

The South Orange Gaslight



S.O. Police cars now equipped with video cameras

Convictions for drunk driving cases and police pursuits are expected to increase in the Village now that the South Orange Police Department has in-car video recorders.

In January, the department installed digital in-car cameras that allow 30-plus hours of recording. The system records police activity on the spot, then quickly downloads to the server back at the police station. Officers can view the video immediately upon returning to the station. Video evidence remains untainted, officer safety is increased, and department liability is reduced.

The digital video systems were purchased under a state contract from Link Communications, Ltd., the same system used by the NJ State Police.

The Link system includes multiple record triggers, automatic wire-



less file transfer and automatic software updates. The system ensures a complete chain of evidence,

and allows officers to improve their response to danger by using the cameras for training purposes.

"In-car video systems help improve officer safety and reduce agency liability, frivolous lawsuits, and officer court appearance time," said Police Chief Jim Chelel. ▲



Idling cars, trucks, school buses, public and private buses, and off-road construction vehicles all contribute to the degradation of air quality. State regulations limit most engine idling for diesel and gasoline vehicles to three minutes, and offenders can be arrested.

South Orange Police say there have been few violations since the anti-idling law was adopted in 2007 and the complaints they do receive usually involve charter buses, such as the vehicles that transport sports teams to events.

Still, idling occurs continuously and the New Jersey Department of Environmental Protection suggests 10 things you can do to reduce air pollution caused your car.

1. *Don't idle for more than 10 seconds.* Doing so uses more fuel than turning the car off and back on.
2. *Obey the speed limit.* Your car's fuel efficiency will be increased.
3. *Walk to nearby destinations.*
4. *Carpool.*
5. *Ride your bike to school.*
6. *Don't wait in line at the drive-thru.* Park your car and walk inside.
7. *Take the bus on longer trips.*
8. *Make sure your car's tires are properly inflated.* Under-inflated tires force your car to work harder, using more fuel and emitting extra pollution.

Calling all candidates for Village trustee

A municipal election will be held Tuesday, May 10 for Village President and three Village Trustee seats. All positions are four-year terms. The 2011 candidate reference guide and nomination petitions may be picked up at the Village Clerk's Office in Village Hall. Completed documents must be filed with the Village Clerk by 4 p.m. on Thursday, March 17. Each completed petition must include at least 123 names of registered Village voters. Names may not be added after the deadline. For information, drop by the Clerk's Office or call (973) 378-7715, x1. ▲

Residency Reporting Hotline

The School District of South Orange and Maplewood has created a Residency Reporting Hotline so that information concerning students believed ineligible to attend district schools may be reported. Call (973) 762-5600, x1749 to anonymously report any information.

9. *Try not to use the car air conditioner.*
 10. *Clean out your trunk.* Extra weight costs you more fuel.
- Idling is an ongoing concern because it contributes to many health problems including asthma and heart disease. ▲

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

**March/April
2011**

Inside

■ CHS auditorium restoration under way; you can help

■ New director hired for S.O. Cultural Arts

■ Clip and save Spring/Summer DPW residential services

■ CHS grad creates historic walking trail

■ "Booked 8" at Pierro Gallery, March 11 - April 9

■ Lonnie Wright named February Villager of the Month

Fundraising under way for CHS auditorium restoration

Renovation of the Columbia High School auditorium is the aim of the "Take-a-Seat" campaign, an ongoing fundraiser of the Achieve Foundation of South Orange and Maplewood. Funds raised will help the school district pay for architectural and technical upgrades, and return the hall to its 1927 grandeur.

Those who make a tax-deductible donation can dedicate an auditorium seat with a permanent plaque honoring a student, graduate, parent, faculty member or special occasion.

Achieve will unveil a rendering of the restored hall and a list to date of seat dedications on March 11 — opening night of the CHS all-school musical, "The Drowsy Chaperone."

The musical, directed by Robert Cohen, will feature CHS student singers, dancers, musicians and stage crew. Dates are March 11, 12, 13, 18, 19 and 20. Tickets are available at Maplewood Stationers, Maplewood Pizzeria, Stony's, The Corner Deli, or the CHS main office, (973) 762-5600, x1018.

Take-a-Seat donations range from \$150 to \$500 per dedication, with larger underwriting opportunities starting at \$1,000. To donate or for information, go to www.achieve-foundation.com. ▲

CHS grad creates historic Village walking trail

Spring is coming! Time to lace up your walking shoes, and Cory Dahn has just the route for you.

