



THE ANDERSON RECREATION CENTER

Crafts Fair and Flea Market

Shop for holiday gifts and decorations on Sunday, December 6 from 9:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. Vendors feature jewelry, floral arrangements, ornaments, crafts and edibles. Free admission and parking.

North Pole Calling

Children in kindergarten through 2nd grade can speak directly to Santa again this year. To receive a call on Tuesday, December 8 or Wednesday, December 9, fill out an information sheet at the Rec Center.

Breakfast with Santa's Helpers

The annual breakfast on Sunday, December 13 is one of the Rec Center's most popular events. All faiths are invited to join the elves who serve pancakes, cereal, juice, milk, rolls and bagels. After eating Vixen's Fixin's, kids may visit Santa or have a picture taken with Rudolph and Frosty.

Deadline for tickets is Friday, December 11 for one of three seatings at 9:15, 10:30 or 11:30 a.m. Fee is \$5 per person and tickets are available at the Rec Center.

Chanukah Party

Children from pre-kindergarten through 2nd grade of all faiths are

invited to the annual party sponsored by the National Council of Jewish Women and the Rec Center on Monday, December 14 from 5 to 6:30 p.m.

There will be crafts, face painting, gifts, snacks and Chanukah music. Children are encouraged to donate a small, unwrapped gift.

Annual Mitten and Hat Tree

The Rockville Centre Parks and Recreation Department is again requesting residents to share their warm holiday feelings with those less fortunate by donating new hats and mittens of all sizes and colors beginning December 3.

The donations will be hung on the Mitten and Hat Tree in the Rec Center lounge.

Nursery School Sign-up

Registration is now being accepted for the 2010-2011 school year. Call 678-9238 for an appointment to visit. Tuition remains at 2009 prices.



Bring the whole family to Breakfast with Santa's Helpers on December 13.

Food Donations Needed

The Rec Center is accepting donations of canned and dry goods as well as frozen turkeys for distribution to the needy in our community. Bring your donations Monday through Saturday from 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. by December 16.

Special Play Days

Connor and Friends playtime activities for special needs children, including autism and Down Syndrome, are one Sunday a month from 2:30 to 4 p.m. The program is staffed by trained recreation personnel to provide a fun and safe activity environment. Reserve play days with Paul Lawless at MPLawless@verizon.net.

The winter program season begins the week of January 4, 2010.

THIS MONTH in Rockville Centre

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

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Permit No. 50



Join your neighbors on the Village Green for the Annual Christmas Tree Lighting on Thursday, December 10 at 7:30 p.m.



THIS MONTH in Rockville Centre

December 2009

Vol. 58., No. 8

Dates & Events

Wednesday, December 9, 8 P.M.

BOARD OF APPEALS

Thursday, December 10, 7:30 P.M.

CHRISTMAS TREE LIGHTING

Village Green,
Maple and Lee avenues

Tuesday, December 15, 7:30 P.M.

PLANNING BOARD

Tuesday, December 15, 8:15 P.M.

BOARD OF TRUSTEES

Wednesday, December 16, 6:15 P.M.

COMMUNITY MENORAH LIGHTING

Temple B'nai Sholom
Lakeview & Hempstead avenues

Friday, December 25

CHRISTMAS DAY

Village Offices Closed

Friday, January 1

NEW YEAR'S DAY

Village Offices Closed

Monday, January 4, 8:15 P.M.

BOARD OF TRUSTEES

Wednesday, January 6, 8 P.M.

BOARD OF APPEALS

Monday, January 18

MARTIN LUTHER KING, JR. DAY

Village Offices Closed

Wednesday, January 20, 8 P.M.

BOARD OF APPEALS

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

Sandel Center Re-accredited

Rockville Centre's Sandel Senior Center, the first senior facility on Long Island accredited by the National Institute of Senior Centers, a unit of the National Council on Aging, has had its accreditation renewed for another five years. The Center was initially accredited in 2004.

"We're absolutely thrilled by this validation of our programs," said Dr. Cyd Charrow, D.S.W., the Village's Director of Senior Services. "Thanks go to the Village and the community for supporting our department and to the Blue Ribbon Committee that directed the re-accreditation process," she said.

During that process, the committee collected and studied demographic and attitudinal information to project the needs of both the Center and the Department of Senior Services, reviewed their missions, policies, programs and operations, and set goals for the future.

