

Reminders

The transfer station will be open to the public on the first and third Saturdays of the month beginning April 1, 2000.

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When paying your electric and water bills, please include your account number on your check. Note that the Village recently began using a new bill format and new account numbers were assigned. Please make sure that you use the new account number on your check. In addition, if you are paying your bills automatically through your bank, please make sure that your payment is made to Village of Rockville Centre Electric or Village of Rockville Centre Water, depending on which bill you are paying.

**50/50 CASH
RAFFLE -
SPONSORED BY
F.O.S.S.I.
(Friends of Senior
Services Inc.)**

To benefit Rockville Centre's Senior Citizens **WATCH YOUR MAIL** Tickets will be sent to the community in early April. Tickets are \$20 each. 3 for \$50. For further information - call 678-9350.

RVC Water and MTBE Does it affect our water?

On Sunday, January 16, the CBS news show, 60 Minutes, broadcast a 25-minute segment on the contamination of drinking water wells by methyl tertiary butyl ether (MTBE). This show, along with numerous articles, has raised concerns by our consumers regarding the potential contaminant.

MTBE is a gasoline additive that has a particular affinity for water. Because of its small molecular size and high solubility in water, MTBE moves rapidly into groundwater, much faster than other constituents of gasoline. Under the Federal Clean Air Act, some kind of additive to promote complete burning of gasoline must be used in gasoline sold in New York, as well as ten other states with the highest ozone and smog rates, commonly known as reformulated gasoline (RFG). Eighty four percent of the RFG sold in the country uses MTBE because it is cheaper in price.

Responding to this potential health threat, Governor George Pataki has proposed the nation's strictest limit on MTBE in drinking water. In addition, dating back to April 1, 1998, the New

York State and Nassau County Departments of Health required all water suppliers to monitor for MTBE at each source on a quarterly basis and in the distribution system on a semi-annual basis. The Village has performed this monitoring and has increased the frequency of testing for those wells that appear susceptible to contamination to once per month. To date, no MTBE has been detected in any of the Village's wells.

The Village continues to monitor the supply wells for MTBE and other contaminants in order to insure a safe and potable supply of water for the residents of Rockville Centre. The best research on both MTBE contamination and removal is being conducted by utilities themselves through AWWA (American Water Works Association) and its Research Foundation (AWWRF). This is a great example of utilities taking the lead on an important public health issue that the federal government and its regulators have overlooked. It clearly demonstrates that utilities work harder than anyone to keep drinking water supplies clean and safe.



**This Month
In Rockville Centre**

BULK RATE
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Dates & Events

Wednesday, April 5 – 8:00 p.m.
**PUBLIC HEARING ON THE
TENTATIVE VILLAGE BUDGET**

Monday, April 10 – 8:15 p.m.
BOARD OF TRUSTEES

Wednesday, April 12 – 8:00 p.m.
BOARD OF APPEALS

NOTE:

Videotapes of Board of Trustees meetings are broadcast on Cable Channel 70 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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Park Land Swap

The Village of Rockville Centre and the New York State Parks Department are close to finalizing an agreement in which approximately 50 acres of Village owned park land (Donald F. Browne Park) will be exchanged for 50 acres of State park land (RVC North). The Village has planned a multi-million dollar restoration of the three athletic fields.

Mayor Murray and Members of the Board of Trustees, who have led the Village's efforts to secure the property indicated that "we intend to build three (3) fields of dreams" for our ever-growing youth sports pro-

grams: Lacrosse, Soccer and Little League. Village Administrator Anthony Cancellieri, who has been the Village's point person in all negotiations with the State since 1992, revealed that once the Village actually has the deed to the property, a management plan will be put into place to complete the project.

Mayor Murray also praised Senator Skelos, who has assisted the Village at every turn with discussions with State representatives. "I don't really believe we would have acquired the property without Senator Skelos' assistance."

Budget Public Hearing April 5th

Residents are invited to comment on the tentative fiscal 2001 Village budget during a public hearing on April 5th at 8:00 p.m. at Village Hall. The tentative budget is \$23.3 million, an increase of \$1.3 million from the current budget.

Copies of the tentative budget are available for public inspection at the Village Hall and copies will be distributed to everyone who attends the hearing. Final action to adopt the budget must be taken by the Board of Trustees no later than May 1.

