

NEWS & VIEWS

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The automation program includes refuse truck fleet upgrades that will allow weekly collection routes to be performed with just one employee per vehicle.

'AUTOMATED' REFUSE/RECYCLING TO BEGIN AUG. 1; PROGRAM WILL IMPROVE CUSTOMER CONVENIENCE

Rolling Meadows' new "automated" refuse and recycling collection program, which takes effect August 1st, will upgrade weekly refuse collection operations, enhance customer convenience, and improve employee safety – all while continuing to provide the same great service residents have come to expect.

New Refuse/Trash Cart (Green Top)

Homeowners' current 35- or 65-gallon recycling carts (with a green top) will be repurposed for household refuse/garbage during the last week of July:

July 25th – 29th

- Continue to use this cart for recycling during the week.
- Public Works crews will affix a "TRASH ONLY" sticker to the top of the cart. *Customers should leave carts at the curb until "TRASH ONLY" stickers have been applied.*

August 1st & Beyond

- Follow the City's refuse/trash guidelines if placing materials outside the cart.
- Customers may continue to place additional garbage bags at the curb on heavy trash days/if the cart is filled.

New Recycling Cart (Yellow Top)

New 65-gallon carts will be delivered at no charge to homeowners during the last week of July by the City's recycling contractor, Flood Brothers.

- Begin using new carts on Monday, August 1st.
- Follow the City's/Flood Brothers recycling guidelines when placing materials outside the cart for collection.

Retrofit City Refuse Trucks

Rolling Meadows' approved 2022 budget includes \$115,000 to ...continued on p. 2

CELEBRATE NATION'S INDEPENDENCE, JULY 4TH

A fun-filled community parade featuring floats, specialty vehicles, marching bands and more – plus a thundering evening fireworks display in Salk Park – will help Rolling Meadows residents commemorate America's independence on Monday, July 4th.

Community Parade (11:30 am) –

Parade participants will step off from Rolling Meadows High School and head west on Central Road, turn north onto Owl Drive, then travel east on Kirchoff Road to the Rolling Meadows Shopping Center.

Patriotic Fireworks Display (Dusk, around 9:15 pm) –

Bring chairs and blankets to Salk Park for a front row seat at the City's dazzling fireworks display – a triumphant culmination of Independence Day celebrations throughout Rolling Meadows.



'AUTOMATED' REFUSE/RECYCLING TO BEGIN AUG. 1 ...continued from p.1

upgrade Public Works' fleet of refuse vehicles. City leaders expect to realize multiple benefits from automated collection operations, which may be performed with just one employee per vehicle. These include:

1. Reduced staff time devoted to refuse collection.
2. Lower risk of employee injury/worker's compensation claims.
3. Expanded opportunities for employee cross-training/rotation.
4. Less refuse debris caused by animals breaking into garbage bags.
5. Decreased operational costs.

Questions about the City's automated refuse collection program? Please contact Public Works (847-963-0500).



Repurposed refuse/trash cart (green top)



New recycling cart (yellow top)

RETIRED SUPERINTENDENT BILL SUCHECKI'S INFLUENCE LOOMS LARGE AT PUBLIC WORKS

Public Works Superintendent Bill Suchecki, who retired in March after 38 years, had a tremendous impact on the department's operations and approach to service. A proclamation honoring Suchecki on the eve of his retirement stated as much:

"Bill Suchecki has served as a department leader by using his influence to lay the foundational blocks that have helped build the department's values, culture of service, tradition of family, togetherness, and teamwork," it reads.

The proclamation also noted Suchecki's "integrity, loyalty, mentorship, time, sacrifice, and guidance" as integral components of his tenure with the organization.

In the four months since his departure, department members have honored Suchecki's legacy by emulating his commitment to excellence.

"We miss Bill and his leadership immensely, but it's exciting to see the best parts of him now being displayed by those who had the privilege to learn from him," explained Jo Ellen Charlton, Assistant Public Works Director.

"Bill was the embodiment of our department's vision statement: 'Uphold the tradition of putting the extra in extraordinary by working together to deliver all the services that make Rolling Meadows a great place to live, work, and play.' He always put the 'extra' in extraordinary, and his past example drives our efforts moving forward," she added.

Suchecki began his career in 1984 as a sewer maintenance worker. He rose steadily through the ranks to serve as Public Works Inspector, Inspection & Support Services Supervisor, Streets Superintendent, and Public Works Operations Superintendent.

