

The South Orange Gaslight



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

July/August 2015

Inside

■ Find out why the Village adopted the state Rehab Law

■ Reduce your plastic use for 30 days

■ 3rd & Valley parking garage coming soon

■ Church St. parking lot established

■ You're invited to S.O. Summer Nights 2015!

■ 2015 grads Mia Goldstein and Dwayne Ellmore named June Villagers

Hotel or Restaurant?

Public considers re-use of Village Hall

Orange Board of Trustees on June 15. One offer is a 30-room hotel, the other a restaurant/catering facility.

A plan to restore the building for its original use as the home of Village government has not been abandoned, according to trustees, but late last year, as renovation was proceeding, the board also began looking into adaptive re-use of South Orange's most iconic building.

Village employees moved out of the building in October of 2013, with the expectation of moving back to modernized offices in 2016.

Early this year, the trustees began accepting proposals for adaptive re-use. Two plans (summarized below) were chosen as finalists.

The public meeting on June 15 allowed residents to hear proposals (without financial information) and to comment accordingly.

Two proposed re-uses of Village Hall were presented by prospective buyers during a public meeting of the South

Parking Authority proposes new fees

The South Orange Parking Authority proposed fee increases for 2016 during a public meeting held June 11 at SOPAC.

- Resident commuter garage permit - \$700 per year.
- Alternate location permits for residents - \$450 per year.
- Daily jitney - \$2 per ride.
- Jitney annual pass - \$300.

The increases will cover the 49.7% of the annual garage operating maintenance budget expense that SOPA is responsible for as outlined in the parking agreement the Village entered into with the re-developer. It also replaces the prior revenue earned at the rescue squad lot and a part of the jitney driver salaries, which SOPA has subsidized for four years.

Presenters touted the success of Village jitney services begun in July 2002, when the Village asked SOPA to administer the service using transportation grant money. The initial single route and two buses grew to the current three routes and seven buses. Fees have not changed in 13 years, though initial grant funding ran out in 2011.

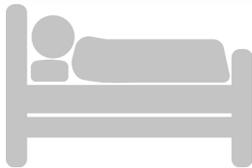
Free senior jitney service, with daily and weekly routes, was added in November 2002.

SOPA subsidizes jitney driver salaries, benefits and administrative services, a total expense of more than \$240,000 a year.

Although many people think of the Parking Authority as a ticketing organization, SOPA does not receive revenue from parking tickets. All ticket revenues go to the Village, about \$350,000 per year.

Boutique Hotel

Presented by
Rosen Group
Summit, NJ



Principal Joe Riella, also owner of the DeBary Inn in Summit, proposed historic exterior renovation. Inside, the 30 hotel rooms would be designed around original building features to make each room unique. Rooms would average \$160 per night.

Riella estimated the hotel would bring 60 people to the Village every day, many shopping and dining in existing businesses. He cited demand for hotel space from Seton

Restaurant, Meeting, Catering Facility

Presented by
Landmark Hospitality
Jersey City, NJ



Principal Frank Cretella envisions a first-floor restaurant and tavern featuring natural wood, stone, an open kitchen, and outdoor dining.

The second floor would house a catering hall for up to 125 guests. It could be divided into three meeting rooms to accommodate local and regional business needs. The building exterior would be restored to its original appearance, and Cretella said he would "open up the garages" to enhance the indoor/

Turn to **Village Hall Re-Uses**, p3

S.O. recycling pickup switched to Thursdays

To improve the reliability of single stream recycling collection, the Village has made an agreement with Giordano Companies — our collection vendor — to change South Orange's curbside collection days to every other Thursday, starting with July 9. **More details and a revised calendar on page 7.**

Old housing stock, needy sewer infrastructure

Here's why the Village adopted the state Rehabilitation Law

Last March, the Board of Trustees adopted a resolution designating the Village as an "area in need of rehabilitation," as authorized by the state Local Housing and Redevelopment Law. To answer concerns raised in the meantime, here's a summary of the law's advantages, with a more complete explanation on the Village website.

