



NEWS

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March/April 2012

3600 Kirchoff Road . Rolling Meadows, IL 60008 . 847-394-8500 . www.cityrm.org

Value of Business, Homeowner Property Improvements Jumps to \$26 Million in 2011; Up 43% Over Prior Year

Rolling Meadows' Community Development Department issued permits for business and home property improvements valued at more than \$26 million in 2011, an increase of 43% over the previous year's \$18 million.

Increases in total permit revenue (\$398,334) and the number of permits issued (2,664) came in the midst of a very slow economic recovery. During the year, Department officials also conducted

1,303 plan reviews and 7,870 inspections. The results demonstrate that, despite the lingering effects of the recession, businesses and residents are investing in Rolling Meadows.



The number of permit applications submitted by homeowners and local businesses, such as the new Five Guys Burgers and Fries restaurant (1323 Golf Road), kept City inspectors busy in 2011.

"The volume of permit applications submitted by residents tackling home improvement projects, and local businesses planning new facilities or expansions, kept City inspectors very busy in 2011," Community Development Director Valerie Dehner explains. "While it is premature to say the economy is on the

rebound, it is heartening to see an upward trend."

The Department's commitment to high-quality service garnered praise from business owners and representatives, who took time to express their appreciation in letters to both Dehner and Mayor Tom Rooney.

Linn Corfield, owner of The UPS Store (2118 Plum Grove Road), moved his business to a larger facility last year and thanked the Community Development Department for its "outstanding professionalism and cooperation" during the relocation.

He appreciated the Department's commitment to getting things right "the first time. As a result, we beat our deadline by two weeks and my stress level never got above 'tolerable,'" Corfield wrote.

Following the opening of a new Falafel Bistro restaurant (1669 Algonquin Road), the project's architect, Mehran Farah-

mandpour, of Long Grove-based Maemar PC Architect, called Community Development Department staff "a pleasure to work with."

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To the Polls!

Rolling Meadows voters will cast ballots Tuesday,

March 20, during the Illinois Primary to determine presidential, Congressional and state office candidates for the November general election.

The ballot will also feature a referendum that, if approved, would authorize City officials to shop for lower electricity rates on behalf of the community. Turn to the article on page 2 for details.

Polling places will be open 6 a.m. – 7 p.m. on Election Day. Voters who are unsure of their precinct should refer to their voter registration card or may call City Hall at 847-394-8500. Additional election information is available on the Cook County Clerk's Website, www.cookcountyclerk.com.

Contact City Officials: City Hall Hours: 8 a.m. to 4 p.m. Monday-Friday

MAYOR and CITY COUNCIL

- Mayor: Tom Rooney 847-392-2254
- 1st Ward Alderman: Mike Cannon 847-925-8919
- 2nd Ward Alderman: Jim Allen 847-202-0822
- 3rd Ward Alderman: Lawrence Buske 847-255-9126
- 4th Ward Alderman: Brad Judd 847-902-3248
- 5th Ward Alderman: Rob Banger, Jr. 847-818-1663
- 6th Ward Alderman: John D'Astice 847-409-9367
- 7th Ward Alderman: James Larsen 630-244-4228

City Manager Barry Krumstok

SERVICES

- Fire & Police Emergency 911
- Fire Department Non-emergency 847-397-3352
- Police Non-emergency 847-255-2416
- Public Works 847-963-0500
- Finance/Utility Billing Questions 847-394-8500
- Community Development 847-506-6030
- TDD 847-506-0490
- Senior Services 847-394-8500
- ComEd 1-800-EDISON-1
- Curfew Sun. – Thurs. 11 p.m.; Fri. & Sat. Midnight

Look Us Up on the Web at: www.cityrm.org

Residents to Vote on Electricity Aggregation Referendum, March 20

A referendum on the March 20 primary election ballot will ask Rolling Meadows residents to determine whether City officials will have the authority to seek lower electricity rates on behalf of the community.

Known as municipal electricity aggregation, the process allows municipalities to pool residential and small commercial retail customers together and seek competitive pricing for electricity from alternative suppliers. Its purpose is to lower monthly electricity rates paid by customers.

