

# The South Orange Gaslight



## Single-stream recycling has arrived!

Beginning in July, South Orange will provide curbside "single-stream" recycling collection to all residents.

The new and improved service will bring greater convenience to residents while helping our environment through increased collection.

Single-stream recycling eliminates the need to separate recyclables (i.e., newspapers, glass and aluminum). Instead, all items can be collected in a single container. The new system also allows a greater variety of materials to be recycled.

The Village recently awarded a recycling collection contract to Giordano Recycling, which will collect throughout the Village on the second and fourth Wednesday of every month. The new system will eliminate use of collection zones.

Additional details about single-stream recycling service will be mailed soon to every Village household. The information will include lists of permitted and prohibited materials, policies for inclement weather and holidays, procedures for missed collections, contact information for Giordano Recycling, information on permissible collection containers, and placement requirements for collected materials.

Also included will be information on continued operations at the Village Recycling Center.

The expanded information can be viewed now on the Village website at [www.southorange.org/singlestream](http://www.southorange.org/singlestream). ▲



## Dance, Eat & Play Celebrate South Orange!

The sixth annual "Celebrate South Orange" community event is set for Saturday, June 16. Hundred of people are expected to attend the family-friendly downtown celebration hosted by Main Street South Orange. Activities from 2 p.m. to 9 p.m. will include some great new additions:

- **Arts for All**, a partnership between Main Street, SOPAC and The Baird. Live local music and dance will be offered on the main stage throughout the day, and a juried craft show will feature many of the best local artisans, jewelers, and craftspeople.

- **Restaurant Row** - local restaurateurs, caterers, and food vendors will offer a smorgasbord of delicious dishes all day.

- **An Evening Community Dance Party** with a live dance band will center around the main stage.

Returning favorite activities will include the popular Sloppy Joe eating contest and kids' zone with carnival games, face-painting and more.

The June 16 date coincides with opening day of the South Orange community pool, and the first day of the South Orange Public Library's annual book sale.

For more information, go to [www.celebratesouthorange.org](http://www.celebratesouthorange.org). ▲

## Come to the river on May 6!

South Orange River Day is an annual community gathering to clean up the South Orange section of the Rahway River and celebrate our local community.

This year's event will include live music, free snacks from Eden Gourmet, the volunteer river cleanup, an educational walking tour of the river at 11 a.m., an edible plants walk at noon, a bike tour with the South Orange/Maplewood Bicycle Coalition at 1 p.m., used bike donations, a watershed exhibit, display of next-phase plans for the River Greenway Project, Seton Hall ultimate Frisbee clinic, and a model boat float in the duck pond.

It all takes place from 11 a.m. to 4 p.m. on Sunday, May 6 at the skate house in Meadowland Park. For details go to [www.soriverday.org](http://www.soriverday.org) or [www.facebook.com/SORiverDay](http://www.facebook.com/SORiverDay). ▲

## Renew your Recreation ID Badge now!

Take advantage of lower fees and avoid long lines by purchasing your 2012 South Orange Recreation & Cultural Affairs ID badge now!

The membership fee through May 15 is \$30 per person, with a maximum family fee of \$120. Beginning May 16, the fee will be \$35 per person, with a maximum family fee of \$140.

Badge holders 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 at [www.thebaird.org](http://www.thebaird.org), or call (973) 378-7754. ▲

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

May/June  
2012

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### Spring Foreign Films

A foreign film series about teens is underway on Tuesday evenings at 7 p.m. Showing May 29: "Los Olvidados" by Luis Bunuel with a post-screening discussion led by Gerard Amsellem, educator and filmmaker. June 27, "City of God."

### 'Miss Representation,' a film for today's girls

Girls ages 10 and older will enjoy a screening and discussion on Saturday, May 12, from 11 a.m. to 1 p.m. The film explores media misrepresentation of women, leading to their under-representation in positions of power and influence. It's co-sponsored by Girl Scout troop #61. The discussion will be led by Lisa Phillips.

