

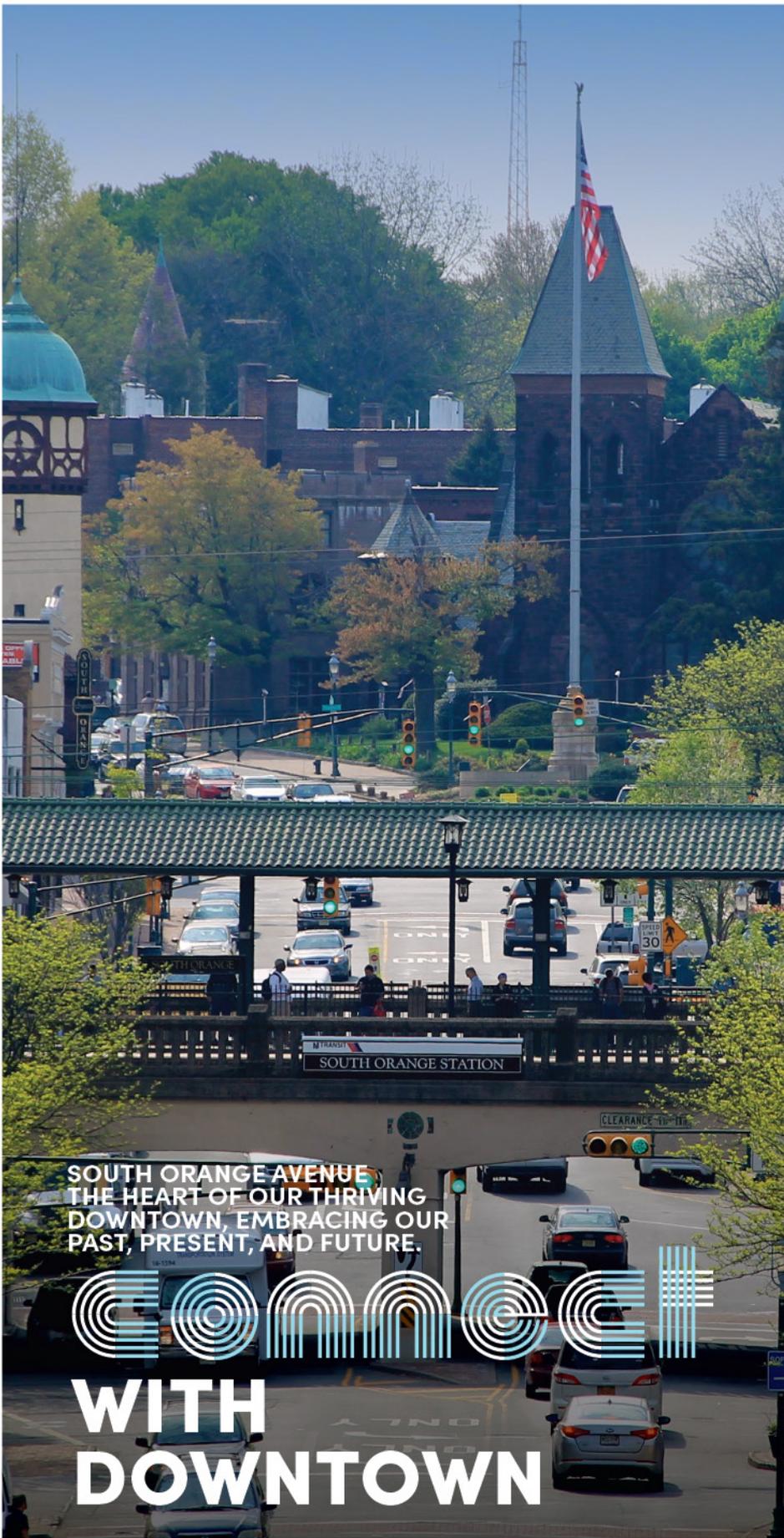
# The Gaslight

ISSUE 04  
2022

SOUTH ORANGE  
VILLAGE  
ACCESS IT ALL

SPRING  
EDITION





**SOUTH ORANGE AVENUE  
THE HEART OF OUR THRIVING  
DOWNTOWN, EMBRACING OUR  
PAST, PRESENT, AND FUTURE.**



**WITH  
DOWNTOWN**



# LETTER FROM THE VILLAGE PRESIDENT



## IN TOUCH WITH VILLAGE GOVERNMENT

### VILLAGE PRESIDENT

Sheena Collum  
973.378.7715 x 2

### BOARD OF TRUSTEES

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

### ADMINISTRATOR

Adam Loehner  
973.378.7715 x 2

### GENERAL INQUIRIES

973.378.7715

**Clerk's Office**, x 1

**Building & Code**, x 3

**Tax Collector**, x 4

**Assessor**, x 5

**Finance**, x 6

**Engineering & Zoning**, x 7

**Parking Authority**, x 2037

**Health**, x 7710

**Water Service** x 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

With Covid-19 moving from pandemic to endemic, and South Orange having such strong vaccination numbers, we have a lot to look forward to this spring! I thank all of you for the sacrifices you have made, your strength and resilience you've exhibited over the past two years, and the incredible efforts that were made to support those in need and follow the science.

The Board of Trustees has been hard at work, particularly as it relates to the budget. While not formally adopted, residents should expect to see a municipal increase (which is 27% of the overall tax levy) around 3.9%. While I understand that any increase is difficult, I urge you to consider the millions of dollars of damages we experienced with Tropical Storm Ida, the capital investments we're making in the Baird Community Center, South Orange Public Library, the new community center on Fairview Avenue, and our commitment to roads, water and stormwater infrastructure and the pressing issues we're facing as a result of climate change. Even despite the 2021 year being our single biggest in competitive grants for our taxpayers (over \$12M), we still needed to utilize fund balance for the shortfall. Fortunately, in the next two years, more rates will be coming online to minimize the increase needed from our residents.

Other highlights include:

- We've gone hybrid and government meetings will feature both in-person and virtual opportunities for you to participate!
- We're finalizing gas-powered leaf blower restrictions that will strengthen our commitment to our planet, prioritize public health and quiet down our neighborhoods.
- As a part of three redevelopment projects, various community benefits agreements were negotiated including a co-retailing space in the downtown, an artist incubator and event space on Sloan, and a new community meeting spot next to Founder's Park.

