

# eNEWS

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VOLUME 7 ISSUE 6



## SUPPORT POLICE DEPARTMENT'S 12/5 HOLIDAY FOOD DRIVE

The Rolling Meadows Police Department is mobilizing to fight hunger in our community and asking residents to support its 2020 Holiday Food Drive.

This year's event will take place Saturday, December 5th, 10:00 am – 2:00 pm, at Jewel-Osco (3000 Kirchoff Road).

The drive will benefit the Palatine Township Food Pantry at a time when the need is greater than ever.

“The holidays are always a wonderful time to support your local food pantry, but this year has been especially difficult for so many people because of the COVID-19 pandemic,” explained Commander Mike Fior. “Our goal is to help bring some holiday cheer – in the form of food and nourishment – to members of our community who need it the most.”

Organizations partnering with the Police Department for this year's initiative include School Health Corporation, U-Haul, and Rolling Meadows Crime Stoppers.

Specific items requested by Palatine Township Food Pantry include:

- Coffee & tea
- Jam/jelly
- Canned food (such as ravioli)
- Kidney beans
- Canned vegetables
- Breakfast cereal (cold or hot)
- Personal hygiene items – especially body wash, shampoo, conditioner
- Juice bottles or boxes
- Pancake mix
- Syrup
- Granola bars
- Oatmeal
- Pasta sauce
- Baby wipes
- Disposable diapers (sizes 3, 5, & 6)
- Dish soap
- Laundry detergent
- Condiments (such as ketchup, barbecue sauce, salad dressing, and mayonnaise)
- Snacks (crackers, chips, etc.)
- Paper grocery bags

For more information, contact Cmdr. Fior at [fiorm@cityrm.org](mailto:fiorm@cityrm.org) or 847-255-2416.

## SNOW REMOVAL TEAMS PREPARED FOR WINTER

As the calendar turns to December, the Public Works Department stands ready for another Chicago area winter. Crews have spent months completing their annual training, inspecting snow fighting equipment, installing plows on the City's fleet of snow removal trucks, and conducting “dry runs” on their designated routes.

This advance preparation ensures that the Department is ready to completely clear the streets of ice and snow – and help residents travel safely – whenever and wherever snow may fall.

### SNOW REMOVAL FAQ

- Q.** What streets get plowed first?
- A.** Snowplows are assigned to eight designated routes throughout the City. Crews tackle primary roads, such as Kirchoff and Rohlwing Roads, first. This helps guarantee open roads for emergency vehicles to reach any location in the City and surrounding areas.
- Once these roads are open, plows begin to clear residential streets on their assigned routes. Other streets, such as Golf and Algonquin Roads, and Euclid Avenue, are plowed by the Illinois Department of Transportation (IDOT) or the Cook County Highway Department.
- Q.** Why shouldn't residents 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. Otherwise, the snow

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## CITY TO HOST DECEMBER 23RD HOLIDAY BLOOD DRIVE

Rolling Meadows has partnered with Vitalant (formerly LifeSource) to organize a December 23rd blood drive where participants may give the greatest gift of all: the gift of life. The holiday drive will take place from 1:00 – 7:00 pm at City Hall.

Due to COVID-19-related health and safety precautions, those planning to donate must pre-register and wear face coverings while giving blood. All completed donations will be screened for coronavirus antibodies at no charge.

Although fewer locations are currently available to host in-person blood drives due to pandemic restrictions, Vitalant has found a reliable partner in Rolling Meadows. Donors who attended the City's two previous blood drives – held in August and October – helped touch the lives of more than 160 patients in need.

“Blood drives are a way for residents to give back to their community,” explained Joyce DeLeon, the City's HR Specialist. “Vitalant has been very appreciative of our efforts – especially due to a lack of available space and other obstacles affecting its ability to hold area drives.

“At a time when the need for blood donations is greater than ever, it's rewarding to see so many people step up. We hope that trend continues at the holiday drive,” she added.

Call Vitalant at 877-258-4825 or visit [www.vitalant.org](http://www.vitalant.org) to schedule an appointment.



### Be Part of the Buzz!

It's easy for local businesses to be featured on the RM Business Buzz. Contact Business Advocate Martha Corner ([cornerm@cityrm.org](mailto:cornerm@cityrm.org) or 847-870-9004) or visit [www.rmbusinessbuzz.org](http://www.rmbusinessbuzz.org) and click the “Join the Buzz” button on the homepage.

