



NEWS

Volume 16 Number 6



& Views

November/December 2012

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

Community Events Foundation Contributions Surpass \$10,000

In an impressive demonstration of hometown pride, Rolling Meadows residents and businesses contributed more than \$10,000 to the City's Community Events Foundation in the six months between April 1 and October 1.

Tax-deductible donations to the Foundation will help offset the costs of staging City-sponsored community events throughout the year, including the Memorial Day parade and observance, Independence Day festivities and holiday tree lighting. It will also help fund maintenance for the Rolling Meadows Historical Museum.

City leaders hope to continue growing the Foundation's fund balance to ensure support of



The Foundation will fund events such as the annual tree lighting, which takes place December 6. See story on page 2.

these events on an annual basis.

"The community's ongoing support is critical to achieving the Foundation's goal of funding the many community events that make Rolling Meadows a great place to call home," says City Manager Barry Krumstok.

Residents and businesses interested in contributing should make checks payable to *City of Rolling Meadows Community Events Foundation*. Submit tax-deductible donations to:

City of Rolling Meadows
Community Events Foundation
3600 Kirchoff Road
Rolling Meadows, IL 60008

Recycling Program Helps Residents Dispose of Old Holiday Lights, Cords

Rolling Meadows will again participate in a seasonal recycling program developed by the Solid Waste Agency of Northern Cook County (SWANCC) and Elgin Recycling to collect holiday lights, electrical cords and wire.

Beginning November 5, collection boxes at City Hall (3600 Kirchoff Road) and the Public Works Department (3900 Berdnick Street) will let residents recycle holiday lights of all colors and lengths, extension cords, household cords/wiring, and computer cords/wires. The program runs through February 8, 2013.

For more information, please visit www.swancc.org or www.elginrecycling.com.

Vote on November 6

The November 6 General Election will determine the next President of the United States, elect Congressional and state representatives, and decide countless state and local contests across the country.



Here in Rolling Meadows, the ballot will also include a referendum asking voters to determine whether the City's refuse collection should be handled by a private contractor or continue as a responsibility of the Public Works Department. Turn to page 5 for more information on the refuse referendum.

Polling places will be open 6 a.m. – 7 p.m. on Election Day. Residents with questions about the November 6 election may contact Deputy City Clerk Ginny Cotugno at 847-870-9007. Additional election information, including a complete list of polling places, is available through the Cook County Clerk's Office: 312-603-0906 or 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



Season's Greetings

December 6 Tree Lighting to Welcome Holiday Season

The spirit of holidays past, present and future will come together Thursday, December 6, 6 p.m., when City officials and residents gather to light the City's Holiday Tree.

Join family, friends and neighbors for this annual gathering, held in front of the McDonald's on Kirchoff Road at 6 p.m. Sing songs, share memories and celebrate the season's joy.

Support U.S. Marines' Toys for Tots Program

The United States Marine Corps Reserve is once again "enlisting" the help of Rolling Meadows residents to support its annual Toys for Tots collection drive.

The program to collect toys for children in need begins Thursday, 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 3.

For more information on Toys for Tots, or to make a monetary donation, visit www.toysfortots.org.

Deck the Halls and Shop Rolling Meadows

Shop Rolling Meadows this holiday season to fill your sleigh with a range of unique gifts and seasonal items available from local businesses.

From "Big Box" retailers with the latest electronics, toys and apparel to independent merchants offering unique products and services, Rolling Meadows' business community offers unmatched convenience for busy shoppers.

Shopping locally also boosts sales tax revenues that reduce the City's reliance on property tax dollars to fund services.

