

The South Orange Gaslight



Garden of Eden gourmet grocery to open in July!

A sizeable selection of organic produce, over 200 cheeses and a second-story café are among the attractions of the new Garden of Eden gourmet supermarket, now set to open in July.

Supermarket co-owner Mario Andreani appeared before more than 80 Villagers at the Mar. 14 annual meeting of Main Street South Orange. He said foods prepared in the store's own kitchen and bakery will constitute 30% of total sales, and more than 12,000 items will be sold storewide. Prices will be competitive, "definitely not higher" than Whole Foods and Kings, and shoppers will be able to arrange home delivery, he said. Soon after the opening, online shopping will be an option.

The market replaces the former ShopRite on South Orange Avenue, where remodeling has been underway since January. Andreani said the store's main level will be 12,500 square feet.

The upper level, containing the café and kitchen, will constitute another 7,500 square feet.

Store hours will be 7 a.m. to 10 p.m., seven days a week. (Morning hours may be adjusted depending on store traffic.)

The supermarket is part of a larger Vose Avenue development that includes condominiums, retail stores and a parking deck. Sixty-four parking spaces on the first floor of the deck will be designated for exclusive use by Garden of Eden shoppers. An additional 30 spaces (18 shared with condo owners and 12 more shared with stores on the block) will be available during restricted hours, also on the deck's first level.

Village officials said deck parking for the supermarket will be available by late summer.

Garden of Eden also has locations in Hoboken and Brooklyn Heights in addition to three stores in Manhattan. ▲

South Orange debuts family musical focusing on diversity

A new Broadway-style musical for the whole family, "Double V: Victory Abroad and Victory at Home," is coming to South Orange in just a few more days. Hailed as a showpiece for cultural fellowship, the April 11 premiere springs from the combined artistic efforts and community awareness of several Village organizations.

Playwright, songwriter and choreographer Jonathan Luks, co-owner of Flying Ship Productions

(a theater in residence at The Baird), authored the thought-provoking story. Inspired by historic events between 1939 and 1964, Luks has interwoven the lives of an African American family and a European Jewish family. When each faces life-threatening prejudice, circumstances allow them to help one another.

The play's compelling themes inspired The Baird to reach out to

Welcome back, Town Hall Deli!

By Shari Noland

If not for the acute tastes of a Maplewood mayor 80 years ago, Town Hall Delicatessen, now celebrating a new life at the corner of First and Valley streets, may not have become internationally recognized for the original Sloppy Joe sandwich.

How did the savory sandwich come to South Orange? In 1934, while vacationing in Havana, Cuba, then-Maplewood Mayor Robert Sweeney tasted a sandwich at Joe's Bar and Eatery that was made with coleslaw, cow tongue, ham, Swiss cheese, and Russian dressing on rye bread.

Joe, the owner of the unkempt bar, earned the nickname "Sloppy Joe," but his untidiness didn't stop well-known American tourists like Ernest Hemingway from frequenting the eatery. Sweeney asked Town Hall Deli co-owner Hans Burdorf if he could replicate the sandwich. Burdorf made it happen and for decades Sloppy Joes were a deli favorite.

Town Hall Deli first opened in 1927 on South Orange Avenue near Village Hall. In the 1930s, new owners Hans Burdorf and Fred Joost moved it to 18 South Orange Avenue where it remained for 60 years. Current owner Tony Wonski purchased the deli in 2003 and moved it to 60 Valley Street. Open since February the deli's current hours are Monday to Friday, 7 a.m. to 8 p.m.; Saturdays 8 a.m. to 5 p.m.; and Sundays 8 a.m. to 3 p.m. The official re-opening will be in late April. ▲

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

April
2007

Inside

- Former radical Mark Rudd and poet C.K. Williams to speak at the Adult School
- May gala fetes local tutors
- Historic house tour, May 5
- Local filmmaker releases 'Premium'
- Black Maria Film Fest returns to S.O. Library
- 'Stevie D' at The Baird, April 21
- New DPW rules on metal & appliance disposal
- Villager of the Month: Village Colonials Neighborhood Assn.

