



Recently Mayor Murray visited Ms. Gross's class to read to the students. Pictured with the Mayor are: back row (left to right): Thomas Graney, Teacher Brenda Gross and Michael Freitas. Front row: Nicholas Harrington, Theresa D'Agostino, Aaron Halstion and Kennedy Wolfman.

Village Cable Channel Now Channel #70

Beginning March 28th, Village residents will be able to view the Village Cable Channel on Channel #70 and the Rockville Centre School Channel on Channel #69.

Pursuant to federal law, Cablevision has been ordered by the FCC to move WXTV, Channel 41, to its "on channel" position on all New York area systems by March 31st. Additionally, federal regulations require WPXN (31) and WNJU (47) to be placed on their channel numbers. Cablevision has decided to use these mandated changes to re-evaluate their channel line-ups and reorganize them to be more logical, more customer friendly, easier to navigate and standardized throughout New York.

As a result of the move, several channels will no longer be in service (Cable Marketplace, Discovery People and WGN). However, three new channels will be available (Animal Planet, Speedvision and Soapnet).

Cablevision will be informing its customers of these changes through mailings, newspaper ads, on-air announcements and additional information can also be found on their web site www.cablevision.com.

Girl Scouts Sponsor Earth Day Celebration

The Rockville Centre Council of Girl Scouts will be sponsoring their third annual Earth Day Celebration. It will be held at the village green on Sunday, April 16, 2000 between 1 pm and 3 pm. The displays and activities will promote the theme of "Preserving Our Planet."

"Reduce, replenish, and recycle" will be the key words at each participants table. Planting trees, collecting old eye glasses, recycling old greeting cards, and making bird feeders are just a few of the activities that your family should not miss. Every Rockville Centre family should protect our environment. So join the Girl Scouts to learn how to preserve our planet.

Water Tax "Runs Dry"

While recently attending the New York State Conference of Mayor's in Albany, Mayor Eugene J. Murray fought, with the assistance of Rockville Centre's State Senator Dean Skelos, against a bill that would have established a Water Fee (tax) for Rockville Centre's Water Utility.

Faced with the prospect of Rockville Centre residents and businesses paying \$40,000 more collectively each year for water, Mayor Murray, along with Senator Skelos, lobbied heavily to kill this additional tax.

Mayor Murray said he was delighted that the Governor rescinded the bill and he praised Senator Skelos for his invaluable assistance.

This Month
In Rockville Centre

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Dates & Events

Monday, March 13 – 8:15 p.m.
BOARD OF TRUSTEES

Saturday, March 25 – 12 noon
ST. PATRICK'S DAY PARADE

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

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Village Removes Commuter Parking Meters

We've heard your comments that at certain times there isn't enough commuter parking in the Village for residents and too often, commuter parking meters malfunction. Well, the Village Board has listened to your suggestions and has done something about it! As a result of an extensive study of the downtown parking area, conducted by an independent consultant, the Board has agreed to the recommendation of removing all commuter meters on Front Street and the vicinity of the railroad station both east and west. As of April 1, 2000, you can park your car for your morning commute to the city and not have to worry about "feeding the meter." All you need is a resident sticker on the bumper of your car. "It's time to move ahead into the 21st Century," said Mayor Murray. The removal of the meters is one step we are taking.



The board also announced that it has reached an agreement to provide over 100 additional commuter spaces by utilizing the southern half of what is now known as the St. Agnes parking lot on Front Street.

The ten year agreement calls for the Village to renovate the parking lot with a new surface, fencing, shrubs, etc. and to begin utilizing the southern portion of the parking lot by the end of the summer of 2000.

The Mayor added that more residents than ever ride the LIRR due primarily to the booming economy. He also indicated that the Village must be creative and aggressive in addressing parking needs. The new resident commuter fee will only be \$65.00 per year, which for many commuters is far less than what they had been paying under the old meter system.



Village Hall Comments

By Trustee Mary Whalen Bossart
Reassessment, Amnesty and Zoning Recodification



The year 2000 may see many important changes for the property owners of Rockville Centre.

Nassau County Reassessment.

As many of you are aware, the Nassau County Assessor recently announced that he will recommend that Nassau County undertake its first property reassessment since 1938. The current assessment system has been expensive for county residents in terms of both the cost of litigation and tax certioraris (or repayments) to taxpayers who have been overassessed. In Rockville Centre's case, in fiscal year 1999, tax certioraris cost the Village \$770,000.00. It is projected that in fiscal year 2000 we will pay approximately \$1 million in tax certioraris. These facts are important to us in budget planning because of the expenditures to be paid in the current year and the fact that the property value adjustments result in permanent reduction in our tax base. In order to properly budget for these expenses, the Village Board must find other sources of revenue or cut costs. This becomes increasingly difficult each year. It should be noted that Rockville Centre is one of very few municipalities that does not borrow to pay this expense but rather includes it as part of the general operating budget.

Although no one yet knows how reassessment will be done in the county or when it will even begin, residents should be aware of these facts. Our Rockville Centre real estate tax rolls are based on the Nassau County assessments and when the new assessments are completed, the Village will most likely adopt them as well. The reason is that we would otherwise have to perform our own reassessment at a pro-

jected cost in excess of \$600,000. Therefore, in the future, residents will likely see their Village property assessments rise, fall, or stay the same in a pattern similar to Nassau County.

The reassessment process can take three or four years to be fully implemented. Challenges to property assessment and tax certioraris will not be eliminated by the new County assessments. However, the property tax system will hopefully be more equitable and less subject to challenge thereby lending more predictability and stability to Village budgeting. The benefit has been seen in Long Beach, which reassessed in 1992. In fiscal year 1999, \$100,000 was paid in tax certioraris - one-tenth the amount we anticipate paying this year. The new property assessments should likewise more accurately reflect the value of the Village which is important to financial rating agencies.

