

## State Grant Aids RVC Fire Department

A \$40,000 state grant secured by Senator Dean Skelos will improve the field communications ability of the Rockville Centre Fire Department by enhancing the power of its hand-held radios.

At present the department's vehicle-based mobile radios have up to 110 watts of transmitting power. However, when firefighters or emergency workers leave their vehicles, they must rely on very low wattage portable radios, which reduces their ability to communicate clearly over distances.

The state grant will fund a new communications system that will effectively boost the broadcasting power of the hand-held radios to equal that of the vehicle-based units.

"This new communications equipment will provide our firefighters with another tool to help them protect Rockville Centre residents and businesses," Senator Skelos said in presenting the grant to the chiefs of the



Jack Matthews, Village Trustee / Liaison to the Rockville Centre Fire Department, 2nd Assistant Chief Gary Kondor, Chief of Department John Mirando, and State Senator Dean Skelos pose with a check representing a \$40,000 state grant to the RVC Fire Department earmarked for upgraded portable radio communications.

department.

The grant will buy 38 high band portable radios and a device called a vehicle repeater that links the portable radios to the

vehicle's 110 watts of transmitting power. The grant will also cover the cost of the necessary support equipment to operate the system.

## Watch That Garbage

Life creates garbage, but that doesn't mean your neighbors want to look at it!

The Village reminds residents that they are not to bring trash or trash containers to the curb sooner than 6 P.M. on the evening prior to pick-up. The ordinance is there to insure that our neighborhoods stay pleasing to the eye, especially on weekends when most people are home to enjoy their residences.

Be a good neighbor.



## This Month In Rockville Centre

One College Place, P.O. Box 950  
Rockville Centre, New York 11571

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



### Dates & Events

Monday, November 6, 8:15 P.M.  
**BOARD OF TRUSTEES**

Wednesday, November 8, 8 P.M.  
**BOARD OF APPEALS**

Monday, November 27, 8:15 P.M.  
**BOARD OF TRUSTEES**

Wednesday, October 25, 8 P.M.  
**BOARD OF APPEALS**

#### NOTE:

Videotapes of Board of Trustees meetings are broadcast on Cable Channel 70 on Wednesdays (8:15 p.m.) and Saturdays (1:30 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](http://www.ci.rockville-centre.ny.us)

Printed on Recycled Paper

# This Month In Rockville Centre

NOVEMBER 2000

VOL 49, NO. 8



Mayor Eugene Murray and State Senator Dean Skelos show renderings of improvements proposed for Maple Avenue in Rockville Centre that will be funded in part by a \$100,000 state grant.

## Maple Avenue Make-Over

The Village of Rockville Centre has announced a plan to lead the way in making improvements along the length of Maple Avenue from Park Avenue to Long Beach Road.

The plan recommends a "streetscape" project of tree, shrub, and flower plantings, repaving, brick work, and the upgrading of light poles, signs, and trash receptacles in the next six- to 12-month period as well as upgrades to building exteriors over the next two years.

The project is expected to cost about \$250,000, with \$100,000 coming from a state grant secured by Senator Dean Skelos.

Village residents who are members of The Maple Avenue Task Force approached the Village in June requesting action on what they said were deteriorating conditions on the street that has a blend of commercial and residen-

tial uses as well as Rockville Centre's Electric and Water departments and a Long Island Rail Road substation.

"There is no question that the residents who voiced their concerns about the overall condition of Maple Avenue were correct," Village Administrator Anthony Cancellieri said in submitting his report on the area to the Village Board of Trustees last month.

"The Village of Rockville Centre is excited about improving the area and I believe is committed to doing a first-rate job," he said.

The longer-range portion of the plan calls for a "Be A Good Neighbor" campaign to encourage property owners to undertake beautification projects of their own. The Village intends to improve the look of the Electric and Water department buildings with awnings, plantings, and fencing.



## Village Hall Comments

By Trustee Mary Whalen Bossart



### Information, Please



"I didn't know that."

"When did that happen?"

These are questions that residents sometimes ask when a particular issue becomes of special interest to them. We all lead busy lives and following the details of how Village government functions can be a low priority. But we represent you and we are interested in assuring you access to timely information about our activities and important issues facing our community.

#### Print Materials

One of the primary ways we attempt to communicate with residents is through our community newspapers, *The Rockville Centre Herald* and *The Record*. The front page of our official newspaper (the designation currently alternates between the two for six month periods) must announce the date and time of Village Board meetings, but other nitty gritty details of Village business are found in the fine print of the Legal Notices. Requests for proposals (RFPs), State Environmental Quality Review Act (SEQRA) hearing notices, the abridged text of proposed local laws and other valuable information are published there, as required by law.

