

THIS MONTH IN

Rockville Centre



Dates & Events

**February 7 At 7 P.M.
PLANNING BOARD**

**February 8 At 7 P.M.
BOARD OF ZONING APPEALS**

**February 13 At 7 P.M.
BOARD OF TRUSTEES**

**Monday, February 20
VILLAGE OFFICES CLOSED
PRESIDENT'S DAY**

**March 6 At 7 P.M.
BOARD OF TRUSTEES**

**March 7 At 7 P.M.
PLANNING BOARD**

**March 8 At 7 P.M.
BOARD OF ZONING APPEALS**

**March 25
St. Patrick's Parade**

Events are at Village Hall unless otherwise indicated.

Holiday Sanitation Schedule

President's Day Week

Monday, February 20, 2023

President's Day - 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, February 22, 2023

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. - 3:00 P.M.

Tax Department 8:30 A.M. - 3:00 P.M.

Closed Saturday and Sunday

Rockville Centre Expands Police Force

At the December Board of Trustees meeting, three new Detectives and four new Police Officers were sworn in as members of the Rockville Centre Police Department. Now, the Police Department proudly serves Village residents with 58 sworn police members.

As members of their families looked on, Commissioner James Vafeades administered the Law Enforcement Oath of Honor to Detectives Stefanie Balos, Dominic Scicutella, John Murphy, and Officers Michael Boncore, Travis Nardello, Samantha Giacchina, and Nordwing Veszter.

Detective Stefanie Balos, who came to the RVC PD in 2015, served as the department's youth officer and will continue working in this capacity in her new detective post. Detective John Murphy, who has been with the RVC PD since 2014, previously served as a Police Officer in Ocean Beach and Westhampton. He was also a member of the U.S. Marine Corps and is a combat veteran having served tours in Iraq and Afghanistan. Detective Dominic Scicutella has been a member of the Village force since 2013, after attending Dowling College and serving as a New York City Police Officer.

"The promotion of our Rockville Centre Police Detectives has proven fruitful for our



Village," commented Police Commissioner James Vafeades. "Shortly after their new designation, Detective Scicutella and Detective Murphy arrested a subject that was stealing property from vehicles on the north end of the Village. Days later, the Detectives made two separate arrests for stolen vehicles. Detectives Scicutella and Murphy are earning their recent designation, and they will continue their diligent patrols in an effort to prevent crime and will apprehend the offenders responsible if necessary."

Officer Nordwing Veszter joined the RVC PD in 2022. A Romanian immigrant, Veszter worked with the NYPD as a Patrol Officer. He graduated from John Jay College with an undergraduate degree and a master's in criminal justice and will be a Patrol Officer in Rockville Centre. Officer Michael Boncore is a Long Island native who joined the RVC PD in 2022 a patrol officer. Previously he served as a Deputy Sheriff in the Suffolk County Sheriff's Office and worked in Central Islip's 1st District Court. Officer Travis Nardello is another Long Island native who

served as a Police Officer with the NYPD for six years before joining the RVC PD. Officer Nardello will work the night tour as a Patrol Officer for the RVC PD. Officer Samantha Giacchina comes to the Village after serving as an officer in the State Police Department at Stony Brook, where she was also assigned to the patrol unit. Officer Giacchina is also a Long Island native having graduated from Centereach High School and studied business at SUNY Stony Brook.



"The Village of Rockville Centre is one of only two cities in the state of New York to rank among the 20 Safest Cities in the United States," said Mayor Francis X. Murray. "We thank the brave men and women of the Rockville Centre Police Department for keeping our Village and its residents safe and helping to make Rockville Centre a great place to live, work, and raise a family," he continued.



St. Patrick's Parade Set to Hit the Streets of Rockville Centre this March

The Annual Rockville Centre St. Patrick's Parade is set to hit the streets of Rockville Centre this March. The highly anticipated parade will begin at noon on Saturday, March 25, starting from Maple Avenue and Long Beach Road and proceeding to the reviewing stand in front of St. Agnes Cathedral.



Over the last 20 years, the Rockville Centre St. Patrick's Parade, which is known as "The Parade that Cares and Shares"®, has become one of the most successful and well-attended parades in New York State. It has become a source of not only cultural pride, but civic pride, as well. The parade is an incorporated not-for-profit organization that annually shares its success with three worthy charities, which are National, Irish,



and locally focused. Since the parade's inception in 1997, over \$1.4 million has been distributed to 70 individual Charities.