### Children's Summer Reading Program

Sign up June 21-22. Opening day, June 25 - live music, arts and crafts, and special events, from 2 to 5 p.m. and 7 to 9 p.m.

Children's storytimes run through the week of May 14. Music programs, 11 a.m. on May 10 and 24. Call for details.

### Library Discussions

Thursdays, 1 p.m.

- May 3 - "Television and How It Has Changed."
- May 10 - "Fathers Who Are Mothers."
- May 17 - Annual Spring Symposium Gala, lunch and piano entertainment, 11:30 a.m.

at The Baird. Register to attend.

- June 7 - "Myth of Rosie the Riveter."
- June 21 - "A Black Cowboy's Ride Across America."

### Recurring Events

- Book Review Group - May 21, "Couldn't Keep It to Myself," by Wally Lamb; June 25, "The Submission," by Amy Waldman. Both sessions are at 7:30 p.m.
- Creative Writing Workshop, May 2 and 16, 1 p.m.
- "Business Finance Essentials," with SCORE, May 8, 7 p.m.
- Knitting, May 21, at noon.
- Wednesday Movies, 1 p.m.: May 9, "The Descendants." May 23, "The Iron Lady." June movie titles to be announced. ▲

### Two Village authors publish new books

**Doris Young Boyer**, an expert on etiquette and protocol, is featured in a new anthology, "Mastering the Art of Success." Her contribution is on *EtiQuettePower* and leading others. The book is available for \$21.50 on Amazon, or on Boyer's website, [www.ASenseofGrace.com](http://www.ASenseofGrace.com).

**Luis Rodriguez** has penned a 32-page illustrated book for children ages 4 to 8, called "The Klampie Mystery," about a girl and her stuffed koala bear. Published by Mascot Books, it is available on Amazon or at [www.mascot-books.com](http://www.mascot-books.com) for \$14.95. ▲

## Main Street seminar offered for business start-ups

Testing a new business idea? Got a hobby you could turn into a business?

Then join Main Street South Orange for a free seminar to learn about starting up a local business. The three-hour session will cover micro-lending, business banking and accounting, setting up an LLC, business research and real estate opportunities.

The session takes place Wednesday, May 23, from 9:30 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. at South Orange Public Library. Seminar leaders will be MSSO Economic Development Committee members and invited professional presenters. For information and to RSVP, e-mail [director@MainStreetSouthOrange.org](mailto:director@MainStreetSouthOrange.org). ▲

## Park SMART in South Orange

Don't you hate it when you find a great parking spot but you don't have the right coins to pay the meter?

With the South Orange Parking Authority's Smart Park Card you can avoid that situation. Just slide the card into the meter or pay-by-space machine. Correct payment is automatically deducted for your selected parking time.

All pay-by-space machines and electronic meters in South Orange accept the Smart Park Card. Purchase yours in any \$10 increment up to \$200 at the SOPA office in Village Hall.

For details, call (973) 378-7715, x2037, e-mail [nrodriguez@southorange.org](mailto:nrodriguez@southorange.org), or visit [www.southorange.org/parking](http://www.southorange.org/parking).

### Two Ways to Use the Card

- *At Pay-by-Space Parking Machines* - Firehouse Lot 3, S.O. Avenue Lot 5, Sloan Street Lot 9, NJ Transit Lot 11, and Mountain Station Lot 14
- *At Single-Space Electronic Meters* located in the central business district.

### Where to Recharge the Card

- *NJ Transit Lot 11* - cash only.
- *SOPA Office* - credit, debit, cash or check.

For your convenience use the cut-out below to mail in and purchase your very first rechargeable Smart Park Card.

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**973-876-7913/CELL**  
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Make check payable to: South Orange Parking Authority. Mail to: SOPA, Village Hall, 101 South Orange Avenue, South Orange, NJ 07079

# At The Baird

## DREAMCATCHER

[www.dreamcatcherrep.org](http://www.dreamcatcherrep.org) • (800) 838-3006

**Summer Theatre Conservatory.** Young actors ages 10 to 13 and ages 14 to 17 can take summer classes in acting technique, improvisation, voice, and dance. Classes will be held Monday through Friday, June 29 through July 27, from 9 a.m. to 3 p.m. daily, with a final performance on July 27.

