

# The Gaslight

ISSUE 12  
2024

SOUTH ORANGE  
VILLAGE  
ACCESS IT ALL



SPRING  
EDITION



SOUTH ORANGE VILLAGE  
IS IN FULL BLOOM



WITH THE  
COLORS OF  
SPRING



## LETTER FROM THE VILLAGE PRESIDENT



### IN TOUCH WITH VILLAGE GOVERNMENT

#### VILLAGE PRESIDENT

Sheena Collum  
973.378.7715 x 2

#### BOARD OF TRUSTEES

Bobby Brown  
Jen Greenberg  
Karen Hartshorn Hilton  
Bill Haskins  
Summer Jones  
Olivia Lewis-Chang  
973.378.7715 x 2

#### ADMINISTRATION

Village Administrator  
Julie Doran  
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**  
908.722.1271

It's springtime in South Orange, and it's been very busy since late December, when the New Jersey Legislature introduced Assembly Bill 4/Senate Bill 50, which "reforms municipal responsibilities concerning the provision of affordable housing; abolishes COAH; appropriates \$16 million." This bill is expected to pass and will guide future development obligations in our community.

As you can see, there is already a lot of development happening in town. A significant driver for this is our constitutional obligation to provide affordable units for households with very low, low, and moderate incomes. Every ten years, a new round begins.

As we enter the Fourth Round, I want our community to better understand our obligations in accordance with the "Fair Housing Act" and how we meet them.

- A number, based on a methodology prescribed by the bill, will provide us with a prospective need obligation (units to be built). Our local obligation is based on regional need. Our region, Region 2, includes Essex, Morris, Union, and Warren counties.
- Not all datasets are available yet. Therefore, no town can identify its obligation at this time. My best estimate is that South Orange will have a prospective need obligation of 100 units.
- The Village has a 20 percent mandatory set-aside ordinance, meaning that one of every five units developed must be deed restricted for affordable housing. To achieve 100 units of affordable housing, 500 total units would be constructed (the market-rate units subsidize the affordable-housing units).
- The Village primarily uses its zoning powers and redevelopment designations, which provide tools under the Local Redevelopment and Housing Law, to help us meet our obligation. These tools include density bonuses, which increase height and scale, and PILOTs (payments in lieu of taxes).
- The combination of density bonuses and tax incentives ensures that projects are financially viable. Every redevelopment project is vetted using an extensive development pro forma to ensure a fair outcome.

While this is a very simplified explanation, I hope it provides context to the growth you are seeing throughout town (we completed our Third Round two years ahead of schedule) and prepares you for future development when the Fourth Round begins on July 1, 2025. Later this year, a final calculation will be available, and the Village will adopt a new Housing Element and Fair Share Plan that the community can help shape.

It is in our best interest to be proactive in planning for this growth, as the alternative is a loss of immunity and a builder's remedy lawsuit that will drag on in the courts and cost taxpayers substantial money.

Let's keep ourselves in the driver's seat, embrace smart growth principles, and be proud that our Village is known for embracing its obligations and creating opportunities to be a mixed-income community.