As a member of Boy Scout Troop 60 in South Orange, Dahn completed his Eagle project last year. He planned and created a self-guided walking tour including 12 historic sites in the Village.

Inspiration for the project came after his troop walked several historic trails, including Valley Forge, Jockey Hollow, and the Philadelphia historic trail.

Dahn is a 2010 graduate of Columbia High, now a freshman at Ithaca College where he is majoring in cinema and photography.

Walking Trail ... *cont'd on p6*



Director hired for South Orange cultural arts

A passionate arts advocate, educator and practitioner has been selected as the new part-time director of cultural affairs at The Baird. Sandy Martiny brings to the role her vast experience with museums, teaching and community arts programming.

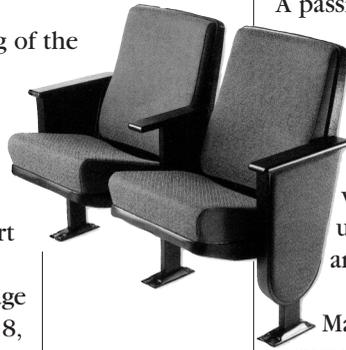
"Art is us, isn't it?" asks Martiny. "We make it, we consume it, we experience it, and we have since we lived in the cave. Maybe art is the ultimate time machine that gives us access to ideas, past, present and future."

Martiny started with South Orange in mid-February. When she learned about the opening, "I was pleasantly surprised by the variety of cultural arts programming. It's a community that really supports the arts and integrates it into citizens' lifestyles."

Martiny is the founder of Museum Resources Professionals, a consulting company that helps cultural institutions find temporary services such as museum education, fundraising and curating.

Previously, she was curator of education at Jersey City Museum and director of education at the National Academy Museum in New York City. She was a teaching artist affiliated with the New Jersey State Council on the Arts and Essex Area Council for the Arts. She also co-founded a Jersey City nonprofit, Studio Heights, which created opportunities for artists, community members and children to make neighborhood works of art.

Martiny holds MFA and BFA degrees and also studied at the Slade School of Art in London. She lives in Jersey City with her husband and two daughters. ▲



DPW holds Paper Shredding Day

Need to safely dispose of obsolete records and documents? South Orange will hold a "Paper Shredding Day" as a free service to residents only on April 9. Hours will be 8 a.m. to noon at the Department of Public Works Yard at 300 Walton Avenue. Two forms of ID will be required, preferably including a South Orange recreation ID card.

integration through the ARTS

Can art integrate people of different racial and ethnic backgrounds? The South Orange/Maplewood Community Coalition on Race believes it can, and their new "Integration through the Arts" program will test the theory. Two free ITA programs are planned this spring for South Orange and Maplewood residents only.

■ **Kids & Parents.** Catch a performance of Dr. Seuss' "Green Eggs and Ham" and "The Sneetches" on Saturday, March 26 at the SOPAC Loft. Well known local artists, including Lori Mirabal and Emily Zacharius, will be among the performers. The one-hour program will combine opera, chamber orchestra, dance, mime and a brief children's chat after the show. Performances will be at 10 a.m. and 11:30 a.m. (Free, but donations appreciated.)

■ **Photographers.** A three-session ITA photography workshop will begin in March (check the website in early March). Amateur and professional photographers are invited and must use their own cameras. Local professional photographers will lead the sessions.

• Workshop 1 - A brief talk on integration, the theme for photo content, followed by a review of photography basics.

• Workshop 2 - Participant questions and challenges.

• Workshop 3 - Mounting and photo display.

In April, selected photos will be displayed at a reception where workshop participants will tell how their photos were inspired.

Partial funding for both programs comes from the NJ State Council on the Arts/Department of State, a Partner of the National Endowment for the Arts, administered by Essex County Division of Cultural and Historical Affairs. For more information, visit www.twotowns.org or call (973) 761-6116. ▲



SPORTS & FITNESS

(973) 378-7754 • www.thebaird.org

Jaguar Track, Ages 6-18 - Spring registration will be taken in person at The Baird on Wednesday, Mar. 16, from 7:30 to 9 p.m., and Saturday, Mar. 19, from 10 a.m. to noon. For details, see the website or call Coach Cooper, (973) 763-0617, or Coach Johnson, (973) 762-0910.