In general, the rehabilitation process is focused on repairs, renovations and upgrades to existing buildings. It does not involve blight, possible condemnation or long-term tax abatement.

The Village Trustees adopted rehabilitation on March 9 for two primary reasons: the age of Village housing stock, and the fact that most water and sewer infrastructure is over 50 years old and in need of repair.

The rehabilitation designation avoided excessive costs for redundant studies on different areas of the Village. Instead, the Village-wide designation allowed a single study at far lower cost.

The designation came about after nine months of study and public discussion. Here's what it does and does not accomplish:

- The designation DOES NOT change any existing zoning, authorize any projects or uses, grant any tax abatements, circumvent the zoning process, or bypass the role and jurisdiction of the planning board.
 - Any zoning revision or proposed improvement requires the same procedures as followed in all zoning ordinances.
 - The Village gains stronger control over layout, design, architectural style and aesthetics, not available under regular zoning. Stronger controls ensure compatibility with surrounding properties while preserving the character of the community.
 - The rehabilitation process creates a more open process for reaching consensus on uses and plans. It allows public input before an application is filed with the planning board.
- In adopting the rehabilitation law, the South Orange Board of Trustees was focused on the commercial corridors on Irvington Avenue, Valley Street, and east South Orange Avenue, as well as Marylawn and Orange-lawn. Each project will require a separate ordinance adopted with all of the law's procedures.



Take the challenge! Reduce plastic use for 30 days

To keep plastics out of the Rahway River, and eventually, out of the ocean, the South Orange Environmental Commission has developed a plastic reduction campaign and all Villagers are encouraged to participate.

The campaign was launched in April when 25 people signed the pledge after watching the movie "Bag it — Is Your Life Too Plastic?" at the South Orange Library.

You too can join the campaign by pledging to reduce your personal plastic consumption. Start on any date that works for you and be consistent for 30 days.

Patricia Canning, the commission member who heads the campaign, said an ideal time is July because it incorporates the July 4th holiday, which "tends to generate a lot of plastic consumption, given parties and celebrations."

Once you sign up, consider these suggested ways to reduce your plastic usage:

1. Carry reusable shopping bags - say no to plastic bags.
2. Give up bottled water - use refillable bottles.
3. Buy bulk.
4. Pack food in reusable containers.
5. Choose glass and products with less packaging.
6. Choose multi-functional items such as baking soda to replace exfoliant, detergent, scrubber and toothpaste.
7. Ask local stores and restaurants to stop using plastic bags and Styrofoam take-out containers.

To take the pledge (or to learn how you can volunteer with the Environmental Commission), visit environmental-commission@southorange.org. "Like" the pledge, then share it with community friends.

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SOxSO is here!

Live entertainment, idea exploration and immersion in the arts are on tap at South by South Orange, or SOxSO, Friday to Sunday, June 26-28.

If you're reading this post-event and weren't able to attend, put it on your radar for next year. If it's still ahead, or in progress, here are a few highlights:

- Friday night - a three-floor cocktail party/circus at SOPAC.
- Saturday - thought-provoking panel discussions, an "artistic carnival experience" and plenty of live music.
- Sunday - a live drone demo. Tickets, \$25. Details at www.sovillagecenter.org.

Happenings

Summer wine pairing dinner at Coda

Tuesday, July 21, at 7 p.m.

Diane Letulle, writer of The Wine Lover's Journal, will talk tasters through a selection of wines paired with three dinner courses, plus an after-dinner wine — all featuring selected varietals and appellations. Tasters will vote for their favorites. The pairing will take place at Coda Kitchen & Bar, 177 Maplewood Avenue in Maplewood.

Get free health screenings

Get free screenings for common health conditions! The South Orange Department of Health will hold its annual health fair on *Saturday, Sept. 12*, from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. at the South Orange Fire Department (56 Sloan Street).

Screenings will include blood pressure, hearing, osteoporosis, glu-

cose and cholesterol (both require fasting), a dental screening for children, and a lead screening for adults and children.