Local Business Spotlight

Find International Cuisine, Sports Club, Spirits and More at Meadows Square

Residents interested in sampling fine Asian and Mexican cuisine, or simply looking for somewhere to watch a game with friends, should explore the Meadows Square business area on Algonquin Road. Service providers located in the business park just west of Route 53 include:

- **Sakura Restaurant Woodfield** offers traditional Japanese cuisine and sushi. (4011 Algonquin Road; 847-397-2166)
- **La Charanga** serves up authentic Mexican food. (4003 Algonquin Road; 847-496-5642)
- **Stadium Sports Club & Pizza** features traditional bar food and plenty of television screens. (4015 Algonquin Road; 847-397-2240)



Stadium Sports Club is located at 4015 Algonquin Rd. in the Meadows Square business area.

- **Sal's Beverage World** offers fine wines, spirits and more, including regularly-scheduled tastings. (4001 Algonquin Road; 847-397-7373)

City Council to Hold Public Hearing on Proposed 2013 Budget, November 13

City Council will hold a public hearing on the proposed 2013 Fiscal Year (FY) budget Tuesday, November 13, 7:30 p.m., during its regular meeting.

The hearing will offer residents an opportunity to voice their opinions, comments and views about the budget.

Plans call for alderman to pass the

2013 budget at Council's December 4 meeting. State law requires the City's 2013 tax levy to be filed with Cook County by December 21.

Residents who wish to review the most recent budget draft may access the document on the City's Website, www.cityrm.org, or at the Rolling Meadows Library, 3110 Martin Lane.

Police Expand 'Street of the Week' Program

The Police Department continues to expand traffic enforcement in neighborhoods across Rolling Meadows through its "Street of the Week" program.

Launched last spring, the program places patrol officers in neighborhoods where residents have observed a prolonged pattern of unsafe driving. The overall goal is to improve public safety by encouraging motorists to obey posted speed limits and traffic signs.

To report areas of traffic safety concern, contact Commander Thomas Calcagno at 847-255-2416 (ext. 3022). Residents and motorists may check the Police Department's



Neighborhood speed limit enforcement is a focus of the Street of the Week program.

Webpage, www.cityrm.org/rmpd, to learn where weekly enforcement operations are taking place.

Welcome New Businesses

Annie's Resale for the World –
Non-profit resale
2120 Plum Grove Rd. (630-432-2188)

Asian Tokyo – Restaurant
1655 Algonquin Rd. (847-439-3380)

Axis Healthcare Services –
Home health care services
3501 Algonquin Rd. #440 (773-685-0017)

Beam Research & Development –
Energy consulting (controls/drafting)
4731 Woodland Ct. (847-397-0635)

Clean Greenly – Internet sales
2904 Campbell (773-704-9021)

Cleannate Corp. – Collections/
Student loan consulting
1701 Golf Rd. T2 #150 (800-605-9817)



Mayor Tom Rooney (far left) joins in a ribbon-cutting to officially open the new location of J.C. Licht/Epcos Paint and Decorating, 3230 Kirchoff Road.

Delta Technical Solutions, Inc. –
Executive recruiting
3601 Algonquin Rd. #975 (847-305-1133)

FMS Investment Corp. –
Collection agency/loan consulting
1701 Golf Rd. T2 #150 (800-605-9817)

Health First Home Care Inc. –
Home health care services
3501 Algonquin Rd. #132 (847-749-0549)

I3 Group Inc. – Student loan consulting
1701 Golf Rd. T2 #150 (800-605-9817)

J&H Restoration – General contractor
5105 Tollview Dr. #192 (847-507-3944)

J.C. Licht/Epcos Paint & Decorating –
Paint and interior décor
3230 Kirchoff Rd. (847-797-9798)

LED Source – LED lighting
3750 Industrial Ave. #E (847-590-8290)

Loan Look – Student loan accounting
1701 Golf Rd. T2 #150 (800-605-9817)

Luna Electric – Electrical contractor
2506 Park (847-997-2254)

Muscle Maker Grill – Restaurant
1673 Algonquin Rd. (847-906-4008)

Mutare, Inc. – Computer software solutions
2325 Hicks Rd. (847-496-9001)

Next Level Construction –
Commercial carpentry/drywall
2255 Lois Drive #3 (847-979-8612)