All my best,

*Sheena Collum*

Sheena C. Collum  
Village President



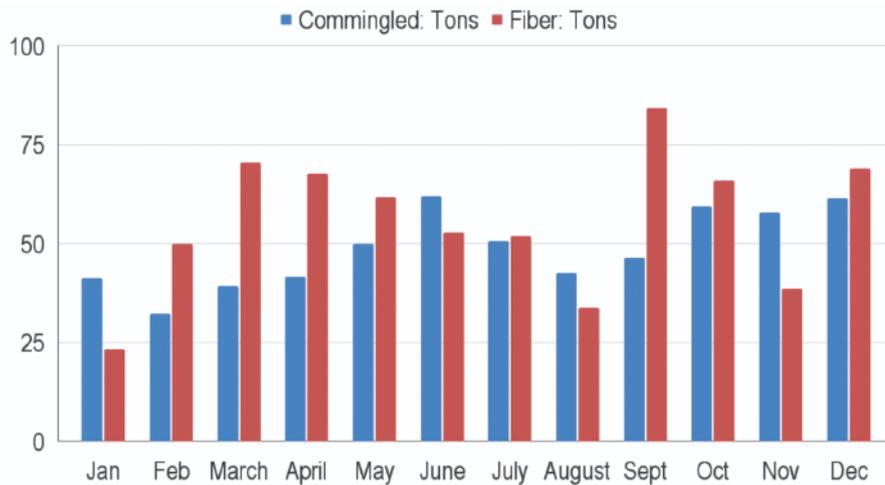
# VILLAGE HIGHLIGHTS

## RECYCLING WORKS!

In 2023, South Orange Village deposited more than 1,252 tons of recyclable material at our recycling partner in Keasbey, averaging 48.67 tons of commingled material (plastic, glass, and metal containers) and 55.74 tons of fiber material (cardboard, paper, and newspaper) per month. Since South Orange switched its curbside recycling program from single stream to dual stream in 2023, the Village has saved money – recycling costs were \$81,000 less in 2023 than in 2022 – and recycled material more efficiently. **Well done, South Orange – keep up the good work!**

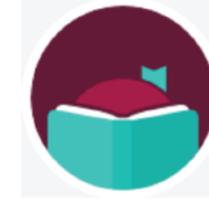


## 2023 SOUTH ORANGE DUAL STREAM RECYCLING



## SOUTH ORANGE PUBLIC LIBRARY

The library is open at its temporary location, 298 Walton Avenue, while the main library building undergoes construction. You are encouraged to stop by and say hi if you haven't already. **Remember to check out these exciting new library services:**



In December SOPL officially joined the **Bergen County Cooperative Library System (BCCLS)**, joining 77 other libraries in Bergen and surrounding counties to share a collection of more than 5 million items. South Orange residents can request materials to be sent to SOPL or to any member library, and can manage their checkouts and holds in one centralized location. All cardholders are encouraged to download the BCCLS app to their smart devices.

As BCCLS members, cardholders also have access to the eBCCLS digital collection, with more than 50,000 e-books and digital audiobooks. The collection includes hundreds of popular magazines, with no hold lists or checkout limits. Among the magazines available are The New Yorker, Newsweek, and Cook's Illustrated. Download the Libby app to your smart device and enter your library card number to get started.

The library also provides access to thousands of classic, independent, and documentary films via Kanopy. SOPL cardholders can stream up to 21 credits of films a month, with most films on the platform worth 3–5 credits. There is also Kanopy Kids, a curated collection of content for children, with a focus on ages 2–8. Kanopy can be accessed on most smart TVs or by downloading the app to your smart device.

Also newly available to SOPL patrons is the library's subscription to **Weiss Financial Ratings**, which provides financial education guides as well as ratings for insurance and banking institutions. Users can take advantage of tools provided to compare supplemental Medicare insurance plans, banks, credit unions, and insurance companies.

Finally, **Northstar Digital Literacy** offers free online learning assessments on a variety of topics, including computer skills, email and social media, job search and resume skills, and Microsoft Office (Word, PowerPoint, Excel). Users can earn badges and certificates that they can use on their resumes.

These final two digital services join our existing roster of tools, which includes **Mango Languages**, **Creativebug** (streaming craft workshops), **World Book Encyclopedia**, **Peterson's Test and Career Prep**, and **Ancestry** (genealogy, available in the library only).

Visit [sopl.org/e-resources](http://sopl.org/e-resources) to get started, or call the library at 973.762.0230 for more details.





RECREATION & CULTURAL AFFAIRS  
SOUTH ORANGE VILLAGE

# playball



## SUMMER SPECIALTY CAMPS BASEBALL CAMP

The Gym Maplewood training facility and SOM Baseball are offering a full-day baseball camp with weeklong sessions for children ages 6–12. Camp will take place on Field 3 in Meadowland Park.

The goal of the baseball camp is to help players develop skills and gain a greater appreciation of the sport in a fun and positive environment. There will be quality instruction in all offensive and defensive skills, daily skills competitions, and live games. Fitness conditioning will help improve speed, agility, balance, and endurance. Weekly sessions start June 24 and run through August 23. Hours are 9am–3pm. The fee is \$380 for one week, \$355 per week for two to four weeks, and \$330 per week for five or more weeks. Register at [secure.rec1.com/NJ/south-orange-village-township-nj/catalog](https://secure.rec1.com/NJ/south-orange-village-township-nj/catalog). You will be prompted to select the number of weeks desired when registering and asked to select specific weeks when checking out.

