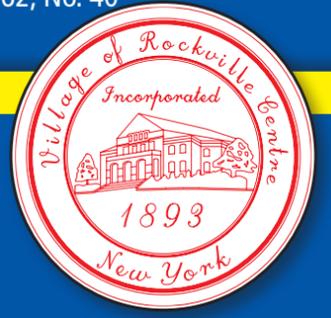


THIS MONTH IN Rockville Centre



**December 6, At 7 P.M.
BOARD OF TRUSTEES**

**December 8, At 7 P.M.
BOARD OF ZONING APPEALS**

**December 14, At 7 P.M.
PLANNING BOARD**

**January 3, At 7 P.M.
BOARD OF TRUSTEES**

**Monday, January 17
VILLAGE OFFICES CLOSED
MARTIN LUTHER KING, JR DAY**

**January XX, At 7 P.M.
PLANNING BOARD**

**January XX, At 7 P.M.
BOARD OF ZONING APPEALS**

Events are at Village Hall unless otherwise indicated.

Log onto www.rvcny.gov for detailed information on how to virtually attend each meeting.

Holiday Sanitation Schedule

Monday, January 17, 2022
No trash collection

During holiday weeks, no newspaper or bulk collections on Wednesday

Village Hall Hours

Cashier & Registrar 8:00 A.M. - 3:00 P.M.

Court Counter 8:00 A.M. - 3:30 P.M.

Electric/Water Billing 8:00 A.M. - 4:00 P.M.

Tax Department 8:30 A.M. - 4:00 P.M.

Closed Saturday and Sunday

RVCFD Holds Annual Memorial Service

The Rockville Centre Fire Department paid tribute to those we lost over the past year at its annual memorial service. Mayor Francis X. Murray, Trustee Emilio Grillo, and residents joined Chief James Avondet and the RVCFD at Fireman's Memorial Park to pay respect to the five members who passed away since last October: Honorary Chief John "Jake" Russell Sr., Honorary Chief Raymond Esposito, Firefighter Josie Howard, Ex Captain Ronald Kahan, and Ex Captain Charles Kerrigan.

"These individuals put the needs of others before their own, instinctively ran into dangerous situations while others fled, and left their homes and families at all hours of the night to serve their neighbors," commented



Mayor Francis X. Murray. "We thank these brave individuals for their dedicated service and keeping Rockville Centre safe, as well as condolences to those they left behind and appreciation for supporting their loved ones in their service to our community."

Honorary Chief Jake Russell joined Reliance Hose Co. #3 of the Rockville Centre Fire Department on June 16, 1953.

He spent most of his 67 years in the department raising the moral and spirit of the membership. He chaired the Department Entertainment Committee for many years, as well as serving as the Chairman of the Department Installation Dinners

Honorary Chief Raymond Esposito, affectionately known as "Uncle Ray," joined Live Oak Engine Company No. 1 and the Rockville Centre Fire Department on November 16, 1948. He quickly learned all phases of firefighting and showed his talent for leadership. He served the department for 72 years.

Firefighter Josie Howard served the department for 20 years, joining Floodlight Rescue Co. #1 on February 20, 2001. She became a Certified Emergency Medical Technician - Critical Care and a leader in the Rescue Company. Josie saved lives and comforted the sick and injured during her time with Floodlight, and later Live Oak Engine Company #1.

Ex-Captain Ronald Kahan served the department for 29 years. Ron took to the fire service quickly and spent many hours training to expand his skills and better serve his community. On the company level, Ron served on whatever committee he was asked to without hesitation. Ron went through the chairs and served as Captain from 2002 to 2004.

Ex-Captain Charles Kerrigan joined Live Oak Engine Co. #1 on November 18, 1969 and transferred to Flood-light Rescue Co. #1 on May 21, 1972. Charlie was certified as an Emergency Medical Technician in



1972 and became an Advanced Emergency Medical Technician in 1973. He served as Captain of Floodlight Rescue from 1995-1997. On the morning of September 11, 2001, Ex-Captain Kerrigan along with several members of the Rockville Centre Fire Department and hundreds of other first responders, responded to the attacks on the World Trade Center. He was part of the crew on Heavy Rescue 446 and responded directly to Ground Zero. He and the crew would spend countless hours assisting in the rescue and recovery effort on "The Pile." As a result of his time at Ground Zero, he was exposed to the hazardous and toxic materials that were the aftermath of the collapse of the towers. Charlie's exposure during the rescue and recovery operation resulted in his 9/11 related cancer. After a valiant fight, Ex-Captain Charlie Kerrigan passed away on August 21, 2021.