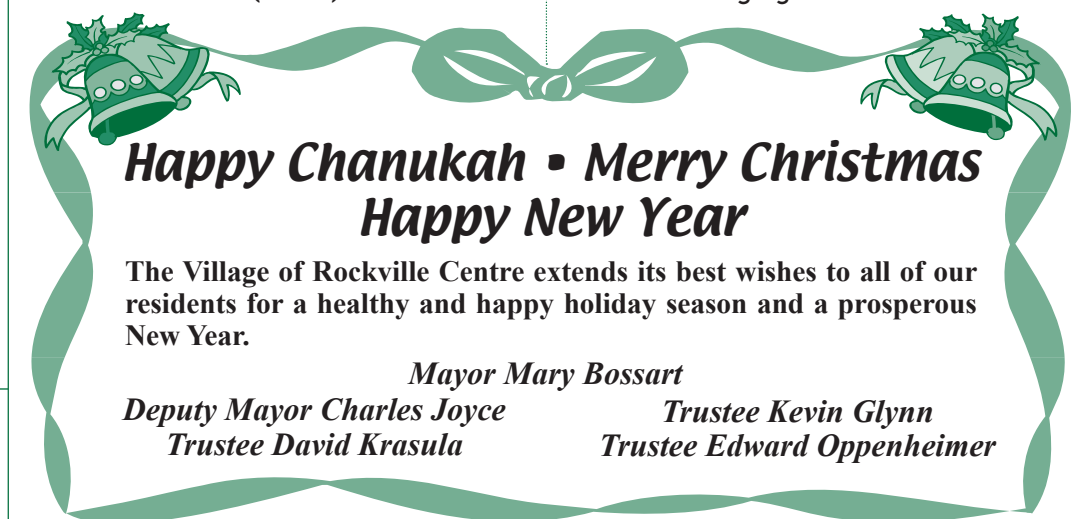
Mayor Mary Bossart, a member of the Blue Ribbon Committee, said, "Village residents and volunteers who contribute directly to the Center or to the Friends of Senior Services (FOSSI) should be



Director of Senior Services Dr. Cyd Charrow and Deputy Director Chris O'Leary with the re-accreditation plaque from the National Institute of Senior Centers.

proud of this accomplishment. This is confirmation that we are doing an excellent job for our seniors."

"Accreditation is the official recognition that a senior center is meeting its mission in a nationally-accepted, professional fashion," according to the website of the National Council on Aging.



Happy Chanukah • Merry Christmas Happy New Year

The Village of Rockville Centre extends its best wishes to all of our residents for a healthy and happy holiday season and a prosperous New Year.

Mayor Mary Bossart

Deputy Mayor Charles Joyce
Trustee David Krasula

Trustee Kevin Glynn
Trustee Edward Oppenheimer

INSIDE:

Rockville Centre Department of Public Works Snow Newsletter
Rockville Centre Sanitation Department Official 2010 Holiday Schedule



Facing Tough Choices on the Budget

The Holidays are upon us and we're all busy decorating and celebrating. Family and friends will join together to renew and recommit. But December also marks the start of budget preparation for the upcoming fiscal year, the one that will cover the Village's operations for the period from June 1, 2010 through May 31, 2011. And I'd like to begin the discussion of some of the critical issues and choices that will impact the Village's financial future.



Trustee David A. Krasula

There are some increases in Village expenses that lie ahead that can't be avoided:

- ◆ Contributions to the New York State Pension Fund for our employees will increase by an estimated \$700,000 to \$2.23 million, an amount that is set by the State and over which we have no control. This reflects a nearly 50 percent increase over this year's budget.

- ◆ Our bond debt service will increase by almost another \$600,000. This will cover items that the Board has already approved, including the resurfacing of 1.4 miles of Village streets, repairs to our parks and recreation facilities, repairs to the building at 110 Maple (you've probably noticed the scaffolding), the replacement of three pieces of equipment used in the public works area, and the computer used to track the Village's finances - all of which are nearly 20 years old.

- ◆ We're also faced with replenishing the fund that we use to make contractual lump-sum payments to our police officers when they retire.

Taken together, these expenditures total nearly \$1.8 million in spending beyond this year's budget. Our comptroller tells us that each \$240,000 in increased spending adds 1 percent to our property taxes. If we are unable to identify significant savings or increases in other revenues, we are faced with a 7½

percent tax hike for these items alone.

And these numbers don't factor in that the collective bargaining agreement with our police officers expires this December 31 and with the rest of our work force on May 31. Obviously, these negotiations with the unions will be crucial as we go forward.

Although a smaller figure, the contract between the Village and St. Agnes for the use of the church's parking lot also expires in the coming fiscal year. Under the current contract, we are paying nearly \$63,000 for the weekday use by commuters of those 100 spaces.

