

# The Gaslight

ISSUE 01  
2021

SPRING/SUMMER  
SOUTH ORANGE  
VILLAGE  
ACCESS IT ALL



SUMMER  
EDITION



## LETTER FROM THE VILLAGE PRESIDENT

# welcome

I am delighted to welcome you to the return of *The Gaslight*, South Orange's quarterly newsletter. The look is new, but you'll find it's full of the same valuable information, plus some helpful new features, such as the 2021 Curbside Recycling Guidelines and Schedule, designed for you to keep for easy reference.

Each quarter, in the Board of Trustees Initiatives section, we'll focus on the work of the trustees, highlighting everything from the annual budget and infrastructure issues to new ordinances and the projects of various trustee committees. This quarter you can read more about the 2021 budget, the work of the environmental commission, Water Utility projects, and the Community Care and Justice program.

In addition, we've included a calendar of upcoming events, an update on our master plan process, construction news, and more, to keep you connected to South Orange.

Like everything we do, this newsletter is for you. And that means we want your feedback. Email comments, thoughts, and suggestions to [so@southorange.org](mailto:so@southorange.org).

It's wonderful to see so many of South Orange's summer activities back on the calendar this year. From the opening of the community pool and concerts on the hill to the farmers market and the summer reading program at the library, there's something for everyone to enjoy. So please, let's continue to be safe and follow all current COVID-19 guidelines. Check the Village's website ([southorange.org/691/Village-Services-During-COVID-19](https://southorange.org/691/Village-Services-During-COVID-19)) regularly for important COVID-19 updates and information.

Happy summer—I'll see you around the Village!

Sheena C. Collum  
Village President



### IN TOUCH WITH VILLAGE GOVERNMENT

#### VILLAGE PRESIDENT

Sheena Collum  
973.378.7715 ext 2

#### BOARD OF TRUSTEES

Bobby Brown  
Donna Coallier  
Karen Hartshorn Hilton  
Bill Haskins  
Summer Jones  
Bob Zuckerman  
973.378.7715 ext 2

#### ADMINISTRATOR

Adam Loehner  
973.378.7715 ext 2

#### GENERAL INQUIRIES

973.378.7715

**Clerk's Office**, ext 1

**Building & Code**, ext 3

**Tax Collector**, ext 4

**Assessor**, ext 5

**Finance**, ext 6

**Engineering & Zoning**, ext 7

**Parking Authority**, ext 2037

**Health**, ext 7710

**Water Service** ext 7760

**Public Works**

973.378.7741

**Recreation & Cultural Affairs**

973.378.7754

**Fire Department**

973.762.3200

**Library**

973.762.0230

**Police, nonemergency**

973.763.3000

**Rescue Squad**

973.762.5647

**Animal Control**

973.377.2296

# VILLAGE HIGHLIGHTS



## SOUTH ORANGE VILLAGE DEPARTMENT LOGOS



## OFFICIAL GOVERNMENT SEAL



## BALANCE, CONNECTION & ACCESS

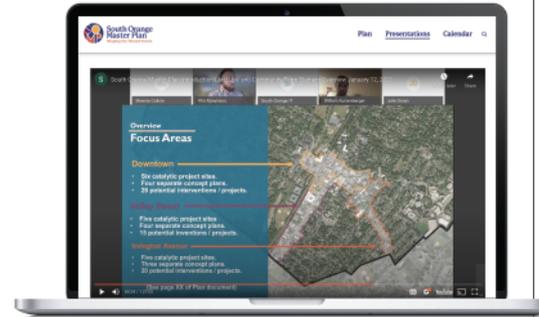
We hope you've noticed our new brand identity popping up around town. Like South Orange, it's bold, it's current, it's balanced. Our new logo, bright colors, and strong graphic elements are being used here in our newly designed *Gaslight*, on our social media, & in other public-facing communications.

In 2019, after a competitive bidding process, the branding work was awarded to DePaolis Designs. Diane DePaolis, is a longtime South Orange resident & branding professional whose previous local work includes SOPAC's original branding and that of several local businesses. A volunteer steering committee was formed comprising Village residents, administration, and trustee liaisons.

