



## THE ANDERSON RECREATION CENTER

### 2012-13 Nursery School Registration

Registrations are now being accepted for the RVC Recreation Center's nursery school programs for the 2012-2013 school year.

Pre-K classes for those entering kindergarten in September 2013 are offered five days a week from 9 to 11:30 a.m. or three days a week (Monday, Wednesday, Friday) from 12:15 to 2:45 p.m.

Pre-Pre-K for those entering kindergarten in September 2014 are offered four days a week (Monday through Thursday) from 9 to 11:30 a.m. or two days a week (Tuesday and Thursday) from 12:15 to 2:45 p.m.

To schedule an appointment to visit the school, call the Recreation Office at 678-9339.

### Spring Program Registration

Registration for spring programs will begin on February 13 for residents and February 20 for non-residents.

Detailed flyers describe a wide array of activities offered by the Rec. Department for toddlers through senior citizens, including Happy Piano, Mad Science, Schoolhouse Chess, yoga for special needs, and guitar lessons.



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](http://www.rvcny.us/recycle/recycle.html).

### February Recess Events

Detailed flyers are available describing recess activities February 19 through 26. Events will include bus trips, sports days, the Annual Cherry Pie Eating Contest, open gym, Roll-Around and more.

All trip and activity participants must be registered members of the RVC Parks and Recreation Department for the 2011-2012 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.

### Conor and Friends

Playdates for special needs youngsters will be held February 12 and 26. Free, but reservations are necessary. E-mail [mplawless@verizon.net](mailto:mplawless@verizon.net) to register.

### Men's Softball

The Recreation Department currently has spring softball information available for men's teams. The completed rosters with all fees are due February 13. Games are tentatively scheduled to begin the week of March 25.

### Spring Shape-up

**Square dancing** with nationally known caller Lee Kopman, Monday and Tuesday evenings from 7 to 8:30 and 8:30 to 10. \$7 per person.



Winter recess at the Recreation Center includes sports days and the annual pie-eating contest.

**Co-ed cardio** workout with Nancy Codispoti on Mondays (Step Aerobics), Tuesdays (CCW) and Thursdays (CCW) from 7 to 8:15. Pay as you go for \$5 each session.

**Zumba** exercise to a Latin beat with Ruth Karhu meets Monday mornings, Wednesday evenings and Saturday mornings. Pay as you go for \$5.00 each session.

The **training equipment** in weight room at the Rec is available to adults seven days a week for \$30 a month. Call Joe Nemeth at 678-9339 for information.

**Stroller rides**, fitness for Mom and fun for baby, are Wednesdays and Fridays 9:30 to 10:30 a.m. [www.strollerstrides.net/longisland](http://www.strollerstrides.net/longisland).

## 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

February 2012  
Vol. 61., No. 1

## 2012 State of the Village Address

The following is the advance text of the mayor's State of the Village address. The complete text will be available on the Village website after the February 13 Board of Trustees meeting.



By Mayor Francis X. Murray

This is my first State of the Village Address and I am proud and happy for this opportunity to tell you about what we have been doing since we took office last July and what we are planning to do in the coming year.

It was a very busy first six months as the new trustees and I began to make good on our campaign commitments:

◆ On July 5, at our first Board meeting, in my first act after being sworn in as Mayor, I canceled enforcement of the night-time meter requirements then in effect, so that visitors to our downtown could once again enjoy a meal and a movie in peace, without worrying about a parking ticket. A majority of the Board later ratified this decision and parking is now free in downtown Rockville Centre after 6 p.m.

I have heard from many business owners and from Chamber of Commerce members that this single act has worked wonders to restore the reputation of our Village as friendly to business and its patrons. And we will find other ways to support commerce as we continue to recruit and attract new businesses to move into town. The vitality of our business districts is crucially important to the health and well-being of our Village and the business community knows that it now has a mayor who understands their

needs.

◆ This administration has worked to be friendlier in other ways as well. In order to bolster morale in Village departments, we renewed training programs and reinstated the employee recognition luncheon. Communications between the Village government and the Rockville Centre School District had

deteriorated, so I personally reached out to repair that relationship. Today we and the school district are cooperating on a number of new initiatives.

◆ Many in our community are already responding to this new spirit of friendliness and cooperation and have found ways to perform their own acts of generosity and volunteerism:

A group of parents has helped me to form the Mayor's Youth Task Force and now about 100 sixth- to twelfth-graders from our Village regularly dedicate their Saturday mornings to help clean up the downtown business district;

Our party, RVC United, has donated 20 trees to the Greystone business district area and we also secured an arborist on Front Street; another resident is donating bathroom facilities for Hickey Field;

Three volunteer residents are supplying professional insurance consulting to replace a \$12,000-a-year consultant; and they have already saved us \$73,000; and

The 2011 Mayor's Classic Golf and Tennis Outing was the most successful fundraising event in Rockville Centre Community Fund history.