## NEW WEBSITE HELPS RESIDENTS 'SHOP LOCAL' FOR THE HOLIDAYS

The [RM Business Buzz](http://www.rmbusinessbuzz.org), a new website launched in October by City officials to support local businesses, makes it simpler than ever for residents to shop locally this holiday season.

More than 760 Rolling Meadows-based companies, retail shops, restaurants, and more are featured on the site, which features one-of-a-kind coupons and special offers that shoppers will not find anywhere else.

“Just in time for the holidays, the Buzz makes it easier than ever for residents to take advantage of Rolling Meadows' thriving local business community,” explained Martha Corner, Rolling Meadows' Business Advocate.

### Hyper-Local Focus

Visitors may search for businesses by name or review company listings organized into specific categories, such as Shopping, Dining,

Construction, Services, and Health/Well-Being.

“What differentiates the Buzz from other promotional platforms is our hyper-local market focus. Businesses are vital components of a strong, healthy community and, especially in the wake of COVID-19, people understand the importance of shopping locally,” Corner added.

### Sales Taxes Fund City Operations

From “Big Box” retailers to independent shops, galleries, and restaurants, Rolling Meadows' business community offers a tremendous variety of good and services.

Shopping locally offers advantages that go well beyond exceptional service, convenience, and selection: it also boosts sales tax revenues that fund City operations while reducing reliance on residents' property taxes.

## TOYS FOR TOTS DONATIONS DUE BY DEC. 4TH

Make a child's holiday brighter by donating to the United States Marine Corps Reserve's annual Toys for Tots program. Bring new, unwrapped toys and games to drop boxes at City Hall (3600 Kirchoff Road) or



the Rolling Meadows Library (3110 Martin Lane) by Friday, Dec. 4th.

Donations will be collected and distributed to families in need throughout our community. For more information, or to make a cash donation, visit [www.toysfortots.org](http://www.toysfortots.org).





## CITY COUNCIL ADOPTS REVISED ZONING CODE

Aldermen in November formally adopted a revised, updated Zoning Code that is intended to boost economic development throughout the City and be more responsive to the needs of local companies.

The revised code – the product of more than a year of discussion and deliberation by City staff, members of the Planning & Zoning Committee, and outside urban planning and legal service consultants – supplants a code of ordinances dating back to the 1970s. It is designed to:

- Improve the visual attractiveness and appeal of City business corridors.
- Offer a more user-friendly code for business owners and developers.
- Identify alternative uses for vacant properties.
- Provide guidelines for newer uses.

The updated Zoning Code takes its cues from Rolling Meadows' Comprehensive Plan, which itself was revised in 2019.

"The updated Comprehensive Plan was a critical step in our long-term efforts to nurture the City's future growth and development," explained Community Development Division Planning Assistant Elizabeth Payne. "It was also a guide for developing the new Zoning Code, which provides the tools to achieve the vision outlined in the Comprehensive Plan."

The updated code takes effect January 1st. For more information, contact the Community Development Division at 847-506-6030 or [cd@cityrm.org](mailto:cd@cityrm.org).



## 'KEEP THE WREATH RED' PROGRAM FOCUSES ON HOLIDAY FIRE DANGERS

Festive wreaths on display at Rolling Meadows fire stations are centerpieces of the "Keep the Wreath Red" program, a public awareness initiative that encourages residents to prevent fires caused by seasonal decorations.



The wreaths at Stations 15 (3201 Algonquin Road) and 16 (2340 Hicks Road) will begin the season illuminated with red bulbs. Firefighters will replace those with a white bulb for each fire in Rolling Meadows caused by holiday decorations.

"The wreaths are a reminder that home fires pose a danger to family members of all ages – even during the holidays," Fire Chief Jeff Moxley explained. "Let's all work together to keep our families safe this season."

To help ensure the wreaths stay red, Rolling Meadows firefighters offer the

following safety tips:

- Carefully inspect all holiday light strings and discard any with frayed cords or loose connections.
- Turn off holiday lights when leaving home or going to sleep at night.
- Keep candles away from combustible materials, such as clothing and curtains. Never leave burning candles unattended. *Note: Fire Department officials discourage residents from using traditional/open flame candles.*
- Keep tree stands full of water to prevent live trees from drying out. If using an artificial tree, make sure it is flame retardant.
- Place trees away from heat sources and at a safe distance from exits.