Lastly, I'd like to draw your attention to the worst humanitarian crisis we have seen since WWII. Please keep your thoughts with our Ukrainian brothers and sisters and find ways to support their efforts whether through donations, displaying signs of solidarity, or simply praying for peace. South Orange stands with people of Ukraine.

With the warm weather approaching, I can't wait to see you out in town enjoying all that South Orange has to offer including live music downtown and on Floods Hill, outdoor movies, sporting events, cultural celebrations, al fresco dining, block parties, shopping local, and so much more!

In community kindness, friendship and hope,

*Sheena Collum*

Sheena C. Collum  
Village President



## VILLAGE HIGHLIGHTS



### NEEDED

South Orange needs community volunteers for a variety of committees. Have a head for numbers and like budgeting? Consider joining our Citizens Budget Advisory Committee. The Community Care & Justice Committee is looking to further engage our already active and deeply committed community and is building a database of volunteers. Do you have a background in design or architecture? Our Design Review Board could use your skills. Interested in collaborating with our neighbors in Maplewood on a combined Fourth of July celebration? Let us know. Interested residents should email the clerk's office, referencing their areas of interest: [clerksoffice@southorange.org](mailto:clerksoffice@southorange.org).

### BOARD OF TRUSTEES MEETINGS ARE GOING HYBRID

The Board of Trustees is returning to in-person meetings this spring, and the public is welcome to attend in person or virtually. These hybrid meetings will offer residents the flexibility to participate from home or in person. The meetings are generally held on the first and third Mondays of the month at 7pm at SOPAC and via WebEx. Virtual meeting instructions can be found at [southorange.org](http://southorange.org) in the calendar section.

**REAL ESTATE IS A HYPER-LOCAL BUSINESS. SUPPORT A BROKERAGE THAT IS TOO.**

**HEARTH** #MADEINSOMA  
REALTY GROUP

22 FIRST ST SOUTH ORANGE | 973-913-5055 | [HEARTHREALTYGROUP.COM](http://HEARTHREALTYGROUP.COM)

## VILLAGE DEVELOPMENT



### BIG CHANGES AHEAD FOR THE SOUTH ORANGE PUBLIC LIBRARY

The vision of a 21st-century library for South Orange is on its way to becoming reality. With a \$6.5-million grant from the state, a matching commitment from the Village, and a plan to raise further support from the community, the South Orange Public Library will expand and retool to serve the diverse, evolving needs of our community.