You can also get a spinal analysis, learn about cancer, or speak with a nutritionist about your body mass index, label reading and healthy eating.

For parents of young children, child identification kits will be available. Or learn about the federal government's Special Supplemental Nutrition Program for Women, Infants, and Children (WIC).

A limited number of radon test kits will be given out, and the fire department will have some smoke alarms for South Orange homeowners. The

Domestic Violence Response Team will be on hand to discuss their important role in the Village.

For more information, call (973) 378-7715 ext. 7710.

LinkedIn and your career

Thursday, July 9, 6:30-9 p.m.

LinkedIn has become a primary resource for job seekers, career transitioners, recruiters and working professionals, all of whom use it to network, recruit and stay current. Learn how to create a branded presence on Linked In, and how to use the tools and resources. The session will be useful to working professionals, people re-entering the workforce, or those beginning a career.

For information about these and other programs and classes, visit www.somadulthoodschool.org or call (973) 378-7620.

interACT theater camp starts July 13

Children who love the stage can learn acting, playwriting and other fundamental skills during the annual interACT Summer Theater Camp, July 13 to 24.

The first week's theme will be courage, and the second week, strength. Children can sign up for one or both weeks. In each session, campers will write, create and design an original theater piece, to be performed for an audience on the final day of camp.

Instructor Tasha Arroyo recently directed interACT's production of *Schoolhouse Rock Live, Jr.*, and has been involved in more than 20 other productions. A special guest from the professional theater world also will present at each session.

All activities will take place inside The Baird and at

Meadowland Park. Campers must be signed in and out each day by a parent or guardian and should bring a snack, water bottle and lunch.

For details, call (973) 544-8489 or e-mail tasha@interact-productions.org.

On Stage at SOPAC

(973) 313-2787

www.sopacnow.org

• **Rising From the Ashes,**

July 5 at 7 p.m. Catch performances by Plan B and Zaboka Music. The event will raise funds and awareness for the Home of Hope World Wide program. Tickets: \$35-\$75 (\$20 for children under 12).

• **Jazz is Dead Reunion, Aug. 20 at 7:30 p.m.** A 50th anniversary celebration of The Grateful Dead. Tickets, \$40-\$55.

Village Hall Re-Use Continued from p1

Boutique Hotel



Hall, area hospitals, country clubs, and catering

facilities, plus friends and family of South Orange residents.

The 35-space parking lot adjacent to Village Hall would meet the hotel's needs, according to Riella. Many patrons would arrive by public transit. Those with cars would mostly be gone during the day, making the spaces be available to Villagers.

Restaurant, Meeting Hall



outdoor openness of the space.

Cretella has been in business for 25 years and is the owner and operator of multiple restaurants, several with landmark status.

Parking would be managed largely through free valet and arrangements with private parking lot owners. The heaviest parking need would be after 5 p.m.

During public comments following the presentations a number of people favored re-use of the Village Hall; several said office space would be an impractical use for a building that costs \$6 million to renovate. Other speakers favored maintaining the building for its original use.

Residents commented favorably on presenters' plans to:

- Maintain the original exterior.
- Generate tax income.
- Increase economic activity at the corner of Scotland

Road and South Orange Avenue, possibly encouraging lasting tenants along the avenue between Village Hall and Seton Hall.

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Parking garage coming soon at Third and Valley

January, 2016 is the anticipated opening of a new parking garage at Third and Valley streets. It will contain:

- 513 spaces on five levels
- 258 private spaces
- 255 public spaces

All resident commuters displaced from the old rescue squad lot will be transitioned to the new

garage. The Village Hall and firehouse lot will be returned to mixed use for business/employees and shoppers.

Garage parking will be available to employees on Saturdays.

All garage levels will have access to the stairs and elevator, which will deliver drivers to the exit nearest Sloan Street.

Church St. parking lot established

A temporary municipal parking lot with 47 spaces has been established at the corner of Church Street and South Orange Avenue.

Thirty-two spaces are reserved for resident commuter permit holders, Monday to Friday, 5 a.m. to 9:30 a.m. After 9:30 a.m., any unoccupied space may be used by the public or employees with permits.