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## Dates & Events

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

Monday, February 13, 2:30 P.M.  
**BOARD OF TRUSTEES**

Tuesday, February 14, 7 P.M.  
**PLANNING BOARD**

Monday, February 20  
**PRESIDENTS' DAY**  
Village Offices Closed

Wednesday, February 22, 8 P.M.  
**BOARD OF APPEALS**

Events are at Village Hall unless otherwise indicated.

## Sanitation Schedule Presidents' Day Week

- ◆ Monday, February 20 - 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 22.



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](http://www.rvcny.us)



# 2012 State of the Village Address

Continued from page 1



The new trustees and I also knew we had many things to learn about the Village and its departments. Some of this we have learned from our ongoing departmental reviews and our interviews with Village managers; some I learned from training courses with the New York State Conference of Mayors and with United States Conference of Mayors; other lessons came from my first emergency as your mayor: the preparations for and the extensive clean-up and repair work after Hurricane Irene struck last August.

As a life-long resident, it was confirmed for me how lucky we are to live in Rockville Centre where our emergency response is under local control and where we have such an experienced and cooperative team of department heads, work crews and office staff.

Following National Incident Management System protocols, the Village managers and I and the trustees met periodically before, during and after the storm and

consulted with county, state and federal emergency management officials.

As the storm approached, I made a public service announcement urging residents to stay calm, to be patient, and to be prepared.

On Saturday, August 27, I declared the Village's first-ever state of emergency and I imposed a curfew of 11 p.m. to keep people and vehicles off the streets as the storm approached. Businesses complied with a request to close by 10 p.m.

Staffers from many departments worked through the weekend answering phones, reporting outages and downed trees, preparing emergency notifications, and fielding questions from anxious residents.

Our emergency management team of Dan Casella and Gary Kondor worked tirelessly seeing to our preparations and coordinating with Nassau County, State and federal officials.

Harry Weed, the Superintendent of Public Works deployed his crews to keep the major roadways cleared of the enormous trees that fell in many

locations.

Police Commissioner Chuck Gennario activated extra police personnel and the Auxiliary Police to handle whatever came our way during the night.

Fire Chief John Busching and the Rockville Centre Fire Department took over dispatching local 911 calls and coordinated with the police department so

there was no duplication of effort as the calls came in. Firefighters left their own homes and families to report for duty at their firehouses. The department also fed the emergency personnel during the crisis.

I stayed on duty in Village Hall for 24 hours throughout the storm and then afterward, with Deputy Mayor Howard, assessing the damage, surveying our emergency response work and talking to residents.

The storm struck early Sunday morning. By Monday, all through-roads were passable and electricity had been restored to all 1,000 homes that lost power.

Electric Department Superintendent Paul Pallas had arranged for four upstate crews to come to Rockville Centre in advance of the storm to assist with the power outages. He also used a new computer mapping system to more quickly and efficiently deploy those crews where they could do the most good in the least amount of time to restore power to the most people.

About 10 percent of our customers lost power for some period of time. By contrast, LIPA lost 40 percent of its customers. That means our ongoing maintenance programs and our annual tree-trimming efforts have made our distribution system much less vulnerable to outages than the LIPA system.

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## THIS MONTH in Rockville Centre

Published by the Village of Rockville Centre

### Mayor

Francis X. Murray

### Trustees

Nancy Howard Kevin R. Glynn  
Edward J. Oppenheimer Michael Sepe

### Village Administrator

Michael Schussheim (Acting)  
678-9300



Mayor Murray chats with Peter and Marilyn Tierney and their daughter Megan before the January 9 Board of Trustees meeting. Megan, 9, received a proclamation from the Village for her "extraordinary composure and heroism" in calling 911 and directing emergency workers after her father was knocked unconscious at their home last October.



# Winter Safety Tips: CO Alarms and Snow Removal

One type of emergency that the fire department responds to more in winter months is carbon monoxide alarms which are more prevalent now because heating systems are in use.

Carbon monoxide (CO) is a colorless, odorless, poisonous gas that results from the incomplete burning of fuels such as natural gas, propane, oil, wood, coal and gasoline. Each year many people die and thousands more are injured from accidental CO poisoning.