With valuable input from community conversations, especially those centered around the new master plan

development, a number of community meetings, and independent research, the team set about developing the new look to convey South Orange's inclusive, vibrant, progressive, and responsive nature.

In South Orange, we are connected to the city and to nature. To arts & culture. To education. To the old and the new. To a diversity of thought and cultures. Connected to our neighbors, our community, and the world around us. Through our South Orange connections, we have access to it all!



## MASTER PLAN

Thanks to the time and expertise of so many of our residents and organizations, we are in the homestretch and expect to issue a final draft for adoption this summer.

Examples of how public input improved the plan include:

- A more holistic approach to mobility (accommodating residents in Newstead, Wyoming, etc., and capitalizing on out-of-town traffic instead of discouraging it).
- A more detailed position on inclusivity and equity.
- Greater attention to the depth of our arts community and recognition of it as a resource to be preserved.
- Improved graphics and formatting for a more user-friendly document reflective of the Village's population and built environment.

Your contributions undoubtedly led to a more comprehensive plan, and we're very grateful to everyone who participated.



## CHIEF KROLL RETIRES

After 33 years of service, South Orange Chief of Police Kyle Kroll announced his retirement. "Serving as the South Orange chief of police has been the experience of a lifetime. I am grateful to the Village president and trustees for putting their faith in me, to my fellow officers for their dedication and support, and to the community of South Orange."

Effective May 1, Captain Stephen Dolinac has assumed the responsibilities of acting chief of police. The process for selecting Kroll's permanent replacement will be shared with the public in the near future.

## REPORT A CONCERN



You can report a nonemergency issue easily through "Report a Concern," found on the homepage at [southorange.org](https://southorange.org).

## VILLAGE DEVELOPMENT



### South Orange Is Building

Curious about the various construction projects around town? In each issue of *The Gaslight* we'll spotlight one or two of the current projects.

### Village Hall Tavern & Beer Garden

Construction continues at the site of the former South Orange Village Hall, on the corner of South Orange Ave and Scotland Rd. Many will remember that the former Village Hall was sold as an adaptive reuse to the Landmark Hospitality Group in 2016, providing an opportunity for this historic building to be restored and preserved, and adding an important new ratable to our tax rolls.

Landmark Hospitality Group plans to open the Village Hall Tavern & Beer Garden by fall 2021. This venue will feature a steakhouse, a beer garden, and a private-event space. Landmark Hospitality owns and operates a portfolio of distinctive venues, hotels, and restaurants in NJ and PA.

### Connett Building | Public Library

South Orange Public Library is thrilled to share its plans to create a larger, more accessible, 21st-century library to meet the community's evolving needs. The plans include restoring the original 1896 Connett Library building, renovating the existing 1968 library, and constructing a link connecting the two buildings.

The state of New Jersey is awarding matching grants to communities seeking to improve their libraries. Though the South Orange Public Library project was not funded in the first round, the library intends to resubmit its \$6.4 million proposal for the next round this summer, and the Village has committed to matching the funding.

**Find more details on all current South Orange construction projects at [southorange.org/650/Projects-and-Capital-Projects](https://southorange.org/650/Projects-and-Capital-Projects)**

## VILLAGERS OF THE MONTH



### JANUARY 2021 The Food Pantry at Our Lady of Sorrows

In service for over 40 years, the OLS Food Pantry was established to fight hunger in our community. The COVID-19 pandemic adversely affected many families, and the Food Pantry had a 112% increase in the number of families utilizing the program. OLS partnered with the St. Joe's MEND food pantry to ensure that everyone who needs food has access to it during this time. The Community Relations Committee commends the Food Pantry and the volunteers for their selfless service in ensuring that all patrons have access to food and are treated with patience, kindness, and dignity.



### FEBRUARY 2021 Gregory Burrus

When you think of the more recognizable faces in the crowd, chances are Gregory Burrus comes to mind. This makes complete sense even though he is often behind the camera, capturing life "Around South Orange." Knowing that music connects people, Mr. Burrus helped create a sense of community during the COVID-19 pandemic by working with South Orange Village Center Alliance (SOVCA) to create a weekly music series in our downtown area. The community began to venture out more to listen to the music and visit the outdoor businesses.



