



THIS MONTH in Rockville Centre

February 2008
Vol. 57., No. 1

Dates & Events

Monday, February 4, 8:15 P.M.
BOARD OF TRUSTEES

Wednesday, February 6, 8 P.M.
BOARD OF APPEALS

Tuesday, February 12, 7 P.M.
PLANNING BOARD

Monday, February 18
PRESIDENTS' DAY
Village Offices Closed

Events are at Village Hall
unless otherwise indicated.

Emergency Numbers

Fire 911

Police 911

Ambulance 911

Electric 766-5800

Water 678-9252

Nights & Weekends
766-5800

Board of Trustees and
Zoning Board meetings
are shown on Channel 18.
A cablecast schedule and
a complete Calender of
Events are available on the
Village's website
www.rvcny.us

2008 State of the Village Address

Good evening.
I am proud to
be delivering
my first State of the
Village address
tonight and I am
happy to report, as
Mayor Murray was
able to report for
20 years before me,
that the Village of
Rockville Centre
remains a great place
to live and raise a
family.

We continue to
enjoy high property
values, superb
municipal services,
low utility rates, and
a sense of community that is difficult to
find these days.

And I am especially proud tonight
to report that since last July, the Board
of Trustees has been working on the
major challenges confronting the
Village:

- We have closed a troublesome nightclub that disturbed public order and required extensive police oversight.
- We have passed a public nuisance law, outlining procedures that will make it easier for us in the future to move against such establishments, should any operate in a similar fashion.
- We have passed a number of local laws: repealing provisions of the multi-family law; tightening density restrictions on new dwelling units; prohibiting the consumption of alcohol by minors in private homes and holding property owners responsible if such drinking occurs; and providing property tax exemptions for Gold Star parents who have lost a child on military duty.

We have worked cooperatively on a



**By Mayor
Mary Whalen Bossart**

*Mayor Bossart delivered her address at the
January 14 Board of Trustees meeting.*

number of other
initiatives:

- We now have curbside recycling for both plastics and corrugated cardboard.
- We have completed our appointments to the Environmental and Beautification Committee and supported the committee's Clean-up Day.
- We have appointed a new superintendent

of the Building Department, the very experienced Dan Casella.

- We have appointed a new Village Administrator, the highly qualified Frank Quigley, a former bureau chief in the Nassau County District Attorney's Office and a Rockville Centre native.
- We hope soon to appoint a permanent Village Attorney.



The trustees and I are proud of the work of our many departments, of our excellent managers, and of our dedicated workers, as evidenced by the low crime rate provided by our New York State accredited police department; the quick and professional emergency response of our volunteer fire department; our continuing street repair program; our electric substation project that will secure our power supply well into the future; our parks, our recreation programs, and our senior services that provide so much enjoyment to residents of all ages.

While the past six months have been

Continued on page 2



2008 State of the Village Address

Continued from page 1

very productive, we have also come to recognize that we have major challenges on the horizon:

We cannot escape from the general slowing of the economy. Our revenues are down; the taxes we collect from building projects and the sale of property and even from the recreation center programs have fallen off.

At the same time, we have new expenses to consider: as a Village we have come to expect increases in health insurance premiums and pension contributions that, as a society, we are all well aware of; but we also need to keep our police force at its full complement; we need to address our emergency services coverage; we need to rehabilitate our firehouses; we need to maintain our infrastructure, especially to continue our roadway program which costs millions of dollars a year, and to refurbish and repaint the Maple Avenue water tower which will cost more than \$1.5 million. In addition, we need to prepare for the expiration of our current sanitation agreement with the Town of Hempstead in 2009.

The Village is preparing for these challenges, but residents need to know that next year's budget is likely to include a higher than usual tax increase and that water rates will have to be increased this year as well.

The first step, of course, is for the Village

to economize internally. We will work to reduce expenses. The Electric Department is working on conservation plans and initiatives for both our residential and commercial sectors that we hope to have ready this spring.

