

THIS MONTH IN Rockville Centre

March/April 2015
Vol. 62, No. 2



Dates & Events

April 8, At 7:30 P.M.
BOARD OF ZONING APPEALS

April 13, At 7 P.M.
BOARD OF TRUSTEES

April 21, At 7 P.M.
PLANNING BOARD

April 22, At 7:30 P.M.
BOARD OF ZONING APPEALS

May 4, At 7 P.M.
BOARD OF TRUSTEES

May 6, At 7:30 P.M.
BOARD OF ZONING APPEALS

May 12, At 7 P.M.
PLANNING BOARD

May 20, At 7:30 P.M.
BOARD OF ZONING APPEALS

Monday, May 25
**VILLAGE OFFICES CLOSED
MEMORIAL DAY
PARADE AT 10 A.M.**

Events are at Village Hall
unless otherwise indicated.

Holiday Sanitation Schedule

Memorial Day Week

- Monday, May 25, 2015 - No trash collection
 - Normal Monday/Thursday trash collection will be on Tuesday and Thursday
 - Normal Tuesday/Friday trash collection will be on Wednesday and Friday
 - Wednesday, May 27, 2015
- No bulk items or paper pickup

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

Village of Rockville Centre Scores AAA Rating

The Village of Rockville Centre Standard & Poor's Rating was raised from AA+ to AAA, the highest possible rating. According to S&P's five-page report, the upgrade is based on the Village's ability to consistently maintain balanced operations and strong liquidity during the recent recession. In addition, another rating service, Moody's, affirmed the Village's rating to AA2, which is one of its highest ratings.

"I am extremely proud of the S&P upgrade to a AAA rating," commented Mayor Francis X. Murray. "My administration has worked diligently to bring about fiscal discipline to the operation of our Village while not impacting services. As

S&P noted, this proved to be extremely challenging during the downturn in the economy, but the Village was able to maintain balanced operations and strong liquidity. Much of this can be attributed to the professional team we have in place in Rockville Centre, including Comptroller Michael Schussheim and Village Administrator Keith Spadaro."

The S&P report went on to say that the rating reflects its assessment on multiple factors for the Village including: strong budgetary performance, which takes into account a relatively stable revenue stream; very strong liquidity providing very strong cash levels to cover both debt service and expenditures; strong

management with standard financial policies and a consistent ability to maintain balanced budgets; very strong budgetary flexibility, with 2014 audited available reserves at 10.7% of general fund expenditures and rising; and strong debt and contingent liabilities position, reflecting a manageable debt burden.

"This upgrade resulted in the Village securing an extremely low net interest charge of 2.26% on its recent \$14,460,000 bond issue," continued Mayor Murray. "The low net interest charge will help control Village real estate taxes and utility user rate increases over the next 15 years."

Monte Carlo Night To Take Over Sandel Senior Center

Tickets are now available for FOSSI's Monte Carlo Night. This popular party is one of Rockville Centre's most successful annual fundraisers. Don't miss the fun! The excitement begins at 7:30 p.m. on Saturday, April 25 for only \$60 per person.

Guests will find the Sandel Center transformed into a glittering casino. Professional dealers, lots of "betting" action, big prizes and music will accompany a light dinner, open bar, and spectacular dessert buffet.

The evening is sponsored by FOSSI, Friends of Senior Services, Inc., a not-for-profit organization that supports the RVC Department of Senior Services.

Rockville Centre's business community is always supportive and 2015 will be no exception. In fact sponsors are already pledging support: Pasetti's Catering will prepare and donate the food, Grand Pavilion for Rehab and Nursing as well as Rockville Skilled Nursing and Rehab are Event Sponsors. TSG Financial Services

will sponsor a mouthwatering array of desserts, Rich McQuillan, of Exit Links Realty is the Cocktail Sponsor. Better Home Health Care is Hospitality Sponsor. Pat Kerley of Cannons Blackthorn will host a "beer garden" featuring a variety of donated beers and ales. Many more sponsorship opportunities are still available.

Each year the FOSSI Board selects an honoree that has had a meaningful and positive impact on our Village. The 2015 Monte Carlo Night honoree is Margarita Grasing. For over thirty years Ms. Grasing has served as Director of the Hispanic Brotherhood of Rockville Centre.