Cont'd on page 4

Adult School Lecture Series

All events at Columbia High School, 7:30 p.m., \$13 per ticket (973) 378-7620 • somadulthoodschool.org



Mark Rudd

• April 9 – **Mark Rudd**, former CHS and Columbia University radical and co-founder of the notorious Weather Underground, will speak about his past and present. Rudd formerly advocated the violent overthrow of the U.S. government and is now a math teacher and pacifist.

• April 11 - Enjoy a poetry reading by **C.K. Williams**, Pulitzer Prize and National Critics Circle award-winner, and CHS graduate.

• April 16 – Rutgers law professor **Diana**

Scar will talk on the role of federal judges in interpreting the Constitution.

• April 23 – **Dr. Stevi Lischin**, co-founder of The Project for Intercultural Development, will lecture on assimilation and multiculturalism. ▲

Holocaust remembrance service

“Remember and Tell,” the 30th annual interfaith Holocaust event, takes place April 15, at 6:30 p.m., at St. Joseph’s Roman Catholic Church in Maplewood. Speakers are Jacqueline Murekatete and David Gewirtzman. David Brancaccio, host of “NOW” on PBS will moderate. A 15-minute Torchlight March of Remembrance will precede. For information, call (973) 929-3194 or (973) 761-5933. ▲

Lions Club honors Iversen

George Iversen, owner of the former We Got Movies video store and long-time Parking Authority board member, will be honored as the South Orange Lions Club Man of the Year, on April 28, at 7 p.m. at Cryan’s restaurant. The public is invited. Tickets are \$35. For information, call (973) 761-7458. ▲

Community sing-in

Mendelssohn’s Elijah will be ringing the rafters at Prospect Presbyterian Church in Maplewood on April 29, when local residents team up with the Voices in Harmony chorus for a “Community Sing-In” sponsored by the South Orange Maplewood Community Coalition on Race. Weekly rehearsals continue through April. For information: jasonaasbury@hotmail.com, or (917) 548-0941. ▲

May gala honors local tutors

A gala 10-year anniversary salute to 1,000-plus volunteer tutors is planned for May 2 at the South Orange Performing Arts Center. “Each One, Teach One” will honor the volunteers who have given 2,500 hours per year to help South Orange and Maplewood students from kindergarten through high school.

The program will feature the artistic talents of Columbia High School students as seen in the premiere of a documentary about **ACHIEVE**, a juried photography exhibit and a musical performance. Guests will toast the volunteers with special “ACHIEVE-mint” drinks and elegant hors d’oeuvres. For more information, call (973) 762-5600, x1847, or send e-mail to achieveprogram@yahoo.com. ▲

Events for seniors

• **Walking Program** - The South Orange Health Department is sponsoring its second year of walks for seniors, starting May 23, 10:30 a.m. to 12:30 p.m., at The Baird. Sign up by April 25. Call (973) 378-7715, x7710.

• **Five Days in Wildwood Crest** – May 14 to 18, \$295 double occupancy. Includes breakfast and dinner daily, transportation, hotel and loads of activities. Call Amy Dombrowski, South Orange Senior Circle, (973) 763-7397. ▲

Tee off for CHS

The Columbia High School Cougar Boosters’ 9th annual Golf Classic is on April 30 at Maplewood Country Club. Help support the school’s extracurricular activities. Donations are \$200 per person including golf, brunch and dinner. Details at www.CHSCougarBoosters.org, or call (973) 763-6817. ▲

On Stage at SOPAC

• April 10, 8 p.m. - **Kalichstein-Laredo-Robinson Piano Trio** performs Mozart, Kirchner and Beethoven, \$8, \$15, or \$20. Presented by Seton Hall.

• April 12, 8 p.m. – **“Simpsons Mania: Inside America’s Favorite Family** with producer Mike Reiss.” Rare video clips, talks of insane dealings with censors and juicy celebrity gossip, \$25.

• April 14, 8 p.m. – **Nancy Wilson**, legendary song stylist of any genre. SOPAC’s spring fundraiser. Tickets \$175, \$250.