## US SPORTS INSTITUTE CAMPS

South Orange Recreation & Cultural Affairs has partnered with US Sports Institute to offer an array of sport-specific summer camps for children ages 5–11. Camps will take place from 9am to noon at New Waterlands Park or the tennis courts at Meadowland Park. There will be flag football, golf, soccer, tennis, and multisport camps. For more information on programs, pricing, and dates, visit [secure.rec1.com/NJ/south-orange-village-township-nj/catalog](https://secure.rec1.com/NJ/south-orange-village-township-nj/catalog).

## FALL SPORTS LEAGUES

### FALL SOCCER

Designed for the beginner or intermediate player, our fall recreation soccer league will consist of one practice and one game per week. This program is for South Orange and Maplewood players ages 7–12 as of October 1, 2024.

Registration begins on May 1 for the 2024 fall season, which takes place in September and October. Space is limited.



### FLAG FOOTBALL

The SOMA NFL Flag Football League is an exciting, fun, and safer alternative to tackle football. This program is for South Orange and Maplewood players ages 9–14 as of October 1, 2024. A weekly clinic is offered for 8-year-olds.

Registration begins on May 1 for the 2024 fall season, which takes place in September and October. Space is limited.



## SOUTH ORANGE SUMMER NIGHTS

Join us on Wednesdays this summer for free fun on Flood's Hill. In July, music takes center stage with Concerts on the Hill. There will be food trucks in addition to the concerts. In August it's movie time. When the sun goes down, bring your blanket, your family, and your friends, and enjoy the show!

Programs are subject to change. In the case of inclement weather, activities will be canceled.

South Orange Summer Nights is produced jointly by the South Orange Department of Recreation & Cultural Affairs and the South Orange Performing Arts Center. Program details, including bands, movie titles, and related activities, will be available in early June. Visit [southorange.org/calendar](https://southorange.org/calendar) and the @SouthOrangeVillage social media accounts for all the latest information.

## UNDER COVER MUSIC FEST 2023

The South Orange Department of Recreation & Cultural Affairs is proud to co-produce Under Cover Music Fest 2024 with South Orange Downtown. Under Cover Music Fest is South Orange Downtown's signature event and features live music by local artists in the Sloan Street Parking Lot.

Save the date, **Saturday, June 1**, from 2pm to 10pm, as the festival returns, thanks to presenting sponsor **Mark Murphy's Music**.

Visit [southorange.org/calendar](https://southorange.org/calendar), [southorangedowntown.org](https://southorangedowntown.org), and the @SouthOrangeVillage and @SouthOrangeDowntown social media accounts for more.



## SOUTH ORANGE SUMMER CALENDAR

<b>APRIL 17</b> PIERRO GALLERY GRAND OPENING	<b>JUNE 24</b> SUMMER PLAYGROUND AND SPECIALTY CAMPS BEGIN	<b>JULY 31</b> SUMMER NIGHTS: CONCERTS ON THE HILL
<b>APRIL 20</b> BASEBALL PARADE & BAIRD GRAND OPENING	<b>JUNE 29</b> STAR SPANGLED SOUTH ORANGE	<b>AUGUST 6</b> NATIONAL NIGHT OUT
<b>MAY 1</b> FLAG FOOTBALL & FALL SOCCER REGISTRATIONS OPEN	<b>JULY 3</b> SUMMER NIGHTS: CONCERTS ON THE HILL	<b>AUGUST 14</b> SUMMER NIGHTS: MOONLIT MOVIES
<b>JUNE 1</b> UNDER COVER MUSIC FEST	<b>JULY 10</b> SUMMER NIGHTS: CONCERTS ON THE HILL	<b>AUGUST 21</b> SUMMER NIGHTS: MOONLIT MOVIES
<b>JUNE 15</b> SOUTH ORANGE CORNHOLE CLASSIC	<b>JULY 17</b> SUMMER NIGHTS: CONCERTS ON THE HILL	<b>AUGUST 28</b> SUMMER NIGHTS: MOONLIT MOVIES
<b>JUNE 23</b> JUNETEENTH CELEBRATIONS	<b>JULY 24</b> SUMMER NIGHTS: CONCERTS ON THE HILL	

Visit <https://southorange.org/249/Recreation-Cultural-Affairs> or call 973.378.7754 for more information on all programming

## APPLY NOW FOR SUMMER JOBS

Applications for part-time seasonal work are now available online at [southorange.org/jobs](https://southorange.org/jobs).

