September/October 2015 • Vol. 62, No. 5

THIS MONTH IN

Rockville Centre

Eugene Murray Honored on 90th Birthday

Rockville Centre’s Eugene Murray Village Hall was packed on August 10th as village officials and well-wishers gathered to honor former Mayor Eugene Murray on his 90th birthday. A lifelong resident of Rockville Centre, Murray was recognized for his dedication that has significantly enriched the lives of the community.

“My father taught me all about work and work ethic, but just as importantly he taught me about giving back,” commented son and Mayor Francis X. Murray. “I got to see a young man give back to his community, volunteering in every facet of Rockville Centre. I couldn’t be prouder to celebrate his accomplishments that have made Rockville Centre the desirable community it is today.”

During his twenty years as Mayor, Murray established the RVC Community Fund that has supported numerous residents and charities in need during and after his tenure, as well as the We Care Committee to support family and friends of those lost in 9/11. Murray has received numerous accolades for his public service including “Man of the Year” for 1993 by Molloy College, which also awarded him an Honorary Doctor of Laws Degree in 1994, and “Citizen of the Year” for 1997 by the RVC Kiwanis Club. Murray has also been recognized for his community service by numerous organizations including the Nassau County Boy Scouts Council, the Anti-Defamation League of B’nai B’rith, Guiding Light Lodge of the Masonic Order, the Martin Luther King Scholarship Fund Award, the Hispanic Brotherhood, and the RVC Guild for the Arts. Murray has been an active member of the RVC Volunteer Fire Department for over 60 years and served in the ranks of chief from 1977 to 1983.

RVCFD Hosted Nassau County

The Rockville Centre Fire Department hosted the Nassau County Firemen Association Parade and Drill on Saturday, July 25th. This time-honored tradition of all the Nassau County Fire Departments assembling to display their Department and community pride has been conducted since 1903.

Over two-dozen teams competed in motorized and old-fashioned competition: motorized and old fashion tournament. There were two styles of firefighting skill against the clock and each other for trophies. There were two styles of competition: motorized and old fashioned. The motorized contests involved setting up ladders from moving trucks, hooking up fire apparatuses from 42 Fire Departments located throughout Nassau County.

28th Annual Mayor’s Golf Classic

On Monday, October 5th, the Rockville Links Country Club will be hosting the 28th Annual Mayor’s Golf Classic. For its 28th anniversary the Classic will be honoring the Board of Directors of the RVC Basketball Classic for its 28th anniversary the Classic will be honoring the Board of Directors of the RVC Basketball Classic. For its 28th anniversary the Classic will be honoring the Board of Directors of the RVC Basketball Classic. For its 28th anniversary the Classic will be honoring the Board of Directors of the RVC Basketball Classic. For its 28th anniversary the Classic will be honoring the Board of Directors of the RVC Basketball Classic. For its 28th anniversary the Classic will be honoring the Board of Directors of the RVC Basketball Classic. For its 28th anniversary the Classic will be honoring the Board of Directors of the RVC Basketball Classic. For its 28th anniversary the Classic will be honoring the Board of Directors of the RVC Basketball Classic. For its 28th anniversary the Classic will be honoring the Board of Directors of the RVC Basketball Classic. For its 28th anniversary the Classic will be honoring the Board of Directors of the RVC Basketball Classic.
Lister Park and Smith Pond Get Makeovers

Lister Park and Smith Pond are in the midst of a facelift. Lister Park pathway, on the west side of the park, extends from Park Avenue to the Department of Public Works building’s parking lot, on Sunrise Highway will be replaced with permeable pavement, which will eliminate rainwater runoff and reduce erosion. The pathway will be widened as well to allow visitors to pass with ease. Multiple trees, 40 bushes, and hundreds of flowers will be planted to enhance the aesthetics of the park. In addition, lighting and benches will be replaced, as well as garbage cans and bike racks will be added. Smith Pond has received a new pathway from the Reverend Days Park South parking lot leading to the pond. In addition, the lookout deck has been rebuilt.

Fall Fun at Sandel

Autumn is a great time to Circulate at the Sandel Center. The building hums with activity as members enjoy a wide spectrum of activities, programs and volunteer opportunities. September 24th, on October 23rd at the Giant Flea Market. The Sandal Senior Men’s Club will be honoring veterans on November 6th for a Veteran’s Day program and luncheon. Start your holiday shopping with the purchase of wonderful hand-crafted gifts at Sandel’s Holiday Craft Fair on November 24th. Beautifulquilts, knitted and crochet items as well as various vendors will be featured as well as delicious home baked cookies and other mouth-watering treats to tempt your taste buds. New classes this fall include Quilting and Caretending Center Stage Chorus will resume on October 6th. In addition, the “Seniorversity Program,” from the RVC School District, is offering six sessions of Pilates beginning September 29th, Drawing and Painting beginning on September 28th, Meditation beginning on October 7th, and Yoga beginning on October 8th. Registration is required for each program.

