

The South Orange Gaslight



The Gaslight is published six times a year for the residents and businesses of South Orange Village

**July/August
2013**

July Fourth is Family Time

A day of family fun to celebrate our nation's birthday will be held in and around Meadowland Park and the community pool on July 4th.

The day's events, sponsored by the South Orange Department of Recreation and Cultural Affairs, will begin with relay races at Cameron Field from 11 a.m. to 1 p.m. A bouncy house and slide (sponsored by the South Orange Parking Authority) from noon to 4 p.m.; and a model boat exhibit at the Duck Pond from 10 a.m. to 3 p.m.

Afternoon activities at the pool will include sand art, a photo booth, a hot dog eating contest, and a ping pong tournament.

The pool will be open to ALL South Orange residents from 10 a.m. to 8 p.m. Proof of residency (ID badge, driver's license or utility bill) will be required at the gate. Children must be accompanied by an adult.

Registration is required for many events. For information, go to www.recreation@southorange.org. ▲

Yes! It's a DEAL!

The Village and SOPAC have agreed to transfer ownership of the \$15 million arts center to the Village, an arrangement that gives the Village a tangible asset instead of an uncollectable debt. At the same time, it relieves SOPAC from a debt burden that has seriously squelched its fundraising capability.

On June 17, the South Orange Board of Trustees unanimously passed an ordinance authorizing the deal. The Village will continue its long-term nominal rent lease with SOPAC, which now has a 50-year building lease. SOPAC will continue to operate the arts center and manage the Clearview movie theater lease.

In five years, the movie theater rent (approximately, \$200,000 per year) will begin to be paid to the Village as building owner. In addition, the annual operating subsidy from the Village to SOPAC (currently proposed at \$309,500 for 2013) will be phased out over the next several years. Those changes will result in a positive financial impact of nearly

SOPAC building ownership transferred to the Village

Arts center primed for self-sufficiency

half a million dollars for the Village.

The debt-burdened relationship between the Village and SOPAC began when the arts center opened its doors in 2006. The Village designed and constructed the arts center and has always owned the underlying land.

Since the beginning, the Village paid down its debt to the original bond holders, reducing the obligation to its current level of \$11 million. In turn, SOPAC was obligated to the Village for the full amount.

Over time, it became clear that SOPAC would never be able to repay the \$15 million debt to the Village. Two independent studies confirmed that SOPAC could not generate sufficient income to pay off the debt and cover operating expenses. Even worse, the debt complicated the arts center's ability to apply for grants or find sponsorships since it appeared to be insolvent.

However, the two studies also recognized SOPAC's substantial value to the community — its cultural benefits and its positive financial impact on surrounding businesses and property values.

Now, with the debt obligation lifted, SOPAC is in position to become self-sufficient. For the first time ever, SOPAC can apply for a general operating support grant

Inside

■ Property tax going up 1.43%

■ Village Hall renovation about to begin

■ Try a poolside arts class this summer

■ Catch 5 shows in the 2013 Free Summer Concert Series

■ Adena Traub is S.O.'s favorite band booker

■ Xavier Lee named June Villager of the Month

Historic Old Stone House up for sale

South Orange has enough property in need of major renovation. There's Village Hall, The Baird and the Connett Memorial Building (original library). That trio represents significant draw on Village finances without the added load of the Old Stone House.

On Sept. 23, the Village will accept sealed bids for the 330-year-old structure located behind the police station.

Village Administrator Barry Lewis said, "We need to devote resources elsewhere, so we're trying to see who else can restore the house to



Turn to **Old Stone House**, p3

Turn to **SOPAC**, p8

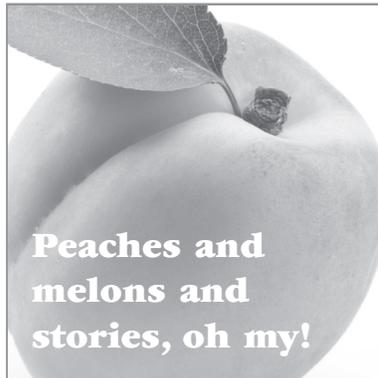
Join a commission!
**Be a resource
 for your Village**

Three South Orange commissions need volunteer members to help serve their missions. If you are interested, submit your resume and cover letter to the Township Clerk's Office, 101 South Orange Avenue, South Orange, NJ 07079. Or for information, call (973) 378-7715, x7726.