*This Month in Rockville Centre*, our official Village newsletter, updates residents on pending decisions, financial appropriations and other important events in the public and social life of our community. The Village's Annual Report is sent to every home each year and contains a summary of Village operations, legislation, milestones, and its financial condition. Occasionally, newsletters from the Water and Electric departments are sent out to inform residents about unique projects and concerns involving those two valued utilities.

Other publications available to residents include the award-winning guide "Living in Rockville Centre" which explains refuse and trash collection, zoning ordinances and senior and youth services. It also provides telephone numbers for all Village departments and services and for many community organizations.

The Parks and Recreation Department publishes its own guide which lists all programs, fees, and special events.

#### Electronic Communications

Print publications may be low-tech, but the Village also utilizes Cable Channel 70 and a website. Our cable channel has a continuously scrolling list of coming events and carries broadcasts of the Village Board meetings on the Wednesday and Saturday following the meeting. During elections, taped candidate debates can be viewed. Performances of the Guild for the Arts productions and other significant Village events may also be seen.

Our website — [www.ci.rockville-centre.ny.us](http://www.ci.rockville-centre.ny.us) — allows residents to view information about the Village and its history, apply for birth and death certificates, check the sanitation schedule, and many other functions. You may also e-mail members of the Village administration and department heads for more detailed responses to questions.

Soon a new electronic billboard will be installed at our renovated train station which will inform residents about the current week's events.

#### Freedom of Information Law

But suppose you have more involved questions and need in-depth background information?

NYS's Open Government Laws, consisting of the Freedom of Information Law (FOIL) and the Open Meetings Law, protect your right to obtain certain records, be given notice of public meetings, and ensure access to minutes of meetings and the supporting documents for decisions made at pub-

## This Month In Rockville Centre

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

Trustees  
Francis A. Cosgrove  
Mary Whalen Bossart  
Wayne Lipton  
John A. Matthews, Jr.

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

lic meetings. It is the intent of these statutes that they be construed broadly.

The law provides specific ways and time limits within which government officials must respond to requests for information. In Rockville Centre our records are available through our designated Freedom of Information Officer, Village Attorney Martha Krisel. She can assist any resident with an information request and the procedures and fees (for copying documents) related to it. If access to a record is denied, appeals from the denial may be made to the Mayor.

Recently the Village Board approved the use of audiotaping for briefing sessions and videotaping for Board meetings. These tapes will replace the written minutes, though a written record of all voting and approvals will be kept, according to NYS law. Audiotapes will be kept for one year and videotapes for ten years. Copies of the videotapes will be available in Village Hall and at the RVC Public Library.

A detailed booklet "Your Right To Know" is available from the Committee on Open Government, NYS Department of State, 41 State Street, Albany, NY 12231. Telephone (518) 474-2518. You may also access this information on the Internet at [www.dos.ny.us](http://www.dos.ny.us). Scroll down to Committees and Commissions and click on Committee on Open Government.

Last, but by no means least, please feel free to contact any member of the Village Board, in person or by telephone. We can be reached at Village Hall at 678-9246 or at our homes; we all have listed telephone numbers. We need information from you as much, if not more, than you need it from us in order to continue to improve our Village.

## LIRR Station Formally Reopens



The Rockville Centre Board of Trustees was on hand for the formal reopening of the renovated Long Island Rail Road station in October. The station beautification project was designed to match the improvements made to Front Street by the Village. Posing at the ceremony were Village Trustee Mary Bossart, Deputy Mayor Wayne Lipton, MTA Chairman Virgil Conway, Mayor Eugene Murray, LIRR President Ken Bauer, State Senator Dean Skelos, and Village Trustee Jack Matthews.

### New Kiosk for Village Announcements



A new kiosk has been installed on Front Street that is available to carry announcements of Village and not-for-profit community events. The procedures and policies for the use of the kiosk, which is located on the northeast corner of Front Street and Clinton Avenue, are available at Village Hall.

### RVC Fire Department Opens Membership

#### New 'fire medic' position now available

For the first time in its 125-year history the Rockville Centre Fire Department is recruiting non-firefighters into the department. A new class of membership, called a fire medic, was created last August in order to attract residents into the emergency response services of the department.

"This program will help insure that our long tradition of volunteer community service to our Village continues into the new century," said Fire Department Chief John Mirando.

Previously, all volunteers were required to undergo extensive training in firefighting before becoming mem-

bers of the department, even if they were deployed only in medical emergencies. The fire medics are needed in response to increased calls for emergency medical assistance, the chief said.