• April 15, 11 a.m. & 3 p.m. – **“Ralph’s World,”** Grammy-nominated, one-man, feel-good musical for kids and parents, \$18.

• April 20-22 – **“Dead Man Walking,”** a play by Tim Robbins, exploring revenge, redemption, crime and punishment. Presented by Seton Hall. Friday and Saturday, 8 p.m.; Sunday, 2 p.m. and 8 p.m. Tickets, \$8, \$12, \$15.

• April 28, 7 p.m. – **Tommy Dorsey Orchestra**, big band entertainment at its best, \$45.

• April 29, 1 p.m. and 4 p.m. – **Cashore Marionettes**, “Simple Gifts,” everyday scenes brought to string-manipulated life, \$18.

• May 5-6 – Squonk Opera presents **“SOMA, The Opera,”** a site-specific musical tribute to South Orange and Maplewood. The troupe has worked directly with SOMA residents, community groups, educators and students to produce an original score, dance and video projections. Saturday, 8 p.m.; Sunday, 3 p.m. Tickets \$50. ▲

For information sopac.vpsland.com • (973) 275-1114

Don’t miss this year’s historic house tour



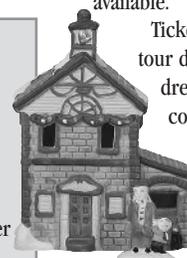
The second biennial “Historic Gems of South Orange House Tour,” sponsored by the South Orange Historical and Preservation Society, will be held May 5 from 11 a.m. to 4 p.m.

Seven tour homes showcase a cross-section of styles and vintages, and “house stories” of past residents will be told. Noted design professionals will lend their flair to enhance the homes.

The self-guided tour is “best accomplished by car,” according to organizers. Parking is at Village Hall and check-in is across the street at the Connett (EIES) building next to the South Orange Library, where the society’s “company store” will operate. Historic postcards, 1887 and 1904 Village maps and light snacks will be available.

Tickets are \$20 in advance or \$2 on tour day. Please, no strollers or children under 12. Babes in arms welcome. For more information,

call (973) 762-7078 or (973) 954-4042 or visit www.sohps.org. ▲



Showing at SHU

• April 11 - Award-winning husband and wife poets **Steve Gehrke and Nadine Meyer**, both SHU English professors, will give a reading at 7 p.m. in the Nursing Amphitheatre, room N113. Call (973) 761-5105.

• April 11 - **“Cultural Identity and International Cinema,”** a lecture by Dr. Jerry Carlson, radio host and professor at City University of New York, 6:30 p.m., at Walsh Library. Call (973) 761-9385.

• April 16-May 25 – **“Detritus,”** art objects made from discarded materials emphasizing environmental and social issues, in Walsh Library Gallery. Call (973) 275-2033 or visit library.shu.edu/gallery.

• April 18 – **“Syriana”** a film, 6:30 p.m., at Walsh Library. Call (973) 761-9385.

• April 29 - **SHU Touring Choir**, at Our Lady of Sorrows Roman Catholic Church, in South Orange, 4 p.m. Suggested donation, \$5. Call (973) 761-9417.

• Through May 27 - Ukrainian artist **Oleg Stakhov** and father/daughter artists Ales and Julia Shaternik of Belarusia. At Walsh Library. Call (973) 275-2033. ▲

Join the Rahway River clean-up

More than 500 volunteers are expected for the Rahway River clean-up – this year, a cooperative effort involving a dozen towns throughout the watershed. The local effort on Saturday, April 21, from 10 a.m. to 1 p.m., will be organized by Main Street South Orange to coincide with Earth Day.

Volunteers outfitted with rakes, boots and other equipment will work in the stream and on the banks to collect plastic bags, tires, construction material and all other debris.

Volunteers will meet in Meadowland Park at the bridge to the pool. Bring waterproof boots or shoes. Gloves, plastic bags, tools and food will be provided. Children must be accompanied by adults at all times. For details, call Main Street at (973) 763-6899 or send an e-mail to Director@MainStreetSouthOrange.org. ▲

Michele Hollow authors two books

South Orange author Michele C. Hollow has written two new craft books just published by Enslow Elementary, an imprint of Enslow Publishers, Inc. “Nifty Thrifty Math Crafts” and “Nifty Thrifty Sports Crafts” each use crafts to make learning fun for readers in grades 3 to 4.

