

This Month in Recreation

NURSERY SCHOOL REGISTRATION FOR THE 2000-2001 SCHOOL YEAR

The Rockville Centre Recreation Department is pleased to offer Nursery School programs for the 2000-2001 school year. These programs, designed to meet the needs of the community, have operated continuously with great success for 39 years. WE HAVE IT ALL! Come and see for yourself. Any day is visiting day. Prospective students may visit our nursery school with their parents. Please call the Recreation Department office at 678-9338 to make an appointment.

ELIGIBILITY: Pre Kindergarten - for those entering kindergarten in Sept. 2001 / Pre Pre Kindergarten - for those entering kindergarten in Spet. 2002

*** DUE TO INCREASED ENROLLMENT - A NEW MORNING PRE K CLASS HAS BEEN ADDED - Upstairs**

CLASS OFFERINGS - PRE K CLASSES - PRE K I - 9:00-11:30 AM (5 days) new upstairs classroom, PRE K II - 12:15-2:45 PM (3 days) Mon, Wed, Fri, PRE PRE K CLASSES - PRE PRE K I - 9-11:30 AM (Mon-Thurs), PRE PRE K II - 12:15-2:45 PM (Tues & Thurs) REGISTRATION - For residents now being accepted. Non-residents may register after March 15, if openings prevail.

HAMMER SPORTS COLLECTIBLE SHOW

The best in comics, Wax, Beanies, Memorabilia and more will be held at the Rec. Center Saturday February 12th from 9:30 AM - 4:30 PM and Saturday, February 26th from 9:30 AM - 4:30 PM.

ROCKVILLE CENTRE MIDDLE SCHOOL DANCES

at the Rec. Center, Friday, February 11 7:30 - 10 PM for Grade 6 ONLY. Friday, February 18 7:30 - 10 PM for Grade 7 and 8 ONLY. Children must live in Rockville Centre or go to school in Rockville Centre - ID Required

MEN'S SPRING SOFTBALL ROSTERS ARE AVAILABLE

The Recreation Dept. will hold a team meeting on Tuesday, Feb. 15th, for all team managers who want to enter teams in the 2000 SPRING MEN'S SOFTBALL LEAGUE. The completed rosters and all fees are due by February 16th. Games will commence the week of March 12th.

WINTER RECESS TRIPS AND EVENTS All trip participants must be registered members of the RVC Parks and Rec-

reation Department for the 1999-2000 fiscal year. A parental permission slip and appropriate fee for each trip must be submitted to the rec. center office for trip registration. **Monday, Feb. 21 - PRESIDENTS' DAY RELAYS** - All 1st through 5th graders are invited to join us for an afternoon of relay fun. Grades 1 & 2 meet 12 noon - 1:15 PM, Grades 3-5 meet 1:15-2:30 PM.

Tuesday, Feb. 22 - ICE SKATING TRIP TO LONG BEACH ARENA for grades 1-8. Two hours of skating fun, including skate rental. Bus leaves the Rec. at 2:15 PM and returns approx. 5:45 PM. Fee: \$9.00. **Wednesday, Feb. 23 - TRIP TO FUN ZONE IN FARMINGDALE** for grades 1 and up. Trip includes unlimited use of rides and 35 game tokens. Extra tokens may be purchased at the facility. Bus leaves the center at 12:30 and returns approx. 4:15 PM. Fee: \$16.50. **Thursday, Feb. 24 - MILLENNIUM CRAFT ACTIVITY** for grades K-4. Join us for a day of arts & crafts and a warm cup of hot chocolate. Grades K-1 and 2-4: 10:30-11:45 AM or 12:30-1:45 PM. Fee: \$7.00. **Thursday, Feb. 24 - ANNUAL CHERRY PIE EATING CONTEST** for grades 1-6. (2:00 PM) Come out and celebrate George Washington's birthday by eating apple and cherry pie. Contestants will be grouped into age categories. Register before Fri., Feb. 18th. Fee: \$1.00 per person. **Friday, Feb. 25 - BOWLING AT REC LANES** for grades 1-8. Bumper bowling will be available for grades 1 and 2. The bus for grades 1&2 will leave the Rec. Center at 11:45 AM and return approx. 2:30 PM. The bus for grades 3 and up leaves at 12:15 PM and returns approx. 3 PM. Fee: \$9.00.