### AVAILABLE POSITIONS:

Lifeguard, a swim instructor, swim team coach.	Field and facilities maintenance crew member.
Pool front desk associate.	Summer camp counselor.

# VILLAGE DEVELOPMENT

It's exciting to see all the progress on the various redevelopment initiatives in South Orange. Here is a brief update on construction projects around town.



## TAYLOR | VOSE AT 57 SOUTH ORANGE AVENUE

This Smart Growth Award-winning five-story, mixed-use redevelopment project opened its doors last summer. The commercial spaces are fully leased, and the 110 housing units are already more than 50 percent occupied.



## STORAGE PLATFORM AT VALLEY AND LACKAWANNA

This four-story self-storage facility is slated to open by summer. This project provides benefits to the community through a connection to Founders Park, a variety of park and streetscape improvements, new landscaping, a community meeting room, wider sidewalks, and a movie screen.



## THE PEAKS AT SOUTH ORANGE | 270-299 IRVINGTON AVENUE

Unfortunately, the start of this project for a 60-unit, mixed-use housing development has been delayed. The Village expects the development to be assumed by a new developer and for plans to commence by 2025.



## MERIDIA AT FOURTH AND VALLEY

This 106-unit, mixed-use building is designed to promote development in a key location along Valley Street, creating a context-appropriate and attractive gateway to the Village. The residential units are now ready for occupancy, and the commercial units will open later this year. Perhaps most exciting are the much-improved sidewalks and street furniture, creating high-quality and accessible public spaces



## MOSAIC AT SECOND AND SLOAN

Currently in the construction phase, this mixed-use development will contain 42 residential units and a ground-floor community artists and makers workspace. The development will also provide widened sidewalks along Sloan Street, an improved crosswalk at Third and Sloan streets, and better lighting. The building is projected to open in the first half of 2025.

## POTENTIAL PLANS

The Village is currently in preliminary discussions for two potential mixed-use redevelopment projects, one at 164 Valley Street and the other involving the New Jersey Transit lot. 164 Valley would be a continuation of the improvements along the Valley Street corridor. The potential NJ Transit lot development would provide more parking, improve traffic circulation, and help effectuate Phase 3 of the River Greenway Project. These new redevelopment projects would contribute to our affordable-housing requirements, as well as provide other community benefits. The Village will keep the community updated as the discussions move forward.

For more details on current redevelopment projects, visit [southorange.org/650/Capital-Projects-and-Redevelopment](http://southorange.org/650/Capital-Projects-and-Redevelopment).

## DOES YOUR HOME NEED REPAIRS?

The Township invites you to apply to South Orange Village's

## HOME IMPROVEMENT PROGRAM



If you live in South Orange Village, own your home, and your total gross annual household income falls below the income limit for your household size, you may qualify to participate in the program.

- ☑ There is **no cost to apply** and it does not affect your credit score.
- ☑ Funds are provided as a **no interest (0%) ten-year forgivable loan**.
- ☑ There is **no monthly payment**.
- ☑ A **professional inspector** oversees the process.

(income limits updated annually)

- ### ELIGIBLE USES OF FUNDS INCLUDE
- **Roofs**
  - **Foundations**
  - **Heating**
  - **Electrical**
  - **Windows**
  - **Insulation**
  - **Plumbing**
  - **and more!**

Household size	1	2	3	4
Maximum Income	\$69,344	\$79,251	\$89,157	\$99,063
Household size	5	6	7	8
Maximum Income	\$106,988	\$114,913	\$122,838	\$130,763



**FIRST COME, FIRST SERVED  
TAKE THE FIRST STEP!**

[www.hip.cgph.net](http://www.hip.cgph.net)

*Easily submit your preliminary application online!*

This program is sponsored by the Township of South Orange Village and funded by collected development fees.

*If you have additional questions, or if you do not have internet access, call the Program Representative at (609) 664-2769 ext. 9. Funding also available for rental properties - Landlords to call for terms.*



# South Orange Recreation & Cultural Affairs at The Baird



**FOR KIDS:**

Art, Dance, Sports, & STEM Programs!

**FOR ADULTS:**

Crafting, Fine Arts, Yoga, Zumba & more!