For tickets to the Monte Carlo Night, send checks, made payable to FOSSI, to Friends of Senior Services, Inc., 50 South Park Avenue, Rockville Centre, NY 11570, Attn: Monte Carlo Night. For more information about the evening, sponsorship opportunities, or to pay by credit card, call (516) 678-9245.



RVC Residents Celebrate Margaritaville

Nearly 500 people came out to take part in the Village's annual "Margaritaville," which raises money for the Rockville Centre Community Fund that aids Village residents who are faced with emergency financial needs. Partygoers were decked out in tropical colors and styles for the Margaritaville theme while listening to the sounds of Jimmy Buffet tribute band "Jimmy and the Parrots." At the March Board of Trustees meeting, members of the planning committee presented a \$20,000 check to the Community Fund.



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THIS MONTH IN
Rockville Centre
One College Place, P.O. Box 950
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Around Our Community

Village Welcomes 5 New Police Officers

Police Commissioner Charles Gennario swore in new Officers Stefanie Balos, Nicholas Bamonte, Kyle J. Coppola, Jeremy Diaz, and Michael Farrell at the March Board of Trustees meeting.

Officer Balos was born at Mercy Medical Center and grew up in Wantagh. She attended MacArthur High School, where she played soccer and lacrosse. Officer Balos received a Bachelor's Degree in Psychology from Queens College. She is currently enrolled in the Nassau County Police Academy and expected to graduate in August. Officer Bamonte received his Bachelor's Degree in Criminal Justice before joining the New York City Police Department in 2013 where he was assigned to the 115 Precinct in Jackson Heights. Officer Coppola received a Bachelor's Degree in History from Hofstra University. From 2008 to 2014, he was a member of the New York City Police Department, and from May 2014 to February of this year, he was a Nassau County police officer. Officer Diaz attended Valley Forge Military Academy and Valley Forge Military College, earning an associates degree in international business. In October 2001 he joined the

U.S. Army, serving until 2009, including two combat tours in Iraq and Afghanistan. After leaving the Army, he enrolled in the New York National Guard, where he worked full-time as a counterterrorism specialist. He received numerous decorations, including the Army Commendation Medal. He is now attending the Westchester Police Academy, and is expected to graduate in June. Officer Farrell attended St. John's University and Stony Brook University. He comes from the New York City Police Department, where he worked for 10 years. He was an Officer in Flushing, Queens, and then a sergeant in East Flatbush, Brooklyn.

"Police Officers in our Village make significant sacrifices every day to ensure our safety and maintain our peaceful neighborhoods," commented Mayor Francis X. Murray. "When others are running away from danger, they run toward it, putting their lives on the line in pursuit of helping innocent bystanders and victims and pursuing criminals. I feel extremely confident that these five new Officers will continue to keep our community a safe home to work, play, and raise a family."



Pictured here, from left, are Trustee Michael Sepe, Officer Michael Farrell, Trustee Edward Oppenheimer, Officer Stefanie Balos, Mayor Francis X. Murray, Officer Jeremy Diaz, Officer Nicholas Bamonte, Trustee Emilio Grillo, Officer Kyle Coppola, Police Commissioner Charles Gennario and Deputy Mayor Nancy Howard.



Police Commissioner Charles Gennario, right, swore in new officers, from left, Michael Farrell, Stefanie Balos, Jeremy Diaz, Nicholas Bamonte and Kyle Coppola at the Village's Board of Trustees March meeting.

Artist George Burgess at Phillips House

The Phillips House Museum recently featured the works of Westbury, New York artist George C. Burgess. Burgess began his early years reproducing comic book characters. He later graduated to oils and acrylics. His mixed media art has been exhibited in the Annual Molloy College Black History Month Exhibit, the African-American Museum in Hempstead, Aswagh Hall in South Hampton, and the Black-Expo in Charlotte, North Carolina. His series include First Fruits, Street Games, and Yester-Feelings. Burgess possesses over 50 years of dedicated art study and development. Mayor Francis X. Murray and Deputy Mayor Nancy Howard honored Burgess with a



proclamation for his work. Pictured, from left, are the President of the Phillips House Fank Seipp, Michelle Burgess, artist George C. Burgess, Mayor Francis X. Murray, and Deputy Mayor Nancy Howard.