Refrigeration Service Engineers Society –
HVAC education and training
1911 Rohlwing Rd. #A (847-297-6464)

Shaanta Inc. – Internal hygiene/
purification systems
2851 Brookview (312-287-8702)

Sierra Nevada Corp. – Defense electronics
engineering/manufacturing
3701 Algonquin Rd. #600 (775-849-6306)

Title Max of Illinois, Inc. –
Consumer installment loans
1301 Algonquin Rd. (912-629-5184)

UBS Unlimited Building Services –
Equipment storage
3750 Industrial Ave. #E (847-394-4300)

VGT Manufacturing/Distribution Inc. –
Gaming device distribution
2260 Hicks Rd. #404 (847-253-2380)

Y&K USA Inc. – Antique sales
5301 Keystone (847-398-5688)

Fire Department Hosts October Open House



Firefighters perform an auto extrication demonstration during the Fire Department's October 13 Open House, which drew more than 100 residents despite a dose of dreary fall weather. Along with complimentary refreshments, guests enjoyed fire station tours, climbed aboard fire engines, and learned more about fire safety and emergency services.

Open House Spotlights Public Works Services

Two-year-old Matthew Prorok (right) "test drives" an excavation bobcat, while Underground Utilities Supervisor Dan Seveska (below) explains how sophisticated equipment helps employees identify sewer backups during an October 6 Open House at the Public Works Department.



The event offered residents an opportunity to learn more about the wide range of services Public Works provides: everything from street maintenance and snow removal to ensuring the quality of City drinking water.



Keep Outdoor Refuse Containers Hidden



Council members approved a revision to the City's solid waste ordinance that requires homeowners to keep all outdoor refuse containers – including yard waste bags – out of public view until the evening prior to scheduled pick-up.

The revised ordinance, passed in response to a number of residents' complaints this summer, reads:

"All refuse containers and bags, yard waste bags, and recycling containers stored outside shall be in a side or rear yard and screened so as not to be visible from any street."

November 2012

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday				
				1	2	3				
Daylight Saving Time ends Clocks "fall back" one hour. Change batteries in smoke and carbon monoxide detectors.	4	5	Election Day Adjudication Hearing (Traffic Violations), 2 p.m. Econ. Dev. Cte. , 6 p.m. Environmental Cte. , 7 p.m. Plan Commission , 7:30 p.m., all at City Hall	6	Zoning Board of Appeals , 7:30 p.m., City Hall	7	Adjudication Hearing , 1 p.m., City Hall	8	9	10
Veterans Day	11	Veterans Day Observance City Hall, Public Works closed. Regular refuse pickup.	12	City Council Meeting/Public hearing on proposed 2013 budget , 7:30 p.m., City Hall	13	14	Adjudication Hearing (Red Light), 2 p.m., City Hall	15	16	17
18	19	City Council Committee of the Whole , 7:30 p.m., City Hall Water bills due	20	21	Thanksgiving Holiday City Hall, Public Works closed. Regular refuse delayed. Thursday routes will be collected Friday.	22	Thanksgiving Holiday City Hall, Public Works closed. Regular refuse delayed. Friday routes will be collected Saturday.	23	24	
25	26	City Council Meeting , 7:30 p.m., City Hall	27	28	29	Yard waste collection ends	30			

December 2012

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday			
				December Holiday Observances City Hall and Public Works will be closed December 24 and 25 for the Christmas holiday		1			
2	3	Adjudication Hearing (Traffic Violations), 2 p.m. Econ. Dev. Cte. , 6 p.m. Environmental Cte. , 7 p.m. City Council Mtg. , 7:30 p.m. Plan Commission , 7:30 p.m., all at City Hall	4	Zoning Board of Appeals , 7:30 p.m., both at City Hall	5	Adjudication Hearing , 1 p.m., City Hall Holiday Tree Lighting 6 p.m., in front of Kirch-off Road McDonald's	6	7	8
9	Board of Fire and Police Commissioners , 9 a.m., City Hall	10	City Council Committee of the Whole , 7:30 p.m., City Hall	11	12	Adjudication Hearing (Red Light), 2 p.m., City Hall	13	14	15
16	17	City Council Meeting , 7:30 p.m., City Hall	18	19	Water bills due	20	21	22	
23	Christmas Eve Early refuse pickup	24	Christmas Refuse pickup routes (Tuesday – Friday) delayed one day.	25	26	27	28	29	
30	31	New Year's Eve							

