

The South Orange Gaslight



Lisa Hackett takes the helm at Village Center Alliance

Filling vacancies in downtown storefronts is a top priority of the South Orange Village Center Alliance, which aims to fill those spots with a crowd-pleasing mix of retail, eateries and services.

So says Lisa Hackett who became executive director of the Alliance on Jan. 22. "The key objective is to recruit complimentary businesses that are desirable to South Orange's cosmopolitan and family-oriented clientele," she said.

Hackett brings to the job a wealth of downtown management know-how garnered from her prior position as executive director of the Downtown Millburn Development Alliance.

There, she created events like Girls Night Out, which drew more than 1,350 shoppers in its second year. Earlier, she honed her marketing, branding and event-planning abilities in positions with MTV Networks International and NBC Universal.

Currently, Hackett is overseeing a survey conducted by the Alliance's Business Recruitment Committee.



Volunteers are talking with merchants and residents to identify favored business types and those that would best thrive in our community. Based on survey results, the Alliance will make rental recommendations to landlords and commercial realtors.

"I'm excited to be here and extremely impressed with the level of volunteerism in South Orange," said Hackett. "I would encourage folks to reach out to me here at the office if they would like to share suggestions in general or ideas for merchants they'd like to see added to our Village Center."

The Alliance aims to drive business to downtown merchants, partly by offering promotional programs formerly run by Main Street South Orange, such as the Farmers Market. Other Alliance functions include downtown marketing, design, beautification and fundraising.

Main Street evolved into a special improvement district as a way to make the downtown development organization more economically sustainable.



Starting this year, each business and property owner in the improvement district will pay a portion of a quarterly assessment to cover services such as district publicity, downtown cleanup, event marketing, façade and design services, and business recruitment.

The idea is that business owners investing in their own success will get the most return on the investment.

The Alliance is a nonprofit organization governed by a 12-person board of trustees. South Orange is one of 75 improvement districts in New Jersey, including Millburn, Maplewood and Westfield.

To learn more about the Alliance, visit www.sovillagecenter.org. ▲

Petitions required for Village election

The South Orange municipal election will be held Tuesday, May 14 for three Village Trustee positions — all four-year terms. The 2013 Candidate Reference Guide and nomination petitions are available at the Village Clerk's Office in Village Hall. The last date to file petitions is March 11. For more information, e-mail clerk@southorange.org or call (973) 378-7715 x7726. ▲

Village President Alex Torpey previews his March 18 State of the Village Address, page 4.

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

March/April
2013

Inside

■ SOPAC hires Mark Packer as executive director

■ New ladder truck for Fire Dept.

■ Health Dept. offers free ongoing blood pressure checks

■ Booked 10 and Young Curators featured at Pierro

■ Clip and save DPW spring/summer services

■ interACT Theater becomes the new resident troupe at Baird

Thanks SOVCA, for less litter downtown!

Every morning at 6 a.m., Carnell Williams heads out for the first of two litter removal loops around the downtown business district. It takes four hours to complete both circuits.

At 10 a.m. Asher Hurtado joins in, concentrating on particular problem areas, like litter in the train trestles or in decorative landscaping areas.

Williams and Hurtado were hired in early January as part-time maintenance workers for the South Orange Village Center Alliance. Along with clearing unsightly litter, they call on Public Works for pickup of bulk debris such as discarded chairs or mattresses.

"We've gotten tremendous feedback from merchants," said SOVCA Executive Director Lisa Hackett. "People should see noticeable change."

If you spot a mess the workers haven't yet seen, call the Alliance at (973) 763-6899. ▲

New executive director on board at SOPAC



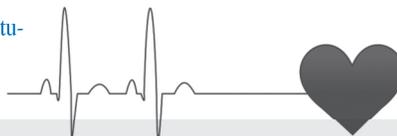
The South Orange Performing Arts Center has a new executive

director. Mark Packer, former executive director of Appel Farms Arts & Music Center in Elmer, NJ, started at SOPAC on March 1.