The referendum question states:

Shall the City of Rolling Meadows have the authority to arrange for the supply of electricity for its residential and small commercial retail customers who have not opted out of such program?

A **YES** vote indicates support for electricity aggregation efforts.

A **NO** vote opposes the proposed program.

If approved by voters, City officials will work with Good Energy,

a consulting firm currently helping more than 50 Illinois communities implement aggregation programs, to proceed with the next steps.

These include:

- Holding public hearings on the issue.
- Developing aggregation plans.
- Soliciting and approving competitive pricing bids from suppliers.

City officials will not accept any bids that are higher than current prices paid by Rolling Meadows residents.

If the referendum passes and the City begins purchasing electricity from an alternate supplier, ComEd – the City's current provider – will continue to deliver that energy to City customers and be responsible for service issues and emergency repairs. Customers who wish to keep their current energy provider will be able to "opt out" of the program at no charge.

For more information on the City's electricity aggregation referendum, call City Hall at 847-394-8500 or visit www.cityrm.org.



“Shall the City of Rolling Meadows have the authority to arrange for the supply of electricity for its residential and small commercial retail customers who have not opted out of such program?”

Firefighters Register Over 50 Residents for 'File of Life' Safety Program

A new "File of Life" public safety program launched by the Rolling Meadows Professional Firefighters Association

has already registered more than 50 City residents and resulted in plans for additional public information and education sessions later this spring, firefighter Mike Neubauer reports.

City firefighters, in partnership with the non-profit File of Life Foundation, introduced the program during two informational sessions at the Rolling Meadows Senior Center in late 2011.

File of Life medical information packets allow residents to provide detailed health information – everything from medical histories and medication usage to past surgeries and allergies – on a card that paramedics may access when responding to emergency calls. The card fits into a magnetized pocket that attaches to residents' refrigerators. Residents may also carry smaller cards in their wallets or purses.

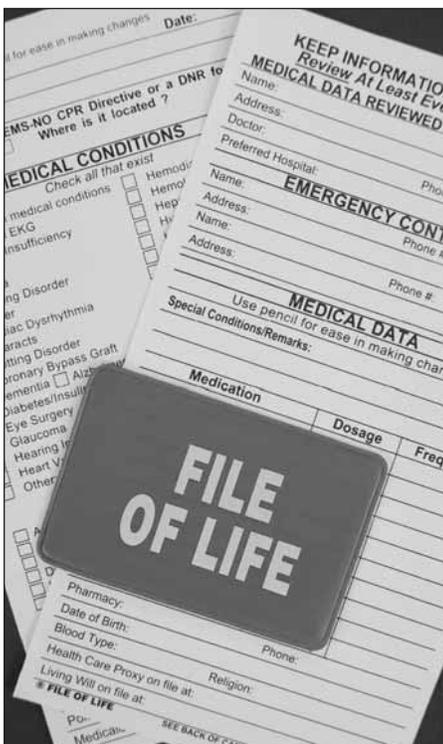
"The public's response to this program far surpassed our initial expectations," Neubauer explains. "To maintain momentum, we plan to hold more informational sessions throughout the City over the next several months in order to get people of all ages involved."

Fire Chief Ron Stewart says that, while senior citizens comprise 58% of emergency calls nationwide, medical emergencies can happen to anyone at any time.

"File of Life packets give paramedics solid, reliable information on patients' medical

conditions in situations where lives may be on the line," Chief Stewart explains. "That knowledge improves our ability to provide proper treatments that stabilize patients for transport to the hospital."

For information on upcoming File of Life events, call the RMFD at 847-397-3352.



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Economic Incentive Program Encourages Business Growth, Tax Revenues

With any eye toward encouraging business growth and increasing sales tax revenues, City officials have developed an economic incentive program that rewards businesses for coming to Rolling Meadows or expanding their current City-based operations.

The program allows businesses to recoup real estate transfer taxes paid to the City for the purchase of vacant property or existing commercial buildings. Businesses



Sales tax revenues generated by local businesses such as Walmart (1460 Golf Road) help fund essential City services.

that open in shopping centers and help reduce existing store vacancies are also eligible for reimbursement.

