

Continued from Page 1

- The Village's excellent financial health produced another rating upgrade last summer for about \$3 million in bonds. Moody's Investor Services raised Rockville Centre's rating from A1 to Aa3, placing it among the financial elite of Long Island villages. Moody's justified its rating by citing the Village's modest levels of debt, its aggressive retirement of that debt, and its "consistently stable and well-managed financial operations."

- The Maple Avenue beautification project was completed on time and on budget.

- The renovation of the Village offices at 110 Maple Avenue was completed on time, on budget, and with no disruption in service.

- Resurfacing on six major roadways totaling 1.6 miles was completed; more than 2,500 potholes were filled.

- The Sanitation Department went an entire year without a single commercial or residential complaint.

- An iron filtration plant was installed on the east side of the Village which is removing nearly 100 percent of the dissolved iron from the ground water and ending years of rusty water suffered by residents.

These are all fine accomplishments, but what truly sets Rockville Centre apart is the sense of community here. That sense of mutual trust and responsibility was seen during the August heat wave when the entire metropolitan region faced a power emergency.

I made appeals to Village residents and to large commercial users to conserve electricity and Rockville Centre was the only community in the region whose electric consumption actually declined as the temperatures rose for three straight days.

And, of course, nothing can compare to the overwhelming response of this Village to the tragedy of September 11. No Long Island community was hit harder than Rockville Centre which lost at least 36 individuals who lived or who had grown up here.

Within hours of the tragedy, calls came into my office offering many kinds of aid. In the days and weeks that followed children and adults, groups and individuals, organizations

## The State of the Village

and businesses had all contributed time and money to helping the victims.

As President of the Rockville Centre Community Fund, I immediately took steps to create the We Care RVC Fund within the Community Fund. Volunteers organized support services; tradesmen, professionals, and neighbors provided those services; and contributions came in totaling more than \$625,000, all of which went directly to the families of the victims.

I am proud of Rockville Centre's many thoughtful and caring acts of kindness and I know that the families involved are grateful to all who helped out.

### Future Challenges

In 2002, I will continue my state-wide work as 1st Vice President of the New York Conference of Mayors and in 2003 I will become that organization's president. NYCOM champions the concerns of municipalities before the governor and the legislature in Albany. We will continue to work for a greater return of state tax monies to villages like Rockville Centre via state revenue sharing; we will continue to lobby against legislation that sets an unfair burden on local governments and to oppose mandates imposed but not funded by the state.

But 2002 will also be a year of transitions and change in Rockville Centre.

We have lost Village Administrator

Anthony Cancellieri who helped guide this Village to many of its successes over the past 14 years. We are searching for a replacement, but in the meantime the practices and procedures he introduced and the employees he helped hire and train will keep the Village functioning at its usual high level.

The stability of our workforce has meant continually improving services, but it also means that many of our workers are nearing retirement age. We have to plan for extensive employee turnover during the next five years. We also have to plan for the replacement of equipment, necessary upgrades to the electric utility system, and keeping current with technological advancements.

As we balance our budgets, we must look closely at both expenses and revenues. We have consistently kept tax increases at or near the rate of inflation, while our parking meter fees have stayed the same for nine years, our electric rates for eight.

As we face these transitions, we will see that our residents and our business districts continue to benefit from our solid financial practices and our efficient operations.

Village government continues to be good government, at the closest level to the people, and it keeps Rockville Centre such a desirable community to live in and raise a family.

The Board of Trustees and I intend to keep it that way.



## This Month In Rockville Centre

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

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



### Dates & Events

Monday, February 11, 8:15 P.M.  
**BOARD OF TRUSTEES**

Monday, February 18  
**PRESIDENTS DAY**  
Village Offices Closed

Wednesday, February 27, 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  
Ambulance 766-0400  
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

FEBRUARY, 2002

VOL. 51, NO. 1

## The State of the Village

By Mayor Eugene J. Murray

The Village of Rockville Centre in 2002 remains one of the premier communities in one of the most desirable areas of the United States. Village government strives to preserve our good standing by continuing to deliver basic services courteously and efficiently and by planning for a stable future.



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

For many years we have enjoyed a stable and dedicated workforce supported by individualized training programs and by customized information and communications technology. The result is outstanding service to the residents.

