without Pain." For the full catalog, go to somadultschool.org, or call (973) 378-7620. ▲



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