



THE ANDERSON RECREATION CENTER

Crafts Fair and Flea Market

Shop for holiday gifts and decorations on Sunday, December 2 from 9:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. Vendors feature jewelry, floral arrangements, ornaments, crafts and edibles. Free admission and parking.

Annual Christmas Tree Lighting

An evening of song and fellowship officially opens the holiday season at 7:30 p.m. on Thursday, December 6 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 11 or Wednesday, December 12, fill out an information sheet at the Rec Center.

Breakfast with Santa's Helpers

The annual breakfast on Sunday, December 16 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, De-

ember 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.

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 10 from 5 to 6:30 p.m.



The Annual Christmas Tree Lighting at 7:30 p.m. on Thursday, December 6 on the Village Green, Maple and Lee avenues, officially opens the holiday season.

**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 Francis X. Murray
Deputy Mayor Nancy Howard *Trustee Edward Oppenheimer*
Trustee Kevin Glynn *Trustee Michael Sepe*

Recycle Wednesdays!



It's more than newspapers!

Cardboard, product packaging, magazines, catalogs and junk mail can all be recycled on Wednesdays.

During holiday weeks, paper products may be deposited Wednesdays through Fridays at DPW headquarters, 10 Sunrise Highway, or in Municipal Parking Field #12, Sunrise Highway between North Forest Avenue and North Long Beach Road.

THIS MONTH in Rockville Centre

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

PRSRT STD
U.S. POSTAGE
PAID
Hicksville, NY 11801
Permit No. 70



Dates & Events

Monday, December 3, 7 P.M.

BOARD OF TRUSTEES

Wednesday, December 12, 7:30 P.M.

BOARD OF APPEALS

Tuesday, December 18, 7 P.M.

PLANNING BOARD

Tuesday, December 25

CHRISTMAS

Village Offices Closed

Tuesday, January 1

NEW YEAR'S

Village Offices Closed

Monday, January 7, 7 P.M.

BOARD OF TRUSTEES

Wednesday, January 9, 7:30 P.M.

BOARD OF APPEALS

Monday, January 21

MARTIN LUTHER

KING, JR. DAY

Village Offices Closed

Wednesday, January 23, 7:30 P.M.

BOARD OF APPEALS

Sanitation Schedule

Tuesday, Dec. 25 – Christmas
No trash collection.

◆ Normal Tuesday / Friday trash collections on Wednesday and Friday.

Tuesday, January 1 – New Year's
No trash collection.

◆ Normal Tuesday / Friday trash collections on Wednesday and Friday.

Monday, January 21 –
Martin Luther King, Jr. Birthday
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, December 26, Wednesday, January 2, Wednesday, January 23.

THIS MONTH in Rockville Centre

December 2012

Vol. 61, No. 9



Photo by Susan Grieco/Courtesy Rockville Centre Herald

Rockville Centre Weathers the Storms

Hurricane Sandy caused extensive damage to the Village's electrical system: Mayor Fran Murray and Deputy Mayor Nancy Howard visit a residence on Sherman Avenue where a downed tree knocked out power to the neighborhood.

Rockville Centre was well prepared and responded quickly and efficiently to the extensive damage brought on by Hurricane Sandy in late October and to an additional pummeling by a snowy nor'easter in early November.

Mayor Fran Murray declared the Village's second state of emergency as hundreds of trees fell, 80 percent of Rockville Centre customers lost power, many for days, sanitation pick-ups were postponed, water use was restricted, normal communications failed, schools closed, mass transit ceased, driving was hazardous and long gas lines formed. Halloween trick-or-treating and the Village's 10K, 5K and Family Fun Run were also canceled.

Rockville Centre police, aided by New York State troopers in unmarked cars, patrolled neighborhoods without street lights using maps provided by the Rockville Centre Electric Department. There was only a single burglary during the entire period. Rockville Centre Fire Department volunteers were on duty

and went door-to-door performing "well-being" checks on the last 800 homes without power.

The Recreation Center and Senior Center stayed open after hours to provide heat, light and electricity to those who had none at home. The Recreation Center was a drop-off location for donations to hurricane victims and a gathering point for volunteers.

Out-of-state crews helped the Village Department of Public Works clear the roads of fallen trees and limbs and the Electric Department restore downed power lines.

Remarkably, property damage was minimal, there were no serious injuries and power was restored throughout the Village so that Election Day ran normally.

At the November 5 Board of Trustees meeting, Mayor Fran Murray congratulated the assembled department heads on a job well done and Village Administrator Keith Spadaro said he "couldn't be prouder" of their performances.

INSIDE:

Rockville Centre Department of Public Works Snow Newsletter
Rockville Centre Sanitation Department Official 2013 Holiday Schedule



VILLAGE HALL COMMENTS

'It was the best of times, it was the worst of times'

Rockville Centre was recently hit with two major storms in 10 days. As a community, in general, we fared well. The community is, for the most part, still standing. Some of our homes sustained damage, some minor and some very major. Fortunately, we did not suffer like our neighbors in Long Beach, Oceanside, Breezy Point, the Rockaways, or New Jersey.



By Trustee
Edward J. Oppenheimer

those of us without power or warm homes. Our Village again stepped up by gathering and delivering clothing and food to the hardest hit sections of the metropolitan area.