Adulst 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 Sandal Senior Center, or any of the programs and services offered, please call 678-9245.

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. 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 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, 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.

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: noncombat and Cold War $799, combat $1,332, and disabled up to $2,664 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 2014 gross income not exceeding $37,400.

Applications are available by visiting the Tax Office on the second floor of Village Hall at 10:00 a.m. to 2:00 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.

Fresh Water Fishing Festival

The Village of Rockville Centre Recreation Department in cooperation with the DEC presents a Fall Freshwater Fishing Festival. The festival will be held on Saturday, October 17th at Hempstead Lake State Park from 8:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. The event includes fly fishing instruction, outdoor exhibits from local fishing clubs, demonstrations, face painting, pony rides and a contest for pumpkin contest. For more information, call Hempstead Lake State Park at (516) 766-1029.

Leaf pickup to begin November 16, 2015

Bagged leaves will be collected from the curb 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 26, 2015 will be on Friday, November 27, 2015. The last day of leaf pickup is Friday, December 18, 2015.

Halloween Party

Join the MLK Community Center on Friday, October 30th from 4:00-5:30 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 Friday, November 20th from 6:00-8:00 p.m.
The Village of Rockville Centre has appointed Kevin Reilly, P.E. as Supervisor of Water Distribution. Reilly brings extensive experience and knowledge in the water industry to Rockville Centre.

In his new role, Reilly is responsible for the day-to-day operations of the Water Department serving over 24,000 residents. Water in Rockville Centre is drawn from 10 wells located throughout the Village that are drilled to an average depth of 540 feet. In 2014, 1.3 billion gallons of water was withdrawn from the aquifer. The Rockville Centre Water Department has four elevated tanks with a combined capacity of four million gallons and is distributed through more than 70 miles of water mains.

“We welcome Kevin Reilly to the Village of Rockville Centre and his years of experience in the water industry,” commented Mayor Francis X. Murray. “Kevin will play an integral role to ensuring that every resident receives the highest quality of water.”

Reilly recently served as the Superintendent of Distribution for the Suffolk County Water Authority. In his various roles at the Suffolk County Water Authority, Reilly oversaw water main installations as well as road restorations, managed rehabilitation and maintenance of elevated and ground storage water tanks, and supervised daily activities for construction of water main and road restoration. The Suffolk County Water Authority serves approximately 1.2 million Suffolk County residents and is the largest groundwater supplier in the country. Prior to his work at the Suffolk County Water Authority, Reilly was a Staff Engineer at Browne AE&T Group.

“The Water quality in Rockville Centre is constantly monitored and tested to assure its purity and the entire system is flushed twice per year. In addition, the Water Department assists the annual road program by reviewing each street to see if a main upgrade is needed along with the fire hydrants. “I look forward to bringing superior service that residents have come to expect here in Rockville Centre,” commented Kevin Reilly. “This department will continue to provide residents with the advantages of local ownership and operation: low cost and high reliability.”

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By Trustee Emilio Grillo

All good things must come to an end, and as the summer of 2015 fades into its final sunsets, it is a good time to reflect on our past as well as our future. As you can see we have made tremendous progress in upgrading our Village infrastructure, with the refurbishment and re-paving of nearly four miles of roadway and street scape enhancements throughout our Village. Yet our collective work as your Village Board is far from finished. I am proud and hopeful of the progress we have made as a Village Board, by continuing to work in a collaborative manner, despite having a difference of opinions at times. We look forward to continuing our progress on behalf of all of our residents, in the coming years.

As summer closes and autumn begins, we take his time to wish all of our Village families and students continued success and good luck in the upcoming school year, and again, we wish our Class of 2015 graduates the very best of luck, as they commence the “next stage” of their young lives. On a personal note, after having had the bittersweet experience of moving my oldest daughter into college this month, as I drove back to Rockville Centre, I realized that what is most important to me, as well as to any parent, is the safety and welfare of our family. I came to realize that while my daughter may be off to a “new beginning,” she is leaving the safety and tranquility of our wonderful Village. I can only hope that the values and expectations that have been instilled in her by her family, neighbors and friends of our great Village will remain with her, so that her future remains a tranquil and safe one. May all of our 2015 Village graduates experience nothing but continued success in the future, and keep with them the values that have made our community so great. Good luck to all.

