

## The State of the Village

*Continued from page 1*

Power Authority. We have had only one rate increase since 1994 and that was used in part to help pay for a planned \$7 million upgrade to our power system that is necessary to insure an adequate supply of electricity into the foreseeable future.

- Our on-going street repair program is another example of the stewardship of our infrastructure that has become routine since I became mayor. Over the past 20 years, we have repaved more than 33 miles of our 52 miles of roadway.

In 2006 we paved almost two and a half miles on 15 streets. During 2007, we plan to repave almost four miles of roadway on five of the Village's major north-south routes: Forest Avenue, Brower Avenue, Burris Avenue, Morris Avenue and South Centre Avenue.

- The program to replace the water mains below our roadways is only the final phase in the improvement of our entire water system. During my 20 years as mayor, we have improved and upgraded every aspect of that system, following the first of our utility master plans.

We have replaced and refurbished our water storage tanks, improved our wells and installed an iron filtration plant that has removed rusty water from our system.

- Another area where the Village has adapted and upgraded itself while I have been mayor is Information Technology, a department that didn't even exist 20 years ago.

Our computers now link administration, management, and operations, and provide easy access to data bases for records such as licenses and permits, for payroll and other accounts, and for utility and tax bills.

Besides our computer network, our IT department also operates the Village's television station which provides announcements and cablecasts of board meetings. And it operates the Village Website, which post meeting agendas, proposed legislation, and the complete Village Code, among other items.

The department has also put into service a "reverse-911" community notification system that uses the telephone to alert residents to emergencies or other important information.

- Our Department of Public Works has for 20 years continued its quiet and efficient work so residents never have to think twice about trash pick-up or worry about when the snow will be plowed.

Last year, the DPW installed radiation detectors at its transfer station on Sunrise Highway to isolate any "hot" loads that can

be present in trash collected from homes and medical office buildings.

- The Parks and Recreation department has seen a remarkable expansion in the last 20 years.

• The department continues to be one of the most popular in our Village. Each year more and more residents of all ages come to our annual special events or they participate in our recreational opportunities.

- And during these 20 years, we have expanded the Recreation Center itself and refurbished the interior and exterior.

- We have renovated the Martin Luther King, Jr. Community Center.

- We have installed new lighting and irrigation systems at Barasch and Petre fields; new ball fields at Bligh and Ketter; a new soccer field at Mill River.

- The Village Green was refurbished and fitted with automatic irrigation.

- And our crowning achievement was the park swap with New York State that traded Donald F. Browne park for the land that in 2003 became the Skelos Sports Complex on Peninsula Boulevard.

- In 2005 our "field of dreams" was substantially improved by the addition of two NCAA Class I sports fields made of artificial "field turf."

- It was 20 years ago that our programs for seniors were organized into a Senior Services Department. Today the department addresses the multiple needs of the 6,000 older adults that reside in Rockville Centre and their families.

This year the Center is celebrating its 30<sup>th</sup> anniversary after becoming the first senior facility on Long Island accredited by the National Institute of Senior Centers, a unit of the National Council on Aging in 2003.

- Finally, I would like to mention the Village budget. Despite huge increases in our health insurance and pension premiums, Rockville Centre has been able to balance its budget without steep tax increases.

Our high credit rating, our low taxes, our low utility rates, and our efficient administration continue to attract new businesses and new development and to produce higher home values.

- As proud as I am of our accomplishments, nothing in my 20 years has made me prouder than establishing the Rockville Centre Community Fund back in 1987.

In those 20 years residents, businesses, civic, educational and sports organizations have contributed almost \$2 million to the Fund which aids Rockville Centre residents exclusively.

Our community was most generous in the aftermath of the 9/11 attacks when we created the We Care RVC Fund within the Community Fund to help the families of the 36 community members who died on that day.

And as a direct outgrowth of that effort, the Rockville Centre community raised funds to build the beautiful and moving 9/11 memorial on our Village Green.

- I am proud of our work during these last 20 years on behalf of the Rockville Centre community.

My wish for the future is that Village government may continue to operate conscientiously and professionally, without regard to political advantage or individual favoritism, as it has for the past 20 years.



