

# The South Orange Gaslight



Members Needed for Two New Committees

The Village is forming two new committees to advise the Board of Trustees.

■ **The Redevelopment Committee** will evaluate future downtown development. Members will include representatives from Village government, South Orange residents, commercial property owners and business owners.

The best applicants will have demonstrated experience in one or more of the following: urban planning, architecture, economic development, retail, real estate finance, real estate law or real estate development.

Application deadline: Friday, Mar. 24.

■ **The Property Revaluation Committee** needs 15 residents from all

sections of South Orange to educate the public about the formulae used for revaluation and related issues. Application deadline: Friday, Mar. 31.

To apply for either committee, send a current resume, including education and employment experience, with a cover letter describing your interest in serving, other community involvement, and any potential conflict of interest. Those chosen must have serious interest in volunteering plus time for public service.

E-mail to [msmith@southorange.org](mailto:msmith@southorange.org), or fax to (973) 761-4357, or mail to Village Clerk, 101 South Orange Avenue, South Orange, NJ 07079. ▲

## These meetings are for real!

The word is out. South Orange's informal neighborhood meetings are generating real discussion between residents and trustees.

More than 100 Villagers packed The Baird on Feb. 8 for the first of three informal sessions with Village Trustees. Residents from eastern and western zones generated discussion on:

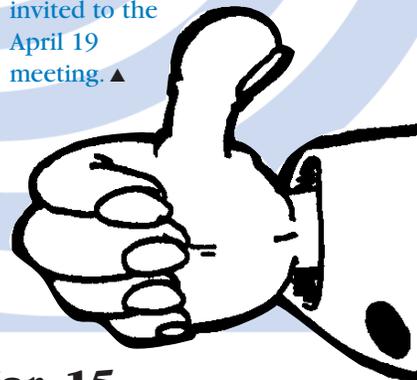
- School safety and financing
- Water billing irregularities
- Houses around Seton Hall
- Street lighting
- Downtown development
- Property taxes

Trustees answered questions, promised follow-up action, and provided resources for public informa-

tion. Interaction was so keen that the meeting was extended longer than scheduled.

The next session will be Wednesday, April 19, at 7:30 p.m., at The Baird. Residents from zones three and four are invited, but the meeting is open to all Villagers.

Check zone listings on page 2 to see which neighborhoods are invited to the April 19 meeting. ▲



### Let's talk schools: Mar. 15

When district schools became the surprise hot topic at the Feb. 8 neighborhood/trustee meeting, Village leaders decided to schedule a separate forum to focus solely on those issues, particularly school safety and financing. The special session will be held Mar. 15 at 7:30 p.m. at The Baird.

The meeting does not replace the already-scheduled April 19 and June 21 neighborhood/trustee meetings. It is a supplemental session that came about when Villagers began asking what they could do to alleviate specific school district problems. The trustees said they needed more information since some of the issues were new to them. ▲

### Got SHU-related problems?

Call (973) 412-0856

As good neighbors, the Seton Hall University Village Liaison Committee attended the Feb. 8 neighborhood/trustee meeting. They came bearing magnets for the Villagers to announce their new hotline. Residents should use the hotline whenever they encounter problems with off-campus students, or when other issues arise, such as housing and parking problems in surrounding university neighborhoods. ▲

The Gaslight is published 10 times a year for the residents and business community of South Orange Village.

March 2006

### Inside

■ Don't let a water leak burst your budget

■ Penny Pretzel presents puppetry for adults, Mar. 18.

■ Lee, Roditi & Cain in two upcoming jazz concerts at The Baird

■ Enrollment help for seniors on new Medicare drug program

■ Public Works spring services (clip and save)

■ Inserts: Spring Cultural Arts & a resident survey on communications

■ Claudia Mattheiss named Villager of the Month

## Don't let a water leak burst your budget

Surprise! You just opened your water bill and there, staring you in the face, is an \$800 charge. Why? Because there's a leak on your property and you never knew about it.

Yes it has happened, right here in South Orange.

If you suspect a water leak in your home or property, the water meter provided by East Orange Water Commission can help you detect and measure the leak. All newer meters have a triangle-shaped leak-detection hand that measures the amount of water used for specific activities (such as landscaping), or the amount of water used by particular appliances.