**FOR ALL:**

Open Basketball, Pickleball, Volleyball  
& Meeting Rooms



**HIGHLIGHTS:**

- Baird Lounge & Cafe
- Stage & Screen Room
- The Pierro Gallery
- 2 Gyms
- Craft Rooms
- Dance Studio
- The Loft

**Grand  
Opening!**

**Saturday  
April 20th  
10am-1pm**

**CONTACT INFO:  
973.378.7754**

# VILLAGE HAPPENINGS



## BLOOD DRIVE

The South Orange Police Department, in conjunction with RWJBarnabas Health, will hold a blood drive on May 9, 1-6pm, at the South Orange Performing Arts Center, 1 SOPAC Way. **Free gift cards will be given out by RWJBarnabas Health.**

## REPAIR CAFE

Why throw away broken items? A simple fix may make them as good as new – and keep them from clogging our landfills. The Repair Cafe is an opportunity to build social bonds within our community while acting sustainably. Dozens of volunteers will be fixing things for free. Among the items repaired over the years are lamps, bicycles, chairs, jewelry, vacuum cleaners, clothing, and quilts. You can even have your knives sharpened.



The next Repair Cafe is on Sunday, May 19, 1-4pm, at the Baird Community Center, 5 Mead Street.

SOMA Two Towns for All Ages sponsors the Repair Cafe as part of its mission to support an age-friendly community where people can age in place. If you are interested in volunteering to repair items or in receiving information about SOMA Two Towns for All Ages, call 973.558.0863 or email [soma2towns@gmail.com](mailto:soma2towns@gmail.com). Learn more at [somatwotownsforallages.org](http://somatwotownsforallages.org).



## RIVER DAY 2024: SUNDAY, MAY 5, 11AM-3PM

South Orange River Day is an annual community gathering during which we clean up our section of the Rahway River while celebrating environmental awareness and education. Volunteers for this family-friendly river cleanup will meet at the Skate House by the pond in Meadowland Park, off Mead Street. Rain date is Sunday, May 12. For registration information, updates, and rain date notifications, follow South Orange Village (@southorangevillage) and the South Orange Environmental Commission (@sogreenteam) on social media.

## PUBLIC WORKS

- Electronic waste drop-off days:  
March 16, June 22.
- Spring cleaning:  
April 1 through May 6.
- Mulch and humus delivery  
(by appointment via the website):  
April 19, May 24, June 21.
- Container days:  
April 20, May 18, June 15.
- Branch pickup:  
June 25

For more information, visit [southorange.org/235/public-works](http://southorange.org/235/public-works).



## AUTISM AWARENESS MONTH

The South Orange Police Department dedicates the month of April to fundraising for Nassan's Place, a local nonprofit organization committed to assisting and guiding families with autistic children. Since 2022, the South Orange Police Department has raised more than \$4,400 for Nassan's Place. These monies have directly assisted in funding Nassan's Place summer camps for autistic children. The community's donations have made a lasting impact, providing meaningful experiences for the children.

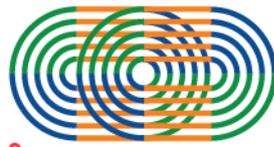


## COMMUNITY COALITION ON RACE SPRING WORKSHOPS

The Community Coalition on Race invites local residents to be in conversation and learn more about racial equity and inclusion during its spring programs. In mid-April, the Schools Committee will host a "Talking to Children About Race" workshop, offering strategies for addressing race with late-elementary and middle school children. The annual "Conversations on Race" panel will take place on May 14. The keynote speaker/moderator is Kelly Harris, senior staff director of the Center for Africana Studies at the University of Pennsylvania, and the topic is "Disinformation and Its Adverse Impacts on Race." The coalition is excited to co-sponsor "Juneteenth: A Celebration of Freedom" with Durand-Hedden House & Garden, on June 23. The museum and gardens will open for the afternoon, and the day will feature historical accounts of slavery in New Jersey, historical reenactments, performances, food, and more. For event updates and registrations, visit [communitycoalitiononrace.org](http://communitycoalitiononrace.org).



# VILLAGE CONNECTIONS



Want to know what's happening in South Orange? Here's how to stay connected with news, announcements, events, and more.



## EMERGENCY ALERTS

Are you receiving emergency alerts and nonemergency notifications from South Orange? Communication is key, whether it be during a global pandemic or severe weather event, or about a street closure. You can create an account at [southorange.org/610/SO-Alerts](https://southorange.org/610/SO-Alerts) and personalize your account so you receive only the alerts and notifications you want, the way you want them, be it by phone, text, or email.



