



NEWS

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& Views

January/February 2013

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

2013 Budget Lowers Refuse Rates, Adds July 4 Parade Funding

The Fiscal Year (FY) 2013 budget approved by City Council in December decreases refuse fees for homeowners and re-establishes funding for the City's annual Independence Day parade, Finance Director Melissa Gallagher reports.

Beginning in January, customers' monthly refuse fees drop 9%, from \$32.50 to \$29.36, due, in part, to operational efficiencies implemented by Public Works. The Department continues to provide in-house refuse and yard waste collection services. Recycling is collected by a private contractor.

Council members also approved \$6,000 for marching bands to participate in this year's Independence Day festivities. Funding for last year's event was removed entirely from the 2012 budget.

"Sales tax, income tax, building permits

and other revenue sources over the last year have been higher than originally



Council members approved funding for Independence Day marching bands.

expected. That has helped offset the need for large fee increases or reductions in service for this year's budget," Gallagher explains.

The 2013 budget continues long-term efforts to strengthen fund balances and ensure delivery of quality services to Rolling Meadows residents. A 3.8%

increase in the City's share of property tax revenue was approved to fund pension obligations.

The City's monthly storm water fee rises 17 cents in January, while increases in water and sewer rates take effect March 1. In total, an average monthly utility bill – based on 8,000 gallons of water usage – will increase by less than \$4. Vehicle sticker costs rise from \$26 to \$30, the second part of a two-tiered increase approved by Council in 2011.

The budget also funds an ongoing series of infrastructure improvements, including sewer, street and water main repairs, as well as the Golf/New Wilke project scheduled to begin this spring.

The complete 2013 budget is available for public review on the City's Website, www.cityrm.org.

"Sales tax, income tax, building permits and other revenue sources over the last year have been higher than originally expected."

– Finance Director Melissa Gallagher

Golf, New Wilke Intersection Project Anticipated to Begin this Spring

Rolling Meadows leaders are optimistic that a long-delayed Illinois Department of Transportation (IDOT) project to rebuild the intersection at Golf and New Wilke Roads will begin this spring, after construction bids came in far below initial estimates.

The project will completely rebuild the 41 year-old intersection and about 2,000 feet of Golf Road between the I-90 overpass and the Marketplace of Rolling Meadows shopping center.

The submitted reconstruction bids range from \$5.3 million to \$6.5 million – much lower than initial engineering estimates. City officials have secured more than \$7 million in federal and state grants to fund the project.

IDOT officials expect all work to be completed by year's end. Construction updates will be published in upcoming issues of *News & Views*.

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
ComEd 1-800-EDISON-1
Curfew Sun. – Thurs. 11 p.m.; Fri. & Sat. Midnight

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

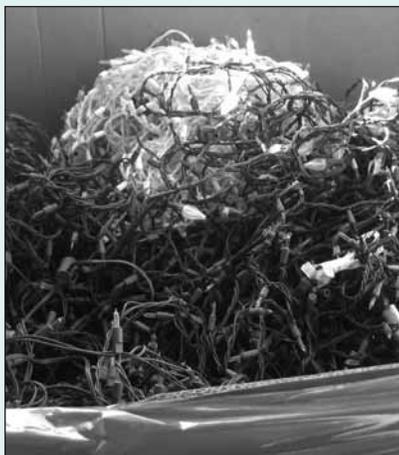
Recycle Holiday Lights through February 8

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

Residents may drop off materials for recycling at a collection box located outside City Hall (3600 Kirchoff Road). The program runs through February 8.

Materials suitable for collection and recycling include holiday lights of all colors and lengths, extension cords, household cords/wiring, and computer cords/wires.

For more information, visit www.elgin-recycling.com or www.swancc.org.

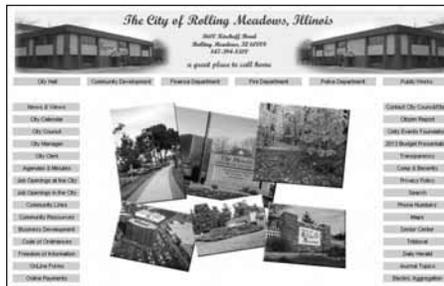


Holiday lights of all colors and lengths are accepted at the City Hall drop box for recycling.

City Establishes 2013 Meeting Schedule; Information Available Online at cityrm.org

City Council in 2013 will hold its regular meetings the second and fourth Tuesdays of each month, 7:30 p.m., at City Hall, except in December, when Council members will meet the first and third Tuesdays.

A workshop-style Committee of the Whole will meet every third Tuesday of the month at City Hall, also at 7:30 p.m. In December, the meeting will take place on the second Tuesday.