We can look back on many accom-

plishments during 2001:

- Thanks to our professional police force, the crime rate hit another 30-year low in 2001, declining 12 percent over 2000.

- Our Fire Department responded to the September 11 World Trade Center attacks with personnel and equipment. Seventy-five firefighters served on rotating shifts in the

days immediately following the attacks. Floodlight's Heavy Rescue truck Number 446 was dispatched immediately to Ground Zero. Several other trucks and an ambulance were dispatched to Queens for emergency stand-by.

It was fitting that a community so heavily affected by the attacks was able to participate so fully in the emergency response effort.

Continued on Page 4

## Kelly Promoted to Deputy Commissioner



Warren Kelly, a 34-year veteran of the Rockville Centre Police Department, was promoted to deputy commissioner on January 7 by the Village Board of Trustees: Deputy Mayor Wayne Lipton, Trustee Gregory F. Rinn, Mayor Eugene Murray, Deputy Commissioner Kelly, Commissioner Jack McKeon, and trustees Mary Bossart and Jack Matthews. During his tenure on the force, Deputy Commissioner Kelly has been the department's special events manager, its accreditation manager, its productivity and evaluation officer, its internal affairs officer, and its liaison to the Auxiliary Police Unit.



## Village Hall Comments

By Trustee Gregory F. Rinn



### A Police Force To Be Proud Of



The residents of Rockville Centre are fortunate to have a village police force of such high quality. In times of trouble or need, our residents do not have to wait for the County police to arrive; Rockville Centre responds within minutes.

As the trustee / liaison to the Police Department, it has been my policy to ride on each of the three patrol shifts with the officers of our police force.

While on patrol, I have observed assistance and burglary calls, traffic stops, and the strict enforcement of the laws dealing with DWI and quality of life violations. The level of professionalism exhibited by these officers is proof that we are being watched over at all times by a team of dedicated public servants.

The success of our police force is reflected in the crime statistics recently compiled for 2001. They show a 12 percent decrease in total crime in the Village over 2000, the second year in a row that a record low was achieved. Burglaries are down, robberies are down, larceny is down. This achieve-

ment is all the more remarkable because we are the fourth busiest local department in Nassau County, trailing Hempstead, Freeport, and Long Beach.

In addition to the regular patrols, the Department's 52 officers are also deployed in youth, anti-crime, and central business district units, as well as having cooperative assignments with the county police.

The department also offers many special programs for residents, including bicycle safety for youngsters, security surveys for homeowners, and crime prevention programs for seniors. The department's anti car theft program that etches vehicle identification numbers into car windows has been used by hundreds of residents.

The Police Department is aided by the Rockville Centre Auxiliary Police who put in more than 3,000 patrol hours in 2001. The auxiliary officers manage crowds at accidents scenes and special events, but their most important function is as the eyes and ears of the regular police force.

The auxiliary officers patrol Rockville Centre in marked cars and in police uniforms, extending the reach of the regular police force. Their efforts reduce crime and vandalism in the Village. Their service has become even more important af-

## This Month In Rockville Centre

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

Trustees  
Mary Whalen Bossart  
Wayne Lipton  
John A. Matthews, Jr.  
Gregory F. Rinn

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

ter September 11 as localities take on added responsibility for protecting sensitive areas like school and governmental buildings, electric and water department facilities, transportation centers, and houses of worship.

These volunteers come from all walks of life. All residents over 18, willing to perform at least 12 hours of volunteer duty a month are welcome to join the Auxiliary Police. Candidates must fill out an application, be interviewed and then pass a physical and a background check. They are trained at the Nassau County Police Academy one night a week for 18 weeks and receive field training with the Rockville Centre Police.

Residents interested in joining the Auxiliary Police should call the RVC Police Department at 766-1500 and ask for Deputy Commissioner Warren Kelly. Volunteering is a great way to better know your community.

## Time to Submit 'No Solicitation' Requests

Residents wishing to avoid door-to-door solicitors can take advantage of a Rockville Centre local law which establishes an annual "no solicitation list". Residents must renew their request each year. To be included on the 2002 list, fill out the coupon below and drop it off at Village Hall or mail it to P.O. Box 950, Rockville Centre, NY 11571 by March 1. You may also register online at [www.ci.rockville-centre.ny.us](http://www.ci.rockville-centre.ny.us) or e-mail your request to [rvc@li.net](mailto:rvc@li.net).