■ **Board of Health** - This autonomous board is governed by state statute to ensure health standards at the local level.

■ **Environmental Commission** - Governed by state law to conduct research on local land use, both public and private, this commission also advocates to the local planning board and governing body.

■ **Historic Preservation Commission** - Commissioners consider home improvement applications from homeowners in designated historic districts. They advise Planning Board and Zoning Board members as to whether proposed improvements meet historic preservation requirements. ▲



Peaches and melons and stories, oh my!

Get ready for a peach festival in July, a watermelon carving contest in August and storytimes under the Farmers Market tent.

South Orange Village Center Alliance announces three more good reasons to come to the Farmers Market every Wednesday, now through October from 2 to 7 p.m. in lot #9 on Sloan Street.

This year's market started one month early, bringing Villagers ripe tomatoes, strawberries, tasty greens and many prepared foods fresh from the farm. More bounty is ahead.

Exact dates for the new attractions will be announced. The South Orange Library will host the storytime sessions. ▲

Get your blood pressure checked for free

All residents are welcome to attend free blood pressure screenings offered by the South Orange Health Department on two Thursday mornings every month.

- First Thursday, 9 a.m. to 10:30 a.m., at the Charles Bierman Home, 110 Vose Avenue, second floor activity room.
- Third Thursday, 9 a.m. to 11 a.m., at The Baird meeting room, 5 Mead Street.

For details, call (973) 378-7715, x7710. ▲

Property tax going up 1.43%

South Orange taxpayers will incur an average \$62.67 more on their annual municipal property tax bills if the recently proposed 2013 operating budget passes muster.

The \$32.7 million budget represents a 1.43% tax increase on the average household. The final budget vote will take place July 8 after a public hearing.

Administrator Barry Lewis, Jr. said the Village has stabilized its debt and no furloughs or reductions in services are anticipated.

Approximately half of the tax increase covers a rise in pension payments, as required by the state.

The Village also saved \$80,000 on electric and gas rates by entering into a cooperative buying program for electricity, and by bidding out natural gas supply.

The Village's surplus was reduced due to hurricane clean-up costs, but a 75% FEMA reimbursement is anticipated.

Decreased payments from the East Orange Water Commission also hurt the surplus, but anticipated resumed payments this year will add back to the surplus.

The budget includes a \$309,000 subsidy for SOPAC, support that is now scheduled to end (see SOPAC story on page 1).

Lewis said that for the second year in a row, the Village is "paying down more debt than the amount of new debt, as authorized in a commitment to reducing the \$50 million debt accumulated over the last decade." ▲



**BiZ
 BUZZ**

**Recent
 Downtown
 Openings**

■ **7-Eleven**, the international convenience store chain, will be opening soon at 60 Valley Street in the former location of Town Hall Deli. In addition to newspapers, drinks, snacks and sandwiches, the store will offer its signature Slurpee and Big Gulp.

■ **Tito's Burritos**, a new and growing chain of eateries, will move into #2 Vose Avenue on Sept. 1, replacing 20/20 Photography. South Orange will be the chain's fourth location after Summit, Morristown and Ridgewood. The owners are currently building a commercial kitchen.

■ **Joint-Heirs Ventures** has been in business for a year at 307B Irvington Avenue. Owner Olayinka Idehen calls her shop a variety store offering African foods, music, movies and clothing. Financial services such as money orders and bill payment are also available.

