

THIS MONTH IN

Rockville Centre



Dates & Events

April 4 At 7 P.M.
BOARD OF TRUSTEES

April 6 At 7 P.M.
BOARD OF ZONING APPEALS

April 19 At 7 P.M.
PLANNING BOARD

May 2 At 7 P.M.
BOARD OF TRUSTEES

May 4 At 7 P.M.
BOARD OF ZONING APPEALS

MAY 17 At 7 P.M.
PLANNING BOARD

Monday, May 30
VILLAGE OFFICES CLOSED
MEMORIAL DAY

Events are at Village Hall unless otherwise indicated.

Holiday Sanitation Schedule

Memorial Day Week

Monday, May 30, 2022

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, June 1, 2022

No bulk items or paper pickup

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

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

Swift Actions by First Responders and Village Employees Prevent Catastrophic Impacts to our Village



A massive fire erupted at the intersection of North Centre Avenue and Sunrise Highway at 1:11 a.m. on Wednesday, February 16th after a tanker carrying approximately 9,200 gallons of gasoline overturned and crashed into the vacant La-Z-Boy and then skidded into the parking lot of Bargain Liquors. The crash sparked the vacant furniture store to be fully engulfed in flames before partially collapsing, fire to spew from numerous manholes, and the tanker and liquor store to go up in flames.



“We are fortunate that no serious injuries occurred thanks to the heroic actions of our first responders, our dedicated Village employees and the countless departments who provided mutual aid,” commented Mayor Francis X. Murray. “These men and women left the safety of their beds in the middle of the night to respond to a dangerous fire that could have ended very differently if it wasn’t for their heroic actions. We are beyond grateful for their dedication and service to our great Village.”

As part of the Village’s Continuous Improvement Program, the Mayor, Board of Trustees, Village Administrator, Police Commissioner, Fire Chief, and all department heads come together during and after each emergency to discuss the incident and see what can be improved upon for the next emergency. Whether it’s a snowstorm, hurricane, or any emergency, the Mayor and his administration know that there are lessons to be learned and applied for whatever comes their way. In addition, Village employees and first responders spend countless hours training for numerous emergency situations to protect its residents and visitors.

The lessons learned from past emergencies

and training received, prevented catastrophic impacts on the Village and avoided any serious injuries from the horrific accident. Mayor Murray and Village Administrator Nancy Howard were on the scene shortly after the accident occurred to coordinate assistance from the County, State and Federal agencies, as well as over twenty neighboring Fire Departments. In addition, our Department of Public Works, Electric Department, Building Department, and Water Department were on site to assist during the blaze and to mitigate any further damage to the Village.

Due to the electrical grid being run underground in the area, electricity was cut to approximately 800 customers during the fire. Vacuum trucks were brought in to remove any gasoline from the power grid and crews worked diligently to restore power to all customers by 2:30 p.m. With power being out, the Water Department needed to run a generator to the water tower on Sunrise Highway to keep the vital fire hydrants operational. Just like the spring and fall hydrant flushing, the opening of the hydrants caused discolored water due to sediments being stirred up by the increased water pressure. But rest assured, the Nassau County Department of Health confirmed that the public water supply was not negatively

impacted by the accident.

Once the fire was controlled, New York State DEC workers investigated the full extent of gasoline impacts to the area and began pumping out, cleaning, and flushing the area’s storm drain system, as well as deploying an absorbent boom at the outfall to Mill River near Merrick Road. Fortunately, the boom was deployed before significant amounts of gasoline entered the river, with most of the product contained to the northern edge of the shore is being excavated and restored with clean soils and plantings. Drone footage from the scene showed no visible impacts downstream of the containment area.



Road closures continued while the remaining portion of the building was demolished, and the Department of Transportation was able to safely install the new traffic lights in the area.

“As a first responder and the Mayor, I was beyond proud and humbled to see hundreds of people from different agencies and departments work together to not only put out the fires, but to protect our Village from further damage,” continued Murray.