All solicitors asking for money or contributions must register with the Village and are required to display identification which indicates that a permit has

been issued. Solicitors are given a copy of the no solicitation list with their permit.

If you are on the list and are solicited, the incident should be reported to

Carole Leach at 678-9224. Organizations violating the law are subject to penalties including, but not limited to, revocation of their permit.

### 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: \_\_\_\_\_

## February Events at the Senior Center

### Special Events

The 25th Anniversary and Valentine's Celebration is Friday, February 15 at Noon at Temple Avodah in Oceanside and features the Danny Vincent Orchestra and a delicious meal. \$18 or \$25 per person.

A Black History Month luncheon Wednesday, February 20 at Noon includes a meal of traditional dishes and entertainment by Camara Dance Unlimited which performs "Sisters Across the Sea". \$2.50 per person. Please reserve a spot.

Specially-trained volunteers from AARP will assist with income tax preparation every Thursday from 9 A.M. to 1 P.M. Call 678-9245 for appointments.

### Arts and Leisure Activities

Music on Tour performs "We're Into Love," a fully-staged musical on Sandel Sunday, February 3 at 2 P.M. Refreshments after the free performance.

The Sunday Book Club begins February 24 at 1:30 P.M. Volunteer coordi-

nator Barbara Petrilli will lead a discussion of *We Were the Mulvaney's* by Joyce Carol Oates. Reserve a copy by calling 678-9350.

Monthly duplicate bridge lessons with Marie Fiorillo start Sunday, February 24 5-7:30 P.M. \$5 or \$7 per session.

The Book Club meets on Wednesday, February 27 at 2 P.M. to discuss *The Age of Innocence* by Edith Wharton. Reserve a copy by calling 678-9350.

Dr. Lenore Sandel, Professor Emeritus at Hofstra University, offers a creative writing course on Tuesdays at 1:45 P.M. All are welcome.

### Travel and Dining

Mardi Gras at the Brownstone in Patterson, New Jersey is Tuesday, February 12. \$59 per person includes music, entertainment, lunch, and transportation.

The New Orleans Getaway departs April 1, 2002 and includes five days visiting the French Quarter, the



The Senior Center annual Valentine Dance is Friday, February 15 at Temple Avodah.

Café du Monde, and the New Orleans School of Cooking. Price includes airfare, cancellation insurance and hotel transfers: \$1,070, double occupancy; \$1,320 single.

## RVC Recreation Center News

### Winter Recess Events

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

#### Monday, February 18

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

**Tuesday, February 19, 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 20, 12:30 - 4:30 P.M. Trip to Fun Zone in Farmingdale for grades 1 and up. Fee of \$16.50 includes 35 game tokens, unlimited rides, and transportation.**

#### Thursday, February 21

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

#### Thursday, February 21, 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 15. Fee \$1.

#### Friday, February 22

**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 2001-2002 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.

### Nursery School Registration

Registrations are now being accepted for the RVC Recreation Center's nursery school programs for the 2002 - 2003 school year.

To schedule an appointment to visit the school, call the Recreation Office at 678-9338.

### Dance Your Way to Fitness

Beginner Western square dance lessons are Tuesdays from 8:30 to 10 P.M. Advanced classes meet Mondays and Tuesdays 7 to 8:30 P.M. Modern

Western square dancing is Wednesdays at 8 P.M. With caller Lee Kopman.

Country Western line dancing lessons are Tuesdays 7 to 8:15 P.M. for beginners, 8:15 to 9:30 for intermediates with Betty Mullin, for a fee of \$6 per person.

Line dancing with Sonia & Ricci are Wednesdays 7:30 to 9:30 P.M. for a fee of \$6 per class.

### Aerobics at the Rec

Pay as you go aerobics classes are Monday, Tuesday, and Thursday evenings at 7. \$4 per class. Call Nancy at 764-3720 for information.

## Bird Carving Exhibit

The RVC Historical Society will present an exhibit, lecture, and demonstration of bird carvings by Wendell Gilly on Sunday, February 3 at 2 P.M. at the Phillips House Museum, 28 Hempstead Avenue.

Mr. Gilly's work is displayed in the White House and in the Rockefeller collection at the Gilly Museum in Maine.