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- ▶ [Home Page](#)
- ▶ [Page 1](#)
- ▶ [Page 2](#)
- ▶ [Page 3](#)
- ▶ [Page 4](#)
- ▶ [Page 5](#)
- ▶ [Page 6](#)
- ▶ [Page 7](#)
- ▶ [Page 8](#)
- ▶ [Page 9](#)
- ▶ [Page 10](#)
- ▶ [Page 11](#)
- ▶ [Page 12](#)
- ▶ [Page 13](#)
- ▶ [Page 14](#)
- ▶ [Page 15](#)
- ▶ [Page 16](#)
- ▶ [Page 17](#)
- ▶ [Page 18](#)
- ▶ [Page 19](#)
- ▶ [Page 20](#)

**WELCOME
2011**

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LOCAL TALK Weekly

Local News Flash

BY WALTER ELLIOTT
Torpey Sworn in as South Orange Village President

SOUTH ORANGE : An overflow Village Hall audience witnessed 23-year-old Alex Torpey formally ascend to the post of Village President here May 16.



Torpey, with his parents beside him, was sworn in by Essex County Clerk Christopher J. Durkin at 7:48 p.m. The lifelong villager then received his county election confirmation certificate and gavel from municipal clerk Robin R. Kline.

Five of the six Village Trustees were waiting for Torpey to take their dais' center seat. They included trustees Deborah Davis-Ford and Mark Rosner, who were respectively sworn in three minutes before by Essex County Freeholder Blonnie R. Watson and attorney Shera Friedman. Friedman is also Rosner's daughter.

Torpey - who ran for elective office for the first time - Davis-Ford, Rosner and Howard Levison were selected to the four open municipal offices May 10 by 4,125 registered voters. Levison was sworn-in by Village Counsel Steve Rother after sunset May 14.

Voters narrowly chose Torpey over incumbent Trustee Janine Bauer by 14 votes, 708-694. Bauer's "Pure Progress" teammates Davis-Ford, Levison and Rosner were re-elected with respective 895, 881 and 865 tallies.

Bauer - who took her seat while Torpey was being sworn in - and Trustee Michael Goldberg were also awaiting their new chief executive. Trustee Nancy

LOCAL NEWS flash

Gould, absent during Local Talk's presence in Village Hall, was said by Kline at 7:35 p.m. to arrive later in the reorganization meeting.

Torpey, who ran his own "Rethink Leadership" campaign, is to preside on an otherwise Pure Progress board of elders. He succeeds Douglas Newman, who also successfully ran on the Pure Progress ticket in 2007 but declined to run again.

South Orange has had a president-trustee form of government since its sectioning from Orange in 1861. It became one of four villages in New Jersey when it separated from modern-day Maplewood in 1904. South Orange, like its Orange parent, added "Township" to its official name in 1981 to take advantage of several federal funding programs.

The Township of South Orange Village - along with Orange, Newark and Glen Ridge - holds nonpartisan municipal elections. Candidates are allowed, however, to share a common platform or run on the same ticket.

Torpey, up to May 16, is on the South Orange Rescue Squad and the village's Public Safety Committee and Public Library Board of Trustees. The Columbia High School and Hampshire College graduate is a digital entrepreneur.

"I spent a couple of hours talking with Alex the other day," said Goldberg. "I've seen him in board meetings few come out to. He has energy and passion - and I welcome him to the board."

"I thank everyone for coming out," said Torpey to the audience and local media members. "Now that you're here, you're legally required to be here at every one of our meetings."

Once the laughter died down, Torpey thanked those who helped his campaign "for the support and hard work you put in" and to the absent Newman, "for the time and energy you put in to make South Orange a better place and who has left a very large pair of shoes to fill."

"This is a surreal experience to be here," said Torpey before launching into his five-minute address. "The election is over. Now what?"

Torpey stressed the importance of innovation in government at a time of apathy. He cited the relatively low may 10 turnout compared to the village's pool of 12,289 registered voters.

"At one point in time, American government was one of the, if not the, most innovative and progressive in the world," said Torpey. "At a time where the world is questioning government, the fact that so many people have hope for the progress to come is inspiring. When people ask how to do something, my vision is for that answer to be: How did South Orange, N.J. do it?"

Orange OKs Tremont School Zone

ORANGE : A majority of The City of Orange Township Council created a redevelopment zone around the old Tremont School/Orange Police Station during its May 17 meeting.

The council, in a 4-2 split vote, has approved the Lincoln Avenue Redevelopment Plan for Zoning Map Block 6303 Lot 7 - better known as 595 Lincoln Ave. The plan allows the 44,631 lot at the southwest corner of Lincoln and Tremont avenues to be redeveloped for housing.

LARP allows for the redevelopment or demolition of the 2.5-story, 110-year-old brick building that started life as the Tremont School. The plan would permit 16 residential units with as many parking places, offices for school or condominium use, or outbuildings for storage.

All seven council members approved the plan's first reading April 19 and scheduled a May 17 public hearing. Orange's elders, however, split on the subsequent final vote.