In Math Crafts, Hollow provides step-by-step instructions for an origami hat, a piggy bank and a dream catcher. Sports Crafts focuses on a bowling game, team banners, picture frames and a golf business cardholder.

Hollow, who previously ghosted a crafts book for a designer on the DIY Network for Sterling Publishing, is currently writing a book about The Grateful Dead. She also writes a monthly family travel column called “Day Tripper.”

For information on the new books, go to www.enslow.com, or call (908) 771-9400 ext. 310. ▲

Local filmmaker releases ‘Premium’



Film director Pete Chatmon grew up in South Orange.

“Premium,” a new film by South Orange’s own Double 7 Film company, has just been released on DVD.

The R-rated movie stars Dorian Missic and Zoe

Saldana, whose performances have been hailed by Variety magazine. Double 7 President Pete Chatmon wrote, directed and produced the film.

Premium is a dramatic comedy about Reginald “Cool” Coolidge, a struggling actor fed up with stereotypical African American roles, who is waiting for his big break in a legitimate production. Until then, he works at his mother’s boyfriend’s gas station trying to repay his college tuition loan.

When Cool’s ex-fiancé appears at the pumps, Cool spends the next 36 hours before her wedding to a local lawyer in a last-ditch attempt to win her back. It’s the biggest “role” of his life . . . love.

Copies are available at Walmart or on Netflix.com. The preview can be seen at www.premiumthemovie.com. ▲

Get more notice for your events

Local organizations that wish to post calendar events on the three new Village kiosks can do so by visiting www.southorange.org. (Click on Calendar, then Community Groups, then Registration Form.) The kiosks on Sloan Street, Vose Avenue, and the corner of South Orange Avenue and Valley Street offer great visibility for coming events. The calendar will be posted bi-monthly. For more information, contact Main Street South Orange at (973) 763-6899, or Director@MainStreetSouthOrange.org. ▲

LIBRARY LIBRARY LIBRARY

(973) 762-0230

Black Maria returns

Be sure to mark your calendar for April 17, from 7 to 9 p.m., when the internationally acclaimed Black Maria Film Festival, an Academy Awards qualifier, will be at the library. The films are part of a traveling show seen at more than 70 institutions worldwide. The library will offer five of this year’s films, varying in length from 15 to 90 minutes. The total collection includes 58 films chosen from 700 original submissions.

The festival’s roots are in West Orange, NJ, where Thomas Edison developed motion picture technology. One of his labs was the Black Maria, the world’s first motion picture laboratory.

Book fair, May 19

The Friends of the South Orange Public Library will hold their first annual book fair, “Book Bonanza Extravaganza,” on Saturday, May 19, from 11 a.m. to 4 p.m., in the parking lot behind the library (rain or shine).

Books, DVDs, videos, CDs and children’s games will be available at unbeatable prices.

Donation drop-offs in the open area between the Connett building and the library are scheduled from May 2 to 5 and May 9 to 12, from noon to 4 p.m. All materials should be in good condition. Business books published more than 10 years ago cannot be accepted. Also not accepted: computer books, textbooks, technical and science books, encyclopedias, home-recorded audio or video tapes, and magazines.

Lecture Series

Thursdays, 1 p.m.

- April 12 – attorney Herb Zuckerman, “Significant Supreme Court Decisions.”
- April 19 - Tom Henthorne and Jonathan Silverman, Pace University English professors, “It’s All in the Name.”
- April 26 - Dermot Quinn, Seton Hall history professor, “150 Years of Saints, Scholars and Students.”
- May 3 – James Shreeve, author and science editor for National Geographic magazine, “Inside the National Geographic.”

