

## RVC Recreation Center News

### Winter Recess Events

The Rockville Centre Recreation Center is sponsoring the following events during the Winter school recess:

#### Monday, February 19

**Presidents' Day Relays** for grades 1 & 2, from 12 Noon to 1:15 P.M. and grades 3 to 5, from 1:15 to 2:30 P.M. or 12:30 to 1:45 P.M.

#### Tuesday, February 20, 2:15 - 5:45 P.M.

**Ice Skating Trip** to the Long Beach Recreation Complex for grades 1 through 8. The \$9 fee includes skate rental and transportation.

#### Wednesday, February 21, 12:30 - 4:30 P.M.

**Trip to Fun Zone** in Farmingdale for grades 1 and up. Fee includes 35 game tokens, unlimited rides, and transportation.

#### Thursday, February 22

**February Craft Activity** (and a little hot chocolate) for kindergarten and grade 1 and grades 2 to 4, from 10:30 -11:45 A.M. or 12:30 to 1:45 P.M. Fee \$7.

#### Thursday, February 22, 2:30 P.M.

**Annual Cherry Pie Eating Contest** for grades 1 to 6. Celebrate George Washington's Birthday by seeing if you can down cherry or apple pie faster than other contestants in your age group. Register before Friday, February 16. Fee \$1.

#### Friday, February 23

**Bowling at RVC Lanes** Bumper Bowling for grades 1 & 2, 11:45 A.M. to 2:30 P.M.; for grades 3 to 8, 12:15 to 3 P.M. Fee \$9.

All trip participants must be registered members of the RVC Parks and Recreation Department for the 2000-2001 year. To register, a parental permission slip and the appropriate fee must be submitted to the Rec Center office **PRIOR** to the day of the event.



During the February school recess the Rec Center will sponsor a bowling trip and relay games, including the popular Alligator Pit.

### Middle School Dances

Two of the Recreation Center's popular dances for middle school students will be offered in February: on Friday, February 2 from 7:30 to 10:30 P.M. for grade 6 only; and on Friday, February 16, from 7:30 to 10:30 P.M. for grades 7 and 8 only.

Those attending must live in Rockville Centre or attend school in Rockville Centre. ID is required

### Men's Spring Softball League

The 2001 Spring Men's Softball League games will start the week of March 12. Completed rosters and all fees are due by February 21.

For information, call the Rec Center Office at 678-9338 or 678-9339.



## 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, February 12, 8:15 P.M.

#### BOARD OF TRUSTEES

Monday, February 19

#### PRESIDENTS DAY

Village Offices Closed

Wednesday, February 28, 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)

# This Month In Rockville Centre

FEBRUARY, 2001

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RVC Police Officer Ken Schaefer applies a pre-printed stencil to the windshield of Mayor Eugene Murray's van on the first day of the VIN-etching program, as Traffic Supervisor Sgt. Thomas Luthy and the Mayor look on.

## Free Anti-Car Theft Program

The Village of Rockville Centre is offering a program free to residents to help protect their vehicles from theft. The state-sponsored vehicle identification number (VIN) etching of all of a vehicle's window glass is a powerful deterrent to potential thieves by making it more difficult and expensive to disguise the theft of a car or its parts.

The process takes about 20 minutes, but appointments are required. Interested residents should call 678-9331, leave their name and number on an answering machine, and the police department will call back to arrange an appointment.

Last December, a Nissan Xterra was the first vehicle in the new program. The owner arrived early Saturday morning at the Water Department garage, signed a form, then the pre-printed stencils of the VIN were applied to each window, including the sunroof. Officer Kenneth Schaefer rubbed on an acid gel from a small applicator bottle, let it stand for a few minutes, then removed the stencils and applied a warning decal behind the etching on the driver's side window.

The free program has so far saved 80 residents the \$300 or more that new car dealerships charge for the same service.



P.O. Ken Schaefer applies an acid gel that etches a vehicle's identification number into the window glass.



The finished product: an etched vehicle identification number and a decal behind it to highlight the job and discourage thieves.



## Village Hall Comments

By Mayor Eugene J. Murray



### The State of the Village



I am happy to report that Rockville Centre has never been better than it is in January 2001. Village services are delivered efficiently and courteously. Our

physical and technological infrastructures are well-maintained and continually upgraded. And our financial condition is very sound.

Though we have 13 percent fewer employees today than we did 10 years ago, we are delivering our routine services more efficiently because our workers are continually improving themselves and are supported by improved communications and technology. Our employees put in more than 5,000 hours of training during the past year in workshops devoted to such topics as computer skills and communications, first aid and CPR, safe driving, customer service, and leadership.

Our information technology department has customized our computer systems to enhance communications within and between departments. Our computers now link administration, management, and operations, and provide easy access to data bases for records such as licenses and permits, payroll and other accounts, utility and tax bills; our customized software now automates many daily operating tasks; and our new systems allow police headquarters to track crime trends, as well as to communicate with individual patrol cars, linking their mobile computers to county, state, and federal systems and to our own Village Court, cutting down paperwork and making more time available for crime prevention.

We must be doing something right, because crime last year in the Village was at a 30-year low, even though we have fewer officers than we did 30 years ago.

We have also upgraded the Village

Web Page, providing more online information than ever before, including access to the complete Village Code, which can be searched by topic or by keyword. We are also studying the feasibility of adding on-line transactions to the inter-active services currently available through home computers.