The project includes renovation of our current library, rehabilitation of the historic Connett Building, and construction of a link connecting the two. The expansion and redesign will yield significant gains in accessibility, aesthetics, scope of services, technology, overall user experience, sustainability, and capacity.

The library will nearly double in size, to 30,700 square feet. It will feature an expanded children's room, a teen section, multiple small study and meeting rooms, a space for archives and historical collections, and so much more.

### 270-299 Irvington Ave | The Peaks at South Orange



VIEW LOOKING NORTHWEST INTO THE COURTYARD

#### GARDEN HOUSE COURTYARD VIEW

An exciting redevelopment project has been approved on Irvington Avenue for a 60-unit mixed-use housing development. The full 60 units will be spread out across two properties at 270 Irvington and across the street at 299 Irvington Avenue, and will include between 10,000 to 15,000 square feet of commercial space and 12 units of affordable housing. The project is expected to break ground this spring.

### POLL WORKERS NEEDED

South Orange needs residents to work the election polls. Poll workers earn \$200 per election. Citizens 16 years and older are encouraged to apply. For more information, contact the clerk's office at 973.378.7715 x1 or email [clerksoffice@southorange.org](mailto:clerksoffice@southorange.org).





kitchen a la mode  
accessories for cooking & entertaining

Kitchen a la Mode is expanding  
to a larger space in the  
Vose & Taylor building!

f @KitchenalaMode

**BIG MOVES  
HAPPENING  
THIS SUMMER!**

**SADIE'S**

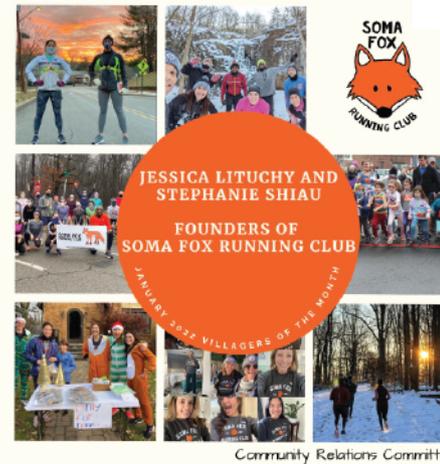
shop ethically & give back

Sadie's will be moving  
to South Orange Ave!

@shopsadiesnj

Follow us on social, and sign up for our emails to  
stay up to date on events and more including a  
new South Orange business venture!

## VILLAGERS OF THE MONTH



### JANUARY 2022 Jessica Lituchy and Stephanie Shiau

In 2021, friends Jessica Lituchy and Stephanie Shiau, both avid runners, wanted to create a friendly, supportive, structured group for adult runners to share the joys and benefits of running. They formed the SOMA Fox Running Club, which they envisioned would be a small running group. The group now boasts over 250 members. In addition to a variety of weekly runs, the SOMA Fox Running Club hosts 5K runs, takes part in runs outside the SOMA area, and creates interactive running maps. The group's members run for the health benefits, but also for the benefit of Meeting Essential Needs With Dignity, which receives a percentage of all funds raised. To learn more about the running club, visit [somafoxrunningclub.org](http://somafoxrunningclub.org).



SOUTH ORANGE VILLAGE TRUSTEES

**South Orange Trustees  
thank Tonia Moore for  
her many contributions  
to our community.**

### TONIA MOORE STEPS DOWN

Tonia Moore recently stepped down as president of the Friends of the South Orange Public Library. South Orange Village has greatly benefited from her tremendous leadership in that position over the past eight years. During Moore's tenure, the Friends have funded many initiatives, including library materials, the children's summer reading program, book sales, and a home delivery service initiated during the pandemic. Moore also helped steer the library staff, board, and volunteers to advance the full renovation of the public library and Connett Building by helping to obtain a \$6.5M capital improvement grant from the NJ Library Construction Bond Act. Many thanks to her for all she has done for our community and our library.