This year's charities are the Ryan Patrick O'Shea Foundation, a Rockville Centre based charity whose mission is to increase mental health awareness and education to prevent suicide; HELP Uganda, works with the impoverished refugee village of Masese, Uganda to help break the cycle of hunger, disease, illiteracy, and poverty; and the St. Laserian's School, a co-educational school that has catered to students aged 4-18 who have been assessed as having a mild, moderate, or severe to profound general learning disability for the past 40 years.

The 2023 Grand Marshal, Tommy



McNicholas, was born and raised in Rockville Centre, and his love for the community is reflected in all aspects of his life, from raising his own children here, establishing his business in the heart of town, and leading charitable initiatives, community projects, and coaching the next generation of Rockville Centre residents with passion and purpose.

For further information about the parade visit the parade website at www.rvcstpatrick.com.



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

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Around Our Community

RVC Shines Bright During the Holiday Season

Festive crowds kicked-off the holiday season at the annual Rockville Centre tree lighting at the Village Green. Rabbi David Lerner of Congregation B'nai Sholom-Beth David provided the benediction and Father Anthony Twum of St. Agnes Cathedral offered the blessing of the tree. After a countdown and a flip of the switch, residents joyously gathered around the tree while students from South Side High School and Middle School performed holiday songs. Rudolph and Frosty the Snowman visited, and Santa made an appearance on a Fire truck, courtesy of the Rockville Centre Fire Department.

The Recreation Center held its annual Breakfast with Santa's Helpers. With nearly 1,000 families in attendance, the elves were extra busy serving up delicious pancakes provided by the Pantry Diner before kids visited Santa, Rudolph, and Frosty. The Phillips House Museum once again hosted its Holiday Open House. Attendees enjoyed holiday music, hot chocolate, crafts, festive decorations, and a special visit from Santa thanks to our Rockville Centre Fire Department. In conjunction with the National Council of Jewish Women, the Recreation Center held its annual Chanukah party and the Festival of Lights continued at the Menorah Lighting on the Village Green.

The Village held its third annual, "RVC Holiday Lights," a community-wide decorating contest. With over 40 participating homes, contestants pulled out all the stops for their elaborate displays. Just shy of 3,000 votes were cast for favorite displays in the following categories: Martha Stewart, Clark Griswold, Party of Lights, Family Friendly, and Best Block. The winners from each category were recognized at the January Board of Trustees meeting.

"Thank you to all our homeowners that participated and made our Village shine



bright," commented Deputy Mayor Kathy Baxley. "Every participate truly captured the holiday spirit."

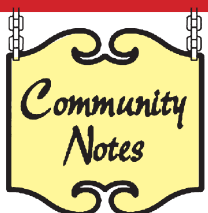
While neighbors adorned their homes with festive lights and decorations for the 3rd Annual RVC Holiday Light Contest, Rockville Centre downtown shined bright thanks to the hard work of a few. RVC Chamber of Commerce President Lisa Umansky spearheaded funding for light poles to be wrapped in evergreen and Keith Linsalata of Art Flowers and his staff volunteered their time to hang the evergreen on each pole. In addition, dedicated employees of the Electric Department and Department of Public Works hung new evergreen winter baskets and new snowflake lights throughout downtown. "None of this would have been possible without our Village Administrator Nancy Howard," commented Mayor Francis X. Murray. "Their collective efforts enhanced our Village this holiday season and brought with it a warm glow that lights up the darkness of our winter and captures the holiday spirit. We have a lot to be thankful for here in the Village of Rockville Centre."



RVC Commemorated Pearl Harbor Day

Military veterans from Rockville Centre gathered at Mill River Park to commemorate the 81st anniversary of the attack on Pearl Harbor. The ceremony, hosted by the Village of Rockville Centre and American Legion Post #303, honored the courage and sacrifice of American troops who defended Pearl Harbor in 1941. During the ceremony, a wreath was cast into Mill River in honor of those who were lost that day.

"December 7, 1941 was a day that changed the course of history as the United States of America was attacked at Pearl Harbor," commented Mayor Francis X. Murray. "It is vital that we honor the service of those who went above and beyond and remember their sacrifice."



