

THIS MONTH IN Rockville Centre



**December 2, At 7 P.M.
BOARD OF TRUSTEES**

**December 11, At 7 P.M.
BOARD OF ZONING APPEALS**

**December 10, At 7 P.M.
PLANNING BOARD**

**December 19, At 6 P.M.
MID-MONTH MEETING**

**Wednesday, December 25
VILLAGE OFFICES CLOSED
CHRISTMAS**

**Wednesday, January 1
VILLAGE OFFICES CLOSED
NEW YEAR'S DAY**

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

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

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

**January 16 At 6 P.M.
MID-MONTH MEETING**

**Monday, January 20
VILLAGE OFFICES CLOSED
MARTIN LUTHER KING, JR DAY**

Events are at Village Hall unless otherwise indicated.

Log onto www.rvcny.gov for detailed information for each meeting.

Holiday Sanitation Schedule

**Wednesday, December 25, 2024
No trash collection**

There will be cardboard and paper pickup on Saturday, December 28, 2024

**Wednesday, January 1, 2025
No trash collection**

There will be cardboard and paper pickup on Saturday, January 4, 2025

**Monday, January 20, 2025
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. - 3:00 P.M.

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

Closed Saturday and Sunday

Mr. B's Inclusive Playground is Open for All

Mr. B's Inclusive Playground officially opened in early October with a ribbon cutting ceremony. Located at the John A. Anderson Recreation Center, the state-of-the-art accessible playground is now open for children of all abilities.

The boundless playground is named after longtime Recreation Superintendent Anthony Brunetta, better known as Mr. B, who passed away in 2016. Mr. B served the Village for nearly six decades with his exemplarily work ethic and devotion to the youth of Rockville Centre.

"Mr. B touched countless lives and today we honor his legacy, which is memorialized in this state-of-the-art playground that I know he would have loved," said Mayor Francis X. Murray. "It will serve as a permanent reminder how Mr. B helped us to grow, and in turn he left his mark on us."

The playground was built at no cost to the taxpayers after the Village succeeded in raising more than \$2 million from grants and community organizations. Grants from the New York State Dormitory Authority, former Assemblywoman Judy Griffin, former New York State Senator Todd Kaminsky and donations from generous community groups including the Rockville Centre Lions Club, Tommy Brull Foundation Inc., the Rockville Centre Little League, Feil Family Foundation,



Rockville Centre PBA, RVC Speaks, Francis F. Wilson Elementary School, Lindsay's, and the Tim McMullan Memorial Fund brought this project to fruition.

Mr. B's Playground features a sensory dome and play structures with ramps that are sure to provide countless hours of entertainment for all to enjoy. The grants secured also allowed for upgrades to Veterans Park, located directly behind the new playground, including new ADA-compliant restrooms, LED lighting, new walking track, tennis, pickleball, and basketball courts.

"It's projects like this that makes me proud to be your Mayor. Everyone came together and took an idea from a dream to a reality and in turn reached another milestone for our Village in achieving inclusion for all," added Mayor Murray.



Village of Rockville Centre Appoints New Comptroller

The Village of Rockville Centre has appointed Fran Graziano as its Comptroller. Graziano has worked with the Village for over four years as Deputy Treasurer and brings to his new role over two decades of experience in the accounting industry.

"I am confident that Fran will continue to play an integral role in our Village's sound fiscal practices that have been recognized with the highest ratings from Standard and Poor's," commented Mayor Francis X. Murray. "His vast experience, coupled with his working knowledge of our Village, made him an obvious choice for the position."

In his new role, Graziano is responsible for

the preparation and implementation of the annual operating budget, for the sale of bonds to finance capital projects, and for advising the



Board of Trustees about the general financial condition of the Village. In addition, Graziano is also responsible for the supervision of the Tax Office, Deputy Treasurer, and the Purchasing Departments. A graduate of Bentley University with an Accounting Degree, Graziano previously served over two decades as an accountant in the healthcare and staffing industries. Graziano's appointment came after former Comptroller Dennis Morgan retired.