WINTER RECESS GYM SCHEDULE

- The following is a schedule of hours the Rec. Center will have "OPEN GYM AND GAME" for students grades 4 and up. Activities will include basketball, nintendo 64, and pingpong under the supervision of the recreation staff.

Monday February 21 through Saturday, February 26 - 12:30-4:30 PM Those in grades 6 and up are invited to Open Gym and Game on the same dates 7-10:30 PM.

SPRING PROGRAM REGISTRATION

will commence February 28th and be ongoing. Programs will begin the week of April 3rd. Non-residents may register beginning March 13th.

SUMMER NURSERY SCHOOL REGISTRATION

will begin March 1st for residents.

COUNTRY LINE DANCING

Country Line Dancing Lessons are given three nights a week at the Rec. Center. Mondays - Intermediate lessons 7-8:30 PM with Lillian Kopman. Tuesdays - Beginner and Intermediate lessons 7-8:30 PM with Betty Mullin. Wednesdays - Advanced lessons 7-8:30 PM with Lillian Kopman. Here is a time to exercise your body and mind at the same time.

JEWELRY, GEM AND MINERAL SHOW

at the Rec. Center on Saturday, March 11th from 10 AM to 7 PM and Sunday, March 12th from 10 AM to 5 PM.



Dates & Events

Wednesday, February 9 - 8:00 p.m.

BOARD OF APPEALS

Monday, February 14 - 8:15 p.m.

BOARD OF TRUSTEES

Monday, February 21

PRESIDENT'S DAY

Village Offices Closed

NOTE:

Videotapes of Board of Trustees meetings are broadcast on Cable Channels 40/79 on Tuesdays (8:15 p.m.) and Saturdays (2:00 p.m.) following each meeting.

Events are at Village Hall unless otherwise noted.

There are no residential garbage collections on designated holidays

For general information, call
678-9300

Emergency Numbers

Fire 766-0400

Police 766-1500

Electric 766-5800

Water 678-9252

Nights & Weekends

766-5800

Internet Address

www.ci.rockville-centre.ny.us

This Month In Rockville Centre

FEBRUARY 2000

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Village Mourns Loss of Public Relations Counsel

On December 31st, long time Public Relations Counsel to the Village of Rockville Centre, Jim Heaney, lost his battle to cancer at Mercy Hospital. Jim Heaney was hired in 1986 to coordinate all media and press events within the Village of Rockville Centre.

A resident of Rockville Centre, Jim graduated from St. John's University in 1950. After serving in the

United States Army from 1950 to 1952, he worked for the New York Journal American.

Mayor Murray commented that the Village has lost a dedicated colleague and a good friend who took great pride and pleasure in presenting the Village of Rockville Centre in the best possible light.

The Mayor added that Jim Heaney will be missed by all.

Millennium Clock Dedication



Although it was not Times Square with the big apple dropping, Rockville Centre literally counted down the millennium with the installation of a new clock on Front Street.

Village Officials and members of the Millennium Committee joined together on Wednesday, December 22, to unveil its new Four Score III clock, with a four sided face. Pictured are Trustee Chris Amato, Mayor Murray, Trustee Mary Bossart, Trustee Bud Cosgrove and Trustee Wayne Lipton.

The new clock will add to the beautification of the revitalization project of Front Street, which includes road resurfacing, brick pavement and flower boxes.

Mayor Murray praised the efforts of Senator Dean Skelos in obtaining state funding for these renovations.

"This is history in the making," he said. "It will be enjoyed by our residents, commuters and visitors to Rockville Centre as we enter the 21st Century."

This Month
In Rockville Centre

BULK RATE
U.S. POSTAGE
PAID
Rockville Centre, NY
Permit No. 271
CR-RT-SORT



State of the Village

By Mayor Eugene J. Murray



As we enter the Millennium, our municipal government is well positioned to meet the challenges it will certainly face in the many years to come. Our infrastructure is solid. Our delivery of services is efficient and consistent. Our financial condition is stronger than ever. Our employees are well-trained and productive. And, technology is improving productivity.

Consider the infrastructure. During the 1990's, the Village has resurfaced 50% of its streets and most of the municipal parking fields. We are paving better than two miles of roadway each year.