Membership in the Rockville Centre Fire Department is open to all residents of the Village between 18 and 55. The department provides all training for the new positions, including state certification as an emergency medical technician (EMT).

For information on becoming a fire medic, call Jeff Goodstein at 678-9321.

### Leaf Collections in Nov. and Dec.

The Rockville Centre Highway Department will be collecting leaves at the curbside during the months of November and December.

During the weeks of November 6 and 20, and December 4 and 18, leaves will be collected on all streets south of Sunrise Highway and all streets east of Long Beach Road within the boundaries of Rockville Centre.

During the weeks of October 30, November 13 and 27, and December 11, leaves will be collected on all streets north of Sunrise Highway and east of Long Beach Road within the boundaries of Rockville Centre.

Residents of Village streets should rake leaves into the street on the weekend before the scheduled collections and wet them down to prevent them from blowing back onto sidewalks and lawns.

Residents of County roads like Hempstead Avenue and Long Beach Road must put their leaves in garbage bags.

## The Fabulous Front Street Block Party



Hundreds of residents turned out in the perfect weather October 21 for a party celebrating the opening of Front Street. In between enjoying the music, rides, food, and attractions, the crowd was entertained by performers from the Leggz Dance studio and the Jean Hagan Irish Dancers.

## Tax Department News

### 2nd Half Village Taxes Coming Due

Village real estate taxes for the second half of the year are due December 1. Bills are scheduled to be mailed the week of November 20.

If your mortgage has recently been satisfied or if your billing address has changed, please notify the Village tax office immediately at (516) 678-9242.

If you do not receive a tax bill by December 7, you should also call the tax office. To avoid penalties, all tax payments must be received no later than January 2, 2001.

### Senior and Veteran Tax Exemptions

The filing period for partial exemption from Village real estate taxes for qualified seniors and veterans begins on December 29.

Exemptions are available to senior homeowners 65 and older with a 1999 gross income of \$27,900 or less. Qualifications for veterans' exemptions are based on the date and

type of military service. Exemptions are \$842 for non-combat veterans, \$1,404 for combat veterans, and \$2,808 for disabled veterans.

Renewal applications for senior exemptions have been mailed to taxpayers who qualified for an exemption last year. Seniors who have not yet received a renewal application should immediately visit the Village tax office in Village Hall, One College Place at Clinton Avenue, or call (516) 678-9242 between the hours of 9 A.M. and 3 P.M.

All exemption applications must be completed and filed by December 29. If granted, exemptions will be effective June 1, 2001.

### STAR

STAR exemptions apply only to school district taxes. Applications and information are available from the Nassau County Tax Assessor's Office in Mineola or by calling (516) 571-1500.



## Report from the Commissioner

By RVC Police Commissioner John P. McKeon



### Crime Is Down in Rockville Centre



The recent burglaries in Rockville Centre have disturbed many residents and while the world we live in should make us all more cautious, residents should also be aware that crime in Rockville Centre is at an all-time low.

The flurry of burglaries was compounded a few weeks back by news of a man who entered two homes on the South Side of the Village and confronted the families. This man was not a career burglar and his kind of deranged behavior is extremely rare.

Our low crime rate should not make us complacent and I hope that all residents have evaluated the security of your homes, but at the same time, there is no reason to be fearful. The crime trends are all down, not up.

In the late 1970s when I was new to the Rockville Centre Police Department,

we had 400 burglaries a year. In the nine years I have been police commissioner, we have averaged between 80 and 90 a year, which is what the total is likely to be again this year. Total crimes for the year reported in the Village in all categories as of September 30, 2000 were the lowest since we began keeping records.

Even though we have fewer police officers now than we did back in the 1970s, we are doing a better job. Rockville Centre is extremely well protected. We have two or three times the patrol power on the streets compared to surrounding communities.

Having our own police force dramatically reduces our response time and increases our chances of catching an offender and discouraging crime. The bad guys know or soon learn not to come to Rockville Centre. We have arrested 14 individuals since June that we believe are connected to the burglaries or to night time car thefts.

Remember that both these offenses are crimes of opportunity. You can

greatly reduce your chances of becoming of victim with a few simple precautions. The Rockville Centre Police Department will help you protect your home and property. Just gives us a call at 766-1500.

### Prevention Tips

#### At Home

To reduce your chances of becoming a victim of a burglary:

- If you have an alarm system, arm it at night.
- Lock your doors and windows at night, especially on the first floor.
- Illuminate areas around doors and windows.
- Do not leave money, wallets, pocketbooks, and keys in plain sight.
- If you see anything suspicious in your neighborhood, immediately call the Rockville Centre Police at 766-1500.