### MARCH 2021 Linda Beck

Linda Beck is a stalwart supporter of environmental issues in our community. Recognizing that education is the best way to teach people about the environment, she established Campfire Storytimes with the library and the Fire Department at the Duck Pond. Additionally, you can find her caring for the turtles in the pond. Ms. Beck is a member of the Environmental Commission, which was awarded a grant to help cull invasive species in the Duck Pond. In early 2020, she was a founding member of the Meadowland Park Conservancy, which works to reimagine and redesign the park's open spaces.

Villagers of the Month are nominated by the community for their extraordinary dedication to South Orange. The Community Relations Committee, which is the Village's longest-running advisory committee, selects the awardees. To nominate a Villager of the Month, please visit the South Orange website at [southorange.org/756/Villager-of-the-Month](https://southorange.org/756/Villager-of-the-Month)

# BOARD OF TRUSTEES INITIATIVES

## FISCAL YEAR 2021 BUDGET

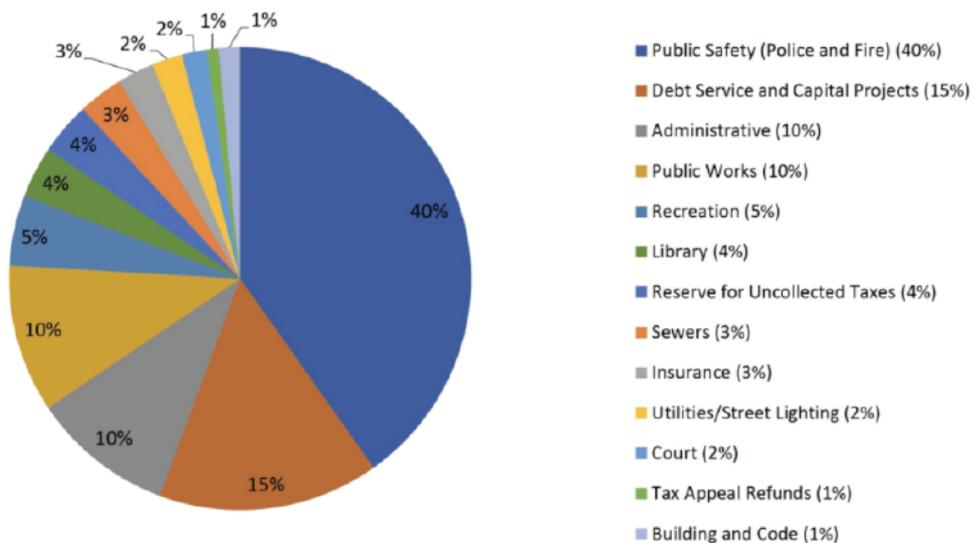
The South Orange Board of Trustees passed the fiscal year 2021 budget totaling \$38,476,326.09, which represents approximately 26% of your total property tax bill.

The largest percentage (40%) of the budget will be allocated to the Police and Fire Departments, 15% will go to debt service and capital projects, 10% each to Administration and Public Works, 5% to Recreation, and less than 5% each to the library, reserve for uncollected taxes, sewers, insurance, utilities and street lighting, court, tax-appeal refunds, and Building & Code.

The budget includes a reduction of the two-year salary freeze for municipal employees to one year. The freeze was originally negotiated in 2020 to avoid furloughs and layoffs resulting from lost revenues and increased expenses due to the COVID-19 pandemic.

The good news is that, because of the work of the Finance & Capital Projects committee led by Trustee Karen Hilton, including 2020 spending cuts and salary freezes and other steps taken to manage finances during the pandemic, South Orange is not relying on bonds to supplement the budget. "We will not need to issue bonds to cover operating expenses, like many other towns are doing, as a result of their shortfalls due to COVID-19, and so we're in a very, very healthy place for 2021, and we know that 2022 will be even better," Village President Sheena Collum said when introducing the budget this past March.

