

The South Orange Gaslight



The Gaslight

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

March/April
2014

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Meet the human buoy of S.O. seniors

People age 65 and older make up 11.9% of the South Orange population. That's 2,024 residents.

Talk to Marian Roffman and you'll quickly learn that some of them are in dire need of assistance.

Like the elderly couple referred by a worker in the Village tax office. Each time the wife stopped by to pay the tax bill she appeared to be more distressed, revealing information about an adult son threatening her and her husband. At last, the couple was rescued when Roffman got a call from the tax office.

Since 1985, Roffman has served local seniors who encounter unanticipated life changes: depleted savings, the overwhelming loss of a life partner, and health conditions that affect a person's ability to walk, drive, or manage basic needs.

She arranges accessible transportation, in-home mobility accommodations, food preparation service, utilities discounts, and medical or



Photo by Melissa Kopecky

mental health services of all kinds.

She is a licensed clinical social worker who previously worked in mental health. At age 36 she started with South Orange Senior Services and now she's 65, "a senior citizen myself, and let me tell you, it's scary," she says.

"People are outliving their resources and it's only going to get worse. We baby boomers are most likely going to break the system," she says.

Many of Roffman's callers are the adult children of older South Orange residents. "I don't know how they find me," but "whether they live in the area or across the country, they're looking for what's available to deal with the many issues they see in their parents. With people living longer, there are more issues than any of us had anticipated."

Other callers are neighbors and concerned acquaintances who see increasing dishevelment around a once well-kept property or observe a lonely senior's dire personal health conditions.

Such calls trigger Roffman's evaluation – a home visit, contact with the family, or an appointment with medical or mental health services. Roffman schedules appointments with seniors or those who care about them on Tuesdays or Thursdays, the two operating days of the Senior Services office.

No stipends, no title changes for Trustees

Village drops 'Township' from its name

We're back to being The Village of South Orange, instead of the Township of South Orange Village.

But our Village President won't become Mayor, the Trustees won't be the Village Council, and none of them will get stipends covering out-of-pocket expenses incurred while conducting Village business.

The normal 12-year cycle of Village Charter updates was finally completed Jan. 27 with passage of a charter review ordinance — but not to everyone's satisfaction. Two issues created contentious public hearings.

- Changing the title of the Village President to Mayor and the Board of Trustees title to Village Council.

- Granting annual stipends of \$1,800 for Trustees and \$2,400 for the Village President. (The measure was considered a potential lead-in to future trustee salaries.)

Other charter amendments were achieved with easy consensus.

- The town name was returned to Village of South Orange, as it was

Turn to **Governance**, p2

Toter Pick-Up schedules have changed!

Residents: The Toter pickup schedule is not the same as last year. If you do not have the 2014 schedule issued in the Nov/Dec Gaslight, then go online to: www.southorange.org. Scroll to "Public Works" and click "Recycling," or go to the Gaslight page and click "2014 Toter Recycling Schedule."

Get 'The BUZZ' on local senior services, activities

An information-packed monthly newsletter called "The Buzz" is a local resource for seniors, their family, friends, neighbors and others concerned about seniors. It is sponsored by The Baird and edited by South Orange Senior Services Coordinator Marian Roffman.

To receive The Buzz, e-mail your contact information to mroffman@southorange.org, or mail to Senior Services at The South Orange Public Library, 65 Scotland Road, South Orange, NJ 07079.

For more information about Senior Services, call the office on Tuesday or Thursday, between 10 a.m. and 6 p.m. at (973) 762-0230.

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More Village 'appreciators' needed

If you value the talents and accomplishments of other people . . . if you're the type who pulls newbies into the social circle . . . if you're a creative problem-solver . . . the South Orange Community Relations Committee wants you.

The CRC is the committee that nominates Villagers of the Month and hosts the annual South Orange Newcomers Day. Members also act as liaisons for citizens bringing grievances to the attention of Village officials.

In its ombudsman role, the committee has identified outreach needs within the Village, resulting in several long-standing

initiatives, including the launch of The Gaslight newsletter 30 years ago, and networking events for local volunteer groups. The committee's collaboration with other Village organizations has been essential in projects such as the South Orange Library's Wiki and Village-a-Glow.