We have also alerted our departments to help support our downtown business community because they are an important part of Village life. We provided free weekend parking during December to encourage holiday shopping and are looking for other ways to support our restaurants and retailers.

At the same time, we are taking a more aggressive approach to seeking grant opportunities of all kinds, such as those that have helped our police department to acquire equipment like its thermal-eye camera and its license plate reader and to fund security training programs and enforcement initiatives like the ones for seatbelts and drunk driving.

Every time has its challenges. These fiscal realities are ours and the trustees and I are committed to meeting them. With our new Village Administrator, we are mobilizing our departments and managers to do so. We pledge to use our skills and our best judgment to choose policies and to make decisions that maintain our quality of life and preserve the residential character of our Village, as Rockville Centre progresses into its second century.

Thank you.



Concert at Cathedral

The South Shore Symphony's annual collaboration with the St. Agnes Musical Director Michael Bower on the Cathedral organ is Wednesday, February 13 at 7:30 P.M. Mr. Bower will perform on the organ in the *Toccata Festiva for Organ and Orchestra* by Samuel Barber. Suggested donation \$15 at the door. No reserved tickets for this event.

Regulations on Storage Containers

The Village Board of Trustees adopted regulations in 2006 governing the use of temporary storage containers, or "pods" as they are sometimes called, in residential areas. All such containers require a permit from the Rockville Centre Building Department at 110 Maple Avenue. Limitations on the use of temporary storage containers include the following: only one container is allowed on a property at a time; the footprint of the container may not exceed 120 square feet;



Women of Distinction Honored

Mayor Mary Whalen Bossart and the Director of Senior Services Cyd Beth Charrow, D.S.W., were honored in December as Women of Distinction by Assemblyman Bob Barra at a ceremony at the Sandel Center. Both were praised for their contributions to the Rockville Centre community.

THIS MONTH in Rockville Centre

Published by the Village of Rockville Centre

Mayor

Mary Whalen Bossart

Trustees

Jeanne Farnan Mulry
Andrew P. Karamouzis
Charles R. Joyce
David A. Krasula

Village Administrator

Francis D. Quigley, Jr.
678-9300

its height may not exceed 8 feet; it must be set back at least 5 feet from all structures and property lines if placed in a back yard and at least 10 feet from the front property line; permits may be granted for no more than 60 days and may be extend for no more than 30 days.

A Building Department inspector has discretion whether or not to grant or extend such a permit, which is also subject to revocation. The regulations require that the inspector, before granting a permit, must consider the rights and interests of adjoining property owners and must see that occupants of adjoining properties are not deprived of light, air or the reasonable use of their property.

Containers must be removed from the property no later than the expiration date of the permit.

For further information, contact the Building Department at 678-9247.

Beautification Committee

The Environmental and Beautification Committee is planning spring clean-up and planting days and is looking to establish a parks conservancy to raise funds.

Contact the committee through the Village's website www.rvcny.us.

Last spring the committee recommended increased traffic enforcement on Sunrise Highway. Rockville Centre police reported recently that 1,214 tickets have been issued on Sunrise since last June, 157 for speeding.



Three New Officers for Rockville Centre Police

The Rockville Centre Police Department hired three new officers who were introduced by **Police Commissioner Jack McKeon** and sworn in by **Mayor Bossart** at the January Board of Trustees meeting: **Stephen Reidy**, 31, is a graduate of C.W. Post; **Evan Siar**, 28, a graduate of SUNY Cortland, is a five-year veteran of the New York City Police Department where he received a Cop of the Month Award; and **Matthew Vickery**, 25, is a three-year veteran of the NYCPD. Matthew Vickery and his father **Mike Vickery** become the third father-son combination in the 115-year history of the Rockville Centre Police Department.