Regular Programs

- S. O. Book Review Group (adults) – April 23, 7:30 p.m. “Year of Magical Thinking,” by Joan Didion. May 21, “Love and Other Impossible Pursuits,” by Ayelet Waldman.
- Open Stage Night (9th grade and up) - April 19, 7 p.m..
- Children’s Storytimes: Kindergarten, Mondays, 11 a.m.; Toddlers, Tuesdays, 11 a.m.; Preschool, Tuesdays, 1:30 p.m.; Babies, Wednesdays, 10 a.m.; Families, Wednesdays, 2 p.m., and Fridays (through May 4), 10 a.m.
- Chess and Games for All Ages: Thursdays, 3:30 p.m. ▲

DPW Service Reminders

Branch & Leaf Disposal

The last day for curbside placement of branches and leaves will be Friday, May 11. Residents may place at the curb any branches under four inches in diameter (tied into manageable bundles) and leaves collected in brown biodegradable lawn and leaf bags.

Grass Clippings

South Orange Disposal will pick up grass clippings in plastic bags only, until 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 and Shredded Wood

Small quantities of humus and shredded wood are available at the DPW facility for residents only. Quantities per household are limited, and only one product may be ordered each month. Products are delivered loose to the driveway, just past the sidewalk. Call for a delivery appointment or more information. ▲



JAZZ AT THE BAIRD

(973) 378-7754
www.thebaird.org

Steve Davis Quartet (Stevie D)

Saturday, April 21, 8 p.m.

"Stevie D" is regarded as one of today's leading trombone improvisers with a lyrical hard-swinging style. He has played and/or recorded with Art Blakey, Jackie McLean, Chick Corea, Freddie Hubbard, Slide Hampton, Roy Hargrove and Wynton Marsalis. The Steve Davis Quartet includes pianist David Bryant, bass player Dezron Douglas, and drummer Eric McPherson. Tickets are \$15 in advance; \$17 at door; \$12 for Friends of the



Arts levels 2 and 3. Purchase online at <http://southorange.recware.com>, or at The Baird or Rocket Ship & Print. ▲

DREAMCATCHER

(973) 378-7754, x2228 • www.DreamcatcherRep.org

Enroll now for Summer Conservatory

Dreamcatcher's 2007 Summer Theatre Conservatory runs July 9 through Aug. 3. Each week students in two age groups, 10 to 13 and 14 to 17, focus on a different specialties. Monday to Friday classes extend from 9 a.m. to 3 p.m. at The Baird. Participants can attend for one, two, three or all four weeks. Theater professionals teach all classes. Costs range from \$200 for one week to \$640 for all four weeks, with limited scholarships available. A weekly syllabus is available. Admission deadline, June 1.

Multiple Personality Disorder

Saturday, April 21, 8 p.m.

Dreamcatcher's Improvisational Comedy troupe brings scenes and sketches to life on the spot using audience input. Unpredictable fun for the whole family! All tickets, \$10. ▲

4TH ANNUAL STUDIO TOUR

(973) 378-7754 • www.studiotoursoma.org



Studio tour planners shown at a recent meeting: Larry Dell, left, B. John Kaufman, in back, and Liz LeClair.

Visit the studios and exhibition spaces of approximately 40 South Orange and Maplewood artists during the 4th Annual Studio Tour on June 3, from 11 a.m. to 5 p.m. Meet the artists, see their work and get to know the arts community. Pierro Gallery of South Orange and

the 1978 Maplewood Arts Center are co-sponsoring the event. Tickets are \$5 in advance or \$6 on tour day. Tickets can be purchased at The Goat, Rocket Ship & Print, South Orange Frame or The Baird. ▲

PIERRO GALLERY OF SOUTH ORANGE

(973) 378-7754, x3 • www.pierrogallery.org

Cathexis—Art of Obsession

Through May 6

Cathexis is the investment of mental or emotional energy in a person, object or idea. Find out how five artists are directed by this focus: Alaine Becker of South Orange (mixed media), Anne Marie Carnese of Montclair (scratchboard), Elaine Chong from Summit (encaustic), Deb Mell from Maplewood (sculpture), and Paul Shore of New York (beeswax sculpture/drawings).

