

The South Orange Gaslight



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

**May/June
2014**

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396 gaslight outages identified

More than 50 volunteers fanned out on the streets of South Orange on April 3 for Project Gaslight, a public safety initiative aimed at identifying defective gas lamps to improve lighting conditions. Within an hour, participants logged outages or other issues on 396 of the Village's 1,400 gaslights.

PSE&G was informed the next day and repairs were expected to continue through spring.

Project Gaslight was coordinated by Trustee Sheena Collum, who chairs the trustees' Public Safety Committee. Volunteer residents, trustees and Seton Hall students worked in 21 zones using the new service request smartphone application, SOConnect, to quickly submit their findings. Irregularities included mantle outages and broken lamp parts. ▲

No tolerance for pedestrian jeopardy

A zero tolerance campaign to enforce pedestrian safety has been initiated by the Village's Public Safety Committee in partnership with the South Orange Police Department.

The program kicked off April 1 when police issued 16 summonses to drivers who failed to stop for pedestrians in marked crosswalks.

The related public education campaign will be carried out through meetings with neighborhood associations, and through use of social media, banners and posters.

"We want our residents as well as drivers passing through our community to know the laws and also

CONSTRUCTION BEGINS *at Third & Valley*

An eight-year-old vision of downtown harmony with modern green building practices and expanded parking options . . . Those were the inspirations of Jonathan Rose Companies when they developed plans for the corner of Third and Valley streets in downtown South Orange.

At a groundbreaking on March 21, Jonathan Rose recalled the Village's 2008 Vision Plan, which included first floor retail on the corner of Third and Valley, with a mix of market rate and affordable housing above, as well as a commuter parking garage.

When completed in late 2015, the new complex will feature "blue roofs" to capture rainwater and release it slowly to aid the sewer system, and "green roofs" with planted surfaces.

ALTERNATIVE COMMUTER PARKING *provided during Third & Valley project*

With redevelopment at Third and Valley came the closing of municipal parking lot #7, where 133 commuter parking spaces were located. The South Orange Parking Authority has identified six alternative parking areas for "blue tag" resident commuters to use during construction of the new development:

- 30 spaces at Firehouse lot 3
- 20 at Village Hall lot 4
- 50 at Waterlands Park

High efficiency lighting and plumbing, and hookups for solar panels also will be incorporated.

Third and Valley will contain 215 rental apartments, including 22 low- and moderate-income units. It will be home to an estimated 250 to 300 people.

The development is one block from the South Orange train station. It includes 3,000 square feet of retail space and a parking deck with 513 spaces for public and private use.

The finished deck will include 255 public parking spaces, 70 more than the lot that was closed to make way for the development. ▲

- 15 at North Ridgewood Road
- 15 at Mead Street
- 15 at Meadowbrook Lane

Only blue tag resident commuters can park in the alternative spaces from 5 a.m. to 11 a.m. After 11 a.m., any open space is available to the general public. A-frame directional signs posted in the alternative lots help drivers find designated spots, and a map is posted on the Village website.

Alternative space permits do not apply to any other parking in town.

New Jitney/Parking Pass Offered - The Parking Authority is offering a free Combo Jitney Pass to blue tag permit holders for the balance of 2014. If you live along a

RIVER DAY

Come to the River on May 4th

South Orange River Day is an annual community gathering designed to clean up the Village section of the Rahway River, celebrate South Orange, and promote environmental education and awareness.

This year's event will include:

- Volunteer river cleanup
- Live music
- Wild edibles walk and cook-off
- Ecology walk
- Bike rally
- Arm-of-the-Sea Theater performing "Rejuvenary River Circus"
- Watershed ambassador display
- Jersey Buzz honey cooperative

The fun takes place from 11 a.m. to 4 p.m. on Sunday, May 4 at the skate house by the duck pond in Meadowland Park.

More attractions will be added. For details visit www.facebook.com/SORiverDay. ▲

Caljean appointed Village Clerk

South Orange has a new Village Clerk. Susan Caljean, former municipal clerk for Chatham Borough in Morris County, was appointed Feb. 24 by the South Orange Board of Trustees. She began her duties on March 17.