## This Month in Rockville Centre

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

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### Dates & Events

Wednesday, February 7, 8 P.M.  
**BOARD OF APPEALS**

Monday, February 12, 8:15 P.M.  
**BOARD OF TRUSTEES**

Tuesday, February 13, 7:30 P.M.  
**PLANNING BOARD**

Monday, February 19  
**PRESIDENTS' DAY**  
Village Offices Closed

Events are at Village Hall unless otherwise indicated.

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

A complete Calendar of Events, is available on the Village's website  
[www.rvcny.us](http://www.rvcny.us)

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# This Month in Rockville Centre

FEBRUARY, 2007

VOL. 56, NO. 1

## Mayor Eugene Murray's 2007 State of the Village Address

This is my 20<sup>th</sup> State of the Village Address.

During all that time, serving with 16 different trustees on 11 different Boards of Trustees, the Village of Rockville Centre has improved itself and prospered like no other village anywhere.



In Rockville Centre, we enjoy a rare control over our own municipal destiny and I am proud to say that over my 20 years, our boards and trustees have used that control wisely to benefit our village, its residents and businesses.

Newer residents, who have not seen these developments over the past 20 years, may imagine that Rockville Centre has always enjoyed its prosperity, that its success was not the result of our careful planning, our willingness to study our problems and then to make good decisions on behalf of our whole community.

As we enter a new year, I would like to remind us of what we have accomplished, both during the past year and in the past 20 years.

- Rockville Centre residents should be very proud of their police department. Rockville Centre is a safe community and our crime rate is low. In 2005 we had the lowest recorded crime rate in our history, 30 percent below what it was in my first full year in office almost 20 years ago. And this excellent record is even more significant because we are the third busiest of the 23 local departments in Nassau County.

Last year the number of crimes reported rose somewhat after declining for

eight straight years, but most categories of crime remain at historic lows and we remain far below the average crime rate for the past 20 years.

Nevertheless, we have decided to increase the size of our police force to give us more flexibility in staffing so we will be able to concentrate our enforcement efforts as our needs change.

- Our residents are also kept safe through the efforts of the Rockville Centre Fire Department.

The department is staffed by about 320 volunteers, making it the largest all-volunteer department on Long Island. It is also one of the three most cost-efficient and has one of the fastest response times, according to a recent Newsday study.

Over the years I have been mayor, we have continually upgraded our fire department's equipment and vehicles. This year we are continuing to study the best ways to upgrade the Village's five fire houses.

- Village residents can rely on Rockville Centre not only for their basic police, emergency, and fire protection needs, but for basic services and utilities as well.

- Our yearly electric consumption has grown by almost 30 percent since 1988, but we have never lacked for power. Our peak summer power demand had grown by more than one-third since 1988, but we have not suffered blackouts from an inadequate supply of electricity.

And our system reliability comes with electric rates 30 to 40 percent lower than customers serviced by the Long Island

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The full text of Mayor Murray's State of the Village address may be found online at [www.rvcny.us](http://www.rvcny.us).



# Village Hall Comments

## By Trustee Suzanne Murphy Sullivan

### At Home in Rockville Centre



“They all come home to Rockville Centre.” I heard somebody say this once and I have come to realize how true this statement is. It is no secret that this Village is home to many who grew up here and chose to raise their own families here.

Why do we? Yes, we have excellent schools, beautiful homes, wonderful services – but so do many other towns and villages throughout the country. What makes Rockville Centre so special? Why do generations stay here and new people come? I believe that it's because of our sense of community.

We look out for each other – we celebrate our successes together and we come together and mourn our losses.

When our neighbor is in need, we want to assist in any way we can. We see evidence of this every day, but I can think of no better example than the Rockville Centre Community Fund or, as most people know it, “The Mayor’s Fund”.

This fund, created by Mayor Murray, directly helps those in our community who need assistance. While campaigning, I was asked what I thought of the Mayor’s Fund and my honest response was the Mayor has done many wonderful things for our Village and in my opinion, one of the best by far was the creation and administration of the Community Fund. I also firmly believe that the fund should be re-named for Mayor Murray. The Mayor’s compassion and service are shining examples of what makes the residents of Rockville Centre so unique.

Throughout our Village, people donate their time and talents to make our community stronger. At our children’s schools, houses of worship,

local hospitals, firehouses, youth teams, nursing homes – everywhere we go, we are surrounded by those who serve and we are better for their service.

