

## Sandel Senior Center Events for March

### Special Events

The Sandel financial development committee presents a fundraising performance of *The Best Little Whorehouse in Texas* on Sunday, March 7 at the Stage Theatre. \$25 per person includes transportation from the Center to the theatre, lunch and show. Sign-up now.

RVC resident Louise Skolnik, Nassau County Deputy Commissioner of Social Services, will be the featured guest of honor at the Women's History Month Special Luncheon Wednesday, March 10 at Noon. \$5 per person; reservations required.

The St. Patrick's Day Party is Friday, March 12 at 1 P.M. and includes the Hagen School of Irish dancers, the music of Christopher J. Llewellyn of the Black Watch Highland Pipes, Irish fun and games, Irish coffee and Irish soda bread. \$3 per person.

Join members of the Sandel Center for the RVC St. Patrick's Parade on Saturday, March 20. Meet at the Center at 10:30 A.M. and return after for refreshments.

The Annual Oscar Gala is Friday, March 26 at 1 P.M. when the seniors walk the red carpet doing their interpretation of the 2004 Academy Awards. \$3 per person includes wine and cheese, café and biscotti.

### Arts and Leisure Activities

Ballroom dancing on Mondays at 12:15 P.M. begins on March 1 for five sessions.

Intermediate bridge on Wednesdays at 2:15 P.M. begins March 3 for five sessions.

Monthly duplicate bridge lessons with Marie Fiorillo continue on two Sundays, March 14 and 28 at 1 P.M. \$5 or \$7 per session. Partners are not required; games are non-sanctioned. Register by calling 678-9245.

AARP Defensive Driving Course is March 18 and 25. You must attend both sessions. The cost is \$10. Registration in person only at the Senior Center.

Artwork from students at South Side High School will be on display during the month of March. A reception for the students is Tuesday, March 23 at 11 A.M.

The Book Club, led by Ellen Berman of the RVC Library, meets



Join the St. Patrick's Day celebration at the Sandel Center on Friday, March 12 at 1 P.M.

Wednesday, March 31 at 2 P.M. to discuss *In a Sunburned Country* by Bill Bryson. Books may be borrowed from the Sandel Center. Call 678-9350 to reserve.

The creative writing workshop with Prof. Lenore Sandel meets on Tuesdays at 1:30 P.M. All are welcome.

Mah Jongg games and instruction are Thursdays at 2 P.M. followed by a light dinner from 5:30 to 6:30. The Center is looking for donations of used Mah Jongg sets. Call Kate with any questions regarding Mah Jongg at 678-9350.

### March Speakers

Nancy Jean Mann of Winthrop University Hospital will discuss advanced directives and health care proxies on Tuesday, March 2 at 11 A.M.

Alvin Scott of HIP and Lauren Mangino of Healthcare Partners present guest speaker Vela Nicasio, a certified dietitian / nutritionist to discuss healthy eating on Tuesday, March 9 at 11 A.M.

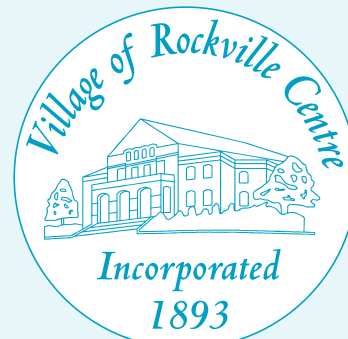
The Sandel Senior Men's Club meets twice monthly for a 10 A.M. breakfast followed by a guest speaker at 11. On Tuesday, March 2, chiropractor Dr. Douglas Drobbin will speak on arthritis and osteoporosis and on March 16 LIGHT (Long Island Growing at Home Together), a group of talented home-schooled children, will present their dance routines, original skits, and musical performances.



## This Month In Rockville Centre

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

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### Dates & Events

Monday, March 1, 8:15 P.M.  
**BOARD OF TRUSTEES**

Wednesday, March 3, 7 P.M.  
**BOARD OF APPEALS**

Wednesday, March 3, 7 P.M.  
**PLANNING BOARD**

Tuesday, March 16, 7:30 P.M.  
**PLANNING BOARD**

Monday, March 22, 8:15 P.M.  
**BOARD OF TRUSTEES**

Wednesday, March 24, 8 P.M.  
**BOARD OF APPEALS**

Events are at Village Hall unless otherwise indicated.