Caljean has more than 13 years of experience as a New Jersey municipal clerk. She has served as a committee member and advisory board member of the Municipal Clerk's Association of New Jersey and was elected president of the Morris County Clerks' Association in January 2013.

She is a registered municipal clerk, a certified municipal registrar and a certified municipal clerk.

Caljean will liaise between residents and local government officials, maintaining Village records, issuing various permits and licenses, and serving as chief election officer during any election in South Orange. ▲

Animal Control Officer Dick Ash retires

Dick Ash, South Orange's long-time animal control officer, retired on Feb. 28 after 42 years of service to the Village.

Ash began working for South Orange in 1969 as a water treatment plant operator. As Animal Control Officer, he was attached to the Health Department and was often seen at the Duck Pond with border collie "Cloud" who chased away Canadian geese.

Ash is also a 40-year volunteer for the South Orange Rescue Squad. By the start of this year, he had logged 3,357 calls. He plans to continue his squad volunteerism on a limited basis. ▲



Fire Dept. grant expands staff

South Orange will be hiring two new firefighters thanks to a \$339,600 federal grant. Former Chief Jeff Markey wrote the grant, which will cover the first two years of salary and benefits for two firefighters.

At a fire station ceremony on March 19, U.S. Senator Robert Menendez and Congressman Donald Payne Jr. announced the Staffing for Adequate Fire and Emergency Response grant.

Local officials said SAFER grants are highly competitive and they thanked Payne, Menendez and other partners at county, state and federal levels for helping the department to maintain its level of excellence. ▲

West Nile Virus testing season has begun

New Jersey's annual West Nile Virus surveillance is under way and you can help track and control the spread of the disease. The South Orange Department of Health has begun collecting dead crows, blue jays, hawks and robins to help determine where the virus is circulating and where enhanced mosquito control activities may help. Ducks and geese will be considered for testing on a case-by-case basis.

West Nile Virus is transmitted primarily through infected mosquitoes whose larvae are found in standing water.

If you find a dead bird of the correct species, call the Animal Control Officer at (973) 378-7715, x7711. For more information on WNV, visit the www.state.nj.us/dep/mosquito. ▲



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Essex County Disposal Programs

Household Hazardous Waste Collection Day
Sat., May 3, 8:30 a.m. - 4 p.m.

Computer & Electronics Recycling Day
Sat., May 17, 9 a.m. - 3 p.m.

New Location, Both Events:
125 Fairview Ave., Cedar Grove
(next to old hospital center)

Proof of Essex County residency will be required.

To ask about items accepted or not accepted, call (973) 792-9060 or visit the Essex County Utilities Authority website, www.ecuanj.com, and click on "Solid Waste and Recycling."

Happenings

■ Cougar Boosters hold 16th annual golf outing

The Columbia High School Cougar Boosters will host their annual golf outing at the Maplewood Country Club on Monday, May 5. During this year's post-tournament cocktail hour, golfers will enjoy performances by the CHS Jazz Band and the A Cappella Club.

Past outings have raised more than \$260,000 for CHS sports teams and extracurricular clubs such as the all-school musical, robotics team, marching band, jazz band, Quiz Bowl, Midnight Madness, and the Shakespeare Festival.

Teams and clubs must apply for funds and must meet Cougar Boosters' criteria. The donations pay for equipment to improve student experiences.

For golf tournament details, contact Golf Chairman Al Farah at chsgolfouting@gmail.com. To learn more about Cougar Boosters, visit www.chscougarboosters.org.

Community Coalition on Race

www.twotowns.org (973) 761-6116

■ Story Door Project builds artistic understanding

A five-week art program at The Baird allows South Orange and Maplewood residents to share personal stories of diversity using full-sized doors as artistic canvases.

The program begins Wednesday, April 30, at 7:30 p.m., and continues with four Thursdays workshops, May 8 through May 29, from 7:30 to 9:30 p.m. (If you're reading this article after April 30 and before May 8, you can still sign up.)

Professional artists will guide the use of mixed media artistic materials. The finished doors will be displayed in the 2014 Annual Artists Studio on Sunday, June 1.

Workshops are free and no previous art experience is required. Go to the Coalition website to register.