The first symptoms of CO poisoning are similar to the flu, but without the fever. They include: headache, fatigue, shortness of breath, nausea and dizziness. If you think you have symptoms of carbon monoxide poisoning, or your CO alarm is sounding, call the fire department and leave the building immediately.

The installation and proper maintenance of CO alarms in your homes is extremely important. They can be purchased as stand-alone units or as combination units that include smoke detectors. According to the National Fire Prevention Association smoke alarms that are properly installed and maintained play a vital role in reducing



By RVC Fire Chief John H. Busching

fire deaths and injuries.

Having a working smoke alarm cuts the chances of dying in a reported fire in half.

When smoke/CO alarms fail to operate, it is usually because batteries are missing, disconnected or dead.

Please test your smoke/CO alarms on a monthly basis and change the batteries in them twice yearly. We recommend that when you set your clocks ahead in the spring, and back

in the fall, change the batteries in your smoke/CO alarms as well.



This is the season for snow and while the weather has been mild, the forecast could change any day. In the event of snow, please ensure that your walkways are shoveled to avoid slips on ice that could result in injury. Do NOT shovel snow into the street.

When shoveling please remember to ensure that any vents from your homes that may be covered by snow are cleared. This would include furnace, hot water heater and appliance vents, such as clothes dryers.

While shoveling, please remember to clear snow away from a fire hydrant if one is in front of your home, and please ensure that no snow covers your house number so that emergency responders can easily locate your residence in case of an emergency.

On behalf of your friends and neighbors in the all-volunteer Rockville Centre Fire Department, I would like to wish you and your family a happy, healthy and safe new year.

Public Safety columns will appear periodically in This Month



## THE SANDEL SENIOR CENTER



Internationally-known recording artist Carolyn Harding performs a Valentine's concert on Friday, February 10 at 1 p.m.

The Sandel Senior Center is open to all Rockville Centre residents 60 and older, offering a wide variety of programs and services. Call the Sandel Center at 678-9350 for information.

### IRS Tax Assistance Program

AARP volunteers will offer help with simple tax returns every Friday from 9 a.m. to 12 p.m. beginning February 3. Call 678-9350 to make appointments, which are required.

### Valentine's Day Concert

On Friday, February 10 at 1 p.m., internationally known recording artist Carolyn Harding sings in a wide variety of styles and with an extensive repertoire

including R&B, jazz and big band/swing. \$4 per person if reserved in advance or \$8 at the door. Refreshments.

### Arts & Leisure

Mah Jongg for beginners, a series of eight classes, begins February 8 at 2 p.m. Registration required; call Kathe at 678-9245.

Current events expert Carol Carlton leads a discussion of the latest local and worldwide news developments on two Mondays, February 13 and 27 at 1:45 p.m. The photography of artist Richard Law will be on display throughout the month of February. Meet him and hear about his work at a reception held in his honor on Tuesday, February 21 at 11 a.m.



# 2012 State of the Village Address

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And then there was our outstanding response and repair record: By 6 p.m. Sunday, barely 12 hours after the storm hit, we had restored power to 80 percent of those who called in to report lost service; LIPA had restored power to less than 20 percent in that time. Residents were four times better off living in the Village and being serviced by our own electric utility than living in areas serviced by LIPA.

Before, during and after this storm, residents saw firsthand that their Village officials, their Village government, and their municipal employees care about them and their welfare.

I am very proud of all involved and I made sure that our managers and our workers knew how very much the Board and I appreciated their high level of expertise and professionalism and how grateful the people of Rockville Centre are for their superb performance.



During our departmental reviews, the trustees and I reached some conclusions about how to better manage some services, so we reorganized the Department of Public Works which now includes the Parks Department and we placed the Water Department under the supervision of the Superintendent of Public Works.

We moved decisively to address our needs for emergency snow removal services. The village departments that are activated for snow removal can easily handle a normal, moderate snowfall; however, we do need help after a heavy, persistent snowstorm. We now have contingency contracts with three vendors for emergency plowing and snow removal services when we need them.

During our review, we became aware of the number of outstanding, unpaid tickets there are in our court system. Working through the Village Court, and in order to collect this revenue, we initiated a six-week “amnesty,” offering repeat offenders an opportunity to cut their fine and penalty obligation in half, which succeeded in bringing in approximately \$80,000.

We also saw that Parking Field #12 on the north side of Sunrise Highway between Long Beach Road and Forest Avenue, which is very lightly used most days,

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**The people of  
Rockville Centre are  
grateful for the superb  
performance of our  
managers and workers  
during and after  
Hurricane Irene.**

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is an underproductive asset. We revived an agreement with South Nassau Communities Hospital to lease parking spots in that field during the day and also continued a temporary arrangement with Molloy College for additional spots, bringing in needed revenue.

