



NEWS

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& Views

November/December 2011

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

Council to Approve Fiscal Year 2012 Budget in December; November Public Hearing Will Let Residents Express Views

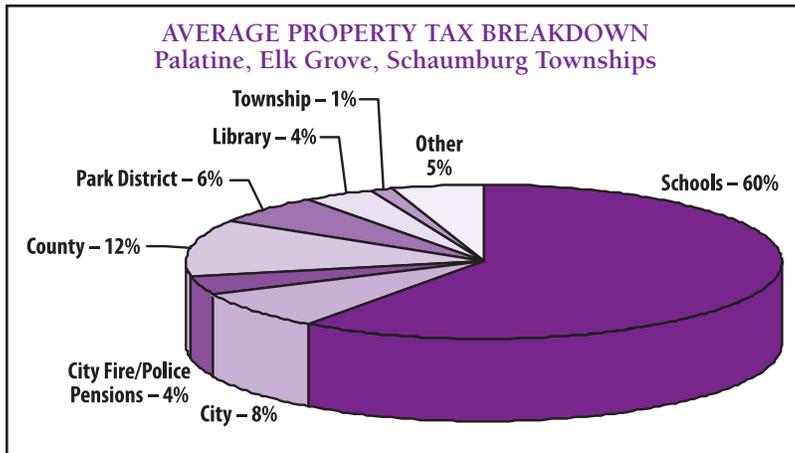
The Fiscal Year (FY) 2012 budget that City Council will approve in December will continue goals set for 2011: budget conservatively and work to rebuild fund balance reserves that have been depleted over the past several years, City Manager Barry Krumstok reports.

Residents will have an opportunity to express their views on the proposed budget during a public hearing scheduled for Tuesday,

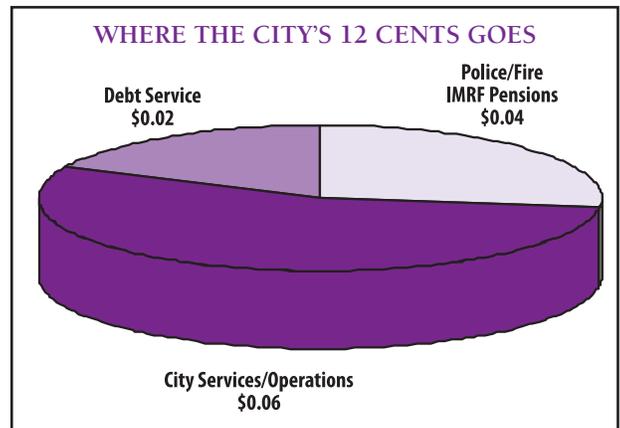
November 15, 7:30 p.m. The hearing will take place during City Council's regularly scheduled meeting.

"With the weak economy continuing to affect revenues of cities across the country, Council and staff are crafting a budget that properly funds essential City services and ensures taxpayers get the most for their money," he explains.

Krumstok adds that, in addition to funding City opera-
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The City's property tax levy is 12% of residents' 2010 bills (8% City, 4% police & fire pensions), or 12 cents per dollar. (Source: City of Rolling Meadows' 2010 Audited Financial Statements)



'File of Life' Program to Improve Emergency Medical Services



Ron Stewart

A new public safety program being launched by the Rolling Meadows Professional Firefighters Association in November will help paramedics and emergency medical

technicians (EMTs) deliver more effective emergency medical service to residents in need, Fire Chief Ron Stewart reports.

The File of Life medical information packet lets residents provide detailed information on their health – everything

from medical histories and medication usage to past surgeries and allergies – on a large card that paramedics may access when responding to emergency calls. The card fits into a magnetized pocket that attaches to residents' refrigerators.

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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

Deputy City Clerk Ginny Cotugno
 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

Community Briefs

City to Host Holiday Blood Drive, November 22

A LifeSource-sponsored holiday blood drive will let residents give the “gift of life,” Tuesday, November 22, 1 – 7 p.m., at City Hall. To schedule an appointment, visit lifesource.org, or call 877-543-3768. Walk-ins are always welcome.



Holiday Tree Lighting Set for December 1

The “most wonderful time of the year” arrives in Rolling Meadows Thursday, December 1, during the City’s annual holiday tree lighting. Join family, friends and neighbors in front of the McDonald’s on Kirchoff Road at 6 p.m. for songs, refreshments and good cheer.

Yard Waste Collection Ends December 2

Friday, December 2 marks the final time Public Works will collect yard waste for the year. Be sure to complete end-of-year pruning and trimming in November. Yard waste collection will resume next spring.