Photos provided by Richard Law and Deputy Mayor Kathy Baxley



Village to Hold Public Hearing on Tentative Budget

The Village of Rockville Centre Board of Trustees will hold a public hearing on Monday, April 4, 2022, at 7:00 pm to consider the adoption of the tentative budget for the fiscal year commencing June

1, 2022 and ending May 31, 2023. All interested parties are invited to attend and be heard.

Prior to or during the public hearing, residents can email comments or questions

to feedback@rvcny.us or by written submission to the Village Administrator sent to One College Place, P.O. Box 950, Rockville Centre, New York 11570-0950 by 4 p.m. on April 4, 2022.



Around Our Community

Rockville Centre Police Department Promote its Finest



At the February Board of Trustees Meeting, the Village of Rockville Centre promoted six members of the Rockville Centre Police Department. As members of their families looked on, Commissioner James Vafeades promoted Lieutenant Chris Romance to Inspector, Sergeant Matt Vickery to Lieutenant, Sergeant Randy Dodd to Lieutenant, Police Officer Dennis Clark to Sergeant, Police Officer Michael Stahlhut to Sergeant, and Police Officer Joe Scibico to Sergeant.

"Police Officers in our Village make significant sacrifices every day to ensure the safety of our residents and businesses while maintaining our peaceful neighborhoods," commented Mayor Francis X. Murray. "I want to thank our dedicated Police Department and applaud these newly promoted officers who have displayed integrity, competence, and a love for this Police Department and community."

Inspector Romance joined the RVCPCD in 1997, where he earned several accolades as a patrol officer, including "Cop of the Year." He later became a member of the Department's Traffic Enforcement Unit and served as the Department's primary training instructor. In 2005, he was promoted to the rank of Sergeant, and became the Commanding Officer of the

Traffic Enforcement Unit and Training Unit. In 2010, he was promoted to the rank of Lieutenant, where he was the Commanding Officer of Support. Inspector Romance is also the Deputy Emergency Manager for the Village. Additionally, Chris is a graduate of the prestigious FBI National Academy. As Inspector, Chris will be the Executive Officer of the Department and oversee the day-to-day operations.

Lieutenant Vickery was born and raised in Westbury. He joined the NYPD in 2005, where he was assigned to the 79th precinct in Bedford-Stuyvesant, Brooklyn. He later joined the RVCPCD in 2008, where he served as a patrol officer until getting promoted to Sergeant in 2015. As Lieutenant, Vickery will be the Commanding Officer of Support and primarily supervise the Department's Training Unit. His father, Mike, is a respected retired 40-year member of the RVCPCD.

Lieutenant Dodd was born and raised in Long Beach. He joined the RVCPCD in 1997. As a police officer, he was the recipient of many department recognitions and awards including "Cop of the Year." Dodd has spent much of his time as a member of the Department's Traffic Enforcement Unit. He became Sergeant of the Traffic Unit in 2008. As lieutenant, Randy will be the Commanding Officer of Patrol and

Traffic Enforcement Units.

Sergeant Clark was born in Alaska but grew up in West Babylon. He became a police officer with the NYPD in 2002 and in 2010 he became a member of the RVCPCD. After a stint on patrol, Clark served as the Department's Youth Officer for several years. Sergeant Clark is a veteran of the U.S. Army and Army National Guard; he proudly served in Afghanistan in Operation Enduring Freedom. As a Sergeant, he will supervise a patrol squad working the day shift.

Sergeant Stahlhut worked for the NYPD for over five years prior to being hired by the Village in September 2010. He has over 16 years of experience on patrol as a police officer. In addition, he is a Major in the Air National Guard and stationed at the 106th Rescue Wing since 2005. He is a Combat Search and Rescue Navigator on the HC-130 aircraft and deployed twice to Africa in support of Operation Enduring Freedom. In his capacity as Sergeant, Mike will supervise a patrol squad working the day shift.