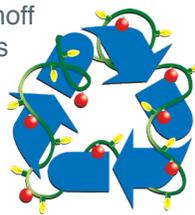
For more information on holiday fire safety, call the Rolling Meadows Fire Department at 847-397-3352 or visit the Department's [Facebook page](#).

## CITY OFFERS FREE HOLIDAY LIGHT RECYCLING PROGRAM

Rolling Meadows has again partnered with the Solid Waste Agency of Northern Cook County (SWANCC) and Elgin Recycling to offer complimentary recycling of old and outdated holiday lights. The program runs through Friday, February 12th, 2021.

Bring light strings – all sizes and colors are accepted – and deposit them in collection boxes located outside

City Hall (3600 Kirchoff Road). Residents may also drop off extension cords, household wire, and computer cords/wires.



Garland, live greens, wreaths, and other non-recyclables will not be accepted.

Note: City meetings and events may be held remotely or postponed for public health reasons. Find the latest updates [online](#) and on [social media](#).

12/01 — **Environmental Committee**, 6:30 pm

12/03 — **Adjudication Hearing (Parking)**, 2 pm

12/05 — **RMPD Holiday Food Drive**, 10 am – 2 pm, Jewel/Osco (3000 Kirchoff Rd)

12/08 — **Crime Stoppers**, 5:30 pm; **City Council Committee of the Whole**, 7:30 pm

12/10 — **Hanukkah begins**

12/15 — **City Council Meeting**, 7:30 pm

12/17 — **Adjudication Hearing (Red Light)**, 2 pm

12/21 — **Water bills due**

12/23 — **Community Blood Drive**, 1 – 7 pm.

12/24 — **Christmas Eve**. City offices closed. Early refuse pick-up.

12/25 — **Christmas**. City offices closed. Refuse collection delayed one day.

12/26 — **Kwanzaa begins**

12/31 — **New Year's Eve**

01/01/2021 — **New Year's Day**. City offices closed. Refuse collection delayed one day.



## CITY RELEASES TENTATIVE 2021 COMMUNITY EVENTS SCHEDULE

The COVID-19 pandemic brought plans to celebrate the City's 65th anniversary to a virtual standstill in 2020, but Rolling Meadows leaders remain hopeful that at least some of those (now rescheduled) community events may take place in 2021.

"This year's community events schedule, obviously, did not unfold as we had intended because of the pandemic," explained Lori Ciezak, Assistant to the City Manager and

liaison to the Rolling Meadows Community Events Foundation. "In moving forward with tentative plans for 2021, our hope is to resume 'normal' activities at some point. However, residents' safety will always be our top priority.

"We continue to follow the guidance of federal and state health agency guidelines, which may require additional event delays or outright cancelations," she added.

### 2021 COMMUNITY EVENTS CALENDAR (Tentative)

Note: The City reserves the right to reschedule or cancel events as necessary to protect public health. Learn more at [www.cityrm.org/669/community-events](http://www.cityrm.org/669/community-events).

2/27	<b>Taste the Town</b>	8/13	<b>Wine-Down by the Creek</b>
3/13	<b>St. Patrick's Day Dinner</b>	8/28	<b>City Market</b>
5/29	<b>Memorial Day Parade/ Ceremony</b>	9/7	<b>Senior Luncheon</b>
5/29	<b>City Market</b>	9/10	<b>Friday's ROCK! Summer Concert Series</b>
6/11	<b>Community Block Party</b>	9/23	<b>Business &amp; Community Showcase</b>
6/18	<b>Friday's ROCK! Summer Concert Series</b>	9/25	<b>City Market</b>
6/26	<b>City Market</b>	10/2	<b>Hometown Hoedown Fall Festival</b>
7/4	<b>July 4th Parade/Fireworks</b>	10/30	<b>Halloween Kick-Off on Kirchoff</b>
7/9	<b>Friday's ROCK! Summer Concert Series</b>	11/5	<b>Veterans Dinner</b>
7/17	<b>City Market</b>	12/2	<b>Holiday Tree Lighting/ Spaghetti Dinner</b>
7/31	<b>Family Night with RM Cops</b>		
8/3	<b>National Night Out</b>		

### ALDERMAN MIKE CANNON RESIGNS FROM COUNCIL



Mike Cannon

Alderman Mike Cannon, who had represented residents of the City's 1st Ward since 2011, resigned from City Council at the conclusion of its November 24th meeting.