Most meters are located outside the house under a metal lid in the parking strip, by the front curb, or near the alley behind the house. Remove the lid and look at the face of the meter. The triangular hand rotates if water is passing through the meter. If no one is using water, but the triangle is turning, you may have an undiscovered leak in your plumbing system.

For more information, contact East Orange Water Commission at (973) 266-8869. ▲

## 'Once Upon A Gaslight' DVDs now available

DVD copies of the film documentary "Once Upon A Gaslight...A Walking Tour of South Orange" are now available. For a copy send your name, address and phone number to South Orange Productions/Film Collaboration Group, P.O. Box 872, South Orange, NJ 07079. The suggested donation is \$15 per DVD. The documentary premiered last October. For information, contact Janet Warren at (973) 761-5739. ▲



## Big-hearted volunteers needed

The South Orange Police Department is seeking volunteers to join its civilian Domestic Violence Response Team. The DVRT aids victims of domestic violence by providing crisis intervention, emotional support and referrals for additional social services. Volunteers attend a 40-hour training course, scheduled at their convenience. To learn more, contact Officer Robert Raddi at (973) 763-3000, x7783. ▲

## CRC Summit II Save the Date!

Back by popular demand, the "CRC Summit II: An Afternoon of Networking and Support for Volunteer Organizations" will be held Sunday, April 23, from 3:30 to 5 p.m., at Pierro Gallery at The Baird.

The Community Relations Committee invites all nonprofit volunteer organizations to benefit from practical support, networking and information-sharing.

To learn more, call (973) 762-0110 or visit ktjdz@aol.com. ▲

## Community Coalition names new executive

Villager Robin Burns Saunders is the new executive director of the South Orange/Maplewood Community Coalition on Race. She succeeds former director Barbara Heisler-Williams.

Saunders brings the coalition significant achievement in strategic planning, community outreach, volunteer management, fundraising, event-planning, and fiscal management. She is the former director of finance and administration for the American Lung Association of New York City and previously directed operations for the demonstration project, Healthy Start of New York City.

Saunders is a graduate of the Columbia University Institute for Not for Profit Management. She chairs the strategic planning committee of the Junior League of the Oranges and Short Hills. ▲

## Help Support CHS Extracurriculars

Imagine no sports, no band, no school publications or theater groups - none of the "extras" we all knew as teens. Without them, Columbia High would be a much different environment than it is today.

That's why the CHS Cougar Boosters are holding their Eighth Annual Golf Classic on Monday, April 24, at Maplewood Country Club. Last year's proceeds, totaling more than \$10,000, allowed the boosters to contribute funding for numerous programs including Midnight Madness, the CHS yearbook, the All-School Musical and Velocity Magazine. Six sports programs received funding for new equipment, and the group contributed toward new marching band uniforms, theater furnishings for the Parnassian Society, and more.

The nonprofit Cougar Boosters have been expanding opportunities for CHS students for more than 30 years.

This year's golf tournament tickets are \$180 per golfer, including cart, brunch and dinner. Evening activities will include raffles and an auction.

Tee signs are available for \$100 each and family signs for \$25. Brunch and dinner sponsors and corporate sponsors are also needed.

For details on golfing or donations, go to the Boosters web site, [www.CHSCougarBoosters.org](http://www.CHSCougarBoosters.org), or contact golf chair Al Farah at (973) 763-6817, or [a7892@aol.com](mailto:a7892@aol.com). ▲

### April 19 Neighborhood / Trustee Meeting

*Cont'd from page 1*

**Zone 3** - Beechspring Rd, Brookside Rd, Forest Rd, Franklin Pl, Franklin Ter, Glenside Rd, Harmon Rd, Hart Dr North, Hart Dr South, Highland Rd, Luddington Rd, Mayhew Ct, Mayhew Dr, Melrose Pl, Overhill Rd, (east of Harding Dr), Ravine Rd, Redmond Rd, Ridgewood Rd North, Tillou Rd, Twin Oak Rd, Village Green Court, Walnut Ct, Wyoming Av.

