



# Rockville Centre



October 6, At 7 P.M.

**BOARD OF TRUSTEES**

October 8, At 7:30 P.M.

**BOARD OF ZONING APPEALS**

October 21, At 7 P.M.

**PLANNING BOARD**

October 22, At 7:30 P.M.

**BOARD OF ZONING APPEALS**

November 3, At 7 P.M.

**BOARD OF TRUSTEES**

November 5, At 7:30 P.M.

**BOARD OF ZONING APPEALS**

Tuesday, November 11

**VETERANS DAY**

**Village Offices Closed**

Thursday, November 27

**THANKSGIVING DAY**

**Village Offices Closed**

November 18, At 7 P.M.

**PLANNING BOARD**

November 19, At 7:30 P.M.

**BOARD OF ZONING APPEALS**

Events are at Village Hall  
unless otherwise indicated.

## Holiday Sanitation Schedule

- Monday, October 13, 2014 - Columbus Day  
No Trash Collection
- Normal Monday / Thursday Trash Collections Will Be On Tuesday And Thursday
- Normal Tuesday / Friday Trash Collections Will Be On Wednesday And Friday
- Tuesday, November 11, 2014 - Veterans Day  
No Trash Collection
- Normal Tuesday trash collection will be on Wednesday
- Wednesday, November 13, 2014 - No bulk items or paper pickup
- Thursday, November 27, 2014 - Thanksgiving Day  
No Trash Collection
- Thursday, November 27, 2014 - Trash collection will be on Friday, November 28, 2014
- Friday, November 28, 2014 - Trash collection will be on Saturday, November 29, 2014
- Wednesday, November 26, 2014 - Bulk and paper pickup.

During holiday weeks, paper products may be deposited Monday through Friday at DPW headquarters 10 Sunrise Hwy.

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

THIS MONTH IN  
**Rockville Centre**  
One College Place, P.O. Box 950  
Rockville Centre, New York 11571

## New Superintendent for Electric Department Appointed

The Village of Rockville Centre has appointed Phil Andreas as Superintendent of the Electric Department. Andreas brings over 20 years of experience in the energy industry to Rockville Centre.

In his new role, Andreas is responsible for the Electric Department's day-to-day operations serving over 10,000 residential and commercial customers. The Village of Rockville Centre is one of only three municipally owned electric utilities on Long Island and is one of only a few full service municipal electric utilities in New York, providing services such as electric generation, transmission and distribution.

"We welcome Phil Andreas to the Village of Rockville Centre and his vast experience in the utility industry," commented Mayor Francis X. Murray. "Phil will play an integral role in the future of our Village's energy division."

Most recently, Andreas served as the Public Works Director for Lampasas, Texas, where he was responsible for construction and maintenance of city streets,

as well as for oversight of the municipal electric, water and wastewater systems.

Prior to his work in Texas, Andreas worked 22 years for Long Island Lighting Co. and KeySpan Energy in various engineering, technical, managerial and leadership roles, as well as overseeing the daily workings of the electrical system. Andreas also worked with NSTAR Electric as VP of Electric Operation and became Vice President of the Gas Business. The company provides electrical service for about three million people, and gas service for about 900,000, in Boston, Cambridge and Southeastern Massachusetts.

"I look forward to bringing superior service that residents have come to expect here in Rockville Centre," commented Phil Andreas. "This department will continue to maintain our distribution system to keep electric service reliable and affordable."

Andreas received a Bachelor's Degree in Electrical Engineering Technology and a Master of Business Administration from the New York Institute of Technology.



PHIL ANDREAS

## RVCFD Continues Recruitment Efforts

In 2012, the Rockville Centre Fire Department received a federal grant for \$865,225 to help attract 80 new volunteers to the RVCFD and provide incentives for specialty training. Now in the program's second year, the RVCFD has added 36 new members to the department and is hoping to build on that number.

"The Rockville Centre Fire Department has over 100-years of tradition and service with an unwavering commitment to all who live in and around our Village," commented Mayor Francis X. Murray, a 40-year member of Rescue 1. "This program allows that tradition to grow and flourish into the

future."

The four-year recruitment and retention program is funded through the Staffing for Adequate Fire and Emergency Response [SAFER] program, administered through the United States Department of Homeland Security and FEMA's Assistance to Firefighters Grant Program. The grant also provides tuition reimbursement for members attending college, physicals for new members, personal protective gear that includes a helmet, bunker gear (coats and pants), a protective hood, gloves and boots. In addition, each new member receives station gear that includes work shirts, work pants,

hats, and work boots.