Sergeant Scibico served as a member of the NYPD starting in 2001, where he worked in the 84th precinct in downtown Brooklyn; first as a police officer, and then transitioning into the precinct's Plain

Clothes Unit. In 2007, he was promoted to Sergeant and was assigned to the 1st precinct until he was hired by the RVCPCD in 2009. Scibico has primarily worked in patrol since joining the RVCPCD and has received several department recognitions and honors including "Cop of the Year" in 2013. As Sergeant, he will supervise a patrol squad on the night shift.

"These officers bring a wealth of experience to their new positions," said Commissioner James Vafeades. "I am confident they will help continue to ensure Rockville Centre will remain one of the safest communities here in New York."



Sandel Center is Booming with Activities

Packed with programs, activities and services, the Sandel Center is the place to be for active older adults from Rockville Centre and the surrounding communities. The Sandel Senior Center has resumed most of its regular programming in-person with the easing of

Covid-19 restrictions while continuing to offer programs at home.

A daily fitness class draws a big crowd and is designed to accommodate various levels of fitness. Games, art, guest speakers, music, are popular activities. There are many opportunities

for meaningful volunteerism, both within the center and within the greater community. Center Stage, a popular singing chorale, resumed in March after a long pause necessitated by the pandemic. With the warmer weather, trips, barbecues, and outdoor events will again take place. The calendar is updated regularly and can be obtained by visiting the Sandel Center in person or



Members enjoy an evening program with "supper club."

calling 678-9245.

"Sandel at Home" television program continues to bring valuable senior center programming right to your home every day via Rockville Centre's public access television station at 10 a.m., 2 p.m. and 6 p.m. on channel 18 (Optimum) and 37 (Verizon/Fios). Features of Sandel TV include a range of fitness classes, interviews, brain fitness, art programs and site visits to interesting places around the Village.

Transportation services are available to

members for rides to and from the Sandel Center, supermarket shopping, and medical appointments. To schedule your next ride, please call (516) 766-1266. Our professional Social Work Department provides assistance with Medicare, Medicaid, Food Stamps, HEAP (fuel rebate) EPIC and other benefit programs. Confidential counseling for those experiencing personal problems such as stress, loss, depression, isolation, and family issues is available by appointment by calling (516) 536-1162.

Sandel membership is open to those over the age of 60 who reside in Rockville Centre and the surrounding communities. To become a member or to schedule a visit to see if membership is right for you, please call (516) 678-9245.



With the onset of warm weather, and the easing of Covid restrictions, Sandel members will enjoy several trips this spring.



Volunteers Arlene Berger and Evelyn Grim helped prepare monthly birthday brunch.



Farmers Market Reopens

The Farmers Market will resume on Sunday, June 5, 2022, and continue every Sunday until December 18, 2022, 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.

Real Estate Tax Due June 1, 2021

First half 2022/23 Village real estate tax bills due June 1, 2022, are scheduled to be mailed the week of May 23rd. First half taxes must be paid by June 30, 2022 to avoid any penalty.

Tax payments may be made online at www.rvcny.gov by electronic check or credit card, paid in person at Village Hall, dropped in the wall slot to the right of the Village Hall entrance at 1 College Place or mailed to P.O. Box 950, Rockville Centre NY 11571-0950.

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 by emailing

taxoffice@rvcny.us or by calling (516) 678-9242 to avoid billing errors that may lead to penalties for late real estate tax payments.

The Tax Office, located on the 1st floor of Village Hall at One College Place, is open weekdays from 8:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m.

Be in the Know, Sign up for E-Alerts

In an effort to provide timely communications, residents are urged to sign up for the Village's E-Alert system. Urgent notifications are sent via email to alert residents and businesses of road closures, storm warnings, power outages, and other critical timely information. Please visit the Village website at www.rvcny.gov and click E-Alerts under Quick to sign up to receive.



Viewpoint: Comments by Mayor Francis X. Murray Suburban Voices Heard in Albany

Governor Hochul's recently retracted proposal to mandate Accessory Dwelling Units (ADUs) not only endangered the suburban dream, but it presented an overwhelming threat to the services we have come to expect from our local governments and school districts. This proposal would have required local governments to pass legislation allowing ADUs -- apartments in basements, attics, garages, or even backyard cottages -- and override local governments' power to regulate single-family and multi-family housing across New York State.