Rockville Centre Basketball League Celebrates 60 Years of Sportsmanship, Competition & Fair Play



In recognition of the Rockville Centre Basketball League 60th anniversary, the Village of Rockville Centre Mayor Francis X. Murray, Deputy Mayor Nancy Howard and Board of Trustees honored the League at the March Board of Trustees meeting. With over 1,200 kids signed up for the current season and over 90 local sponsors, the RVC

Basketball League is an integral part of the community. The League's values of "loyalty, behavior and leadership" have remained consistent with the main objective to give all participants an opportunity to play. This year marked beginning of Hoops For All, the League's first special needs clinic.



Antiques Appraisal Day

Trash or Treasure? Come to the annual antiques appraisal day under the tent at the Phillips House Museum of the Village of Rockville Centre located at 28 Hempstead Avenue on Sunday, May 3rd. Appraisals are \$10 each or 3 for \$25, which includes a free museum membership. Phillip Weiss from the Antiques Road Show will conduct appraisals and donate 100% of the proceeds to the museum.

For further information, call 516-764-7459. The event is sponsored by Astoria Bank of Rockville Centre.

RVC Community Fund Bracelet

Show your pride for RVC and contribute to the Community Fund at the same time! Jeannine's Boutique is now selling the RVC Community Fund Signature Bracelet. This beautiful bracelet, designed by Chavez for Charity is only \$10.00 and 25% of all the proceeds will go directly to the Rockville Centre Community Fund. The Community Fund is set up to assist those in our community who are facing financial difficulties. For the month of March, Jeannine's Boutique will be matching the donation of the sales donated. Be sure to come and get your bracelet and show your love for RVC!

Farmers Market Reopens

The Farmers Market will resume on Sunday, May 31st and continue every Sunday until November 22nd from 7 a.m. to noon in Municipal Parking Field 12, along the north side of Sunrise Highway, between Long Beach Road and North Forest Avenue.

Transfer Station Reopening

The Village Transfer Station resumes service Saturday, April 4 from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m.

The station, on Sunrise Highway adjacent to the Public Works building, is open to the public the first and third Saturdays of the month until November to receive large items of trash, including furniture and appliances. Proof of residency is required.

Kayaks on the Lake

Come and explore Hempstead Lake on Saturday, June 13th from 10 a.m. to 1 p.m. Kayaks are available to rent. Reservations recommended, but not required. Secure your spot today with the RVC Conservancy at www.rvcconservancy.org.



Yoga

The RVC Conservancy and RVC Yoga are partnering for Yoga on the Green. Classes are available Sunday mornings in June beginning on June 7th at 10 a.m. on the Village Green. Bring your own yoga mat or towels and a donation of \$5 per session to join in the fun. To register please visit www.rvcconservancy.org.



Village Hall Comments

For the First Time ... Ever

Our annual budget process begins with the publication of a tentative budget. Each year we start by balancing our actual revenues against all salaries for Village employees and our other costs. Added to our costs are increases, each year, imposed on us from higher levels of state and federal government. Three years ago, Village taxes had to be raised three percent just to keep even with increased health insurance and pension costs. At that time, the Mayor and Village Board completed very difficult work cutting expenditures to bring us under the NYS tax cap – for the first time.

Two years ago this process repeated itself. Again, with significant work, we came under the New York State mandated tax cap for the second year in a row. So, what to expect this year? In this past year, we have completed significant infrastructure improvements including Maple Avenue, the tripling of residential road renovations, the expansion of the Police Department by two members, and needed repairs to Village buildings. A conscious choice has been made to repair our infrastructure now, while interest rates are relatively low.

