



THE ANDERSON RECREATION CENTER

Crafts Fair and Flea Market

Shop for holiday gifts and decorations on Sunday, December 5 from 9:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. Vendors feature jewelry, floral arrangements, ornaments, crafts and edibles. Free admission and parking.

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 6 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 Christmas Tree Lighting

An evening of song and fellowship officially opens the holiday season at 7:30 p.m. on Thursday, December 9 on the Village Green, Maple and Lee avenues. Santa and his helpers will be on hand to add to the festivities.

North Pole Calling

Children in kindergarten through 2nd grade can speak directly to Santa again this year. To receive a call on Tuesday, December 7 or Wednesday, December 8, fill out an information sheet at the Rec Center.

Breakfast with Santa's Helpers

The annual breakfast on Sunday, December 12 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.



Bring the whole family to Breakfast with Santa's Helpers on December 12. Purchase tickets by December 10.

Deadline for tickets is Friday, December 10 for one of three seatings at 9:15, 10:30 or 11:30 a.m. Fee is \$6 per person and tickets are available at the Rec Center.

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.

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.

Holiday Recess Events

Visit the Recreation Center for information about December school recess events, including: games days, bowling, ice skating and visits to Bounce U in Farmingdale, LI Laser Bounce in Levittown and 5th Avenue Chocolatiere in Valley Stream.



Help the Village and yourself by recycling all your paper products —magazines, catalogs, newspapers, junk mail, cardboard and most product packaging — from the convenience of your curb on **Wednesdays.**

Recycling can save hundreds of thousands of dollars a year, lowering the cost of government and lowering your Village real estate taxes! For information, visit the webpage www.rvcny.us/recycle/recycle.html.

THIS MONTH in Rockville Centre

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

PRSR STD
U.S. POSTAGE
PAID
Freeport, NY
Permit No. 50



Dates & Events

Wednesday, December 8, 8 P.M.

BOARD OF APPEALS

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

PLANNING BOARD

Monday, December 13, 8:15 P.M.

BOARD OF TRUSTEES

Friday, December 24

CHRISTMAS DAY

Village Offices Closed

Friday, December 31

NEW YEAR'S DAY

Village Offices Closed

Monday, January 10, 8:15 P.M.

BOARD OF TRUSTEES

Wednesday, January 12, 8 P.M.

BOARD OF APPEALS

Monday, January 17

MARTIN LUTHER KING, JR. DAY

Village Offices Closed

Wednesday, January 26, 8 P.M.

BOARD OF APPEALS

Holidays Sanitation Schedule

- ◆ Friday, December 24 – Christmas Eve
 - ◆ Friday, December 31 – New Year's Eve
- No trash collection.
Normal Monday / Thursday trash collections on Monday and Wednesday.
Normal Tuesday / Friday trash collections on Tuesday and Thursday.
No collection of bulk items or recyclables on Wednesdays, December 22 and December 29.

Emergency Numbers
Fire, Police, Ambulance 911
Electric 766-5800
Water 678-9252

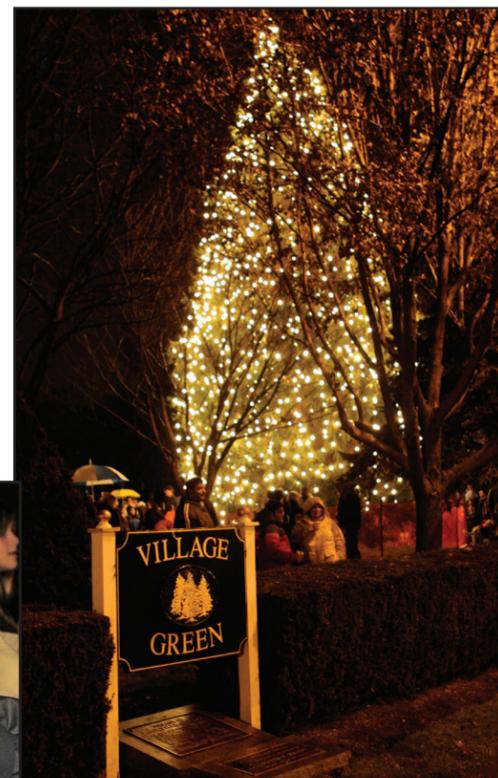
THIS MONTH in Rockville Centre

December 2010
Vol. 59., No. 9

Happy Holiday Events



Everyone is invite to the Annual Chanukah Party at the Recreation Center, co-sponsored by the National Council of Jewish Women, on Monday, December 6 from 5 to 6:30 p.m.



The Village's Annual Christmas Tree Lighting ceremony on the Village Green, Maple and Lee avenues, is Thursday, December 9 starting at 7:30 p.m.



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 2011 Holiday Schedule



Sleepless Nights

As kids, we've all experienced the excitement and sleepless nights that come with the anticipation of the holidays, be they Chanukah or Christmas. Right now though, nothing so exciting or pleasant is keeping your Village Board awake. Rather we are wrestling with how to preserve the quality of life in our community while keeping costs manageable for all residents and taxpayers.