Members of the Rockville Centre Police Department's anti-crime unit will conduct residential security surveys upon request. To arrange an appointment, call the department at 766-1500. The surveys take about an hour and are usually scheduled within a week of the request.

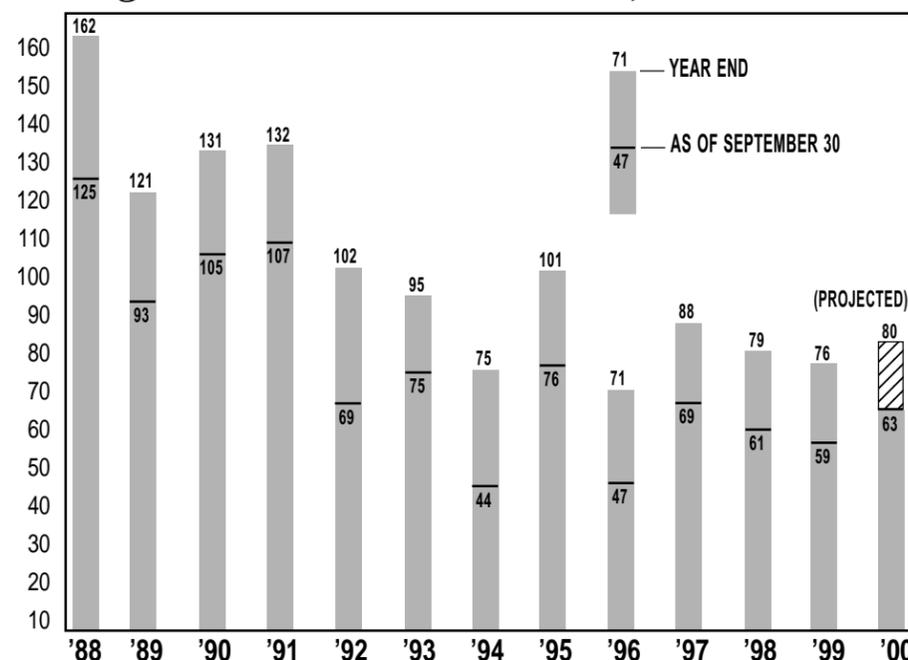
#### For Your Car

The RVC Police Department is participating in the New York State "Watch Your Car" program to discourage car thefts.

There are two components of the program: 1) etching the vehicle identification number (VIN) onto the window glass (windshield, side windows, rear window and sun roof) of the vehicle; and 2) displaying a decal that police look for which identifies the car as one that is not normally driven between the hours of 1 and 5 A.M.

Program participants qualify for insurance discounts. Call the department at 766-1500 to arrange an appointment.

### Burglaries in Rockville Centre, 1988 - 2000



## November Events at the Senior Center

Favorite classes and programs are now in session at Rockville Centre's Sandel Senior Center located at the northwest corner of South Park and Lincoln avenues. Call 678-9245 for information.

### Arts and Leisure Activities

A program of cabaret music with vocalist Linda Ciofalo and her trio is Sunday, November 5 at 2 P.M. Dancing is encouraged.

The film *Nottingham Road* is featured on Sunday, November 19 at 2 P.M. on the Center's 60-inch TV screen.

The new Book Club continues on Wednesday, November 29 at 2 P.M. Ellen Berman of the RVC Public Library will lead a discussion of *Falling Leaves* by Adeline Yen Mah. Reserve a copy by calling 678-9350.

Bridge lessons with Linda Pickens are every Wednesday at 3:15 P.M.

Party bridge sessions are Mondays at 7:30 P.M. No partner required.

Instructor Edie Davis presents sing-alongs, short skits and playlets every Thursday at 1:30 P.M.

November's monthly art display is work by the Photo Study Group. A reception is scheduled for November 21.

### November Speakers

Author Steven D. Danish will speak Tuesday, November 7 at 11 A.M. on "One Soldier's Memories, World War II" after the Men's Club 10 A.M. breakfast.

Harvey Finkelstein, M.D. will speak Tuesday, November 14 at 11 A.M. on pain management.

Geriatrician Jeffrey Berger of Winthrop University Hospital will speak Tuesday, November 21 at 11 A.M. after the Men's Club 10 A.M. breakfast.



Sandel Senior Center seniors celebrate at a bon voyage party last year. The Center has several local trips still planned for this year and getaways to London, California, and the Caribbean planned for next year.

### Special Events

The Center's flea market and book sale is Saturday, November 4 from 11 A.M. to 2 P.M. and features clothing, jewelry, household goods and gift items. Proceeds go to the Senior Center Club.