#### NOTE:

A more complete calendar of events is available on the Village website:  
[www.ci.rockville-centre.ny.us](http://www.ci.rockville-centre.ny.us)

Videotapes of Board of Trustees meetings are broadcast on Cable Channel 18 on Wednesdays (8:15 p.m.) and Saturdays (1:30 p.m.) following each meeting.

For general information  
Call 678-9300

### Emergency Numbers

Fire **911**

Police **911**

Ambulance **911**

Electric 766-5800

Water 678-9252

Nights & Weekends 766-5800

[www.ci.rockville-centre.ny.us](http://www.ci.rockville-centre.ny.us)

## This Month In Rockville Centre

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### St. Patrick's Parade March 20

The 8th Annual Rockville Centre St. Patrick's Parade marches down Maple Avenue at Noon on Saturday, March 20, featuring more than 100 marching contingents, including most of the area's top pipe bands and step dancers.

The Parade has distributed more than \$200,000 to 21 worthy charities since 1997. This year's national charity beneficiary is The Boomer Esiason Cystic Fibrosis Foundation; the Irish charity is Project Children that sends Catholic and Protestant children from

Ireland to the United States; and the local charity is the Friends of RVC 9/11 Memorial Foundation that is providing continuing support for the families of the local victims.

This year's Grand Marshall is Joseph K. Collins, head of a large New York building maintenance firm and a volunteer for children's causes.

For information about the many fundraising events, call (516) 764-8729 or visit the parade website at [www.rvcstpatrick.homestead.com](http://www.rvcstpatrick.homestead.com).

### Village Opposes Pension Payments

Rockville Centre could have to pay as much as \$2.1 million into the state retirement system next year for its municipal workers and police. That sum is three times the amount it will pay this year and 17 times more than it paid just last year.

Mayor Murray has called this burden on the Village budget "a significant and excessive tax increase that is completely unwarranted."

Last year when New York State Comptroller Alan Hevesi projected the first huge pension contribution

increase, Senator Skelos and the Legislature intervened on behalf of New York's villages and crafted legislation reducing the proposed contribution rate, which otherwise would have devastated Rockville Centre's budget.

This year Governor Pataki has proposed an eight-point pension reform plan which the Village hopes will provide some relief from the excessive charges.

Mayor Murray is the current president of the New York State Conference of Mayors which strongly supports the Governor's plan.





## Village Hall Comments

By Trustee Mary Whalen Bossart



### For Pothole Repair: Call 678-9267



Potholes have their own season. The first few winter storms don't seem to cause them, but from January through March, they are suddenly in full bloom. Where do they come from and what is the Village doing to fix them?

Potholes begin when water settles below the road surface, seeping through surface cracks or at the side of the road. This trapped, pooled water then freezes. The frozen water expands to form a bump under the road surface. Tires press down on this slightly raised surface, wearing away the integrity of the asphalt.

When there is a winter thaw, the ice bump melts and the road surface settles down into the space left by the melted ice.

This cycle repeats itself several times during the season as the trapped water freezes and thaws. Eventually, during a thaw, the road surface collapses into a bowl shape and an official pothole is formed.

The Public Works Department

works aggressively to repair potholes. When the roads are sufficiently clear of snow and ice, two crews per day work to fill potholes.

They use a high-quality product, UPM High-Performance Cold Mix, for winter road repair. The chemical nature of the mix allows it to be soft going into the pothole and then harden when it is compacted. As of mid-February, the Village had used 20 tons of the material at a cost of under \$2,000.

Safe travel on Village roads is a concern for everyone, especially during the winter. By following a few simple tips, we can all make Rockville Centre roads safer.

**SLOW DOWN.** Innocent-looking puddles can hide craters which can damage cars or cause drivers to lose control. Pedestrians, other drivers, and road repair crews will appreciate your caution.

Call in all potholes to the Public Works Department at 678-9267. There is no such thing as a pothole that is too small to report. Small potholes will only get larger as the winter progresses unless they are filled.

Be patient. The snow, ice, and potholes may seem to have the upper hand now, but the Village always wins by April.

## This Month In Rockville Centre

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

**Trustees**  
Mary Whalen Bossart  
Wayne H. Lipton  
Gregory F. Rinn  
James C. Sutton

For information concerning Village facilities, residents are invited to telephone Ronald J. Wasson, Village Administrator, Clerk-Treasurer, 678-9300

## Community News

### Misleading Solicitations

Rockville Centre residents who have received solicitations from private companies offering to challenge village tax assessments might want to know that village taxes have historically been less than 25 percent of a homeowner's tax bill.

