

April at the Recreation Center

NEW LOCATION!

Annual Easter Egg Hunt

The Village's annual Easter Egg Hunt is 9:30 A.M. on Saturday, April 3 at Veterans' Park for children through grade 4. Parking with free shuttle bus service will be available in Field #12 on Sunrise Highway between North Long Beach Road and Forest Avenue.

In case of inclement weather, the event will be held Sunday, April 4 at 2 P.M.

NEW LOCATION!

Spring Programs Begin

The Rockville Centre Recreation Department Spring program schedule begins April 15. Detailed flyers are available at the Rec Center for all activities.

Nursery School Openings

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

Morning or afternoon programs are offered for those entering kindergarten in September 2005 and 2006.

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

Summer Employment

There will be a limited number of openings for the Rec Center's summer seasonal staff. Applications are available at the Rec Center.

All candidates must be at least 16. Call 678-9339 for information.

Leaders in Training

Boys and girls in grades 9 through 11 may pick up applications for these volunteer positions.

Tennis Courts Opening

The Har-Tru courts adjacent to the Rec Center are scheduled to open the week of April 26.

Courts are available seven days a week from 8 A.M. until dark. All players must register and pay a fee.

Summer Playground Registration

Registration begins April 1 for the Rec Center's 50th Summer Playground Program, which runs June 29 through August 5 from 9 A.M. to Noon at three sites: The Rec Center, Wilson School, and Hewitt School. There is no program Monday, July 5.



The annual Easter Egg Hunt is in a new location this year: Veterans' Park behind the Rec Center on North Long Beach Road.

Daily activities include athletics, arts and crafts, recreational games and special events. The fee of \$230 per child includes membership card and trip shirt. There is a \$10 deduction for each additional child.

The program is open to all Rockville Centre residents and residents of the Rockville Centre School District in grades 1 through 6 as of September 2004.

A program for 7th and 8th graders will also be offered this year. Call 678-9339 or consult the detailed flyer for information.

Summer Sports Schools

Flyers are available for boys baseball, girls basketball, and boys and girls lacrosse schools during the summer 2004.

The 29th annual baseball school is open from June 28 to July 9 for boys



ages 6 to 14 from 9:30 A.M. to 1:30 P.M. at Barasch Field. The school is coordinated by Bob Hirschfield of New York Tech and costs \$275.

A Nike basketball camp for girls ages 8 to 17 is offered August 9 to 13 from 9 A.M. to 3 P.M. at the Rec Center. Fee is \$245.

A Nike lacrosse camp for girls ages 8 to 17 is 9 A.M. to 12 Noon July 12 to 16 at the Skelos Sports Complex on Peninsula Boulevard. Fee is TBA.

A Rec Center lacrosse camp for boys ages 8 to 17 is 9 A.M. to 12 Noon July 19 to 23 at the Skelos Sports Complex on Peninsula Boulevard. Fee is TBA.