"Each and every day, firefighters in our community sacrifice their time and risk their safety to keep our loved ones safe," added Chief John Thorp. "I can't stress how important volunteerism is to the ongoing success and well-being of our department. Programs like this help to enhance firefighter safety and provide invaluable service for our community."

With 348 volunteers, the RVCFD remains one of the largest all Volunteer Fire Departments in New York State. During 2013, the RVCFD answered more than 2,400 alarms, including over 1,400

calls for emergency medical services; over 1,000 other alarms which included over 100 automobile accidents, many with personal injury, over 400 reports of fire alarms, 65 carbon monoxide alarms, vehicle fires, brush fires, elevator rescues, and other incidents. In addition, the department acted on over 30 requests for mutual aid assistance from neighboring fire departments.

Residents who wish to join the Rockville Centre Fire Department are urged to stop by any of the five firehouses on a Sunday morning, or may call 516-678-9320, for information on becoming a Firefighter, Fire Medic or a Junior Firefighter.

## RVC Resident Honored

On September 5, 2014, Rockville Centre resident, Jim Belling, was honored for his community service to the youth of the Village and recognized for his efforts to ensure their safety. Jim serves as the Rockville Centre Soccer Club Travel Chairman and Second Vice President. During his service, Jim was committed to providing a safer playing environment.

Due to Jim's efforts, the club provided all 33 travel teams with a Cardiac Science Powerheart® G3 Plus Automated External Defibrillators (AEDs) and an additional 10 units for coverage at all the intramural soccer fields. Mayor Francis X. Murray presented Jim Belling with a proclamation at Skelos Field.





# Around Our Community

## Village Hall Comments

In the midst of a recession that never seems to end, we are constantly bombarded with news of the struggling economy. We've all seen the national trend. People outside of major metropolitan areas, due to the rising cost of living, simply leave. So, it was especially gratifying to see Rockville Centre recognized on the cover of the Long Island Business section of Newsday this past June highlighting the results of local policies that have been put in place over the last several years.

In the last three years, our business occupancy rate has risen from approximately 83% to 97%. Rockville Centre now has an unemployment rate of 3.4%, which is literally the lowest rate on Long Island. Contrary to what you might expect, this is not just a result of a number of our residents who have well paying jobs in New York City. Since 2007, the number of jobs generated by our own business district has risen by 20% and it is to the point where our Village is responsible for 1,200 jobs by itself. In other words, despite all of the economic problems that are constantly inflicted upon us, we've come a long way towards helping our own residents instead of waiting for an economic turnaround nationally.

We work closely with our neighbors in surrounding villages and the Town of Hempstead. We are constantly told that their biggest problems are not thriving downtowns or overcrowding in their business districts but rather, empty storefronts and boarded windows. We recognize that we have serious challenges in providing adequate parking for residents and



TRUSTEE MICHAEL SEPE

visitors, but it is worth noting - if our greatest difficulties arise from the popularity and the desirability of this Village, these are good problems to have.

As a result of an increase in investment by our residents, fees generated by our Building Department have increased dramatically and our partnerships with the private sector have created significant revenue. This has generated crucial additional funds for improving our infrastructure and we've begun to break the cycle of raising taxes and spending every time a need arises. As a result, for the first time in living memory, we've passed back to back budgets below the New York State tax cap, at the same time that we have more than tripled our road construction.

The best part of all of this is that rather than waiting for help from the state and federal government, we've taken steps to fix it ourselves.



## Fall Fun at Sandel

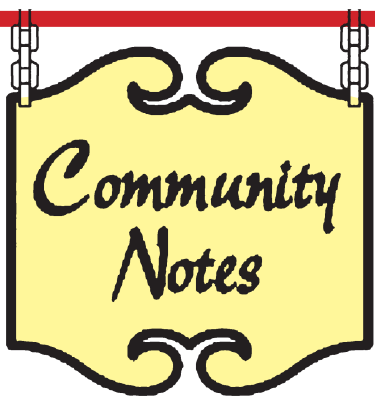
Autumn is a great time to get involved at the Sandel Center. The building hums with activity as members enjoy a wide spectrum of activities, programs and volunteer opportunities. On October 10th, the Sandel Center will be transformed into a runway with the hottest fashions modeled by Sandel members. The fashion show and luncheon are scheduled to begin at noon. Shop for bargains between 10 a.m. and 2 p.m. on October 24th at the Flea Market. The Sandel Senior Men's Club will be honoring WWII veteran Sam Pendolino at noon on November 7th for a Veteran's Day Celebration. The luncheon will pay tribute to all the men and women who have served our country. Start your holiday shopping with the purchase of wonderful hand crafted gifts at Sandel's Holiday Craft Fair