Another 10 spots are reserved for shoppers, who may park free up to 3 hours.

Five spaces are reserved for SOPAC employees.

The new lot addresses the parking shortage for customers and employees on West South Orange Avenue. Previously, only Riverside municipal lot and 20 street meters served the area.

When the Third and Valley Street parking garage opens, the Church Street lot will remain open to employee and shopper parking; its future development is under consideration.



Help run a success

Join the committee that's planning the 2015 Newstead 5k race and fun run, an annual benefit for the Achieve Foundation, scheduled for Sept. 19. Proceeds support education enhancements in local public schools. To be a sponsor or volunteer, contact Helen DuBow: newstead5k@achievefoundation.org, or call (973) 378-2055.



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COLDWELL BANKER

RESIDENTIAL BROKERAGE



Shop fresh at S.O. Farmers Market

The South Orange Farmers Market is open every Wednesday, now through the end of October, from 2 p.m. to 7:30 p.m. Find fresh produce and prepared foods from some of New Jersey's best farms. Come to the Sloan Street parking lot (adjacent to the train station).

Among this year's vendors are Alstede Farms, Baked-some (breads and savorys), Dining Wild (mushrooms), Glenmalure Farms, Gourmet Nuts & Dried Fruit, Hoboken Farms, Jersey City Veggie Burgers, Nicola's Pasta Fresca, Stony Hall Farms, The Pie Store, Top Shelf Plus (soaps and oils), Treelicious, and Vesco Foods (pickles and olives).

The music starts After Sundown

Village Center is the place to be on Friday or Saturday evenings this summer. SOVCA's free concert series, Downtown After Sundown, presents jazz, blues, pop, rock, folk, R&B and swing music - all performed by local musicians. Performance locations are Spiotta Park, between Chase Bank and Sparkhouse, and Sloan Street in front of the Village Diner. Hours are 7:30 to 10 p.m.

For the full season list of performers, visit www.SO-VillageCenter.org. Look for SOVCA's weekly e-newsletter, which describes each performer.

Stay and Play Weekend returns

Mark your calendar for Sept. 19 and 20, the return of SOVCA's Stay and Play Weekend. Events around town will include the Newstead 5K and PlayDay sponsored by Rite Aid.

Achieve awards educator grants

Assistant principals Charles Ezell of Columbia High School and Kevin Mason of the Tuscan School each received Achieve Foundation Administrator Grants for schoolwide initiatives during the past school year. The awards were given during a foundation ceremony on May 7.

Also awarded were five recipients of Riecke Teaching Fellowships for furtherance of teaching capabilities:

- James Cotter (CHS) will attend the College Board AP Annual Conference in Austin, Texas.
- Lynn McGlotten and Liz Harris of S.O. Middle School will go to Math Camp: Integrating the Common Core into Math Instruction in New York.
- Bebe Greenberg and Donna Grohman of Clinton School will attend the summer institute at the Teachers College Reading and Writing Project in New York.

Learn more about Achieve at www.achievefoundation.org or call (973) 378-2055.

Summer Recreation

(973) 378-7754, x1 • www.thebaird.org

Your kids can choose from an array of sports camps and activities this summer – right here in South Orange. A sample of options is provided below, but much more is available. For complete details and registration, go to www.thebaird.org and select “View Activities.”

- Cool Rocket/Science Camp, ages 6-11, weeks of July 20, 27, Aug. 10, 17 and 24.
- interACT Drama, grades 2-6, weeks of July 13 and 20.
- Cougar Baseball, ages 6-14, weeks of July 6 and 14.
- Wright Skills Girls Basketball Camp, grades 3-12, weeks of July 27 and Aug. 3.
- USSI Multi-Sports Camps, ages 3-12, week of Aug. 17.
- USSI First Play Golf Clinics, ages 4-10, week of Aug. 10.
- USSI Soccer Camps, week of July 6 and Aug. 31.
- USSI Tennis, all ages and ability, weekly through summer.