This Month In Rockville Centre

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

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Dates & Events

Thursday, April 1, 8 P.M.
**PUBLIC HEARING
FY 2005 TENTATIVE BUDGET**

Wednesday, April 14, 8 P.M.
BOARD OF APPEALS

Monday, April 19, 8:15 P.M.
BOARD OF TRUSTEES

Tuesday, April 20, 7:30 P.M.
PLANNING BOARD

Wednesday, April 28, 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

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

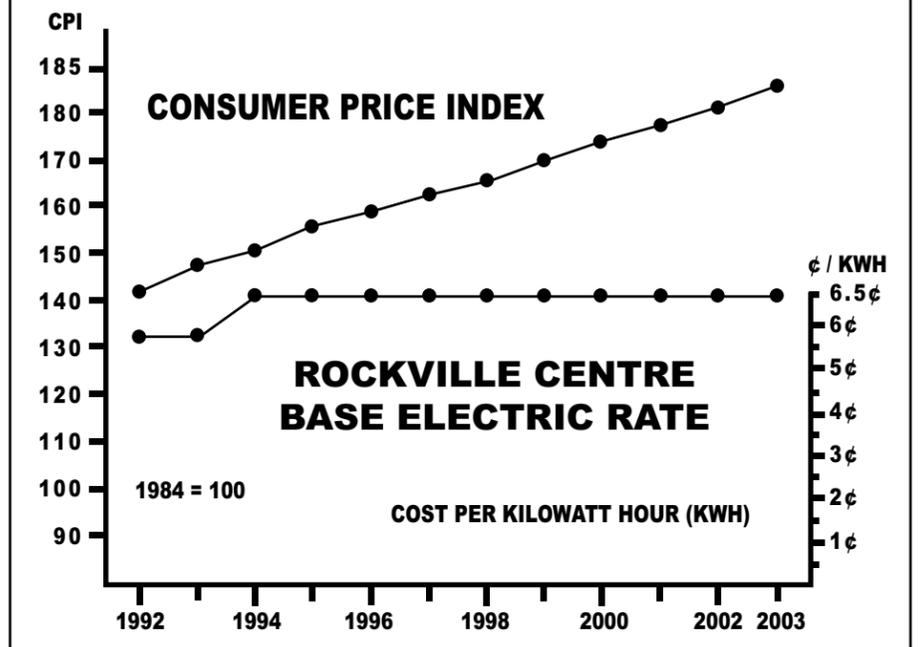
Nights & Weekends 766-5800

www.ci.rockville-centre.ny.us

This Month In Rockville Centre

APRIL 2004

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Rockville Centre's base electric rate has risen only once since 1992 while the Consumer Price Index has increased by approximately 30 percent.

New Electric Rates Could Come in June DPS Staff Agrees to First Increase Since 1994

The staff of the New York State Department of Public Service and the Village of Rockville Centre have jointly proposed a 12.8 percent increase in local electric rates that would be phased in beginning in June.

The joint proposal was presented to the Public Service Commission in March and a public hearing was held in Rockville Centre on March 24.

The joint proposal calls for a 10.6 percent increase in June 2004, followed by an additional \$400,000 increase that would be phased in as certain financial milestones are reached in the construction of the Village's new substation on Maple Avenue.

The overall increase, if it is approved by the PSC, would amount to about \$2.3 million per year. The

average customer would then pay about a penny more for a kilowatt hour of electricity. That is, it would cost about an extra tenth of a cent to operate a 100 watt light bulb for an hour, an extra penny after 10 hours.

The Village requested a rate increase last October to cover increases in operating expenses since 1994, when the last rate increase was phased in, and to fund a new \$5 million substation that will enhance the Village's ability to import power more cheaply than it can be generated at the Village power plant.

The substation project will also allow the Village to reconnect many of its distribution circuits onto single instead of multiple lines, improving the reliability of the system.



Village Hall Comments

By Deputy Mayor Wayne H. Lipton



Participate in Proposed Code Changes



Among its various duties, The RVC Board of Trustees is responsible for reviewing, updating and modifying the Village Zoning Codes. These regulations define what property owners can

construct on private property in an effort to maintain the character and quality of life in our Village.

When you are adding on to your home or looking to see what is allowed on your commercial property, you may feel that the code is too restrictive. Conversely, when others are exercising their rights to enjoy their property, you may think that the codes is not restrictive enough.

In order to allow appropriate changes, a zoning code sets the parameters, in some cases requiring extraordinary efforts before a project is approved.

As a village, we have been successful largely as a result of our zoning codes, not despite them. Recent changes have had significant, positive impacts on our community: the an 80-foot minimum front yard width, site-plan review for all large commercial projects, and the reduction of the maximum building height throughout all the business zones from 60 to 48 feet.

Following the recommendations of planners and consultants, the Village Board also decided unanimously to allow multi-family structures, with significant limitations, in some of the business and industrial zones, a move designed to encour-

age housing units for empty nesters and for our grown children who have difficulty moving back to Rockville Center. This change also makes sense because the availability of commuter transportation and other services complements housing in the business district.