Poetry at Pierro

In conjunction with Cathexis, "Poetry at Pierro" will take place April 29, from 2 to 4 p.m., with featured poets José Funes, Michael Lally, Marilyn Mohr, Holly Scalera and Ruby Scalera. An open mike session will follow the readings. Free admission. ▲

25+ Art Classes

There's still time to enroll! Most sessions in the Baird's 10-week cultural arts classes (pre-K to adult) start the week of April 7. Classes in jewelry making, life drawing, ballet, karate, guitar and more are taught by professional artists. Call (973) 378-7754 or visit www.thebaird.org. ▲

S.O.P.D. offers 1st Jr. Police Academy

Does your child have what it takes to be a dedicated police officer? Find out by enrolling him or her in South Orange's first annual Junior Police Academy.

Thirty South Orange students (public or private school) will be selected to attend the academy from July 9 to 13 at South Orange Middle School. Candidates must successfully complete grade 5 or 6 this school year.

The South Orange Police Department's Youth Aid Division will administer the program, with instruction by local and area police officers.

The academy is designed to show students the training and preparation necessary to become a police officer. The program promotes respect, discipline, drug and alcohol awareness, teamwork and motivation. Students learn about federal law and the legal process.

Applications are available at The South Orange Police Department. For details, call Det. Mark Garrett at (973) 763-3000, x7789. ▲

New Musical *From page 1*

the South Orange Performing Arts Center and the South Orange/Maplewood Community Coalition on Race to co-sponsor the show, which premieres at SOPAC on Wednesday, April 11 at 7 p.m.

Following the performance, three special guests will field questions on the show and related history. Included will be author Jon Luks, Dr. Kenyon Burke of the state MLK Commission, and Rabbi Daniel Brenner of the Auburn Theological Seminary in New York. Deborah Prinze, executive director of the South Orange Maplewood Education Foundation, will act as moderator.

The show is recommended for anyone age eight or older. Tickets are \$6 for children and \$12 for adults. Call SOPAC at (973) 313-ARTS or purchase online at www.sopacnow.org. ▲

NEW! FROM DPW

South Orange Department of Public Works
300 Walton Avenue • (973) 378-7741

Metal & Appliance Disposal

NEW RULES ANNOUNCED

The South Orange Department of Public Works can no longer accept certain metals and appliances at the DPW Yard. Instead, residents may drop off the following items at Codey Arena, next to Turtle Back Zoo in West Orange, on Saturday, May 19, from 9 a.m. to 3 p.m.

Computer CPUs, Monitors, Printers, Keyboards, Mainframes, Fax Machines, Scanners, Telecommunications Equipment, Stereos, Speakers, TVs, VCRs, DVD Players, Toasters, Toaster Ovens, Irons, Cell Phones

Household Hazardous Waste Day

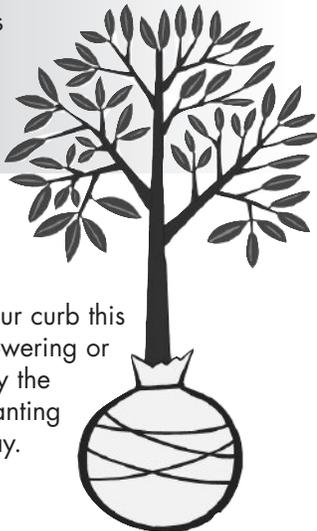
SPONSORED BY ESSEX COUNTY

Saturday, May 5, 8:30 a.m. to 4 p.m.
Free to all Essex County residents
Proof of residency required

Essex County Fleet Maintenance Garage
99 West Bradford Avenue, Cedar Grove

No commercial/industrial companies

To find out what items are accepted
call (973) 226-8500, x222



Spring Tree Planting

Interested in having a tree planted at your curb this spring? You can request one or more flowering or nonflowering trees after an inspection by the Shade Tree Division. Call DPW now. Planting will take place from mid-April to mid-May. The trees are free; the supply is limited.