■ **Town Hall Deli Reopening**. The 85-year-old local institution has moved to 74 First Street. Owner Tony Wonski and his crew of culinary "engineers" were planning to open their new doors at 60 Valley Street later this summer. The deli will offer sandwiches (including their signature Sloppy Joes), catering, liquor, wine and beer. ▲

The So. Orange Parking Authority

seeks an additional commissioner to consider enforcement and operation of municipal parking lots, metered and overnight parking, jitney and senior bus services. If interested, contact the Clerk's Office (see "Join a commission," above left).

I know how to make Smart Moves!

Maggie Calister

www.njrealestatemama.com

Direct: 973-913-8020

Cell: 973-271-6951

*One step ahead
 for ALL your
 real estate needs*



Mid-Town Direct Realty



Happenings

Free concerts every weekend

Twenty-one free outdoor musical performances are on tap July and August in the Downtown After Sundown Concert Series. Bring the family and check out the sounds in two venues. Nosh on hot dogs and ice cream from local vendors, step into a shop or two, feed the meter . . . just keep comin' back!

Four shows will be presented every weekend through September, from 7 to 10 p.m. in two locations: Spiotta Park, and at the corner of Sloan Street and South Orange Avenue. Most performers come from South Orange or Maplewood, or they're connected to the Village in some way. Don't miss the fun!

The queen of British folk comes to SOPAC

Beth Orton, the BRIT Award-winning English singer and songwriter, will appear at SOPAC on Friday, Aug. 8 at 8 p.m. Orton is known for her "folktronica" sound, which mixes elements of folk and electronica. Several films ("Vanilla Sky," "Blue Crush," "Monster") and television programs ("Grey's Anatomy," "How to Deal," "Charmed," "The Unit," "Six Feet Under") have featured her music. Her latest album, "Sugaring Season," has received rave reviews around the globe. Tickets are \$32 to

\$50. To purchase, call (973) 313-ARTS or visit SOPACnow.org.

Baptist Church hosts community day

The First Baptist Church of South Orange will hold its "Building Community Unity" event on July 13, from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m., featuring music, entertainment, food, recreation for children, and candid conversations about improving our lives and community. All activities will be held at the church, 103 Valley Street in South Orange, and in the public parking lots off Second Street. For details, visit www.fbcso.org or call (973) 763-8593.

Mark your calendar for good health

The South Orange Department of Health will host its seventh annual free health fair on Sept. 7 from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. at the Fire House, 56 Sloan Street. More details in the next edition, or call (973) 378-7715, x7710.

Run for academic achievement

The 11th annual Newstead 5K Race and Kids' Fun Run is planned for Saturday, Sept. 21. The event helps the Achieve Foundation of South Orange & Maplewood promote exemplary education in the local school district. Businesses and families can sign up as sponsors through Sept. 1. Details in the next Gaslight. ▲



Village Hall renovation about to begin

Village Hall workers are anticipating a move to temporary office space at the PNC Bank Building, likely by Sept. 1.

Construction workers will tear down walls, ceilings and floors in preparation for asbestos abatement, the first and most invasive phase in the long-awaited renovation of South Orange's historic municipal building.

"We'll have to be out for that," said Village Administrator Barry Lewis. Employees will remain at 76 South Orange Avenue on the third floor of the PNC building for two years.

After asbestos abatement, Village Hall will get new walls, floors, ceilings, windows and a new roof. Some walls will be moved and office spaces will be rearranged.

The exterior will be restored to its current appearance since

Village Hall is on the national and state registers of historic places.

"It will look identical but cleaner and newer," said Lewis. "Preservation money covers the outside," so "you restore what you can, and what you can't restore, you bring to a state that looks as much as possible like it was."

On the interior (not restricted by preservation), many architectural features will nonetheless be preserved, such as the huge curving archways in the main meeting room and the main stairway with its curving wooden handrails.

"Although it's not required, the Village is committed to preserving and honoring the history of the building," said Lewis, so the old wood inside the building will be restored as much as possible.