“We want to demonstrate our commitment to helping businesses do more business in Rolling Meadows,” City Manager Barry Krumbstok says. “The City is committed to strengthening our local business base, which will generate additional sales tax revenues and lower the burden on residents to fund essential services.”

Welcome New Businesses

- Call Home Health Care –
Nursing services
4300 Lincoln Avenue, Suite P
(847-963-8883)
- The DeJohn Advisory Team –
Retirement accounts
1600 Golf Road, Suite 1200
(847-981-5000)
- Deli Time –
Cafeteria
3800 Golf Road (630-640-2095)
- Dialysis Access Services –
Dialysis
1545 Hicks Road (847-963-0644)
- FleetMatics – *Fleet management*
1600 Gold Road, 8th Floor
(847-378-4279)
- Goodman Distribution, Inc. –
HVAC product distribution
3121 Tollview (713-263-5489)
- Legacy Analytics –
Business management consultants
4902 Tollview, Suite 110
(847-925-5113)
- Revita Healthcare LLC –
Home care office
1600 Golf Road, Suite 1200
(224-345-8338)
- Rolling Meadows Pawn Shop
2214 Algonquin Road, Suite A
(630-550-9723)
- Tyler Staffing Services
3701 Algonquin Road, Suite 300
(847-870-1777)
- Weichai Power Mat Auto –
Brake rotors & industrial parts
3100 Golf Road (847-383-8400)
- Yokowo America Corp. –
Electronic product sales
3701 Algonquin Road, Suite 560
(847-870-1660)

Yard Waste Collection Resumes April 2; City Cuts Spring Chipper Service

Public Works will resume weekly yard waste pickup Monday, April 2. Residents may place yard waste in 30-gallon kraft paper bags marked with an “X” at the curb for pick up on regular refuse collection days. Bags are available for purchase at local stores.

Meanwhile, the City’s free spring brush collection (Chipper) service will not take place this year due to budget cutbacks. As this

issue of *News & Views* went to press, Public Works staff members were exploring possible options for fee-based service alternatives and will present them to City Council at a future meeting. Look for an update in the May/June issue of *News & Views*.

For more information on yard waste collection, visit Public Works at www.cityrm.org/PublicWorks or call 847-963-0500.

Value of Business, Homeowner Property Improvements Jumps ...continued from page 1



Valerie Dehner

Citing the speed with which permits were issued and inspections completed, Farahmandpour credited the Department for “getting the business started, rather than being an obstacle every chance they [got]. This is rare these days and

worth bringing to notice.”

Whether its helping businesses put down Rolling Meadows roots or providing expert inspection services to homeowners, Community Development is organized to facilitate the development of a healthy, prosperous community. Its myriad responsibilities include taking an active role in the City’s overall economic development initiatives, oversee-

ing zoning and construction activities, and helping customers with the permit and inspection process.

“Combining economic development planning with more traditional building and zoning services gives us an edge in attracting new businesses, helping existing businesses expand, and working with residents on home improvement projects,” Dehner adds.

March 2012

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
				1	2	3
4	5	Economic Development Committee , 6 p.m. Environmental Committee , 7 p.m. Plan Commission , 7:30 p.m., all at City Hall	Zoning Board of Appeals , 7:30 p.m., City Hall	8	9	10
Daylight Saving Time begins... move clocks ahead one hour.	Board of Fire & Police Commissioners , 9 a.m., City Hall	City Council Meeting , 7:30 p.m., City Hall	14	Adjudication Hearing , 1 p.m., City Hall	16	17 St. Patrick's Day
18	19	City Council Committee of the Whole , 7:30 p.m., City Hall Water bills due First Day of Spring	21	Adjudication Hearing (Red Light) , 2 p.m., City Hall	23	24
25	26	City Council Meeting , 7:30 p.m., City Hall	28	29	Early refuse setout ends. Place refuse at the curb no earlier than 6 p.m. the day prior to pickup.	31