Four week-long sessions are offered. Costs range from \$275 for one week, to \$880 for all four weeks. Limited scholarships are available. The admission deadline is June 1.

**Dreamcatcher** is moving from South Orange to Summit. After nine years at The Baird, the repertory theater will relocate in September to The Oakes Center in Summit.

The troupe's productions have been filling the 72-seat theatre at The Baird to capacity, creating need for a larger space. Artistic Director Laura Ekstrand praised The Baird for providing "the stability to grow stronger and to develop our identity and our audience." ▲

## PIERRO GALLERY [www.pierrogallery.org](http://www.pierrogallery.org)

**La Cinémathèque** - Discover the films of the French New Wave, Sundays from 2 to 5 p.m. Educator, artist, and filmmaker Gerard Amsellem introduces the films and leads a discussion after each screening. Coming up May 6 will be "Van Gogh" by Maurice Pialat (1991). On June 10, see "La Graine et le Mullet" by Abdelatif Kechiche (2007). Register online or in person at The Baird.

**Naturally** - Six artists use nature to explore the world in an exhibit that extends through May 12. Featured artists are Allison Green, Gary Park, Susan Napack, Jon Rappleye, Laurie Riccadonna and Andy Weeks.

• Art Talk: "Starting with Nature," Thursday, May 3, at 7:30 p.m. Moderated by artist, curator, blogger Brendon Carroll.

**South Orange/Maplewood Artists' Studio Tour 2012** Meet local artists and see their work in nearly 70 open studios and group exhibitions in South Orange and Maplewood. Free for the first time, the tour takes place Sunday, June 3, from 11 a.m. to 5 p.m. For more information, visit the tour website at [www.studiotoursoma.org](http://www.studiotoursoma.org).

**Studio Tour Preview/Post View 2012** - From May 24 through June 16, Pierro Gallery will host an exhibition of featured artists in this year's Studio Tour. It's your chance to take a preliminary or secondary peek at tour highlights.

- Opening reception, Thursday, May 24, 6 to 8 p.m.
- Art Talk featuring some of the show's artists, Thursday June 7, at 7 p.m. ▲

## SUMMER RECREATION

(973) 378-7754  
[www.thebaird.org](http://www.thebaird.org)

• **Summer Playground Program** - Limited openings are available for children in grades K-8, South Orange residents only. The half-day (9 a.m. to 1 p.m.) program runs from June 25 to Aug. 10.

Children meet daily in age/grade groups, enjoying games, sports, music, dance, art, swimming, special events and field trips, plus self-directed play under counselor supervision.

• **Cool Rocket/Science Camp** - In this fun-filled one-week camp, children ages 6 to 11 explore the science of flight, construct unique paper airplanes and build their own model rockets for launch. Daily sessions run from 1 p.m. to 5 p.m. the weeks of July 23, July 30, and Aug. 6; and 9 a.m. to 1 p.m. the week of Aug. 13. Fee: \$180/week.

• **Cougar Baseball Camps** - Coaches Larry Busichio and Chris Henry offer three one-week camps, starting June 25, July 9 or July 16. Children ages 7 to 14 will focus on baseball fundamentals: throwing, fielding, base-running, hitting, catching, and pitching. Details and registration are online. Fee: \$300/week.

• **Oben Flag Football Camp** - Children ages 5 to 13

learn skills and drills in an age-appropriate manner, in an atmosphere of fun. Sessions run 9 a.m. to 12:30 p.m., Monday, July 30 to Thursday, Aug. 2. (Rain date, Friday, Aug. 3). See website for details.