SOUTH ORANGE  
DEPARTMENT OF RECREATIONS  
HAS HAS PART- & FULL-TIME

# Summer JOBS

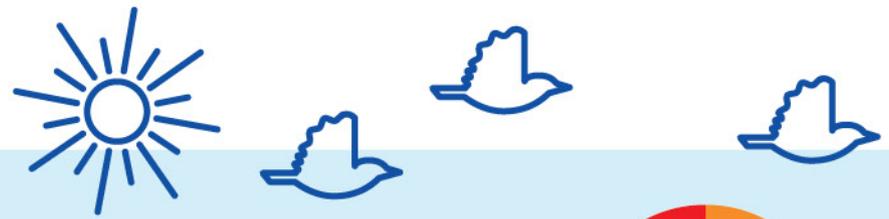
## IN THE PARKS

- Recreation Department: Field and facilities maintenance crew.
- Summer Playground Program: Camp positions.

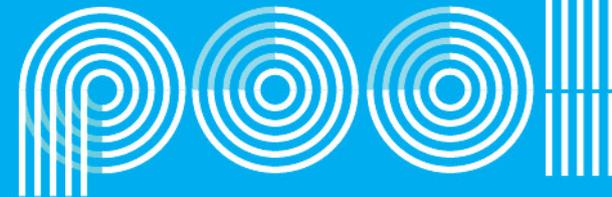
Visit [southorange.org/Jobs.aspx](http://southorange.org/Jobs.aspx)  
for details and application information.



RECREATION  
& CULTURAL  
AFFAIRS  
SOUTH ORANGE  
VILLAGE



SOUTH ORANGE  
COMMUNITY



## SEASONAL JOBS

AVAILABLE FOR THE SUMMER SEASON!

### At the Pool

- Assistant pool manager: 30 to 40 hours per week; must be 21 years of age.
- Lifeguards, swim instructors: Must be 15 years of age with required certifications.
- Swim team coaches: Must be 16 years of age with required certifications.
- South Orange Pool customer service.
- Swim instruction coordinator: 40 hours per week; must be 21 years of age.

### SUMMER CALENDAR

See our summer insert in this issue  
of the Gaslight for a look at our summer  
events & activities.

# BOARD OF TRUSTEES INITIATIVES



SOUTH ORANGE POLICE DEPARTMENT

## ERNESTO MORILLO: CHIEF OF POLICE

### New Chief of Police Appointed

On March 31, South Orange residents, police officers and Village Trustees gathered to celebrate the appointment of Lieutenant Ernesto Morillo as the new Chief of Police of the South Orange Police Department (SOPD).

Chief Morillo joined the SOPD in 2005 as a patrol officer and, in 2013, became a detective in the Criminal Investigations Unit. He rose through the ranks to the position of Lieutenant and Shift Commander in 2019, where he successfully developed a standardized comprehensive training program for all newly graduated officers.

He is currently in the process of receiving his Ph.D. in Higher Education Leadership, Management, and Policy at Seton Hall University and prides himself on mentorship and creating professional development opportunities.

"I believe that as police officers, we are more guardians than warriors," said Morillo. We need to be able to listen and learn from our community, align our common goals, and have the flexibility to adapt to changing needs. Integrity, professionalism and compassion should be easily identifiable in every officer privileged enough to wear a badge. South Orange Police stands on a strong foundation of young, dedicated individuals, and I intend to create an environment where they can be successful by providing opportunities where they can excel and be their most authentic selves. I thank Village President Collum, the Board of Trustees, Administration, Community Police Collaborative, and my law enforcement colleagues for putting their faith in me. Every day I will work to not let you down."

Morillo is married with three children and is a long time Essex County resident. He is the son of Elena and Ernesto Morillo who immigrated here from the Dominican Republic. He will serve as the first minority Chief of Police in the history of the South Orange Police Department.

## ADVERTISE IN THE NEXT ISSUE OF THE GASLIGHT

The Gaslight is mailed directly to every home in South Orange, reaching just over 6,000 residences.

To reserve your space email [jdoran@southorange.org](mailto:jdoran@southorange.org) and use: **GASLIGHT AD SPACE** in the subject line.