"This is an important event for the Rockville Centre Fire Department and the community where we honor and recognize the dedication the service of our first responders that passed away this previous year," added Chief James Avondet.



Photo Credit Richard Law

2nd Annual Holiday Lights to Shine Bright in RVC

Back by popular demand, the Village of Rockville Centre will be holding its second annual "RVC Holiday Lights," a community-wide decorating contest. Homeowners are invited to dig out their lights and decorations to showcase their holiday spirit and traditions to win bragging rights. Each home entered in the contest will be included in a community map that will be available to residents. Residents are encouraged to take a lights tour and cast their vote online at www.rvcny.gov. Residents can also visit with Santa and his helpers at Village Hall on Sunday, December 12th from 4 to 5 p.m. The

winning designs will be announced on the Village website and social media pages on Wednesday, December 15th.

Homeowners can register their home to be a part of the Village-wide contest by calling the Recreation Center at 678-9238 by December 6, 2021. Homes should be fully decorated by December 8th and will be judged on curb appeal in the following categories:

- Clark Griswold: Over the top lighting and decorations.
- Martha Stewart: Design elements that make Martha Stewart jealous.
- Party of Lights: Can we see your home

from space?

- Family Friendly: Displays that engage our youngest residents.
- Best Block: A street that went all out this holiday season.

The community map and voting ballot will be available at www.rvcny.gov on Friday, December 10th. Residents are encouraged to take the RVC Lights Night tour that weekend and cast their vote online by Sunday, December 12th at 8 p.m. To be featured on the Village social media pages, please submit a photo of your decorated home to RVCHolidayLights@gmail.com. Let the decorating begin!

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



Around Our Community

Mayor's Youth Task Force Beautifies Village Hall

Volunteers from the Mayor's Youth Task Force spent an afternoon in October sprucing up Village Hall and planting mums for all to enjoy. Thank you to these hard-working volunteers for giving up their time to help beautify our Village.

The Task Force is open to all Rockville Centre residents in sixth grade through college. Volunteers complete a variety of tasks around the Village including cleaning in the downtown business district and on the playing fields weekend mornings, planting and weeding in designated areas in the Village and pitching in at the Sandel

Senior Center.

Interested volunteers can visit the village website at www.rvcny.gov to fill out an online sign-up form.



Mayor Murray Announces Free Parking on Saturdays for Holiday Shopping

As the holiday shopping season gets underway, the Mayor, along with the Board of Trustees, would like to remind residents to shop local and promote our downtown. In recognition of the importance of shopping local, the Mayor announced that parking will be free for patrons on Saturdays during the month of December and on Small Business Saturday on November 27th, a day dedicated to supporting local small businesses and strengthening and celebrating communities throughout the United States.

"While we continue to get back to normal due to the Covid-19 pandemic, we know that it is vital that we patronize

our local businesses," commented Mayor Francis X. Murray. "Shopping local can help ensure that businesses in our community will get through this pandemic and continue to serve our Village for years to come."

Downtown Rockville Centre remains a diversified business district. The Village is home to some one-of-a-kind specialty boutiques, yet there are choices to meet the needs of any family – home furnishings, sporting goods, clothes, florists, drug stores, gift shops, and a variety of other options. A diverse selection of restaurants allows residents and visitors to complete a long day of shopping.

Mammography Van Visits Rockville Centre



In honor of Breast Cancer Awareness Month, Deputy Mayor Kathy Baxley and Sharon Sheppard, Assistant Director of Rockville Centre's Martin Luther King, Jr., Center, coordinated with Nassau University Medical Center to have its mobile mammography van bring its life-saving technology to our Village this past October. The free screenings included a breast examination by a nurse, a mammography and instructions for breast self-examination at home for Rockville Centre residents over the age of 40 with an appointment.

"It is my hope to have this become an annual event because we know that early detection is key to surviving this disease," commented Deputy Mayor Kathleen Baxley and breast cancer survivor.



34TH Annual Mayor's Golf Classic a Swinging Success

The 34th Annual Mayor's Golf Classic proved to be a success this October. The fundraiser for the RVC Community Fund raised approximately \$50,000 to allow the Rockville Centre Community Fund to fill its mission to help residents in the Village who have emergency financial needs.