• **Multi-Sports Camps** - The U.S. Sports Institute multi-sports camp will take place in Meadowland Park Aug. 13 to 17. Details and registration at [www.USSportsInstitute.com](http://www.USSportsInstitute.com). Camps are offered for three age groups:

- **Sport Squirts Camp** (ages 3-5), 3 p.m. to 5 p.m. Covers soccer, t-ball, basketball, lacrosse and hockey.
- **Ages 5-14, half-day camp** - 9 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. OR 1 to 4 p.m. More than 10 sports in one week.
- **Ages 6-14, full-day camp** - 9 a.m. to 4 p.m. Many sports and daily challenges.

• **Beginner Golf** - The U.S. Sports Institute will hold beginner golf clinics for boys and girls, Aug. 20 to 24: ages 5 to 7, from 4:30 to 6 p.m.; ages 8 to 11, 6 to 7:30 p.m. Details and registration at [www.USSportsInstitute.com](http://www.USSportsInstitute.com)

• **Tennis Camps** - Weekly tennis camps for all ages and ability levels will be held in Meadowland Park. Details and registration at [www.USSportsInstitute.com](http://www.USSportsInstitute.com). ▲

**LIFEGUARDS NEEDED** - The Department of Recreation & Cultural Affairs needs certified summer lifeguards. Applications and information are available at The Baird.

**PRESCHOOL AT THE BAIRD** - Limited openings remain for the 2012-2013 Baird Preschool, a state-licensed program for South Orange and Maplewood children ages 2 ½ to 5 (as of Oct. 1, 2012). Details and registration online.

**Cougar Boosters Golf Outing, May 7**



The 14th Annual Cougar Boosters Golf Outing will be held Monday, May 7 at Maplewood Country Club to raise funds for Columbia High School extracurriculars (athletics and clubs). Recent recipients of Cougar Boosters funding have included the Robotics Team, frisbee, fencing, softball, track, marching band, Midnight Madness, Shakespeare Festival, and cheerleaders. Tee sponsors and prize donors also are needed. For details or registration, go to [www.CHSCougarBoosters.org](http://www.CHSCougarBoosters.org), or e-mail Al Farah at [CHSGolfOuting@gmail.com](mailto:CHSGolfOuting@gmail.com).

**S.O. Symphony performs May 19**

The South Orange Symphony will perform a free concert on Saturday, May 19

at 8 p.m. at South Orange Middle School. Conductor Robert Helmacy will lead the symphony's performance of Brahms' Piano Concerto No. 1, featuring 2011 piano competition winner Sang-Tae Park. Also on the program is Fauré's "Pavane," featuring the Columbia High School Excelsior Singers, and Copland's "Rodeo Ballet Suite." Admission is free. For more information, visit [www.southorangesymphony.org](http://www.southorangesymphony.org) or call (973) 729-5275.

**Conversations on Race, May 30**

The South Orange/Maplewood Community Coalition on Race will hold "Conversations on Race" on Wednesday, May 30 at 7:30 p.m. at Temple Sharey Tefilo-Israel on Scotland Road. Explore what it means to build authentic relationships across race. Moderators: Dr. Khalil Gibran Muhammad, Schomburg Center, and Barbara Heisler, the Funding Exchange. For details, visit [www.twotowns.org](http://www.twotowns.org).

**On Stage at SOPAC**

[SOPACnow.org](http://SOPACnow.org)  
(973) 275-1114

- May 5, 11 a.m. - House at Pooh Corner, \$15/\$12.
- May 15, 8 p.m. - Chris Hillman with Herb Pedersen, country/rock, \$25-\$40.
- May 6, 3 p.m. - Lysander Piano Trio, \$20/\$15.
- May 10, 8 p.m. - Singer songwriter Suzanne Vega, \$40-\$55.
- May 11, 8 p.m. - Linda Eder, \$79/\$99.
- May 12, 8 p.m. - Tom Wopat, cabaret, \$25-\$50.
- May 20, 2 p.m. - "Are You My Mother?" family theater, \$15/\$12.
- June 1, 8 p.m. - Russell Thompkins Jr., and the New Stylistics, a benefit concert for SOPAC. Tickets start at \$45.
- June 3, 5:30 p.m. - "It's

Time," an evening with Wincey, CD release party, \$30-\$50.