Early in the decade, the electric utility expanded to provide more generating and import capability to meet demand beyond the millennium. Planning started in '98 to guarantee an adequate supply of low-cost power well into the second decade of the new century, all of which was successfully tested during the Summer of '99 heatwave.

We have made great strides in the long-range plan to upgrade the water system. There are two new overhead tanks, and the two others have been refurbished. Automated monitoring, the judicious use of additives, systematic flushing and preventive maintenance enhance the reliability of the system and quality of the drinking water.

Financial planning over the same period has enabled us to incur debt in increments that often coincide with the retirement of earlier borrowings, and budgets are consistently below the cost of living. A structured policy by the Board of Trustees has led to careful management of resources, which is evidenced by the Village's bond rating: among the highest accorded to a Long Island municipality.

The Village's self-insurance liability and workers compensation programs have saved Rockville Centre taxpayers close to 10 million dollars since their implementation in 1987.

It's unfortunate that Nassau County is experiencing serious financial difficulties, but I can assure you that Rockville Centre is in terrific financial shape.

As we enter the year 2000, we have

13% fewer full-time employees than in 1990. Courses promoting safe driving and work habits have reduced accidents, resulting in a sharp downturn in liability claims and lost time by our employees. Our managers stay current by participating in technical seminars and workshops. Training in computers, customer service, communications and first aid help our personnel respond properly to the needs of the residents.

Their response is quicker and more informed in recent years, thanks to technology. Computerization provides access to databases for licenses and permits, births and deaths, the Village Court, utilities billing and meter reading, and a host of functions that previously required a personal search. Lap top computers allow our police now to track neighborhood trends, get quick access to crime information, and spend less time on paperwork. These factors provide more time for patrol and anti-crime activities. Crime within Rockville Centre is at a 30 year low.

Technology also enhances communications through a dedicated web page, e-mail and a public access television. All Village computers are Y2K compatible, thanks to three years of planning on the part of the Village's management.

This Month In Rockville Centre

Published by the Village of Rockville Centre
Eugene J. Murray, Mayor

Trustees
Francis A. Cosgrove
Chris Amato
Mary Whalen Bossart
Wayne Lipton

For information concerning Village facilities, residents are invited to telephone Anthony Cancellieri, Village Administrator, Clerk-Treasurer, 678-9300

Rockville Centre's business district is alive and well with the lowest vacancy rate of any commercial district in Nassau County.

In addition, residential improvements and resales are at the top of the market as Rockville Centre remains a most desirable place to live and raise a family.

During the past year, the Village made some moves to help guarantee the quality of life we enjoy. The Zoning Code is getting its first major overhaul in 35 years.....aggressive enforcement and public information have improved downtown parking.....the acquisition of the land at the corner of Monroe Street and Long Beach has been added to our parking inventory.

So, my fellow residents, I am proud to report that all is well in Rockville Centre as we enter the new Millennium and we look forward to a continuation of progress in the future.

Residents Must Submit New Request to Avoid Door-to-Door Solicitors

Residents Must Submit New Request to Avoid Door-to-Door Solicitors
Residents who want their addresses included on the 2000 "no solicitation list" must notify the Village by March 1.

Door-to-Door solicitors are prohibited from visiting homes that appear on the annual list provided to the solicitors when they receive a permit to solicit at homes in the Village. Violations of the "no solicitation" rules can result in the revocation of the solicitation permit.

Completed registration forms can be dropped off at

Village Hall, mailed to P.O. Box 950, Rockville Centre, NY 11571, or e-mailed to mkrisel@li.net.

Note that this list only regulates solicitors who ask for money or contributions.

NO SOLICITATION REQUEST

To: Village of Rockville Centre
Please add my name to the list of addresses that should not be solicited.

Name: _____

Street Address: _____

_____ Apt. _____

Date: _____ Signature: _____

Sandel Senior Center: Calendar of Upcoming Events

Men's Club,
President *Irving Cooper*
Meets the first and third Tuesday of each month. 10 a.m. breakfast, meeting at 11.

Guest Speakers
Tuesday February 1, *John Bruzzo*, Professional race car driver.

Tuesday February 15, *Maureen Berford*, Attorney General's Office, Consumer Fraud.

Tuesday Topics: weekly guest speakers
Tuesday February 1, *Cyd Charrow*, Director of RVC Senior Services "The Healing Power of Love." Tuesday February 8, Performance Poets Association: "Love and Love of Life." Tuesday, February 22, "Home Electrical Safety for Seniors."