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It is my privilege to serve the Village of Rockville Centre with my fellow Board members. Each one is an intelligent, passionate individual who wants nothing but the best for the community we all love and I have learned much from each of them. I do not always agree with every member on any particular issue, but that is to be expected in the spirit of debate.

I will say that even in our disagreements, I have been treated in nothing less than a professional, respectful manner by my fellow Board members and I believe I have shown them all the same courtesy. Despite comments to the contrary, the Board is working together and getting things accomplished.

For example, in the past six months, the Board has unanimously voted to: (1) adopt Rules of Procedure for the Board of Trustees; (2) increase the threshold for exterior design review to \$200,000 in order to alleviate some of the burdens that homeowners undertake when they renovate their homes; (3) increase the income levels for real property tax exemptions; (4) regulate the use of permitted real estate signs; (5) establish regulations for temporary storage containers; (6) conduct an audit of the Building Department to determine how best to serve the residents of Rockville Centre; (7) stop the policy of leaving “blank checks” at the Building Department when applying for a building permit; (8) establish a Beautification Committee to plan and implement beautification projects throughout the Village; and (9) open up government by taping and airing the meetings of the Planning and Zoning Boards.

But it doesn’t end there. We are listening to the residents and are

## This Month In Rockville Centre

Published by the Village of Rockville Centre

Eugene J. Murray, Mayor

Trustees

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Andrew P. Karamouras

Suzanne Murphy Sullivan

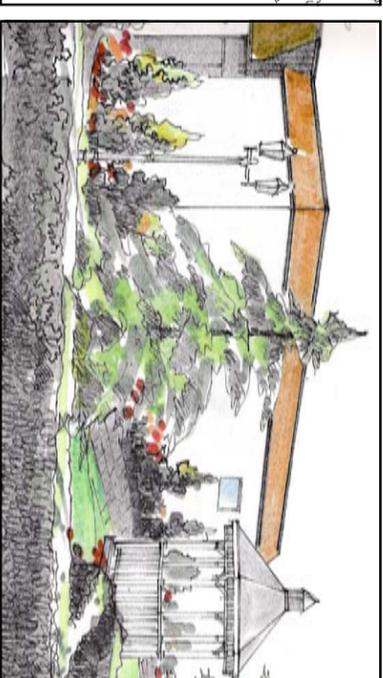
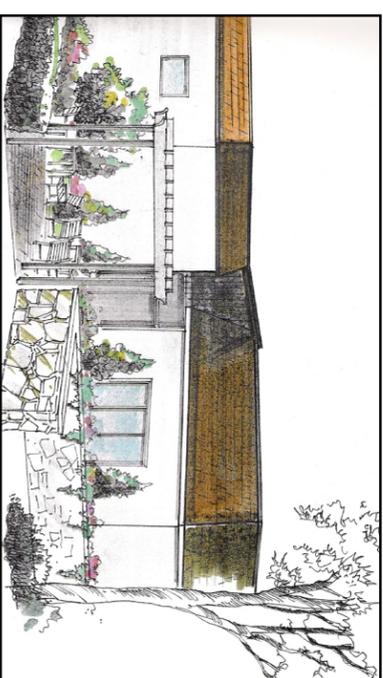
For information concerning Village facilities, residents are invited to telephone Michael Schussheim, acting Village Administrator, Clerk-Treasurer, 678-9300

working with the department heads to address their concerns. Through the hard work of Commissioner Jack McKeon and Acting Administrator/Comptroller Michael Schussheim, we will be hiring additional police officers in the near future. And working with Tony Brunetta, the Superintendent of Parks and Recreation, they are developing a park ranger program to keep our parks safe and clean.

The Fire Council has asked the Board to enact legislation to prohibit truss construction in new residential and commercial buildings as well as prohibiting basement night clubs, bars and restaurants. We take the concerns and suggestions of our Fire Department seriously and will work together to do everything in our power to protect the safety of our residents and first responders.

Harry Weed, our DPW Superintendent has done extensive research on how best to address the conditions of our roads. His recommendations include adopting the Cornell Road Surface Management System to use computer programs to objectively determine the conditions of our streets and which are most in need of repair. Another recommendation so that repairs can be done “in-house” in a more timely and cost-effective manner.