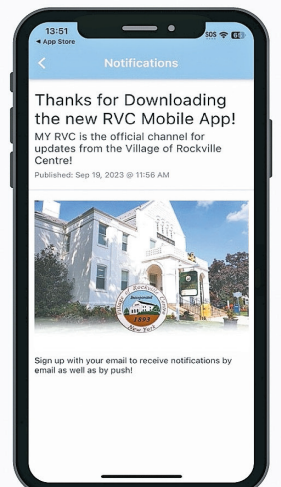
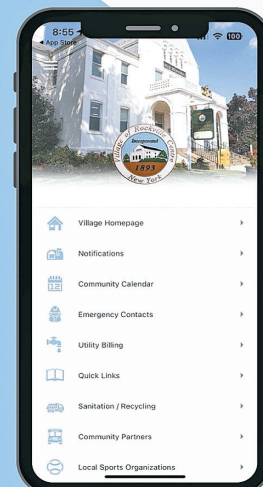
"I am excited to enter this next phase of work with the Village providing consistent and accurate financial information that will enable administration to continue making sound decisions," commented Fran Graziano.

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Rockville Centre
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www.rvcny.gov

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Around Our Community

RVCFD Honors Fallen Firefighters

The Rockville Centre Fire Department paid tribute to their fallen peers that were lost over the past year at its annual memorial service. The moving tribute honored seven members including Joseph Lagudi, Carl Boegel Jr., Charles Khram, Thomas O'Boyle, Anthony Papalia, Donald Lister, and Ian Bernard.

"These seven individuals emulated everything we hold dear in Rockville Centre: selflessness, sacrifice, and dedication," commented Mayor Francis X. Murray. "May they rest easy knowing they left Rockville Centre a safer community for their family and

friends. Thank you to the Rockville Centre Fire Department for giving a proper tribute for our heroes."

Mayor Francis X. Murray, Trustee Emilio Grillo, Trustee Katie Conlon, Trustee Gregory P. Shaughnessy, Congressman Anthony D'Esposito, Assemblyman Brian Curran, Councilwoman Laura Ryder, RVCFD Chaplain Rabbi David Lerner, RVCFD Chaplain Rev. Michael Duffy and residents joined Chief Scott Mohr and the Rockville Centre Fire Department to commemorate each firefighter's last alarm to recognize their service and legacy.



Photo Credit: Chris De Gray



Rockville Centre Officer Promoted to Lieutenant



Rockville Centre Police Commissioner Randy Dodd swore in Officer Peter Pellegrino to his new role as Lieutenant at the November Board of Trustees meeting.

"Throughout his tenure with the RVC PD, Lieutenant Pellegrino's dedication to the safety of our Village has been unwavering and inspiring," commented Mayor Francis X. Murray. "I look forward to his continued and growing leadership in his new position."

Police Officer Peter Pellegrino, born and raised in Suffolk County, has been a police officer in Rockville Centre for nearly 20 years. Officer Pellegrino joined the Training Unit in which he became the departments lead instructor. As lead instructor, he obtained various

credentials, including a certification through TASER as a Taser Instructor.

In 2017, Pellegrino was promoted to the rank of Sergeant, becoming the supervisor of the Firearms and Training Unit. In this role, he has not only led internal training efforts but also contributed to the training of recruits and officers from neighboring police departments and academies. His efforts have extended beyond the department, working closely with schools and houses of worship in the community to enhance their security measures. Through his expertise and dedication to training, Peter has become an integral part of the law enforcement community, consistently working to improve the safety and preparedness of both officers and public.

"My fellow board members and I wish Lieutenant Pellegrino all the best in his new role," added Mayor Murray.



Rockville Centre Goes Pink

Each October, the Village of Rockville Centre renews its commitment to raising awareness about breast cancer. In recognition of Breast Cancer Awareness month, the Village of Rockville Centre joined with the Rockville Centre Breast Cancer Coalition to "Go Pink" outside Village Hall. Once again, the Village of Rockville Centre pledged its commitment to raising awareness of breast cancer prevention, detection, treatment, and search for a cure for breast cancer.



Village Tax Grievance

The Village Tax Grievance period begins annually on February 1st and concludes on February 18th, which is Grievance Night. If you wish to file a grievance, complaint forms are available on the Village website at www.rvcny.gov.

Leaf Pickup

Bagged leaves should be placed in clear plastic bags and placed on the curb strip and will be picked-up until Friday, December 13, 2024.

- Monday: North of Sunrise Highway (between Hempstead Avenue & N. Long Beach Road)

- Tuesday: North of Sunrise Highway (East of N. Long Beach Road)
- Thursday: North of Sunrise Highway (West of Hempstead Avenue)
- Friday: South of Sunrise Highway

Village Tree Lighting

Join the Mayor, the Board of Trustees, and your neighbors for the annual Tree Lighting at the Village Green on Tuesday, December 3rd at 7 p.m.