Registration has begun for appointments with the Nassau Health Care Corp. mammography van which will be at the Center January 4, 2001. Call 678-9350 for information.

A Veterans' Day party and observance is Friday, November 17 at 1 P.M. \$2 per person donation.

### Travel and Dining

A trip to the Atlantic City Showboat casino Friday, November 10 is \$18 per person including transportation and \$20 in gambling tokens. Call 678-9245 for information.

The Ms. New York State Senior America Pageant is Saturday, November 18 at Suffolk Community College in Brentwood. \$28 per person includes admission, dinner at a local restaurant,

and transportation. Call 678-9350 for reservations.

Seats are still available for a trip to the Nevele Grande for \$145 or \$165 scheduled for December 11 to 13.

A theater and luncheon trip to see "Jolson—You Ain't Heard Nuthin' Yet" at the Broadhollow Theater in RVC is December 13. \$30 per person includes ticket, restaurant, and transportation.

A Western Caribbean cruise to Key West, Cozumel, Ochos Rios, and the Grand Cayman sets sail March 18, 2001. \$1,299 per person for the seven night package. \$300 deposit due January 10.

A seven day California getaway to the Gold Rush country, San Francisco, and the Napa Valley is \$1,289 including round trip airfare, hotels, and meals. Departure date May 25, 2001.

A London theater getaway departs October 25, 2001 for six days of food, shopping, and theater performances. \$1,379 per person includes round trip airfare.

## Great Day for a Contest!



The cookie refreshments at the October 21 Window Painting Contest reflected the excitement over opening day of New York's first Subway Series in 44 years.

Pictures weren't the only things that got painted at the Village's Annual Halloween Window Painting Contest. Pat Southard of the Rec Center, who organized the program, gave out the awards with Mayor Eugene Murray and Trustees Jack Matthews, Wayne Lipton, and Mary Bossart.

## Rec Center Programs

The Recreation Department will start taking reservations for winter programs beginning November 20. Detailed fliers are available at the Rec Center on Oceanside Road.

### 23rd Annual 10K (6.2 mile) Road Race and Family Fun Run

The Annual 10K is Saturday, November 11 at 10 A.M. and begins on Park Avenue between Merrick Road and Sunrise Highway opposite the Fantasy Theatre. Race day registration is at Village Hall, One College Place and Clinton Avenue and costs \$17.

The course is flat and fast. The race goes on rain or shine.

The one-mile Family Fun Run begins at 9 A.M. on Front Street in front of the LIRR station. The entry fee is \$5.

### Food Donations Needed

The Rec Center is accepting donations of canned and dry goods as well as frozen turkeys for distribution to the needy in our community. Bring your donations Monday through Saturday from 9 A.M. to 5 P.M. before Thanksgiving.

### Annual Tree Lighting

The Village's Annual Tree Lighting ceremony on the Village Green, Maple and Lee avenues, is Thursday, November 30 starting at 7:30 P.M.

Musical selections will be performed by the South Side High School Band and Chorus under the direction of Michael Abresch, director of music and performing arts for the RVC School District.

Frosty the Snowman, Rudolph the Red-Nosed Reindeer, and Santa have all promised to visit as well.

## Guild for the Arts

The Rockville Centre Guild for the Arts will present three programs during November.

The Crabgrass Theater Company will stage a puppet show based on Rudyard Kipling's "Just So Stories" on Saturday, November 4 at 11 A.M. and 1 P.M. in the Hayes Theatre at Molloy College. The Company's life-size puppets sing and dance these modernized versions of the stories.

All seats are reserved and cost \$7 to \$9. Call 766-2908 or e-mail to [guildtix@aol.com](mailto:guildtix@aol.com).

The South Shore Symphony will perform "Peter and the Wolf" and "Horton Hatches the Egg," a variety of classical themes with narration from the Dr. Seuss book, on Saturday, November 18 at 2 P.M. in the South Side Middle School. Tickets are \$8 and \$10 and up to three students are free with each paid admission. For tickets, call 764-1558.

The Symphony also performs the following evening, Sunday, November 19 at 7:30 P.M., also in the Middle School auditorium. The program includes the Mozart Clarinet Concerto and Dvorak's Violin Concerto, both conducted by Scott Jackson Wiley.

Tickets are \$8 to \$12. Call 764-1558 for information.

The Symphony will also be performing Tchaikovsky's "The Nutcracker" with a 90-member corps de ballet under the direction of Joan MacNaughton of Leggz Dance on December 8, 9 and 10 at South Side High School. Tickets are \$16 and \$20 and can be ordered by calling 766-7171.