The ballpark estimate for the total renovation, including relocation costs, is \$6 million to \$7 million. Until bids from all phases of construction are available, the actual cost will not be known.

The Township has been awarded nearly \$1 million in renovation grants. Additional funding is being sought for heat and air conditioning operated with a geothermal pump.

All remaining costs are covered by bond ordinances of \$5 million, authorized years ago in anticipation of renovation. ▲

Old Stone House

Continued from page 1

historical standards. We're not thinking we'll get real value out of it."

The surplus municipal property notice of sale describes a building in "poor condition" and "burdened by access, utility and legal constraints."

The successful bidder would need to obtain third-party access to the property and would be responsible for

connection to utilities, water and sewer. In addition, the property is bound by a historic preservation easement, which dictates strict renovation standards.

For a complete property description and conditions of sale, contact the Village clerk at (973) 378-7715, x7726 or rkline@southorange.org. ▲

4 CHS grads earn SOCO scholarships

Columbia High School students Mody Francois, Kayla Hunter, Nkenge Jones and Alicia C. Kellam were honored in June as recipients of South Orange Civic Organization Scholarships. The college-bound students were selected based on their academic records as well as school and community service. Funds for the scholarships are raised through SOCO's annual Martin Luther King program and journal. ▲

At The Baird

(973) 378-7754 • www.thebaird.org

This Summer, Try Out a Poolside Arts Class

Watercolor by the Pool

Teaching artist Ann Vollum brings studio arts poolside for children in first to sixth grades. The class will be held July 3 from 2 to 3 p.m. Sign-up at the pool.

Music Preludes by the Pool

Enjoy making music with your preschooler in this popular mommy/caregiver-and-me class for infants through 4 years. Dates are July 17 and July 31 from 2:15 to 3 p.m. Sign-up at the pool.

What could be better than learning the arts at poolside? South Orange Recreation and Cultural Affairs presents free trial arts classes for children at the South Orange pool this summer. Registration is limited. Call (973) 378-7754, x2223 or visit www.thebaird.org.



Adult Nights at the Pool

Bring your floats and friends for musical entertainment and dinner on the deck from Stony's. Two adult-only special events will be held July 21 and Aug. 18, from 6 to 8 p.m. All South Orange **adult** residents are welcome. A drivers' license or other proof of residency will be required at the gate.

interACT Brings the Page to the Stage

Memorable tunes from the pages of great literature will be performed by interACT Theatre Productions Aug. 2 and 3 at the Burgdorff Center for the Performing Arts, 10 Durand Road in Maplewood.

"interACT Sings! Page to Stage" will benefit the troupe's upcoming season. Each 8 p.m. performance will be preceded by a 7 p.m. reception featuring a raffle and silent auction of goods and services donated by local merchants. Tickets are \$25, including food and drinks. Purchase at the door, or online at www.interactproductions.org.

interACT's regular season productions will include "Carrie, The Musical," "Father of the Bride" and "The Importance of Being Ernest" - all to be performed at The Baird Theatre.

SUMMER RECREATION

A variety of camps for children will be offered in South Orange this summer. Details and registration information are available at The Baird and online at www.thebaird.org (select "View Activities").

Cool Rocket/Science Camp

Explore the science of flight, construct unique paper airplanes and learn to build a model rocket for launch. Children ages 6 to 11 can choose from four sessions. Fee: \$180 per week (\$170 for South Orange residents with current ID badge).

- Week of July 29, 1-5 p.m.
- Week of Aug. 5, 1-5 p.m.
- Week of Aug. 12, 1-5 p.m.
- Week of Aug. 19, 9 a.m.-1 p.m.

Cougar Baseball Camps

Coaches Joe Fischetti and Chris Henry offer three camp sessions, the weeks of July 8, July 15 and July 22. Children ages 7 to 14 will focus on baseball fundamentals: throwing, fielding, base-running, hitting, catching, and pitching. Details and registration online. Fee: \$300 per week.