Menorah Lighting

Join the Mayor, the Board of Trustees, and your neighbors for a Menorah Lighting on Thursday, December 26th at 6 p.m. at the Village Green.

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 Saturday, December 7th beginning at 11:00 a.m., honoring the courage and sacrifice of American troops who defended Pearl Harbor in 1941.

January Tree Pick-ups

Discarded Christmas trees will be picked up from the curb-strip beginning on Monday, January 6, 2025, on your regular scheduled garbage collection day. Discarded trees will be picked up by the Village. Please remove all lights, decorations, and tree stands.

Tax Office Announcements

Second half 2024/25 Village tax bills are scheduled to be mailed out on November 20, 2024. Second half taxes must be paid by January 2, 2025, 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 \$518; combat \$864; and disabled up to \$1,728 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 2023 gross income not exceeding \$58,399.

Exemption applications are available on the Village website www.rvcny.gov on the Tax Office page, by emailing taxoffice@rvcny.us or by calling the Tax Office Monday to Friday, 8am - 4pm at (516)678-9205.

The filing deadline for all 2025/26 exemption applications is January 2, 2025.

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 email at taxoffice@rvcny.us or telephone at (516) 678-9205 in order to avoid billing errors that may lead to penalties for late real estate tax payments.

Free Parking Saturdays Returns this Holiday Season

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

beginning on Small Business Saturday, November 30th, a day dedicated to supporting local small businesses and strengthening and celebrating communities throughout the United States. Free parking will continue on Saturday, December 7th, 14th, 21st, and the 28th.



Viewpoint: Comments by Mayor Francis X. Murray

As 2024 nears to a close, we have a lot to be thankful for here in the Village of Rockville Centre. I am inspired by the great things happening in our Village and am grateful to serve as your Mayor.

I have always prided myself on being transparent and available to residents. To that end, I encourage all residents to play an active role in our open communication. There are many ways we continue to reach out to residents and business owners including our website, social media pages (Facebook, Instagram, and X), our mobile app MY RVC, and Swift 911. The free mobile citizen engagement application, MY RVC, puts Village resources at residents' fingertips. The user-friendly app provides residents and visitors with a one-stop location to access the Village website, events calendar, find important contact information, pay utility, tax, and parking fees, as well as receive time sensitive news alerts and updates from the Village. Residents are encouraged to download

the free app by going to the Apple App Store or Google Play Store and search "My RVC" to find and download the app.

The Village's Swift 911 is utilized to alert subscribers to emergencies and important community news. This system enables the Village of Rockville Centre to provide residents with critical timely information in a variety of situations, such as severe weather. The system also allows us to notify residents of road construction or closures and power outages in specific locations in the Village. Residents can register for Swift 911 on the Village's website at www.rvcny.gov.

We have made great strides on upgrades throughout the Village this year. We continue to improve our infrastructure throughout the Village, expanding our police force and

maintaining services provided for our residents. After years in the making, Mr. B's Inclusive Playground at the John A. Anderson Recreation Center is open for all to enjoy. The state-of-the-art boundless playground is available for children of all abilities at no cost to the taxpayers, thanks to grants and donations from several community groups.

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 Saturdays during the month of December. 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 Emilio Grillo, Katie Conlon, and Gregory P. Shaughnessy, as well as our dedicated Village employees. Our Village Administrator Nancy Howard, department heads, and employees work tirelessly on behalf of our residents. 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.

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 season 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 Celebrates 48 Years of Thriving

48 years ago this past September, the Sandel Senior Center opened its doors as a "drop in" center on the site of an old gas station. Today, the Sandel Center is thriving with hundreds of members and award-winning programs. Each day members have a vast selection of programs to choose from, exercise classes, art, chorus, lectures, Men's Club, trips, cards and games. To celebrate this momentous occasion, a party was held in honor of the center. As always, there was a delicious meal, non-stop dancing, and lots of laughs.

This fall, members enjoyed numerous programs and trips including a day at White Post Farms. They fed the animals, giraffes included, picked some pumpkins and took a festive hayride. A very big thank you to Art Flowers and the Backyard Players for making "Petal It Forward" a special day at the Sandel Center.