November Referendum Question

“Shall the City of Rolling Meadows contract with a private company for refuse collection?”

Overview

City leaders have obtained refuse, recycling and yard waste collection proposals from six private companies and narrowed the process to the best two proposals, as submitted by Groot and Veolia. A third proposal for refuse and yard waste collection was submitted by the City's Public Works Department.

Members of an ad-hoc Refuse Committee worked to ensure that the provisions contained in each contractor proposal would match as closely with City services as possible.

Based on preliminary cost proposals, customers could save roughly \$5 per month (\$60 in the first year) with a private contractor, compared to Public Works' proposal.

Annual cost increases for refuse services will be capped at 2.5% for private contractors and 3.25% for Public Works, protecting residents against major cost increases over the life of the seven-year contract. However, external factors may cause anticipated

rates to change. These include fee increases charged by the Solid Waste Agency of Northern Cook County (SWANCC) and a rise in the Consumer Price Index (CPI).

If residents approve the hiring of a private refuse contractor, both companies have agreed to purchase the City's refuse equipment. Final pricing for the equipment has not been decided, but City officials anticipate a one-time cash infusion of hundreds of thousands of dollars from the potential sale. The City will continue to handle billing operations. Residents will still receive one utility bill.

- Both private vendors have agreed to pick up all items – including large household items such as couches and refrigerators that are currently collected by Public Works – at no extra charge.
- City staff has ensured that current vacancies in other divisions of Public Works would be filled by refuse crew members, resulting in no loss of jobs.
- The City's current Refuse Guidelines will remain in effect.

Join the “Fair Points” community debate on the City's Website, www.cityrm.org, for more information on the November 6 referendum.

If voters approve the referendum and refuse collection switches to a private contractor:

On One Hand . . .

The new service provider will deliver the same level of service currently offered by City refuse crews. Customers will be able to place the same items at the curb at no additional cost.

Contractors cannot arbitrarily raise their rates. There are limits to annual rate increases for each of the contract's seven years.

Annual limits on rate increases guaranteed by private contractors are lower than in-house services. Unexpected cost increases, such as a spike in fuel prices, would be absorbed by the contractor. With in-house service, City officials would need to find ways to offset those increases elsewhere, either through service reductions or fee increases.

Savings from lower fees add up over time.

A \$5 monthly savings would keep \$60 in residents' pockets in the first year. Even taking annual rate increases into account, those savings would result in hundreds of dollars in savings over the seven year contract.

On the Other Hand . . .

Crews' effort and attention to detail cannot be written into a contract. Residents have offered numerous examples of Public Works refuse crews tending to small, non-refuse related problems that are passed over by (third party) recycling crews.

Public Works will be more dependent on residents to identify potential problems. In-house refuse collection means that City employees tend to every City street once per week. Often, potential problems are reported by refuse crews before residents have a chance to call.

Refuse collection may be affected by striking workers and severe storms. Residents may recall the 2003 strike by Chicago area refuse workers that brought regular garbage collection to a halt. Rolling Meadows crews went about their normal collection routes. In addition, Public Works has the capacity to schedule special refuse pickups after severe storms. The proposals provided by private contractors offer these services only at additional cost.

New Rates Help Lower Residents' Electric Bills

by Mayor Tom Rooney

As the election approaches, I'm sure the City's refuse

referendum is on the minds of many. But I'd like to use this month's column to recall what's happened since March's electric aggregation referendum passed.