■ Come to the Cultural Heritage Festival

Celebrate the rich diversity of our community through foods, games, vendors and entertainment shared by cultural groups throughout the region. The Coalition's first Cultural Heritage Festival will take place Saturday, June 14 from 11 a.m. to 5 p.m. at Maplewood Memorial Park on Valley Street. Interested vendors should contact Barbara Velazquez at velazqba1@verizon.net.



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■ 2014 Summer Concert Series kicks off July 2

Music lovers! Mark your calendars for five outdoor concerts coming up in July.

Past summer series have brought a mix of jazz, blues, country and popular music to Floods Hill in Meadowland Park. This year's line-up is still being determined, but the dates are Wednesdays, July 2, 9, 16, 23 and 30 at 7:30 p.m. All concerts are free and provide a perfect social setting for families and neighbors to meet and relax while enjoying the sounds of top contemporary musical performers. Refreshments will be available for purchase.

The series is produced by the South Orange Performing Arts Center and sponsored by the Village of South Orange.

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

May

- May 1-4, 8 p.m. – "Dido & Aeneas," opera, \$0-\$25.
- May 4, 7 p.m. - Jazz in the Loft: Wincey Terry, \$15.
- May 7, 7:30 p.m. - Suzanne Vega, neo-folk, \$34-\$50.
- May 9, 8 p.m. - Tom Paxton and Holly Near, neo-folk, with special guest Emma's Revolution, \$25-\$48.
- May 10, 5 p.m. – "Listen to Your Mother; North Jersey" (live readings), \$15-\$25.
- May 15, 7:30 p.m. - The Mavericks, country, \$60-\$85.
- May 17, 8 p.m. - Richie Furay with special guest Rusty Young, rock and country, \$40-\$225.
- May 18, 4 p.m. - Youth Orchestras of Essex County Spring

Concert, \$5-\$50.

- May 31, 10:30 a.m. - SOPAC Superheroes! A mini superhero training camp, \$15 for one adult and one child; \$10 for each additional child.
- May 31, 12 p.m. - Bobby Beecut, family event, \$10-\$15.
- May 31, 9 p.m. - An Evening with Barbara Cook, Broadway diva, \$60-\$325. (\$225 and \$325 levels include formal dinner)

June

- June 7, 8 p.m. - The Smithereens, power pop and alternative rock, \$33-\$60.
- June 29 7 p.m. - The Papermill Playhouse Broadway Show Choir, \$17-\$27.



Drawings by renowned artist donated to S.O. Fire Department

Five pen and ink drawings by world-renowned public safety and military artist Dick Kramer (Leesburg, Va.) have been donated to the

South Orange Fire Department. The drawings were donated by Kramer's daughter and son-in-law, Sue and Tony Torseillo, owners of Ridge Tire & Auto Center in South Orange.

"I grew up in town and I've known a lot of guys on the Fire Department all my life," said Tony.

Frames were donated by community minded craftsmen Chris and Jeff Bobbins, owners of the South Orange Frame Shop on Sloan Street.

Stop by the fire station at 52 Sloan Street and view the Kramer drawings as well as a collection of vintage photographs highlighting the history of the department.

Photo, from left: Tony Torseillo (son-in-law of the artist), Fire Chief John Shoemaker and South Orange Frame Shop co-owner Chris Bobbins.

Summer Sports & Activities

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

Summer Playground Program - South Orange residents age 4 through grade 8 are eligible for this half-day seven-week camp, which runs from June 30 to Aug. 15, 9 a.m. to 1 p.m. daily. Children are grouped by age and school grade to enjoy games, sports, music, dance, art, swimming, special events, field trips, and self-directed play under counselor supervision.



Cool Rocket/Science Camp - Children ages 6 to 11 explore the science of flight, construct unique paper airplanes and build their own model rockets for launch. Four sessions are offered: the weeks of July 21, July 28, and Aug. 4, from 1 to 5 p.m.; and the week of Aug. 18, from 9 a.m. to 1 p.m. Fee: \$180/week (\$170 for South Orange residents with current ID badge).