In his prior post, Packer expanded the South Jersey center to a year-round performing arts organization with diverse in-house programming and outreach events in schools and other community centers. He has played a major role in regional and statewide arts organizations including the South Jersey Cultural Alliance, ArtPride in New Jersey, and the Arts & Business Partnership of Southern New Jersey.

Packer replaces Interim Executive Director Linda Onorevole, who has returned to her position as director of development. She temporarily replaced former Executive/Artistic Director Michael Bollinger who resigned last summer. ▲

- Mar. 1, 8 p.m. – Booker T. Jones, R&B, Soul, \$30-\$45.
- Mar. 2, 11 a.m. – “Jack & Jill in the Forgotten Nursery,” families, \$11-\$16.
- Mar. 3, 7 p.m. – Michael Hill’s Blues Mob, \$15.
- Mar. 9, 8 p.m. – Harlem Gospel Choir, \$20-\$35.
- Mar. 10, 3 p.m. – “The Spencers: Theatre of Illusion,” families, \$25-\$40.
- Mar. 13 – “Time for Three,” Youth Orchestras of Essex County. Master class, 4:30 p.m.; concert, 7:30 p.m. \$15-\$45.
- Mar. 16, 8 p.m. – Frank Wess Quartet, \$20-\$35.
- Mar. 17, 7 p.m. – “7.5 Wondrous Acts of True Love,” Midtown Direct Rep, \$15.
- Mar. 19, 7:30 p.m. – The New York Voices, jazz (SHU Arts), \$8-\$25.
- Mar. 21, 7:30 p.m. – Salzburg Chamber Soloists, classical (SHU Arts), \$8-\$25.
- Mar. 23, 8 p.m. – Searson, Celtic pop and Irish dancing, \$20-\$25.
- Mar. 24, 7:30 p.m. – Evan Sherman, Millburn High School student, jazz, \$15.
- April 5, 8 p.m. – American Repertory Ballet, “Viva Spring,” \$20-\$35.
- April 6, 8 p.m. – Ben E. King, R&B, Soul, \$25-\$50.
- April 7, 3 p.m. – Allant Trio, chamber music, \$15-\$20.
- April 9, 7:30 p.m. – Seton Hall Faculty Jazz Ensemble Concert, \$0-\$5.
- April 12, 8 p.m. – Declan O’Rourke, Irish folk singer, \$15-\$20.
- April 13, 8 p.m. – Graham Parker and the Rumour, punk/new wave, \$33-\$60.
- April 14, 7 p.m. – Marlene Verplaanck, popular music, \$15
- April 16, 7:30 p.m. – The Horszowski Trio, classical (SHU Arts), \$8-\$25.
- April 17 and 18, 17:30 p.m. – Spring Concert, SHU Choir, free.
- April 19, 8 p.m. – “Adventures of Alvin Sputnik: Deep Sea Explorer,” families, \$20-\$25.
- April 20, 8 p.m. – Janis Ian, folk music, \$20-\$35.
- April 21, 7 p.m. – “The Cottage,” Midtown Direct Rep, \$15. ▲



Get a FREE blood pressure screening

You may not know you have high blood pressure, and now you can find out for free! The first and third Thursday of every month, the South Orange Health Department offers free blood pressure screenings for all residents.

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

Screenings and health counsel are provided by a registered nurse. For details, call (973) 378-7715, x7710. ▲

Fire Dept. trains its crews on new ladder truck

You don’t just acquire a \$735,000 ladder truck and instantly drive it off to the latest conflagration. No way! says South Orange Fire Chief Jeff Markey.

First, you train every crew, two hours a day, every day, for a month and a half.

That’s what happened when the department’s newest fleet member arrived in mid-January. The new ladder truck carries five firefighters and a captain and features the familiar white ladder on top, a hydraulic device reaching 102 feet at an angle of 70 degrees. It also carries ground-level ladders and plenty of equipment for forced entries, search and rescue, ventilation, gas and electrical shut-down and more.

The new truck replaces a 24-year-old ladder truck, worn and torn and long obsolete.

Most of the new truck’s cost was covered by a federal Assistance to Firefighters Grant, a particularly competitive funding source, according to Markey. The grant totaled \$700,000 with the remaining \$35,000 covered by the Village.