## 'NOTIFY ME' SUBSCRIPTIONS

Create an account on our website and sign up for notifications tailored to your areas of interest, including calendar listings, news postings, bid postings, and employment opportunities. You can also subscribe to our weekly e-newsletter, The South Orange Digest, which includes updates about events, volunteer opportunities, government meetings, and changes to our municipal ordinances. Visit the "Notify Me" subscription page at [southorange.org/list.aspx](https://southorange.org/list.aspx).



## REPORT A CONCERN

You can report a nonemergency issue easily using either the "Report a Concern" link at [southorange.org](https://southorange.org) or the GovAlert app from your mobile device.



## SOCIAL MEDIA

We're active on both Facebook and Instagram: [@southorangevillage](https://www.instagram.com/southorangevillage).

ACCESS IT ALL	NEWS	EVENTS	VILLAGE HALL	FOOD	SPORTS	DOWNTOWN	ENTERTAINMENT
		<h1>WEEKLY DIGEST</h1>			<small>WEEKLY UPDATES ABOUT ALL THE IMPORTANT &amp; FUN EVENTS IN TOWN</small>		
S	M	T	W	T	F	S	

## 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.

# VILLAGE NEWS

## FROM THE TAX COLLECTOR

The Village-wide property revaluation is complete. While the new property assessments are effective for 2024, they will not be reflected in your billing until the latter half of the calendar year. Once all relevant budgets (school, county, and municipal) have been determined, the 2024 tax rate will be calculated and applied in the second half of the year.

The 2024 second-quarter tax payment is due on May 1. Please note that postmark dates are not honored as dates of receipt, and postdated checks will not be accepted. As a reminder, taxes are due quarterly, on February 1, May 1, August 1, and November 1.

Taxes can be paid and verified 24/7 at [southorange.org/302](https://southorange.org/302). A 10-day grace period is granted every quarter. After 10 days, taxes are considered delinquent, and interest is charged from the original due date.



Sewer bills were mailed in the first week of March, with a due date of March 14. The 30-day grace period ends on April 12. Payments received after the grace period will incur interest from the original due date.

To receive text and/or email reminders prior to due dates, as well as other tax-related communications, visit [southorange.org/list.aspx](https://southorange.org/list.aspx) and select the "Tax Collector" and "Tax Collector News" options.

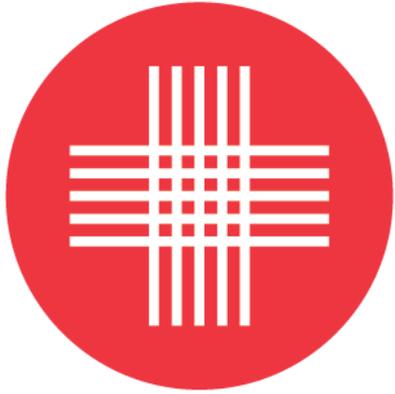
If you have questions, contact the tax office at 973.378.7715 x4.

## FIRE PREVENTION TIPS

You are at higher risk of having a clothes dryer fire if you don't clean your lint filter and dryer vents. Follow these simple safety tips to prevent a clothes dryer fire in your home:

- Have your dryer installed and serviced by a professional.
- Do not use the dryer without a lint filter. Clean the lint filter before and after each cycle.
- Do not forget to clean the back of the dryer, where lint can build up.
- Check the venting system behind the dryer to make sure that it is not damaged, crushed, or restricted.
- Make sure that the outdoor vent covering opens when the dryer is operating.





## FROM THE HEALTH DEPARTMENT

### PET SAFETY

The South Orange Health Department reminds residents not to let their dogs off leash in public parks. Per Municipal Code 68-20 (C), dogs must at all times be kept on a leash not longer than 6 feet in length when fully extended. Any person found in violation is subject to fines starting at \$100 for a first offense and up to \$500 for subsequent offenses. Additionally, dogs and cats must be licensed. License applications are available at [southorange.org/508/pet-licenses](https://southorange.org/508/pet-licenses). Questions can be directed to [sohealthdept@southorange.org](mailto:sohealthdept@southorange.org).