on November 21st from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. Beautiful quilts, knitted and crochet items as well as various vendors will be featured. Delicious home baked cookies and other mouth-watering treats to tempt your taste buds will be available. Adults ages 60 plus, who reside in Rockville Centre and the surrounding communities, are encouraged to visit, and consider joining the Sandel Club. For information about the Rockville Centre Department of Senior Services, the Sandel Senior Center, or any of the programs and services offered, please call 678-9245.

## RVC Bids Farewell to Longtime Employee

After 45 years of dedicated service to the Village of Rockville Centre, Pat Southard is retiring from the John A. Anderson Recreation Center. Pat's familiar face will be missed by the thousands of kids that have come through the Recreation Center's doors and their families.



### 9/11 Vigil

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 19th. Please bring candles.

### Senator Skelos' Golden Gathering

Join Senator Dean Skelos for the 12th Annual Golden Gathering Senior Health Fair on October 24th. This year, free flu vaccinations, blood pressure screenings, and other free health care services will be available between 9:00 a.m. and 1:00 p.m. at the Recreation Center.

### Tax Office Announcements

Real estate tax 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 \$826; combat \$1,377; and disabled up to \$2,754 based on the percent of disability.

Real estate tax exemptions are also available to disabled homeowners and to senior homeowners 65 and older with a 2013 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.

New property owners and those who have mortgages that have been satisfied, refinanced or sold to another lending institution are reminded to notify the Tax Office as soon as possible in order to avoid billing errors that may lead to penalties for late real estate tax payments.

### Food & Wine Tasting Festival

The Chamber of Commerce will be hosting a food and wine tasting festival on October 11th. The fun will take place on Front Street. For further details, contact the Rockville Centre Chamber of Commerce at 516-766-0666 from 1 p.m. to 6 p.m.

### Fresh Water Fishing Festival

The Village of Rockville Centre Recreation Department in cooperation with the DEC presents a Fall Fresh Water Fishing Festival. The festival will be held on Saturday, October 18th at Hempstead Lake State Park from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. The event includes fly fishing instruction, outdoor exhibits from local fishing clubs, demonstrations, face painting, pony rides and a casting for pumpkin contest. For more information, call Hempstead Lake State Park at 516-766-1029.

### Halloween Party

Join the MLK Community Center on Halloween night, October 31st at 3:30 p.m. Join the party in your best costume.

### Thanksgiving Feast

Join the MLK Community Center for a Thanksgiving dinner to remember. Community members are invited to attend the feast on November 21st from 6 p.m. to 8 p.m.

### 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 15 to receive large items of trash, including furniture and appliances. Proof of residency is required.

### Leaf pickup to begin November 17, 2014

Bagged leaves will be collected from the curb strip as follows:

- Monday - South of Sunrise Highway
- Tuesday - North of Sunrise Highway (East of Long Beach Road)
- Wednesday - North of Sunrise Highway (between Hempstead Ave & Long Beach Road)
- Thursday - North of Sunrise Highway (West of Hempstead Avenue)

Please note that leaf pickup on Thursday, November 27, 2014 will be on Friday, November 28, 2014. The last day of leaf pickup is Friday, December 29, 2014.

## School is open, please drive ... and walk carefully!

Remember, speed limits around our schools are 20 miles per hour, whether you are on a side street or a main road. As most of us have learned from the speed detecting signs on Hempstead Avenue and Lakeview Avenue, 20 miles per hour is VERY slow. Don't just hope that Nassau County's mobile radar detecting school zone ticket cameras are in another neighborhood when you drive by. Please take active steps to slow down to protect our children and neighbors. In addition, all drivers moving in either direction must stop for a stopped school bus, which is picking up or dropping off children. You must remain stopped until all children are clear of the roadway and the bus stop arm is withdrawn.