37TH Annual Mayor's Golf Classic a Swinging Success



The 37th Annual Mayor's Golf Classic proved to be a swinging success this fall. The Classic raised approximately \$75,000 to benefit the Rockville Centre Community Fund, a not-for-profit charity dedicated to helping the residents of Rockville Centre facing emergency financial needs. The night also recognized two residents who consistently give of themselves for the betterment of our Village. Congratulations to the 2024 Honoree Ed Asip and the Eugene J. Murray Outstanding Citizenship Award recipient Harold Reese.



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 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 payloaders. 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 your 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. Residents should also sign up for the Village's free mobile app, MY RVC. The user-friendly app provides residents and visitors with a one-stop location to access the Village website, events calendar, find important contact information, pay utility, tax, and parking fees, as well as receive time sensitive news alerts and updates from the Village. Residents can download the free app by going to the Apple App Store or Google Play Store and search "My RVC" to find and download the app.

THIS MONTH IN

Rockville Centre

Published by the Village of Rockville Centre

Mayor

Francis X. Murray

Deputy Mayor

Kathleen Baxley

Trustees

Trustee Emilio F. Grillo

Trustee Katie Conlon

Trustee Gregory P. Shaughnessy

www.rvcny.gov



The John A. Anderson Recreation Center

Winter Program Registration

Registration for Winter Programs 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, Tumbles, and Kids in the Kitchen, we also offer Learn to Play Chess for Kids, Ninja Challenge, Pint-sized Picasso, Cross-Fit Kids and more! Check out the schedule on our website. Programs begin on January 2, 2025.



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. In addition, gift cards for grocery stores may be dropped off at the Recreation Center. We are also collecting new, unwrapped toys and gift



Happy Holidays, Happy New Year

The Village of Rockville Centre extends its best wishes to all of our residents for a healthy and happy holiday season and a prosperous New Year.

Mayor Francis X. Murray
Deputy Mayor Kathleen Baxley
Trustee Emilio Grillo
Trustee Katie Conlon
Trustee Gregory P. Shaughnessy

cards to brighten the holiday season.

North Pole Calling

Children in PreK through second grade can speak directly to Santa with their holiday wish-lists again this year on Tuesday, December 17th or Wednesday, December 18th. Parents can fill out a "helpful hints" sheet at the Recreation Center or on ROCKVILLECENTRE.RECDESK.COM.

Annual Mitten And Hat Tree

The Rockville Centre Recreation Department requests residents to share their warm holiday feelings 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 lobby.

RVC Holiday Lights

Homeowners are invited to dig out their lights and decorations to showcase their holiday spirit and traditions and win bragging rights. Homes are entered into a contest in different categories. Please call the Recreation Center at (516) 678-9238 to enter your home.

Roll Around

Join open play in the Roll Around gym for ages one to four. Sessions are available Mondays through Thursdays at 10:15 a.m., 11 a.m., and 11:45 a.m., as well as Friday's at 9:30 a.m., 10:30 a.m., and 11:30 a.m., and Saturday's at 9:00 a.m. and 10:00 a.m. All



Village of Rockville Centre

Holiday Lights Contest

Homeowners and business owners are invited to dig out their lights and decorations! Join us for the Village's Fifth Annual Community-Wide Decorating Contest.

IMPORTANT DATES

- December 6, 2024 Last day to register. To enter, please call the Recreation Center at (516) 678-9238.
- December 12, 2024: Participants should have their decorations completed.
- December 13, 2024: Map posted at www.rvcny.gov and voting begins and runs until December 18th at midnight.
- December 20, 2024: Winning homes announced on the Village website and social media pages.

CATEGORIES

- Clark Griswold: Over the top lighting and decorations.
- Martha Stewart: Design elements that make Martha Stewart jealous.
- Family Friendly: Displays that engage our youngest residents.
- Best Block: A street that went all out this holiday season.
- Festive RVC Business: A business that showcases its holiday spirit.

sessions are 45 minutes and cost \$15 per child. Please register in advance online at ROCKVILLECENTRE.RECDESK.COM. Please note, sessions may be cancelled if there's low enrollment.

Recreation Center. 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.

Recreation Department Gift Certificates

Give the gift of an experience at the

Pickleball League

Pickleball leagues are forming for January. Please contact Frank Milillo at (516) 384-5124 for details.

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. You can also register by clicking bulk pickup online on the sanitation page of the Village website www.rvcny.gov. 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