Ward 1 residents will choose a successor to complete the final two years of his current four-year term, during the April 6th, 2021 Consolidated Election. Candidates for the seat must file their completed petitions by Monday, December 21st, at 5 pm (see page 5 for details).



## HANDYMAN PROGRAMS HELP CITY SENIORS IMPROVE HOMES, ENHANCE QUALITY OF LIFE

Rolling Meadows senior citizens in need of simple maintenance or home repair services are eligible to receive assistance from two local programs: one [sponsored by the City](#); the other offered through the [North West Housing Partnership \(NWHP\)](#).

### City Senior Handyman Program:

Residents ages 65 and up have access to a fully trained, trustworthy handyman to perform minor household repairs at a rate of \$35 per hour or less, depending on their income. Services offered include:

- Leaky faucet repair.
- Light fixture repair/replacement.
- Drywall repair.
- Toilet and drain repairs.

Contact the Community Development Department (847-506-6030) for more information – including qualification

criteria.

### NWHP Handyman Program:

Palatine and Wheeling Township residents who are at least 60 years-old may take advantage of NWHP's Handyman Program, which was inspired by and modeled after Rolling Meadows' longstanding program. Service costs range from \$20 – \$40 per hour, depending on income. Residents who live below the poverty line may access services up to five times at no cost.

The North West Housing Partnership promotes public and private partnerships that create/preserve cost-effective, quality, and diverse housing for low to moderate income residents and workers through housing development and renovation, education, and advocacy. Learn more at [www.nwhp.net](http://www.nwhp.net) or by calling 847-969-0561.

## SUBMIT ELECTION PETITIONS BY DECEMBER 21ST

Rolling Meadows residents who intend to run for City Council in the April 6th, 2021 Consolidated Election must file their completed petitions by December 21st in order to appear on the ballot.

City Council seats representing Wards 1, 2, 4, and 6 will be the local offices contested during next spring's election. Qualified candidates must be established City residents (one-year minimum) and live in the ward they seek to represent. Those who are elected 2nd, 4th, and 6th Ward aldermen will serve four-year terms. The individual elected 1st Ward alder-

man will complete the final two years of former Alderman Mike Cannon's term, following his November resignation (*see page 4*).



Visit the Illinois State Board of Elections website ([www.elections.il.gov](http://www.elections.il.gov)) to access filing information and to download candidate packets. Filing will begin Monday, December 14th, 8 am, and conclude at 5 pm on Monday, December 21st.

For more information on becoming a candidate in the 2021 Consolidated Election, visit the Cook County Clerk's website ([www.cookcountyclerk.com](http://www.cookcountyclerk.com)).

## PAINT DISPOSAL

### THREE WAYS TO SAFELY DISPOSE OF LATEX PAINT

Not sure how to dispose of leftover latex (water-based) paint/paint cans collecting dust in your basement, garage, or work room? Here are three simple ideas:

**Dry It Up** – Use kitty litter, shredded paper, or sawdust to absorb the remaining paint. Once it is dry, you may dispose of the cans with your regular refuse.

**Donate It** – Ask friends and neighbors if they need paint for a small project. Local community groups (schools, theater groups, etc.) may also be willing to take the paint off your hands.

**Store It** – Save leftover paint for future touch-ups. To prevent the paint from drying out, make sure the lid is secured tightly and wrap the top of the can with plastic wrap.

## REFUSE SCHEDULE

### 2020 HOLIDAY REFUSE COLLECTION SCHEDULE

- **Christmas Eve:** City offices will be closed Thursday, December 24th, but City crews will provide early refuse collection. Place all refuse at the curb by 6 am that morning.
- **Christmas:** City offices will be closed Friday, December 25th. Friday's collection will take place Saturday, December 26th.
- **New Year's Eve:** Regular refuse collection is scheduled for Tuesday, December 31st.
- **New Year's Day 2021:** City offices will be closed Friday, January 1st. Friday's refuse collection will occur Saturday, January 2nd.

For more information, contact Public Works at 847-963-0500 or visit [www.cityrm.org/301/public-works](http://www.cityrm.org/301/public-works).