The Village and the Schools partnered in September, as they do every year, to provide a bicycle safety course for the elementary school students. We want our children to be able to ride their bicycles to school and as part of their after-school play. We want them to engage in healthy outdoor play. Rockville Centre has a lot

of cars on the road and people are often in a rush. Please take note of the children (and adults) on their bicycles – be careful around them. Slow down. Stay a safe distance from bicyclists. Give them the right-of-way as appropriate. Most of us grew up in an environment where we could ride bicycles freely and remain safe. Let's allow our children and other bicyclists to have the same benefit.

Also note that the School District is performing construction on a number of the school buildings. With this construction comes trucks and other large vehicles that can cause more congestion in school areas than we are used to. If you can avoid driving your car to school, or avoid driving very close to the school, please do so. We understand that this is a particularly difficult situation in the neighborhoods adjacent to the high school where students don't always heed basic safety rules (like walking on sidewalks). Using common sense in construction areas, and at all school crosswalks, will go a long way to promoting safety.



## Mayor's Youth Task Force Announces Volunteer of the Year

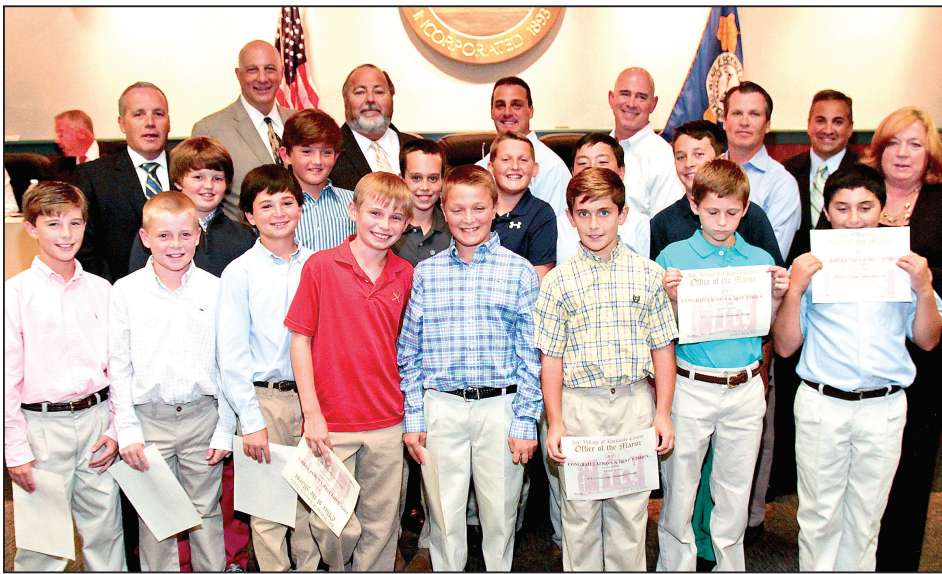
The Mayor's Youth Task Force announced the 2014 Volunteer of the Year, Caroline Cosgrove. This marks the first time that this award has been given. Caroline, who is in eighth grade at South Side Middle School, is one of the youngest but most industrious members of the Task Force.

"Caroline is one of the members who never fails to show," commented Mayor Francis X. Murray. Be it a 7 a.m. planting or a 7 p.m. service at the Sandel Center, she is always there lending a helping hand. She has tremendous leadership abilities and we believe has big things waiting for her down the road."

The Task Force is open to all Rockville Centre residents in sixth grade through college. Volunteers have been completing a variety

of tasks around the Village including cleaning up in the downtown business district and on the playing fields weekend mornings, planting and weeding designated areas in the Village, coordination of a baby necessity drive, and pitching in at the Sandel Senior Center. Interested volunteers can visit the village website at [www.rvcny.us](http://www.rvcny.us) to fill out an online sign-up form.

Pictured here, from left, are Trustee Emilio Grillo, brother Carter, mom June, father Michael, Stacy Meekins of the Mayor's Youth Task Force, sister Molly, 2014 Volunteer of the Year recipient Caroline Cosgrove, Mayor Francis X. Murray, Deputy Mayor Nancy Howard, Trustee Edward Oppenheimer, Trustee Michael Sepe.