Request Non-Emergency Police Services 24/7

Residents who need to contact a police officer for non-emergency questions or service requests may contact the Police Department 24 hours per day at 847-255-2416. In cases of emergency, call 911.

Ask Public Works

Snow Removal Tips for Residents

The Public Works Department begins preparing for snow clearing operations long before snow blankets the City. As early as October, crews are inspecting snow fighting equipment and installing snow plows on the City’s fleet of snow removal trucks. This advance preparation allows crews to go into action as soon as the first snowflakes begin to fall.

Their mission is to clear the streets and help residents travel safely. It is the City’s policy to have all streets cleared of snow – from curb to curb – within eight hours after the snow stops falling.

Here are some common questions residents have about plowing operations and tips on how to help Public Works help you this winter.

Q. What streets get plowed first and why?

A. Snow plows are assigned to specific routes throughout the City. Crews tackle primary roads, such as Kirchoff and Rohlwing Roads, among others, first. This helps guarantee open roads for emergency vehicles to get to any location in the City or in surrounding areas. Once these routes are open, plows then begin to clear the streets on their assigned routes.

Other roadways, such as Golf, Algonquin, Quentin, and Meacham Roads, and Eu-

clid Avenue, are plowed by the Illinois Department of Transportation (IDOT) or the Cook County Highway Department.

Q. Can I shovel or blow snow into the street and let the plows remove it when they come by?

A. Blowing snow into streets can cause icy hazards for motorists. Snow should be placed to the sides of the driveway and into yards whenever possible. When plows return, the snow you’ve shoveled into the street is likely to land back on your driveway.

We also encourage residents to clear snow away from nearby fire hydrants so they are easily accessible to firefighters in cases of emergency.

Q. How do I prevent the plows from pushing snow onto the driveway after I’ve already cleared it?

A. Shovel snow to the right side of the driveway (while facing the street). This will limit the amount of snow that is pushed onto the driveway. Due to the plow’s angle, snow piled to the left side or into the street is likely to be pushed back into the driveway.

For more information on the City’s snow removal efforts, call Public Works at 847-963-0500 or visit www.cityrm.org/PublicWorks.

Construction Projects Nearing Conclusion

Several major infrastructure improvement projects that affected traffic patterns – and motorists’ commutes – for the past several months will be wrapped up by year’s-end. The following completion dates are based on information available to City officials as this issue of *News & Views* went to press.

Project	Target Completion Date
East Frontage Road Bridge	Week of October 31
New Wilke Road	Week of October 31
Killarney Court Water Main	Week of October 31
Algonquin Road Bridge at Salt Creek*	Late November

*Illinois Department of Transportation project



Volunteer Board Spotlight

Board Ensures Residents Play 'Key Role' In Hiring Officers, Firefighters

Candidates who seek employment as Rolling Meadows police officers and firefighters must complete a series of physical and written tests administered by the respective departments, but they have no chance of serving the City in uniform unless they pass an intensive final interview with the Board of Fire and Police Commissioners.

The three-member commission, comprised of resident volunteers appointed by the Mayor with City Council's consent, is charged with certifying future firefighters and police officers for employment.

"The Board works closely with the Fire and Police Departments to identify candidates who will serve the best interests of Rolling Meadows residents," explains Board chair Ted Loesch, a former Battalion Chief with the RMFD. "As residents ourselves, we take great pride in our role and work hard to get the best people for the job."

Loesch says that the Board tries to identify individuals who fit well with the values and personality of the City. Following the interviews, each Board

member ranks candidates in order of preference. Rankings are combined on a final list, which is presented to the chief of the appropriate department and used to fill vacancies.

Loesch and his fellow commissioners, Bill Carleton and Tom Callard, are wrapping up a very busy year. With a large number of recent employee retirements, the Board has been working diligently to help the City find qualified professionals to take their places.

"A lot of 'institutional knowledge' has left the City over the past few years, so we have to find the right people to fill those spots. That is why the Board's role is so important," Loesch adds.

Commissioners also administer oral interviews and testing for Police Department members who are eligible for promotion to sergeant.

The Board meets the second Monday of each month, 9 a.m. at City Hall. Meetings are open to the public.

Board of Fire & Police Commissioners



Ted Loesch



Bill Carleton



Tom Callard

- **Ted Loesch** spent 38 years with the Rolling Meadows Fire Department before retiring in 2000. He was appointed to the Board in 2003.

- **Bill Carleton** is a former vice president with Harris Bank. He has served on the Board since 2010.

- **Tom Callard**, another former member of the Rolling Meadows Fire Department, was appointed in July 2011.

Public Safety Program to Improve Service

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Residents may also carry a smaller card in their wallets or purses.

The Association's partnership with the non-profit File of Life Foundation will provide packets for Rolling Meadows residents who are interested in registering.