- June 14, 7:30 p.m. - Matthew Sweet, \$64-\$89.
- June 15, 8 p.m. - Paula Cole, \$54-\$79.

**Learn how to fight nature naturally**

Learn how to use plants, herbs and essential oils to protect your garden from insects, molds, fungi. The South Orange Department of Recreation and Cultural Affairs offers this new "Short Subject" on Saturday, May 19, from 2 to 4:30 p.m. — one of many cultural arts courses at The Baird this spring. To register, go to [www.thebaird.org](http://www.thebaird.org) and click on "View Activities," or call (973) 378-7754.

The Main Street South Orange Farmers' Market starts June 27 in the Sloan Street parking lot, and will be open every Wednesday through October from 2 to 7 p.m.

**It's honor-your-teacher time**

The Achieve Foundation's annual Honor Your Teacher campaign runs from May 1 to June 1. Families can write special tributes to teachers, librarians, guidance counselors, coaches, secretaries, bus drivers, crossing guards, principals or other school staff. The personalized messages are presented on beautiful cards delivered to recipients. A donation of \$5 or more per card is required. Donations support the foundation's teacher grant program. For details, visit [www.achievefoundation.org](http://www.achievefoundation.org). ▲



This workshop invites girls ages 11-14 (and parents) to learn more about:

- Friendship & Struggles • Family Stress • Health and Nutrition
- Body Image • Beauty/Fashion
- Bullying • Peer Pressure
- Loving Your Authentic Self

Sat., May 12, 9am-3pm  
South Orange Middle School

Pre-Registration required  
To learn more, visit  
[www.galsusa.org](http://www.galsusa.org)





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Spring/Summer 2012

# Residential DPW Services

**South Orange**  
**Dept. of Public Works**  
**300 Walton Avenue (973) 378-7741**

## 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

- May 19, Maplewood
- June 16, South Orange
- July 14, Maplewood
- Sept. 15, South Orange
- Oct. 20, Maplewood
- Dec. 15, 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.

## Sewer Back-Ups

If you experience a sewer backup during regular business hours, call Public Works at (973) 378-7741. On weekends or after business hours, call the police non-emergency number, (973) 378-7772.

Sewer backups are often caused by misuse of the sewer system. Don't flush disposable diapers, sanitary napkins, tampons or paper towels. And don't discard coffee grinds or grease down the sink.

## Spring Clean-Up, Branches & Leaves

May 15 is the last day to put out bagged leaves and bundled branches.

## Branch Pickup Appointments

Call the DPW office, (973) 378-7741, to schedule a pickup between June 1 and Sept. 1.

## Paper Shredding Day

Paper Shredding Days will be held as a service to residents only on June 30 and Sept. 22, from 8 a.m. to noon at the Public Works Yard. Two forms of ID will be required, preferably including a South Orange recreation ID card.

## Saturday Container Day Drop-Offs

**May 19, June 23, July 28,  
Aug. 25, Sept. 29**

*8 a.m. to 1:45 p.m.  
DPW Yard, 300 Walton Ave.  
(arrive by 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.\*\*

*\* Residents are encouraged to drop off metal during regular DPW hours: weekdays, 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.*

### 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 are allowed.

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

## ESSEX COUNTY DISPOSAL PROGRAMS

Fleet Maintenance Garage  
99 West Bradford Avenue  
Cedar Grove

(973) 226-8500, x222

## Electronics Disposal Day Saturday, May 19 9 a.m. - 3 p.m.

Computer CPUs and monitors, printers, keyboards, mainframes, fax machines, scanners, telecommunications equipment, speakers, TVs, VCRs, stereos, DVD players, toasters, toaster ovens, irons, cell phones and fluorescent light bulbs.

## Household Hazardous Waste Day

**Saturday, May 5  
8:30 a.m. - 4 p.m.**

Free to all Essex County residents with proof of residency. Not open to commercial or industrial companies. Watch for flyers and news articles from the county.