As your Mayor and President of New York State Conference of Mayors (NYCOM), I know firsthand that residents do not want to lose single house zoning. Homeowners want to control the character of their community and that begins with local zoning. If we lose that control, it endangers our suburban way of life

with larger classroom sizes, increased use of our roadways, a strain on our local services and first responders, as well as a threat to our environment.

This proposal would have also put an enormous financial burden on residents here in our Village, as well as other suburban communities. Homeowners would have to foot the bill to address the influx of students and pay an incremental amount for the increased demand on Village services, like sanitation, electric and water.

Parking would also become a major issue in neighborhoods and residents would lose a great

deal of their privacy.

In October of 2021, we held a Town Hall Meeting to discuss the potential opportunities of mixed use of our downtown with multi-family and transit-oriented development to meet community character goals, as well as economic sustainability goals. The Board of Trustees and I heard our residents loud and clear that evening. While we have become a model for other Villages on Long Island, I agree with the majority of the residents who spoke out about their fear of losing our walkable downtown with



overbuilding and crowding.

I would like to thank Governor Hochul and Lieutenant Governor Benjamin for hearing my concerns during our meetings and phone calls that this one-size-fits all approach for zoning does not work. I want to thank my fellow elected officials from both sides of the aisle, as well as the residents who spoke out and opposed this harmful legislation. Our collective voices were heard in Albany and the Governor recognized that this mandate as proposed would do much more harm than good.

While the proposed ADU mandate has been pulled from the executive budget, we still need to be vigilant against any attempt by Albany to take away power from local governments. We are the closest level of government to the residents and businesses in our community and we best understand the community and its needs.

Village Officials Tour New Program Supporting Local Families



Mayor Francis X. Murray and Deputy Mayor Kathy Baxley took a tour of "Love, Nana," a new Program by the BackYard Players & Friends located on Seaman Avenue.

"Innovative programs like "Love, Nana" is what makes our Village a special place to call home," commented Deputy Kathy Baxley. "Both valuable programs partnered together to touch countless lives here in Rockville Centre and our surrounding communities. We are lucky to have them here in our great Village"

"Love, Nana," supports families in need by supplying baby clothes while creating an inclusive job training and life skills program for BackYard Players participants. The real "Nana" behind this life changing program is Joan Hyland. Hyland has teamed up with the Backyard Players and Friends (BYP), to provide individuals with developmental disabilities the opportunity to learn job training.

Participants of BYP are washing and folding baby clothes donated to "Love, Nana" and packing anywhere from six to 10 outfits into bundles along with books and baby accessories to be donated to local hospitals, ministries, and social service agencies to distribute the bundles to those in need. To learn more about this non-profit or see how you can help, please visit <https://www.bypandfriends.com/lovenana>.



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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



RVC Celebrates National Fair Housing Month

In honor of the anniversary of the passing of the Fair Housing Act, and in remembrance of the assassination of Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. in 1968, April is set aside as National Fair Housing Month. Sponsored by the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD), the campaign includes efforts to end housing discrimination and raise awareness for fair housing rights in communities across the country. "National Fair Housing Month recognizes the efforts to eliminate

unfair barriers to housing opportunities," commented Mayor Francis X. Murray. "Every person deserves a fair chance to secure safe and stable housing which helps to establish vibrant, diverse, and inclusive neighborhoods in all communities."

If you believe you may be a victim of housing discrimination, because of race, color, national origin, religion, sex, disability or familial status, contact HUD at 1-800-669-9777 or log onto www.hud.gov.



The John A. Anderson Recreation Center

Spring Program Registration

Registration for Spring programs began on March 14th, 2022 for residents. Take a look at the wide array of activities offered by the Recreation Department. Check availability on RockvilleCentre.RecDesk.com.

Spring Recess Activities

Activities are offered during the school breaks. Register for ninja challenge, dodgeball day, paint and design, magic show, and more! Join us for some fun. For further details, please visit rvcny.us/recreation.