At all times, members emphasize the positive aspects of life in the Village.

To join the CRC, e-mail to ktjdz@aol.com; call Village Hall at (973) 378-7715, x7726; or apply online at www.southorange.org. Scroll to "Community," then "Volunteering." ▲

Millburn Golf memberships available

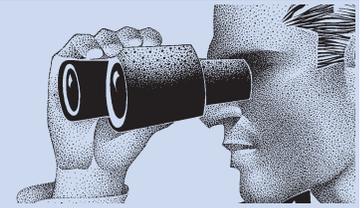
Millburn Municipal Golf Course is offering a limited number of memberships to South Orange residents age 18 and older. The 9-hole, par three course is located at 335 White Oak Ridge Road in Short Hills.

Registration begins March 1 and opening day is April 1. Villagers can choose an unlimited membership (any day, any time) for \$180, or a limited

membership (Tuesday to Friday, 10 a.m. and 2 p.m.) for \$90. Two guests per round are permitted.

Register online at <http://register.communitypass.net/millburn>. A photo is required to register. For information, contact the Millburn Township Recreation Department at (973) 564-7097 or recreation-dept@millburntwp.org. ▲

Looking for the S.O. Parking Authority?



While most municipal offices have moved to 76 South Orange Avenue during Village Hall renovation, the Parking Authority has parked elsewhere. Here's how to reach them:

Parking Authority Offices

Baird Community Center, 5 Mead Street, 2nd floor
(973) 378-7715, x2037

Hours: Monday-Friday, 8:30 a.m. - 4:30 p.m.

How to Pay Tickets

- Online at www.njmcdirect.com
- By mail or in person: South Orange Violations Bureau
1618 Springfield Avenue, Maplewood, NJ 07040
- Phone: (973) 762-2839

Tickets cannot be paid at Village Hall or in the SOPA office.

Parking permits are available only through the SOPA office, not Village Hall.

Governance Continued from page 1

before 1977. "Township of South Orange Village" had been adopted as a way to make South Orange eligible for certain federal funds available only to New Jersey townships.

• Outdated and gender-specific language was revised, and items superseded by state statute were eliminated or revised for consistency.

Charter review began in 2010. After much delay, the resulting ordinance now goes to the State Legislature for approval, since Village government operates under a special state charter. ▲



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Happenings

Community Coalition on Race

www.twotowns.org (973) 761-6116

2014 Civic Engagement Institute

Four workshops on volunteer preparedness have been created for this year's Civic Engagement Institute, a program that lets South Orange and Maplewood residents learn about local opportunities for community involvement. Groups under-represented as volunteers are particularly welcome. Workshops will be held Saturdays, March 15, 22 and 29 and April 5, from 9:30 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. at the South Orange Public Library. An application is online.

For Children: 2014 Integration thru the Arts

Young families from South Orange, Maplewood and surrounding areas are invited to share in a musical experience that encourages embracing people of all kinds. Song, dance, costumes and even opera arias will highlight the March 22 production at SOPAC at 10 a.m. and 11:30 a.m. Highlights will include "Rusalka," a Czech version of "The Little Mermaid," and a musical rendition of Dr. Seuss's "The Zax." Check the coalition website for performance times and other details.

This event is made possible in part by funds from the NJ State Council on the Arts/Department of State, a partner agency of the National Endowment for the Arts and administered by Essex County Division of Cultural and Historic Affairs.

Cultural Competency Workshop

Cultural Competency Workshops for school administrative staff, teachers, students and families will be offered this April. Participants will learn to better "read" another person's behaviors without cultural biases. A separate session for teachers to earn professional development credits will be offered. Workshop dates, times, location and registration details will be posted on the coalition website.

South Orange-Maplewood Adult School

www.somadultschool.org (973) 378-7620



An Evening with Michael Moore

Controversial filmmaker, author, social critic, and political activist Michael Moore will make an appearance at the South Orange Middle School Auditorium on Friday, March 7 at 7:30 p.m. Moore is the director and producer of "Fahrenheit

9/11," the highest-grossing documentary of all time, and winner of the Palme d'Or. His first film, "Roger & Me," created 25 years ago, was recently selected to be in the National Film Registry. "Bowling for Columbine" and "Sicko" are among the top 10 highest-grossing documentaries ever, and Columbine won an Academy Award for Best Documentary Feature. Moore has also written and starred in the television shows "TV Nation" and "The Awful Truth." Tickets are \$25 and can be purchased in advance or on the night of the event, space permitting.