Adult Tae Kwon Do - Learn practical self defense while acquiring discipline, body conditioning, self-confidence and stress reduction. Instructor Steve Safran. Tuesdays, 8 to 9:15 p.m.

Tae Kwon Do for Special Needs Children - Parents of children with autism learn to work more effectively with their children, and both benefit from exercising. Ages 6 to 10: Saturdays, 1 to 2 p.m. Ages 11 to 22: Saturdays, 2 to 3 p.m. Instructor Jeff Jacobs.

Tennis Lessons - Lessons for children and adults begin in April. See the website for dates, times and fees.

U.S. Sports Institute Sports Squirts - South Orange will host the U.S. Sports Institute Sports Squirts program in Meadowland Park on Monday mornings beginning April 25. Children ages 3 to 5 are introduced to a variety of sports in a safe, structured environment. For details or to register, visit www.USSportsInstitute.com, or call (866) 345-BALL.

U.S. Sports Institute Multi Sports Camps - South Orange will host the U.S. Sports Institute Spring Multi Sports Camps for children ages 5 to 14 during the spring break, Monday to Thursday, April 18 to 21. More than 15 sports will be included. Class options are as follows:

- 9 a.m. - 12:30 p.m., ages 5-14, \$135
- 1 - 4 p.m., ages 5-14, \$110
- 9 a.m. - 4 p.m., ages 6-14, \$160

For details or to register, visit www.USSportsInstitute.com, or call (866) 345-BALL.

■ **Family Arts Classes**

The Baird will offer eight weeks of cultural arts classes for infant through adult beginning in April. All classes are taught by professional artists in their fields. Choices include clay, art exploration, drawing, and printmaking. Performing arts classes include guitar, sing-alongs, ballet, flamenco and Middle Eastern dance. For details, visit the website, arts@southorange.org, or call (973) 378-7754, x1.

■ **Renew your ID badge now!**

Take advantage of lower fees and avoid long lines by purchasing your 2011 Recreation & Cultural Affairs ID badge now! It's more than just a pool badge. Residents receive discounts on many department-sponsored classes and programs. Badges are issued at The Baird with two proofs of residency. Details can be found online.

Membership Fees.

- Jan. 1 to May 15, \$30 per person, maximum family fee \$120.
- May 16 to Dec. 31, \$35 per person, maximum family fee \$140.

■ **Summer Playground sign-up**

This year's summer program will run from June 27 to Aug. 12. Applications will be accepted from March 1 to 15 at The Baird. To apply, you must be a South Orange residents with a current photo ID badge.

Children age 4 through 8th grade can participate in the half-day program, which includes planned activities and supervised free time.

Details and applications are available at The Baird and online. Acceptance will be determined by lottery at some sites (see program brochure).

■ **Register for Baird Preschool**

Limited openings are available for the 2011-2012 school year. South Orange and Maplewood residents ages 2 ½ through 4 ½ are eligible. The pre-K curriculum combines learning and recreation under Director Dru Barkalow. Details and registration online or at The Baird.

PIERRO GALLERY

www.pierrogallery.org

Booked 8 - "Rescue/Reveal"

Mar. 11 - April 9

10 - 4 daily. Closed Mondays.



Booked 8, presented by the Book Arts Roundtable, is an exhibition and a series of special events built around the theme "Rescue/Reveal." For a prospectus, go to the roundtable website, www.bookartsroundtable.com.

Related Events

- *Opening Reception*, March 10, 6:30 to 9 p.m., with a talk on wooden and sculptural books by Daniel Essig.
- *Demonstrations*. Nine book and paper art demonstrations are scheduled throughout the exhibition.

DREAMCATCHER REPERTORY THEATER

www.dreamcatcherrep.org
973-378-7754, x2228

• **Distracted**, by Lisa Loomer, comes to Playwrights Theatre of NJ in Madison March 4 to 20. (Baird closed for repair in March.) Does 9-year-old Jesse have ADHD, or just normal boyishness? Is our entire culture distracted? Catch this 2009 Off-Broadway hit that's as funny as it is relevant. Tickets: \$15 to \$30, available online or at (800) 838-3006.

• **Multiple Personality Disorder**, Dreamcatcher's improvisational comedy troupe, performs April 9, at 8 p.m. Enjoy an evening of spontaneous fun that features ridiculous settings, unlikely characters, and hilarious accidents. Unpredictable fun for the whole family! Tickets: \$15 online or at (800) 838-3006.