"I would like to thank the committee, whose tireless efforts ensured that the golf classic was a success, as well as our honorees, Thomas Gallucci and Robert Pagnotta, and the 2021 Eugene J. Murray Outstanding Citizenship Award recipient

Mary Lou Marquardt," commented Mayor Francis X. Murray. "These worthy honorees are a shining example of what it takes to make a community a great place to live, work, and raise a family."

Founded in 1987, the RVC Community Fund is a not-for-profit tax-exempt charity that responds quickly and confidentially to requests for assistance or to referrals by friends and neighbors of individuals facing financial difficulties. Since its inception, the Community Fund has raised over \$1.8 million.



Leaf Pickup

Leaves should be placed in clear plastic bags and placed on the curb strip. Pick-ups has already begun and will continue until Friday, December 10, 2021.

- Monday – North of Sunrise Highway (between Hempstead Avenue and North Long Beach Road).
- Tuesday – North of Sunrise Highway (East of North Long Beach Road).
- Thursday - North of Sunrise Highway (West of North Village Avenue).
- Friday – South of Sunrise Highway

Village E-Alerts

Please take a moment and sign up for the Village E-Alerts to receive timely email notifications with Village news and events. Subscribers can get the latest edition of This Month in Rockville Centre, as well as notifications from the Village. Residents can sign up on the Village website at www.rvcny.gov.

Pearl Harbor Day

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 Monday, December 7th beginning at 10:30 a.m., honoring the courage and sacrifice of American troops who defended Pearl Harbor in 1941.

Village Christmas Tree Lighting

Join the Mayor and the Board of Trustees for the annual Christmas Tree lighting at the Village Green on Thursday, December 2nd at 7:30 p.m.

January Tree Pick-ups

Discarded Christmas trees will be picked up from the curb-strip beginning on Monday, December 29th on your regular scheduled garbage collection day. Discarded trees will be picked up by the Village. Please remove all lights, decorations, and tree stands.

Online Payment for Electric & Water Bills Now Available

Residents now have a new easy option to pay their electric and water bills. The Village has launched a new bill payment system that includes both phone and online options to pay your bills.

Residents can pay online by visiting www.rvcny.gov and selecting "Pay Your Electric or Water Bill Online" under quick links. Customers can setup an account to view and pay bills, go paperless, and setup autopay. In addition, residents call (516) 200-2203 and use the voice prompts to obtain monthly balance, past due amounts and to make payments.

For payment questions, please call 678-9224. For billing questions, please call 678-9233 or email utilitybilling@rvcny.us.

Tax Office Announcements

Second half 2021/22 Village tax bills are scheduled to be mailed the week of November 15th. Second half taxes must be paid by January 3, 2022 to avoid any penalties.

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 \$610; combat \$1,017; and disabled up to \$2,034 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 2020 gross income not exceeding \$37,400.

Applications are available on

the Village website www.rvcny.gov under Departments> Tax>Exemptions, or by calling the Tax Office Monday - Friday 8am - 4pm at 516-678-9242 or emailing taxoffice@rvcny.us.

The filing deadline for all exemption applications is January 3, 2022.

New property owners and those who have satisfied, refinanced or sold their mortgage to another lending institution should contact the Tax Office as soon as possible either by telephone at (516) 678 9242, or email at taxoffice@rvcny.us in order to avoid billing errors that may lead to penalties for late real estate tax payments.

Online Payment for Electric & Water Bills Now Available

Residents now have a new easy option to pay their electric and water bills. The Village has launched a new bill payment system that includes both phone and online options to pay your bills.

Residents can pay online by visiting www.rvcny.gov and selecting "Pay Your Electric or Water Bill Online" under quick links. Customers can setup an account to view and pay bills, go paperless, and setup autopay. In addition, residents call (516) 200-2203 and use the voice prompts to obtain monthly balance, past due amounts and to make payments.

For payment questions, please call 678-9224. For billing questions, please call 678-



Viewpoint: Comments by Mayor Francis X. Murray

As 2021 nears a close, we must take the time to reflect and give thanks to all that has been accomplished in our robust community over the past year. Although Covid continues to be the looming issue, we have learned to adapt and continue with our day-to-day life. I am inspired by the great things happening in our Village and I am grateful to serve as your Mayor.

We have made great strides on upgrades throughout the Village this year. We continue to improve our infrastructure; renovating roadways and planting trees, replacing water mains, upgrading our electric infrastructure, and continuously updating our parks and ballfields. We have aggressively pursued grants and gifts to make improvements in order to hold the line on taxes for our

residents.