Since most of our property is already developed, this change is expected to have a limited and gradual effect. Best of all, it helps promote a vital and thriving downtown, something that increases our home values. Too many other communities are suffering from downtown areas that are stagnant and empty.

The Village Board is about to propose changes that will limit dramatically the commercial growth in the Maple Avenue area. This will affect hundreds of property owners in what we believe is a positive and beneficial way.

Maximum heights will be lowered even further and some of the commercially zoned property will be returned to residential uses. This does not mean that buildings will have to change now (existing buildings are "grandfathered"), but it does set the rules for the future.

Village residents who participated in the Maple Avenue Task Force were extremely helpful in lobbying for this change and helping define it as well.

If you are interested in participating in discussions of the proposed changes, watch for announcements about the public hearings that will be held and let us know what you think. It is very important that those who have property on Maple Avenue take a look at these proposed changes. Notices will go out by mail and

Hearing April 1 on FY 2005 Proposed Budget

Residents are invited to comment on the tentative budget for fiscal year 2005 during a public hearing in Village Hall on Thursday, April 1 beginning at 8 P.M. The proposed budget totals \$29 million, up about \$1.3 million or 4.7 percent over last year.

Copies of the tentative budget are available for public inspection at Village Hall and will also be available at the hearing. The Board of Trustees must adopt a budget by May 1 and could do so after the public hearing on April 1 or at the next Board meeting on April 19.

The proposed budget calls for a 5.75 percent increase in the tax rate, up \$1.40 over last year to \$25.76 per \$100 of assessed valuation. The increase would add about \$108 to the tax bill for an average Rockville Centre home.

The proposed budget is developed by the Village department heads in conjunction with Village Administrator Ron Wasson. The budget is reviewed prior to the public hearing by the Citizens' Budget Advisory Committee, a group of residents with diversified business and financial experience.

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

announcements will be made in the Herald. We encourage participation by the public in all these hearings.

I encourage any resident who is interested in learning more about the Village government and how it is working for you to get your information right from the source: your Village government.

Call Village Hall and talk to the Mayor, the Trustees, our Village Administrator or speak to one of our department heads. We have one of the most accessible and open forms of government anywhere.

In Rockville Centre, you can also attend Village Board meetings and briefing sessions, as well as the meetings of the Zoning and Planning Boards. Every Village Board meeting agenda includes a "privilege of the floor" section during which residents can ask question and discuss issues.

For some people, any change is difficult. The challenge of good government is to keep a balance between the best of the past and the promise of the future. For many years, the changes in Rockville Center have been generally positive.

Our community has distinguished itself as the "Gem of the South Shore". I hope you will take a look at some of the changes that are being proposed so that together, we can keep our Gem shining.

Community News

Tax News

Homeowners are reminded to notify the Village Tax Office of any changes in the status of their mortgages, whether satisfying, refinancing, or when a mortgage is sold to another lending institution.

The Tax Office is located on the second floor of Village Hall, One College Place at Clinton Avenue, and is open from 9 A.M. to 3 P.M.

Village taxes are due June 1 and December 1.

Community News

Trash Items

Residents are reminded that the weight of any garbage receptacles placed on the curbstrip for pick-up may not exceed 50 pounds. Heavier receptacles are a hazard to workers and violate Village Code.

Some stores in the area are selling supersized trash containers with hinged covers whose filled weight far exceeds 50 pounds. The Village will issue warnings for the repeated overfilling of such containers before issuing violations.

Village code also provides that trash not be placed on the curb earlier than one hour before sunset on the day prior to pick-up and that the empty containers must be removed from the curb area no later than 6 P.M. on the day of pick-up.

The Village requests that plastic bags used for trash be black and of sufficient strength to hold the refuse.