Here's the surprise: we have created hundreds of thousands in dollars of revenue, without resorting to fines and taxes. Instead, through private partnerships and as a result of a mini-boom in residential and commercial renovations, despite all of the extra expenditures this year, our tentative Village budget is actually starting below the NYS tax cap. Therefore, this will now be the third consecutive Village budget below the cap. This is a first for Rockville Centre and there are even



TRUSTEE MICHAEL SEPE

better consequences. Recognizing the financial management of the Village over the last few years, Standard & Poor's has upgraded our bond ratings to AAA, the highest level ever in the history of Rockville Centre. This saves us additional hundreds of thousands of dollars by significantly lowering the costs of our debt service and greatly helps in funding the improvements to our roads, water towers, departments and Village properties.

This has not happened by accident. Five Board members working together over the past three and half years have consciously decided to break the old pattern of constantly looking for new taxes and fines to fund every needed project. The State and Federal government consistently show us that the old model is unsustainable. We set out to prove that local government can actually create revenue as opposed to only being creative in taking from the pockets of our residents. Village residents are frankly tired of hearing what an affluent community Rockville Centre is and we're very happy to finally be offering much needed tax relief.

Hewitt Students Reflect



Students from Hewitt Elementary School received certificates from Mayor Francis X. Murray and the entire Board of Trustees for their outstanding effort in this year's PTA-sponsored Reflections program. The students created original works of visual art, photography and literature representing their perspective on the theme "The World Would Be A Better Place If..."

From left in the front row are Elena Mingorance, Caroline Jane Feragani, Ryan

Borruso, Sophia Adonilo, Liam Conlon, Sarah Borroso Taylor Rose Truesdell, Leann Truesdell, and Lauren Marquardt.

From left in the second row are Trustee Edward Oppenheimer, Mayor Francis X. Murray, co-president Hewitt PTA Katie Conlon, Hewitt Principal Elizabeth Pryke, co-President Hewitt PTA Nadia Gray, Deputy Mayor Nancy Howard, Trustee Michael Sepe, and Trustee Emilio Grillo.

MLK Center Hosts Flurry of Activities

With a variety of activities, the Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. Community Center is a vibrant neighborhood-gathering place that provides residents of Rockville Centre with the tools and knowledge to support their dreams. Recently, members of the Reading Club joined together to share some of their favorite stories. In addition, during winter

break 15 members of the MLK Jr. Center attended the 27th annual Children's Festival hosted by the We Care Fund of the Nassau County Bar Association. Children enjoyed a fun-filled afternoon with a DJ, clowns, games, food and gifts. For a list of upcoming activities, please call 678-9236.

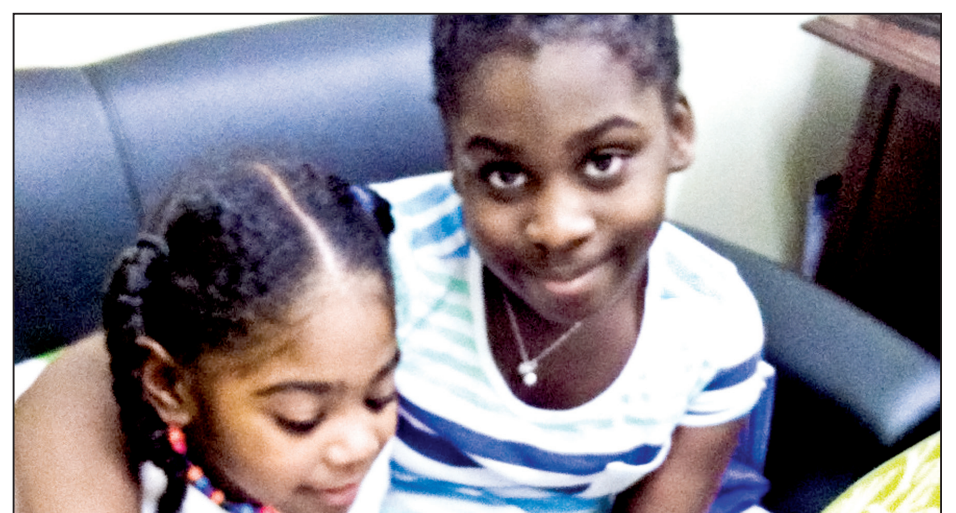


Good Fences Make Good Neighborhoods



Legislator Howard Kopel presented the Village of Rockville Centre with a check for \$75,000 at the Board of Trustees meeting on March 2nd. The money was used to replace the fence along North Village Avenue. "Once again the Village of Rockville Centre is leaving no stone unturned when it comes to pursuing grants

and donations to improve our community," commented Mayor Francis X. Murray. "I would like to thank Legislator Howard Kopel for his help in securing this \$75,000 grant. This fence provides a safer and effective barrier between Peninsula Boulevard and North Village Avenue."