Visit the City's Website for information on upcoming meetings of volunteer boards and commissions.

Upcoming Council agendas, as well as minutes from previous City Council meetings, are available for residents' review on the City's Website, www.cityrm.org. The site also helps residents identify meeting dates/times for the City's volunteer boards and commissions, including the:

- **Economic Development Committee** – First Tuesday of each month, 6 p.m.
- **Environmental Committee** – First Tuesday of each month, 7 p.m.
- **Plan Commission** – First Tuesday of each month, 7:30 p.m.
- **Zoning Board of Appeals** – First Wednesday of each month, 7:30 p.m.
- **Rolling Meadows Crime Stoppers** – Second Tuesday of each month, 5 p.m.

Meeting information is also published in each issue of *News & Views*.

City Captures 26th Consecutive GFOA Award, Demonstrates Integrity of Financial Operations

Following an annual audit of Rolling Meadows' financial and accounting processes, the City was recognized with its 26th consecutive Certificate of Achievement for Excellence in Financial Reporting by the Government Finance Officers Association of the United States and Canada (GFOA).

"This award demonstrates the integrity and legitimacy of the City's financial oper-

ations," explains Finance Director Melissa Gallagher. "It extends Rolling Meadows' impressive quarter-century streak of recognized accounting excellence."

The award recognizes government units and public employee retirement systems whose comprehensive annual financial reports achieve the highest standards in accounting and financial reporting.

Community Briefs

Water Main Replacement Program Complete

A \$1.2 million project to replace water mains on six residential streets has provided 6th Ward residents with a much more reliable water source. Funded by a low-interest loan (2% over 20 years) from the Illinois Environmental Protection Agency, crews replaced old cast iron water mains on Brookmeade and Magnolia Drives; Hawthorn, Sycamore and Thorntree Lanes; and a portion of Plum Grove Drive. The original water mains were installed in the early 1960s.



Crews replaced water mains that were nearly 50 years old.

Fire Department to Host January 18 Blood Drive

Residents will be able to give the "gift of life" during a blood drive hosted by the Rolling Meadows Fire Department, Friday, January 18, 8 a.m. – 2 p.m., at the Neuckranz Fire Station (2455 Plum Grove Road). To register, contact the Fire Department at 847-397-3352. Walk-ins are also welcome on the day of the event.



Snow Removal: Help Public Works Help You

Homeowners and businesses throughout Rolling Meadows play an important role in the success of the City's snow plowing efforts, according to Assistant Public Works Director Bob Hartnett.

"Our policy of completely clearing City streets of snow is a team effort. We see residents as natural partners in making sure our streets are as clear and as safe as possible after blustery winter storms."



Salt shipments arrive at Public Works.

Do Not Shovel/Blow Snow into Streets

It may seem like common sense to shovel or blow snow from driveways and sidewalks into the street and let the plows take it away. This actually ends up creating more work for residents and causes hazardous conditions for motorists. Homeowners should shovel snow to the right side of the driveway (when facing the street) and into yard areas whenever possible. Homeowners should also clear the sidewalks of snow for the safety of school children and other pedestrians.

Observe Winter Parking Bans

Parking on City streets is prohibited for eight hours following a snowfall of at least one inch. This allows snow plows to access streets without having to navigate around parked cars.

Keep Hydrants Clear of Snow

Shoveling snow around fire hydrants may save lives. In emergency situations when seconds count, firefighters depend on

their ability to easily reach nearby hydrants.

Check Mailboxes for Needed Repairs

Mailboxes that have been maintained and are in good condition should withstand the rigors of a typical snow season. The City does not offer reimbursement for the interruption of mail service if a mailbox becomes inaccessible, damaged, knocked over or buried by accumulated snow. It will only pay for repairs to mailboxes hit by plows during snow removal operations.



eBilling Enhances Customer Convenience

More than 800 Rolling Meadows utility customers now receive their water bills by email through the City's Web-based utility billing service, Finance Director Melissa Gallagher reports.

"Electronic utility billing enhances customer convenience and helps save taxpayers thousands of dollars per year in printing and mailing costs," Gallagher explains.

Customers who sign up for eBilling receive an email each month that contains a link to their utility billing statement.

Balances may be paid online through the City's Utility Bill Management System, by mail, or in person at City Hall.

The service also allows users to review a two-year billing history for their account and provides residents with a Web link to the City's newsletter, *News & Views*.

Register for the eBilling program online at www.cityrm.org/finance. For more information, contact the Finance Department at 847-394-8500.

'Green' Snow Plow Operations Improve Driver Safety

Once again this year, Public Works is using road salt that has been pre-treated with environmentally-friendly de-icing materials, such as corn or beet by-products, in combination with magnesium or calcium chloride. "The treated salt tends to stick to the pavement better and work longer. That helps the City reduce its salt usage during heavy storms and improves driver safety," Assistant Director Bob Hartnett explains.