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

"In situations where people's lives may be on the line, File of Life packets give

paramedics solid, reliable information on patients' medical conditions," Chief Stewart explains. "That knowledge improves our ability to provide proper treatments that stabilize patients for transport to the hospital."

Firefighters will host an informational session on the File of Life program Thursday, November 17, 11:30 a.m., at the Rolling Meadows Senior Center. For more information, contact the Fire Department at 847-397-3352.

Early Refuse Setout Begins November 1

Per City ordinance, residents may place refuse at the curb after 3 p.m. on the day prior to scheduled pickup from November 1, 2011 through March 2012. Regular setout times (after 6 p.m.) remain in effect during the months of April – October.

Council to Approve Budget

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tions and services, the budget performs several other important functions:

- It is a **legal document** through which City Council carries out its legislative responsibility to control City finances.
- It serves as a **public education document** to help Rolling Meadows taxpayers understand the finances of their local government.
- It is a **management tool** that each City department uses to plan, administer, and improve its operations and customer services.
- It is a **decision-making aid** designed to help City Council make difficult public policy choices based on available resources.

Residents who wish to review the most recent budget draft may access the document on the City's Website, www.cityrm.org, or in person at City Hall and the Rolling Meadows Library.

November 2011

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday	
		Economic Development Committee , 6 p.m. Environmental Committee , 7 p.m. City Council Meeting , 7:30 p.m., all at City Hall	2	3	4	5	
Daylight Saving Time ends Clocks "fall back" one hour. Change batteries in smoke and carbon monoxide detectors.	6	7	8	9	10	11	
13	Board of Fire & Police Commissioners , 9 a.m., City Hall	City Council Meeting , 7:30 p.m., City Hall	15	16	Adjudication Hearing , 1 p.m., City Hall	Veterans Day City Hall, Public Works closed. Regular refuse pickup.	12
20	Water bills due	Blood Drive , 1 to 7 p.m., City Hall	22	23	24	25	
27	28	29	30				
Final week for yard waste collection							

December 2011

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
				Holiday Tree Lighting 6 p.m., in front of McDonald's on Kirchoff Rd.	Yard waste collection ends	3
4	5	Economic Development Committee , 6 p.m. Environmental Committee , 7 p.m. City Council Mtg , 7:30 p.m. Plan Commission , 7:30 p.m., all at City Hall	Zoning Board of Appeals , 7:30 p.m., City Hall	8	9	Breakfast with Santa , 8:30 to 9:30 a.m. and 10:30 to 11:30 a.m., Park Central www.rmparks.org
11	Board of Fire & Police Commissioners , 9 a.m., City Hall	City Council Meeting , 7:30 p.m., City Hall	14	Adjudication Hearing (Red Light), 2 p.m., City Hall	16	17
18	19	Water bills due	21	22	23	24
25	City Hall closed for Christmas holiday. Early refuse pickup.	27	28	29	30	31
Christmas Day	Kwanzaa					Christmas Eve New Year's Eve

Rolling Meadows Retailers Offer Holiday Value, Variety, Convenience

Want great value, variety and shopping convenience this holiday season? Look no further than Rolling Meadows. Local merchants, eager to welcome shoppers, are stocking shelves in advance of the holiday season.



Whether you're filling your sleigh with toys, electronics, or apparel from "Big Box" retailers, seeking unique gifts from independently-owned shops, or planning holiday dinners with all the fixings, the Rolling Meadows business community has what you're looking for.

"Rolling Meadows blend of smaller merchants and large retail and service businesses offers unmatched convenience to time-crunched shoppers," City Manager Barry Krumstok says. "In addition to finding great value, shopping locally boosts sales tax revenues that reduce the City's reliance on property tax dollars to fund services."



Recycling Program to Collect Holiday Lights

A recycling program launched by the Solid Waste Agency of Cook County (SWANCC) and Elgin Recycling lets Rolling Meadows dispose of old holiday lights, electrical cords and wire.

A collection box will be located outside City Hall (3600 Kirchoff Road) starting November 18. The program runs through



Here are some destinations to consider when preparing to "Shop Rolling Meadows":

Downtown Rolling Meadows (Kirchoff Road)

- Joelle's Hallmark
- Dollar Tree
- Jewel-Osco
- Great American Bagel
 - BB Nails
 - Epcoc Paint

Plum Grove Road Retail Sector (Plum Grove Road & Euclid Avenue)

- Roberta Williams Salon/Day Spa
 - CVS Pharmacy
 - Pittsburgh Paints
 - The UPS Store

Big Box (Golf & Algonquin Roads)

- AT&T
- Cookies by Design
- Honey Baked Ham
 - Meijer
 - Sprint
 - Staples
 - T-Mobile
 - Walmart

Need more help or creative ideas? Visit the Rolling Meadows Chamber of Commerce Website, www.rmchamber.org, to access the Chamber Business Directory and Dining/Banquet/Lodging Guide. Restaurant certificates and gift cards – another great gift idea – are available for purchase through many local establishments.