## HOW YOUR MONEY IS SPENT



## FROM THE ENVIRONMENTAL COMMISSION

The Environmental Commission, chaired by South Orange Trustee Bill Haskins, is hard at work on several major initiatives that will have a positive impact on our environment. These include a Quiet Communities Leaf Blower ordinance, a Tree Protection ordinance, a Suburban Forestry tree planting plan, and a SOMA Zero Waste Planning Project. Stay tuned this summer as we launch:

- A strategic plan to identify the policies, programs, and infrastructure to maximize recycling and composting and reduce waste to the Newark incinerator.
- A bid strategy to identify the business terms for improving recycling and trash collection and expanding compost collection.
- Community conversations to identify the opportunity and barriers for moving forward on the journey to **zero waste**. **To keep in touch, email [somazerowaste@gmail.com](mailto:somazerowaste@gmail.com)**

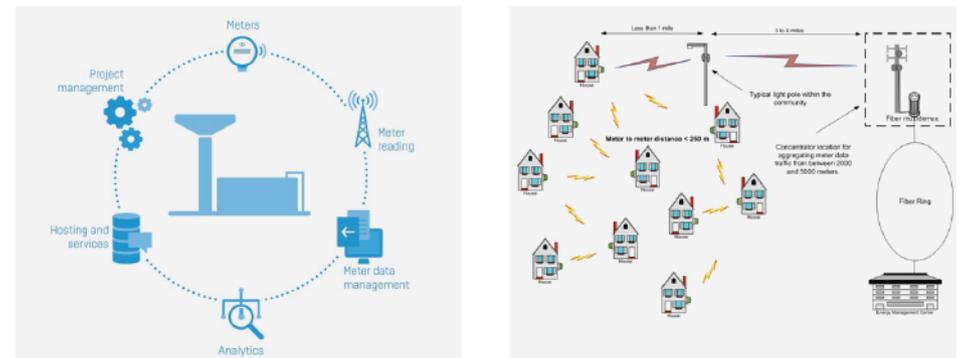
## WATER UTILITY UPDATES

The South Orange Village Board of Trustees voted and passed Ordinance #2021-01, which increased the water rate in South Orange from \$6.52 to \$7.00 per 100 cubic feet. This increase covers cost-of-living increases and debt service associated with capital expenditures, such as the recently completed Scotland Rd project.

In addition to physical upgrades and maintenance throughout the system, the Water Utility is implementing an automated meter infrastructure (AMI) system to increase reliability, access to information, and system resiliency. The AMI system will eventually replace the water meter in every home in South Orange with one that can give up-to-the-minute consumption information and alerts to customers. Meter replacement will start this fall.

The utility has also secured the services of consulting engineers for the appraisal, valuation, and related consulting services regarding the municipal water system. Two other major projects are in the development stages: the Crest Dr storage tank replacement and the Newstead water sphere rehabilitation. These projects require various prerequisite system upgrades, which are planned throughout this year.

## COMING SOON TO THE SOUTH ORANGE WATER UTILITY AN AUTOMATED METERING INFRASTRUCTURE (AMI)



## COMMUNITY CARE & JUSTICE PROGRAM

South Orange, Essex County, and Seton Hall University have partnered to launch the Community Care & Justice (CC&J) Initiative. CC&J is premised on a wide body of research that establishes viable alternatives to certain aspects of traditional models of law enforcement, as well as health and public safety. CC&J is focused on augmenting the status quo with methods that stress the overall health and wellness of the community—including the use of social workers and community teams to engage with those who experience mental health crises, substance misuse, homelessness, domestic violence, or racial inequities.

The program is especially focused on engaging local youths, working to protect them from inequities and cycles of poverty and dysfunction by empowering them to design and execute their own wellness journeys. As part of its efforts toward community wellness, the program also intends to offer proactive mental health care for law enforcement personnel.



# RECREATION & CULTURAL AFFAIRS



## **SOUTH ORANGE SUMMER NIGHTS ARE BACK! Wednesdays, June, July & August**

We are thrilled to announce the return of South Orange Summer Nights! With Art in the Park in June, Summer Concerts in July, and Movie Nights in August, Flood's Hill is once again the place to be each Wednesday evening all summer long! Summer Nights is jointly produced by the South Orange Department of Recreation & Cultural Affairs and the South Orange Performing Arts Center.

