

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

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



Dates & Events

Monday, October 7, 7 P.M.
BOARD OF TRUSTEES

Wednesday, October 9, 7:30 P.M.
BOARD OF APPEALS

Monday, October 14
COLUMBUS DAY
Village Offices Closed

Tuesday, October 15, 7:00 P.M.
PLANNING BOARD

Sunday, October 20, 7 P.M.
CANDLELIGHT VIGIL
Village Green

Wednesday, October 30, 7:30 P.M.
BOARD OF APPEALS

Events are at Village Hall unless otherwise indicated.

THIS MONTH in Rockville Centre

October 2013
Vol. 61, No. 10

Mayor Murray –RVC Moving Forward



Mayor Francis X. Murray presented his "State of the Village" address at September's Board Meeting. "I feel that it is important that the residents of Rockville Centre be informed of what has been achieved in these last two-years," commented Mayor Murray.

Pinpointing three key achievements in the Village, the Mayor discussed the downtown business district, grants and gifts secured by the Village as well as infrastructure upgrades.

The Village has left no stone unturned when it comes to securing gifts and grants. In an effort to hold down taxes, the Village has secured over \$5 million dollars in federal, state and local grants and gifts to make improvements within the Village in the past two years. Much of

this money has been used to improve ball fields and parks, provide transportation and assistance for seniors, purchase equipment to repair roadways, acquire state-of-the-art crime fighting tools for the police and fire departments and much more. Public/private partnerships have also been negotiated to be a mutually beneficial endeavor that will save taxpayer's money, and reward residents for years to come. Most notably, the Village is sharing services with Molloy College to further improve the athletic facilities at Bob Klein Softball Field giving the college an NCAA-regulation softball field and provides the Village as well as the Rockville Centre School District with the cost-free use of the upgraded field.

Continue on page 3



THE JOHN A. ANDERSON RECREATION CENTER

Mural Painting Contest

Boys and girls in grades 4 through 8 must register by October 15 at the Recreation Center for the annual contest on Saturday, October 19 from 8:30 a.m. to 11 a.m. The Halloween artists are invited to paint on paper that is taped to the lobby and auditorium walls of the Recreation Center. Plaques are awarded by a distinguished panel of judges.

Sweet Pizza Party

"Mama Mia" Enjoy pizza lunch, then make candy pizza, decorate a chef's hat and play games. For boys and girls in grades K-8 from 12:30 to 3:30 p.m. on October 14.

The fee is \$28.00 per person. Participants must register by October 10.

Munchie Monster Mania

Devour pizza lunch then decorate monstrous cupcakes and make a spooky craft. For boys and girls in grades 1-8 on October 19 from 11:15 a.m. to 1:30 p.m.

Participants must register by October 15. The fee is \$22 per person.

Fishing Clinic

The New York State Department of Environmental Conservation and the

L.I. State Park Commission will present the annual freshwater fishing clinic at Hempstead Lake State Park on Saturday, October 19 from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. There are exhibits, contests, and prizes.

Call 766-1029 for further information.

Costume Parade and Party

Rockville Centre's 23rd Annual Halloween Costume Parade and Party are Sunday, October 27.

Youngsters pre-K and up, their parents and families are invited to join the parade which starts from the Parking Field #12, at 2 p.m. and proceeds down Long Beach Road to the Rec Center. At the Center there will be games, fun, and prizes for the costumed marchers.

Everyone must register for the parade and/or party at the Rec. Center for \$8 per family.

In case of rain, the parade is canceled, but the party will begin at 3 p.m. at the Recreation Center.

Goblin Calls

Fill out a Goblin Call Slip at the party after the Costume Parade and you may receive a Goblin Call and a Goblin prize on Halloween evening, Thursday, October 31.

Open Gym Program

The main gymnasium of the Rec. Center will be open for free-play basketball for grades 4 and up on Saturday afternoons from 2-4:30 p.m. beginning November 2nd.

Valid Recreation Cards 2013-2014 are needed for entry.

36th Annual 10K, 5K and Family Fun Run

The Annual 10K, 6.2 mile road race and the new 5K, 3.1 mile road race will be held on November 9.