West Ward Councilman/Council President Hassan Abdul-Rasheed, North Ward Councilwoman Tency Eason and at large colleagues Donna K. Williams and Elroy Corbitt voted for approval. South Ward Councilman/Council Vice President Edward Marable, Jr. and at-large Councilman Rayfield Morton

dissented. East Ward Councilwoman Linda Jones-Bell was absent.

Morton, speaking for himself, explained why he had changed his mind on LARP over the 31-day period.

"We're building a lot of housing but we're putting recreational facilities on the side," said Morton to "Local Talk" May 18. "When we were growing up, we had Friendship House, the Christian Youth Organization and, across the West Orange line, the Valley Settlement House. Friendship and the CYO are gone."

595 Lincoln Ave. was last in the public eye about this time last year. A man made a presentation to the council about using the building for Saturday enrichment classes and recreation. He said that he had made a similar presentation to the Orange Board of Education.

The site has been dormant since its last tenant - the Essex County Office of Emergency Management - moved out recently. The property remains city-owned with an option for public schools' use.

Tremont School, built in 1901, was an instructional site for elementary and junior high school students until 1973; the school board turned the property over to the city.

Tremont and Central School, on Cleveland Street, were middle schools when the current Orange High School building opened by Labor Day 1973. The Board of Education consolidated the junior high schools into the 1920s-era Orange High building on Central and Lincoln avenues.

Old Central Middle eventually became a wing of the now-Rosa Parks Elementary School. The combined Orange Middle School was revamped as the Orange Preparatory Academy last year.

Orange meanwhile converted Tremont School into Orange Police Headquarters and Municipal Court, moving from City Hall's basement, 1973-2005. Five officers were convicted in 2000 for violating the civil rights of Earl Faison, who was fatally pepper-sprayed in a stairwell in the wake of Officer Joyce Carnegie's murder April 8, 1999.

The police headquarters and municipal court moved into the new Freddie Pohill Law and Justice Complex on Park Street by 2006.

DHSS ENCOURAGES MEDICARE PART B BENEFICIARIES TO USE PREVENTIVE BENEFITS

The New Jersey Department of Health and Senior Services kicked off a public awareness campaign encouraging Medicare beneficiaries enrolled in Part B to learn more about 19 free and reduced cost preventive care services now covered under the Part B program. The campaign is funded by a grant from the federal Centers for Medicare and Medicare Services (CMS) and the Administration on Aging (AoA).

"Prevention and early disease detection are key factors in maintaining or improving quality of life," said Acting Commissioner O'Dowd. "We want all Medicare Part B enrollees to know these important preventive health care services are available and that out-of-pocket costs for

these vital services have been eliminated or greatly reduced for beneficiaries."

The multi-dimensional campaign includes radio and print ads, brochures, posters and a wellness pledge card on which beneficiaries vow to call their doctor within 30 days to make an appointment for their first-ever annual wellness visit, a new, free service covered by Medicare Part B. The pledge cards will be distributed and collected at presentations and health fairs conducted by 10 local agencies also funded by the grant, and will be mailed back to beneficiaries one month later as a reminder. Beneficiaries can also take the pledge on-line at www.wellnesspledge.nj.gov.

At the free annual wellness visit, beneficiaries and their doctors or health care providers

develop or update a personalized prevention plan based on the beneficiaries' current health and risk factors. The visit includes a review of medical and family history; a list of current providers and prescriptions; height, weight, blood pressure, and other routine measurements; a screening schedule for appropriate preventive services; and a list of risk factors and treatment options.

In addition to the wellness visit, the 19 free and reduced-cost preventive services covered by Medicare Part B include a one-time "Welcome to Medicare" physical exam within the first 12 months of coverage, abdominal aortic aneurysm screening, cardiovascular blood tests, diabetes screening tests, glaucoma screening, bone mass measurement, screening

mammography, screening pap test and pelvic exam, colorectal cancer screening, prostate cancer screening tests, HIV screening, diabetes monitoring and education, medical nutritional therapy, smoking cessation services, flu and H1N1 flu vaccination, pneumococcal pneumonia vaccination, and Hepatitis B shots for those at risk. The department's funded-partners in this effort include the Retired and Senior Volunteer Program of Burlington County; Community Health Law Project, South Orange; Community Services Inc. of Ocean County; Cumberland County Office on Aging and Disabled; Family and Children's Services, Inc., Long Branch; Family Guidance Center Corp., Hamilton; Senior Corps of Gloucester County; SAGE Eldercare, Summit;

Salem County Office on Aging; and Zuffall Health Center, Dover.

The grant funds are also being used to promote and help low-income and limited-asset Medicare beneficiaries enroll in programs that pay some or all their Medicare Parts B and D premiums, deductibles, coinsurance and/or co-pay costs. Part B usually covers just 80% of approved doctor bills.

A person on a Medicare Saving Program (which pays the Part B premium) can save more than \$1,000 a year, while individuals on a Low Income Subsidy (which pays some Part D prescription drug costs) save an average of \$3,900 annually.

For more information on getting help paying your Medicare costs, go to www.aging.nj.gov.

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