These are just a few of the issues that we will be addressing in the months to come. You can be assured that your Village Board is working together for the good of our community to ensure that our children continue to come home to Rockville Centre.



## Help Grow the Garden Park

Something new is blooming at the Sandel Center – the 30<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Garden Park. It will feature a gazebo and a waterfall in a beautifully landscaped setting. On this Valentine’s Day, show your love for a special someone. Make that special name a permanent part of the Park by donating one of the following engraved Garden items:

- Paving Stones: \$300 (2 for \$500)
- Bench: \$1200\*
- Pergola \$3,000\*
- Gazebo: \$9,000\*

\* This item may be shared among multiple donors. Please contact the Sandel Center at 678-9350 for details.

All contributions are tax-deductible. Please make checks payable to:

FOSSI, Friends of Senior Services, Inc.

Mail to: Sandel Center P.O. Box 950 RVC, New York 11571

## February at the Recreation Center

### Winter Recess Events

**Monday, February 19**  
**Presidents’ Day Relays** for grades K - 5 from 10:30 to 11:45 A.M.; grades K - 3 from 12:30 to 1:45 P.M. Fee \$3.

**Tuesday, February 20**  
**Trip to Fun Zone** in Farmingdale for grades 1 – 8. Fee of \$23 includes 35 game tokens, unlimited rides, and transportation. 12:30 - 4:15 P.M.

**Cup-Stacking** activity for grades K – 8 from 10:30 to 11:45 A.M. Fee \$3.

**Wednesday, February 21**  
**Honest Abe Sports Day** game and sports activities for grades K – 5 from 10:30 A.M. to 12 Noon; grades K – 3 from 2:30 – 4 P.M. Juice after gym time. Fee \$9.

**Wednesday, February 21**  
**Ice Skating Trip** to Freeport arena for grades 1 – 8 from 1 to 3:30 P.M. Fee \$12, includes skate rental and transportation. Wear warm clothing, socks and gloves.

**Thursday, February 22**  
**February Craft Activity** for grades K – 5 from 10 to 11:15 A.M.–or 11:45 A.M. to 1 P.M. Fee \$7.

Name: \_\_\_\_\_  
Address: \_\_\_\_\_  
City: \_\_\_\_\_ State: \_\_\_\_\_ Zip: \_\_\_\_\_  
Phone: \_\_\_\_\_

**Thursday, February 22, 2 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 February 17. Fee \$2.

**Friday, February 23**  
**Bowling at RVC Lanes** Bowling for grades 1 & 2 from 12 Noon to 2:30 P.M.; for grades 3 to 8, 12:30 to 3 P.M. Fee \$12.

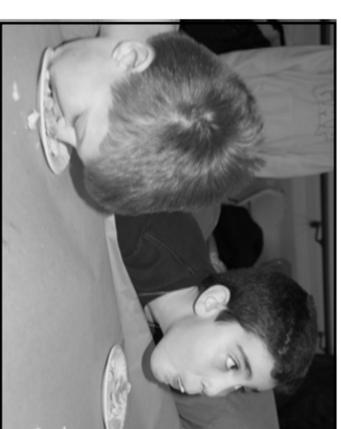
All trip and activity participants must be registered members of the RVC Parks and Recreation Department for the 2006-07 year.

### Middle School Dances

The Recreation Department middle school dance for 7<sup>th</sup> and 8<sup>th</sup> graders is Friday, February 9 from 7:30 to 10 P.M. Participants must live in Rockville Centre or attend Rockville Centre schools. A school ID is required for admission.

### Nursery School Registration

Registrations are now being accepted for the RVC Recreation Center’s nursery school programs for the 2007 - 2008 school year.



**Messy fun is part of the Annual Pie-Eating Contest Thursday, February 22 at 2 P.M. for grades 1 to 6. Register before February 17.**

Pre-K classes for those entering kindergarten in September 2008 are offered five days a week from 9 to 11:30 A.M. or Monday, Wednesday, Friday from 12:15 to 2:45 P.M.

Pre-Pre-K for those entering kindergarten in September 2009 are offered Monday through Thursday from 9 to 11:30 A.M. or 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.