



THE ANDERSON RECREATION CENTER

Winter Recess Events

All trip and activity participants must be registered members of the RVC Parks and Recreation Department for the 2010-2011 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.

Monday, February 21

Presidents' Day Relays, for grades K to 2 from 9:30 to 10:45 a.m. or grades K to 1 and 2 to 5 10:45 a.m. to 12 noon. Fee \$8.

Bounce-U in Farmingdale, the ultimate inflatable destination, for grades 1 to 5 from 12 noon to 3:30 p.m. Fee \$23. Participants must wear socks.

Tuesday, February 22

Fifth Avenue Chocolatiere in Valley Stream turns kids into makers of chocolate creations on the 40-foot enrobing machine, part of the factory tour. Plus lunch of pizza and beverage. For grades 1 to 6 from 10 a.m. to 12:15 p.m. Fee \$23. **Craft activities** for grades K to 5 from 11 a.m. to 12 noon or 12:30 to 1:45 p.m. Fee \$8.

Michael's Family Entertainment Center in Island Park features arcade video games and connected X-box games. Trip includes one game of laser tag, pizza and beverage lunch. For grades 1 and up from 12:15 to 3:15 p.m. Fee \$23.

Combos: both Chocolatiere and Michael's, \$49; Chocolatiere and Craft, \$34; Craft and Michael's, \$34.

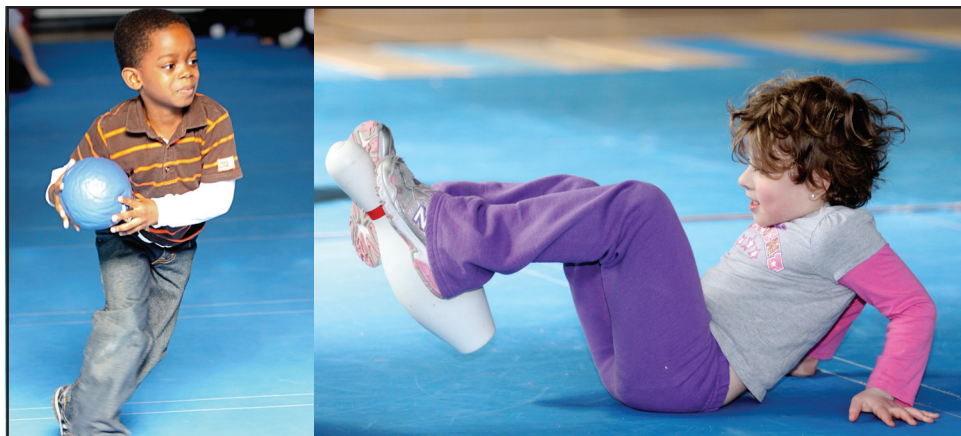
Wednesday, February 23

Honest Abe Sports Day game and sports activities for grades K to 5 from 10:45 a.m. to noon; grades K to 2 from 12:15 to 1:30 p.m. Fee \$8.

Fifth Avenue Chocolatiere from 10 a.m. to 12:15 p.m. Fee \$23.

L.I. Laser Bounce in Levittown with bounce houses, arcade games and laser tag, for grades 1 to 8 from 12:15 to 3:15 p.m. Fee of \$23.

Combos: both Chocolatiere and Sports, \$34; Chocolatiere and Laser, \$49; Sports and Laser, \$34.



Games of all kinds are part of the fun at the Rec Center during the winter recess.

Thursday, February 24

Junior Wacky Olympics for grades K to 5 from 11 a.m. to 12:15 p.m. or 12:30 to 1:45 p.m. Fee \$8.

Ice Skating Trip to Freeport arena for grades 1 to 8 from 9:30 a.m. to 12 noon. Fee \$15, includes skate rental.

Fifth Avenue Chocolatiere from 12:15 to 2:30 p.m. Fee \$23.

Annual Cherry Pie Eating Contest for grades K to 6, begins at 2:45 p.m. Fee \$2. Register by February 19.

Combos: both Chocolatiere and Olympics, \$34; Chocolatiere and Skating, \$41; Skating and Olympics, \$27.

Friday, February 25

Patriots' Dodgeball Day, play variations of dodgeball, for grades 3 to 5 from 10:45 a.m. to 12:15 p.m. Fee \$8.

THIS MONTH in Rockville Centre

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

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THIS MONTH in Rockville Centre

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2011 State of the Village Address

Good evening. How often since 2008 have you heard or read that the economic times we live in are the "new normal?" Or been told that our economy is being recalibrated? I don't think anyone doubts that we are living in serious, sober times. And so it is for the Village of Rockville Centre.