**Zone 4** - Centre St, Elm Ct, Fielding Ct, Finlay Pl, Hall Ct, Hamilton Rd, Hartford Ct, Hartford Rd, Holland Rd, Kenmore Av, Kingman Rd, Lackawanna Pl, Marion Av, Marshall Ct, Montrose Av, (east of Grove Rd), Mosswood Av, Park Pl, Patricia Ct, Self Pl, Stanley Rd, Stirling Av, University Ct, Warren Ct, Warwick Av.

*(Zones 5 & 6 will meet June 21)*

## Penny Pretzel Puppet Theatre

### 'Louie's Fabulous Mardi Gras Adventure'

Gumbo, Mardi Gras, puppets and Cajun storytelling will round out this Cajun adventure, offered Mar. 18, at 2 p.m. Overhead projection, traditional shadow puppetry, and innovative storytelling will enhance the tale of a man riding from house to house in search of one special gumbo ingredient to share at the Mardi Gras feast. Tickets are \$8.

### A PPP First: Puppetry for Adults!

A trio of puppet shorts for adults is offered Mar. 18 at 8 p.m. Tickets are \$12.

■ "The Bride," a multi-media theatre work featuring life-sized puppets. History, sociology and Frankenstein are blended in an Orwellian look at how and whom we worship in contemporary society.

■ "The Grand Falloons," a story based on Isaac Bashevis Singer's "The First Shlemiel."

■ "Miracle on Monroe Street: A puppet story in a suitcase," the tale of a nine-year-old girl's near fatal fall off a tenement roof in 1909.

For information or advance tickets, visit [www.geocities.com/pennypretzelplayhouse](http://www.geocities.com/pennypretzelplayhouse), or call (973) 378-7754.

## Dreamcatcher

Mar. 25 - Multiple Personality Disorder, the improvisational comedy troupe, will bring audience ideas to life with hilarious and unpredictable results. Join the fun at 8 p.m. All tickets are \$10.

## PIERRO GALLERY OF SOUTH ORANGE

### On Display through April 30 Anecdotes: Narrative Paintings

Opening Reception, Mar. 12, 3 to 5 p.m., with a gallery talk at 2 p.m.

Four emerging artists: Erinn Frayer, Wendy Letven, Nicholas Rosal, and Philip Shimko, use bold colors or stark palettes to create unique moments in time. ▲



John Lee



Claudio Roditi



Jackie Cain

## Lee, Roditi & Cain in two upcoming jazz concerts

Jazz at The Baird, the annual up-close-and-personal concert series continues.

■ **Saturday, Mar. 18, 8 p.m.** - the John Lee Quartet performs with special guest, Claudio Roditi.

Lee, a South Orange resident, and world-renowned jazz bassist, is a composer, producer and teacher known for his work with the Dizzy Gillespie Big Band, Sonny Rollins, Max Roach, McCoy Tyner, Larry Coryell and Joe Henderson. The quartet also features saxophonist Andre Boiarski, pianist Tomoko Ohno, and Karl Latham on drums.

Joining the quartet will be trumpeter/flugelhornist and vocalist Claudio Roditi, who blends post-bop elements with Brazilian rhythms. He has performed and recorded with Joe Henderson, Herbie Mann, Tito Puente, and McCoy Tyner.

■ **Saturday, April 8, 8 p.m.** - Jazz vocalist Jackie Cain is a treasure of jazz and American popular song, with a 50-year recording history. She and her husband, the late Roy Kral, singer/pianist/arranger, recorded more than 40 albums and had one of the longest partnerships in contemporary music. Cain's ability to perform intricate vocal parts flawlessly at any tempo is legendary among singers. Frank Sinatra said, "You could tune a piano by Jackie Cain's voice."

Tickets for either concert are \$15 in advance or \$17 at the door. To purchase, visit <http://southorange.recware.com>, or go to The Baird or Mailboxes Etc. in South Orange. For more information call (973) 378-7754 or visit [www.thebaird.org](http://www.thebaird.org). ▲

## Register Now!

### Youth Recreation Programs

#### Summer Playground Program

Registration for the South Orange Summer Playground Program begins Mar. 1. The seven-week, half-day, fair-weather program includes games, sports, music, art, swimming, special events and field trips. Grouped by age and grade, children meet in designated parks or playgrounds in South Orange. Time is built into each day for unstructured play under supervision of camp counselors.