Slough off winter & fire your neurons

It's not too late to sign up for spring classes at the South Orange-Maplewood Adult School. Season highlights include:

- *Celebrity Readings*, a fundraiser at the Woman's Club of Maplewood, on Monday, April 4 at 7:30 p.m.



Laila Robins



Robert Cuccioli

Hear short stories read by Isaiah Sheffer, Robert Cuccioli and Laila Robins, then enjoy a wine and dessert reception. Tickets are \$40 in advance or \$45 at the door.

- *The Active Mind* - From the Eva Samo Lecture Series, to College for a Day, to art history and writing, be chal-

lenged mentally and creatively by outstanding teachers.

- *Get Physical* - Choose from five gardening courses, try pilates, yoga or t'ai chi. Or how about a swimming, dance, guitar or flamenco class?

For information about these and many more offerings, visit www.somadult-school.org, pick up a catalog at a local library, or call (973) 378-7620.

Explore new choices in publishing

Professionals in Media offers "New Choices in Publishing," a talk with Linda West Eckhardt, author of 21 cookbooks. Traditional book publishers no longer have a lock on the industry, says Eckhardt, who will discuss modern types of publishing businesses and services on March 18 at 7 p.m. at the Ethical Culture Society, 516 Prospect Street in Maplewood. Donation: \$10. RSVP Jackie Hershings, Jacqueline@jacquelinehershings.com, (973) 763-7555 or Michele Hollow michele@petnewsandviews.com

or (973) 762-3854.

Main Street S. Orange

www.MainStreetSouthOrange.org
(973) 763-6899 • director@MainStreetSouthOrange.org

Two job openings. Main Street is hiring for two temporary/seasonal positions:

- Downtown after Sundown Concert Series Manager
- Farmers' Market Manager

For online information, go to www.mainstreetsouthorange.org/MSSOjobs.htm.

Lookin' good! Are you concerned about how our downtown looks? Do you have great taste or style? Do you coordinate colors well? Maybe you have graphic design experience.

If so, the Main Street Design Committee needs you to help merchants with signage, awnings, lighting, facades, and windows. The committee also has a hand in all new construction projects. Have fun working on creative projects and see your ideas come to life. Contact Main Street for details.

Save the date: June 11. MSSO is planning its fifth annual Celebrate South Orange: Take this Town & Love it! - the event that celebrates everything great about South Orange. Sponsors are needed to support the event that grows more popular every year. Contact Main Street for details.

On Stage at SOPAC

SOPACnow.org
(973) 275-1114

- March 6, 11 a.m. and 2 p.m. - "Three Classics by Mercer Mayer," family theater, \$20.

- Mar 12, 8 p.m. - "The Gong Show Live," \$35.

- March 13, 3 p.m. - Juilliard performs "Concitato," classical music, \$15/\$12/\$10.

- March 14, 7:30 p.m. - Pianist Benjamin Hochman, classical music, presented by Seton Hall Arts Council, \$25/\$15/\$8.

- March 15, 7:30 p.m. - Seton Hall University Jazz Ensemble, free.

- March 19, 8 p.m. and March 20, 3 p.m. - "RED-Saturday," a tribute to Red



Tom Mullica as Red Skelton

Skelton, starring Tom Mullica, family comedy, \$35/\$25.

- March 22, 7:30 p.m. - Violinist Midori, \$25/\$15/\$8.

- March 25, 8 p.m. - Jil Aigrot, channeling the voice of Edith Piaf, \$50/\$40.

- March 26, 4 p.m. and 7 p.m. - Chinese Acrobats of Hebei, \$35/\$25.

- April 16, 8 p.m. - Bill Charlap and Renee Rosnes, jazz, piano, \$55/\$45/\$35.

- April 17, 7 p.m. - Orla Fallon of Celtic Women, \$40/\$30.

- April 19, 7:30 p.m. - Rodriguez Brothers, jazz music presented by Seton Hall Arts Council, \$25/\$15/\$8.

- April 26, 7 p.m. - Angelique Kidjo, world music, \$48/\$38.

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South Orange Public Works, 300 Walton Avenue

973-378-7741



Spring Clean-Up

Curbside Placement:

April 4 - May 16 (no overlap)

Branches

Must be less than four inches in diameter. For those measuring two inches or less, tie in bundles with cord or twine. Place on grass next to curb, not on street or sidewalk.

Not Permitted: roots, stumps or branches larger than four inches in diameter.