Utility Customers Embracing eBilling Convenience



More than 700 customers have signed up to receive their utility bills by email through Rolling Meadows' web-based utility billing service.

Register for the eBilling program on the City's Website, www.cityrm.org/finance.

Customers receive an email each month with a link to their utility billing statement and are able to review a two-year billing history for their account. A web link to an online version of the City's newsletter, *News & Views*, is also included.

For more information, contact the Finance Department at 847-394-8500.

Mayor's CORNER

Thanksgiving Lets Us Focus On What's Most Important

by Mayor Tom Rooney

Christmas was my favorite holiday

when I was a kid. Now, as an adult with two grown kids of my own, I look forward to Thanksgiving the most.

To my way of thinking, Thanksgiving is the only holiday where the three most important elements in life (God, family, and country) all play a major role. It hasn't been commercialized beyond recognition, and over-eager advertisers aren't forcing us to celebrate it two months before it happens. There are no political correctness concerns either; none of us has to worry about slighting anyone else by wishing them a Happy Thanksgiving.

During some other holidays, we try to

help our kids understand that the real meaning of the day is not about candy or presents. On Thanksgiving, though, everyone's expectations – from the youngest to the oldest – center on the time-honored tradition of a family dinner.

Maybe we eat a little too much. Maybe there's a little more emphasis on football than there needs to be. Still, we take the time as an entire nation to stop and, in the words of George Washington's very first Thanksgiving proclamation, "unite in rendering unto Him our sincere and humble thanks."

May God bless you, your family, and our country this Thanksgiving.



Donate to Marines' Toys for Tots Program

Rolling Meadows has again partnered with the United States Marine Corps Reserve to collect toys for children in need through the Marines' Toys for Tots program.

Beginning Tuesday, November 1, residents may deliver new, unwrapped toys to drop boxes at City Hall (3600 Kirchoff Road) or the Rolling Meadows Library (3110 Martin Lane). Toy donations will be accepted through Monday, December 5.

For more information on the program, or to make a monetary donation, visit www.toysfortots.org.

Solicitor Registration Program Protects Residents from Scams

The City's Solicitor Registration Program requires door-to-door solicitors operating in Rolling Meadows to register with the Community Development Department. It is designed to confirm the legitimacy of salespeople who call on residents at their homes.



Valerie Dehner

The City requires fingerprinting and background checks on all applicants before issuing photo I.D. cards.

Community Development Director Valerie Dehner

says the program is designed to minimize residents' encounters with pushy salespeople and protect them from scam artists.

"We receive occasional calls from irate residents complaining about pushy solicitors who misrepresent themselves in an attempt to sell their products or services," she explains. "Requiring solicitors to register with the City helps us quickly address any complaints. If a solicitor comes to your door, ask to see his or her identification."

Solicitors who are unable to produce a City-issued identification card have no

business being in Rolling Meadows, Police Chief Dave Scanlan says.

"The majority of solicitors are legitimate businesspeople, but scam artists may pose as salespeople or handymen to gain entry to homes. Shut the door and call 911 if a solicitor cannot show their ID," Chief Scanlan explains.

For more information, call Community Development at 847-506-6030. An overview of the program is available on the Police Department's Webpage, www.cityrm.org/rmpd.

Fire Department Encourages Residents to 'Keep the Wreaths Red'

For the fifth straight year, the Rolling Meadows Fire Department will participate in a public awareness program that uses festive décor to remind residents about the importance of holiday fire safety.

The centerpieces of the "Keep the Wreaths Red" program are two holiday wreaths on display at the Neuckranz Fire Station (2455 Plum Grove Road) and the Fogarty Fire Station (3111 Meadow Drive).

Each wreath will begin the season fully illuminated with red bulbs. Firefighters will replace a red bulb with a white bulb for each fire in Rolling Meadows that is

caused by holiday decorations.

Since 2007, when the Fire Department began participating in the program, there has not been a single fire in Rolling Meadows caused by holiday decorations. The Illinois Fire Chiefs Association adopted the "Keep the Wreaths Red" program in 1980.

"For the past four years, residents have successfully kept our wreaths red. That's a trend we hope to continue this holiday season," Fire Chief Ron Stewart explains. "The program offers a unique approach for reminding the public to keep their families safe during the holidays."



Look for wreaths at both Rolling Meadows fire stations this holiday season.