SOUTH ORANGE VILLAGE TRUSTEES & CC&J

## CC&J COAT DRIVE

### COMMUNITY OUTREACH A SUCCESS

The outreach team of the Community Care & Justice program worked with the South Orange Police Department and the South Orange Rescue Squad to collect and distribute coats throughout the month of January. Nearly 150 coats were donated by the community, and an open house was held for those in need of warm winter coats. See [southorange.org](http://southorange.org) for details.



SETON VILLAGE NEIGHBORHOOD

## SETON VILLAGE SOUTH ORANGE GASLIGHT BANNER

### SETON VILLAGE NEIGHBORHOOD PRESERVATION PROGRAM GRANT

Seton Village Neighborhood Preservation Program is pleased to announce that its five-year Implementation Plan was passed by town resolution on February 28. Highlights from the plan can be found at [southorange.org](http://southorange.org).

### COMMERCIAL CANNABIS SALES ALLOWED IN SOUTH ORANGE

In March, the South Orange Board of Trustees approved ordinances allowing commercial cannabis in South Orange, including wholesale, distribution, delivery and retail sales. The ordinances were based on input from the South Orange Cannabis Task Force which includes members of the public, Village professional staff, the South Orange Police Department and representatives of SOMA Action and SOMA Justice. The Task Force was chaired by Trustee Bob Zuckerman and guided by South Orange's planning consulting firm Topolgy. South Orange intends to grant local licenses to applicants who demonstrate a commitment to social equity. A Community Benefits Agreement is intended to fulfill our social equity directive and benefit marginalized and underserved members of the community.

# VILLAGE HAPPENINGS



## SOUTH ORANGE WEEKLY DIGEST KEEP UP WITH EVENTS AROUND TOWN

South Orange issues a weekly e-newsletter that focuses on what is happening in South Orange in the coming week. Short and to the point, the newsletter is a great way to make sure you don't miss out. To subscribe, visit [southorange.org/list.aspx](https://southorange.org/list.aspx), enter your email address in the box, and select **Sign In** and click the email icon (✉) next to the South Orange Weekly Digest.

## BLACK HISTORY MONTH FLASHBACK

This past February, South Orange Village celebrated Black History Month, honoring the national theme of "Black Health and Wellness" by providing programming centered around mental, financial, and physical health and wellness. Programming included book discussions through the South Orange Public Library, a weekly children's booklist and read-aloud storytime, daily #selfcare posts on our Instagram page, interviews through the South Orange Village: Our Voices podcast, and recognition of Black business owners. View programming here: [southorange.org/881/Black-History-Month-2022](https://southorange.org/881/Black-History-Month-2022).



## Women's History Month

South Orange and Maplewood celebrated and honored Women's History Month during March. Elected officials, in partnership with township departments, libraries, and partner organizations, joined with local business districts to celebrate the achievements of women through art shows, book lists and readings, service projects, panel discussions and even a movie night pajama party! Visit [somawomen.org](https://somawomen.org) for a look at all the activities. Special thanks to our main sponsor Terrascend and The Apothecarium Dispensary on Springfield Ave in Maplewood.

## CELEBRATE OLDER AMERICANS MONTH: AGE MY WAY

Each year in May, we celebrate older Americans and the many contributions they make to our communities. Older adults play vital, positive roles — as family members, friends, mentors, volunteers, civic leaders, members of the workforce, and more. In celebration, we honor those older adults who continue to have a positive impact in our community.

Our vibrant and diverse SOMA community is ideal for social connection and offers countless opportunities for our older community members to get involved. Activities featured this month will include intergenerational and wellness experiences. See [somatwotownsforallages.org/publications](https://somatwotownsforallages.org/publications) for more information.



## SOPAC

This SPRING, the South Orange Performing Arts Center fully opened. SOPAC's 2022 season is its most diverse and inclusive yet, see our upcoming performances below or **VISIT:** [sopacnow.org/events/](https://sopacnow.org/events/) to purchase tickets.