We also brought in two part-time grant writers and we are working with Senator Schumer, Congresswoman McCarthy and Congressman Peter King in Washington and with Senator Skelos in Albany to bring in additional grant funds. We have secured a nearly \$1.3 million grant to renovate and beautify Maple Avenue and we are now working on grants to fund renovations to Village Hall and to aid our police force with Homeland Security

grants.



Our departmental review also revealed the need to address our utility infrastructure.

◆ The comptroller reported to us that our Electric Department had been operating at a deficit for more than two years and that we needed a rate increase to meet operating expenses. In October we filed a rate increase request with the New York State Public Service Commission. This filing started a lengthy process which could take up to 11 months, but there will be an increase in electric rates some time in 2012. But even with an increase, Rockville Centre rates will remain substantially lower than LIPA's. In November 2011, the last month for which we have statistics, Rockville Centre residential customers paid rates more than 46 percent lower than LIPA's.

◆ We also learned that certain regulatory changes will have consequences for our power plant. We are still evaluating our options, but the plant may need new electric generation some time in the future, which would mean millions of dollars in new capital costs.

◆ Our review also revealed the need address the maintenance of two of our water towers; these repairs will also be costly and will need to be supported by a rate increase.



Our departmental reviews have also carried over into the budget for the coming year, which promises to be very challenging. We have pledged to be careful stewards of your money as we build the budget which will be presented in public in the coming months.

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# 2012 State of the Village Address

*Continued from page 3*

We are working to reach a fair settlement in the negotiations with our Village employees and with our police officers whose labor contracts have expired. Much of the Village budget goes to labor costs, so we are looking everywhere to see how we can to reduce the burden on our taxpayers.

Last month I began an effort to repeal the Nassau County Police "headquarters tax" that costs Village residents more than \$6 million a year. We in Rockville Centre do not receive anything close to \$6 million in police services from Nassau County and we would be better off with a "pay-as-you-go" system, paying for those services we actually use when we use them instead of overpaying through our county taxes.

Even though these are difficult financial times and even though we are working to reduce the tax burden, we are also still working to improve Rockville Centre:

◆ We are introducing new "smart meters" to the main parking lots in the central business district. These new machines will eliminate the zoned metering system now in place. There will be only one zone, which will eliminate the inconvenience of searching for the right meter to pay for parking and should end any enforcement errors. The machines talk to each other and to our enforcement computers in real time. They also will accept coins, bills and credit cards for the convenience of our shoppers.

◆ We are also currently working on an agreement to allow online credit card payments that would make it easier for residents to pay their tax, water and electric bills.

◆ We are seeking grants to renovate Village Hall which is

long overdue for maintenance and improvement.

◆ We have solicited and gotten sponsorships to beautify three entrances to the Village, at Sunrise Highway on the eastern and western borders and on Peninsula Boulevard.

◆ We are also looking into licensing food and drink vendors at our sports facilities.

Other major initiatives on our planning horizon include:

◆ a revised plan to upgrade, consolidate and modernize the Village's firehouses. We are working with our volunteer fire department on a scaled-down bond referendum to replace the one rejected by the voters last year.

◆ We are also discussing a possible partnership with the Long Island Rail Road on a new parking structure to provide more convenient commuter and shopper parking near the railroad station.

◆ ◆ ◆

I am proud of the work we have done in our first seven months. We have been busy, we have been energetic, we have been creative. Rockville Centre is working together again and I urge all our residents to work with us and to become involved in the life of our Village.

I am proud to be your mayor, proud to follow my father who was your mayor for 20 years. We are both Rockville Centre natives, both life-long residents; we both care deeply about the future of Rockville Centre as a place for our children and our grandchildren and our great-grandchildren.

I believe Village government should be responsive and responsible to our community. We are government close to the people; we are your neighbors and friends. Together we can make sure that Rockville Centre continues to be the desirable, caring community we all enjoy.



**Megan Tierney, 9**, holds her "Lifesaving Award" from the Rockville Centre Police Department and **Mayor Murray** holds the proclamation declaring January 9 "Megan Tierney Day" at the Village Board of Trustees meeting. Joining in the recognition of Megan's accomplishment were: Trustee **Ed Oppenheimer**, RVC Police Commissioner **Chuck Gennario**, **Mayor Murray**, Deputy Mayor **Nancy Howard** and Trustee **Kevin Glynn**.