# ALARM PERMIT RENEWALS DUE JAN. 31ST; CITY TO MAIL APPLICATIONS IN DECEMBER

The City in late December will send alarm permit renewal applications to homeowners and businesses that use security alarms to protect their properties. Renew by Sunday, January 31st, 2021 to avoid late fees. Permits may also be renewed online at [www.cityrm.org/146/Pay](http://www.cityrm.org/146/Pay).

Annual fees range from \$10 for senior citizens (ages 65 and up) to \$30 for businesses. In addition, fines may be assessed, based on the number of false security alarms experienced by a specific property each calendar year. Fines for false fire alarms may be also be assessed to businesses (see right-hand column). There is no charge for police or fire department responses to alarms triggered in emergency situations.

For more information, contact Police Commander Mike Fior (847-255-2416 or [fior@cityrm.org](mailto:fior@cityrm.org)) or Fire Department Logistics Coordinator Lisa Norton (847-397-3352 or [nortonl@cityrm.org](mailto:nortonl@cityrm.org)).

## ALARM PERMIT FEES

- Business: \$30
- Residential: \$20
- Senior Resident: \$10
- Duress/Panic Button: \$10  
(*\$5 for seniors*)

## FALSE ALARM FINES

### Police (residents & businesses):

- 1 – 3 false alarms: No fine
- 4 false alarms: \$100
- 5 false alarms: \$150  
(*\$50 for seniors*)
- 6+ false alarms: \$200 each  
(*\$75 each for seniors*)
- 7+ false alarms: \$100 each for seniors

*Note: Seniors are allowed up to four (4) false alarms per calendar year with no fines being assessed.*

### Fire (businesses only):

- 1 false alarm: No fine
- 2-3 false alarms: \$350 each
- 4-6 false alarms: \$450 each
- 7+ false alarms: \$600 each (*and revocation of permit*)

**CONTACT  
CITY OFFICIALS**  
City Hall Hours  
8 am to 4 pm  
Monday – Friday



## MAYOR and CITY COUNCIL

Mayor Joe Gallo . . . . .	847-814-9271
1st Ward Alderman Vacant	
2nd Ward Alderman Nick Budmats . . . . .	847-202-0855
3rd Ward Alderman Kevin O'Brien . . . . .	847-212-2587
4th Ward Alderman Jenifer Vinezeano . . . . .	630-546-8133
5th Ward Alderman Jon Bisesi . . . . .	847-772-8428
6th Ward Alderman John D'Astice . . . . .	847-409-9367
7th Ward Alderman Lara Sanoica . . . . .	847-770-3097
City Manager Barry Krumstok . . . . .	847-394-8500

## SERVICES

Fire & Police Emergency . . . . .	911
Fire Non-emergency . . . . .	847-397-3352
Police Non-emergency . . . . .	847-255-2416
Finance/Utility Billing . . . . .	847-394-8500
Public Works . . . . .	847-963-0500
Community Dev. Division . . . . .	847-506-6030
Senior Handyman Program . . . . .	847-506-6030
Crime Stoppers . . . . .	847-590-7867
ComEd . . . . .	1-800-EDISON-1



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[www.twitter.com/  
@CityofRM1](http://www.twitter.com/@CityofRM1)

## SNOW REMOVAL FAQ *...continued from p. 1*

you've shoveled into the street is likely to land back on your driveway when plows return.

Residents should also clear snow away from nearby fire hydrants, so they are easily accessible to firefighters in cases of emergency.

**Q.** How do I prevent 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) whenever possible. This will limit the amount of snow that is pushed onto the driveway by passing plows.

**Q.** What happens if my mailbox is damaged during a snow event?

**A.** Mailboxes that have been main-

tained and are in good condition should withstand the rigors of a typical snow season. Public Works employees conduct visual inspections of residents' mailboxes during initial practice runs, and contact customers whose mailboxes need new posts or other repairs.

The City will install a standard replacement mailbox for those hit during snow removal operations. It does not offer reimbursement for the interruption of mail service if a mailbox becomes inaccessible or is damaged, knocked over, or buried by accumulated snow.

For more information on Rolling Meadows' snow removal program, contact Public Works at 847-963-0500 or visit [www.cityrm.org/301/pub-  
lic-works](http://www.cityrm.org/301/public-works).