#### Jaguar Track Registration

In this competitive club for boys and girls ages 6 to 18, participants develop superior track and field skills, physical fitness, and self-esteem. Athletes compete in local, regional and national meets within gender and age groups. The team is supported by an active parent association, critical to the success of the program.

#### Registration

- Thursday, Mar. 23, 7:30 to 9 p.m.
- Saturday, Mar. 25, 10 a.m. to noon.

Details & online registration: <http://southorange.recware.com>.

## Library Events

For info call (973) 762-0230

### Get assistance for Medicare prescription drug program

Having trouble with the government's new Medicare Prescription Drug Program (Medicare Part D)? From now until May 15, seniors who need help signing up for the program can consult with a reference librarian from 10 a.m. to 1 p.m., Monday through Friday, and Thursday from 6 to 8 p.m.

Librarians cannot choose a plan for a senior, but can assist them in accessing the Medicare Web site, querying health plan options, and obtaining further assistance.

The Library Enrollment Assistance Program is an initiative sponsored by Congressman Donald Payne to help educate seniors about the benefits of Medicare Part D. For information, call the library reference desk.

### Thursday Lectures

All sessions at 1 p.m.

**Mar. 16** – "Fairies, Leprechauns and Little People," a talk and slide presentation with Seton Hall English Professor John Sweeney.

**Mar. 23** – "Inner Health Through Buddhist Meditation," with Peter Kurczynski, resident teacher at Dharmachakia Buddhist Center.

**Mar. 30** – A performance by Seton Hall students of "One Flew Over the Cuckoo's Nest," directed by Deirdre Yates, communications professor.

**April 6** – "The Past Thirty Years," with Stephen Schoeman, lawyer and professor of political science at Rutgers and Fordham universities.

**April 13** – "Jews and Christians: Passover and Holy Week - Easter," with Father Lawrence Frizzell, director of the Institute of Judaean-Christian Studies at Seton Hall.

### Regular Programs

• S. O. Book Review Group (adults) – Monday, April 3, 7:30 p.m., "Gilead," by Marilynne Robinson. Monday, May 1, 7:30 p.m., "The Devil in the White City," by Erik Larson.

• Star Book Group (grades six and up) – Thursday, Mar. 16, 4 p.m., "Treasure Island," by Robert Louis Stevenson. Thursday, April 20, 4 p.m., "Hoot," by Carl Hiaasen.

• Open Stage Teen Poetry Reading (9th grade and up) - Thursdays, Mar. 16 and April 20, 7 p.m. ▲

### S.O. Library Spring Concert, April 2

The library's 14th annual "Welcome to Springtime Musical Concert" will be held Sunday, April 2, from 3 to 4 p.m. Hear Broadway show tunes and popular music while enjoying delicious refreshments. All are welcome.

### Board of Education Election April 18

Last day to register:

March 28

Last day to apply for an absentee ballot: April 11

## HAPPENINGS

### Deceased soldier from S.O. to be honored on Peace Day



Augie Schroeder, a South Orange native and Columbia High graduate who died in Iraq last August, will be honored on

Mar. 18 when South Mountain Peace Action re-dedicates the peace memorial at the Ethical Culture Society at 516 Prospect Street in Maplewood.

The ceremony will conclude an afternoon of activities sponsored by South Mountain Peace Action. The second annual "Be About Peace Day" features arts and crafts for children ages two and older along with a puppet show, T-shirt painting, music, a silent auction and more.

Peace Day extends from 1 to 5 p.m. at Maplewood Memorial Library. Entry is free; donations are optional. For more information, call (973) 763-9493 or visit [www.BeAboutPeace.com](http://www.BeAboutPeace.com).

### Family Hoedown!

Prospect Co-op Nursery School presents a Family Hoedown on April 29 at Prospect Presbyterian Church in Maplewood. Two dances are scheduled: 11 a.m. and 2 p.m., for people of all ages. Tickets, \$35 per family. For information, contact Sheri Carline at (973) 327-4066 or [Carlinefamily@optonline.net](mailto:Carlinefamily@optonline.net).