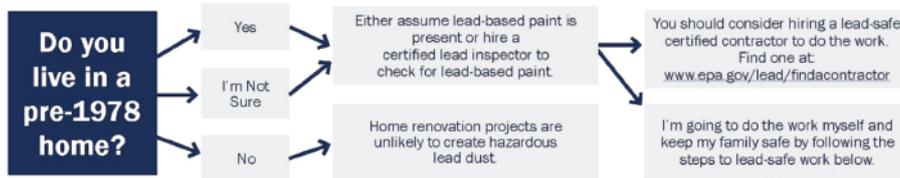


## LEAD-SAFE RENOVATIONS

Protect yourself and your family from lead exposure by being aware of potential hazards during home renovation projects. If your home was built before 1978, a home renovation project can easily create lead dust. This is one of the most common ways children are exposed to lead. Even low levels of lead in a child's blood have been shown to affect intellect, concentration, and academic achievement. The EPA encourages anyone pursuing renovations in a pre-1978 home to use a lead-safe certified contractor. However, if you plan to do renovations yourself, there are important and simple steps you should take to keep everyone safe during and after. See the chart below, and always consult with a professional.

### Considering a home renovation project?

This chart can help you stay lead-safe while you renovate:



### Steps to Lead-Safe Work



## SOUTH ORANGE WATER UTILITY UPDATES

In September 2022, Village President Sheena Collum established a water utility task force to "evaluate the most efficient and cost-effective structure to deliver high-quality and safe water to the residents and stakeholders in South Orange and, in performing that evaluation, to consider (without limitation) capital investments, consequential water rate(s), staffing, operations, maintenance, alternative ownership structures and potential sale of the utility to a private regulated utility" (Resolution No. 2022-VP04).

The formation of the task force was largely precipitated by three critical issues:

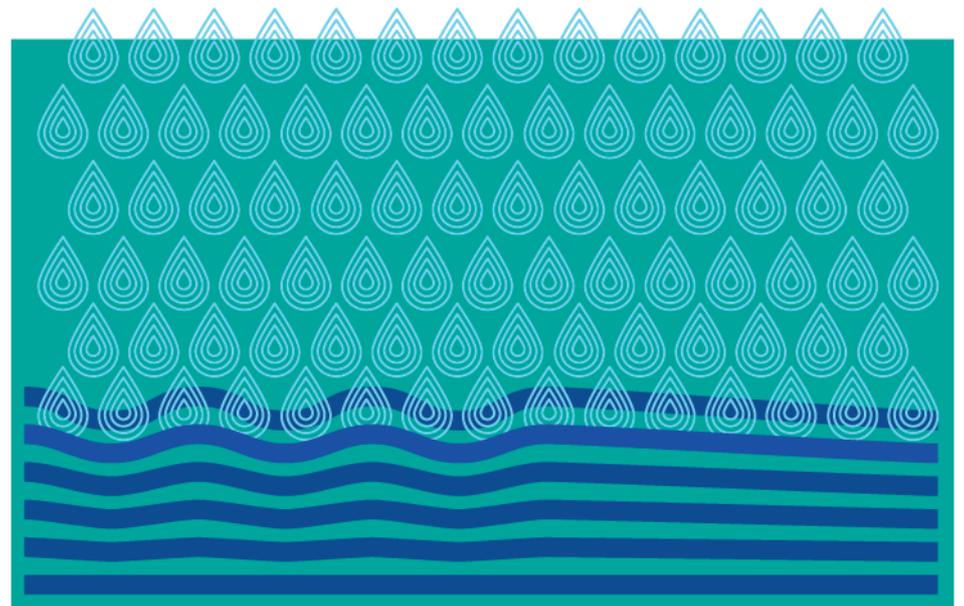
1. New Jersey American Water indicated that it would no longer continue offering Operations and Management (O&M) for the South Orange Water Utility after the current agreement expires in July 2026.
2. The cost and financial impact of the state-mandated identification of and replacement of lead/galvanized lines and the direct costs to homeowners.
3. The long-term overall debt and Capital Improvement Plan, currently at \$16.6M.