# 2012 State of the Village



*By Village President Alex Torpey*

**Budget.** In 2012 the expectations are high and the budgets are tight. For years South Orange has been a responsible steward, keeping tax increases low, while maintaining services that help make our community the amazing kind of place to live that it is. This year, we introduced a budget that reduced appropriations by over \$1 million, without layoffs or service cuts, with our tax levy well below the state-mandated 2% cap.

We have reformatted our budget process and made all the information available online in a spreadsheet so anyone can crunch the numbers. The expectations are high, but we're definitely up to the challenge. Learn more at: [southorange.org/budget](http://southorange.org/budget).

**Technology.** Being cost-effective isn't just about being well organized; it's about using the best technology platforms available. We're hoping to move towards Gmail instead of in-house exchange servers, which will save us money, save staff time and allow us take advantage of online collaboration tools. In the Clerk's office, we are exploring using tablets/laptops for all trustees, keeping all agendas, minutes and documents digital, which will lower costs and improve our productivity. We have applied for a grant for our Office of Emergency Management, which will, if we get it, enable us to purchase advanced web software that will allow us to have better access to alert tools during an emergency, allow quicker access to placing emergency notifications online and completely

overhaul the website, in addition to expanded equipment/training for emergency responders. We are planning to add online tools to our website that will allow residents to file complaints & request services, apply for permits instantly online and even via an app on your mobile phone.

**Public Safety.** The 2011 crime statistics reflect a 10% decrease in South Orange versus in 2010. Neighborhood Watch is working and active resident involvement is on the rise. The South Orange Police Department appreciates this important citizen involvement & credits many arrests to the proactivity of our neighborhood watch members.

In 2011, the Police and Fire Departments, Rescue Squad, and SHU held an active shooter drill in coordination with county and state agencies. We are committed to providing training opportunities on cutting-edge public safety methods and practices, inter-agency cooperative exercises, and the expansion of our Community Emergency Response Team. (CERT)

We are expanding the use of security cameras & Automatic License Plate Readers (ALPRs). These important, cost-effective tools greatly assist our officers in preventing and solving crimes.

Our police department continues to be ahead of the curve in their use of social media and now e-ticketing, which reduces paper use, reduces costs (without increase number of tickets written), and improves efficiency.

Dear fellow residents,

Looking back on this past year, I can hardly believe how much has happened. I graduated Columbia High School in 2005, not knowing that I would come back home after college in 2009 and run for office only two years later; not even run for office, but actually win! And I am deeply honored to be able to serve my hometown in this capacity.

It has been truly amazing to work together to better South Orange's future with people that I grew up with, while getting to know many more people who have worked for years on South Orange's behalf.

I have been privileged to get to know many of you, and I hope to meet more of you in the coming years. On behalf of the Trustees and staff here, I would like to personally thank our residents, business owners and students for your involvement and support. Your talents, knowledge and commitment are vital to our success.

Growing up in South Orange, I have witnessed the progress we have made and seen the Village flourish. I look forward to many more years of continued growth and prosperity in our community and I know that, as good as South Orange is today; the best is yet to come.

*Alex*

**Communication.** Since assuming office, I have committed to making sure communication is a top priority for the Village. In addition to frequent email updates, blog posts, social media interactions (especially during last year's storms) and video updates, we have been generating more content for the website - in fact, we have increased website visits by almost 30%. The official South Orange Twitter has been re-activated to assist in updates and emergency notifications, with many more social media outreach strategies currently being explored.

My office hours in Village Hall have been a great success, and I have truly enjoyed the many conversations I've had with community members, & encourage everyone to stop by.

We are re-structuring our Board of Trustees meetings to allow community groups to present and increase public input, as well as looking for web-based solutions to improve communication and provide virtual community dialog and suggestion spaces.

**But we can always do better.** And I welcome feedback and suggestions as to how we can continue to better engage with residents and bring them into the governance process.

**Transparency.** I believe most of you are aware of my commitment to open government, and I am fortunate to be able to continue to build upon South Orange's past leadership in this field, including strict anti pay-to-play laws, live online meetings, and online availability of public documents. But we continue to innovate. Meeting formats have been updated and we will be implementing

information management systems that will provide unprecedented access to public documents.