Leaves, Yard Clippings, Garden Rakings

Place in brown biodegradable paper bags only, on grass next to curb, not on sidewalk or street.

Do not rake leaves into streets for spring clean-up. Loose leaves and material in plastic bags will not be picked up.

Ignoring the rules is a violation of the Municipal Housing Code.

Grass Clippings

South Orange Disposal picks up grass clippings in plastic bags only, from April 1 to Nov. 1. Limit: two bags per week, 30 pounds per bag. Place curbside on the second weekly garbage collection day.

Humus, Shredded Wood

Limited quantities available to residents at DPW. A fee of \$50 per order is payable before delivery.

- Humus - decomposed leaves, finely textured and dark colored, used as a soil supplement.
- Shredded Wood - hardwood mulch used as top dressing for gardens, flowerbeds, and around trees. May contain bits of rock. Not treated.

Ordering/Delivery (973) 378-7741

Starting Tuesday, Mar. 22, DPW will make appointments for free delivery of humus and shredded wood. Actual delivery starts in April. One product per household per month. Products are delivered loose to the driveway.

Saturday Container Days

April 30, May 21, June 25, July 23, Aug. 27, Sept. 24

8 a.m. to 1:45 p.m.
(no arrivals after 1:30 p.m.)

Special disposal containers are provided on site. To enter, two proofs of residency are required. The program is not open to commercial or industrial companies.

Permitted - Furniture, mattresses, appliances*, branches under 4 inches in diameter, toys, small household items, tools, strollers, playpens, metal items.**

* Drop off metal during regular DPW hours: weekdays, 8 to 4.; Saturdays, 8 to noon.

** Separate metals and appliances from other household items and remove doors on refrigerators and freezers.

Not Permitted - Paint cans (empty or not), propane bottles, hazardous chemicals or their containers, construction materials (such as tiles, plaster, sheetrock, paneling, wood with nails), roof shingles, grass clippings, household food items, car/truck parts, batteries of any size, stumps, root sections, branches measuring more than four inches in diameter, railroad ties, pressure-treated or painted wood, doors/windows with glass or hardware, or any electronic hardware.

No metal items or appliances allowed.

Note: DPW staff reserves the right to prohibit other items as necessary. Call in advance to ask about a specific item.

Electronic Recycling Drop-Offs

Drop off used electronic items in South Orange or Maplewood. Proof of residency is required.

Saturday Drop-Offs

8 a.m. to noon

Mar. 26	.....	South Orange
May 7	.....	Maplewood
June 18	.....	South Orange
July 16	.....	Maplewood
Sept. 17	.....	South Orange
Oct. 22	.....	Maplewood
Dec. 17	.....	South Orange

Drop-Off Locations

- South Orange Recycling, 300 Walton Avenue, 973-378-7741.
- Maplewood Public Works, 359 Boyden Avenue, 973-762-1175.

Permitted - Computer monitors, CPUs, keyboards, printers, mainframes, fax machines, scanners, telecommunications equipment, speakers, televisions, VCRs, stereos, DVD players, toasters, irons and old cell phones.

Not Permitted

- Commercial and large-quantity electronics users.
- Electronics pickup appointments.

Alternatives to Saturday Drop-Offs

If circumstances prevent your drop-off on a normal electronic recycling day, you may drop off the Thursday before in South Orange. Call first at (973) 378-7741. In Maplewood, drop off the Friday before, between 2 and 4 p.m. Call (973) 762-1175.

Natural landscape guidelines clarified

Less water, fertilizer, pesticide and herbicide are used by those who adopt natural landscape methods. With green benefits in mind, the Board of Trustees amended the Village Property Maintenance Code in 2009, allowing property owners to maintain all or a portion of their properties in a natural state, including forested land.

Recently, guidelines have been prepared to clarify the amendment. Natural landscapers are required to remove hazardous dead trees and to keep living plants from invading adjacent properties. All landscapes, lawns and plantings must be maintained in an orderly state. Code enforcement inspectors may consider the following as possible indications of neglect:

- Growths of poison ivy, ragweed, poison sumac, or stinging nettles in non-lawn areas.

- Unmown and overgrown lawns (on maintained landscapes).

- Litter or garbage on property.

- Heaps of soil, stone, wood, ash or uncomposted yard trimmings.

- Broken remains of fences, gates or other structures.

- Plant-obstructed sidewalks.