In the near future there will be an after-action discussion to improve our preparedness and response for when the next storm hits. After each of the two previous storms, Irene and the no name nor'easter, the administration and Board

have made improvements to the system. Were we perfect? No we were not. Will we get better? YES! This Village deserves only the best. A significant improvement has to be made in communication to the residents.

I would personally like to thank those people who came to Village Hall to volunteer their time and help.

To paraphrase President John F. Kennedy, "Ask not what your Village can do for you; ask what you can do for your Village." Please prepare for the next storm or natural disaster. Have a "go" bag, heed the warnings and evacuation requests, and have the patience that most of the Village exhibited as services and electricity were restored.

Please go to the Village website and provide the Village with your e-mail address and cell number through the "Swift 911" program so we can get information to you when necessary. Also, look at the link for "Emergency Preparedness" for helpful suggestions.

I would like to wish all Village residents a happy holiday and, most important, a healthy and successful New Year.

Pearl Harbor Day Dec. 7

The Village of Rockville Centre and American Legion Post #303 will host ceremonies, including casting a wreath on the water, at Mill River Park on Friday, 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.

Community Notes

Tax Office News

Exemptions are available to volunteer firefighters with five years or more of certified service and to veterans based on the date and type of military service. The maximum assessed value that may be exempted varies with the status of the veteran claimant: non-combat and Cold War \$761; combat \$1,269; and disabled up to \$2,538 based on the percent of disability.

Exemptions are also available to disabled homeowners and to senior homeowners 65 and older with a 2011 gross income not exceeding \$37,400.

Applications are available by visiting the Tax Office on the second floor of Village Hall at One College Place weekdays between 8:30 a.m. and 4 p.m. or by calling 516 678 9242.

MLK Christmas

Santa will visit the Martin Luther King, Jr. Community Center on Friday, December 21 from 5 to 7 p.m.

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

Keith M. Spadaro

678-9300

'Nutcracker' Dec. 7-9

The Rockville Centre Guild for the Arts' annual production of the classic Tchaikovsky ballet *The Nutcracker* will be performed this year on Friday, December 7 at 7:30 p.m., Saturday, December 8 at 5 p.m. and Sunday, December 9 at 4 p.m. at South Side High School.

Call 516-766-7171 for reservations.

Leaf Collections End December 21

Rockville Centre's curbside leaf collections will end Friday, December 21.

Bagged leaves will be collected from the curbstrip: **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 to DeMott.

Thursdays – North of Sunrise Highway and west of Hempstead Avenue.

January Tree Pick-ups

Discarded Christmas trees will be picked up from the curbstrip January 2 – 25 on the same schedule as the leaf collections above.



The Phillips House Museum of the Rockville Centre Historical Society invites residents to 28 Hempstead Avenue for the annual Christmas at the Captain's celebration following the Village tree lighting ceremony on Thursday, December 6.



PUBLIC SAFETY

Holiday Tips From Your Police Department

As we enter the holiday season, be extra mindful that there is usually a spike in crime. When shopping, be extra vigilant. Park in well-lit spaces and shop with a friend; there is safety in numbers. Keep your purchases out of sight: use your trunk when traveling and at home, do not leave valuable items visible from the outside.

At home do not forget to lock the doors and windows in your house and cars: criminals look for an opportunity; don't give it to them. Light up your homes well and ensure shrubbery



By Police Commissioner
Charles A. Gennario

does not mask windows giving burglars a place to hide. Do not leave valuables in sight of windows. Keep laptops and pocketbooks out of sight.

Be sure to report any suspicious persons or activity to the police immediately with as much information as you can safely provide, such as race, clothing, height and weight, and vehicle.

Please have a safe and healthy holiday season and remember your Police Department is there for you.

Troici named Village Employee of the Month

Residents on "Chucky" Troici's sanitation route probably already know the friendly man with the bright smile and quick sense of humor.

But many may not know that this 30-year Village employee, who grew up in Rockville Centre, is also known by his co-workers for making every work day more enjoyable and interesting.

Troici has been praised for being extremely reliable and diligent and for acting as a role model for new employees, always emphasizing to them that the residents come first.

On one occasion he invited a



Charles Troici

resident, whom he felt might be lonely during the holidays, to come celebrate Christmas at his home. Many residents know him by name and ask for him when he is out.

Because of his devotion to the residents and his job and the sense of family that he shares with his co-workers, Charles Troici has been

named the Village's Employee of the Month for October 2012.

"All of us thank him for his hard work and dedication," said Village Administrator Keith Spadaro. "Chucky truly demonstrates everything that is great about the employees of Rockville Centre."

'Maintain Fee' Moratorium

The Rockville Centre Village Board of Trustees has enacted a six-month moratorium on a fee imposed on residents seeking to legalize building conditions for which they have no permits.

The so-called "maintain fee," normally \$1,190, will be waived until April 10, 2013 in a pilot program to encourage residential property owners to legalize construction which is not in compliance with local and NYS codes.

Visit the Village website for information.

Sandy Rebuilding Fee Waiver

The Rockville Centre Board of Trustees has announced that residential property owners will not have to pay the usual permit fees when rebuilding property damaged by Hurricane Sandy.

The waiver will be offered for six months and applies to "in kind" replacement construction only, not to any additional improvements.

Details of the permit process and required documentation are on the Village website at www.rvcny.us/bldhelp.html.