We are also making progress with our physical infrastructure:

As we do most years, we resurfaced about a mile and a half of Village roadways on 16 different streets last year; we also removed hundreds of hazardous curbside trees and cleaned 150 miles of sewer lines; we cleaned, weeded, and twice a week watered more than 50 locations throughout the Village to beautify our roadways and parking lots.

But more than that, this year we undertook and completed, on time and under budget, several major projects:

- We renovated and beautified the entire Front Street area in only three months.

- We finally replaced the cooling tower at the electric plant, which should improve the air quality in that neighborhood.

- We completed improvements to Water Tank #1 near South Side High School and began construction of an iron filtration plant that will, finally, remove the rust from the water on the east side of the Village.

- We added a shopper parking lot at Monroe Street and Long Beach Road and we added commuter parking on Front Street, so that for the first time in memory there are actually empty spaces available after the morning rush hour.

All our services, renovations, and rehabilitations were delivered and accomplished following sound financial practices. We have a rolling, five-year capital plan. We wait until we retire old debt before we take on new borrowing. We keep tax increases to a minimum — less than 3 percent per year on average over the past five years.

For these efforts, we have once

## 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

again been recognized with an award from the Government Finance Officers Association. But our most important reward last year was an upgraded bond rating from Standard & Poors which translated into a \$300,000 savings in interest payments on our most recent public improvement bonds.

Our residents and our business districts benefit from our solid financial footing and our efficient operations, both in low taxes and in low energy rates, currently about half of what LIPA charges, contributing to a commercial occupancy rate above 95 percent.

Our Village government is good government, at the closest level to the people. Unlike some municipalities, we encourage residents to come and speak to us at Village Board meetings and to call us up at other times. Residents do not always get their way, but they will always be listened to. This past year we listened to the newly-formed Maple Avenue Task Force and we are undertaking several rehabilitation measures as a direct result of that group's fine and responsible work.

Similarly, we have incorporated resident concerns about microwave emissions into our deliberations on local laws concerning cell phone antennas and towers. And we continue work on redrafting and updating the Village codes governing building and zoning, which we will soon bring to our residents at public hearings.

The accessibility and efficiency of your Village government is a major reason why Rockville Centre is such a desirable community to live in and raise a family. The Board of Trustees and I, as Mayor, pledge that Rockville Centre will continue to grow in the right directions.

## February Events at the Senior Center

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

### Arts and Leisure Activities

The Three Sopranos will perform a selection of Broadway show tunes, operatic aria, and a medley of spiritual and folk tunes on Sunday, February 4 at 2 P.M. Refreshments after the free concert.

Weekly beginner bridge lessons with Marie Fiorillo start Monday, February 5 at 10 A.M.; intermediates meet Wednesdays at 2:15 P.M.

February's monthly art display features the work of Margaret Salon of the African American History Museum in Hempstead. A reception is scheduled for February 20 at 11 A.M.

The film *Titanic* is featured on Sunday, February 25 at 2 P.M. on the Center's 60-inch TV screen.

The Book Club meets on Wednesday, February 28 at 2 P.M. Ellen Berman of the RVC Public Library will lead a discussion of *The Color of Water* by James McBride. Reserve a copy by calling 678-9350.

Instructor Brenda Dye mixes sing-alongs and music appreciation every Thursday at 1:30 P.M.

### February Speakers

Town of Hempstead life skills counselor Roz Mohr will discuss the "Vial of Life" program designed to provide critical personal information to emergency workers in case of a crisis, on Tuesday, February 6 at 11 A.M.

Jim Baker of Mercy Medical Center



The Sandel walkers now meet on Thursdays at 8:30 A.M. rain or shine for their weekly excursions.

will speak Tuesday, February 6 at 11 A.M. after the Men's Club 10 A.M. breakfast.

Jean Waters will discuss how a well-trained dog can assist its disabled owner on Tuesday, February 20 at 11 A.M. after the Men's Club 10 A.M. breakfast.

### Special Events

The AARP 55 Alive defensive driving course is two Thursdays, February 8 and 15 from 6 to 10 P.M. at the Center. Call 678-9350 for registration information.

The Valentine's Day dance is Friday, February 16 at 1 P.M. and features a professional DJ and special treats. \$2 per person.

A Black History Month special lun-

cheon Wednesday, February 21 at Noon includes a meal of traditional dishes and entertainment by the Light Dancers of Nassau Dance in Baldwin.

### Travel and Dining

A Mardi Gras afternoon in Paterson, NJ with music, entertainment, colorful costumes, sumptuous lunch and drinks, party favors and more is scheduled for Thursday, February 22. \$55 per person.

A Western Caribbean cruise to Key West, Ochos Rios, and the Grand Cayman sets sail March 18. \$1,299 per person for the seven night package. Full payment is due at registration.

## Village Elections June 19

The Incorporated Village of Rockville Centre will hold a General Village Election on Tuesday, June 19, 2001 for the following offices: two trustees for four-year terms; one trustee for a two-year term; and one judge for a four-year term.

Beginning Tuesday, February 20, the Village will accept applications for absentee ballots for the General Election. Any registered voter who will be away from Rockville Centre at the time of the election or who is unable to leave home due to illness, is eligible to vote by absentee ballot.

## Used Cell Phones Needed

The Village of RVC in collaboration with National Council of Jewish Women, South Shore Section is collecting used cell phones and chargers to be reprogrammed to dial 911 and then distributed to domestic violence survivors for use in emergencies.

All phones, along with their charger, may be dropped off at Village Hall, One College Place and Clinton Avenue, or at the Recreation Center on North Oceanside Road.