

The South Orange Gaslight



Photo by Library Director Melissa Kopecky

Contractors sought to restore Village Hall

The Village Engineer has issued a request for qualifications to architectural and construction services interested in renovating Village Hall. The historic structure at 101 South Orange Avenue has housed Village government offices since it was built in 1895.

The April 13 notice calls for qualified architectural firms with experience in design and construction renovations of historic buildings.

The deadline for submissions is May 18, after which the Village will review responses and request proposals from the five most qualified firms.

Village Hall was originally designed by architects Rossiter & Wright of New York City. "The half-timber construction suggests the style of work completed in England and Germany during the Elizabethan period," according to "Images of America: South Orange," by Village author Naoma Welk. The building quickly became a recognized land-

mark for the Village and the tower clock is believed to have inspired the first Nancy Drew mystery, "The Secret of the Old Clock," written in 1930 by Edward Stratemeyer, a Maplewood resident. ▲

County to award family service

Do you know someone in South Orange who has served needy children and families in extraordinary ways?

If so, the Village wants to hear from you. This fall, the Essex County Family Service League will host the first-ever Family Service Awards, honoring one person in each municipality in the county. The league has requested nominations from the Village.

A panel of judges will select the final recipients, and mayors from each town will present awards during a ceremony on Oct. 18.

To nominate a South Orange candidate, submit a brief letter with the resident's name, address and a description of his or her contributions to our community. Submit by e-mail to lharris@southorange.org, or by mail to Laura Harris, 101 South Orange Avenue, South Orange, NJ 07079. ▲

Municipal election, May 8 Be sure to vote!

The South Orange municipal election for Village President and four Village Trustee positions will be held Tuesday, May 8. Polls will be open from 6 a.m. to 8 p.m.

The candidates in two teams are as follows:

Pure Progress Team

- For Village President - Douglas Newman.
- For Village Trustee (three 4-year terms) - Mark Rosner, Deborah Davis Ford and Howard Levison.
- For Village Trustee (one 2-year term) - Michael Goldberg.

A Village United

- For Village President - William Calabrese.
- For Village Trustee (three 4-year terms) - Janine Bauer, Allan Rosen and Arthur Taylor.
- For Village Trustee (one 2-year term) - Frank Rodino. ▲

The Gaslight is published 10 times yearly for the residents & business community of South Orange Village.

May 2007

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West Nile Virus study underway

The South Orange Department of Health is collecting dead birds for the West Nile Virus season, now underway. In accordance with the New Jersey Department of Health, birds in the Corvid family are being collected. Crows and blue jays are the most common Corvids in the state. Testing them for WNV is the best way to know where the virus is circulating and where enhanced mosquito control activities may need to occur. If you find a dead crow or blue jay, or if you have questions, call the South Orange Animal Control Officer at (973) 378-7715, x7711.

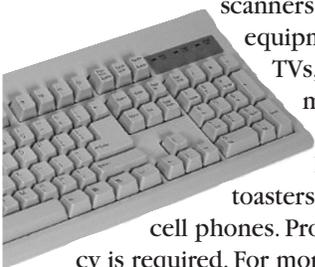
WNV is transmitted primarily through the bite of an infected mosquito – in the United States, the common house mosquito. The larvae are usually found in polluted water in roadside ditches, in tires, swimming pools, and clogged roof gutters. The health department advises residents to empty and refill outdoor bird baths daily, tilt wheelbarrows, and empty watering cans.

For WNV information, visit the NJ Department of Health and Senior Services at www.state.nj.us/health, or Environmental Protection at www.state.nj.us/dep/mosquito. ▲

Get rid of old electronics

Essex County's Computer Electronics Recycling Day will be Saturday, May 19 from 9 a.m. to 3 p.m. at the county's bus parking lot in the South Mountain complex, 560 Northfield Avenue, West Orange.

Items accepted include computers, monitors, printers, fax machines, scanners, telecom equipment, speakers, TVs, keyboards, main frames, VCRs, stereos, DVD players, toasters, irons and old cell phones. Proof of residency is required. For more information, call (973) 857-2350. ▲



Five more 'Container Days' coming up

The South Orange Public Works Department will offer monthly container days on these Saturdays: May 19, June 30, July 28, Aug. 25 and Sept. 29.