Drama Camp - Your child can learn the fundamentals of theater production in this one-week camp offered by interACT Theatre Productions. Working as an ensemble, children in grades 2 to 6 will collaborate on writing and performing an original theatrical piece, to be performed for an audience on the final day of camp. Two sessions are offered: the weeks of July 28 and/or Aug. 4, 9:30 a.m. to 2:45 p.m. Fee: \$260 per week.

Cougar Baseball Camps - Joe Fischetti and Chris Henry coach three sessions, the weeks of June 30, July 7 and July 14. Children ages 7 to 14 will focus on baseball fundamentals: throwing, fielding, base-running, hitting, catching, and pitching. Details and registration online.

Multi-Sports Camps - The U.S. Sports Institute multi-sports camp will be offered at Meadowland Park Aug. 18 to 22. Details at www.USSportsInstitute.com.

- Sport Squirts Camp, ages 3 to 5, from 4:30-5:30 p.m. Covers soccer, t-ball, basketball, lacrosse and hockey.
- Ages 5-12 - half-day camp, 9 a.m. - 12:30 p.m., or 1-4 p.m. More than 10 sports in one week.
- Ages 6-12 - full-day camp, 9 a.m. - 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. 11 to 15. Details and registration at www.USSportsInstitute.com.

- Parent & Me Golf Squirts, ages 4-5 (w/caregiver), 3:30-4:30 p.m.
- Ages 5-7, 4:30-6 p.m. • Ages 7-10, 6-7:30 p.m.

Tennis Camps - Weekly tennis camps for all ages and abilities will be held in Meadowland Park. Details and registration at www.USSportsInstitute.com.

Pierro Gallery

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

10th Annual South Orange Maplewood Artists Studio Tour

June 1, 11 a.m. - 5 p.m.

The artistic diversity of South Orange and Maplewood artists will be celebrated on June 1 when Pierro holds its 11th annual SOMA Artists Studio Tour, a free event. More than 60 artists' studios, galleries and group exhibitions will be open to art lovers from all over the metropolitan area. Begin or add to your art collection. Artists will be selling at studio prices.

Friends and Neighbors

On display June 1-21 • Opening Reception: June 1, 2-4 p.m.

In tandem with the SOMA Artists Studio Tour, "Friends and Neighbors" features artists from surrounding towns who contribute to the region's creative vibe. Curated by Jeremy Moss.

interACT Theatre

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

What happens after happily ever after? Find out in Stephen Sondheim's acclaimed musical, **Into the Woods**, to be performed for three weekends in May. Performance dates are May 2 to 4, May 9 to 11, and May 16 to 18 at the Baird Theatre, 5 Mead Street. Showtimes are 7:30 p.m. on Fridays and Saturdays; and 2 p.m. on Sundays. Get tickets and information online.

Preschool at The Baird

Limited openings remain for the 2014-2015 Baird Preschool, a state-licensed program for South Orange and Maplewood children ages 2 ½ to 5 (as of Oct. 1, 2014). Details and registration online.

Renew Your Recreation ID Badge Now!

Your badge brings entry to the community pool and discounts on many department-sponsored classes and programs. Badges are issued at The Baird with two proofs of residency. Details are online.

- Now through May 15: \$30 per person; maximum family fee, \$120.
- Beginning May 16: \$35 per person, maximum family fee, \$140.

Lifeguards Needed

Certification is required to be a community pool lifeguard. Applications and information are available at The Baird.

South Orange Library Events

(973) 762-0230 • www.sopl.org

Fizz Boom Read!

Sign up for the 2014 Summer Reading Program starting June 25. Events and reading last all summer; opening day festivities on June 30.

Calling Student Volunteers

Students entering any grade from 6th through 12th in fall 2014 can volunteer at the library. Contact Keisha Miller for details.

Discussion Group

Thursdays, 1 p.m.

- May 1 – “How to Really Understand Economics,” with Frank Popper, professor of planning at Rutgers and Princeton.
- May 8 – “To Mother or Not to Mother,” with Caldwell College sociology professor Rosann Bar.
- May 15 - Spring Gala, with pianist Young Woong Cho, violinist Agnieszka Peszko, and cellist Mitsuko Flynn. Enjoy an afternoon of music, food, and fun at The Baird. Registration required. Fee: \$5 for South Orange residents and Senior Circle members; all others, \$8.
- June 12 – “The Life of African-American Civil War Veteran Alexander Branscomb,” with financial consultant, writer and lecturer Dustin Weeks.
- June 26 - “Economic and Military Disaster in the Balkans,” with New York Law School Professor Michael Botein, and St. Elizabeth College Professor Bennett Greenberg.