The ladder truck is one of five fire department vehicles, including two front-line engines, one spare engine and one heavy rescue vehicle. The old ladder truck is no longer in service. ▲

Learn something!

Great spring classes at the Adult School

The South Orange Maplewood Adult School’s spring catalog is now available at www.somadultschool.org. Register for classes online or call (973) 378-7620.

The semester began in late February, but many classes have later start times. Check

the site for details. Highlights in the spring class line-up include:

- Basket Weaving 101
- Be Your Own Film Critic
- How to Read Music
- Joy of Singing
- Violin for Adult Beginners
- Who’s Afraid of Opera?
- Writing for the Web

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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 more than ever. Your membership funds go directly toward events and programs that support the library's educational, information, 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 Children's Room.
- Full sponsorship of the

summer reading program, and popular entertainment such as Big Jeff.

- 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.

- | | |
|--|---|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Pre-school (to age 6) \$3 | <input type="checkbox"/> Family \$25 |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Student (age 7-16) \$10 | <input type="checkbox"/> Sustaining Member \$60 |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Senior \$10 | <input type="checkbox"/> Patron \$100 |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Individual \$15 | <input type="checkbox"/> Lifetime Member \$300 |

New member **Renewal**

Name: _____
 Address: _____
 Phone Number: _____
 Email: _____

Payment Method

Cash Check

Tax-deductible check payable to: Friends of the South Orange Public Library, P.O. Box 874, South Orange, NJ 07079

Contact Us

Email: friends@sopl.org
 Phone: 973-762-0230

Thank you for supporting us!

South Orange Library Events

(973) 762-0230 • www.sopl.org

Recurring Events

- Book Review Group – Mar. 18, “Brother I’m Dying,” by Edwidge Danticat. April 22, “I Am Forbidden,” by Anouk Markovits. Both sessions are at 7:30 p.m.
- Creative Writing Workshop – March 6 and 20, April 3 and 17, at 1 p.m. Beginners welcome.
- Knitting Workshop – Mar. 18 and April 15, at noon. Led by professional knitter Nan Samons.
- Wednesday Movies, 1 p.m. – March 13, “Argo.” March 27, “Flight.” April 10, “To Rome with Love.” April 24, “Silver Linings Playbook.”
- The Service Corps of Retired Executives, SCORE, will meet March 12 at 7 pm. Topic: “Small Business Opportunities.” SCORE provides small business mentoring to entrepreneurs, as well as free business workshops.

Special Programs

- Black Maria Film Festival, April 16, 7 p.m. Award-winning films from emerging filmmakers are presented by Maria founder John Columbus.
- “Breathless,” part of the foreign film series will be screened March 19 at 7 p.m., followed by a discussion with educator/filmmaker Gerard Amsellem.
- The library’s Spring Concert on April 14, from 2 to 3 p.m., will feature soprano Vanessa Parvin of South Orange and guitarist John Brohpy of Maplewood, performing favorites from the American Songbook.

Library Discussion Group

- Thursdays, 1 p.m.
- Mar. 7 – History professor Eugene Lieber discusses China.

- Mar. 14 - “Chasing the Blues Away,” with psychotherapist and author Lewis Epstein.
- Mar. 21 – “Tangerine Tango: Women Writers Share Slices of Life,” with author and educator Lisa Winkler.
- Mar. 28 – “Pure Vermont: The Racial Politics of Belonging,” with anthropology professor Mark Boglioli.
- April 4 – Political science professor Douglas Simon offers a “World Political Update.”
- April 11 – Speaker and radio/TV personality Lee Leonard and actress/dancer Kelly Bishop present “Here We Go Again!”
- April 18 – “Lincoln and the Emancipation Proclamation,” with history professor Lillie Edwards.
- April 25 - New York Times reporter Andy Lehren, topic to be announced.