Rise Ball Softball Camp

This nationally recognized softball camp comes to New Waterlands Park in South Orange July 15 to 18, from 9:30 a.m. to 3 p.m. The

program is for girls in grades 4 through 12. Fee: \$200.

Multi-Sports Camps

The U.S. Sports Institute Multi-Sports Camp will be held at Meadowland Park, Aug. 19 to 23. Details and registration information at www.USSportsInstitute.com.

- Sport Squirts - ages 3 to 5, from 4:30-5:30 p.m. Covers soccer, t-ball, basketball, lacrosse and hockey.
- Ages 5-12, half-day camp, 9 a.m.-12:30 p.m. OR 1-4 p.m. More than 10 sports will be taught in one week.
- Ages 5-12 - Full-day camp, 9 a.m. to 4 p.m. Many sports and daily challenges.

Beginner Golf

The U.S. Sports Institute will hold beginner golf clinics for boys and girls, Aug. 26 to 30. Details and registration at www.USSportsInstitute.com

- Parent & Me Golf Squirts, ages 3 to 5 (with caregiver), 4-4:45 p.m.
- Ages 5 to 12, 5-7 p.m.

Tennis Camps

Weekly tennis camps for all ages and abilities will be held in Meadowland Park. Details and registration at www.USSportsInstitute.com.

Register Now for Fall Soccer

Registration begins July 1 for the fall season of South Mountain Soccer, a program for boys and girls in grades 3 through 8, sponsored by the South Orange Department of Recreation and Cultural Affairs. The 10-week season includes professional training one day a week and a game each weekend. No tryouts required. Register at The Baird or online at www.thebaird.org.

South Orange Library Events

(973) 762-0230 • www.sopl.org

Timeless Literature Staged

The classic stories of Ovid rank with Homer, Virgil and Dante. Now The Shakespeare Theatre of New Jersey's Next Stage Ensemble will bring Ovid's "Metamorphoses" to life. England's poet laureate Ted Hughes translated Ovid's work in "Tales of Ovid." The staged version of his tales, sponsored by BCB, will take place July 23 at 7 p.m. in the library. All are welcome.

Library Discussions

Thursdays, 1 p.m.

- July 11 – Rutgers English Professor Fran Bartkowski, "Philip Roth's Theater."
- July 25 – Fairleigh Dickinson University radio station manager Carl Kraus, "Broadcasting Around the World."
- Aug. 1 – Drew University Assistant Dean John Muccigrosso, "Archeological Digs in Italy."
- Aug. 15 – Author and Seton Hall political science Professor Heath Brown, "Preview of the Fall Gubernatorial Election."
- Aug. 29 - Singer and songwriter April Peters performs.

Recurring Events

- Book Review Group – July 22, "A Tree Grows in Brooklyn," by Betty Smith. June 24, "Are You My Mother?" by Alison Bechdel. Both sessions at 7:30 p.m.
- Knitting Workshop – Mondays, July 15 and Aug. 19, at noon.

Children's Room

All ages are welcome to all programs except where noted.

- LEGOS / Minecraft - alternating Mondays, 3 p.m., starting with Minecraft on July 1.
- Tech Soup – Gadgets, software and hands-on help, Mondays at 6:30 p.m. and Thursdays at noon.
- Family Fun - sponsored by the Friends of The Library, Mondays, July 1 to Aug. 12, 7 p.m.
- Toddler Tuesdays - 11 a.m., ages 3 and up.

- Game Day Tuesdays – 3 p.m.
- Family Movies and Storybook Crafts (ages 5-10) – Alternating Wednesdays 1:30 p.m.; begins with movie on July 3.
- Books and Babies – newborn to 2-1/2, Wednesdays at 10 a.m.
- Book Bunch – ages 9 and older, July 10 and Aug. 7, 4 p.m.
- Messy Art - July 11, 25, Aug. 8, 2 p.m.
- Filming 4 Fun – ages 7 and up, Thursdays July 18, Aug. 1 and 15, at 3 p.m.
- SOPlayers Drama Workshop - Aug. 15 and 16, noon. Performance, Aug. 19, 7 p.m.
- Lunch Bunch Storytime - July 12, 26 and Aug. 9, noon.
- Evening Stories – PJ Storytimes, July 11. Teddy Bear Sleepover, Aug. 1. Mehndi stories, Aug. 15. All at 7 p.m.