Recurring Events

- Book Review Group – May 19, “Catcher in the Rye,” by J.D. Salinger; “Thinking Fast and Slow,” by Daniel Kahneman. Both sessions at 7:30 p.m.

- Creative Writing Workshop – May 7, 21, June 4, 18, at 1 p.m.
- Knitting Workshop led by Nan Samons. Mondays, May 19 and June 16, at 1 p.m..
- Wednesday Movies – May 14, “Gravity”; May 28, “American Hustle”; June 11, “Blue Jasmine”; June 25, “Frozen.”
- Spring Foreign Film Series – May 27, 7 p.m., “Walk on Water.”

Children’s Room

- LEGOs – May 5 and 10, June 2 and 16, 3:45 p.m., ages 5 and older with adult.
- Minecraft – May 12 (closed the succeeding three weeks), 3:30 p.m., ages 7 and older with adult.
- Toddler Storytime with Ms. Keisha - Tuesdays, 11 a.m., ages 2½ and older. (On break starting May 13. Resumes June 24)
- Books and Babies – Wednesdays, 10 a.m., newborn to 2½. (on break starting May 14, resumes June 25)
- Book Bunch – May 8, 4 p.m., age 9 and older.
- Good Tymes String Band and Wilma and the Wingers – May 22, 11 a.m., all ages.
- Seton Stories – Fridays, 10:30 a.m., ends May 2.
- Drop-In Crafts – May 9, 23, June 13, 27, 3:30 p.m., all ages.



Former First Lady Eleanor Roosevelt on a visit to CHS

South Orange Village Center Alliance

Help improve our Village Center

Take the SOVCA survey

The South Orange Village Center Alliance wants to make our community an even more appealing place to live, work, shop, dine and visit. As part of the effort, SOVCA is surveying residents to ask what kinds of stores, restaurants, and businesses should be recruited, and what other downtown changes would appeal to residents. To take the survey, go to www.SOVillageSurvey.com.

Farmers’ Market reopens June 4

Straight from the farm to your table! The SOVCA Farmers’ Market will be back for another season beginning Wednesday, June 4. Dig into fresh produce and prepared foods from farms across our immediate region.

Look for the market next to the Sloan Street parking lot, every Wednesday through October, from 2 to 7 p.m. Shop for fresh produce, prepared foods, pickles and pickled

veggies, dried fruits and nuts, breads and pies, fish and meats.

‘Downtown After Sundown’ returns

Join neighbors and friends on Friday and Saturday evenings in the heart of the Village Center for live entertainment from 7 to 10 p.m., Memorial Day through Labor Day, weather permitting. Shop, dine and enjoy the free music all summer long.

BiZ BUZZ

Welcome to two new downtown businesses:

- **Slek Styling Bar**, at 4-10 Village Plaza, offers hair and beauty maintenance for women on the go. (973) 223-2950, Slekstylingbar.com.
- **Eye Level Learning Center**, 15 Village Plaza, Suite 2A, offers an educational enrichment program that develops students’ proficiencies in math, reading and writing. Children ages 3-14 learn critical thinking skills. (973) 798-8859, www.eyelevel-southorange.com.

Help preserve CHS history

The Achieve Foundation of South Orange & Maplewood invites the community to help establish a permanent archive for Columbia High School. A precious collection of

aging photos, yearbooks, news articles and memorabilia must be preserved.

Included are speeches from appearances by Pearl Buck and Eleanor Roosevelt, artifacts from the original Columbia High in South Orange, and school newspapers dating to the turn of the century.

Achieve is raising funds for equipment and materials to ini-

tiate a “digital humanities” project, using the latest technology to teach archival science and to allow for the study and research of local history.

Four retired CHS teachers have voluntarily organized and catalogued the collection in recent years. Now, with the help of high school students, professional consultants and community volunteers, the project could expand to include archival material from other district schools.