April 2012

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
1	Yard waste collection begins	Economic Development Committee , 6 p.m. Environmental Committee , 7 p.m. Plan Commission , 7:30 p.m., all at City Hall	Zoning Board of Appeals , 7:30 p.m., City Hall	5	6	7
8 Easter	Board of Fire & Police Commissioners , 9 a.m., City Hall	City Council Meeting , 7:30 p.m., City Hall	Urban Affairs Committee , 5:45 p.m., City Hall	Adjudication Hearing , 1 p.m., City Hall	13	14
15	16	City Council Committee of the Whole , 7:30 p.m., City Hall	18	Adjudication Hearing (Red Light) , 2 p.m., City Hall	Water bills due	Salt Creek Cleanup , near Emerson Avenue bike trail.
22 Earth Day	23	City Council Meeting , 7:30 p.m., City Hall	25	26	27 Arbor Day	Salt Creek Cleanup , near Rolling Meadows High School.
29	30					

Northwest Municipal Conference Helps City Officials Protect Revenue Streams, Promote Pension Reform

Rolling Meadows' membership in the Northwest Municipal Conference (NWMC) gives City officials a leading voice in efforts to protect the interests of Illinois communities and taxpayers, such as safeguarding municipal revenues and advocating for meaningful public safety pension reform.

Established in 1958, the NWMC is comprised of 41 municipalities and one township representing more than 1.3 million citizens in Cook, DuPage, Kane, Lake and McHenry Counties. Its mission, explains Executive Director Mark Fowler, is to further intergovernmental cooperation, foster the exchange of information vital to the operation of local government, and serve as a cooperative medium for addressing regional problems.

"The Conference serves as a forum for elected officials and professional staff members to discuss topics of mutual concern, exchange ideas for the betterment of their communities, and advocate on behalf of local governmental interests," Fowler says.

"Our members see the NWMC as a model for bringing together diverse local governmental interests and promoting

strong, innovative, well-run communities to benefit our residents and businesses.

"As a founding member of the Conference, Rolling Meadows has played a key role in our success because of the leadership demonstrated by its elected officials and professional staff," he adds. "We appreciate the City's long-standing commitment to delivering effective, professional services to residents."

The Conference advocates on behalf of its member communities to ensure that challenges facing local governments are understood and acted upon by the Illinois General Assembly and Congress.

"NWMC membership gives the City a stronger voice to advocate policies that protect our interests and promote a stronger community," City Manager Barry Krumstok says. "The Conference has also been very effective in helping City officials defend the interests of Rolling Meadows taxpayers."

In 2011, the NWMC played a key role in opposing a proposal to divert \$300 million in tax revenues from local communi-

ties in order to improve the state's budget situation. Had the plan been approved, Rolling Meadows would have lost \$600,000 in revenues.

"Municipalities across Illinois have made the difficult choices to limit spending and balance their budgets during the current economic downturn. Unfortunately, the state still has a lot of work to do in that regard," Fowler says. "Local communities should not be expected to shoulder the burden of helping the state balance its budget."

The NWMC's 2012 Legislative Program, unveiled in January, serves as a blueprint for action this year. Key initiatives include:

- **Ensuring the fiscal stability of Illinois communities** by working to ensure local governments receive the revenues to which they are entitled by law.
- **Strengthening public safety pension reforms** by consolidating multiple funds to lower operational costs and requiring more equitable employee contributions.

To view the complete 2012 Legislative Program, visit the NWMC's Website at www.nwmc-cog.org.



Environmental Committee Seeks Volunteers for Salt Creek Cleanups, April 21 & 28

The City's Environmental Committee is seeking volunteers for two Salt Creek cleanup events scheduled for the last two Saturdays in April (21 & 28).

The April 21 event will clean up creek sections along the Salt Creek bike trail, near the far west end of Emerson

Avenue. The following weekend, volunteers will focus efforts on a stretch of Salt Creek near Rolling Meadows High

School, 2901 Central Road.

The annual Salt Creek cleanup was established in 2005 as a way for Rolling Meadows to observe Earth Day (April 22) and give residents an opportunity to help preserve the environment.

For more information or to volunteer, contact Environmental Committee

members Tyson Lagoni (tylag@cdwg.com) or Sue Walton (swalt811@aol.com).



