



The Community Coalition on Race Mourns the Loss of Lt. Governor Sheila Oliver

The trustees and staff of the South Orange/Maplewood Community Coalition on Race are deeply saddened to hear of the passing of Lt. Governor Sheila Oliver. She recognized the work of the Coalition on Race as a vital model of community activism and our towns as works in progress toward true racial inclusion and equity. We are grateful for the work she did as a public servant advocating for social justice, women's rights, and affordable housing. We were especially grateful for her presence at our events over the years, including as our keynote speaker at the 17th Annual Dr. King Observance in 2019. [Read more here....](#)



SOMA Housing Town Hall with Village President Sheena Collum and Mayor Dean Dafis

Maplewood completed its most recent master plan this year and South Orange adopted theirs in 2021. A master plan helps guide community leaders in the areas of development, land use, zoning, and more within balanced economic, social, physical, environmental, and fiscal planning guided by community engagement. Members of our Residential Committee will be in conversation with our town leaders about master planning progress, development, zoning, affordable housing, and neighborhood issues. [Register here for this event.](#)



Maps designed by Allyson Murphy

Celebrating Integration Fundraiser Save the date—October 12th!

We are so excited to be together again, this year in South Orange at the Orange Lawn Tennis Club. Join us for an evening of fellowship, food, music, a live auction, and fun as we raise funds to support our work in the coming year. This year's honorees will be announced soon!

Interested in sponsoring our event? [Click here for details.](#)



Integrated Art Circles Continue—Register Today

Reserve your spot for the September and October Circles today! [For](#)

Public Mural Art Circle with artist Roberta Melzl begins September 11th

Build connections as the group formulates a shared vision and decides which materials work best for the mural that will be created, and then publicly displayed in the SOMA/MapSo community. No experience is necessary –only enthusiasm, collaboration, and a willingness to learn.



Journey to Percussion/Shekere with artist: Ahmondylia Best begins Oct. 7th

Learning to play the beaded gourd instrument known as a shekere can take you on a journey of percussion ranging from exhilaration to meditation. Participants will explore traditional rhythms, tone, tempo, improvisation and composition as a group and in solo performance.

Community Coalition Committee Volunteer Openings

Looking to give some time and talent to racial integration and equity work in your community? Work on a committee or on a project and meet new people! We have openings in the areas noted below. Most committees meet monthly.

- **Community Program Planning Committees:** the Dr. King Observance, the Luminary Project, Black History Month projects, Conversations on Race, and other community engagement programs
- **Marketing:** social media, website updates, awareness campaigns, and more
- **Demographic Research:** research and data analysis of demographics, housing trends, and more

Visit our [volunteer page](#) to fill out a volunteer application today!



Community Boards on Police in SOMA

Both towns have established collaborative, advisory boards that promote transparency and community input on policing. Each board works with town governments and their police departments and is comprised of appointed volunteers.

- The **South Orange Community Police Collaborative** holds monthly meetings that are open to the public. It also has openings for subcommittees for Data Analysis, Operations Information, and Outreach. To volunteer, email them at: cpcquestions@southorange.org. [Visit their website here.](#)
- The **Maplewood Community Board on Police** is comprised of nine voting members, including one Maplewood resident appointee from the Community Coalition on Race. If you are interested in being nominated by the Community Coalition on Race to fill this important seat, please reach out to us at SOMA@communitycoalitiononrace.org. To learn more about the board, [visit here.](#)



Learn about Our Loan Program

The Residential Committee introduced realtors and lenders to the Wealth Gap Equalizer Loan, a new, unique financing solution designed specifically to help qualified Black and non-white Hispanic applicants overcome common barriers to homeownership in SOMA. We hosted a virtual information session about the loan program with information on the application process and realtors and lenders

can share it with their clients. [View the video here](#)



SOMSD is Hosting a Hiring Fair

The school district looking to meet dynamic, motivated professionals who want to make a difference in the lives of young people. Drop-in fair is August 17th, 10 am - 2 pm. **More details here.**



August 17, 2023

10:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m.

Location:
Montrose Early Childhood Center
356 Clark Street
South Orange, NJ 07079

DROP-IN JOB FAIR

- ☒ No appointment necessary
- ☒ Meet with a decision maker

CONTACT US

(973) 762-5600
ext. 1827/1828

www.somsd.k12.nj.us

SCAN QR CODE

REGISTER IN LESS THAN 1 MINUTE!



High School Vacancies:
Business Education Teacher
Math Teacher
Physical Education/Health Teacher
Physics Teacher
Special Education Teacher-Math
Special Education Teacher-Science

Middle School Vacancies:
P/T Music Teacher
Social Studies Teacher
Special Education Teacher

Elementary School Vacancies:
Intervention Teacher-Math
Elementary School Teacher
Physical Education Teacher
Preschool Teacher
Special Education Teacher

Leave Replacement Vacancies:
Art Teacher
Language Arts Teacher
Math Teacher
Occupational Therapist
Special Education Teacher

District Vacancies:
Library Media Specialist
School Nurse
Social Worker

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DONATE



Visit our website

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