To learn more or to donate, go to achievefoundation.org, or call (973) 378-2055. ▲

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*per GSMLS

Maplewood Office - 697 Valley Street - Maplewood, NJ 07040



Sign up for Jr. Police Academy

If your child is about to complete the fifth, sixth or seventh grade (roughly 10 to 13 years old), he or she is eligible to sign up for the one-week Junior Police Academy sponsored by the Youth Aid Division of the South Orange Police Department.

The academy gives students a glimpse into the training and preparation required of a new police officer. Students learn about teamwork and discipline while gaining basic knowledge of the law. Officers from South Orange and other agencies serve as instructors, each demonstrating different areas

of law enforcement expertise.

The experience includes field trips, such as past visits to the U.S. Coast Guard Academy and the New York Police Museum.

The academy will run from Monday to Friday, July 7 to 11, from 9 a.m. to 2 p.m. daily. Space is limited to 24 students at a cost of \$100 per student. Applications are due by June 1 and will be accepted on first-come, first-served basis.

Applications are available at the police department or online at www.southorange.org. (On the home page, look for "Latest News," then Police Department.)

For more information, call Officer Jared Adams, (973) 763-3000, x7789. ▲

Pedestrian Safety

Continued from page 1

know that if they break them, there are consequences," said Public Safety Committee Chair Sheena Collum.

Under state law, motorists are required to stop for pedestrians at marked crosswalks and crosswalks at traffic signals. Motorists who fail to stop can be penalized two points on their license, be assessed a \$200 fine and be required to perform 15 days of community service.

Pedestrians who fail to yield to traffic at points other than a crosswalk can be fined \$54. ▲



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Rescue Squad offers eight-week cadet training program

Get perspective on what matters in life

If you're a compassionate young person who also likes new challenges . . . if you want to make a difference through your future line of work . . . then here's the perfect opportunity for you.

The South Orange Rescue Squad is offering an eight-week training program for 15- to 17-year-olds from South Orange and Maplewood who will learn in the classroom and on the job about emergency medical services.

During the second annual South Orange Rescue Cadet Program, you will become certified in cardiopulmonary resuscitation (CPR). You'll learn how to move, lift and bandage a patient, and how to take a person's blood pressure. You'll learn all the basics taught in the early stages of emergency medical technician school.

The program starts on May 4, and continues every Sunday through June 29, from 6:30 to 8:30 p.m. Classes will be taught by South Orange Rescue Squad President Melanie Troncone, Captain Dan Cohen, and other EMTs who will assist.

The program is free and a maximum of 10 or 12 students will be admitted.

"It's not for everyone; we understand that," said Troncone. "But one of our cadets (from

last year) went on to EMT school" and two more have recently signed up.

The first hurdle is passing the CPR test. Those who succeed can continue the eight-week training.

"After the eight weeks, if



we're comfortable with their skills, they can go out on a crew," said Troncone.

Her own daughter, Mackenzie, age 16, became a cadet last year. She now rides with Troncone on Saturday nights. There are also weekend daytime slots for cadets to ride.

The cadet program is a practical way to staff the squad with future EMTs. "Everyone involved benefits," said Troncone, "the cadet, the squad, and the community."

To apply for the Rescue Cadet Program, go to the squad building at 13 Fourth Street (temporary location) to pick up an application. Or request the form by e-mail or phone: sorescue@verizon.net, or (973) 762-5647. ▲

Alternative Parking

Continued from page 1

jitney route, the pass offers an alternative to driving.

The pass application and jitney schedules are on the Village website www.southorange.org. Mail the completed application or bring it to the SOPA office located in The Baird community center. Hours are 8:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. (Note: photos will be taken.)

If there are two commuters in a household using one parking permit, a second pass may be purchased at a pro-rated half-price amount. (For example, the annual pass is \$150/year, \$12.50/month. For May to December, it would be \$50.) ▲

Sustainable Services

South Orange Department
of Public Works

300 Walton Avenue • (973) 378-7741
www.southorange.org/dpw.asp

Spring Clean-Up, Branches & Leaves

May 12 - last day to put out bagged leaves and bundled branches.