Personally, I have been involved in state-wide discussions aimed at improving the Open Public Meeting/Record Acts; paving the way for more open government in New Jersey with South Orange poised as a leader of the digital government transparency movement.

**Sustainability.** South Orange continues to be a leader in green government, from our project of installing solar panels at the DPW facility, to purchasing hybrid police vehicles, to winning a grant for Electric Vehicle charging stations, to being an award-winning walkable downtown where owning a car is not even necessary. Our jitney's are biodiesel, our residents do things like create [www.southorangeenvironment.org](http://www.southorangeenvironment.org) and we have routinely won awards from Sustainable Jersey for green initiatives.

**Governance & Management.** I have been working closely with the trustees and our dedicated village staff to review and improve internal procedures in the daily operations of the Village. Although not always the most exciting or visible work, proper internal organization is critical. Formalizing procedures and policies and improving use of technology will ensure the most cost-effective and productive use of our amazing municipal staff to deliver the high-quality services that is vital to the quality of living and character of living in South Orange.

**These are only a few highlights of our progress. Visit [southorange.org/SOTV](http://southorange.org/SOTV) to learn more and watch the entire address!**

## CAPITAL PROJECTS AND REDEVELOPMENT

### Village Hall

Planned for 2012-2014, the restoration and renovation of Village Hall, our largest capital project, will save hundreds of thousands in repairs and utility costs and not just provide a functional government center but also preserve this beautiful & historic iconic Village landmark.

### "Beifus" site (S.O. Commons)

This vacant lot, too long an eyesore in the core downtown, is on track for mixed use development in 2012, including 57 apartments and retail space. The Planning Board granted final site plan approval and another new downtown landmark is coming soon!

**South Orange Public Library.** On track of a buildings planning project funded in part by a grant from the Garden State Historic Preservation Trust Fund to renovate the Connett building and expand the library's offering of services.

**Fire Truck.** A \$700,000 grant was procured to purchase a new ladder truck at only an approx. \$35k cost to taxpayers.

### Rahway River Improvements

Building on years of improvements to the Rahway River Project, we have continued to improve and beautify our river corridor, securing millions in grants from the state and federal government.

### Third Street and Valley

This Village owned property, currently a commuter parking lot and Rescue Squad site, is being studied for redevelopment as apartments, retail and a parking garage to serve commuters and shoppers. This would bring in a large new ratable and improved parking into our downtown.

**IT/Networks.** As part of the Village Hall renovation, we are investing in creating a state of the art fiber optic network between all of our municipal buildings.

**Sloan St.** We are working to improve traffic flow, parking, way finding, drop-off and pedestrian access on Sloan St. as a vital component to downtown revitalization.



## WAYS FOR YOU TO LEARN MORE & GET INVOLVED

We are always looking for volunteers to help with specific projects, especially related to the downtown, public information and public safety. Information is available at [southorange.org](http://southorange.org), you can email me at [atorpey@southorange.org](mailto:atorpey@southorange.org), follow [twitter.com/SouthOrangeNJ](https://twitter.com/SouthOrangeNJ) or stop by my office hours every Tuesday at 3:30! You can also keep updated by following me at [facebook.com/alextorpey](https://facebook.com/alextorpey) and [twitter.com/alextorpey](https://twitter.com/alextorpey).

# In Touch

with  
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Government

**General Info.**  
(973) 378-7715  
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**Fire Dept.**  
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**Library**  
762-0230  
**Police Dept.**  
378-7775  
**Public Works**  
378-7741  
**Recreation &  
Cultural Affairs**  
378-7754  
**Rescue Squad**  
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**Recycling Info. &  
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378-7741  
**Water Service**  
266-8869

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Patric, rpatric@  
comcast.net,  
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823-9001

## Villager of The Month SHU's Division of Volunteer Efforts (DOVE)

A great education is what every college student hopes to achieve. But Seton Hall University expects more -- that compassion should go hand-in-hand with academics.