Village Tax Grievance

The Village Tax Grievance period begins annually on February 1st and concludes on February 21st, which is Grievance Night. If you wish to file a grievance, complaint forms are available on the Village website at www.rvcny.gov.

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.

Snow Reminders

In the event of a snowstorm, the Village urges residents not to go out during or

immediately after a snowstorm unless it is necessary. Crews will be able to do their job more quickly and completely if there is less traffic on the roads. Residents and business owners are reminded that all sidewalks must be cleared within 24 hours after the end of a storm and snow should not be thrown into the roadway when clearing their driveways and sidewalks. If you have a fire hydrant on your property, snow should be cleared so they may be located easily in case of an emergency. Corner properties are responsible for clearing to the corner and curb cut access to allow pedestrian access to sidewalks.

Beatles Tribute Show for a Cause

Friends of Senior Services, Inc (FOSSI) will be hosting a Beatles Tribute Show to benefit the Sandel Senior Center on Friday, March 31, 2023 at 7p.m. Gather your family and friends to enjoy great music, lite bites, cocktails, raffles, prizes, and more. The night will also recognize Deputy Mayor Kathy Baxley for her tireless enthusiasm and dedication to the senior citizens of the RVC community.

To purchase tickets or further details, please call (516) 678-9245 or visit FOSSIRvc.com.



Viewpoint: Comments by Trustee Mike Sepe Confronting Debt

There is one unifying factor in local government that affects us all regardless of politics or ideology – debt. It becomes an expected part of annual budgets and if unchecked, rapidly grows, often beyond the control of those who took it on. While many of us won't carry a balance on our credit cards, we often have a strange tolerance for local, state or federal government when they incur unreasonable amounts of debt in our name.

Many residents are not aware that their Village taxes mostly go toward salaries and operating expenses whereas a large portion of our capital and construction projects are funded by borrowing in the form of bonds. At the same time, interest on our debt, and more importantly, a pay down of the principal is part of our annual budget process as well.

Over the past few years, the Village Board

made a conscious decision to take advantage of what were historically low interest rates. For that reason, we expanded the repair of our roads well beyond the previous pace, built two iron filtration plants for our water supply, reconstructed Maple Avenue, made significant improvements to our water, fire, and electric departments, and most recently built our new Police Dept. headquarters. All of this occurs as we constantly work to find the right balance between the levels of services and infrastructure our residents demand and the level of taxes and spending our residents will accept.

Things have changed. Over the past two



years, interest rates and the cost of both materials and labor have skyrocketed. This occurs at the same time that the savings of most of our residents have fallen in value.

We get it. As a result, the Village Board has made an intentional change in our borrowing and spending priorities.

Because of the new reality of the New York and U.S. economy, we've made an even greater effort to separate what we "must" have each year as opposed to what we would "like" to have if our debt levels were lower. For that reason, we've had to make spending choices to emphasize public safety by recently expanding the size of the police

department and continuing investment in our water and electric infrastructure. At the same time, we've delayed or eliminated spending on additional items which, while eventually necessary, we've been forced to decide will have to wait.

Most of the requests for spending and capital projects are submitted in consultation with our department heads and then translated into a five-year proposed Capital Plan. It then becomes the job of the Village Board make choices.

Recently, the Board completed a late night session on a line item review of the latest Capital Plan. After serious work and input from the Mayor and Trustees, we were able to eliminate 13 million dollars in future spending over the next five years. We appreciate the support of our residents in making that happen.

Sandel News

The Sandel Center is part of the Village of Rockville Centre Department of Senior Services. Membership is open to those aged 60 plus who reside in Rockville Centre and the surrounding communities.

Sandel Center members had a very active holiday season and are moving into February with heart health in mind. Every Friday in February the members will wear red to

promote women's heart health. Members will also be singing along at a Tom Jones Tribute show on Friday, February 10th.

The Sandel Center has an onsite licensed clinical Social Worker whose services are available to Sandel Center members as well as to the Rockville Centre community. The Social Worker can assist with Medicare, Medicaid, food stamps, Able Ride, EPIC

and other benefit programs available. Confidential short-term counseling for those experiencing personal problems such as stress, loss, depression, isolation, and family issues is also available by appointment. To contact the Social Worker, please call 516-536-1162.