Dogs in the Village

Dog owners are reminded that Village Code requires that dogs be licensed, that they be restrained on a leash no longer than six feet when in any public place, and that they are permitted to defecate only in the street between the curblines.

Owners are responsible for cleaning up after their animals immediately and may not allow them to defecate in any other place than the street.

Owners are also responsible for seeing that their dogs do not disturb the peace by howling, barking, or whining and are also responsible for any injury or damage caused by their animals.

Licenses are available at Village Hall; \$12.50 for spayed dogs and \$17.50 for unspayed.

Violations of these provisions of the Village Code are punishable by a fine of up to \$250, imprisonment of up to 15 days, or both for each offense.

Transfer Station Reopening

The Village Transfer Station resumes service Saturday, April 3 from 10 A.M. to 2 P.M.

April Events at the Sandel Center

Special Events

The annual Passover Luncheon is Wednesday, April 7 at 12 Noon. A traditional Seder meal is \$5.

The annual Easter Luncheon is Wednesday, April 14 at 12 Noon. A delicious meal and an afternoon of fun is \$5.

An Italian Luncheon is Friday, April 16 at 1 P.M. hosted by the Sandel Senior Men's Club. Music, food and Italian flavored fun for \$5 per person.

A Flea Market to help support Senior Services is Saturday, April 24 from 11 A.M. to 2 P.M.

The Intergenerational Sharing Conference is April 30 at South Side High School from 10 A.M. to 2:15 P.M. Admission is a dessert to share. Registration is necessary.

Arts and Leisure Activities

Monthly duplicate bridge games with Marie Fiorillo continue on two Sunday, April 4 & 25 at 1 P.M. \$5 or \$7 per session. Register by calling 678-9245. A partner is not required.

The Sunday Book Club meets on April 4 at 3 P.M. in RVC Library with volunteer coordinator Barbara Petrilli to discuss *Bel Canto* by Ann Patchett.

Sandel Sunday on April 18 from 2-4 P.M. features "New York City In Art," a presentation of the Metropolitan Museum of Art. Admission is free.

The Book Club meets Wednesday, April 28 at 2 P.M. with Ellen Berman of the RVC Public Library to discuss *Catering to Nobody* by Diane Mott Davidson.

Spring Recess Trips & Events

Monday, April 5

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

Tuesday, April 6

Spring Craft Activity for grades K to 4: 10:30 to 11:45 A.M. or 12:15 to 1:30 P.M. Fee is \$7. Pre-register by Friday, April 2

Wednesday, April 7, 12 Noon - 5 P.M.

Trip to Adventureland in Farmingdale for grades 2 and up. Fee of \$22 includes three hours of unlimited rides and transportation, but not lunch.

Thursday, April 8, 12:30 - 4:30 P.M.

Trip to Fun Zone in Farmingdale for grades 1 and up. Fee of \$20 includes 35 game tokens, unlimited rides, and transportation.

Friday, April 9, 10 - 11:15 A.M.

Egg Coloring Contest for grades K to 5. Fee is \$2. Bring four hard-boiled eggs. Pre-registration required.

Monday, April 12

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



Tuesday, April 13, 10 A.M.

Annual Spring Pet Show. Ribbons awarded in various categories. No fee, but pre-registration required.

Tuesday, April 13, 2:15 - 5:45 P.M.

Ice Skating Trip to the Long Beach Arena for grades 1 through 8. \$10 includes skate rental and transportation.

Wednesday, April 14
Spring Training Sports Day includes A-rod's Alligator Pit, Hammerin' Hank's Homerun Derby, and Ball Park Bingo. Grades K & 1: 10:30 A.M. to 12 Noon or 2:30 - 4 P.M.; grades 3 - 5: 10:30 A.M. to 12 Noon or 12:30 to 2 P.M. Fee \$8.

Trip participants must be registered members of the RVC Parks and Recreation Department for the 2003-2004 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. Registration is accepted on a first-come, first-served basis.