Enjoy the costumes at the annual Halloween Parade and Party on Sunday, October 27. Register at the Recreation Center.

Participants can register at the Rec. Center.

For information call 678-9339

Operation Christmas Child

The Rec Center is collecting school supplies, toiletries and small games for distribution to needy children.

Bring your donations, in their original packaging, Monday through Saturday from 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. by early November.

Food Donations Needed

The Rec Center is accepting donations of canned and dry goods as well as frozen turkeys for distribution to the needy.

Bring your donations Monday through Saturday from 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. before Thanksgiving.

Columbus Day Week Sanitation Schedule

- ◆ Monday, October 14
Columbus 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, October 18th**

Emergency numbers
Fire, Police & Ambulance 911
Electric 766-5800
Water 678-9252
Nights & Weekends
766-5800



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





The Way Forward

We continue to deal with the challenges of recession, a stagnant national economy and a crushing tax burden imposed by all levels of government. Much of Long Island is approaching a point where our children have little hope of being able to afford to live here.

For the past several years, costs passed down to us have required a Village tax increase of 3-4 percent every year just to break even with our obligations to pay yearly increases in public health and pension benefits. This is before we even account for increased labor costs and union contract issues.

The approach of too many municipalities is to wait for things to "turn around" economically or for the state or federal governments to solve our financial issues. In the meantime, too many Villages simply seek to tax their way out of every problem.

We reject that approach and realize that we can proactively generate revenue on our own.

As a Village, our revenue is primarily based upon on our property values. In recent years, declining property values alone caused annual Village budget shortfalls of approximately \$500,000.

There is no law that requires a Village to reach into the pockets of its people every time it needs money.

This Board understands the need to expand our tax base as opposed to raising our tax rates. In the past two years we've made several important changes to our residential Building Code, making it easier for Village residents



By Trustee Michael Sepe

to renovate their homes, thus raising their property values and the Village's tax base. At the same time we've maintained and improved necessary restrictions to avoid construction of oversized homes.

It's working. Despite the economy, over the last two years we've seen our revenue from building permits and fees alone exceed projections by 27%. Over the last two years, the Village has generated approximately \$250,000.00 more than expected as a result of residential construction and

renovations. That means residents invested approximately \$14,000,000.00 more than expected in their homes. That extra investment has further raised property values, which in turn is generating even more revenue for the Village.

Along with our commercial business initiatives and our partnerships with private entities such as Molloy College and South Nassau Communities Hospital, we are beginning to create our own solutions to budget issues.

As a result for the first time, this year we were able to stay below the New York State statutory tax cap and produce the lowest real estate tax rate increase in eight years.

The process was not an easy one. Our Mayor, every Village Trustee, our Comptroller, Village Administrator and many department heads worked tirelessly to achieve this result.

Obviously, this is first step, but in the right direction.

It turns out that when Village government summons the necessary will, it actually can find a way.



Transfer Station Open

The Village Station, on Sunrise Highway adjacent to the Public Works building, is open to the public the first and third Saturdays of the month from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. through November 16 to receive large items of trash, including furniture and appliances. Proof of residency is required.

Phillips House Art Exhibit

Phillips House Museum of Rockville Centre will be presenting the works of Charles Henry Miller. The 20th Century American Artist will be displaying his works for the first time since 1921 every Saturday and Sunday through November 10.

For further information call 516-764-7459.

New Program to Obtain Guest Passes for Overnight Parking Exemption

Mayor Francis X. Murray, in conjunction with the RVCPCD, introduced a new on-line program that provides individuals with the means to obtain a Temporary Overnight Parking Exemption.

This program is intended for GUEST vehicles (not registered with a Rockville Centre address) or for RESIDENTS with a valid exemption reason (i.e. construction blocking driveway, new driveway being installed, etc.).

Individuals wanting to temporarily park their vehicles on the street between the hours of 3 a.m. and 5 a.m. must obtain an overnight parking exemption.

To obtain a Temporary Overnight Parking Exemption, go to www.rockvillecentrepolice.us and click on the Overnight Parking Request icon. Residents and guests that do not have Internet access can obtain passes at Rockville Centre Police Headquarters 24 hours a day.