By Trustee David A. Krasula

Normally department heads and the comptroller's office begin the development of the forthcoming budget in January. Three years ago, the Board started to participate in those meetings so that we would have a better understanding of the needs of the departments and be in a position to make more fully informed decisions about spending and income issues. For the 2012 fiscal year, which starts on June 1, 2011, we've begun the process even earlier, at the Board's October 21st briefing session.

At that meeting we had our initial discussion about 2011 capital expenditures. These are major infrastructure projects and equipment purchases which will be paid over the next 5 to 15 years, but which will directly affect our borrowing costs in the FY 2012 budget. One proposal is to resurface another 1 3/4 miles of streets at a cost of nearly \$3.5 million, and that doesn't include the water and electric department components to the work.

We talked about replacing just two of our public works trucks at an additional \$365,000 cost. We've got more than a dozen DPW vehicles that are 20+ years old. The fire department presented a proposal to close one firehouse and update two others at a projected cost of \$21 million. And the list goes on.

Over the last 20 plus years, when economic times were different and it might have been less of a burden, prior budgets didn't always address equipment replacement and updates, or they postponed maintenance projects. Now we've got to deal with these pressing needs.

In addition to capital expenditures, the Village's much larger day-to-day operating

budget will be impacted by the continued skyrocketing cost of pension fund contributions.

For the fiscal year which ended on May 31, 2010, Village taxpayers paid \$1.53 million into the New York State pension system on behalf of our municipal employees, police and civilian. For the current FY payments will be \$1.85 million, a 21 percent increase. Based on figures from the State Comptroller,

payments in FY 2012, the budget we're beginning work on now, will rise to \$2.69 million - another 45 percent increase. When you consider that each \$240,000 in increased costs adds 1 percent to the average homeowner's Village tax bill, the higher pension bill for our 168 employees will on its own potentially raise taxes by 3 1/2 percent.

The Village is also involved in contract mediation with the Police Benevolent Association and is preparing to start negotiations with the Civil Service Employees Association. Our labor contracts with both unions expired this year and the Board is taking into consideration the interests of the community as a whole as we make our proposals.

The Village portion of your overall property tax bill is about 18 percent. The balance goes to your school district, the Town of Hempstead, Nassau County, etc. Many of the candidates in the just-completed campaign season talked about placing a 2 to 4 percent cap on local property taxes.

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THIS MONTH in Rockville Centre

Mayor
Mary Whalen Bossart

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

Village Administrator
Francis D. Quigley, Jr.
678-9300

Community Notes

Tax Notice

Second installment tax bills have been mailed. Payment is due without penalty not later than January 3, 2011. If you have not received your tax bill by December 10, please contact the Tax Office at 678-9242 to obtain a copy.

Applications for partial exemption from Village real estate taxes are now available and must be filed by January 3, 2011. If approved, exemptions take effect June 1, 2011.

The tax office, located on the second floor of Village Hall, is open between 8:30 a.m. and 4 p.m.

The Nutcracker

The Rockville Centre Guild for the Arts annual production of the classic Tchaikovsky ballet *The Nutcracker* with the full South Shore Symphony conducted by Scott Jackson Wiley and a 90-member corps de ballet under the direction of Joan MacNaughton will be performed Friday, December 3 at 7:30 p.m., Saturday, December 4 at 5 p.m. and Sunday, December 5 at 4 p.m. at South Side High School. Tickets are \$21 to \$24. Call 766-7171 for reservations and additional information.

Community Menorah Lighting

The Village's Annual Menorah Lighting is Sunday, December 5 at 5:15 p.m. at Central Synagogue, 430 DeMott Avenue.

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. 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 3 through 28.

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.

Sanitation Schedule

The Sanitation Schedule for holiday weeks in 2011 is enclosed. Please keep a copy for easy reference.

On the reverse side, please note the Department of Sanitation Regulations reflecting the Village's extensive curbside recycling programs.

Residents may view their individual trash pick-up schedule by entering their street address online at <http://www.rvcny.us/recycle/recycle.html>.



Pearl Harbor Day Dec. 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 Tuesday, 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.



Mayor Bossart in period dress at the Phillips House Christmas party.

Christmas at the Captain's

The Phillips House Museum of the Rockville Centre Historical 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 9. Come and share the wassail bowl of mulled cider and cookies and sing Christmas carols with Greg Ryan.

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While that may sound like an appealing proposal, such a cap would force us to make cuts in the services we provide just to pay the increases in the pension fund and healthcare costs that have been set at the State level.

Before there are caps there must be changes in State laws which would allow us to operate more efficiently. Since actions being considered and taken by the State and County will have a direct impact on the Village's ability to provide cost-efficient services, all of us must keep informed about

policies at those levels of government as we develop our budget.

Last year I wrote that we as a Village were facing tough choices in preparing the budget under which we're currently operating. This year's choices will be even more difficult. We will do our best again to contain costs and keep Rockville Centre a great place to live.

So if you think the Board members look a little tired, maybe you'll have a better idea why we're not getting enough sleep.