South Orange residents (only) may discard unwanted household items at the DPW Yard at 300 Walton Avenue. Two forms of ID are required for proof of residency. No commercial vehicles are permitted. For information call (973) 378-7741.

Branch Pickup: Beginning June 1, appointments are required. Branches must be four inches or less in diameter. For more information, call (973) 378-7741.

▲

Main Street Events

973/763-6899

www.mainstreetsouthorange.org

■ **Lunchtime Concert Series** - Every Wednesday in June, enjoy live music in Spiotta Park (next to Washington Mutual). New hours: 11 a.m. to 1 p.m.

■ **South Orange in Bloom** - The annual spring festival is an afternoon of craft projects, live music and a plant sale. Saturday, June 2, 11 a.m. to 2 p.m.

■ **Save The Date, Saturday, July 14, "Celebrate South Orange"** - Gather downtown with friends and neighbors to celebrate our community! More information in the next Gaslight.

'Detritus'

Through May 25 at Seton Hall's Walsh Library Gallery – art objects made from discarded materials emphasize environmental and social issues. Call (973) 275-2033 or visit library.shu.edu/gallery.

On Stage at SOPAC

sopac.vpsland.com • (973) 275-1114

• May 11, 8 p.m. – The Mighty Clouds of Joy, soul-stirring gospel music, \$55.

• May 12, 3 p.m. and 7 p.m., The Tierney Sutton Band, Grammy-nominated jazz artists, \$35.

• May 14, 8 p.m., "Until We Find Each Other," a new-play reading performed by NOW/What Exit? Theatre Company, \$10.

• May 17, 4 p.m. and 7 p.m., Dan Zanes and Friends "Pajama Party," for the kids. (Wear PJs to the 7 p.m. show!) Tickets \$18.

• May 20, 2 p.m., American Repertory Ballet performs Twyla Tharp's "Octet," \$35.

• June 1, Olympia Dukakis and Louis Zorich star in "I Take Your Hand in Mine," a love story about Russian playwright Anton Chekhov and his actress wife. Tickets \$50.

• June 2, 4 p.m., author/historian Gail Buckley presents stories from her award-winning book, "American Patriots: The Story of Blacks in the Military from the Revolution to Desert Storm," \$25.

• June 9, 8 p.m., Teatro Si presents a celebration of music and dance from Colombia, \$35.

Brahms, Bach, Strauss & Grieg

The South Orange Symphony Orchestra will perform the third and final concert of the 2006-2007 season. The free performance takes place May 19 at 8:15 p.m. at the South Orange Middle School.

On the program will be Brahms' Symphony No. 2, Strauss' "Feierlicher Einzug," Bach's "Sinfonia in D," and Grieg's Piano Concerto in A Minor. Pianist Young Park, a winner of the orchestra's 2006 Artist Competition, will solo during the Grieg performance.

For more information, visit www.southorangesymphony.org.

LIBRARY LIBRARY LIBRARY

www.sopl.org • (973) 762-0230

Book fair, May 19

"Book Bonanza Extravaganza," a book fair sponsored by the Friends of the Library, will take place 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 will be accepted from noon to 4 p.m., May 9 to 12, between the Connett building and the library.

Young Filmmakers

The Young Filmmakers Film and Video Festival, featuring award-winning short films produced by young adults, will take place Tuesday, June 5, from 3:30 to 5 p.m.

Lecture Series

Thursdays, 1 p.m.

• May 10 – "Incarcerated Mothers Parenting from the Big House," with Caldwell College sociology Professor Rosann Barr.

• May 17 - Stephen Schoeman, political science professor at Union County College, presents "Do You Like Ike?"

• May 24th - Spring Symposium, lunch and entertainment by world-renowned pianist Mitchell Zeidwig.

Regular Programs

• S. O. Book Review Group (adults) – May 21, "Love and Other Impossible Pursuits," by Ayelet Waldman. June 25, "Dispatches from the Edge: A Memoir of War, Disasters and Survival," by Anderson Cooper.

• Open Stage Night (9th grade and up) - May 17, 7 p.m. Perform poetry, spoken word, sing a song, play an instrument!

• Check the Web site for children's events and the summer reading program.