Children’s Room (March, April)

- LEGO Club - ages 5 and older Mar. 11, 25, April 8, 24, 3:45 p.m.
- Toddler Storytime, ages 3 and older, every Tuesday, 11 a.m.
- Baby Storytime, newborn to 2 ½ with adult, every Wednesday, 10 a.m.
- Book Bunch Book Group, Mar. 13 and April 10, ages 9 and older.
- Thursday Music: Good Tymes String Band, Mar. 14 and April 11; Music with Friends, Mar. 28 and April 25. All at 11 a.m.
- Seton Stories, every Friday (except Mar. 8) at 10:30 a.m.
- Drop-In Crafts, Mar. 8, 22, April 12, 26, 3:30 p.m. All ages.

Special Event: Happy Birthday Dr. Seuss Day, Mar. 2, 2-4 p.m. Read aloud, drop-in crafts. ▲

You've earned your stars, South Orange!

As I begin preparing for this year's State of the Village Address, I want to highlight some of South Orange's great accomplishments in 2012.

These achievements are the result of considerable teamwork, not only among Village staff, but the entire community, most notably during Hurricane Sandy. Here are some of the highlights:

■ We had the **second lowest tax increase in more than a decade**. (The first lowest was the 2011 budget.) Read more about the budget and our new transparency tools that build on last year's precedent-setting release of the budget in a downloadable spreadsheet. (See it online at www.southorange.org.)

■ We created a downtown management corporation called the **South Orange Village Center Alliance**, a turbo-charged version of Main Street, with more access to grants and funding sources that will help local merchants invest in our downtown, continue to grow it, and continue to help make our Village an attractive arts, culture and food destination in northern New Jersey.

■ We approved plans to build on the former Beifus Site, now known as **South Orange Commons**. The site will include 57 rental apartments, premium retail space, and 100 parking spaces for residents and shoppers. It is a long-awaited beautiful addition to our downtown.

■ Jonathan Rose was selected as a redeveloper of the **Valley and Third Street project** — more than 200 rental apartments, retail opportunities, and a 600-to-700-car parking garage where, now, only surface parking exists.

■ The grant-funded installation of **three electric vehicle chargers** in our downtown has been a great sustainable initiative.

■ We continue to **innovate with the kinds of technology we implement**:

• Our downtime-prone *e-mail system has moved to cloud-based Google Apps*.

• We've *switched to a powerful emergency notification system (EverBridge)*, the first step in the overhaul and *redesign of the Village website*. The new site will be vastly more user-friendly with a multitude of interactive tools.

• We continue to invest in *backup power* at critical public safety buildings, we're nearing completion of a Village-wide *fiber-optic network*, and we've completed multiple *upgrades to our public safety communication systems*.

Village President Alex Torpey previews his State of the Village address with notable 2012 accomplishments

• Several of these initiatives were funded by an *Office of Emergency Management grant opportunity* I found last year, and we hope to uncover more such opportunities to continue the upgrades.

■ South Orange weathered incredibly destructive Hurricane Sandy, which left more than 80% of our residents without power, some for up to two weeks. Although the Village responded swiftly and professionally, and took advantage of resources like Twitter and the CERT (Community Emergency Response Team), we learned there is much work to be done in **advocating to the state for better preparedness** from utility companies.

■ Dozens of **new businesses** opened last year, among them: Pandang (Asian food), Love and Yogurt, Indulgence Day Spa, Portuguese BBQ, the nicknack store "Stuff," and great eateries on Irvington Avenue such as Lalibela and Blue Plate Special.

South Orange's downtown is expanding and if you want to help drive that growth in a strategic manner, contact the Village Center Alliance's for volunteer opportunities, or just check out what they're accomplishing online, www.sovillage-center.org.

■ The Board of Trustees is steadily **re-structuring the Village debt**, thanks in particular to Trustee Howard Levison

and Administrator Barry Lewis, our capable fiscal watchdogs. These changes will save the Village millions of dollars over the coming years, resulting in sustainable and responsible budget-planning. (Now if only Congress could do the same!)

■ A number of **new hires** in vacant positions will help improve general management in the Village. Trustee Deborah Davis Ford has been particularly supportive in that arena, and we'll have a new Deputy Clerk and new Deputy Administrator shortly following this issue of The Gaslight is out.