Ratchet Up Your Learning

Course offerings for children and families are expanded in the Adult School's spring semester.

Highlights for kids include Basic Sewing, Fashion Design for Tweens and Teens, Lego Robotics, Origami, Writer's Café, and Yoga.

For parent and child, choose from Cooking, Leonardo Da Vinci's World, Photography, and What to Expect in Middle School. Also for parent and child are classes with the Greater Newark Conservancy: Urban Habitats, What's the Buzz, and Worm in the City: Urban Recyclers.

In addition to long-standing favorite adult classes, the school offers many new courses, including Writing in the Raw, Preparing Parents for the College Process, Organizing for the Health of It, and Establishing a New Nonprofit.

Check for details online, or call for a catalog.

On Stage at SOPAC SOPACnow.org (973) 313-2787

March

- March 1, 8 p.m. – Buckwheat Zydeco, Creole dance music, \$24-\$40.
- March 2, 2 p.m. – La Cinematheque Film Club: "Blue" (1993) Krystof Kieslowsky. Film club membership \$55.
- March 2, 7:30 p.m. – Shawn Colvin, singer-songwriter, \$35-\$55.
- March 4, 7:30 p.m. - Jean-Yves Thibaudet, classical piano, \$0-\$25.
- March 8, 3 p.m. - Paul Nelson Guitar Master Class, \$35-\$40.
- March 8, 8 p.m. - Johnny Winter, blues/rock, \$33-\$60.
- March 9, 7 p.m. - Blues in the Loft: Mike Griot and Friends, \$15.
- March 14, 7 p.m. - Jazz in the Loft: The Vince Ector Quartet, \$15.
- March 15, 8 p.m. - Richard Thompson and guest Teddy Thompson, singer-songwriters, \$33-\$60.
- March 16, 2 p.m. – "Diary of a Worm, a Spider, and a Fly," family theater, \$13-\$25.
- March 16, 7:30 p.m. - Richard Thompson and guest Teddy Thompson, singer-songwriters, \$33-\$60.
- March 21, 8 p.m. - Well-Strung, classical and pop, \$25-\$60.
- March 22, 8 p.m. – Richard Shindell & Lucy Kaplansky, singer-songwriters, \$25-\$50.
- March 23, 7:30 p.m. – Mason Jennings, singer-songwriter, \$23-\$38.
- March 25, 7:30 p.m. – SHU Faculty Jazz Ensemble, \$0-\$5.

- March 27, 7:30 p.m., Jay Mohr, comedy, \$30-\$50.
- March 28, 8 p.m. – Iris Dement and Red Molly, singer-songwriters, folk, \$25-\$45.
- March 29, 8 p.m. – Oleta Adams, rhythm & blues, pop, soul, \$33-\$58.
- March 30, 3 p.m. – Juilliard@SOPAC: Piano Reflections, classical, \$15-\$20.

April

- April 2, 7:30 p.m. – Jazz Knights of West Point. Free, reservations encouraged.
- April 3, 7:30 p.m. – Seton Hall University Choir, free.
- April 4, 8 p.m. – Joan Osborne Acoustic Duo featuring Keith Cotton, \$30-\$48.
- April 6, 2 p.m. - La Cinematheque Film Club: "White" (1994) Krystof Kieslowsky. Film club membership \$55.
- April 8, 7:30 p.m. – Seton Hall University Orchestra, classical/popular, free.
- April 11, 8 p.m. – Paul Reiser, comedy, \$30-\$45.
- April 12, 2 p.m. – Aladdin & Other Enchanting Tales, family theater, \$13-\$25.
- April 12, 8 p.m. – Martin Sexton, singer-songwriter, \$33-\$58.
- April 13, 3 p.m. – Juilliard@SOPAC: Trio Voce, classical, \$15-\$20.
- April 27, 7 p.m. – Midtown Direct Rep in the Loft, theater, \$15.