Rolling Meadows Crime Stoppers Group Seeks Volunteers

Rolling Meadows Crime Stoppers has begun its first full year of operation in support of Police Department law enforcement efforts and is looking for "creative minds" to help continue the program's momentum, Board President Len Prejna reports.

Crime Stoppers allows community members to provide anonymous tips to police by calling 847-590-STOP (7867). Callers are eligible to receive a financial reward if the information helps law enforcement prevent or solve crimes.

Since the program was established last summer, Crime Stoppers volunteers

have organized a series of fundraisers at businesses throughout the community. The group's community outreach efforts included distributing information at Meadows Cruise Nights and passing out snap bracelets featuring the Crime Stoppers hotline number to children at Halloween.

The group is hard at work developing fundraisers and activities for 2013.

"Anyone who is interested in helping Rolling Meadows police keep our City safe is invited to join us," Prejna says. "We look forward to expanding our ranks and welcoming new volunteers."

Rolling Meadows Crime Stoppers meets the second Tuesday of each month, 5 p.m., at City Hall. For more information, contact the Rolling Meadows Police Department at 847-255-2416.



Crime Stoppers President Len Prejna (right) and volunteer Linda Broska hold the Crime Stoppers banner at last year's Independence Day Parade.

January 2013

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
		1 New Year's Day City offices closed. Refuse pick-up delayed one day all week.	2	3 Adjudication Hearing (Parking), 2 p.m., City Hall	4	5
6 Christmas Tree Disposal Public Works will pick up Christmas trees for disposal January 2 – 11. Remove lights, tinsel, and ornaments, and place trees at the curb (cut end facing the street) on regular refuse day.	7	8 Crime Stoppers , 5 p.m. Environmental Committee , 7 p.m. City Council Meeting , 7:30 p.m., all at City Hall	9	10 Adjudication Hearing , 1 p.m., City Hall	11	12
13	14 Board of Fire & Police Commissioners , 9 a.m., City Hall	15 City Council Committee of the Whole , 7:30 p.m., City Hall	16	17 Adjudication Hearing (Red Light), 2 p.m., City Hall	18 Blood Drive , Neuckranz Fire Station (2455 Plum Grove Rd.). Call 847-397-3352 to donate.	19
20	21 Water bills due Dr. Martin Luther King Day City offices closed. Regular refuse pick-up.	22 City Council Meeting , 7:30 p.m., City Hall	23	24	25	26
27	28	29	30	31		

February 2013

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	6 Zoning Board of Appeals , 7:30 p.m., City Hall	7 Adjudication Hearing (Parking), 2 p.m., City Hall	8	9
10	11 Board of Fire & Police Commissioners , 9 a.m., City Hall	12 Crime Stoppers , 5 p.m. City Council Meeting , 7:30 p.m., both at City Hall Abraham Lincoln's Birthday	13 Urban Affairs Committee , 5:45 p.m., City Hall	14 Adjudication Hearing , 1 p.m., City Hall Valentine's Day	15	16
17	18 Presidents' Day	19 City Council Committee of the Whole , 7:30 p.m., City Hall	20 Water bills due	21 Adjudication Hearing (Red Light), 2 p.m., City Hall	22 George Washington's Birthday	23
24	25	26 City Council Meeting , 7:30 p.m., City Hall	27	28		

Rolling Meadows Gaining Reputation as a Great Place to Eat

When Muscle Maker Grill opened its doors at 1673 Algonquin Road last October, it continued an impressive multi-year streak of new restaurant openings in the City. Long known as a “Great Place to Call Home,” Rolling Meadows is making a name for itself as a “Great Place to Eat.”

Here are just a few of the local options available to residents seeking variety, taste, value and convenience:

Absolutely Chinese
2140 Plum Grove Road
847-963-8068
www.eatabsolutelychinese.com

Asian Tokyo
1665 Algonquin Road
847-439-3880



Chipotle Mexican Grill
1211 Golf Road
847-439-2530
www.chipotle.com

Falafel Bistro
“Mediterranean grill & exotic ice cream”
1669 Algonquin Road
847-981-1002
www.falafelbistro.biz

Five Guys Burgers and Fries
1323 Golf Road
847-354-7529
www.fiveguys.com

Fratellos Hot Dogs
3301 Kirchoff Road
847-253-3401



Great American Bagel
3240 Kirchoff Road
847-797-8686
www.greatamericanbagel.com

Gus’ Diner
2160 Plum Grove Road
847-963-4485

Honey Baked Ham
1685 Algonquin Road
847-981-9790
www.honeybaked.com

Hickory Roasters – *Hickory wood rotisserie chicken, ribs and sandwiches*
5440 New Wilke Road
847-290-8530
www.hickoryroasters.com