■ We continue **negotiating with New Jersey Transit** over train schedules and other issues not yet concluded in our favor. Working with our state Assembly members, John McKeon and Mila Jasey, as well as Senator Richard Codey and County Executive Joe DiVincenzo, we have successfully kept pressure on NJ Transit and hope for a resolution in South Orange's favor. We also hope for further investment in the commuter experience for South Orange (and Livingston and West Orange) residents. Join me in thanking Trustee Mark Rosner for being extremely proactive on this initiative. The effort will continue with a resident/Village workgroup I recently created to focus our efforts together.

■ For now at least, a **bill has been stopped that**

Advisory committee on NJT issues needs members

A Village advisory committee has been created to consider ways to improve Midtown Direct commuter train service.

In January, New Jersey Transit officials met twice with Village leaders and residents to discuss October train service changes that raised ire among commuters on the Midtown Direct line (the #6335 train). The changes extended travel time and increased congestion.

Nearly 4,000 riders use South Orange Station each weekday. NJT proposed eliminating stops

in Secaucus and Newark on the 6:19 p.m. train from NY Penn Station starting in March — for a travel savings of six minutes.

NJT also said 100 more multi-level train cars being delivered now through August will further ease congestion.

The new Village advisory committee will discuss still-unresolved commuter issues and NJT has committed to hearing their thoughts. To get involved, e-mail Village President Alex Torpey at atorpey@southorange.org. ▲

would have given private universities exemption from local zoning laws. Working with the New Jersey League of Municipalities and officials in other towns, I helped represent South Orange residents' interests and kept pressure on the legislature, showing them the negative consequences the proposed changes would have had in our communities. Our advocacy resulted in a powerful Star Ledger editorial.

■ I'm pleased to see that more and **more residents are becoming part of the governance process.** We've created a Historic Preservation Commission, re-established the Public Information and Marketing Committee, and our Community Emergency Response Team continues to grow. No doubt we will find more ways for residents to be active in the year ahead.

■ The Village and the Citizens Public Safety Committee (especially CPSC Chair Sheena Collum) raised nearly **\$30,000 for the all-volunteer and donation-funded South Orange Rescue Squad.** Their hugely successful fundraiser/golf outing was the most successful in the squad's history. (But don't stop sending in those important individual donations!)

■ The FBI's Uniform Crime Report showed a **marked decrease in crime** in South Orange from 2010 to 2011, thanks to the dedicated men and women of the South Orange Police Department. Kudos to them for their vigilance in keeping our streets safe.

■ It is gratifying to report that a personal passion of mine is gaining public affirmation: **South Orange has continued to lead the way on open government issues,** garnering praise from organizations like the NJ ACLU and the NJ Foundation for Open Government. We caught their attention by increasing our use of social media and video communication, by putting the budget online in a downloadable, editable spreadsheet, and by adding a second public comment period to our board meetings. We've also been recognized for proactively seeking ways to respond readily to Open Public Records Act requests, contract information and other government transparency issues. South Orange has, and will continue, to lead the way in "Transparent Government 2.0" in New Jersey.

These outstanding accomplishments are the tip of the iceberg for ever-thriving South Orange. There is more to be

Post-Sandy survey results due now

Hundreds of Villagers have participated in a survey and attended neighborhood meetings about Hurricane Sandy and how best to improve the Township's future response to such devastating events. The survey was undertaken by the Office of Emergency Management and results were expected by early March. Look for the report on the Village website, www.southorange.org. ▲

told. At this writing, I anticipate delivering the 2013 State of the Village Address on Monday, March 18. The address anticipates goals and initiatives for 2013 and beyond. You'll find out about continued downtown growth, further long-term budget stabilization and more ways to get residents involved in government and the community.

If you'd like to read the full text of the address or watch the video after March 18, it will be available on the Village website, www.southorange.org.

Please note, my office hours have changed: I am at Village Hall every Monday from 5 to 7 p.m. if you'd like to schedule a time slot. Or feel free to drop by! You can also e-mail me at atorpey@southorange.org.