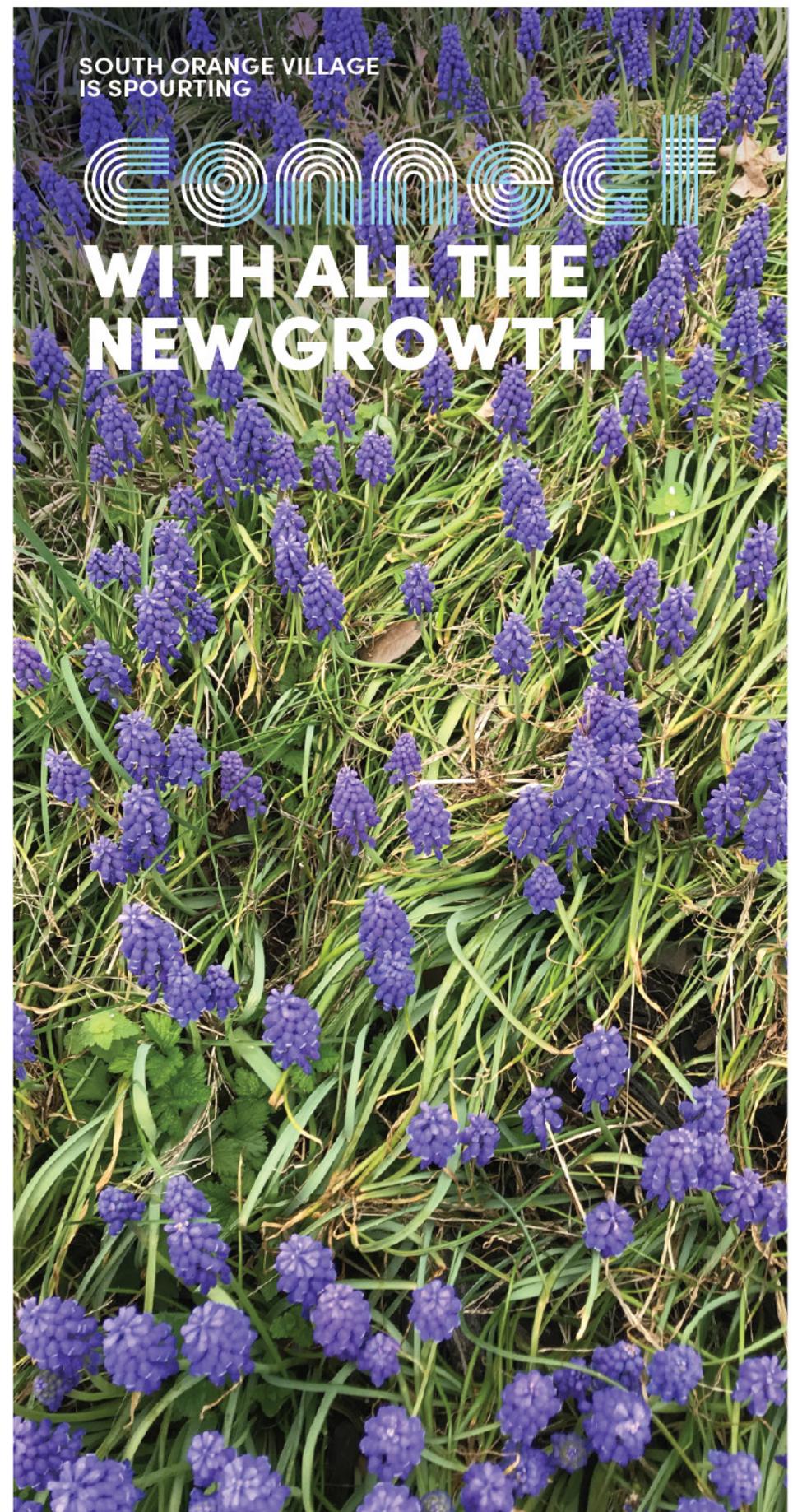
With the support of Remington & Vernick Engineers, the task force has produced scenarios for the Village, which include the following: Retain the existing water utility and 1) outsource O&M to a third party, 2) provide in-house O&M, or 3) a hybrid of both, or, sell the water utility.



At this time, and as a part of its fact-finding and due diligence, the Village will be posting a bid package for the sale of the utility, with buyer obligations, to complete the full analysis of options most favorable to the community and ratepayers. This action does not constitute a sale.

Once the Village has all the necessary information regarding the scenarios, public meetings to share the findings will occur. If a potential sale price is not favorable, the Village will proceed with retaining its own water utility and determine its path with respect to O&M, expanding personnel and adjusting water rates, as needed, to support state mandates and capital improvements. If, and only if, the Village determines it is in the community's best interest to sell the water utility, a referendum will be placed on the November 2024 ballot for voter consideration.





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 Interested in discussing a project, please contact me by email or phone.



BRANDING & DESIGN

DEPAOLIS DESIGN

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