## RVC Little League Brings Home District 30 and Section 5 Division Championship

Congratulations to the Rockville Centre Little League 11u Williamsport Team for winning the District 30 and Section 5 Division Championship. The talented athletes are the third team from Rockville Centre to make it to the State Championships in the last 30 years. Pictured here in the top row, from left, are Trustee Emilio Grillo, Trustee Edward Oppenheimer, Mayor Francis X. Murray, Coach Don Lupu, Coach

JC Walsh, Manager Gene Kirley, and Trustee Michael Sepe. In the middle row, from left, are Brian Boyle, Danny Kelleher, Sean Kelly, Jake Murphy, Danny Whang, Ryan Walsh, and Deputy Mayor Nancy Howard. In the bottom row, from the left are, Kyle Aromiskis, Liam Leonard, Ryan Riccio, Danny Kirley, Michael Lupu, Patrick Ranieri, Quinn Shannon, and Jason Schwartz.



## West End Community Day

The annual West End Community Day was held on August 23rd outside the Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. Center. Food, rides, danc-

ing, games and face painting for kids were enjoyed by many on a beautiful summer day.

## RVCPD Names Officer Kaplon "Cop of the Year"

The RVCPD announced that Officer Paul Kaplon has been selected as the "Cop of the Year" for the Rockville Centre Police Department. Officer Kaplon is a three-year veteran of the department, joining the department in December 2009.

A highly decorated member of the United States Marine Corp., Kaplon served two combat tours in Iraq.

In his time with the Rockville Centre Police Department, he has distinguished himself as a valuable asset to the Rockville Centre Police Department, earning the "Cop of the Month" distinction in the past. Officer Kaplon's dedication to duty and thorough attention to detail during his investigations is apparent when reviewing his history of service to the community.

"Officer Kaplon has proven to be a knowledgeable and skilled member of our patrol force," said Lieutenant Chris Romance, Commanding Officer of Field Services, Rockville Centre Police Department.



## Officer John Siraco Named "Cop of the Month"

In recognition of his dedicated performance of duty that resulted in the arrest of two subjects for assault, Officer John Siraco was named RVCPD's "Cop of the Month." The Village commends Officer Siraco for his diligence, dedication to duty, and highly professional conduct.

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



# The John A. Anderson Recreation Center

## Fall 2014 –Nursery School Openings

There are a limited number of openings in the Fall 2014 Nursery school Classes at the John A. Anderson Recreation Center, 111 North Oceanside Road. These classes are for children entering kindergarten in September 2015 and 2016. Classes follow the RVC public school holiday schedule. Openings are in the morning classes from 9 to 11:30 a.m.

Other pre-school programs being offered this year include: Almost Real School, Roll Around, Kinder-Crafts, Introduction to Gymnastics, Tumbles, Happy Piano Enrichment, Happy Piano Jamboree, Happy Piano Baby Bounce, Parent Toddler Workshop, ComputerTots, Ballet/Tap, Lego Bricks 4 Kidz, Mad Science, For Boys Only, Funday Monday, Tumbles 1,2, and 3, Little Decorating Boss, and Yoga Kids. Nursery enrichment programs are available. For further details or to register, please call the Rec. Center at 678-9338

## Fall Youth Programs

Babysitting, Basketball, Bowling, Artfull Adventures, Cartoon Time, Computer Explorers, Cooking for Kids, Crossfit Kids, Decorating Boss, Fencing, Touch Football, Happy Piano, Ice Skating, Introduction to Guitar, Lego Bricks 4 Kidz, Mad Science, Schoolhouse Chess, Swimming Instruction, Tae Kwon Do, Tennis Lessons, Time to Shine, All 4 One Yoga, and Yoga Kids.

## Fall Middle/High School Programs

Babysitting, Bowling, Artfull Adventures, Cartooning, Co-Ed Cardio Workout, Drivers Safety Program, Fencing, Touch Football, Decorating Boss, Basketball/Open Gym, Step Aerobics, Swimming Instruction, Tae Kwon Do, Tennis Lessons, Time to Shine, and Yoga for Teens.

## Fall Adult Programs

**Co-ed Cardio** workouts are available. Step Aerobic classes will be held on Monday evenings from 7 to 7:45 p.m. Pay as you go for \$5.00 each class. Cardio classes will be held on Tuesday and Thursday evenings from 7 to 8:00 p.m. Pay as you go for \$5 each session.

**Zumba** exercise to a Latin beat on Monday mornings from 9:15 to 10:15 a.m. through October, Wednesday evenings from 6:30 to 7:30 p.m., and Saturday mornings from 8:30 to 9:30 a.m. Pay as you go for \$5.00 each class.