### Packers registration

The South Orange/Maplewood Packers, a Pop Warner cheerleading and football organization, will hold registration on Thursday, Mar. 16, at 7:30 p.m., at Clinton School in Maplewood. Boys and girls, ages 5 to 15 are welcome. Teen and adult coaches also needed. For more information, visit [www.msopackers.org](http://www.msopackers.org).

### April Fool's Day Art Exhibit

An art exhibition and auction to benefit the Newcomers Club of South Orange and Maplewood will be held Saturday, April 1 at the Woman's Club of Maplewood. Enjoy hors d'oeuvres, wine and cheese, a drawing for a special door prize and a silent auction.

The preview begins at 7 p.m., and the auction at 8 p.m. The Woman's Club is located at 60 Woodland Road in Maplewood. Admission is \$10 per person. For tickets or information, call (973) 313-1752. For babysitting arrangements call Jenner Watson at (973) 762-8118.

### Three programs at S.O. / Maplewood Adult School

The following programs are presented at Columbia High School at 7:30 p.m. For information, call (973) 378-7620 or visit [www.somadult-school.org](http://www.somadult-school.org).

■ "The Politics of Genocide: Rwanda 1994 and Darfur 2004," with Suliman Ali Baldo, director of the Africa program at the International Crisis Group in New York. Mar. 20. Admission \$13.

■ "Conflict, Flight, Exile and Repatriation in the Horn of Africa," with Dr. Assefaw Bariagaber, associate professor, School of Diplomacy at Seton Hall University, and consultant to U.N. High Commission for Refugees. April 3. Admission \$13.

■ Celebrity Readings - Broadway sensation Christine Ebersole will perform a live reading of a great



short story with actors David Wohl and Eddie Korbich, in a program modeled on National Public Radio's popular show,

"Selected Shorts." The event is a benefit for the adult school. Mar. 27. Tickets are \$20 in advance or \$25 at the door. ▲

Spring/Summer 2006

# S.O. Public Works



## General Guidelines

### DPW Yard

- Two proofs of residency required.
- Commercial vehicles prohibited
- Hours: 8 a.m. to 1:45 p.m.
- Arrival: no later than 1:30 p.m.

## '06 Container Days

Saturdays April 22, May 20, June 24, July 22, Aug. 26 and Sept. 30

All other dates will be announced in future editions of the Gaslight.

Residents may discard unwanted household items at the DPW Yard at 300 Walton Avenue. Special disposal containers will be provided.

## Permissible Disposals

Furniture or mattresses, appliances, branches under four inches in diameter, metal items, toys, small household items, tools, strollers, and playpens.

**Note:** metals and appliances must be separated from other household items.

## Non-Permissible Disposals

Paint cans (empty or not), propane bottles, any hazardous chemicals or their containers, construction materials, grass clippings, household garbage, car/truck parts, batteries of any size, stumps, root sections, branches measuring more than four inches in diameter, and railroad ties. DPW staff will prohibit other items as necessary.

**Mar. 27 - May 8**

## '06 Spring Cleanup

### Branches & Leaves

Residents can place the following materials at curbside for township pickup:

(1.) Branches - Must be less than four inches in diameter. Branches measuring two inches or less in diameter should be tied into bundles with cord or twine. Branches may never be placed in the street or on sidewalks, but on the grass strip between the curb and sidewalk, or on the grass just beyond the curb if no sidewalk exists.

Not Permitted: roots, stumps, or branches larger than four inches in diameter.

(2.) Leaves, Yard Clippings, Garden Rakings - Material must be placed in brown biodegradable paper bags only. Bags may be placed between sidewalks and curbs, but not on sidewalks or in the street.

Leaves may not be raked into the street for spring cleanup. Loose leaves or material in plastic bags will not be picked up.

Residents who disregard guidelines one and two can be charged with violation of the Municipal Housing Code.

### No Overlap on Placement Dates:

- Materials cannot be placed at curbside until Mar. 27.
- The last date for placement is Monday, May 8.

### Grass Clippings

South Orange Disposal will pick up grass clippings in plastic bags only, from April 1 to Nov. 1. Limit: two bags per week and 30 pounds per bag. Proper placement is at the resident's curb on the second garbage collection day of the week.

### Humus & Shredded Wood

Residents only may pick up small quantities of these materials at the DPW yard.