Adult Nights at South Orange Pool

Two adult-ONLY pool nights will be held at South Orange pool on July 19 and Aug. 16, from 6 to 8 p.m. Bring your floats and friends to enjoy the water, musical entertainment and dinner on the deck. ALL SOUTH ORANGE ADULT RESIDENTS and their guests are welcome. Just show your resident ID badge, driver's license, or other proof of residency at the gate.

Celebrate the Fourth!

South Orange Independence Day festivities will include relay races at Cameron Field, a bouncy house and slide, model boat exhibit at the Duck Pond and afternoon family activities at the pool, including sand art, a photo booth, ping pong and cornhole tournaments. 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. Bring the family and enjoy the day!

Sign Up for Fall Soccer

Registration begins July 1 for the fall season of South Mountain Soccer, for boys and girls in grades 3 through 8. 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.

Summer Dance with Ms. Shona

Saturdays, July 18-Aug. 22

- **Ballet I** (ages 5-6). 11:30 a.m.-12:15 p.m. Cost: \$66. Ballet shoes and leotard required.
- **Pre-Ballet**. 10:30-11:15 a.m. Cost: \$66. Ballet shoes and leotard required.
- **Summer Dance Fusion** (with guardian). 9:30-10:15 a.m. Cost: \$66. Ballet shoes required.

You're Invited! To South Orange Summer Nights 2015

Free summer concerts were wonderful for 20 years. But now there's more! Each Wednesday night in July, Taste the Music brings concerts, family art workshops, food trucks and plenty of neighborly socializing. In August, the fun will be extended with Moonlit Movies. Here's the schedule:

Taste the Music

Flood's Hill, 7:30-10 p.m.

- July 1, Mark Murphy and Friends
- July 8, Max Headroom & The Counterfeiters
- July 15, Dub Proof and Eastbourne
- July 22, Rave On and Bottle Cap Rockets
- July 29, Rock the Hill (local garage bands)

Art in the Park for Kids and Families

Begin each concert night with artistic expression. Denise Hayden leads five free hands-on artistic workshops at Flood's Hill from 6 to 8 p.m.

- July 1 - Watercolor Reveal Painting
- July 8 - Painting on Diffusing Paper (tie-dye-type paintings on special paper)
- July 15 - Bubble Painting
- July 22 - Zen Doodle (your mind creates patterns)
- July 29 - Sand Painting

Moonlit Movies

Wednesdays, Aug. 12, 19 and 26, at Flood's Hill. Movie titles to be announced by SOPAC. Showtimes after dusk.

MAM Art Truck

The Montclair Art Museum Art Truck, a mobile studio, comes to South Orange for two free art projects and lessons, for children and families. On Wednesday, July 1, the truck will be at South Orange pool from 3 to 5 p.m.; and at Flood's Hill from 6 to 8 p.m. (Evening event in South Orange Summer Nights.)

Funky Fun Art Summer Camp

Seven 1-week camp sessions for children in grades 1-5 are available for \$195 per week. Campers enjoy a different theme and art medium each week, such as photography, paint, or comics drawing. Sign up for one or all. Instructor Denise Hayden is the owner of Funky Fun Art.

Weekly Discussions

Thursdays, 1 p.m.

- July 2 - "Life With A Nomad," a talk by American Lydia Samatar who married a nomadic Somali.
- July 16 - filmmaker Emily Hubley presents a film and talk.
- July 30 - "Pirates in Legend, History, and Television," with Karen Gevirtz, author and Seton Hall English professor.
- Aug. 13 - Broadway singer and dancer Christine Sherrill will entertain.
- Aug. 27 - Acclaimed international pianist Young Woong Cho will perform.

'Romeo and Juliet' comes to the library

The Shakespeare Theatre of New Jersey's Next Stage Ensemble will perform Shakespeare's "Romeo and Juliet" in costume, on Tuesday, July 21 at 7 p.m. Admission is free.