Teen Programs in July and August include Anime Club on Fridays at 3:30 (for 6th grade and up) and Mehndi on Aug. 15. ▲

Local business woman honored by JESPY

Congratulations to Lauren Schwartz, director of the Charles Bierman Home, who recently received the JESPY Community Appreciation Award, in recognition of her dedication and commitment to JESPY House clients who live at Bierman.

JESPY is a program for adults with learning and developmental disabilities who demonstrate the ability to live independently and gain competitive employment.

Schwartz, who directs the Bierman Home, a Daughters of Israel semi-independent living residence in South Orange, was recognized for making life at Bierman a joyous and special experience for JESPY clients. ▲

Retailers clamor for Gateway space

Near-daily inquiries about retail space at The Gateway development began pouring in after the May ground-breaking for the residential/retail development at #9 West South Orange Avenue.

"The Village is a great spot to be in. Period," said Developer Ed Ayuso, principal of EEA Industries of South Orange.

"I think our space is going to compete. The mere fact that it's on the tracks and it's going to be new – that will sell it." Plus, "the project name says it all. We are the gateway," especially for commuters interested in traveling just 32 minutes by train to New York City.

The Gateway's retail space, totaling 9,100 square feet, will accommodate up to five occupants on the ground floor. Ayuso envisions a popular eatery as an anchor store, almost an amenity for Gateway residents.

Store openings and move-in to the 57 residential units will likely be next summer. ▲

Villager shares Tony for 'Pippin'

When the Broadway revival of "Pippin" won four Tony Awards on June 9, Villager Stephen Schnall was among those who thrilled at the news. He co-produced the hit show, which earned Tonys for best revival of a musical, best leading actress, best actress in a featured role and best director.

Schnall recently began a second career as a co-producer after spending 30 years as a management and information technology consultant. He is also a newly elected member of the Village Board of Trustees, charged with overseeing the Department of Recreation and Cultural Affairs, SOPAC, the South Orange Village Center Alliance and the Historic Preservation Commission. ▲

South Orange Village dates back to May 4, 1869, when it was formed within South Orange Township (now Maplewood). On March 4, 1904, the Village of South Orange was created by an act of the New Jersey Legislature and separated from South Orange Township.



SEMI-INDEPENDENT LIVING AND
THE SPIRIT OF COMMUNITY

The Charles Bierman Home is a unique semi-independent housing facility featuring:

- Studio apartments with assistance available.
- Warm, social setting with daily on-site recreational activities.
- Walking distance to houses of worship, shopping, library and other community services.
- 3 meals daily offered in kosher dining room.
- Housekeeping and laundry services.

The Charles Bierman Home
A DAUGHTERS OF ISRAEL RESIDENCE

Call 973-303-7018 or visit www.DaughtersofIsrael.org
110 Vose Avenue, South Orange, NJ 07079

2013
FREE

Concerts
in the
Park

Presented by:

Village of South Orange • The Baird • SOPAC



July 10

Stiletto:

The Songs of Billy Joel
and Elton John,
featuring Matthew
Friedman of "Movin'
Out"



July 17

Kiwi: Reggae, Jazz, Soul



July 24

Cheryl 'Pepsi' Riley
R&B, Soul



July 31

Michael Hill's Blues Mob

Wednesdays, 7:30 p.m.