PIERRO GALLERY OF SOUTH ORANGE

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

Singularity in the Communal Tide

(Culture + Identity in the Moment)

May 13-July 15

This blockbuster exhibition features an international group of 31 contemporary artists whose work examines the individual in the ever-increasing world collective. Some artists embrace their background, ancestry, country and religion while others reflect popular culture or historical context. Artists include Fred Wilson, the United States' representative in the Venice Biennale 2003; Victor Ampliev who represented Russia in the Berlin Biennale 2006; and prominent South African artist Nicolos Hlobo.

Three enriching events are planned:

- Arts-perience: A Community Drum Circle and Community Mandala, May 20, 1 to 3 p.m., in Meadowland Park (preceding the reception). Join a community circle with music and art.
- Opening Reception - May 20, 3 to 5 p.m.
- Curator Talk and Artist Panel Discussion - Monday, June 25, 3 p.m. Meet curator Rupert Ravens and some of the artists.

4th STUDIO TOUR

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

Visit the studios and exhibition spaces of more than 40 South Orange and Maplewood artists on June 3, from 11 a.m. to 5 p.m. Meet the artists and see their work, including paintings, mixed-media, photography, sculpture, and ceramics.

The tour is a joint project of Pierro Gallery and the 1978 Maplewood Arts Center. Tickets are \$5 in advance or \$6 on tour day. Tickets can be purchased at The Dancing Goat, Rocket Ship & Print, South Orange Frame Shop or The Baird.

JAZZ AT THE BAIRD

(973) 378-7754 • www.thebaird.org

Darmon Meader Quartet

Saturday, May 19, 8 p.m.

Enjoy the jazz vocal and instrumental stylings of the Darmon Meader Quartet as The Baird presents its final event in this year's jazz series. A Maplewood resident, Darmon is considered one of the premier vocalists, arrangers and saxophonists in jazz today. He has achieved international recognition as the founder, musical director, chief arranger, composer, producer and saxophonist of New York Voices. 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 in person at The Baird or Rocket Ship & Print.

S.O. RECREATION

(973) 378-7754 • www.thebaird.org

Renew your ID badge now!

Badges are issued at The Baird from 9 a.m. to 9 p.m., Monday to Thursday; and 9 a.m. to 4 p.m., Friday to Sunday. Two proofs of residency are required. New or updated badges are \$20 per year. For details, check our Web site.

Summer playground program

Limited openings remain in the program for children in first to eighth grades. The half-day, seven-week, fair-weather camp runs from June 25 to Aug. 10. Children grouped by age and grade meet daily in designated Village parks. Activities include games, sports, music, dance, art, swimming, special events and field trips, with time built in for self-directed play under counselor supervision. For South Orange residents only; current photo ID badge required.

Summer tennis camps

Weekly tennis camps for children ages 3 to 15 will be offered all summer. The program includes instruction and competitive play. Sessions are held Monday through Thursday, with Fridays reserved as make-up days. For program details, visit <http://southorange.recware.com>.

Cougar Baseball Camps

Columbia High School Varsity Baseball Coach Larry Busichio will direct this camp for children ages 8 to 13. He'll focus on fundamentals: proper throwing, fielding techniques, base running, hitting, catching, and pitching. Two four-day camps are offered, July 9 to 12 and July 16 to 19, from 9 a.m. to 3 p.m. each day. The fee is \$210 for one week, or \$390 for both weeks. Details are online at <http://southorange.recware.com>.

DREAMCATCHER

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

Meet The Artist

Dreamcatcher's new play-reading series allows the audience to hear a reading, then participate in feedback sessions with the playwright, director and actors. It's a fun and stimulating way to spend an evening! All readings are free.

• Wednesday, May 9, 7:30 p.m. - "The Goat Woman of Memphis," by Christine Whitley. A woman's secrets entrap her in a life of endless disappointment.

• Wednesday, May 23, 7:30 p.m. - "Mourning Dove," by Emil Sher. A parent decides to end the life of his severely disabled daughter.

Celebrate EMS Day **with local first responders**

The extraordinary service of South Orange's fire, police and rescue personnel and the Community Emergency Response Team will be celebrated on EMS Day 2007. This year's event takes place Saturday, May 19, from 11 a.m. to 3 p.m. at rescue squad headquarters at No. 4 Third Street.