Computer Instruction, Available by appointment. Sunday February 6 and February 20, 1-3 p.m.

AARP 55 Alive Defensive Driving Class Thursday, February 17 and February 24, 6-10 p.m.

Sandel Sunday
Long Island Banjo Society - February 6, 2-4 p.m. No Charge.

Cinema Sunday
February 20, 2-4 p.m. Movie on large screen television "Batteries Not Included" No Charge.

Special Event
Valentine's Dance, Friday, February 11, 1-3 p.m. Dance to the music of Ray Grizzel; indulge in the Viennese table. \$2.00.

Monthly Art Reception
As part of a month long recognition of Black History Month, the Sandel Center is pleased to present the artwork of Gray Orphee during the month of February. A reception will be held in his honor on Tuesday, February 15, at 11:00 a.m. where he will discuss his artwork with the seniors.

For registration or further information on these programs, please contact the Senior Center at 678-9350.

Finance Update from the Village Administrator

Much discussion has taken place lately regarding the finances of Nassau County and how one of the richest counties in the United States could fall on such hard times.

In addition, many people have asked me about the financial relationship, if any, we have with Nassau County and how the Village is doing, as it relates to overall debt.

In response to the first question about our relationship with Nassau County, *there is no direct financial connection between the County and the Village of Rockville Centre.* We derive no revenue from Nassau County nor does the Village of Rockville Centre itself pay any monies to Nassau County. Of course, as Rockville Centre taxpayers, residents do pay a portion of their property tax to Nassau County, as well as to the School District of Rockville Centre, with the balance (approximately 20%) of the tax bill going to the Village of Rockville Centre.

The only indirect relationship occurs when the Village of Rockville Centre is seeking a bond rating in order to finance capital projects. In addition to the rating agency examining the Village's financial and management standards, the County in which Rockville Centre is located (Nassau County) also comes into play. As such, the stronger Nassau County is financially, the better it is for all communities located within its jurisdiction.

The Village of Rockville Centre currently has approximately \$8.5 Million in debt for its General Fund. Simply put, this is the non-electric and water portion of the Village budget. The amount of money we pay back for such borrowing is referred to as "Debt Service," which is approximately 6.78% of our overall operating budget. The Village of Rockville Centre is legally entitled to borrow, if necessary, an additional \$126 Million for its General Operating Budget. As you can easily see, the *Village of Rockville Centre has been extremely conservative in borrowing over the years*, so as not to mortgage the future for improvements that were necessary to the Village's infrastructures; i.e., roads, parking, playground, renovation to Village facilities, etc.

I believe the key to the Village's success in maintaining a low debt to budget ratio has been a well thought out five year capital plan. This planning document allows us to look into the near future and establish priorities so as not to be confronted with a number of major expenditures in one year.

In addition, although we are legally entitled, in some cases, to pay back debt over longer periods of time, we choose a shorter payback period so as to reduce the overall financial cost of a project. This is very much akin to whether you opt for a thirty- year mortgage instead of a fifteen-year mortgage on one's home. Although a thirty year mortgage would lower your monthly payments, a fifteen-year mortgage saves considerable financing costs over the long term.

Finally, the Board of Trustees has adopted a "Debt Service Cap" which means that essentially the Board is requiring us to live within certain predetermined means. Furthermore, projects must be prioritized in order of importance before the Board decides whether or not they will be approved.

The Village of Rockville Centre has seen the need for tax increases over the years. Although we raised taxes each year, we still have one of the lowest tax rate increase histories in the State of New York. The need to raise taxes from year to year in a modest fashion is mostly attributed to increases in costs of equipment and salaries.

Overall, our strategy has been acknowledged and rewarded by investment services that review the finances of municipalities. The Village of Rockville Centre is rated A-1 by Moody's and A++ by Standard and Poor's, among the highest for any Village on Long Island.

Let me conclude with an excerpt from the Village's most recent Moody's report, which said, "The rating incorporates the Village's... consistent carefully managed financial operations... and manageable levels of rapidly amortized debt." Village taxpayers can rest easy in knowing that Rockville Centre's finances are in good order.

Anthony M. Cancellieri

Village Administrator/Clerk Treasurer