For more information please contact the Rockville Centre Police Department at 516-766-1500.

Stop Throwing Out Pollutants on October 20

The Town of Hempstead will be hosting its Stop Throwing Out Pollutants (S.T.O.P.) Program on Sunday, October 20 from 8 a.m. to 3 p.m. at North Woodmere Park on Branch Boulevard.

S.T.O.P. provides residents with a safe, environmentally sound method of disposal of the many hazardous materials found in the average home. When bringing items, please follow these simple guidelines: Wrap leaking containers in newspaper and place in a plastic bag or larger container. Make sure all caps and lids are tight. Place items securely in a box for transportation. Use newspaper or cardboard to keep items from tipping or hitting each other. Place chemicals that may react with each other in separate areas of the vehicle. Do not leave products in a hot, unventilated vehicle for an extended period of time. Do not smoke near chemical products. Wear rubber gloves when handling containers.

The program is open to Town of Hempstead residents only and proof of residency is required. For further information, call the Town of Hempstead Department of Sanitation at 378-4210.

Sandel Members Participate in Molloy College Community Research Institute Study



Intergenerational Programming is one of the most enriching services provided by the Rockville Centre Sandel Senior Centre, as it brings people together to foster a sense of community and sharing. Specifically it brings teens and young adults together with seniors and inspires a greater understanding and respect between generations.

On Tuesday, September 10th, 30 members of the Sandel Senior Center took part in a research study at Molloy College. The "The John F. Kennedy Project" sought to recreate a study originally conducted at the time of President Kennedy's assassination marking the 50th anniversary of his death. Dr. Joan Merlo, Co-Director of Molloy's Community Research Institute, along with her research associates, John Alberta and Michelle Wolvovsky, worked

to update the original study and make it applicable to 2013. Sandel members traveled to Molloy College and completed the updated questionnaire on-line with assistance from students in Dr. Merlo's class.

The project was a success on many levels. Most importantly, Sandel members were afforded the opportunity to go "back to school" in a modern, high-tech classroom while their personal and poignant memories of that very challenging time in US history gave the Molloy students first person accounts of an event known previously only through books and videos.

Upon completion of the research, Sandel members and Molloy students had a chance to socialize over coffee and cake. This was truly Intergenerational Programming at its finest.

Continued from page 1

The downtown area represents a significant portion of the Village's tax base and their prosperity protects resident's property values. The occupancy rate within the business district has risen to more than 96% with over a dozen new businesses opening their doors this past two years. Nearly two-dozen existing businesses have expanded their space and/or have implemented facade improvements. "These new businesses, expanded and/or aesthetically improved businesses have invested an estimated \$12 million showing their faith in our Village," stated Murray.

While ball fields and parks are being improved with funding from grants, the Village

is also focused on roadways. Historically, the Village has paved one mile of roadway per year, but now the Village will pave approximately four miles of roads. A tree replacement plan has been implemented that consists of planting approximately 50 new trees per year for the next ten years totaling 500 new trees.

The Mayor ended his presentation by stating, "My promise to you is to keep looking for partnerships that benefit both residents and businesses, as well as finding grants to improve this great Village of ours. I kept my promises made two years ago and I promise to keep them going forward. Promises Made... Promises Kept."

Annual Golden Gathering

State Senator Dean Skelos sponsors his annual senior health day offering demonstrations and informational booths focused on the needs and interests of seniors from 9 a.m. to noon on Friday, October 18th at the Recreation Center, 111 North Oceanside Road. Call 766-8383 for further information.



9/11 Vigil October 20th

Residents are invited to share the comfort of community at a brief candlelight prayer vigil commemorating the dedication of Rockville Centre's 9/11 Memorial on the Village Green at 7 p.m. on Sunday, October 20th. Please bring candles.

THIS MONTH in Rockville Centre

- Published by the Village of Rockville Centre
- Mayor**
Francis X. Murray
- Trustees**
Nancy Howard
Edward J. Oppenheimer
Michael Sepe
Emilio F. Grillo
- Village Administrator**
Keith M. Spadaro
678-9300