### UPCOMING PERFORMANCES INCLUDE:



Wed, April 13, at 7:30pm  
Melvin Seals & JGB

Thu, April 14, at 7:30pm  
Tommy Emmanuel with Richard Smith

Thu, April 21, at 7:30pm  
Suzanne Vega



Sat, April 23, at 8pm  
Carolyn Dorfman Dance:  
Returning to Reconnect

Sun, April 24, at 7pm  
Blues in the Loft: Alex Tea

Through Sun, May 1  
Revealed: Intimate Renderings of the  
Grand Canyon

Fri, May 20, at 8pm  
ZOSO: The Ultimate Led Zeppelin  
Experience

Sat, May 21, at 8pm  
Eddie Palmieri Latin Jazz Band



At this time, all SOPAC patrons are required to show proof of vaccination or a negative COVID-19 test. All of our current COVID-19 precautions and policies can be found at [sopacnow.org/covid-19](https://sopacnow.org/covid-19).

Sun, May 22, at 1pm  
Kids 'N Family Series:  
The Little Mermaid

Sun, May 29, at 7:30pm  
Anders Osborne and Jackie Green,  
with Amanda Anne Platt  
and the Honeycutters

Thu, June 9, at 7:30pm  
Max Weinberg's Jukebox

Fri, June 10, at 8pm  
Joan Osborne

Sat, June 11, at 8pm  
Bria Skonberg Quartet

Fri, June 17, at 8pm  
Jesse Cook: Tempest Tour II

Sat, June 18, at 8pm  
Martin Sexton

Sun, June 19, at 7:30pm  
Nick Lowe's Quality Rock & Roll Revue,  
starring Los Straitjackets  
Opening Artists:  
Tommy McLain + C.C. Adcock



Thu, June 23, at 7:30pm  
Roger McGuinn, co-founder  
of the Byrds



SOUTH ORANGE REAL ESTATE

*Daria*

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www.Daria.HearthRealtyGroup.com

**STAND WITH UKRAINE**



**MAKE A DIFFERENCE RIGHT HERE AT HOME. JOIN US FOR:**

**BATTLE OF THE CHEFS**

**A BENEFIT FOR JESPY HOUSE**

Thursday, June 23, 2022 - 6pm  
Orange Lawn Tennis Club, South Orange, NJ

Please join us for a fun evening to raise critical funds for JESPY House, a South Orange nonprofit that supports adults with Intellectual & Developmental Disabilities.

Enjoy a real chef competition with Chef Ivan of Orange Lawn Tennis Club "battling" it out with Chef Tony of Edgewood Country Club.

For sponsorship and ticket information scan this code, visit [www.jespy.org](http://www.jespy.org), or email [events@jespy.org](mailto:events@jespy.org).



**JESPY HOUSE**  
ADVANCING INDEPENDENCE FOR ADULTS WITH DISABILITIES

LIVE AT SLOAN STREET LOT SOUTH ORANGE DOWNTOWN  
SIX COVER BANDS | NO COVER CHARGE  
**SATURDAY MAY 14 | 4PM-10PM**

**UNDER COVER**

**MUSIC FEST 22**  
**+ BEER GARDEN**



PRESENTING SPONSORS

MARK MURPHY'S MUSIC  
SOMA, NJ

POLLOCK PROPERTIES GROUP

MAIN STAGE SPONSORS

YOUTH TOWN SOUN  
SOUTH ORANGE VILLAGE

MITI MITI  
THE FOX & FALCON

the Y PSEG

**SIDEWALK SALES**

SCAN FOR DETAILS



**OUTDOOR SPECIALS FROM DOWNTOWN BUSINESSES ALL DAY LONG | MAY 14TH**

**SOUTHORANGEDONTOWN.ORG**

# VILLAGE NEWS

## IMPORTANT DATES FROM THE DPW

**ELECTRONIC WASTE EVENT:** March 26, 8am – noon

**PAPER SHRED EVENT:** April 9, 8am – noon, or until truck fills

**SPRING CLEANING:** April 4 – May 16

**BRANCHES:** Be sure to leave only branches under 4 inches in diameter, and no roots or stumps. Put the branches in the grass strip between the curb and the sidewalk – not in the street or on the sidewalk. If you don't have a sidewalk, place the branches on the grass adjacent to your curb. In addition, tie branches into bundles using cord or twine.

**LEAVES:** Place your leaves, yard clippings, and garden rakings in **brown biodegradable paper bags** (no plastic) between your sidewalk and the curb – not on the sidewalk or in the street. Unlike in the fall, you may not rake your leaves into a pile in the street.