Amnesty

The desire to purchase a home in Rockville Centre is at an all time high. Obviously, this is good news for anyone planning to sell this year. If you will be putting your home on the market in the next few weeks and have made additions or completed work on your house while you've lived there, you may want to stop down at the Building Department to make sure all the proper paperwork is in order. This can save delay and needless anxiety once you begin showing the house and finding a buyer. If Rockville Centre Building Department permits have not been filed for these additions, homeowners will need to do so and obtain certificates of occupancy. Since December 1999, the Village Board has had an amnesty in effect for

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

homeowners wishing to correct any deficiencies in their filings with the Building Department. Homeowners can save a minimum of \$600.00 (the fee starts at \$245.00 instead of \$845.00) if they file during the amnesty period. The amnesty program will conclude on May 15, 2000.

Zoning Recodification

Our Village recodification process has been underway since mid-1998. We have been in good company while working on this project. Many other Long Island communities such as Flower Hill and Bayville have recently updated their zoning codes. The citizens who were appointed to the Recodification Committee to assist the Village planning consultants, Buckhurst, Fish & Jacquemart, and the Village Board will likely complete their work within the next two months. The review has involved discussion of site plan review, permitted uses in various zones, special permits, definitions, architectural design concerns and many other issues. These discussions have modified the draft code provided to us by our planners. In a few months, we will enter the final stage of this redrafting process, which is public hearings. It is anticipated that special Recodification hearings will be set in addition to regular Board meetings so that the Village Board will be able to devote its attention to these important proposed changes.

Spring Events at the Recreation Center

Spring Program Registration

Registration for the Spring Program Session is now being taken. Programs will commence the week of April 3rd. Detailed flyers are available at the Rec Center for all activities we offer. Call 678-9238 or 678-9339.

Nursery School Registration for the 2000-2001 School Year

Registration and deposits are now being accepted for classes beginning September 2000. The following classes are offered for children entering kindergarten in September 2001 and 2002. Please call the Rec. Dept. at 678-9238 to make an appointment to visit our nursery school.

Due to increased enrollment, a new morning class has been added to our outstanding offerings:

Pre-Kindergarten I - 9-11:30 am (Mon. through Fri.) *NEW CLASS UPSTAIRS

Pre-Kindergarten II - 12:15-2:45 pm (Mon., Wed., Fri.)

Pre-Pre Kindergarten I - 9:00-11:30 am (Mon. through Thurs.)

Pre-Pre Kindergarten II - 12:15-2:45 (Tues and Thurs.)

Summer Nursery School Registration:

Our popular Summer Nursery School Program will begin registration on March 1. A deposit of \$69.50 will secure a place for children entering Kindergarten in 2000 and 2001. Fliers are available at the Rec. Center office.

Jewelry, Gem and Mineral Show at the Recreation Center on Saturday, March 11 from 10:00 am to 7:00 pm and Sunday, March 12 from 10:00 am to 5:00 pm.

Hammer Cards and Collectibles Show at the Recreation Center on Saturdays, March 18 and 25 from 9:30 am - 4:30 pm. The best in com-

ics, wax, beanies, memorabilia and more!

Rockville Centre Middle School Dances at the Recreation Center Friday, March 3 from 7:30-10:00 pm for grade 6 only and on March 17 from 7:30-10:00 pm for grades 7 and 8 only. Children must live in Rockville Centre or attend school in Rockville Centre. ID required.

Cancer Care Daffodil Days

The American Cancer Society's annual fund-raising even is March 29-30. We ask community members to support ACS programs by purchasing a lovely bouquet of daffodils, the first flower of Spring. Donation is \$6 per bunch of 10. Order your flowers by calling Pat Southard at the Rec. Center at 678-9238 now through March 15.

Crafts Fair and Flea Market

The Recreation Department's Annual Spring Craft Fair and Flea Market will be held on Sunday April 2 from 9:30 am-4:30 pm at the Recreation Center, 111 N. Oceanside Rd. Vendors will display a variety of goods.

Summer Employment

The Parks & Recreation Department is seeking qualified applicants, at least 16 years of age, for seasonal employment in the Summer Recreation Program. Volunteer Leader-in-

Training positions are also available for students entering 8th-11th grade. Pick up applications/information packets at the office or call Ginger Creegan at 678-9238 for information.

Party Time at the Recreation Center

The Recreation Department's Birthday Party Program has expanded to include Roll Around, Games/Sports and Arts & Crafts parties for children. Rooms are also available for large gatherings such as christenings, Anniversaries, Reunions, Bat Mitzvahs, etc. Our energetic staff will provide a wonderful experience for any special occasion. Call the Rec. Center office to inquire about specific party dates and times.

REMINDER:

VILLAGE WAIVES MAINTAIN FEE FOR NO-PERMIT IMPROVEMENTS

Property owners who made improvements without a building permit can avoid paying a fee for maintaining the improvement if they comply with permit regulations between December 1, 1999 and May 15, 2000. During that period, the Village will waive the maintain fee of \$600 for residential and \$1,000 for commercial property.

The building permits are necessary to qualify for a certificate of occupancy (CO) that allows a home to be sold or an estate to be settled. Further, since the "maintain fee" has risen from \$100 to \$600 in six years, it is likely to increase in the future.

The amnesty applies to such outdoor items as decks, swimming pools, porches, car ports and tool sheds. Indoor items include new bathrooms, subdividing of rooms, new plumbing fixtures, finishing attics and basements and additions. If you have a question about whether an improvement has complied with the NYS and Village Codes, call the Building Department at 678-9247 between 8 a.m. and 4:30 p.m.

In some cases, owners may be required to apply to the Zoning Board of Appeals for a variance to comply with the code.