As the holiday shopping season is underway, I would like to remind residents to shop local and promote our downtown. Once again, parking will be free for patrons on Saturday's during the month of December. There's no denying that small businesses are essential for a healthy local economy that sustains the unique character and quality of life that exists here in Rockville Centre. We are fortunate to have a diversified business district with a variety of shops to meet every holiday shopping list.

I would like to express my sincere



appreciation to Deputy Mayor Kathy Baxley, Trustees Mike Sepe, Emilio Grillo and Katie Conlon, as well as our dedicated Village employees. Our Village Administrator Nancy Howard, department heads, and employees work tirelessly. They play a vital role in the advancement of our Village through their dedication, hard work, and service. Their contributions have helped to shape and grow the Village into

one of the most desirable communities to live, work, play, and raise a family on Long Island.

During this time of year, we all give

thanks for our family and friends. We ask for peace all around the world. I hope you will take the time to really appreciate all that we have, especially with the pandemic and turmoil going on in our world. I hope you will also consider giving back to our community and those in need. There are many ways to do so.

I am looking forward to the New Year with optimism and a true sense of duty to continue working with my fellow employees to ensure that the Village of Rockville Centre is thriving for our children and generations to come. I would like to wish you all a happy holiday and, most importantly, a happy, healthy, safe and successful New Year. May the New Year bless us all with good health, success and may there be Peace on Earth.

Sandel Center Promotes Healthy Aging with a Range of Programs

Join the Sandel Senior Center this holiday season. The building will be bustling with a multitude of activities this winter for all to enjoy. With a variety of programs being offered, there is always something for

everyone at Sandel. Fitness classes, musical performances, cards and games, guest speakers, volunteer opportunities, trips and numerous other programs are taking place each day for members to enjoy.

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 or visit our page on the Village website at www.rvcny.gov.

The Sandel Speaker Series features a variety of professional guests. Interviews are conducted before a "live studio audience" of members, recorded and aired on Sandel TV.



Dr. Eve Lowenstein, Dermatologist, discussed skin: what is normal and what is not.

Adam Linsalata, Physical Therapist, presented a seminar about balance.



Volunteerism is alive and well at Sandel and benefits the wider Rockville Centre community.



The rose garden is lovingly tended by member volunteers. Pictured left to right are Liz Barnett, Marie Murphy, and Claire Kirkwood.



The Senior Concerns Committee collected new socks to be donated to a homeless shelter in "Socktober." Pictured left to right are Isabelle Heaney, Sandy Mesibov, Jeanne Mersand, Carol Lambiase, Linda Sanatar, and Marge Copobianco.



A letter writing campaign sent supportive mail to the members of the Rockville Centre Police Department. Pictured is the Senior Concerns Committee and Officer Stefanie Hayes.

There's an activity for everyone at Sandel



An art class with a side of champagne and chocolate covered strawberries was a huge success. Pictured left to right are Andrea LaCava and Helen Gemmell.



A trip to the gardens at Old Westbury was a perfect day for members Colleen Jinks, Claire Kirkwood, Lenore McClean Levy, Program Coordinator Kristine Tolan, Naginder Singh, Grace Brandi, Sandy Mesibov, Vera Wynne, and Marie Murphy

THIS MONTH IN

Rockville Centre

Published by the Village of Rockville Centre

Mayor

Francis X. Murray

Deputy Mayor

Kathleen Baxley

Trustees

Trustee Michael Sepe

Trustee Emilio F. Grillo

Trustee Katie Conlon

www.rvcny.gov

Weather Reminders and Tips

Winter weather is making its regularly scheduled appearance in Rockville Centre with cold weather temperatures and the possibility of snow. In the event of a snowstorm, the Village urges residents to not go out during or immediately after a unless it is necessary. Crews will be able to do their job more quickly and completely if there is less traffic on the roads. The Department of Public Works is responsible for plowing 53 miles of roads, 30 parking fields and all village owned sidewalks. Throughout the storm the DPW will use over 20 pieces of snow equipment including snowplow vehicles, dump trucks, and pay loaders. In addition, DPW will be using four small plows and four snow blowers for walks and ramps.

Please remember:

- All sidewalks must be cleared within 24 hours after the end of a storm.
- Snow should not be thrown into the roadway when clearing their driveways

and sidewalks.