Check out the Saint Barnabas Fire Safety House, the PSE&G Fires & Wires demonstration, free CPR classes, the teddy bear clinic, free infant and car seat checks by the police, and fire department and ambulance demos. Free blood pressure screenings and a blood drive will be offered along with home safety and health tips and poison control information. Free food and drink and jitney transportation also will be offered. For more information, call (973) 378-7715, x7724. ▲



Take a Hike! **with SoMo Conservancy**

Put on your walking shoes and join the South

Mountain Conservancy for a series of spring and summer hikes in the reservation. Conservancy volunteers lead two to seven mile hikes, mostly at an easy to moderate pace. Adults and children 10 and older (accompanied by an adult) are welcome. Some hikes specifically include younger children.

There's no fee and no registration. Hikers simply show up at the scheduled start time. Morning walks are scheduled for May 12, 19 and 28, and June 2, 10 and 23. A summer schedule will be posted next month on the conservancy's Web site. For start times, gathering locations and trail information, visit somocon.org, or call (973) 762-1475. ▲

Villager of the Month

The Senior Circle at The Baird

Kathie Williams never viewed herself as a leader. A mother and homemaker for decades, and later a pharmacy technician at the Prescription Counter, she has lived in South Orange for 34 years. These days, deteriorating vision means she relies in part on friends and family, but that didn't stop her last year from becoming president of The Senior Circle at The Baird.

"I've met a lot of kind, good people through the Senior Circle," said Kathie "I enjoy everyone coming together at once because they support and genuinely care for one another."

With nearly 200 members, mostly Village residents and the rest former residents, the Senior Circle is a thriving organization with monthly meetings often featuring special speakers, holiday dinners and bingo games. Members age 55 and older enjoy bi-weekly movies at The Baird and bus trips to the mall on alternate weeks. They also plan annual vacations to destinations like Tennessee, Niagara Falls, Virginia Beach and this year, Wildwood.

Dues are \$7 a year and meetings are held the third Thursday of every month, from September through June.

Within the circle, the seniors have their own charitable projects, including TINK (that's "knit" spelled backwards), a club whose members make afghans and lap robes for hospitalized seniors. They also share their wares with other charitable groups.

For the last decade, members have volunteered during community flu clinics, checking IDs, Medicare cards and other insurance.

"They keep the line moving," said South Orange Health Officer John Festa. "It's easier having seniors provide this service for other seniors because they understand the physical limitations. Where I might want things to happen faster, they're all friends and it's a nice smooth way of handling things."



Members of the Senior Circle at the Baird were honored at a Village Hall ceremony on April 23. Shown from left are President Kathie Williams, Co-Vice Presidents Lilia Flammer and June O'Connor, member Rita Tracey, Recording/Corresponding Secretary Stella Locker and Treasurer Mary Ann Capazze.

Senior Circle members also volunteer at the polls on election days, and they will be helping the New Jersey Commission for the Blind conduct eye screenings during the South Orange Health Fair coming up Sept. 8.

The Senior Circle was started in 1968, the same year the South Orange Department of Recreation and Cultural Affairs was established, and the link between the two has remained steadfast.

Director Andy Brady called the Senior Circle "an extension of our program offerings because they help us reach out to those people for whom there are only limited offer-

ings. It's a very positive outlet for our seniors and something they look forward to."

Long-time member Grace Vantieri calls the Senior Circle "a very worthy group. The sociability is great and that is what seniors need to get together," she said. "I think they're tops."

For all the work our senior citizens have done for our community in years past, we commend them for maintaining an organization that keeps them in touch with one another while still extending their community outreach. Congratulations, members, on being Villagers of the Month! ▲

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

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

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with
Village
Government

General Info.

(973) 378-7715
Emergency, 911
Clerk's Office, x1
Administrator, x2
Construction, x3
Tax Collector, x4
Assessor, x5
Finance, x6
Engineer, x7
Parking Auth., x8
Health Officer
x2012
Animal Control
378-7711 or 7710
Fire Dept.
378-7751
Library
762-0230
Police Dept.
378-7775
Public Works
378-7741
Recreation &
Cultural Affairs
378-7754
Recycling Info. &
Street Dept.
378-7741
Water Service
266-8869

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