Sports & Activities

www.thebaird.org (select "View Activities")

Tae Kwon Do for Beginners, ages 5-12. Practical self-defense, discipline, and body conditioning. Students gain self-confidence and reduce stress. Wednesdays, 4:30 pm.

Tae Kwon Do for Special Needs, ages 6 to adult. Parents of children with autism learn how to work effectively with their children through exercise. Saturday classes. Ages 6-10, 1-2 p.m. Ages 11 and up, 2-3 p.m.

US Sports Institute Programs

Register at www.USSportsInstitute.com

- Tennis Lessons: all ages and skill levels, at Meadowland Park. USTA curriculum.
- Sports Squirts, ages 3-5: multiple sports in a safe, structured environment. Fridays at Meadowland Park.
- Spring Break Multi-Sports Camp, ages 5-12: more than 15 sports in one week. Or choose the half-day camp. April 21-24.

Jaguar Track, ages 7-16. Register at The Baird on March 12, 7:30 to 9 p.m.; or March 15, 10 a.m. to noon. Details at www.thebaird.org.

'Sciensational Workshops,' ages 6-11. Two-day workshops at The Baird during spring break week.

- "Can You Dig It- Fossil Hunt," 9 a.m. - 4 p.m., April 21-22
- "White Light-Lasers-Galaxies," 9 a.m. - 4 p.m., April 23-24

Renew your ID badge now! Take advantage of lower fees and avoid long lines by purchasing your 2014 Recreation & Cultural Affairs ID badge early. Through May 15, badges are \$30 per person; maximum family fee, \$120. Beginning May 16, fees increase to \$35 per person; family fee, \$140. Badge holders get discounts on many department-sponsored classes and programs. Badges are issued at The Baird; two proofs of residency are required.

Summer Playground Program. Applications will be accepted beginning March 1 at The Baird. Applicants must be South Orange residents with a current photo ID badge. The seven-week, half-day program serves South Orange children ages 4 years through 8th grade. Age-specific planned activities are combined with supervised free time, from June 30 through Aug. 15.



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*per GSMLS

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Pierro Gallery

(973) 378-7754, ext 3 • www.pierrogallery.org

Breaking through Tradition

On Display April 3 to May 3

Worldwide events and social changes, such as embracing the LGBT community, can impact everyday social interactions and elicit public praise or outrage. Pierro's group show expresses communal shifts through various art forms. Alessandra Simakowicz and Maureen Harrison have curated in association with guest curators from the M.A. program in Museum Professions at Seton Hall University. **Opening reception, April 3, 7-9 p.m.**

Friends and Neighbors

On display May 15 to June 14

In tandem with the annual South Orange Maplewood Artists Studio Tour, "Friends and Neighbors" will celebrate the work of artists from surrounding towns.

Cultural Arts Classes

973-378-7754 • www.thebaird.org

Take a course in spring delight! Baird learning opportunities are available for everyone from 2 to 92, each course guided by a teaching artist. Registration begins March 1. Most classes begin the week of March 31. Course descriptions, fees and registration details can be found online.

Kids

- **Clay Time.** Ages 3-6, with Joan Tomasco.
- **Comic Book Capers I and II.** Design and write your own comic books. Grades 1-3 and 4-7, with Vicki Arlein.
- **Drawing.** Learn to draw what you see and feel. Grade 6 to adult, with Larry McKim.
- **Intermediate Photography.** Bring a camera with full manual control, preferably SLR. Grades 6-10, with Jeremy Moss.
- **Dance with Shona Roebuck:**
 - Pre-Ballet Creative Movement with Guardian (age 2)
 - Pre-Ballet (3-4) • Ballet I (5-6) • Funky Freestyle (3-5)
- **Math Club!** A pioneering, inquiry-oriented club for grades 3-8, with Tori O'Connell, Dr. Greenstein, and Michael Steiner.