Visit [southorange.org/520/South-Orange-Summer-Nights](https://southorange.org/520/South-Orange-Summer-Nights) for movie and concert details.



## SOUTH ORANGE COMMUNITY

### SOUTH ORANGE RECREATION & CULTURAL AFFAIRS MEMBERSHIP

All South Orange residents are eligible for a membership, which includes access to the public pool and tennis courts, and discounts on many Recreation Department programs. Membership fees are \$35/person, \$140/family maximum. For membership purposes, a FAMILY is defined as parents and dependent children living within the same household, and membership is valid for the calendar year. To become a member, call 973.378.7754 or visit [southorange.org/474/Membership](https://southorange.org/474/Membership).

**All COVID-19–related social distancing guidelines will remain in effect and be strictly enforced.**



# VILLAGE HAPPENINGS

## SOPAC

SOPAC looks forward to welcoming you back! Please know that SOPAC is dedicated to ensuring the health and safety of our community. SOPAC's Covid-19 precautions and Policies can be reviewed at [SOPACnow.org/Covid-19](https://www.sopacnow.org/Covid-19).

Visit [SOPACnow.org/events](https://www.sopacnow.org/events) for details on upcoming events, including:



### EagleMania

The World's Greatest Eagles Tribute Band

**Fri, July 23**



### Classic Stones Live

The Complete Rolling Stones Tribute Show

**Fri, July 30**

### Broken Arrow

The Music of Neil Young

**Fri, August 6**

### The Weeklings

The Music of the Beatles & More

**Fri, August 13**

### Laughs in the Loft

Hosted by Joe Larson

**Weds, July 7 & August 4**

## SOVCA

Here's what's happening in South Orange Downtown



### Shop & Dine Local

Support your favorite local businesses. Great deals all summer long and lots of outdoor dining options.

### Summer Saturdays

The music is back! Join us every Saturday through December for live music downtown.



### Farmers Market

Get your fresh fruits, vegetables, eggs, meat, nuts, bread and much more every Wednesday through October from 2 to 7pm.

VISIT US AT [sovillagecenter.org](https://www.sovillagecenter.org) for Summer Saturdays schedule and list of market vendors.

Follow us on Facebook and Instagram @sovillagecenter to keep updated on the latest happenings.

## SOUTH ORANGE PUBLIC LIBRARY

This summer, South Orange Public Library will be your home away from home, once again hosting in-person, socially distant outdoor events.

On Monday, June 21, the Summer Reading: Tails & Tales program kicks off with a full slate of opening-day festivities, followed by eight weeks of creative activities. As always, kids and adults can earn prizes based on how much they read.

Our biweekly Monday film and book group, Wednesday writing sessions, and Friday lecture series will continue virtually.

Visit [sopl.org](https://www.sopl.org) for more information.



## KEY DATES

**Mon, June 21**  
Summer Reading Program Festivities Begins Library

**Sun, June 27**  
Drag Queen Bingo  
Sloan St parking lot, 1pm

**Wed, July 7**  
Summer Nights Concert on the Hill  
Stuff Bros.  
Flood's Hill, 7pm

**July 9 - 11**  
Shakespeare in the Park  
Juliet & Her Romeo  
Flood's Hill, 8pm

**Wed, July 14**  
Summer Nights Concert on the Hill  
Empire  
Flood's Hill, 7pm

**Thu, July 15**  
South Mountain Soccer  
Registration opens

**July 16-18**  
Shakespeare in the Park  
Juliet & Her Romeo  
Flood's Hill, 8pm

**Wed, July 21**  
Summer Nights Concert on the Hill  
Gravy Train  
Flood's Hill, 7pm

**Wed, July 28**  
Summer Nights Concert on the Hill  
Marry the Sea  
Flood's Hill, 7pm

**Sun, August 1**  
Fall Baseball Clinic  
Registration opens

**Tue, August 3**  
National Night Out  
Trolls World Tour  
Flood's Hill, 4pm

**Wed, August 11**  
Summer Nights Movie on the Hill  
Frozen 2  
Flood's Hill, 8pm

**Wed, August 18**  
Summer Nights Movie on the Hill  
Onward  
Flood's Hill, 8pm

**Wed, August 25**  
Summer Nights Movie on the Hill  
Jumanji: The Next Level  
Flood's Hill, 8pm

### OTHER IMPORTANT DATES

**Farmers Market every Wed, through October 27**  
Sloan St parking lot  
2-7pm

**Container Days**  
Sats, July 17, August 14 & September 18  
8am-1pm

**Board of Trustees Meetings** 2nd & 4th Mon of each month, except holidays, 7:15pm

Dates and times are subject to change; visit [southorange.org](https://www.southorange.org) for confirmation.