Spring Egg Hunt

Little Bunny cottontail is planning a visit to the Rockville Centre Recreation Center on Sunday, April 10th at 9 a.m., 9:45 a.m., or 10:30 a.m. Join us for a morning of fun with a hunt for special treats and a photo-op.



Summer Playground Registration

The 68th Annual Summer Playground Program for grades 1-7 will be offered this summer. The program will be conducted



from June 29th through August 11th from 9 a.m. to 12 noon.

The daily program of athletics, arts and crafts and other activities will be held at the Recreation Center and Wilson School sites. Options again this summer are full summer or partial summer sessions. Registration begins April 5th. Register early to ensure your place in a summer of fun!

Summer Nursery

A Summer Nursery Program (June 27th to August 11th) for children entering Kindergarten in September 2022 and a 4's Summer Program is being offered. Students need to have completed a 3's nursery program. Registration begins online April 5th. Please visit rvcny.us/recreation for more information.



Spring/Summer Sports Leagues

Registration information for softball leagues for men and women and basketball leagues for boys and girls entering grade 5-12, as well as adults, are available on-line and at the recreation center office. All team captains must establish their profile and register their teams on rockvillecentre.recdesk.com.



Nursery School for Fall 2022

The Recreation Department is currently taking registration deposits for the Fall Nursery School Program for children entering Kindergarten in September 2023 and 2024. In addition, the recreation center offers a Time for Two's Program, 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 classrooms, renovated playground and gymnasium! Call the office for more information or to arrange a visit to our school.

Game 7 Basketball

Game 7 Basketball will be holding its summer 2022 basketball league for players entering grades kindergarten-4th grade. The #1 girls' basketball camp in New York will also be held August 15th to 19th at the Recreation Center. For information on both programs please visit game7sports.com.



Sports Camps

Our highly successful sports schools and activities will once again fill the Village ballfields and gymnasiums.

Rockville Centre Baseball School: Please visit rvcny.us/recreation for details.

Gymnastics School: Please visit rvcny.us/recreation for details.

Girls Basketball Camp: August 15th to 19th
Ultimate Lacrosse Camp (second - fifth grade)

Boys Camp: August 1st to 5th

Girls Camp: August 8th to 12th

Monday- Friday 4 p.m. to 6:00 p.m.

Ultimate Sports Camp (first - sixth grade)

Session 1: August 15th to 19th

Session 2: August 22nd to 26th

Monday - Friday 9 a.m. to 12 noon

Ultimate Games and Lacrosse Camp

Designed by physical education teachers, the Ultimate Games Camp is based on the most popular games and activities among each age group for an exciting one-week program from August 15th to 19th. The camp curriculum provides an opportunity for boys and girls of all skill levels going into first through sixth to participate in a friendly, fun and safe environment! Campers will be divided based on their grade level.

The Ultimate Lacrosse Summer Camp is designed for boys and girls going into second to fifth grade in September. The camp curriculum includes developmentally appropriate skills, activities, and games to develop the young lacrosse player. Camp will be held August 1st to August 5th for boys and August 8th to August 12th for girls.

Please visit rvcny.us/recreation for further details on both camps. Registration opens on April 1st at 8 a.m.

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.

TRANSFER STATION

The 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.

from April 3rd until November 20th to receive large items of trash including furniture.

Proof of residency is required

THE DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC WORKS

10 SUNRISE HIGHWAY
RVC License Required

E-CYCLING

EVERY FIRST SATURDAY OF THE MONTH
10:00 a.m. TO 2:00 p.m.

Residents may bring their electronics

Televisions must be dropped off at e-cycling

Assistance will be given for EXTRA LARGE items. Please call (516) 678-9216 to schedule a pickup

ACCEPTABLE E-CYCLING ITEMS

Computers / Computer monitors
Small Electronics
VCR * DVD * I PAD
Video Systems

Anything that plugs into a computer
Televisions
Cable Boxes
Small Servers



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
DO NOT DISCARD USED MEDICAL NEEDLES IN HOUSEHOLD REFUSE

Please call 678-9288 with any further questions.