Adults

- **Art with Master Artist Philip Sherrod.** Students of all levels work in all mediums.
- **Life Drawing, with Instruction.** Draw from live models using varying mediums. Grade 12 to adults, with Larry McKim.
- **Drawing.** Learn to draw what you see and feel. All experience levels. Grade 6 to adult, with Larry McKim.
- **Flamenco!** with Toni Messina. Beginner and intermediate courses, grade 11 to adult.
- **Pilates** with Megan Berry.

Register for Preschool at The Baird. For the 2014-2015 school year, limited spots are open for ages 2 ½-3 years (as of Oct. 1). The licensed learning center offers a balance of educational and recreational activities. Details at www.thebaird.org.

South Orange Library Events

(973) 762-0230 • www.sopl.org

Discussion Group

Thursdays, 1 p.m.

• March 6 - "Behind-the-Scenes Planning of Large Scale Public Events," with Matt Glass of Eventage.

• March 13 - Author and Kean University English professor John Gruesser offers select readings from his book, "A Century of Detection: Twenty Great Mystery Stories, 1841-1940."

• March 20 - A staged reading of an original play by a New Jersey playwright, followed by discussion with the author.

• March 27 - Fracking In: The Social and Environmental Impact of the Gas Industry," with Marc Boglioli, Drew University anthropology professor.

• April 3 - Frank Tinary, Seton Hall economics professor and founder of the Tinary Economics Group, on forensic economics.

• April 10 - Drew University political science professor Douglas Simon will give a "World Political Update."

• April 17 - "Family Rituals and Traditions: What Gets Passed Along," with psychotherapist and author Lewis Epstein.

• April 25 - "Red Wisconsin: The Strange Day when America Lost the Cold War," with James Kimble, Seton Hall communication and arts professor.

Recurring Events

• Book Review Group - March 24, "The Virgins," by Pamela Erens,

who will be in attendance. April 28, "Stone Angel," by Margaret Laurence, a discussion with the author's biographer. Both sessions start at 7:30 p.m.

• Creative Writing Workshop - March 12, 26, April 9, 23, at 1 p.m.

• Knitting Workshop led by Nan Samons. Mondays, March 13 and April 21, at noon.

• Wednesday Movies - March 5, "Enough Said." March 19, April 2, 16 and 30, to be announced. All at 1 p.m.

Children's Room

• LEGOs - March 3 and 17, April 7 and 21, 3:45 p.m., ages 5 and older with adult.

• Minecraft - March 10 and 24,

April 14 and 28, 3:30 p.m., ages 7 and older with adult.

• Toddler Storytime with Ms. Keisha - Tuesdays, 11 a.m., ages 2 ½ and older.

• Books and Babies - Wednesdays, 10 a.m., newborn to 2½.

• Book Bunch - March 12 and April 9, age 9 and older.

• Good Tymes String Band - March 13, April 10, 11 a.m., all ages.

• Wilma and the Wingers - March 27 and April 24, 11 a.m., all ages.

• Seton Stories - Fridays, 10 a.m.

• Drop In Arts and Crafts - March 14 and 28, April 11 and 25, 3:30 p.m., all ages.

Don't miss these special library programs

Arts Volunteers Needed

Volunteers are needed to help organize the 11th annual South Orange Maplewood Artists Studio Tour on June 8. The event will include nearly 80 artists in studios, galleries and group exhibitions across the two towns, and art lovers from all over the metropolitan area will attend. If you love the arts, have skills in marketing, fundraising and organizing, or would like to learn how to organize an arts event, e-mail smartiny@southorange.org. Visit www.studiotoursoma.org/ to learn more.

interACT Theatre

(973) 544-8489 • info@interactproductions.org
www.interactproductions.org

'Father of the Bride,' directed by Ilene Carter, will be presented over two weekends, March 21-23 and March 28-30 at Baird Theater. The classic story has spawned multiple movie versions. A dithering father watches expenses and headaches mount as his only daughter prepares to wed.

Showtimes are 7:30 p.m. on Friday and Saturday nights and 2 p.m. on Sundays. Tickets are \$15 general admission, \$12 students/seniors. Buy online or at the box office before performances.

Irish Genealogy

Program - Join Fintan Mullan, director of the Ulster Historical Foundation, for a March 22 talk on researching ancestors from all parts of Ireland. The event is co-sponsored by the S.O. Historic Preservation Society, the Friends of the Library, and Seton Hall University. More details are available at the library.