**Humus** is decomposed leaves, finely textured and dark colored, frequently used as a soil supplement for gardens and flowerbeds. It can be mixed with soil for enrichment.

**Shredded Wood** is a double-hammer-milled, medium-textured, hardwood mulch used as an attractive top dressing for gardens and flowerbeds, or around trees. It may contain bits of rock or other materials, and has not been treated in any way.

### Ordering Humus or Shredded Wood

- Beginning at 9 a.m. on Monday, Mar. 20, the township will accept appointments for free delivery of humus and shredded wood to South Orange residents. The first delivery date will be Tuesday, April 11.
- For a delivery appointment and form, or more information, call (973) 378-7741.
- Only one product may be ordered each month.
- Quantities per household are limited.
- Products are delivered loose to the driveway, just past the sidewalk.

## 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**  
**Welfare, x5**  
**Finance, x6**  
**Engineer, x7**  
**Parking Auth., x8**  
**Health Officer**  
**x2012**  
**Animal Control**  
**378-7745**  
**Fire Dept.**  
**378-7751**  
**Library**  
**762-0230**  
**Police Dept.**  
**378-7775**  
**Public Works**  
**378-7708**  
**Recreation &**  
**Cultural Affairs**  
**378-7754**  
**Recycling Info. &**  
**Street Dept.**  
**378-7741**  
**Water Service**  
**266-8869**

To submit  
information for  
**The South  
Orange  
Gaslight**,  
send to Editor  
Robin Patric,  
c/o Village Hall

### Villager of the Month

## Claudia Mattheiss



Claudia Mattheiss has worked with animals her whole life, so when Hurricane Katrina hit, it was no surprise that she bolted to New Orleans to help rescue 7,800 stranded animals.

Volunteers from across the country "signed up to help but nobody really knew what to expect," she said. Once there, "the devastation blew me away and I could not even imagine how anybody would want to live there again."

But three weeks later, she was shedding tears at the prospect of leaving.

Claudia's adventure began with the New York ASPCA. Her volunteer application was quickly accepted because she's a licensed veterinarian's technician with extensive shelter experience.

She made arrangements for her two teenaged children, got a paid leave from the Swiss financial company where she works in Manhattan, and set off for New Orleans on Sept. 30. Her trip was funded by the Humane Society of Louisiana and she was part of the second wave of animal rescuers. Initially, only veterinarians were allowed to go.

Claudia went first to the animal triage center at the Lamar Dixon Expo Center in New Orleans. But when Lamar's operational funds began running out, unclaimed animals had to be transferred to other shelters or homes.

One such site was an unused prison farm stable at Dixon Correctional Institution, a medium-security prison in Jackson, La. Claudia and a dozen others volunteered for the duty, a daunting task not only because it was a prison, but also

because the animals were traumatized and hard to handle. Part of their task was teaching prisoners to care for more than 150 terrified, abandoned animals.

Mornings began with 6 a.m. runs to the city to pick up a new batch of animal refugees, including dogs, cats and birds. The animals stayed at DCI until they were connected with their owners or adopted.

Volunteers treated wounds, bathed the animals, administered medication, and walked each dog three times a day. "Most of the time, we walked and walked and walked

some more," said Claudia.

The work day extended from 6 a.m. to midnight. Meals were prison fare and bedrooms were tents on the prison grounds.

Then there were the inmates. "What a bunch of great guys!" said Claudia. Men with names like "Tuna," "Hollywood," "T-Bone" and "Pumpkin."

"I can honestly say that these gentlemen surprised me more than anything. They were the best dog handlers I have ever met, had more patience than most people I know, were kind and caring, helpful and incredibly respectful. They were emotional when their favorite dog was picked up, but ready to find a new favorite to give extra attention to."

Claudia left New Orleans on Oct. 21 but the indelible impression will never leave her psyche. At Dixon Correctional Institution, "I saw patience, compassion, caring and kindness in a place where I never expected to find such qualities." Through the people and animals of New Orleans, "I realized the need for compassion, love and a second chance." ▲

**Township of South Orange Village**  
**South Orange, NJ 07079**



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**Local 07079**

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**Village Web Site:** [www.southorange.org](http://www.southorange.org)  
**E-mail for Village Administrator:** [jgross@southorange.org](mailto:jgross@southorange.org)