During his nearly four decades of service, Suchecki was responsible for managing millions of dollars-worth of capital improvements, including the City's annual street maintenance programs. He also helped develop and implement



Bill Suchecki retired in March after 38 years of City service.

countless operational system improvements – for refuse collection and snow/ice removal operations, in particular – that resulted in significant cost savings and service enhancements.

Despite Suchecki's laser-like focus on improving operations and services, he kept his eye on the bigger picture. He understood the importance of customer service.

"Bill was always willing to help our residents in any way that he could – especially senior citizens," explained Brad Valentino, who worked with Suchecki for many years. "He grew up in Rolling Meadows, so that was always very important to him."

As municipal services entered the digital age, he also insisted on maintaining the "human element" in the Department's interactions with residents.

"Bill believed that technology could offer solutions to strengthen our services, but not at the expense of our contact with residents," Charlton said. "He felt GIS maps and digital communication should never totally replace onsite visits and face-to-face interactions."

"Bill knew this city like the back of his hand. He was involved in everything," Valentino added.

According to colleagues, Suchecki especially loved winter because it was an opportunity to showcase the City's excellent snow removal services.

...continued on p.3

ASK COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT

Ask Community Development is a periodic feature that provides answers to common questions customers may have about Community Development Division operations and services.

Q. What building codes do I need to follow for my permit?

A. Effective July 1, 2022, the City of Rolling Meadows has adopted the 2018 version of the International Code Council (ICC) texts, as well as the 2017 National Electrical Code. These updated codes will help the City keep current with changing technologies and building materials.

The City also has local code amendments that are specifically designed for our town. These may be found on our website (www.cityrm.org/149/Building-Codes). Along with the code texts, these amendments have been updated to make them more user friendly and easier to read.

We also follow state and federal mandated codes, such as the Illinois Plumbing Code, the Energy Conservation Code, and the Accessibility Code.



BUILDING CODE UPDATES TAKE EFFECT JULY 1ST

Updated building codes recently adopted by City Council that take effect July 1st simplify the code interpretation process for customers and contractors, guide the incorporation of newer technologies now more common in residential and commercial construction, and improve overall public safety.

The revised codes, which are based on the 2018 International Code Council (ICC) code sets, supplant City codes that were last revised in 2010. Community Development Division employees spent the past several months developing the updates.

"The updated codes are based on current industry practices that are now

mandated at both the county and state levels," explained Elizabeth Kwandras, Interim Superintendent. "In particular, they incorporate newer technologies – such as solar panels and wireless smoke detectors – that were not commonly available during the last update."

From a customer service perspective, Kwandras says the revised code standards will make it easier for residents to apply for and receive permits. They will also enable City inspectors to review and approve home improvement and/or other projects more efficiently.

For more information on Community Development Division services, visit www.cityrm.org/148/Community-Development or call 847-506-6030.

SUCHECKI'S INFLUENCE LOOMS LARGE ...continued from p.2

"He lived for Snow Command," is how Charlton explained it.

"Rolling Meadows has always been miles ahead of other communities when it comes to clearing snow and ice from City streets. Bill played a vital role in that for many years," Valentino said.

Combined, Suchecki's 38 years of service to his hometown served as a valuable lesson for others.

Now, the next generation of department employees are following his example and recommitting themselves to providing exceptional services.

Charlton noted a few other "lessons" Suchecki left his Public Works col-

leagues. They include:

1. Listening is a skill.
2. A quiet but bold presence speaks volumes.
3. Doing the right thing sometimes requires stepping outside your comfort zone.
4. Multiple exclamation points at the end of his emails or texts were a reminder that he'd prefer you call or talk to him in-person.*
5. Don't mess with his hats.*

"We wish Bill a long and fulfilling retirement. And to Bill, 'we'll see ya when we see ya,'" she added, referencing one of Suchecki's signature signoffs.

**Editor's note: Charlton laughed when mentioning these last two.*

JULY 2022

All meetings take place at City Hall, unless noted.