Flood's Hill

Meadowland Park
(Rain Site: SOPAC)

Local food vendors on site:

Lickt Gelato

St. James Gate Publick House

Pizza Vita Wood Fired Pizza Truck

Plus **August 7**

Rock The Hill:

local garage bands

Meet the band-booking expert of South Orange

Adena Traub loves the tradition of downtown summer concerts. "It's so fun," she says. "We eat downtown, the kids can run around at Spiotta Park like lunatics. We have ice cream. We take them home and they're covered in dirt and ice cream. That's summer, isn't it?"

You bet! That's why a movable crowd of Villagers and nearby residents flows into town every Friday and Saturday night in the summer. Nearly 80 concerts are performed from mid-May through Labor Day as part of the "Downtown After Sundown Concert Series."

Traub is the dedicated volunteer who books the acts for the South Orange Village Center Alliance. "She has three kids and yet has found time to help create this remarkable concert series with New York-quality entertainment curbside in South Orange. It's an incredible contribution to this community," said SOVCA Executive Director Lisa Hackett.

Every year in March, Traub



e-mails her list of nearly 100 bands to get the booking ball rolling. In the last two years, she has filled the slots in 48 hours.

The bands play for three hours at two locations: Spiotta Park, and at the corner of

Sloan Street and South Orange Avenue. Both are near eateries, ice cream, coffee and other attractions—all natural feeders for casual concerts.

"There are times you can't move," but the audience is "constantly coming and going. It's totally fluid," said Traub.

The biggest percentage of the bands comes from South Orange or Maplewood. Those from outlying areas generally have some Village connection — they're a CHS graduate, a former resident, or maybe they have a relative in town.

"The bands are all styles and all ages," said Traub, who has rejected only one applicant in three years. "They were just bad."

She does give preference to residents and says, "the wealth of talent in our town is outrageous."

All bands perform for low fees—"They're just happy to be part of the local scene," said Traub. "Some probably would perform for free. But we want to pay them for their time."

To everyone's delight,

SOVCA continues to draw funding for the series. The 2013 season was funded in part by the Village and most recently, with a contribution from Investors Bank. ▲

DPW Services

300 Walton Avenue in South Orange
Open Tuesdays and Thursdays, 8 a.m. to 4 p.m.
Saturdays, 8 a.m. to noon
Closed to the public: Monday, Wednesday, Friday

Saturday Container Day Drop-Offs

July 27, Aug. 24 and Sept. 28 • 8 a.m. - 1:45 p.m.

Clear out your extraneous stuff! Disposal containers are provided at the DPW Yard at 300 Walton Avenue. Please arrive before 1:30 p.m. Two proofs of residency are required. No commercial vehicles permitted. Call DPW to ask about permissible drop-offs.

Electronic Drop-Offs

Four Saturdays remain in the 2013 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. Commercial or industrial companies are excluded.

Hours: 8 a.m. - noon

- July 13, Maplewood
- Oct. 19, Maplewood
- Sept. 21, South Orange
- Dec. 14, South Orange

If you cannot drop off on the designated Saturday, alternatives are: South Orange, the prior Thursday; 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

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 from now through Sept. 16.

Two paper shredding days

The Department of Public Works will hold two paper shredding days at the Public Works Yard on Saturday, July 20 and Saturday, Nov. 9, from 8 a.m. to noon both days. The shredding vendor will provide a "certificate of destruction" to verify that all material was shredded beyond recognition.

Grass clippings cannot be brought to the Public Works Yard. Contact your garbage collector for grass removal.

Investors Bank gives \$2.5K for concert series

Investors Bank of South Orange has granted \$2,500 to the Village Center Alliance to support SOVCA's Downtown After Sundown concert series.

"I am over the moon! This is so generous," said Executive Director Lisa Hackett. "Investors Bank is New Jersey's most generous bank, without question! You can quote me on that!"

YOUR SOUTH ORANGE EXPERT

Call me for all your real estate needs!

RENA SPANGLER, ABR
973-876-7913/CELL
RenaSpangler@gmail.com



Making It Home

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, rpatric@comcast.net, or call (908) 823-9001

June Villager of the Month **Xavier Lee**

Xavier Lee has opinions. About media spin on high school social dynamics. About the value of voting. And most particularly, about motivation and self-belief.