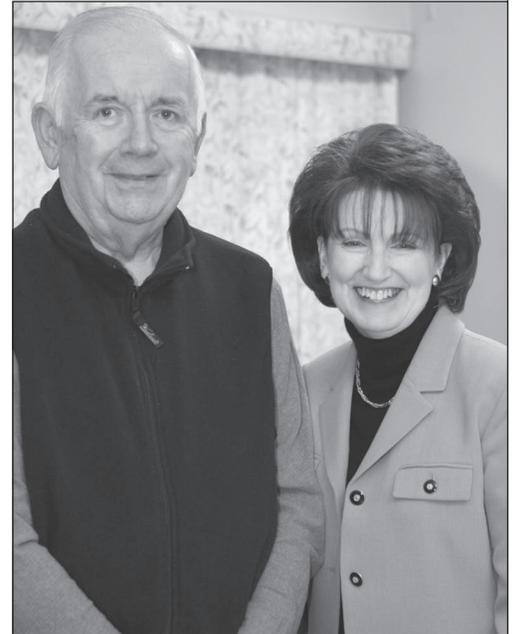


THE SANDEL CENTER

Certificate Series

Registration is now taking place for the Sandel Certificate Series of courses on a variety of subjects taught by professional instructors. Tuition is free to Rockville Centre residents over 60. For information, pre-registration and class descriptions, call the Sandel Center at 678-9350.

- **Life Coaching for Older Adults** is taught by **Cyd Charrow, D.S.W.**, on three Mondays in February from 3 to 4 P.M.
- **Images of Aging in Literature** is taught by **Catherine Puccarelli** on five Wednesdays in February and March from 3 to 4 P.M.
- **Government and Law Series** is taught by **Judge Frank Yannelli** and guest instructors including **RVC Village Administrator Frank Quigley** on five Wednesdays in March and April from 3 to 4 P.M.
- **New York and the Civil War** is taught by **Robin Heaney** on five Thursdays in May and June from 3 to 4 P.M.



William Devlin Honored

The Rockville Centre Housing Authority recently honored **William Devlin** for his 15 years of service as a commissioner on the Housing Authority Board. **Mayor Mary Whalen Bossart** was on hand for the presentation. Devlin was the chairman of the Board from 2003 to 2007 and during his tenure he also served as the Board secretary and vice chairman.



THE ANDERSON RECREATION CENTER

Spring Program Registration

Mail-in and in-person registration for residents begins February 11; non-residents may register after February 25. Programs begin the week of March 24. Refer to the recreation brochure or call 678-9338 or 9339.

Winter Recess Events

Monday, February 18

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 \$4.

Tuesday, February 19

Craft Activity for grades K - 5 from 10 to 11:15 A.M. or 11:45 A.M. to 1 P.M. Fee \$8.

Tuesday, February 19, 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.

Wednesday, February 20

Honest Abe Sports Day game and sports activities for grades K - 5 from 10:30 A.M. to 12 Noon; grades K - 3 from 12:30 - 2 P.M. Juice and pizza after the alligator pit, soccer and other games. Fee \$10.



The Alligator Pit is a popular competition on Sports Day, February 20.

Wednesday, February 20

Ice Skating Trip to Freeport arena for grades 1 - 8 from 2:45 to 5:15 P.M. Fee \$12, includes skate rental and transportation. Children must wear warm clothing, socks and gloves.

Thursday, February 21

Speedstacking competition, the new international sport, for grades K - 8 from 10:30 to 11:45 A.M. Fee \$4.

Thursday, February 21

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

Friday, February 22

Bowling at RVC Lanes Bumper 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 2007-2008 year. To register, a parental permission slip and the appropriate fee must be submitted PRIOR to the day of the event.

Recess Gym and Game Schedule

Monday, February 18 through Saturday, February 23. For grades 4 and up from 12:30 to 4:30 P.M.; for grades 6 and up: 7:30 - 10:15 P.M.



The Annual Pie-Eating Contest is February 19. Register before February 17.

Middle School Dances

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

Nursery School Registration

Registrations are now being accepted for the nursery school programs for the 2008 - 2009 school year.

Pre-K classes for those entering kindergarten in September 2009 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 2010 are offered Monday through Thursday from 9 to 11:30 A.M. or Tuesday and Thursday from 12:15 to 2:45 P.M.

THIS MONTH in Rockville Centre

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

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