By Mayor
Mary Whalen Bossart

Tonight I am honored to offer my thoughts on the state of our Village. Normally a statement like this follows a pattern of presenting the good news, then tempering it with the challenges and issues currently before us. But this year I must first present the very real and serious circumstances ahead of us. For Rockville Centre this has been another challenging year — the continuing economic downturn was compounded by a series of not-quite-disastrous weather events that taxed our resources. In dealing with the unpredictability of both the economy and the weather, the Board of Trustees and I, together with the Village managers, have been open and direct about the problems we face and the solutions we have proposed. But there are limitations.

The Board and I have been grappling with this conundrum for several years now and we are about to do so again.

We ask our fellow residents to understand that Rockville Centre is already a lean-running operation. Any fat in our budget or in our operations has long ago been eliminated. It is instructive to note that in 1990 (another

recessionary era), Rockville Centre employed more than 250 people. Right now we employ 214 and we do much more for our residents than we did in 1990.

In 1990 we paved no roadways at all. In 2010 we paved a mile and a third on eight streets and we also installed new water mains and electric upgrades simultaneously.

Our electric system delivered about 20 percent more electricity to our residents and businesses in 2010 than it did in 1990. Our peak summer demand in 2010 was almost 30 percent higher than in 1990.

In 1990 our recycling program was in its infancy and did not include paper, cardboard and plastics.

And even with a workforce almost 20 percent smaller than 20 years ago, we continue to deliver excellent municipal services.

But excellent services cost money and we are sensitive to the fact that our residents' ability to pay taxes is not inexhaustible. This is just one constraint we face. Another limitation is the complexity of our financial environment, which includes a declining tax base, mandated expenses that account for a large percentage of our budget, and declining revenues from all sources.

In the middle of all these difficulties, we are now facing a governor who wants to impose a property tax cap and a county in severely constrained financial condition, planning reductions in the services we pay for.

A tax cap may seem very appealing

Continued on page 2

Dates & Events

Tuesday, February 8, 8:15 P.M.
BOARD OF TRUSTEES

Wednesday, February 9, 8 P.M.
BOARD OF APPEALS

Tuesday, February 15, 7 P.M.
PLANNING BOARD

Monday, February 21
PRESIDENTS' DAY
Village Offices Closed

Wednesday, February 23, 8 P.M.
BOARD OF APPEALS

Events are at Village Hall unless otherwise indicated.

Holiday Sanitation Schedule

Monday, February 21 – Presidents' Day
No trash collection.
Normal Monday / Thursday trash collections on Tuesday and Thursday.

Normal Tuesday / Friday trash collections on Wednesday and Friday.

No collection of bulk items or recyclable paper products on Wednesday, February 23.



To add your cell, work, unlisted phone number or email to the Village's automatic emergency notification system visit the Village website www.rvcny.us



2011 State of the Village Address

Continued from page 1

until you examine the implications it holds for the quality of life in our community.

The increases in our mandated annual expenses far exceed 2 percent, just considering pension contributions and health care insurance premiums for our municipal workers alone. (As you may be aware, contract negotiations are proceeding with both Village unions and the Board is taking into consideration the interests of the community as a whole as we make our proposals.)

Unless these and other mandated expenses are excluded from the cap, we will have exceedingly difficult choices to make - including reductions in services, lay-offs of workers and the imposition of new fees for services previously included in our tax bills.

Is this what residents want? What are we willing to do without?

We have already done the last of the large things we could do when we eliminated eight full-time positions last year.

We have already stopped paying the cost of our annual fireworks display, which now comes from private contributions.

We have stopped subsidizing commuter parking in the leased lot nearest the railroad.

We have begun the process of consolidating our 10 voting locations down to one.

There are no more positions to do without unless we want to reduce or eliminate services.

In 2009 when two new trustees joined the Board and the recession was at its depth, we had a discussion to answer the question, What are the core functions of Village government? What must we have to keep Rockville Centre a good and safe community?

The answers were public order and safety, meaning police and fire

protection and some administrative oversight; water; electric; and public works – specifically sanitation and roads. In a worst possible scenario, everything else would have to be on the table.

I don't think our residents want us to even think about this possibility, but the imposition of a 2 percent property tax cap would require drastic measures. The simple fact is, if we want to maintain our services, we must be willing to pay for them.