TWO DISPOSAL METHODS: PICK-UP OR DROP-OFF

Large Household Items

1. CURBSIDE PICK-UP APPOINTMENTS

The average wait is four to six weeks for a pick-up appointment and monthly appointments are limited. No more than six pieces are permitted (not in bags or boxes). Call for the next available date or more information.

Metals/Appliances: refrigerators (doors removed), washer/dryers, dishwashers, and other items made of 90% or more metal, such as bicycles and stationary bicycles. Items listed in "Metal & Appliance Disposal" are not permitted.

General Household: furniture, carpets and mattresses are permitted. Items made of sheet glass, or items made substantially of glass, such as shower doors or glass tabletops, are not permitted.

2. CONTAINER DAY DROP-OFF, S.O. RESIDENTS ONLY

Saturdays: April 28, May 19, June 30,
July 28, Aug. 25, Sept. 29
8 a.m. to 1:45 p.m. (no arrivals after 1:30 p.m.)
DPW Yard, 300 Walton Avenue
Special disposal containers provided
Two proofs of residency required
No commercial/industrial vehicles allowed

Permitted: furniture, mattresses, appliances*, branches under 4 inches in diameter, toys, small household items, tools, strollers, playpens, metal items.**

* Residents are encouraged to drop off metal during regular DPW hours: weekdays, 8 a.m. to 4 p.m., and Saturdays, 8 a.m. to noon.

** Separate metals and appliances from other household items and remove doors on refrigerators and freezers.

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

Also: all items under "Metal & Appliance Disposal."

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

Villager of the Month

Village Colonials Neighborhood Association

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,
rpatric@
patmedia.net,
or call (908)
823-9001



A group of dedicated VCNA gardeners, shown from left, includes Lynn Lopes, Anne Lopes, Tony Griffin (behind Anne), Chris Hughes, Rusty Burwell, Gary Roth (in back), Judy Griffin, and Bobie Burwell.

It's spring! Time to take a neighborhood stroll. And if you happen past the pocket park where Tichenor, Garfield and Prospect streets converge, you'll get a delicious treat - seasonal flowers, luscious aromas and the good will of neighbors who provide all that beauty for the pure love of gardening.

Back in 1999, members of the Village Colonials Neighborhood Association became the official gardeners of Shepard's Green when they asked the Village's permission to take over the duty from the Department of Public Works.

A group of neighborhood gardeners realized they always had more plants than they needed in their own gardens, "but you hate to throw them away," said Lynn Lopes, one of the leading green thumbs. Most of the plants in Shepard's Green are donated by neighbors, with a year-round, ever-changing display of floral beauty.

VCNA is a 12-year-old association that started as a neighborhood watch group, then expanded its interests to include - among other things - traffic calming and gardening.

Three years ago, the pocket park, also known as the Gardens of Garfield and Triangle Garden, was largely demolished after VCNA prompted the reconstruction of

the intersection.

"We wanted the traffic pattern to be safer and clearer," said President Patricia Teden.

After the reconstruction in 2004, the gardeners spread tons of soil brought in by DPW. They built a path down the middle and hauled

in boulders, bushes, trees and flowers galore.

"There was a lot of wheelbarrowing down the streets that year," recalled Lopes.

At the 2004 VCNA block party, the gardeners called for donations to defray the initial cost of rebuilding and the neighbors came through again. Still, most of the plants, including trees and bushes, were donated by the neighbors.

The VCNA uses its e-mail network to call for volunteers on garden maintenance days.

Accomplished gardeners and novices alike are welcomed.

Without fanfare or request for recognition, the VCNA has created a beauty spot in our Village while continuing to honor its namesake, Francis B. Shepard, whose plaque in the park notes his death during WWI.

Three years after rebuilding, VCNA says this year's garden "should be spectacular." To all who are making that happen, many thanks from your admirers across the Village! ▲

The street just beyond the Gaslight is Garfield Place. To the right, off the picture is Prospect; to the left is Tichenor.



Township of South Orange Village
South Orange, NJ 07079

Bulk
U.S. Postage
PAID
Permit No. 5
South Orange, NJ

Postal Customer
Local 07079



Village Web Site: www.southorange.org
E-mail for Village Administrator: jgross@southorange.org