Foreign Film Screening

On March 25, enjoy "Monsieur Hulot's Holiday," a French comedy starring and directed by Jacques Tati. The evening includes a post-screening discussion with educator, artist and filmmaker Gerard Amsellem.

Keeping the Brain

Sharp is an informative class with cognitive therapist Lynn Reed of the Kessler Institute for Rehabilitation. April 3, 7:30 p.m.

Spring Festival - Acclaimed singer Vanessa Parvin and professional guitarist John Brophy will entertain on Sunday, April 6, at 2 p.m.

Starting a Home-Based Business, a seminar presented by S.C.O.R.E. (Service Corps of Retired Executives), takes place April 10 at 7 p.m.

Black Maria Film

Festival comes to South Orange on Tuesday, April 15, at 7 p.m. See award-winning works by acclaimed filmmakers.

Strategies for the Midlife-Adult College

Learner, with Pamela Booker, April 24, 7:30 p.m. The class is a safe space for mature adult learners to explore what it takes to begin or complete undergraduate studies.



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Residential DPW Services

Saturday Container Day Drop-Offs

April 26, May 17, June 21, July 26, Aug. 23, Sept. 27

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

DPW Yard, 300 Walton Avenue

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, toys, small household items, tools, strollers, playpens.

Metal Items and Appliances - drop off Tuesdays and Thursdays, 8 a.m. to 4 p.m., or Saturdays, 8 a.m. to noon. Be sure to separate 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.

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.

Alternative Drop-Off

If circumstances prevent your drop-off on a scheduled Saturday, you may drop off items on the Thursday before in South Orange. Call first at (973) 378-7741. In Maplewood, drop off the Friday before, from 2 to 4 p.m. Call (973) 762-1175.

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 3, Maplewood
- June 14, South Orange
- July 12, Maplewood
- Sept. 13, South Orange
- Oct. 4, Maplewood
- Dec. 13, 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

Spring Clean-Up, Branches & Leaves

Curbside Placement Dates: Tuesday, April 1 to Monday, May 12 (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 the 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 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 bags curbside on the second garbage collection day of the week.



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. 25, 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. Charge: \$50 per delivery.

Rigid Plastic Items

Rigid plastics include garden furniture, toys, bins and buckets, crockery, food containers and gardening equipment. Such items can be dropped off at the Recycling Depot, but cannot be placed in Toters. For details, go to www.south-orange.org, click "Public Works," then "Single Stream Recycling."



© Zacker Images

Achieve shares CHS Auditorium restoration cost with SO/M District *Community fete will mark the success*

More than 800 donors kicked in to help The Achieve Foundation raise \$450,000 in contributions and pledges toward the \$1.3 million restoration of Columbia High School auditorium.

To celebrate the rejuvenated auditorium and the community's generosity, Achieve is hosting a special celebration on April 9 at 7 p.m. in the auditorium. Part of the fun will be performances by local students of all ages.

The School District of South Orange & Maplewood has continually maintained the auditorium since its completion in 1927. The three-year "Take A Seat" campaign allowed the district to undertake the first comprehensive restoration.

Achieve's high performance

in the campaign allowed the district to return the hall to its former grandeur, paying for skilled restoration of architectural details, period chandeliers, improvements to the sound booth, and more.

The school district paid for asbestos removal, new air conditioning, flooring, house and stage lighting, and restoration of the original seating and plaster relief.

The auditorium is used year-round by 20 high school performance groups, and also accommodates assemblies, public meetings and community events.

For details on the upcoming community celebration, look for updates on the Achieve Foundation website. Go to www.achievefoundation.org. ▲

Free blood pressure screenings

Free blood pressure screenings for Villagers are offered by the South Orange Health Department on the first and third Thursday of every month, in two locations:

- First Thursday: 9 a.m.-10 a.m. at the Charles Bierman Home, 110 Vose Avenue.
- Third Thursday: 9 a.m.-10:30 a.m., at The Baird, 5 Mead Street.

Health counsel is provided by a public health nurse. For information, call (973) 378-7715, x7710.