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

www.rvcny.us



The John A. Anderson Recreation Center

Nursery School for Fall 2015

The Recreation Department is currently taking registration deposits for the Fall Nursery School Program for children entering Kindergarten in September 2016 and 2017.

New for this Fall: Time for Two's Nursery School Program - A drop-off nursery program intended as a separation class for 2-year-olds with a curriculum designed to help children explore their own ideas at the same time they are gaining new skills. A warm, nurturing and positive school experience is offered in our bright, inviting classroom, playground and gymnasium! Call or visit the office for information or to visit our school.

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., 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.

Spring Programs Registration

The Spring Program schedule begins on April 13th. We offer a wide variety of activities including Babysitting, Cartooning, Cooking for Kids, CrossFit Kids, Decorating Boss, All 4 One Yoga, Yoga for Kids, Happy Piano, Lego Building as well as instruction in Swimming, Tae Kwon Do, Guitar, Tennis, and Fencing. Classes for little ones include Music for Infants and Toddlers, Tumbles, Parent-Toddler Workshop, Kinder-Crafts, Baby Signing, and Little Decorating Boss.

Summer Playground and Summer Nursery Registration

Summer Registration is underway for the 61st Annual Summer Playground Program for grades 1-7. The program is conducted from July 1 through August 12 from 9 a.m. - 12 noon. Afternoon trips to places of interest are available as well. We also offer a Summer Nursery program for children entering Kindergarten this fall and in 2016.

Be sure to check out our summer sports schools in Baseball, Basketball, Lacrosse and Gymnastics, as well as other weekly programs which meet throughout the summer.

Gymnastics Show

The 40th annual gymnastics shows will be held on May 29th, 30th, and 31st. Over 700 children will be practicing their routines during the spring session, which they will showcase for parents and friends at this annual event. Tickets will be on sale in May.

Art Show

On June 13th the Recreation Center will be displaying the work of its smallest artists. The nursery school pre-K and pre-pre K will be exhibiting their work.

DETAILED INFORMATION FOR ALL ACTIVITIES CAN BE FOUND AT THE RECREATION CENTER OFFICE, ON THE RECREATION CENTER'S NEW WEBSITE AT WWW.RVCREC.WEEBLY.COM, OR BY CALLING THE RECREATION CENTER AT 678-9238.



The Recreation Center offers gymnastic programs from recreational through competitive levels. Join the team at the 40th annual gymnastics shows on May 29th, 30th, and 31st.



With a variety of activities, the Summer Program is sure to be a blast this summer. Call the Recreation Center for detailed information.



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**

2015 Spring Hydrant Flushing

RVC Village water mains will be given their spring-cleaning beginning Wednesday, April 22, 2015 and scheduled to end on Tuesday, April 28, 2015.

The flushing of hydrants may cause some fluctuation of water pressure and/or discolored (rusty) water to flow into homes and businesses, and although this water is perfectly safe to drink, it may stain laundry. Consumers are advised not to schedule projects, which require clear water during the entire flushing period. The water will be both chemically and bacteriologically safe to drink.

Wednesday, April 22nd between 8 a.m. and 4 p.m.

Area of the Village north of DeMott Avenue and lying between North Village Avenue to end of east territory.

Thursday, April 23rd between 8 a.m. and 4 p.m.

Area of the Village lying between Lakeview Avenue and DeMott Avenue, west of Long Beach Road.

Friday, April 24th between 8 a.m. and 4 p.m.

Area of the Village lying between Sunrise Highway and DeMott Avenue east of Long Beach Road.

Sunday, April 26th between midnight and 8 a.m.

Entire area of the Village lying between Lakeview Avenue and Merrick Road.

Tuesday, April 28th between 8 a.m. and 4 p.m.

The entire area of the Village south of Merrick Road.

If you have any questions, please call the Water Department at 516-678-9252.

