



CHARTING A COURSE

VILLAGE OF ROCKVILLE CENTRE

MAYOR FRANCIS X. MURRAY
SEPTEMBER 9, 2013

- The Village of Rockville Centre is one of the most desirable communities in New York to live, work and raise a family. This fact was recently verified in a Newsday Real Estate story that said about our Village, “The market is very strong...There are bidding wars if a house is priced right.”

Newsday

- Preserving our Village’s outstanding quality of life remains a priority. Our recreation programs for our youth and seniors, the viability of our downtown, our schools, police and fire protection, and infrastructure upgrades are second to none.

DOWNTOWN KEY TO OUR FUTURE

- Downtown is a reflection of our Village. The most visible indicator of community pride, along with the economic health of the Village.
- Downtown represents a significant portion of our tax base.
- Downtown prosperity protects property values.





- Downtown is an important employment center.
- Downtown represents a huge public and private investment.
- Downtown provides an important civic forum, where members of the community can congregate to reinforce a sense of community.

RVC DOWNTOWN GROWS

- Occupancy within the Village's business district reaches an amazing 96%. Few, if any, other Village on LI enjoys such a high rate.
- Unlike other communities, our downtown is not littered with boarded up windows and "For Rent" signs. To the contrary, RVC downtown is filled with thriving businesses, stores that are expanding their operations and well cared for facades and storefronts.
- RVC enjoys a strong reputation among the business community that we are the Village that works in a public private partnership to support viability and growth.

FOURTEEN NEW BUSINESSES

Just recently, the Village welcomed 14 new businesses that invested over \$5 million demonstrating their commitment and confidence with the Village.

- Kashi Restaurant
- 212 Sushi Lounge
- RVC Wine & Spirits





➤ Za Pizzeria

➤ Key Food Supermarket

➤ Ultrasonic Car Wash



- Crossfit Gym
- Slider Joe's
- Heaven Can Wait
- Sushi Restaurant
- Scepture Tours



- Elements Therapeutic Massage
- A Lily Bit of Fun
- GM Burger Bar



AND MORE ON THE WAY

- Most notably is 340 Sunrise Highway, the site of the long closed RKO Theater. RVC has worked with the national restaurant chain of Bonefish Grill to come to our Village. The new restaurant is under construction and we have worked closely with the developers to design and build a beautiful facility with minimal impact on parking and traffic.



BUSINESS EXPANSIONS

While new businesses are popping up all over town, nine existing businesses have shown their faith in the Village by spending an estimated \$6,349,000 to expand.

- Churchill's Restaurant
- The Beach House



➤ George Martin Restaurant

➤ Lakeview Mercedes

➤ Taco Bell

➤ Aperitif Restaurant



➤ The Outdoor Store

➤ Karp / Volvo Dealership

➤ Molloy College: Public Safety Office, Maria Regina Hall, Sienna Hall, Wilbur Arts, and Quealy Hall.



FAÇADE IMPROVEMENTS

Numerous local businesses have invested an estimated \$1,373,500 to improve the façade of their businesses.

- Best Western Hotel
- Creative Child
- Valley National Bank



- Self Storage
- Greystone Deli
- U Haul



➤ 212 Merrick Road



➤ Chase Bank

NO STONE UNTURNED ON GRANTS & GIFTS

- Over \$5 Million in federal, state and county grants and gifts have been secured over the last two years.
- Money has been used to improve parks and recreation facilities, new programs for seniors, road repairs, acquire state-of-the-art crime fighting tools, and much more.
- Grants and gifts have helped the Village hold down taxes while greatly improving our community.

GRANTS SECURED

- Phillips House capital upgrades from Nassau County
- Busses for Senior Transport Program from NYS DOT and Friends of Senior Services
- Renovations of Rev Days Basketball Courts from Game 7 Sports
- Sidewalks on North Village Avenue from Nassau County
- Improvements to walkways at Smiths Pond Park from Avalon Bay
- New Carpeting in court room and offices from NYS Justice Court assistance

- Bullet proof vests from the US Dept. of Justice
- Renovations on Maple Avenue from DOT and the SAFTEA-LU Program
- Recruitment and Retention of Volunteer Firefighters from FEMA: SAFER Program
- Police Department headquarter security upgrades and license plate readers from NYS Byrne Justice Assistance
- Rebuilding of the Police Auxiliary building from Nassau County and the NYS Dormitory Authority
- Fire Department radios from FEMA
- Community Garden at Molloy College
- Superstorm Sandy Cleanup from NYS Department of Labor/Hempstead Works
- Improvements to our ball fields and parks

CENTENNIAL PARK

Centennial Park renovations will be paid for by a \$500,000 grant from the New York State Office of Parks, Recreation and Historic Preservation. Upgrades include:

- Basketball Courts
- Lighting
- Plantings



HICKEY FIELD

Due to a large part of private donations, Hickey Field attendees now get to enjoy the use of a new bathroom instead of using nearby restrooms. Hickey Field has gotten many new upgrades including:

- New bathrooms
- New sod
- Irrigation system
- Stone work
- Improved entrance



HICKEY FIELD EAST



Hickey Field East has been transformed into a softball field for our junior residents to enjoy.

BARASCH FIELD

- Barasch Field has been improved with new sod in both the infield and outfield



BLIGH & KETLER FIELD

Thanks to the RVC Little League, the Village will be able to level the entire field and put in a new irrigation system.

CREATIVE PUBLIC/PRIVATE PARTNERSHIPS

- Partnered with Molloy College and businesses to bring about a win-win situation.
- Such innovative arrangements have allowed the Village to vastly improve services to our residents while not increasing taxes.
- The Village has been recognized for our Public/Private Partnerships for its innovative approach. This year presented the “Public Works for the Local Government Achievement Award” by the New York Conference of Mayors (NYCOM).

RVC-MOLLOY COLLEGE PROJECT



TIGHE FIELD

- The Village partnered with the the RVC Soccer Club to provide our residents with a top of the line soccer field. New improvements include top soil, sod and sprinkler system.



INFRASTRUCTURE UPGRADES



- Increasing the improvements of roadways from one mile per year to approximately four miles per year.
- A tree replacement plan has been implemented that will allow the Village to plant 50 new trees per year for ten years.
- New Smart Meters.



LOOKING AHEAD

Like every government, we have been challenged by increasing health costs and retirement benefits for our workers. However, my promise to you is to keep looking for partnerships that benefit both residents and businesses. I also promise to keep finding grants to improve this great Village of ours.

Rockville Centre remains one of the most desirable communities to live and raise a family on Long Island. I am proud to be your Mayor and committed to keeping our Village a great place to live, work and play.