Residents should also know that the Village has not adopted the revised Nassau County assessment rolls as the basis for village tax bills. The Village is still studying those rolls to determine their accuracy.

### Little League Parade

The Rockville Centre Little League's annual Opening Day Parade is Saturday, March 27 beginning at 12:15 P.M.

The marchers will step off from South Side Middle School, make their way to Maple Avenue and then head for Hickey Field and the first game of the season.

## 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 a "no solicitation" list. At the present time, you must renew your request annually.

To be included on the list, fill out the coupon and drop it off at Village Hall or mail it to P.O. Box 950, Rockville Centre, NY 11571. You may also e-mail your information 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 solic-

ited, the incident should be reported by calling 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: \_\_\_\_\_

## Melendez Named 'Cop of the Month'

Rockville Centre Police Officer Alberto Melendez was named "Cop of the Month" for his exemplary police work in apprehending two of the six suspects in the January 12 Concord Jewelers robbery.

Officer Melendez was one of the first on the scene after RVC police were alerted to an armed robbery in progress at the North Park Avenue store. Officer Melendez observed two males running northbound on Park enter a vehicle parked around the corner on Sunrise Highway in front of Radio Shack.

He blocked the vehicle with his patrol car and the suspects fled on foot through Municipal Parking Field #1.

During the foot pursuit, Officer Melendez was aided by off-duty New York City Police Det. Louis Franco who entered the parking lot from Morris Avenue in his vehicle.

When the suspects saw they were being pursued from



RVC Police Officer Alberto Melendez

two directions, they discarded a .40 caliber handgun and hopped the fence into the Long Island Blood Services property where they surrendered.

Officer Melendez was commended by Police Commissioner Jack McKeon for "diligence, dedication to duty, and highly professional conduct" for the arrests and for the recovery of the weapon and some of the proceeds of the robbery.

The Concord robbery was the third major jewelry case of Officer Melendez's career in Rockville Centre. In August 1992 he joined a pursuit and blocked a get-away vehicle when Sera Jewelers on Sunrise Highway was robbed and shots were fired.

In August 1997 Officer Melendez and Officer Elliott Vega trapped and arrested two armed robbers who had tied up the owner of Barka Jewelers across the street from Concord on Park Avenue.

## March at the Recreation Center

### 2004-05 Nursery School

Registrations are now being accepted for the RVC Recreation Center's nursery school programs for the 2004 - 2005 school year.

Pre-K classes for those entering kindergarten in September 2005 are offered five days a week from 9 to 11:30 A.M. or three days a week (Monday, Wednesday, Friday) from 12:15 to 2:45 P.M.

Pre-Pre-K for those entering kindergarten in September 2006 are offered four days a week (Monday through Thursday) from 9 to 11:30 A.M. or two days a week (Tuesday and Thursday) from 12:15 to 2:45 P.M.

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

### Summer Nursery School

Registration begins at 9 A.M. on Monday, March 1 for the summer 2004 nursery school program that runs from June 28 through August 6.

Pre-K classes for those entering kindergarten in September 2004 are offered five days a week from 9 to 11:30 A.M.

Pre-Pre-K for those entering kindergarten in September 2005 are offered four days a week (Monday

through Thursday) from 9 to 11:30 A.M.

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

### Spring Program Registration

The Rockville Centre Recreation Department Spring program schedule begins April 15. Mail-in

and in-person registration for programs listed in the annual brochure begins March 8. Non-resident registration begins March 22.

### Crafts Fair and Flea Market

The Recreation Department's Spring Crafts Fair and Flea Market is Sunday, March 28 from 9:30 A.M. to 4:30 P.M. There will be a large assortment of merchandise and plenty of free parking.

### Daffodil Days

The American Cancer Society's Daffodil Days benefit to remind us that hope blooms is scheduled for March 22 through 24. Last year more than 400,000



Register now for the summer and fall nursery school programs at the Rec Center.

daffodils brightened homes and offices in the New York area.

To participate in this year's drive, call Pat Southard at 678-9339 and place your order by March 4.

The daffodils are sold in bunches of 10 for \$7.

### Part-time Summer Job Applications

Applications are now being accepted for paid summer playground positions. Applicants must be at least 16. Applications for leader-in-training volunteer positions are also available for applicants who will be entering 9th grade in September 2004.