Villager of the Month Continued from page 8

gardeners only, teaching how to garden and the do's and don'ts of communal functioning.

"Because it's a community garden with small plots, there's an extensive list of things we don't want you to grow," said Shabe, "like strawberries because they're very invasive. They grow everywhere and come back the next year." Corn and sunflowers create shade. "If I was in the plot next to them, I wouldn't get any sun."

Other executive board members include Steve Schnall, Theresa Burns, and Diana Ullman. "Diana handles our books and Theresa and Steve do a lot organizational work," said Shabe. "We all do things together."

Because they bring people together, volunteer on projects, and learn from one another, the South Orange Community Garden is our green-thumbed March Villager of the Month. ▲

S.O. Seniors Continued from page 1

If you are a mature Villager interested in finding out more about free services and activities available to seniors, then go to the South Orange Library on any Tuesday or Thursday between 10 a.m. and 5 p.m.

Senior Services has been housed at the library for the last three years - and happily so. "The library has been wonderful," said Roffman. "They try very hard to respect what I do even though it's a shared office space."

Visitors will find a willing ear, a confidentiality mandate, and a wide range of available services for multiple life issues.

Aging "is not easy and you need people to help you through the tough times," said Roffman. "My mom lived two weeks shy of her 95th birthday, but she had dementia for 10 years and no control over her life.

"I think that's why I do what I do. I want people to be there for me when I get older." ▲



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

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



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

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
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x7710
Animal Control
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378-7775
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Street Dept.
378-7741
Water Service
266-8869

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or call (908)
823-9001

Villager of the Month South Orange Community Garden

Drive along West Third Street near the intersection of Church Street, and there during growing season, you'll spot an edible landscape of fruits, vegetables and herbs, dotted with patches of bee-attracting flowers.

That's the home of the South Orange Community Garden, a serious food source for nearly 50 Village households, producing enough bounty that a significant portion is shared with grateful food banks in Essex County.

Individuals, families and even a girl scout troop have been among those working the communal soils since 2010 when the unused piece of land was appropriated for growing.

A group of gardening enthusiasts spent a year planning the raised-bed garden that operates on organic principals. They also successfully cultivated municipal support.

"We built it ourselves, all together, and we do the upkeep ourselves," said President John Shabe. "That's very satisfying."

"We're really proud of our garden. It gets people working together" in volunteerism.

The South Orange Department of Public Works donates mulch and humus and maintains surrounding Riverside Park, while the town donates water usage, for which "we're very grateful," said Shabe.

Only South Orange residents are eligible to pay the \$70 seasonal fee

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to acquire one of the 48 plots, each measuring 12x4 feet. The season extends from March to Halloween.

"Each plot can really produce a lot," said Shabe. In late March, planting begins with lettuce, spinach, collards and other greens — cool weather crops. By May, it's time to plant peppers, tomatoes, eggplants and more. At summer's end, there's time for another crop of cool weather greens.

Although some gardeners are apartment dwellers, others include owners of large, old homes graced by stately shade-producing trees.

"My wife and I have a big pine tree in our back yard," said Shabe. "As it got bigger, it shaded the yard and our vegetables didn't grow as well. The community garden made a big difference" because it provides full sun throughout the day.

All gardeners are expected to help maintain common pathways, bed foundations, the irrigation system, etc. Group projects are a form of community volunteerism. For example, when burrowing varmints began sneaking in at night a couple of years ago, the group used its annual dues and member elbow grease

Sign Up for the 2014 GARDENING SEASON

- Registration is under way at The Baird
- Bring your South Orange ID
- Fee: \$70
- Sign-ups are first come, first served. Waiting list to be created if necessary

to dig a trench and bury a mesh fence around the garden.

"That was a big challenge, but a good example of a project we all worked on together," said Shabe. There's been no varmint problem ever since.

Future projects include a more effective irrigation system, a better perimeter fence and learning about hydroponics.

Every year, the garden attracts newcomers who learn that gardening means being mindful. "You have to spend time there, make sure things are going right," said Shabe.

Coaching is available from any member of the six-person executive board, and particularly Olivia Lewis Chang and Donna Beaton, two highly experienced gardeners. They run a class in early March for community

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