We've all been waiting patiently to see savings on our electric bills, as the City negotiated rates from potential suppliers and then completed the changeover process. So I was very excited to receive my first electric bill under the new rates and see how it's worked out.

I'm proud to report that Rolling Meadows residents now enjoy the lowest electricity rates in the immediate area – even lower than many neighboring communities that got together to negotiate collaboratively. In fact, our friends at GoodEnergy helped us secure one of the lowest rates in the entire Chicago metropolitan area.

How much did I save that first month? By comparing my bill with those of friends who live in a city that didn't propose a referendum, I was able to do the calculations myself. Without the referen-

dum back in March, my electric bill this month would have been \$13.31 more.

Here's the great news: I used less electricity during that past month than at any other time in the last year. While I will pay more in other months for using more electricity, it means my savings will be higher, too.

So, in only one month – the month my electricity usage was lowest – I've saved over thirteen dollars.

I'm going to keep a running tally of my savings just for fun.

New Pace Shuttle Launched to Serve Residents, Improve Golf Road Corporate Corridor Access

A new Pace shuttle service in the Rolling Meadows/Arlington Heights area offers residents a convenient alternative to driving, but City leaders believe the program will also help businesses along the busy Golf Road corporate corridor attract employees who prefer to use public transportation.

Service Offers Convenience

According to Pace's Website, the Call-n-Ride shuttle "provides reservation-based, curb-to-curb service to general public riders and takes them anywhere within the designated service zone." The shuttle operates in the geographic area bordered by Euclid Avenue (north), Arlington Heights Road (east), I-90 (southeast), Golf Road (southwest), and Route 53 (west).

One-way rides are \$1.75. Users may schedule pick-ups and drop-offs between 6:10 a.m. and 6:30 p.m. by calling 224-803-9277. Pace will accept reservations on a first-come, first-served basis. The program also provides regularly-scheduled shuttle service from the Arlington Heights Metra station. For more information, visit www.pacebus.com.

Attract Customers and Employees

City officials believe the shuttle will im-

prove public access to major Golf Road commercial and retail businesses that are some of the region's largest employers. Responding to concerns voiced by business leaders, the City partnered with the Regional Transportation Authority (RTA) in 2011 to develop a long-term vision for improving the area's public transit options.

The resulting Golf Road Transit and Pedestrian Mobility Study, funded by an \$80,000 RTA grant, brings together City officials, business owners, building managers and public transportation providers (including Pace) to find solutions.

"The Call-n-Ride Shuttle, developed within the framework of the Golf Road Study, represents the first step in an ongoing commitment to improve Golf Road corporate corridor accessibility and help companies attract young employees who live in Chicago," explains Community Development Director Valerie Dehner. "It is an example of the public and private sectors working together for the benefit of our customers."

Moving forward, City leaders plan to explore public safety improvements for pedestrians who must cross Golf Road to reach area bus stops.



Holiday Safety Program Encourages Residents to 'Keep the Wreaths Red'

Since the Rolling Meadows Fire Department began participating in the "Keep the Wreaths Red" public awareness program in 2007, there has not been a single fire in the City caused by holiday decorations. That's a streak firefighters hope to keep alive in 2012.

Two holiday wreaths on display at the Neuckranz Fire Station (2455 Plum Grove Road) and Fogarty Fire Station (3111 Meadow Drive) will be illuminated in red bulbs. Those will be replaced with a white bulb for each fire in Rolling Meadows caused by holiday decorations. So far, firefighters have been able to keep the white bulbs in storage.

"Let's all work together to keep our families safe from fire this holiday season and 'Keep the Wreaths Red' for another year," Acting Fire Chief Scott Franzgrote says.

More information on holiday fire prevention is available on the Fire Department's Webpage, www.cityrm.org/rmfd, or the National Fire Protection Association (NFPA) Website, www.nfpa.org.