I wish every Villager a safe and happy 2013 and hope to meet many more of you as we work together for South Orange's future!

Cordially,



Alex Torpey, Village President

P.S. Don't forget to make sure you and your family are signed up for the Village emergency notification system. Find it at www.southorange.org/alerts.

BiZ BUZZ

Welcome to four new Village Center businesses!

■ Little Shop of Hip

Hop, 111 South Orange Avenue - Owner Ron Brown has combined his passions for hip hop and flea markets to offer hats, jewelry, T-shirts and custom shirts.

■ Pandang Asian Bistro,

8 Village Plaza, opened in October offering soups, salads, appetizers and sushi, as well as Thai entrees. Jenny Chen is the manager.

■ TJ's Shoes, 9 Village

Plaza, is actually a partnership of five businesses in one: TJ's Shoes, owned by Bencilla Powell; The Bag Man, owned by Charlie Penn; Sharif's Oils; An Extra Touch, owned by Kakila Hunter; and Creations by Maryam. Together they offer shoes, oils, handbags, boots, dressy and casual hats, jewelry and decorated pencils. Many of their products are sold to corporations and hospitals as well.

■ **Walia**, a new Ethiopian restaurant at 11 Village Plaza, is owned by Kadra Zerihun of South Orange. The cuisine is characterized by the ritual of breaking injera (a spongy bread) and sharing food from a common plate. The food features a uniquely delectable mix of seasonings.

■ Wellness Interactive,

14 South Orange Avenue, helps people in organizations develop wellness as a lifestyle - from scripture yoga to reflexology, and stress management to personal development. CEO Desiree Watson says they also offer eco-friendly and natural products. ▲

At The Baird

Pierro Gallery

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

Booked 10 (March 6 - 30)

The 10th annual Book Arts Roundtable exhibition, a celebration of the love of books and paper arts, will take place March 6 to 30, from 11 a.m. to 4 p.m. daily, except Sundays. The opening reception will be Saturday, March 9, from 1 to 4 p.m.

MAM Young Curator (April 11 - May 11)

High school juniors and seniors will function as curators in this special exhibition. The students will choose and organize works by professional artists. The students are part of the Young Curators Program at Montclair Art Museum where they're learning the business of curating.

Calling all local artists!

Artists who live or have studios in South Orange or Maplewood are invited to apply as exhibitors in the 10th annual South Orange/Maplewood Artists Studio Tour on Sunday, June 2. Applications are available at www.studiotour-soma.org. Enrollment ends April 15 and artists are encouraged to apply early. For details, e-mail smartiny@southorange.org and write "studio tour" in the subject line.

Spring Cultural Arts Classes start March 23

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

■ **Young Singers Lab (New!)** - Vocal coach and professional singer Holly Pappas offers classes for all ages. Details at www.thebaird.org

■ **Check Out All the Spring Classes**, including Art Studio I, Music Preludes, Yoga in the Spring and much more. Details online. Registration begins March 1, either in person at The Baird or online.

La Cinémathèque Film Club

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

The Baird's popular film club is back with four films from Spain. Sunday screenings at 2 p.m. are followed by discussions with educator, artist and filmmaker Gérard Amsellem. Membership is \$45. Pre-register at www.thebaird.org, or call (973) 378-7754, or stop by The Baird.

- March 10: "The Exterminating Angel," 1962, Luis Bunuel
- April 7: "Cria Cuervos," 1975, Carlos Saura
- May 5: "All About My Mother," 1999, Pedro Almodovar
- June 9: "The Sea Inside," 2004, Alejandro Amenabar

SPORTS & ACTIVITIES

Spring registration begins March 1

Details, registration at www.thebaird.org ("View Activities")

■ **Tae Kwon Do** – Learn practical self defense while gaining discipline, body conditioning, self-confidence and reduced stress. Many classes for children and adults, all skill levels.

■ **Tae Kwon Do for Special Needs** - Parents of children with autism learn to exercise more effectively with their children. Saturday classes for ages 6 to 10, from 1 to 2 p.m.; ages 11 and older, 2 to 3 p.m.