Recurring Events

- Library Book Club - July 27, "Still Alice," by Lisa Genova. Aug. 24, "Claire of the Sea Light," by Edwidge Danticat.
- Knitting Workshop with Nan Samons - Aug. 17, at noon.
- Creative Writing Workshop - July 1 at 1 p.m. No experience necessary.
- Wednesdays at the Movies - July 8, "Annie"; July 22, "Percy Jackson"; Aug. 5, "Cowgirls and Angels"; Aug.

19, "Into The Woods." All shows at 1 p.m.

Children's Room

- LEGOs (age 5+) / Minecraft (age 7+) - alternating Mondays, 3 p.m., starting with LEGOs on July 6.
- Family Monday Nights, sponsored by Friends of SOPL, all ages, 7 p.m., July 6 to Aug. 10.
- Tech Tuesdays (all ages) - July 14, July 28, at 2 p.m.
- Super Reader Crafts (all ages) - alternating Wednesdays, July 15 to Aug. 12.
- Super Art (all ages) - Build a library, Thursday, July 9. Reuse & Recycle, Thursday, July 23, 2 p.m.
- Tie-dye (all ages) - Thursday, Aug. 6 at 2 p.m. Rain date Aug. 13.
- Friday Movies (all ages) 1:30 p.m.
- Anime Club (grades 6-12) - watch, read, discuss, 4 p.m.

Special Children's Events

- Superheroes Art Contest - residents through age 18 can enter South Orange Rotary's contest throughout July. Information is available at the library.
- Heroes of the Wild West, family story hour, July 16 at 7 p.m. Costumes welcome.
- ABC Mehndi (up to age 12), July 23, 7 p.m.

• SOPL Celebrates our Diverse Community (all ages), Aug. 8, 7 p.m.

• Celebrate Ruby's birthday (local canine hero), Aug. 12, 3 p.m.

Storytimes

- Tuesday Toddlers (ages 2½+), 11 a.m.
- Wednesday Babies (birth - 2½) 10 a.m.
- Lunch Storytime (all ages) 1 p.m., alternate Wednesdays.

SOPlayers Drama Club

A workshop for all ages takes place Aug. 6 and 7 at 11 a.m., followed by a performance on Aug. 10, at 7 p.m.

Children's Summer Hours (as of June 27)

- M, 12-9
 - Sat, closed
 - T W F, 9-6
 - Sun, 1-5
 - Th, 9-9
- Closed July 3, 5, Sept. 6, 7

Property tax relief program deadline extended

The state has extended until Oct. 15 the application deadline for the Senior Freeze property tax relief program.

The extension will allow more residents who meet the requirement to apply.

Those who applied before the original June 1 deadline will receive a check in July, according to the state treasurer. Applications filed after June 1 will be processed "as quickly

as possible." Last year's average payment was \$1,200.

To be eligible for Senior Freeze, you must be 65 or older or you must be receiving Social Security benefits and have lived in New Jersey for 10 years.

For details or to request an application, call the Senior Freeze hotline at (800) 882-6597 between 8:30 a.m. and 4:30 p.m. weekdays.

Dwayne Ellmore

Continued from page 8

has helped raise funds through golf tournaments and dinners in New York and New Jersey. He plans to stay involved in the summers of his college years.

"It's my way to give back to our vets who have given so

much of themselves," he says.

Dwayne is a lifelong resident of South Orange and the son of Karen Deas and Steve Ellmore. "It's definitely my home town," says Dwayne, and South Orange can be proud it is.

S.O. RECYCLING PICKUP SWITCHED TO Thursdays

To improve the reliability of single stream recycling collection, the Village has agreed with Giordano Companies — the collection vendor — to change South Orange’s curbside collection days to every other Thursday, starting with July 9.

Collections will occur in the same weeks as the current Wednesday schedule, as indicated on the revised pickup calendar below. The switch to Thursdays will better align with Giordano’s staffing and trucks, and will eliminate most late-day or following-day collections. Resident understanding and cooperation will ultimately result in more reliable service.

Clip & Save

Revised Calendar, 2nd half 2015

JULY

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OCTOBER

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NOVEMBER

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DECEMBER

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When There’s Inclement Weather

Material will be collected the following day unless you are notified via Village website, e-mail or other means.