The Sandel Center has many volunteer programs that take place at the center and

community wide. The Senior Concerns committee is active in holding food, coat, sock, and school supply drives throughout the year. This committee also writes letters and cards to send to our troops.

For more information or to become a member please call 516-678-9350 or visit our page on the Village website at www.rvcny.gov



On Friday, November 18th, Thanksgiving was celebrated at the Sandel Center. The delicious Thanksgiving feast was provided by Sandel member, Jean Mersand. The Sandel members also wrote what they are thankful for on beautiful paper leaves.



The Sandel Center's first holiday boutique was a hit! There were over 15 vendors with items for everyone on your list. Be on the lookout for a spring fair in early May featuring gifts for Mom and the garden.



The Sandel's social work intern, Kristi Mercado, who is a senior at Adelphi University working towards her bachelor's degree in social work, developed a four-week American Sign Language course for the members. Kristi taught the alphabet and how to communicate basic information.

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

Rockville Centre Electric News

Residential rebates for thermostats and ENERGY STAR appliances

Looking to offset energy efficient upgrades in your home? Rockville Centre Electric can help with rebates for recently purchased / installed smart thermostats, and ENERGY STAR dishwashers, air purifiers, dehumidifiers (some participation conditions may apply). Applying is easy! Enroll your thermostat using your in-phone app or download an application for qualifying appliances using our link: https://www.rvcny.gov/sites/g/files/vyhlf4946/f/uploads/appliance_rebate_application_2022_final_.pdf

Keep more cash in your pockets

Whether making energy efficient upgrades or not, here are several ways to conserve energy while saving money: lower heat settings, raise cool settings, or turn it off when not occupied. Also, decreasing pool heater settings, running some major appliances during off-peak hours (before 2 pm and after 7pm), automobile charging during off-peak hours or even overnight, simple LED replacements within lighting fixtures, cleaning ducts/vents and changing air filters every 6 months can all be effective, savings habits.

Appliance, custom, and lighting rebates for commercial customers

If your business has purchased a

refrigeration automatic door closer for a walk-in cooler/freezer or cooler and freezer door strip, you could be eligible for incentives ranging from \$150 - \$250. Custom incentives are also available to commercial-rate customers that purchase / install qualifying energy efficient equipment and do not fit into the categories covered by our prescriptive program. When retrofitting your place of business with energy efficient lighting (self-installed or with your preferred contractor), you could be eligible for a rebate up to \$500 per Net kW saved.

Learn more about energy efficiency programs offered by Rockville Centre Electric,

<https://www.rvcny.gov/electric-department/pages/energy-saving-tips>

Questions? 866-314-9611, or email info@rvcpeaksavers.com.



The John A. Anderson Recreation Center



The REC would like to extend a special thank you to the Pantry Diner for donating their delicious pancake batter to our Breakfast with Santa event that took place in December. Over 900 people enjoyed the pancakes!! Thank you for your generosity.

2023 Presidents' Week Activities February 21-24

During the February Recess, the Recreation Department will offer activities for Village youngsters. Detailed flyers will be available on our website rvcny.gov/recreation. Residents can enjoy the convenience of on-line registration at rockvillecentre.recdesk.com. Registration is taken on a first come first-served basis.

Nursery School Registration

The Rockville Centre Recreation Department is pleased to offer Nursery

School programs for the 2023-2024 school year September through June. Prospective students may visit our nursery school with their parents. Please call the Recreation Department office to make arrangements.

ELIGIBILITY

- Pre Kindergarten 4's- for children entering Kindergarten Sept. 2024 5-day-a-week option.
 - Pre Kindergarten 3's - for children entering Kindergarten Sept. 2025 4 or 5 day-a-week options
 - Time For Two's - for children age 2 by August 1, 2023 - 2 day-a-week class
- Registration is online Wednesday, March 1, 2023 at 9:30 a.m. for the 3's and



4's program and Tuesday, March 14, 2023 at 9:30 a.m. for the 2's program. Please call the Recreation Department for more details.