■ **Tennis Lessons** - US Sports Institute teaches people of all ages and skill levels at Meadowland Park beginning the week of April 15. Details and registration at www.USSportsInstitute.com.

■ **Sports Squirts** - The US Sports Institute Sports Squirts program for 3-to-5-year-olds will be held at Meadowland Park. Children will learn multiple sports in a safe, structured environment.

Seven 1-hour sessions will be held on Wednesdays beginning April 17 at 3:30 p.m. Details and registration at www.USSportsInstitute.com.

■ **Jaguar Track, Ages 7-16** – In-person registration at The Baird takes place Mar. 13, 7:30 to 9 p.m. and Mar. 16, from 10 a.m. to noon. Details at www.thebaird.org.

■ **Spring Break Multi-Sports Camp** - Children ages 5 to 12 learn 15 sports in one week in US Sports Institute's Multi Sports Camps. Half-day and full-day options are offered April 8 to 12. Details and registration at www.USSportsInstitute.com.

■ **Spring Break Science Camps** – Two-day "Sciensational Workshops for Kids" will be offered during spring break week for children ages 6 to 11.

- Make It & Take It Home, April 8-9, 9 a.m. - 4 p.m.
- Model Airplanes and More, April 10-11, 9 a.m. - 4 p.m.

Renew your ID badge now!

Take advantage of lower fees and avoid long lines. Buy your Recreation and Cultural Affairs ID badge now! Fees are:

- \$30 per person, through May 15. Maximum family fee, \$120.
- \$35 per person, starting May 16. Maximum family fee, \$140.

Badge holders get pool entry plus discounts on many department-sponsored classes and programs. Badges are issued at The Baird with two proofs of residency. Details at www.thebaird.org.

Sign up for Playground Program

Planned activities and supervised free time await children in the South Orange Summer Playground Program. Applicants must be South Orange residents, ages 4 years through 8th grade (current photo ID badge required). Children grouped by age and grade meet at the Meadowland Park/Cameron Field complex. The seven-week, half-day program runs July 1 through Aug. 16. Registration begins March 1 at The Baird.

Register for Preschool at The Baird

A few open spots remain for The Baird Preschool 2013-2014. The licensed learning center serves South Orange residents ages 2 ½ through 4 ½. Children get a balance of educational and recreational activities. Details and registration at www.thebaird.org.

Spring/Summer 2013

RESIDENTIAL DPW Services

☀ Saturday Container Day Drop-Offs

April 27, May 18, June 22, July 27, Aug. 24, Sept. 28
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,* toys, small household items, tools, strollers, playpens, metal items.**

* Please drop off metals during regular DPW hours: Tuesdays and Thursdays, 8 a.m. to 4 p.m., and Saturdays, 8 a.m. to noon.

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

Prohibited

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 in containers.

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

☀ Humus, Shredded Wood

Limited quantities are available to residents for pickup at the DPW yard at no charge. Be prepared for self-service. A \$50-per-order fee applies, payable prior to delivery. Call with any questions.

- 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. 26, DPW will make appointments for delivery of humus and shredded wood. Actual delivery starts in April. One product per household per month. Products are delivered loose to the driveway entrance. Charge: \$50 per delivery.

☀ Spring Clean-Up, Branches & Leaves

Curbside Placement Dates:
April 1 - May 13 (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 by curb, not on sidewalk or street.

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

Ignoring the rules violates the Municipal Housing Code.

Grass Clippings

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

☀ Rigid Plastic Items

DPW now recycles rigid plastic items including garden furniture, toys, bins and buckets, crockery, food containers and gardening equipment. Rigid plastics cannot be placed in totes. Go to www.southorange.org and click "Single Stream Recycling."

☀ Electronic

Recycling Drop-Offs

Villagers can drop off used electronic items in South Orange or Maplewood. Proof of residency is required.

Saturday Drop-Offs

8 a.m. to noon

- Mar. 9, South Orange
- May 4, Maplewood
- June 15, South Orange
- July 13, Maplewood
- Sept. 21, South Orange
- Oct. 19, Maplewood
- Dec. 14, South Orange

Drop-Off Locations

- South Orange Recycling Depot, 300 Walton Avenue, (973) 378-7741.
- Maplewood Public Works Department, 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.