Branch Pick-Up Appointments

June 1 thru Sept. 1. Call to schedule at (973) 378-7741, x221.

Paper Shredding Days

Saturday, July 19, and Saturday, Oct. 18, 8 a.m. to noon

At the Public Works Yard. The shredding vendor will provide a "certificate of destruction" to verify shredding beyond recognition.

Grass Clipping Pickup

South Orange Disposal will pick up grass clippings for a fee from May 1 to Oct. 31. Details at www.southorange.com, or call (973) 762-3880.



Saturday Container Day Drop-Offs

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.

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

No metal items or appliances allowed.

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

Electronic Recycling Drop-Offs

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 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

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

Please Note

- Commercial and large-quantity electronics users cannot participate.
- DPW does not schedule electronics pickups.

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.



When your sewer backs up

If you experience a sewer backup in your home, you may not need a plumber. During regular business hours call the South Orange Public Works Department 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.

No styrofoam material can be brought into the DPW recycling facility.

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

May Villagers of the Month Clean Sweep

"We're a pretty rag-tag group. I'm sure early on people thought we were prisoners and this was community service we had to do.

"No no no, we'd tell them. It's volunteer service."

Over the last four or five years, word has gotten out that Matt Mattheiss and crew do what they do simply because, "We love seeing our town clean. The instant gratification is terrific."

Mattheiss, a lifelong Village resident and his son Derek, now 25, were walking down town one day in 2010, talking about the litter. "We said we should do something about it. So we came up with a plan."

They would enlist volunteers, mostly family and friends (like the ever-eager Brian Bauman), to patrol sections of downtown South Orange and pick up garbage while also raising anti-litter awareness.

They would call the program "Clean Sweep."

The two shopped the idea to the South Orange Chamber of Commerce, which provided T-shirts for participants. One Chamber member, Leslie Pogany, owner of Bunny's Sports Bar on West South Orange Avenue, even offered free pizzas to the volunteers after every cleanup for four years.

The buy-in didn't stop there. Last fall, the South Orange Fire Department donated \$250 for new gloves and sweepers.

Since starting in 2010, Clean Sweep has conducted an average six sweeps a month. Primarily, they comb South Orange Avenue, Irvington Avenue and Valley Street. The South Orange Special Improvement District

Township of South Orange Village
South Orange, NJ 07079

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Village Web Site: www.southorange.org



A few Clean Sweep volunteers, from left: Sean Sackett, Derek Mattheiss, Brian Bauman (a constant fixture with the team) and Matt Mattheiss.



began cleaning the central business district a couple of years ago and Clean Sweep began concentrating more on the outer areas. They also have cleared Grove Park, pitched in at River Day, and even cleaned up around the police department.

It takes about an 60 to 90 minutes to de-litter one of the major avenues with only four or five people working. "We're like a machine," said Mattheiss. "We all have sweepers and a bucket. We do streets, parking lots, by the train station . . ."

Eventually Clean Sweep connected with the Seton Hall Dove Program, a student service group, which swells the volunteer ranks significantly during the school year.

"Our mission is to raise the awareness NOT to litter," said Mattheiss, who is thrilled when he hears young

kids say to their mothers, "Mommy, what are they doing?" One young mother answered, "They're saving the planet, honey!"

Clean Sweep does not enlist younger student groups because the volunteers often work close to traffic. "We've kept it to high school and older," said Mattheiss.

The program has stirred admiration from other towns, including Newark. "People ask us, 'How can we do this in our town?'"

The Village commends Clean Sweep not only for beautifying our Village on a volunteer basis, but also for getting people environmentally involved in their community. ▲

Thanks Teacher!

The Achieve Foundation of South Orange and Maplewood will print and deliver your family's personal note of thank to any school district staff member during the last week of school. To order Honor Your Teacher tributes, go to www.achievefoundation.org or call (973) 378-2055. ▲

Library applauds community generosity

The library board and staff extend sincere thanks to the many members of our community who supported the library's recent appeal by donating so generously that fundraising goals were exceeded. The funds will be used for collections and programming for all ages and to refresh and improve spaces, in both the short and long term. ▲



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