Missed Collections, Complaints

Notify the township contractor, Giordano Recycling, at: (800) 216-2250, x2 • dispatch@gogreengiardano.com

Summer Recycling Services

So. Orange Dept. of Public Works
300 Walton Avenue • (973) 378-7741

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 25, Aug. 22 and Sept. 26

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 2014 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 11, Maplewood
- Oct. 3, Maplewood
- Sept. 12, South Orange
- Dec. 19, 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. 15.

Paper Shredding Day

Come to the Public Works Yard on Saturday, Oct. 10, from 8 a.m. to noon. The shredding vendor will provide a “certificate of destruction” to verify that all material was shredded beyond recognition.

Grass Clippings

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

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., x2037
Health Officer x7710
Animal Control x7711
Fire Dept. 762-3200
Library 762-0230
Police Dept. 763-3000
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 Villagers of the month Mia Goldstein



• In the aftermath of the controversial Michael Brown/ Eric Garner cases, Mia Goldstein was co-leader of a Columbia High School

protest. More than 500 students — half black, half white — crowded the lunch room to hear a panel discussion.

• In her freshman year, while other students complained about lack of school cleanliness and while school officials debated the maintenance budget, Mia produced a documentary exposing the mess. Today, CHS is cleaner and Mia won the school's Best Documentary Award that year.

• She also co-founded "Conversations at Columbia," a forum for students to talk through tough issues like bullying.

Mia became an activist probably before she knew how to define the word and today, her drive to advocate for others is a defining characteristic. Younger students becoming more socially conscious have sought her out, not only for her activism, but also because she directed the school cable network's evening news and co-pressed over the school film club. She was also an alternate student representative to the board of education.

"If no one else does it, nothing is going to happen," says Mia regarding her leadership. "I've just always known it's better to be active than passive."

Mia will double-major in radio/

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TV/film and political science when she heads off to the University of Texas at Austin this fall.

She goes with solid grounding from mentors who include Joanna Wright, the middle school teacher (now on the board of education) who "always encouraged me to dance to the beat of my own drum," and A.P. history teacher James Cotter, "one of the most brilliant people I've ever met . . . He is responsible for why I can write and think clearly." He taught her in "the years I really became me."

Mia leaves South Orange with

an appreciation of its open diversity. After that racism-inspired school protest, CHS Principal Elizabeth Aaron gave Mia a big hug and thanked her for making it happen.

"I don't think there are very many other schools/communities where the highest administrator would be so happy that something like that happened," said Mia.

She also praises the spirit of volunteerism that pervades South Orange. "People here are compelled to help others. Being a member of this community, it's hard not to pick up on that message."

Dwayne Ellmore



Volunteering in a soup kitchen "changed my point of view," says Dwayne Ellmore. "I was never really around people who didn't know where the next meal would

come from. It made me realize how privileged I am and opened my eyes to the realities of the world. That motivates me to serve others."

Students and adults alike respect Dwayne for the way he cares about others while balancing school, community and church activities.

That mix of experience has taught him that "I work very well with people. It has helped me confirm what I want to do."

Dwayne is an aspiring media production expert who will major in TV, radio and film at Syracuse University starting this fall. He has a head start thanks to his work with the Columbia

Cable Network where he helped produce the morning news program throughout his junior and senior years. I'm very appreciative of that opportunity and look forward to what the experience will bring in my future."

Dwayne's scholarly chops are evidenced by his membership in the National Society of High School Scholars, and in MacScholar for students of color at CHS. He's also an athlete who competed on the varsity swim team and the JV lacrosse team. And at St. Matthew AME Church in Orange, he's a house media tech for Sunday services and special events.

Of all his activities, Dwayne talks most passionately about Building Homes for Heroes, a national nonprofit organization that builds mortgage-free homes for returning vets to help them restart their lives after war. For three years, Dwayne

Turn to **Dwayne Ellmore**, p6

#1 Agent for Weichert in South Orange!



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