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
View upcoming City Council and volunteer committee meeting agendas at www.cityrm.org .					1	2
3	4 INDEPENDENCE DAY City offices closed. Refuse collection delayed one day all week. Parade, 11:30 am; Fireworks, 9:15 pm, Salk Park.	5 Environmental Committee, 6:30 pm Planning & Zoning Commission, 7:00 pm	6	7 Adjudication Hearing (Parking), 2:00 pm	8	9
10	11 Board of Fire & Police Commissioners, 9:00 am Economic Development Committee, 6:00 pm	12 Crime Stoppers, 5:30 pm City Council Meeting, 7:30 pm	13	14 Adjudication Hearing, 1:00 pm	15 Friday's ROCK! & Roll in Meadows, 5:30 – 10:00 pm, Kimball Hill Park	16
17	18	19 Community Events Foundation Volunteer Committee, 6:00 pm City Council Committee of the Whole, 7:30 pm	20 <i>Water bills due</i>	21 Police Pension Board, 3:30 pm Adjudication Hearing (Red Light), 2:00 pm	22	23
24 31	25	26 Police Pension Board, 3:30 pm Veterans Committee, 6:00 pm Capital Projects Committee, 6:30 pm City Council Meeting, 7:30 pm	27	28	29	30 Family Movie Night with the RM Cops, 7:00 – 10:00 pm, Community Center

AUGUST 2022

All meetings take place at City Hall, unless noted.

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
	1 Economic Development Committee, 6:00 pm	2 Environmental Committee, 6:30 pm National Night Out, 6:00 – 8:30 pm, Community Center	3 Planning & Zoning Commission, 7:00 pm	4 Adjudication Hearing (Parking), 2:00 pm	5	6 Cornfest, 11:00 am – 7:00 pm, Community Church
7	8 Board of Fire & Police Commissioners, 9:00 am	9 Crime Stoppers, 5:30 pm City Council Meeting, 7:30 pm	10	11 Adjudication Hearing 1:00 pm	12 Wine-Down by the Creek, 6:00 – 11:00 pm, Kimball Hill Park	13
14	15	16 Community Events Foundation Volunteer Committee, 6:00 pm City Council Committee of the Whole, 7:30 pm	17	18 Adjudication Hearing (Red Light), 2:00 pm	19	20
21	22 <i>Water bills due</i>	23 Veterans Committee, 6:00 pm City Council Meeting, 7:30 pm	24	25	26	27
28	29	30	31	WANT MORE NEWS? Access Rolling Meadows' electronic newsletter, eNews, published in February, April, June, August, October and December, and archived at www.cityrm.org .		

CITY'S COMMUNITY EVENTS SCHEDULE 'HEATS UP' DURING JULY & AUGUST

Rolling Meadows' jam-packed calendar of community events keeps the fun "rolling" into July and August. Mark your calendars and get ready to join the fun! View a complete listing of 2022 events by visiting www.cityrm.org/669/Community-Events.

Friday's ROCK! & Roll in Meadows Kimball Hill Park

Friday, July 15th, 5:30 – 10:00 pm

The Jolly Ringwalds (5:30 – 7:00 pm) will start the evening off with a "neon carousel of '80s celebration," followed by headliners **Hello Weekend** (7:00 – 10:00 pm), a "high-energy party band covering everything from Lady Gaga and Guns N' Roses to Bruno Mars and the Beach Boys." NOTE: Purchase adult beverages at all Friday's ROCK! events in 2022, courtesy of Rep's Place and Stadium Sports Club.

Family Movie Night with the RM Cops Community Center (3705 Pheasant Drive)

Saturday, July 30th, 7:00 – 10:00 pm

Join friends, neighbors, and Rolling Meadows police officers for popcorn, candy, giveaways, and a free outdoor screening of Walt Disney Animation Studios' *Moana*.



Rolling Meadows mascot Kimball Hoot (center) greets guests at last year's National Night Out.

National Night Out Community Center (3705 Pheasant Drive)

Tuesday, August 2nd, 6:00 – 8:30 pm

Celebrate the bonds between Rolling Meadows police officers and the community they serve during an evening filled with live entertainment, all-ages activities, giveaways, and free food and beverages (*while supplies last*). Learn more by visiting www.natw.org.

Wine-Down by the Creek Kimball Hill Park

Friday, August 12th, 6:00 – 11:00 pm

Sample fine wine, craft beer, and live music on the banks of Salt Creek with performances by **The Way Outs** (*authentic '60s garage rock*) and **Wedding Banned** (*rad '80s music*). Admission is free. Adults ages 21 and up may purchase wine and beer with a photo ID.

CITY TO REINSTATE LATE FEES/PENALTIES FOR OVERDUE UTILITY BALANCES

By Molly Talkington, Finance Director



Molly Talkington

At the onset of the COVID-19 pandemic in early 2020, the City of Rolling Meadows began temporarily waiving financial penalties and water/sewer service disconnections to customers with overdue utility bills. Our goal was to provide relief to those who may have experienced financial hardship due to job loss or reduction of work hours because of mandated government shutdowns.