- Snow and ice should be cleared from the fire hydrants near your home so that they are clear, visible and accessible, which will allow emergency responders to act more quickly in case of a fire.
- While out shoveling your sidewalk, keep an eye on your storm drains. Helping to clear them of snow, ice and debris will prevent flooding as temperatures rise.
- Remove vehicles from street parking. This allows plows to clear more snow, which will make driving and parking easier and safer after a storm.
- Individuals who rely on electricity to operate life-sustaining electronic equipment, such as a respirator or dialysis machine, should alert the electric department, police department and fire departments of their needs, in case of emergency. Customers with life-sustaining equipment should also have emergency back-up equipment on hand, since immediate power restoration



cannot be guaranteed.

- If you must go out during hazardous driving conditions, please remember to drive slowly, brake slowly, allow plenty of room between you and the vehicle in front of you, and watch for sudden obstruction. Give yourself plenty of time.

Residents are also encouraged to sign up for notifications on Swift 911, the Village's notification system. This system enables the Village of Rockville Centre to provide residents with critical timely information in a variety of situations, such as severe weather, unexpected road closures, missing persons, evacuations of buildings or neighborhoods, and power outages. Residents can register for Swift 911 on the Village's website at www.rvcny.gov.



The John A. Anderson Recreation Center

Annual Christmas Tree Lighting

An evening of song and fellowship officially opens the holiday season at 7:30 p.m. on Thursday, December 2nd on the Village Green at the corner Maple and Lee Avenues, the Avenue of Heroes. Santa arrives via fire truck and his helpers, Rudolph and Frosty, will be on hand to add to the festivities!

Annual Mitten And Hat Tree

The Rockville Centre Recreation Department requests residents to share their warm holiday feelings with those less fortunate by donating new hats and mittens of all sizes and colors beginning December 1st. The donations will be hung on the Mitten and Hat Tree in the Recreation Center lounge.

Roll Around

Open play in the Roll Around gym for ages 1 - 4. Monday - Thursday, 10:30 a.m. and 11:30 a.m. Fridays, 9:30 a.m., 10:30 a.m. and 11:30 a.m. and Saturdays, 9:00 a.m. and 10:00 a.m. All sessions are 45 minutes long. Please register in advance online at RockvilleCentre.recDesk.com - \$13 per child.



Breakfast with Santa

Save the date for breakfast with Santa! Sunday, December 19, 2021. More details to follow.

Food Donations Needed

The Recreation Center is accepting donations of canned food and dry goods as well as frozen turkeys for distribution to families in our community. Coupons for turkeys and gift cards for grocery stores may be dropped off at the Recreation Center as well.

Fall Fun at the Recreation Center

The John A. Anderson Recreation Center was full of spooktacular activities this fall. The annual mural contest brought out some of the most talented and creative young artists in our Village. Countless superheroes, princesses, ghosts and several other creative costumes were on full display at the annual Halloween Parade & Goofy Ghouls Get-Down Dance Party. The South Side Middle School and South Side High School marching band led the parade before the dance party began.



Recreation Department Gift Certificates

Gift certificates of any denomination are available for your holiday gift giving. This is the perfect gift for your children or grandchildren and can be applied to any program run through the Recreation Center.

Pickleball Leagues

Pickleball leagues are forming for January. For details or to sign-up, please contact Frank Milillo at 516-384-5124.



Winter Program Registration

Winter Program registration continues during the month of December. Registration is open until classes reach their maximum enrollment. Register online at ROCKVILLECENTRE.RECDESK.COM. Along with our perennially popular programs such as Gymnastics, Tae Kwon Do and Tumbles, we also offer Learn to Play Chess for kids, Ninja Challenge, Pint-sized Picasso, Happy Piano and Cross-Fit Kids and more! Check out the schedule on our website, www.rvcny.gov. Programs begin on January 3, 2022.

North Pole Calling

Children in Pre-K through 2nd grade can speak directly to Santa with their holiday wish-lists again this year on Tuesday, December 14 or Wednesday, December 15. Parents can fill out a "helpful hints" sheet at the Recreation Center or on ROCKVILLECENTRE.RECDESK.COM.

DETAILED INFORMATION FOR ALL ACTIVITIES CAN BE FOUND AT THE RECREATION CENTER OFFICE OR ON THE VILLAGE WEBSITE AT WWW.RVCNY.GOV CLICK ON THE RECREATION DEPARTMENT LINK.

Wednesday is Paper Day!



Cardboard, product packaging, magazines, catalogs, and junk mail can all be recycled on Wednesdays. Please consolidate cardboard by flattening and tying.

PLEASE NOTE
All paint must be disposed of through the Town of Hempstead's STOP Program.
Please call 378-4210 with any further questions.
*DO NOT DISCARD USED MEDICAL NEEDLES IN HOUSEHOLD REFUSE