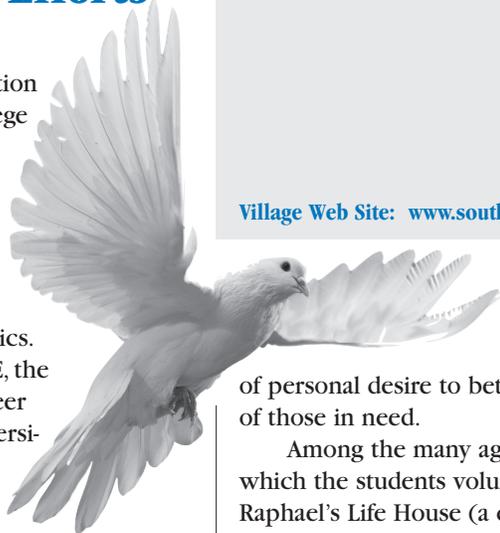
Through DOVE, the Division of Volunteer Efforts, 2,500 university students a year volunteer their time to more than 20 social service agencies. They help out in programs ranging from mentoring children, to helping the elderly, to working in area soup kitchens.

Though most programs serve Newark and Orange, DOVE volunteers provide many needed services right here in South Orange. They work with residents of a cerebral palsy group home, help with cleanup and animal-walking at Jersey Animal Coalition, do chores for elderly Villagers, and help with street cleanup in the Village Clean Sweep program.

They also run local holiday toy drives and soup kitchen food collections, and they inspire local youngsters in the Seton Stories program at South Orange Library.

"DOVE encourages all members of the Seton Hall community, regardless of faith or service background, to get involved," said Director Michelle Peterson.

Students can get credit for their involvement in some cases, but more typically they become involved out



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of personal desire to better the lives of those in need.

Among the many agencies for which the students volunteer are Raphael's Life House (a crisis shelter for homeless, pregnant teens), Academy Street Firehouse (mentoring for child victims of HIV/AIDS), and schools in Newark and Orange where volunteers provide tutoring and mentoring.

DOVE also has an international component. Each year, student applicants are selected to join a team and travel to El Salvador and Haiti to live in solidarity with the poor and serve those in need.

For all the suffering that is being alleviated in our immediate environs, the Village salutes DOVE and the compassionate students who serve its many causes. ▲

## More bikeable, walkable streets in the works

The South Orange Transportation Advisory Committee is developing a "Complete Streets" policy to make Village streets more bikeable and walkable. The plan will encompass safe parking and vehicular movement, intersections and crosswalks, signs and signals, street crossings and more. Committee members are needed to help shape the program. To learn more, contact committee chairman Daniel Peterson at [orbisi@aol.com](mailto:orbisi@aol.com). ▲

## Enjoy springtime family bike rides

The South Orange/Maplewood Bicycle Coalition is sponsoring three family rides in May and June.

- Sunday, May 6, 1 p.m. - Meet at the duck pond for a 2-mile flat ride. Discover the bike paths in South Orange.

- Saturday, June 2, 10 a.m. - Tour the oldest houses in Maplewood. Meet in the NJ Transit parking lot in Maplewood.

- Saturday, June 25 - Ride the route of the future Maplewood Greenway, from Memorial Park in Maplewood to South Orange, with a stop at Hat City Kitchen in Orange. The 7-mile round trip has two starting points: 4 p.m. at NJ Transit parking lot in Maplewood, or 4:30 p.m. at The Baird parking lot in South Orange.

Check [sombike.com](http://sombike.com) for details and weather issues. ▲

## John Laney awarded

John Laney, a South Orange resident who teaches at Livingston High School, has been awarded the 2012 Mildred Barry Garvin Prize from the New Jersey Historical Commission for "pioneering work to introduce African-American history into the curriculum at Livingston High School."

"Hundreds of students, representing numerous races, have benefited from the historical identity and trans-racial aspects of this class," said Laney. He received a \$1,500 award, which he will apply toward a student-centered trip on African-American history. ▲

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