As an editor for the CHS newspaper, "the Columbian," Xavier expressed many inspired opinions while sharpening the skills of his intended career in journalism. But it was through mentoring that he found a practical application for his points of view.

"If you don't believe in yourself, it's probably best to look at all the people in your life who believe in you—people who have sacrificed for you. Because you kind of have an obligation to everyone who's ever done you the favor of believing in you."

Mighty thinking for an 18-year-old. But typical of this 2013 Columbia High graduate who developed his thinking as an editorial writer, poet, and television director, then applied his truths to mentoring.

Xavier was the first-ever volunteer for Columbia's Minority Achievement Committee. The MAC Scholars Program aims to put high-achieving minority students in honors and advanced placement classes where diversity is often lacking. As a program mentor, Xavier built positive relationships with other scholars, discussed tough issues, and helped students explore college and career options.

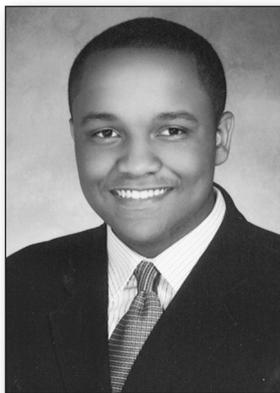
"It's letting them know there are

Township of South Orange Village
South Orange, NJ 07079

Postal Customer
Local 07079

Presorted Standard
U.S. Postage Paid
Newark, NJ
Permit No. 7081

Village Web Site: www.southorange.org



others like them," he explained. "They're not alone."

For four years, Xavier also mentored at Real World Connections at NJIT, a program for gifted and talented middle and high school students. He taught web page development to students ages 13 to 16

who've had little technological access in their lives.

He even worked Saturdays and "sometimes wondered why I was doing it." But "I learned how to help people believe in themselves."

Columbia's SOMAtv was another mentoring outlet. As a program director, Xavier coordinated lighting, sound, sets, cameras, scripts and more for a student-run show, and over two years, mentored 10 fellow students on television technology.

In September, our honoree will be a freshman at Swarthmore College in Pennsylvania, where he'll major in English, before possibly going on to journalism school.

"I want to write for magazines," he says. "I love writing."

He also wants to emulate his successful mother, Marian Lee, a comptroller at a New York City ad agency, and his father Ronald Lee, a superintendent of schools in Orange. "I want to accomplish as much as they have," said Xavier. "They've worked really hard for me to go to a great college. I'm lucky. Now, I have to do for myself as well." ▲

Honoring our selfless best

The Villager of the Month Award is given to individuals (and sometimes groups) who make significant contributions to the quality of life in South Orange and beyond. Nominations from the public are always welcome. Nominees may live or work in South Orange; current Village employees and volunteers on township committees (eligible for other recognition) are not eligible for VOM. All nominations are reviewed by the Community Relations Committee. Send nominations to the Village Clerk, rkline@southorange.org, to any CRC member, or to ktjdz@aol.com.

Correction

An error appeared in the Villager of the Month story in the May/June edition. Honoree Ann Alexander received the Dubrow Volunteer Award for her work with the South Orange / Maplewood Achieve Program, not for her work with autistic children. ▲

SOPAC

Continued from page 1

from the New Jersey State Council on the Arts. Doing so will open doors to many more grants, since the state council is seen in the arts community as a seal of approval.

The Village will incur no additional debt and will continue its long-term nominal lease with SOPAC, but the transfer in building ownership means the Village now has the security of owning the asset instead of the uncollectable debt.

For South Orange taxpayers, the bottom line is relief and stability for future Village budgets. ▲

Natalie Knows...
How to make homeowners happy!

Natalie Farrell | Cell: 917 514-7541
sold@nataliefarrell.com • www.nataliefarrell.com

KELLER WILLIAMS
Each office is independently owned and operated.