The tentative budget is developed by the heads of the operating depart-

ments in conjunction with Village Administrator Cancellieri and Deputy Administrator (Finance) Schussheim. Prior to the formal public hearing, the tentative budget is reviewed by the Citizens' Budget Advisory Committee, a group of Village residents with diversified business experience.

If the budget is adopted, it will result in a tax rate of \$20.92 per \$100 of net assessed valuation as compared with the current rate of \$20.14. For the average homeowner with an \$8,000 assessment, the cost for all Village services would increase by \$62.40 per year.



Village Hall Comments

By Trustee Cosgrove
Outdoor Dining Comes To Rockville Centre



About three years ago while I was dining at one of our fine local restaurants, the owners asked me why Rockville Centre doesn't have outdoor dining. Quite frankly, I did not have an answer, except to speculate that there were probably a number of safety concerns relating to pedestrian traffic and liability exposure to the Village. I subsequently discussed the request with members of our Village staff, and my earlier speculation did prove to have merit. Around the same time, the Village of Garden City introduced outdoor dining, which immediately caught the attention of our merchants and residents. We requested Garden City's new outdoor dining code and found it to be well drafted and a worthy model for Rockville Centre to consider. The outdoor dining discussion continued and eventually the opportunity to test the idea emerged when the Village, in cooperation with the Chamber of Commerce, sponsored the first Street Promenade Weekend. The weekend was an unqualified success, and the outdoor dining experience for the restaurant owners and their customers clearly confirmed the need for the Village to give serious consideration to establishing an outdoor dining policy. The success of the Promenade Weekend and the continuing strong interest expressed by our merchants

and residents has resulted in the adoption of a pilot outdoor dining policy that will begin on May 1, 2000 and continue through November 30, 2000, after which time the Village will evaluate the results of the project, and its long term implications for outdoor dining in Rockville Centre.

The key elements of the pilot program permit participating restaurants to serve food and beverages outdoors in front and in the rear of their establishments. However, a five foot unobstructed walkway must be maintained in order to permit easy pedestrian movement. Food and beverages may be served between the hours of 11:00 a.m. and 11:00 p.m. Mondays through Saturdays, and from 12 noon to 11:00 p.m. on Sundays.

Participating restaurants will be encouraged to develop attractive, portable enclosures, and are expected to keep their dining areas clean and aesthetically pleasing. The pilot program will also permit outdoor dining beyond the central business district area provided the merchants comply with the pilot program's criteria. It is possible that delicatessens and take-out establishments may opt into the program as well.

"Alfresco," according to Webster, means "out-of-doors." Those of you who have had an opportunity to dine *alfresco* know its appeal. Whether

This Month In Rockville Centre

Published by the Village of Rockville Centre
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For information concerning Village facilities, residents are invited to telephone Anthony Cancellieri, Village Administrator, Clerk-Treasurer, 678-9300

you are sitting on a sidewalk café in Manhattan, the boardwalk café at Jones Beach, or the deck of a ski resort, the dining experience takes on a new and pleasant dimension. Your attention becomes divided between the party you are with and the sights and sounds of the outdoor setting in which you find yourself. The most dominant attraction, of course, is people watching, which can be mesmerizing and entertaining. Alfresco dining tends to be more relaxing and less hurried, prolonging a pleasant dining experience a la European style, which I was fortunate to experience during my military tour in France. There are few dining experiences that can compare with a bottle of French wine, a wedge of cheese, real French bread, and an outside café table overlooking the Champs Elysee in Paris. It just doesn't get much better than that. Or maybe it will, when Rockville Centre begins its venture into outdoor dining starting May 1st. Make your reservations early.

Revised Parking Fines

Beginning on June 1st, all Village parking fines will increase. These changes are being implemented in response to a series of recommendations that were presented in the Village-wide parking study performed by the firm of Buckhurst, Fish & Jacquemart, Inc. That study had examined all aspects of the current parking system

structure and offered recommendations for certain improvements. The fine increases, the first since 1991, will result in all \$15 fines being raised to \$20 and all \$25 fines will be increased to \$50. In addition to this increase, the Village has taken other steps to improve Village parking conditions. As of April 1st, residents with Village resi-

dent parking permits are no longer required to pay for parking meters in specially designated Resident parking spaces. In February, the Village Board of Trustees approved a lease agreement with St. Agnes to utilize 117 parking spaces for resident commuters. These additional spaces will become available in early summer.