## VILLAGE NEWS

### VILLAGE SPOTLIGHT

#### SOMA ADULT SCHOOL

A community school for all ages, the SOMA Adult School was founded in 1933 during the Great Depression. Its mission is to be a community school where people can gather to learn, stay informed, and be entertained. The school is the oldest operating adult school in New Jersey and was named a Local Legacy in 2000 by the Library of Congress. In the last two years, the school has served over 700 South Orange adults, and, in its Children's Summer Program, over 350 South Orange kids have been served. The Adult School pivoted to online programs during the COVID-19 pandemic but still has an extensive catalog of courses.

[southorange.org/808/  
Village-Spotlight](https://southorange.org/808/Village-Spotlight)



### ROAD PAVING AND CURBS

South Orange has identified the following streets for milling and paving, and funding was approved in the 2021 capital budget. In priority order:

- **Grove Rd** (estimated cost \$600,000; current NJDOT grant \$300,000)
- **Stone Hill Rd** (curbs & paving)
- **Connett Pl** (curbs & paving)
- **Kingman Rd** (paving only)
- **West Montrose Ave** (paving only)
- **West Fairview Ave** (curbs & paving)

### NEW BUSINESS OPENINGS

After a difficult year of shutdowns and reduced-capacity operations, it's great to see new businesses opening in South Orange. Please stop by and welcome these new businesses to town.