**GRASS CLIPPINGS:** The Department of Public Works does not take grass clippings under any circumstances. You may contact the South Orange Disposal Co. to organize a pickup.

**CONTAINER DAYS:** Bulk drop off is at the Public Works Facility, 300 Walton Avenue, 8am – 1:30pm, on the following days.

- April 30**
- June 25**
- August 20**
- May 21**
- July 23**
- September 17**

**COMPOST:** Orders for mulch and humus may be placed online at [southorange.org/235/Public-Works](http://southorange.org/235/Public-Works). The first delivery date for the season is April 26, with dates listed on the public works calendar through July. There is a \$50 delivery charge for two to five cubic yards of material.



## THE SENIOR BUS IS BACK

South Orange has a lovely, 20-passenger, ADA-compliant bus available for our older adults, thanks to a 2019 Community Development Block Grant. This resource is a wonderful opportunity for older adults to get around town easily. The bus runs three days a week – Mondays, Wednesdays, and Fridays – from 10am to 3pm; it also makes twice-monthly trips to the Essex Green ShopRite. Go out to lunch, see your friends, visit a salon, shop at local businesses; you can get a ride to any location in South Orange, free of charge. Reservations for door-to-door pickup and drop-off should be made in advance by calling the Parking Authority, 973.378.7715 x2035. Take a seat and let someone else do the driving!



## PSE&G OFFERS FLEXIBLE PAYMENT OPTIONS

COVID-19 has inflicted financial hardship on many of PSE&G's customers and left them struggling to pay bills. New Jersey's grace period on utility disconnections ended on December 31, 2021.

Customers at risk of utility service disconnection may enroll through PSE&G for a deferred payment arrangement and apply for payment assistance to avoid an interruption of their utility service.

Many more customers are now eligible for energy assistance programs, which have been expanded to include higher

Payment assistance programs have expanded.



Back on Track + Together

income limits, and PSE&G is offering more flexible payment options and new deferred payment arrangements. To enroll, visit [pseg.com/myaccount](http://pseg.com/myaccount) or call 800.357.2262. When asked what you would like help with, say, "payment arrangement."

## RIVER DAY 2022:

Sunday, May 1, 11am – 3pm  
(rain date: May 8)

River Day is an annual community gathering to clean up our section of the Rahway River, while celebrating environmental awareness and education. It's a family-friendly way to connect with your ecosystem and your community. Last year volunteers removed 1 ton of trash while learning about the river!

Check in at the Skate House by the pond in Meadowland Park, off Mead Street.



For updates, follow the South Orange Environmental Commission on Facebook or Instagram (@sogreenteam), or visit the SOEC website at [sogreenteam.wordpress.com/](http://sogreenteam.wordpress.com/).

## CGP&H HOME IMPROVEMENT PROGRAM

Does your home need repairs or replacement of major systems, such as your roof, heating, plumbing or electric? If so, go to [hip.cgph.net](http://hip.cgph.net), click on "Homeowners" and then "South Orange Village" to determine whether you qualify for the new eSouth Orange Village Home Improvement Program. If you do, you can complete an easy online preliminary application. This program will provide up to \$10,000 as a zero-percent 10-year forgivable loan, with no monthly payments. If you do not have internet access or would like to speak to a program representative instead, call 609.664.2781. This program is funded via developer fees deposited into the Village's affordable housing trust fund.





BRANDING & DESIGN

DePaolis Design

depaolisdesign@gmail.com  
201 532 2733

DIANE DEPAOLIS



DePaolis Design is an independent brand strategy, experience, and design company that helps start-ups and some of the world's most recognized brands bring their purpose to life through design innovation.





**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.



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



Montrose Park is the historic neighborhood of South Orange and identified by its distinct collection of stately turn-of-the-19th early 20th-century architectural styles including Victorian, Colonial Revival, Queen Anne, Tudor and Shingle Style homes.

The Montrose Park Historic District Association promotes activities that preserve and protect the historic character of the Montrose Park District of South Orange.

Join our mission by becoming a member and support our efforts to enrich the quality of life for all residents.



Did you know?  
You can research your Montrose Park home's rich history by visiting our site. Learn more at [www.historicmontrose.org](http://www.historicmontrose.org).