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 April 4,
Sherry Hanson Nutritionist
Tuesday April 18, Helene Locke, MSW, - "He who laughs, lasts"

Tuesday's Topics: Weekly Guest Speakers
Tuesday April 11 - 11 a.m. Alcohol & Prescription Drugs

Tuesday April 18 - "Let's go shopping around the world." Join photographer, world traveler and guest lecturer, Lee Landau, for an exciting travel experience.

Computer Instruction Available by appointment Sunday 1-3 p.m.

AARP 55 Alive Defensive Driving Class
Thursday 4/27 & 5/4 6-10 p.m.

Sandel Sunday April 30 - 2-4 p.m. Gala Oscar Party. Charge \$1.00

Cinema Sunday April 9 - 2-4 p.m. Movie on large screen television. "Patch Adams" No Charge

Special Event: "Casino Day"
Friday April 14 at 1 p.m.

Monthly Art: A beautiful display of handmade quilts, in recognition of Women's History Month.

Flea Market: Sat. April 8, 11-2 .

Health Assessment & Blood Pressure Screening: Thursday April 13, 12:30-2:30.

New Beginnings: Wednesday April 5, Mary Kay Cosmetics Speaker 6-8 p.m.
Wednesday April 26, dine around - MacArthur Park.

Sandel Travel: Upcoming trips to Canadian Rockies and French Riviera.

Coming in May

Arthritis Workshops
Tuesday 5/2, 5/9, 5/16
11 am 3 sessions, free of charge.
Led by Nancy Simington, Program Director, L.I. Chapter - Arthritis Foundation

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

This Month in Recreation

The Spring Program season started the week of April 3. There are still a few openings in choice programs.

Tennis Court Opening: The Rec Center tennis courts will tentatively open the week of April 29th.

The Recreation Dept.'s Annual Crafts Fair and Flea Market will take place Sunday, April 2, 9:30 a.m.- 4:30 p.m.

Long Island African Violet Society Flower Show: April 8, 2-6 p.m. and April 9, 12 noon-5 pm

Hammer Sport Cards and Collectible Show: April 15 and April 29, 9:30 a.m. - 4:30 p.m.

Summer Playground Registration begins April 1st. Program will be held 6/28/00-8/10/00 for children in grades 1-6 (effective Sept. 2000). The program will meet Monday through Friday, 9:00 a.m. - 12 noon.

Middle School Summer Program: for grades 7 and 8 (as of Sept. 2000)

Easter Egg Hunt: Saturday April 15, 9:30 a.m. (raindate Sunday April 16 at 2 p.m.)

Spring Recess Trips and Events

Friday April 21, Egg Coloring Contest grades K-5
Monday April 24, Bowling Party - RVC Lanes grades 1-8
Tuesday April 25, Trip to Fun Zone grades 1 & up
Wednesday April 26, Trip to Adventureland grades 1 & up
Thursday April 27, Spring Pet Show 10 a.m.
Friday April 28, Ice Skating at Long Beach Ice Rink Grades 1-8
"Open Gym and Game" grades 4 & up April 20 through April 22, 12:45-4:30 p.m.; April 24 through April 29, 12:45-4:30 p.m.

Middle School Dances 7:30-10 p.m. April 7, 6th grade only; April 14, 7th & 8th grades only

Nursery School Openings: Summer 2000 For children entering kindergarten Sept. 2000 & 2001. June 26 through August 1, Monday, Wednesday, Friday 12:30-3 p.m.

Fall 2000 morning Pre K Class Monday-Friday 9-11:30 a.m. Septmber 11 through mid June. For children entering Kindergarten in Sept. 2001.

Summer Softball Applications now available at the Rec Center for Men age 18 & up; Women age 16 & up.

Summer Basketball Leagues are offered by the Recreation Dept for boys and girls. Elementary through high school. Adult leagues also available.

For more information about these and all programs, please call the Rec Center at 678-9338.

Real Estate Taxes

Homeowners are reminded that they must notify the Village tax office upon satisfying a mortgage to ensure that they receive their tax bills and avoid penalties. Also, homeowners who have refinanced their mortgages or whose mortgages were sold from one lending institution to another should notify the tax office to ensure that their bill is forwarded to the correct institution. Village taxes are due June 1 and December 1. The tax office is located on the second floor of Village Hall, 1 College Place, Rockville Centre, NY 11570. Tax office hours are 8:00 a.m. to 3:30 p.m.