#### Chipoba Cafe

50 South Orange Ave

#### Juice Hub

61 Academy St

#### Concepts Dance Academy

50 South Orange Ave, 2nd Fl

#### The Gallery at the Ave

9-21 Vose Ave

#### Garden of Edith

#### Floral Design Studio

52 South Orange Ave

#### Charlene K. Beauty Bar

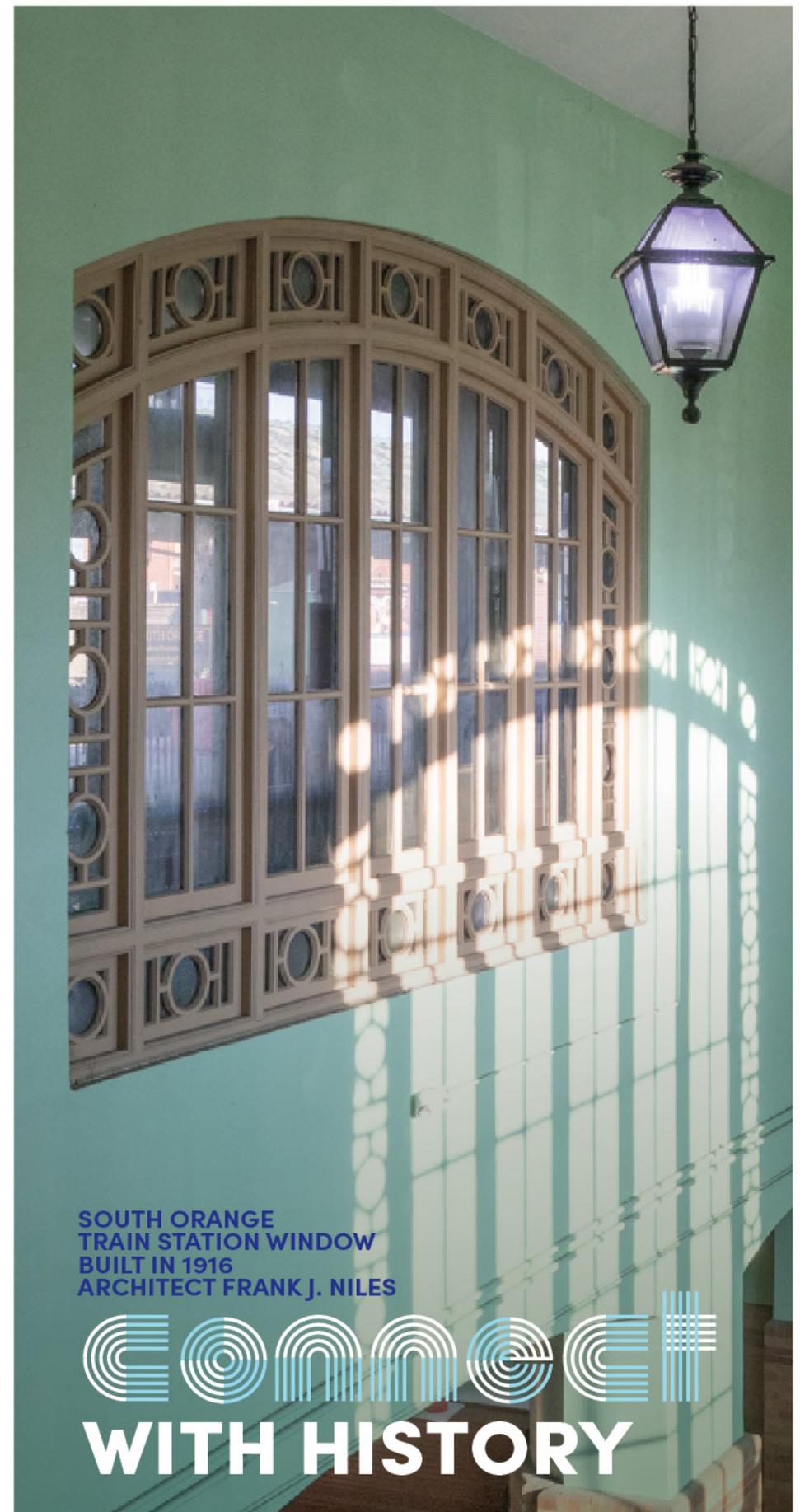
318 Irvington Ave

#### Michezo Vegan Cafe

329 Valley St

#### Neighbors Wine Shop

319 South Orange Ave



SOUTH ORANGE  
TRAIN STATION WINDOW  
BUILT IN 1916  
ARCHITECT FRANK J. NILES

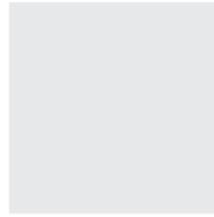


WITH HISTORY



**SOUTH  
ORANGE**  
VILLAGE

**Municipal Offices**  
76 South Orange Ave  
Suite 302  
South Orange  
New Jersey 07079



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**Village website: [southorange.org](http://southorange.org)**

**Join our mailing list for updates**

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## **WE'RE LOOKING FOR VOLUNTEERS**

**Now is the time to get involved with the community!**

**South Orange Village has volunteer openings for several boards, committees, and programs. These opportunities provide residents with the chance to connect with the community and help shape the future of South Orange.**

Community Relations Committee | Seton Village Committee |  
Environmental Commission | Community Police Collaborative |  
Historic Preservation Commission | Two Towns for All Ages |  
Citizens Budget Advisory Committee | Development Committee |  
Transportation Advisory Committee | Community Board | Design  
Review Board | Planning Board | Zoning Board of Adjustment |  
Parking Authority | Recreation & Cultural Affairs Committee |  
Community Care & Justice Committee

**For more information about each committee,  
visit [southorange.org](http://southorange.org)**

**To apply, visit [southorange.org//374/volunteering](http://southorange.org//374/volunteering)**

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## **EMERGENCY ALERTS**



**ALERTS & NOTIFICATIONS SIGN-UP:**  
[www.southorange.org/610/SO-Alerts](http://www.southorange.org/610/SO-Alerts)

Are you receiving emergency alerts and nonemergency notifications? Communication is key, whether it be during a global pandemic, for a severe weather event, or for a street closure. When you create an account, you decide how you would like to be contacted.