Now, the Finance Department is moving ahead with plans to reinstate standard procedures for delinquent water and sewer accounts, beginning October 1st.

Outstanding Balances Due Sept. 20th

Customers with outstanding utility account balances should make plans to

pay their balance in full by September 20th. Those with past due balances after that date will be subject to late payment penalties and administrative fees, and face disconnection of their water service.

If circumstances will not enable you to pay your outstanding balance in full by September 20th, contact the City's Utility Billing Department as soon as possible to set up payment arrangements.



Customers who are experiencing financial hardship and need assistance in paying their utility bills may qualify for financial assistance through the CEDA Low Income Household Water Assistance Program. More information

is available on the City's website, www.cityrm.org.

Ways to Pay

When paying monthly utility bills, I encourage customers to use the City's Customer Service Portal (www.cityrm.org/146/Online-Payments). It's a convenient way to view account information, make payments, and set up automated payments with the City's "Auto Pay" program.

You may also pay utility balances in-person at City Hall, through your bank's online bill payment system, or use the white drop box located in the City Hall parking lot. We cannot accept payments over the phone.

Residents who have questions or would like more information may contact the Finance Department at 847-394-8500 or fin@cityrm.org.

CITY THANKS STREET BANNER PROGRAM SPONSORS

City officials offer a sincere “thank you” to the businesses and community organizations that supported this year’s street banner promotional initiative.

The annual program offers a literal “high-flying” opportunity for local groups to market themselves to local audiences. Sponsors purchase customized panels (featuring an organization’s name or logo) that hang beneath decorative street banners displayed along Kirchoff Road and other high-traffic areas to promote upcoming City events.



Proceeds from each sale helps offset the program’s costs while also benefiting the Rolling Meadows Community Events Foundation.

The Foundation is a 501(c)3 nonprofit entity whose mission is to provide financial support to Rolling Meadows’ community events. It relies solely on

tax-deductible contributions and gifts from donors. Learn more or contribute online at www.cityrm.org/679/Community-Events-Foundation.

Thank You, Sponsors

- Aerex Pest Control
- Aloft Hotel & Holiday Inn Express
- Arthur J. Gallagher
- ATS Automation
- Avalon Realty Associates, LLC
- BEAR Construction
- Christopher B. Burke Engineering
- Complete Lawn & Snow Services
- Emerald Lawn Care
- Firefighters Local 3075
- Flood Brothers Disposal Co.
- Floor Coverings International
- J&J Pavement Repairs
- JML Overhead Door
- Lakeshore Title Agency
- Meet Chicago Northwest
- Meridian Banquets
- Northrop Grumman
- Northwest Community Healthcare
- Northwest Suburban College
- Nature’s Care
- Phoenix HVAC
- Rolling Meadows Historical Society
- Rolling Meadows Library
- Robin Hood Restoration
- Spacelite
- Steven Shaykin, PC
- Suburban Accents

**CONTACT
CITY OFFICIALS**
City Hall Hours
8:00 am to 4:00 pm
Monday – Friday



MAYOR and CITY COUNCIL

Mayor Joe Gallo 847-814-9271
1st Ward Alderman
Karen McHale..... 773-517-3873
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
Mandy Reyez 847-209-5435
7th Ward Alderman
Lara Sanoica..... 847-770-3097
City Manager
Rob Sabo 847-394-8500

SERVICES

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

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 www.twitter.com/@cityofrm1

MEMORIAL DAY CEREMONIES HONOR AMERICAN HEROES

Thousands of community members honored local veterans and those who gave their “last full measure of devotion” in defense of the United States during Rolling Meadows’ May 28th Memorial Day ceremonies.

A downtown parade along Kirchoff

Road, followed by an observance at the Carillon Tower, served as a solemn reminder that freedom isn’t free. Rather, in the words of keynote speaker Captain George K. Busse, U.S. Navy Reserve (retired), it is something that must be treasured, exercised, and – sometimes – fought for.



‘ENEWS’ OFFERS EXPANDED COVERAGE OF CITY INITIATIVES

Stay on top of all that is happening in Rolling Meadows with eNews, a supplemental online newsletter published in February, April, June, August, October, and December.

Together, News & Views and eNews provide expanded monthly coverage of City plans, events, and initiatives. The e-newsletter’s web-based PDF format also offers embedded links that give readers access to additional resources and insights.

Access eNews at www.cityrm.org. Select “Monthly City Newsletters” from the “Our Community” menu.