Spring Program Registration

Registration for Spring programs will begin on Monday, March 6th for residents and Wednesday, March 8th for non-residents. Take a look at our lineup of activities on rockvillecentre.recdesk.com. We have a wide array of unique programs including Art, CrossFit Kids, Ninja Challenge and Chess, as well as the perennially popular offerings such as Gymnastics and Tumbles. Be sure to register early to ensure your inclusion in the class of your choice! Detailed flyers are available at rvcny.gov. Register online at rockvillecentre.recdesk.com. The Spring sessions begins on Thursday, March 23rd.

Summer Sports Schools

You will never find a better group of professionals than those who run the sports schools at the Recreation Center.

The Rockville Centre Baseball School, Game 7's Basketball School, Ultimate Sports Camp and the Recreation Department's Gymnastics School provide your child with the best sports instruction and guarantee an exceptionally rewarding

experience. Register early to secure your child's place in these very popular instructional programs. Contact the recreation office or website for further information.

Men's and Women's Softball

The Recreation Department's Men's Spring Softball season is tentatively scheduled to commence the week of March 27th. Information for men's teams is available on our website or at the office. Information for Summer Softball Leagues for Men and Women will be available in beginning of May.

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.

VILLAGE OF ROCKVILLE CENTRE

SANITATION IMPORTANT TIPS

Garbage should be placed in standard garbage containers with detachable lids. **NO LARGER THAN 32 GALLONS** Garbage should not exceed 50 pounds. Please do not over fill plastic garbage bags as they can easily tear.

To prevent injury to our village employees, please use caution when disposing of any broken glass or sharp objects. Please securely wrap broken glass in newspaper or brown paper or place inside cardboard box, tape shut and label broken glass. Do not place broken glass in plastic bags.

E-Cycling:

Drop off your e-cycling items on the first Saturday of every month between 10am and 2pm at 10 Sunrise Hwy including: Televisions, Computers, Monitors, VCRs, DVDs, iPads, Cable boxes, Cameras or Video Cameras, Telephones (any type), GPS, Calculators

Contractor debris:

Contractors MUST dispose of all building and landscaping debris. The Village is not responsible for disposal of refuse from tradesmen.

Town of Hempstead STOP Program 516-378-2200:

Disposal of hazardous materials including paints, solvents, car batteries, fluorescent bulbs,

SPECIAL PICKUP/BULK ITEMS

Call 678-9216 before 12 noon on Tuesday for Wednesday/Thursday pick-up of waste items too large for insertion into trash containers.

Please indicate if you have metal items or live on a dead end.

During weeks with a Monday Holiday there is no bulk pickup or paper recycling on Wednesday. Please see the annual sanitation calendar for details.

WEDNESDAY BULK ITEMS INCLUDE:

Mattresses - must be sealed in bedbug proof encasement bags or heavy-duty plastics bags
Branches and wood debris in bundles (NO more than 4 feet in length, NO more than 50 pounds)
Tables, chairs, dressers, rugs

THURSDAY METAL BULK ITEMS INCLUDE:

Household Appliances (dishwashers, refrigerators (with doors off), stoves, washer/dryers)

HELPFUL LINKS

Sanitation pickup schedule:

<http://www.rvcny.us/recycle/recycle.html>

Sanitation holiday schedule:

https://www.rvcny.gov/sites/g/files/vyhlif4946/f/uploads/2022_sanitation_schedule.pdf

Recycling Guide:

https://www.rvcny.gov/sites/g/files/vyhlif4946/f/uploads/recycling_march_2020_0.pdf

Recycling FAQ:

https://www.rvcny.gov/sites/g/files/vyhlif4946/f/uploads/recycling_faq.pdf



BE STRONG, BE HEALTHY AND STAY CUTE WITH US

Start committing to reaching your body goals

We meet at:

Rockville Centre Recreation Center
111 N Oceanside Road 11570

All Classes are \$10 pay as you go or packages are available
Payment options: contactless or pay at door

OUR SCHEDULE

Tuesday 6:40pm - Body Toning w/ equipment
Tuesday 7:25pm - Zumba
Wednesday 8:30am Zoom only
Thursday 9:15am - Body Toning w/ equipment
Thursday 7:00pm - Yoga Fusion
Saturday 9:00am - Zumba

Get in touch with us
516-655-7967
sohappy2bfit@gmail.com

SHEILA CLARK-HAWKINS
I am a Miss Fitt