By Trustee Michael Sepe

As we look to the future with hope and a feeling of excitement, it’s important to reflect on our past and be proud of where we’ve been. I would like to take this opportunity to reflect on the accomplishments of the Village Board over the past year. We have taken important steps forward in improving the safety and quality of life for our Village residents. These steps include the establishment of the Mayor’s Youth Task Force and the development of a Youth Safety and Wellness program. We have also worked hard to ensure that our Village is a safe and welcoming place for all.

I want to take this opportunity to recognize and thank all of the residents who have been active participants in our Village initiatives. Your support has been invaluable in making our Village a better place. I encourage all of you to continue to be active and engaged in our Village affairs.

The Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. Community Center enjoys Summer Activities

The Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. Community Center had a flurry of activity this summer. Summer campers took a trip to Art Flower Shop on August 3rd. Owner Keith Linsalata (center) welcomed 16 campers to the shop to teach the different kinds of flowers, how to care for them, and presented each camper with a carnation flower. The annual West End Community Day was held on August 22nd. Food, rides, dancing, games and face painting for kids was enjoyed by hundreds on a beautiful summer day. Residents also participated in the Rev. Frank Robinson Basketball Tournament.

Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. Community Center enjoys Summer Activities

The Village of Rockville Centre

Village Appoints New Supervisor of Water Distribution

The Village of Rockville Centre

Rockville Centre

Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. Community Center enjoys Summer Activities

Sandel Center Hosts Caribbean Night Party
Ragamuffin Parade on Sunday, October 25th.

Gather the family for Rockville Centre’s 17th Annual Ragamuffin Parade and Party that will be held on Sunday, October 25th.

Halloween Mural Painting Contest
Calling all artists in grades 3 - 8!
The annual Mural Painting Contest will be held on Saturday, October 17th from 9:00-11:30 a.m. at the Recreation Center. Teams of 2-4 students paint a Halloween theme on paper murals taped to the walls of the Recreation Center. These will be used to decorate the Rec Center for the Halloween season. The deadline for entries is Wednesday, October 14. Plaques are awarded to winners.

Annual 10K, 5K, and Family Fun Run
The Annual 10K, 5K, and one-mile family fun run will be held on Saturday, November 7th. The one-mile family fun run is scheduled to begin at 9 a.m. and both the 5K (3.1 miles) and 10K (6.2 miles) races will begin at 10 a.m.

The Fun Run starting line is on Front Street by the train station. The 5K/10K starting line is on N. Park Ave. near Sunrise Highway. The finish line for both is at the train station on Front Street.
Registration will be held at the recreation center or online at active.com.

Children’s Marketplace
The Rockville Centre Recreation Center is holding a Children’s Marketplace on Sunday, November 15th from 9 a.m. to 4:00 p.m.
We are looking for people who want to rent table space and sell their infant and toddler items. Examples of items at sale: toys, high chairs, strollers, exersaucers, baby swings, toys, play mats, clothing in good condition, outdoor toys, toddler beds, and even cribs and changing tables. Whatever you can fit at your table is welcome. Reserve your table at the Recreation Center fast so you don’t miss out!
For further details or to make a reservation, contact Maura Rassenger at the Recreation Center at (516) 678-9238.

Adult Programs
Step Aerobics classes will be held on Monday evenings from 7 p.m. to 7:45 p.m. Cardio classes will be held on Tuesday and Thursday evenings from 7-8:15 pm. $120 for residents, $135 for non-residents for 10 sessions, or Pay as you go for $7.50 per person. We will also be offering a new adult yoga 101 class on Tuesday nights from 7-8.15pm. $120 for residents, $135 for nonresidents for 10 sessions, or Pay as you go $20 per session, call the Recreation Center office for more details.

TIME TO ORDER A TREE
The Rockville Centre Department of Public Works curbside tree planting program is now underway for the Fall of 2015. Residents have until October 9, 2015 to order a tree from among the six varieties listed below. Trees 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.
2015 TREE PLANTING ORDER FORM
Order deadline: October 9, 2015 – Planting date: Fall, 2015

Name ___________________________ Phone ________________
Address __________________________

VARiETY:

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

☐ Tree Only: $250.00
☐ Tree and Planting $350.00

MAIL TO: 2015 TREES * ROCKVILLE CENTRE D.P.W. * P.O. BOX 950 * RVC * NY 11571
Make check payable to Village of Rockville Centre

Detailed information for all activities can be found at the Recreation Center office or on the Recreation Center website at www.rvcrec.weebly.com.