Prohibited

- 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.

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

Happenings

Baird's new resident theater company stages two comedies

Neil Simon's "Plaza Suite" and "The Full Monty," originally a hit British film, are on tap this spring as the premiere stage productions of interACT Theatre Productions, the new resident theater group at The Baird.

InterACT, now in its fourth season, moved to The Baird in November after staging a series of performances in host theaters. The Baird is their first dedicated home.

Baird Theater is located on the third floor of the Village community center (elevator available). It formerly housed Dreamcatcher Repertory Theater, which moved to Summit last year.

Interact will stage Plaza Suite on April 12, 14, 19 and 21, with evening performances at 7:30 and matinees at 2 p.m. Tickets will be \$15 for adults and \$12 for students.

The Full Monty will be performed May 10, 12, 17 and 19. Look for more details in the next Gaslight, or visit www.interactproductions.org, or e-mail info@interactproductions.org.

Tim Gunn to appear at Columbia High

Tim Gunn of "Project Runway" comes to CHS on Sunday, March 17 at 7:30 p.m. Villager Budd Mishkin of NY1-TV's "One on 1 with Budd Mishkin," will conduct a lively interview. The event is part of the Seth Boyden Series created to raise funds for a new playground and outdoor learning center at Seth Boyden Demonstration School. Tickets are \$35 to \$50. Purchase online at www.brownpapertickets.com/event/317681. Details at (973) 327-3016.

Township of South Orange Village
South Orange, NJ 07079

Postal Customer
Local 07079

Village Web Site: www.southorange.org

At Seton Hall

■ **Pulitzer Prize recipient, C.K. Williams**, author of eleven books of poetry including "The Singing" (2003 National Book Award) and "Repair" (2000 Pulitzer Prize) will appear at Jubilee Hall on March 13 at 7 p.m. E-mail nathan.oates@shu.edu or call (973) 761-9388.

■ **The 19th annual SHU Women's Conference** takes place Friday, March 22. This year's theme, "Women Inspiring Innovation through Imagination," focuses on women in the STEM fields: science, technology, engineering, and math. The conference includes breakfast, a panel discussion and two workshops. Hours are 9 a.m. to 2 p.m. in the university's main lounge. E-mail rosario.reyes-urbina@shu.edu or call (973) 275-2137.

Community Coalition

www.twotowns.org • (973) 761-6116

■ As part of its Integration through the Arts Program, the Community Coalition on Race presents "*Gertrude McFuzz*," by *Dr. Seuss*, a musical version featuring songs and an orchestral score with dance. The show will be paired with a dramatic reading and musical performance of "Stand Tall Molly Lou Melon" at SOPAC on March 16 at 10 a.m. and 11:30 a.m. Reservations are required; \$5-per-person donation recommended. Reserve at www.twotowns.org/donate.

■ Share your interpretation of Two

Towns diversity through a multi-faceted project of *artistic book-making, haiku poetry and collage*. Professional artists will guide adults and high school students through a six-week art journey on Thursdays at 7:30 p.m., from April 11 through May 16 at Maplewood 1978 Art Center. Completed books will be displayed in the annual Artists Studio Tour in June and at public venues throughout South Orange and Maplewood. Workshops are free; registration is required by April 5.

■ Sign up for a *Cultural Competency Workshop* and explore how to work through cultural differences and build relationships. The one-night session will be held the third week of April at 7:30 p.m. Call for updated details. (Professional development credits will be available for teachers.)

'A Standing Ovation' for Fred Profeta

The Achieve Foundation will honor Maplewood's Fred Profeta with "A Standing Ovation" on Saturday, April 20 at the Club at Orange Lawn. With cocktails, dinner and entertainment, the event will be a celebration of Fred's lifetime achievement and service to the community and Columbia High School. Proceeds will support the Take a Seat campaign to restore the school's historic auditorium. For details, or to request an invitation, contact takeaseat@achievefoundation.org or (973) 378-2055.



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