I know that all of the Village managers and the Board will continue to work hard to wring whatever savings we can out of Village operations. Our current budget already reflects significant savings because of our new contract for the disposal of our solid waste. We also cut 10 positions from our work-force in the current year. But at some point, and we may be at that point in some of our departments, there's little more that can be done without the wholesale dismantling of Village operations.

These kinds of numbers are hardly filled with holiday cheer. But it's the hard reality we're facing and I think it's critical that we all be as informed as possible about what lies ahead.

Chief Busching Honored

RVCFD 1st Assistant Fire Chief John Busching was recently recognized for his actions on June 28 when he rescued two women — a disabled resident and her aide — from an apartment fire on North Village Avenue by shielding them from the flames with his body.



Community Notes

Tax Notice

Second installment tax bills have been mailed. Payment is due without penalty not later than December 31. If you have not received your tax bill by December 11, please contact the Tax Office at 678-9242 to obtain a copy. Applications for partial exemption from Village real estate taxes must be filed by December 31. If approved, exemptions take effect June 1, 2010.

The Nutcracker

The Rockville Centre Guild for the Arts annual production of the classic Tchaikovsky ballet *The Nutcracker* with the full South Shore Symphony will be performed Friday, December 4 at 8 p.m., Saturday, December 5 at 5 p.m. and Sunday, December 6 at 4 p.m. at South Side High School. Tickets are \$20 to \$23. Call 766-7171 for reservations and additional information.

Christmas at the Captain's

The Phillips House Museum of the Rockville Centre His-

torical Society invites residents to view the Captain's house at 28 Hempstead Avenue, adorned with special Victorian-era Christmas decorations for the holiday season.

The annual Christmas at the Captain's celebration follows the Village tree lighting ceremony on Thursday, December 10. Come and share the wassail bowl of mulled cider and cookies and sing Christmas carols with Greg Ryan.

Leaf Collections End December 17

Rockville Centre's curbside leaf collections will end Friday, December 17.

Leaves no longer have to be placed in special leaf bags. They may now be collected into ordinary plastics bags and put at the curb on pick-up days for recycling by the Village's new sanitation contractor.

Bagged leaves will be collected from the curbstrip on the following schedule:

Mondays – South of Sunrise Highway

Tuesdays – North of Sunrise Highway and east of Long Beach Road

Wednesdays – North of Sunrise Highway, west of Long Beach Road, east of Hempstead Avenue

Thursdays – North of Sunrise Highway and west of Hempstead Avenue

January Tree Pick-ups

The Sanitation Department announces curbside pick up of discarded Christmas trees from January 4 through January 29.

The tree collection schedule is the same as the leaf collection schedule above. Please put trees at the curbside only on the designated day of the week for your neighborhood.

THIS MONTH in Rockville Centre

Published by the Village of Rockville Centre

Mayor

Mary Whalen Bossart

Trustees

Charles R. Joyce
David A. Krasula
Kevin Glynn
Edward J. Oppenheimer

Village Administrator

Francis D. Quigley, Jr.
678-9300

Pearl Harbor Day December 7



The Village of Rockville Centre and American Legion Post #303 will host ceremonies, including laying a wreath on the water, at Mill River Park on Monday, December 7 beginning at 10:45 a.m., honoring the courage and sacrifice of American troops who defended Pearl Harbor in 1941. Everyone is invited to the Post at 197 Maple Avenue for food and refreshments after the ceremony.

Locks and Lights During Burglary Season

Although Rockville Centre is very well protected and the crime rate is very low, the holiday season is, unfortunately, a prime time for home burglaries. Criminals know that homes are often filled with gift purchases this time of year and that people are often away from home attending events and parties.

RVC Police Commissioner Jack McKeon said, "Burglaries are crimes of opportunity. Burglars go for the easy targets first, so don't leave inviting items in plain sight behind unlocked doors and windows. Lock your cars, lock your garage, lock your house."

To reduce your chances of becoming the victim of a burglary, the police recommend the following:

1. If you have an alarm system, keep it armed even when you are at home. (Village permits are required for all alarms.)

2. Keep doors, windows, and all entry points closed and locked. If you need to keep windows open, ask your alarm company to provide specially-wired screens. Look outside before opening your door.

3. Keep lights on outside your home at night. Be sure to try to illuminate trees and shrubs along the house, where people might hide. Keep ladders or other items that could help an intruder enter a ground floor window in a locked garage or shed.

4. Keep an eye on your neighborhood and report anything or anyone that is suspicious to the police by using 911 or 766-1500. It is always better to be safe than sorry.

(Remember, calls from cell phones go first to Nassau County; calls from land lines come right to the Rockville Centre Police.)

This Month in Rockville Centre is not published in January. To keep current with Village events, visit the Village's website at www.rvcny.us and click on Calendar of Events.