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And now some encouraging news. Even as the country, the state and the county are feeling the effects of the economic downturn, Rockville Centre is showing signs of renewed economic vitality:

◆ The 349 units of the new Avalon Rockville Centre are under construction and the developer of the site, Avalon Bay, is diligently working to clean up a 30-year-old spill of dry-cleaning fluid that would otherwise still be in the ground.

◆ Our business occupancy rate is 92 percent, 2 percent above what it was last June and above what it was last year at this time.

◆ Molloy College has a residence hall and a campus center under construction. Both will have a positive impact on Rockville Centre, one reducing the need for student housing in the Village, and the other adding a new, large multi-tiered theater to our community.

The Village, too, is contributing to this revival:

◆ In addition to the mile and a third of roadways repaved last year, we are planning to repave a mile and three-quarters in each of the next two years, repairing the last roads that were rated below "C" in an engineering evaluation last August.

◆ The Village received \$100,000 in Community Development funding to continue interior and exterior

renovations to the Rev. Martin Luther King, Jr. Community Center.

◆ The new \$100,000, Community Development-funded children's playground at the Rev. Morgan Days Park, including new equipment and a new safety surface, was recently completed and dedicated.

◆ This past January the Museum of the Village of Rockville Centre was granted its "absolute charter" by the Regents of the State University of New York, making it for the first time a certified museum.

Yes, this was a challenging year for Rockville Centre and we have come through it. I am hopeful – hopeful that federal, state and county legislators will do what is right for all; that the economy will continue to improve; that we will all have learned - and will retain - the lessons of the Great Recession.

Recently, I attended the Hewitt School "Reflections" program. Its theme was "Together We Can." I believe that theme is a statement about our Village and its people. Indeed, "Together We Can" move forward no matter what our challenges may be and continue to improve Rockville Centre and keep it a desirable Village in which to live, work and raise a family.

The complete text of the State of the Village address is available on the Village website, www.rvcny.us.

THIS MONTH in Rockville Centre

Published by the Village of 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



Call the Sandel Center at 678-9350 for information about its wide variety of programs and services.

IRS Tax Assistance Program

AARP volunteers will offer help with simple tax returns every Friday from 9 a.m. to 1 p.m. beginning February 4. Call 678-9350 to make appointments, which are required.

Valentine's Day Party

Wear white or pink on Friday, February 11 at 1 p.m. to the party featuring Al Zimmerman performing live music for dancing the Cupid Shuffle. Enjoy delicious goodies baked by Sandel members at Cupid's Café. \$4 per person; please call to reserve a place.

Black History Month Luncheon

Meet special guest Patrick Morris, the newly-appointed director of the Martin Luther King, Jr. Community Center on Wednesday, February 16 at 12 noon. Luncheon features traditional foods and entertainment. \$5 per person; please call to reserve a place.



2011 Roadway Program Announced

The Rockville Centre Department of Public Works is completing the design phase of the 2011 roadway program which will include repaving 1.72 miles of roads on eight streets.

Acting on the Village's first outside road evaluation, prepared by the consulting engineers Dvirka and Bartilucci, the department selected the two streets graded "F" by the engineering study: Harvard Avenue between Lakeview and DeMott, and Windham Road between Columbia and the dead end. "F" roads have severe deterioration with large areas of crumbling asphalt, according to the study.

The rest of the roads, graded "D" by the study, have extensive cracking, multiple patches, uneven riding surfaces and noticeable settlement: Cumberland Street between Merrick Road and the dead end; Lincoln Court; River Avenue between Shellbank and Village line; Bulson Road between North Village and Hempstead Avenue; Neylon Court between Bulson and the dead end; and Maple Avenue between Brower and Long Beach Road.

Current estimates place the cost of the repairs at \$1.5 million per mile, not including any underground water main and electrical work that may



Phillips House Doll Exhibit

In honor of Black History Month, late 19th and early 20th century African-American dolls will be exhibited for the first time in the United States at the Phillips House Museum, 28 Hempstead Avenue from February 6 through April 17.

The museum is open Saturdays and Sundays from 1 to 4 p.m. or by appointment by calling 764 -7459. There is no admission fee.

be necessary. Paving costs are paid for out of the general fund, which is supported by Village taxes. Water main and electrical work are paid out of the utility budgets, which are supported by water and electric rates. If an additional 1.76 miles on 18 streets are repaved in 2012, all of the "D" roads in the Village will have been repaved.

Nine percent of Village roads (4.8 miles) were graded "A"; 52 percent (27 miles) were graded "B"; and 34 percent (18 miles) were graded "C".

Since 1986, the Village has repaved about 70 percent of its 52 miles of roadway.