Other guidelines allow leaves to be left for mulching among horticultural plantings. Grass clippings and leaves may be mown back into lawns. ▲

Walking Trail *Cont'd from p2*

For his Eagle project, he worked with fellow scouts and troop leaders, as well as Village officials and town historians to research historically important sites in South Orange. The resulting self-guided walking tour takes 45 to 60 minutes. It begins and ends at the Baird Community Center.

The guide booklet contains site descriptions, written walking directions and a street map with addresses and compass coordinates.

To download the guide, visit the Village website "Information" page and click on "Historic S.O." ▲

Celebrate Dr. Seuss' birthday

Kids will read aloud from Dr. Seuss' works in a birthday celebration of the great children's author at 7 p.m. on Monday, March 7 at the South Orange Public Library. Advance reader sign-ups are requested. All are welcome.

Check out the Job & Career Accelerator,

a comprehensive source for resume and computer skills webinars, test preparation, interview assistance and more. Find it on the "Job Guidance Page" at the library website, www.sopl.org.

Library Events

(973) 762-0230 • www.sopl.org

SCORE programs (Service Corps of Retired Executives) - In two programs, retired business people serve as volunteer advisors to fledgling entrepreneurs:

"How to Write a Really Dynamite Business Plan," April 7, 7 p.m.

"Creating Social Media Strategies That Work," April 28, 7 p.m.

Take a Kaplan prep test

No charge; registration requested.

- SAT Practice Test - April 2, 9:30 a.m. - 1:30 p.m.

- SAT Workshop - April 21, at 7 - 8:30 p.m.

Favorite Songs of the 50s -

Dreamcatcher Repertory Theatre presents a sing-along on Wednesday, March 30 at 1 p.m.

Black Maria Film Festival comes



back to the library Tuesday, April 12 at 7 p.m., presented by

director and founder John Columbus.

Spring Concert - featuring pianist Benjamin Cooper, March 20, 3-4 p.m.

Knitting Workshop - Mondays, March 21 and April 18, at noon with professional knitter Nan Samons.

"Nutritional Science: Creating a Successful Lifestyle" - a talk with Dr. Ernest A. Ehrhardt, Thursday, March 24, at 7 p.m.

Ongoing Adult Programs

- S. O. Book Review Group - March 28, 7:30 p.m., "When Everything Changed," by Gail Collins. April 25, "Almost Dead," by Assaf Gavron.

- Wednesdays at the Movies - Mar. 2, 16, April 13, 27, at 1 p.m. Movie selections to be announced.

- Creative Writing Workshop -

Mar. 9, 23, April 6, 20, at 1 p.m.

Children's Programs

Call about these programs: Lego Club (6-8 and 9+); Toddler Story Hour; Books and Babies; Book Bunch book club, ages 7-9; music with Miss Marilyn; banjo music; PJ Storytime; Homeschooling Families; Friday Drop-In Crafts.

South Orange Library Discussion Group

Thursdays, 1 p.m.

- March 3 - "Social and Environmental Impacts of the Natural Gas Industry in Wyoming," presented by Mark Boglioli, professor of anthropology at Drew University.

- March 10 - "Ireland in the 21st Century," with Bill Rogers, Drew University history professor.

- March 17 - A play presented by writer/actor Brian Dowd and Seton Hall communications professor James McGlone.

- March 24 - Carlos Decena, Rutgers professor of women's studies, speaks on immigration.

- March 31 - "The Territorial Expansion of the United States: From Colonial Times to Recent History," with Eugene Lieber, history professor emeritus at Essex County College.

- April 7 - "Global Poverty and Medical Care in the Developing World," with Harry Zutz, founder of the anesthesia division of Health Volunteers Overseas.

- April 14 - "Seders and Last Suppers: Finding the Deeper Meaning in Our Lives," with Lewis Epstein, psychotherapist and author.

- April 21 - "Words and Music of George Harrison," with John Wargacki, Seton Hall English professor.

- April 28 - "Opium Wars, Trench Warfare, Spanish Armada, and Other Tragic Chapters in History," with political scientist and historian Stephen Schoeman.

Dear Villagers,

Help support your local library by renewing your membership or making a tax deductible donation to The Friends of the South Orange Public Library. In this time of severe budget cuts, the library needs your help now more than ever. Your membership funds will go directly toward events and programs that support the library's educational, informational, and cultural missions.

Current and ongoing programs and projects include:

- Direct financial support for new books and materials to keep our library collections current.
- The Book Cage, our used book store, housed in the library to sell donated books
- Purchases of toys, books, equipment, and other materials for the Childrens Room.