Salt Creek

Committee Members to Host Monarch Butterfly Program, April 4

Members of the City's Environmental Committee will host a video presentation and discussion focusing on the importance of the Monarch Butterfly, Thursday, April 4, 7 p.m. at the Rolling Meadows Library.

To register, contact the Library at 847-259-6050 or visit www.rmlib.org.

More information on Monarch Butterflies is available at www.monarchwatch.org.



City Hall Epitomizes Rolling Meadows' Balanced Approach

by Mayor Tom Rooney

I really like our City Hall. It has balance – much like our community.

I've discovered that being mayor means spending a lot of time in meetings held in other communities. And during my travels, I've noticed a few approaches to public facilities that don't seem – to me – very effective.

Some communities go way overboard. I've seen city department buildings with the sophisticated architecture of fine corporate centers and city halls with entryways that resemble fancy art galleries. I've been in council chambers that could easily be mistaken for a state's supreme court chamber. It makes me wonder, "This is what you choose to spend tax dollars on?"



Other government facilities are embarrassingly underdone: dingy offices with 30-year-old carpet and workspaces with collapsible tables. While I applaud the



desire to avoid wasting taxpayer money, I find myself thinking, "Really? This is the level of respect you have for what government does?"

So I spend a good amount of time talking with pride about our City Hall. The public areas (pictured) and the work areas convey a proper sense of importance without exaggerated self-importance. I like being

able to tell people that, here in Rolling Meadows, we take a lot of pride in who we are without spending millions of dollars to do it. *We have balance.*



More Than 700 Customers Receive Water Bills by Email

More than 700 homeowners have registered for the City's eBilling program, which sends customers a monthly email with a link to their utility billing statement. This "electronic" utility bill replaces printed bills mailed by the City each month. The program lets customers access a two-year billing history for their account. It also features a web link to an online version of the City's newsletter, *News & Views*.

"Electronic utility billing enhances customer convenience and helps save thousands of tax dollars per year in printing and postage costs," explains Senior Accountant Diana Schoeneck. "The program will save taxpayers even more money as additional customers sign up."

To register for eBilling, visit the Finance Department page of the City's Website, www.cityrm.org/finance. Call 847-394-8500 for more information.



Fire Department Program Provides Free Smoke Detectors for Seniors

The Rolling Meadows Fire Department's Smoke Detectors for Seniors program provides senior citizen homeowners with a complimentary smoke detector – including installation.

Now in its 11th year, the main goal of the program, according to Deputy Fire Chief Scott Franzgrote, is to improve public safety.

Safer Community

"The Smoke Detectors for Seniors program contributes to a safer community," he explains. "Smoke detectors save lives. We want to make sure that Rolling Meadows senior citizens have access to these life-saving systems."

To receive a free smoke detector, contact the Fire Department at 847-397-3352.

According to the National Fire Protection Association (NFPA), roughly two-thirds

of all home fire deaths occur in homes without working smoke detectors. In addition, smoke detectors have been shown to cut the risk of home fire death by 50%.

Smoke Inhalation Leading Cause of Fire Death

In 2010, fire departments across the United States responded to 384,000 home fires. These caused 2,640 deaths and 13,350 injuries. Most home fire deaths occur by smoke or toxic gas inhalation, a fact that underscores the importance of working smoke detectors.

Fire Department officials recommend that homeowners of all ages:

- Test smoke detectors once per month, following the manufacturer's instructions.
- Replace smoke detector batteries when changing clocks from daylight saving time to standard time each fall.
- Replace smoke detectors every 10 years.

'Green Pages' Recycling Directory Available at City Website, cityrm.org

Looking for an eco-friendly way to get rid of items gathering dust in the attic, basement, or garage? Check out the "Green Pages Reuse and Recycling Directory," which is available in PDF format through the City's Website. Visit www.cityrm.org and click the "Useful Information" tab on the left side of the homepage to access the document.



The guide, published by the Solid Waste Agency of Northern Cook County (SWANCC), lists opportunities for donating books, clothing, office equipment, sporting goods, toys, and more. It also offers tips for discarding televisions, computers, stereos and other electronics. State regulations effective January 1 prohibit the disposal of electronics equipment in landfills.