**Square dancing** is available on Monday and Tuesday evenings from 7 to 8:30 p.m. and 8:30 to 10p.m. Dancers can pay as they go for \$7 per person.

The **weight room** at the Rec is available to adults seven days a week for \$30 a month for residents and \$35 a month for non-residents. The room features a treadmill, recumbent bike, rowing machine, Stairmaster and Arc Trainer, as well as free weights, Cybex machines and a bench cage.



Enjoy the costumes at the annual Ragamuffin Parade and Party on Sunday, October 26th.

## Gymnastics Programs

The Recreation Department offers gymnastic programs from recreational through competitive levels. Available programs include Introduction to Gymnastics for age 4 and grade K, Gymnastics Instruction for grades 1-9, Rising Stars and Gymnastics Club, and Ultimate and United Gymnastics Teams.

## Softball Leagues

The Recreation Department conducts softball leagues for men's and women's teams during the fall months. Games are played weekday evenings at ball fields within the Village.

## Halloween Mural Painting Contest

Halloween artists are invited to paint on paper that is taped to the lobby and auditorium walls of the Recreation Center. Boys and girls in grades 3 through 8 are welcome to take part in the annual contest on Saturday, October 25 from 9 a.m. to 11:30 a.m. Registration forms are available October 1.

## Ragamuffin Parade and Party

Rockville Centre's 16th Annual Ragamuffin Parade and Party will be held on Sunday, October 26.

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.

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

## Goblin Calls

The Goblin may call you on Halloween evening, Friday, October 31! Lucky children who are at home to speak to the Goblin will receive a prize. Goblin call slips are available at the Rec. Center 2 weeks before Halloween.

## 37th Annual 10K, 5K and Family Fun Run

The Annual 10K, 5K, and one-mile family fun run will be held on November 8. The Family Fun Run is scheduled to begin at 9 a.m. and both the 5K and 10K races will begin at 10 a.m.

Participants can register at the Rec. Center. For information call 678-9339.

## Children's Marketplace

A fair to sell or buy infant and children's items will be held at the Rec. Center on November 16. For further details or to make a reservation, contact Maura Ressegger at the Recreation Center at 516-678-9238.

## Winter Programs and Registration

Information regarding Winter Programs and Registration dates is detailed in the Annual Recreation Department brochure. Registration will begin on November 10th for Residents. Informational flyers will also be available at the Rec. Department office.

**DETAILED INFORMATION FOR ALL ACTIVITIES CAN BE FOUND AT THE RECREATION CENTER OFFICE, ON THE RECREATION CENTER'S NEW WEBSITE AT [WWW.RVCREC.WEBLY.COM](http://WWW.RVCREC.WEBLY.COM), OR BY CALLING THE RECREATION CENTER AT 678-9238.**



The 60th Summer Playground Program was a success with a host of activities for all to enjoy.



The Family Fun Run precedes the 10K and 5K races on Saturday, November 8th. Sign up at the Rec.

## TIME TO ORDER A TREE

The Rockville Centre Department of Public Works curbside tree planting program is now underway for the Fall of 2014. Residents have until October 30, 2014 to order a tree from among the six varieties listed below. Tree are \$250.00 each. Village contractors will plant a tree for you for \$350.00, which includes the cost of the tree, planting and a one year guarantee.

(If the tree dies within a year, it will be replaced with a new one for free)

### 2014 TREE PLANTING ORDER FORM

Order deadline extended: October 30th, 2104 – Planting date: Fall, 2014

Name \_\_\_\_\_ Phone \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

#### VARIETY:

- Pin Oak
- Crimson King Norway Maple
- Male Ginko Biloba
- Japanese Lilac
- Little Leaf Linden
- Kwanzan Oriental Cherry

\_\_\_ Tree Only: \$250.00     \_\_\_ Tree and Planting \$350.00

MAIL TO: 2014 TREES \* ROCKVILLE CENTRE D.P.W. \* P.O. BOX 950 \* RVC \* NY \* 11571

Make check payable to Village of Rockville Centre

## Recycle Wednesday



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

During holiday weeks, paper products may be deposited Monday through Friday at Department of Public Works headquarters, 10 Sunrise Highway.

## PLEASE NOTE

### DISPOSAL OF USED MEDICAL NEEDLES

Used medical needles must be discarded at The Department of Health, any local hospital or nursing home.

**\*DO NOT DISCARD USED NEEDLES IN HOUSEHOLD REFUSE**