- Full sponsorship of the summer reading program, and popular entertainment such as Big Jeff.
- Resources and financial support for the rehabilitation/renovation of the Connett Library building.
- Vocal advocacy for the library to local and state governments.

- Funding for the restoration and digitization of important local historic documents.

Please fill out and return the form below to join or donate, and begin supporting your local library today!

Sincerely, The Friends



Join the Friends of the South Orange Public Library!

Choose your membership level. Note: Pre-school, Student and Lifetime are one-time payments. All other membership levels are yearly dues payments.

Pre-school (to age 6) \$3 Family \$25
 Student (age 7-16) \$10 Sustaining Member \$60
 Senior \$10 Patron \$100
 Individual \$15 Lifetime Member \$300

New member **Renewal**

Name: _____

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Phone Number: _____

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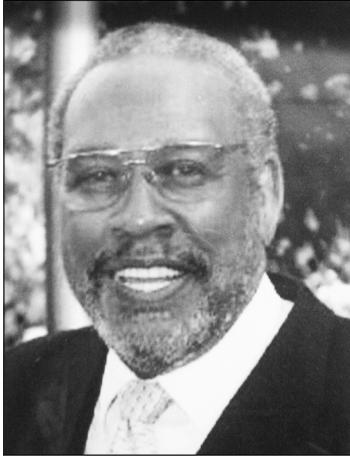
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Villager of the Month **Lonnie Wright**



There are those who honor their communities by performing talents far beyond the norm, and those who bring honor by helping *others* excel beyond barriers.

Lonnie Wright has done both. He is a remarkable athlete who successfully played two professional sports, then transitioned to education to help nearly 2,000 minority students from underprivileged backgrounds become medical doctors.

Ask Wright how he made the switch from professional sports to education and he'll tell you: "I don't know really. Sometimes God places you in positions that you really don't understand. It's not until later that you understand."

Wright earned a degree in education from Colorado State University. Later, when he left behind his stellar sports career, he returned to New Jersey and took a position as assistant superintendent of parks and recreation for the City of Newark. He became acquainted with two doctors who urged him to apply for an opening at the University of Medicine and Dentistry of New Jersey.

"They thought students needed somebody who could give them solid advice. I didn't know what they meant," he said. "How could I advise young people smarter than me?"

"But I found out — they have their own issues, and you can reach them through advice and counseling."

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Wright's ability to inspire was partially based on his heroic athletic background, which began long before he got to the pros. At South Side High School in Newark, he earned All-City, All-County, All-State, and All-American honors in both football and basketball.

At Colorado State, he set the school's shot put record and was part of the Rams basketball team that went to the 1966 NCAA

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Basketball Tournament.

"Baseball probably was my favorite sport, but there wasn't enough action," he said in an interview with the Denver Post. "I was quite a football player as a quarterback, but I thought my future probably was in basketball."

He was drafted in 1966 by the NBA's St. Louis Hawks (now the Atlanta Hawks) but did not sign with the team. The Dallas Cowboys and Denver Broncos came courting at the same time.

"I thought I had the best of both worlds," said Wright. "I got some bonus money from the Broncos, but thought I'd probably get cut and then I could go to basketball."

He became a starting safety for the Broncos and played the 1966 and 1967 seasons. As the '67 season wound down, the Denver Rockets (predecessor to the Denver Nuggets) heard Wright wanted to try pro basketball. They recognized that he was a natural athlete and a fierce competitor, so they took him

on in 1968.

"I took two weeks off after the football season," said Wright, and after half a dozen games he was in the starting lineup.

He played five seasons of professional basketball, four with the Rockets and one with The Floridians, ending his sports career in 1972.

He was inducted into the New Jersey State Interscholastic Athletic Association Hall of Fame in 1988, and into the Colorado State University Sports Hall of Fame the following year.

In 2010, he completed his 36-year career with UMDNJ where he was director of undergraduate and pre-matriculation programs, and director of recruitment. Through his efforts, more than 2,000 minority students have graduated from the medical school and its affiliates. Many of those doctors now work in the urban communities from where they hailed.

"I feel just as good about what I've done at UMDNJ as anything I've ever done," said Wright.

He and his wife Joanna have lived in South Orange since 1983. Joanna has been head coach of the girls' basketball team at Columbia High School since 1981. The Wrights have three children and five grandchildren. ▲

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