Muscle Maker Grill
“Great food with your health in mind”
1673 Algonquin Road
847-660-7410
www.musclemakergrill.com

Noodles & Company – “Noodles, salads & sandwiches from around the world”
1327 Golf Road
847-981-1175
www.noodles.com



Pepe’s Mexican Restaurant
5133 New Wilke Road
847-577-7373
www.pepes.com

Portillo’s
1900 Golf Road
847-228-0777
www.portillos.com

Red Apple Pancake House & Café
2121 Plum Grove Road
847-925-8048
www.redappleofpalatine.com

Ritzzy’s Café & Backerei
2765 Algonquin Road
847-253-8027
www.ritzyscafe.com



Sakura Restaurant Woodfield
Traditional Japanese Cuisine
4011 Algonquin Road
847-397-2166
www.allsakura.com

Señor Tacos
2643 Kirchoff Road
847-342-1338

Stadium Sports Club & Pizza
4015 Algonquin Road
847-397-2240
www.stadiumsportsclub.com

Sushi Station
1641 Algonquin Road
847-593-2450
www.sushistation.us

Woo Lae Oak
Authentic Korean Cuisine
3201 Algonquin Road
847-870-9910
www.woolaekchicago.com

Welcome New Businesses

- Cosmos Sunglasses – *Office and warehouse*
5420 Newport Drive #62 (847-670-0686)
- Aonsoft International
IT and software consulting
1600 Golf Rd. #1200 (847-457-4748)
- Designers Point, Inc.
Kitchen/bath design
2150 Plum Grove Rd. (224-578-7050)
- Hearthwood Home, Inc.
Internet sales/home accessories
2807 Martin Ln. (847-404-1565)
- Leader Graphic Design – *Computer design*
5050 Newport Dr. #5 (847-564-5409)
- Lillbacka Powerco USA
Manufacturing equipment sales office
2775 Algonquin Rd. (847-301-1300)
- Northwest Neurology Ltd. – *Medical practice*
3701 Algonquin Rd. #800 (847-882-6604)
- Realin Electronics Tech Ltd.
Massage cushion distributor
5301 Keystone Ct. (847-398-5770)
- St. Rita Home Health Care Inc.
Home health care
5105 Tollview Dr. #202 (847-378-8330)

No Debt Problem Here

by Mayor Tom Rooney

In this space last summer, I wrote an article about the

City's financial condition – specifically how an analysis I did (with the help of City staff) showed two problems: our cash position and our reserves.

When the final numbers are run on 2012, I am confident that we'll see improvement in both areas. But after I wrote that article, a number of people asked me, "What about our debt?" Because the national debt and Illinois' debt level are both in the news, people assumed that we were in the same bad position here in Rolling Meadows. I assured them that the analysis demonstrated that the City's debt level is actually reasonable...and it's going down.

A recent report in the *Chicago Tribune* provides independent verification of that fact. Until 1970, cities and villages had a debt ceiling established by the state: taxpayer-backed debt could not exceed five percent of a community's property tax base. The purpose was to

keep municipal borrowing from reaching unhealthy levels.

But the state then nearly doubled the debt ceiling for cities without home rule and made no ceiling at all for home rule cities such as ours. The *Tribune* report showed dozens of cities in the Chicago area whose debts have since grown beyond the old debt ceiling limits. Some now have debts totaling more than six times the old legal limit.

Not us. Even if the old debt ceiling limits were still in place, our City wouldn't even be halfway toward our debt ceiling. In fact, Rolling Meadows tied for 99th in the *Tribune's* listing of highest debt levels for Chicago area communities. That's one instance where I'm glad to be nowhere near first place.

Electric Aggregation Savings Update

I mentioned last time that I'd be tracking how much I'm saving on electricity with the City's new lower rates. My running savings total after three monthly bills: \$59.59.

Environmental Committee Plants 500 Trees in 2012

Members of the Rolling Meadows Environmental Committee in 2012 planted more than 500 trees throughout the City and continued to restore native vegetation along the banks of Salt Creek, Committee co-chair Tyson Lagoni reports.

Since 2010, the Committee has successfully planted more than 1,500 trees to help boost City beautification efforts and improve residents' air quality. However, tree planting and creek restoration are just a few of the committee's recent accomplishments.

In the last 12 months, Committee members have:

- Established a prairie restoration site near Rolling Meadows High School for student environmental education.
- Partnered with the Metropolitan Water Reclamation District to educate the public on ways to reduce water waste and conserve limited natural resources.
- Added native wildflower and grass species to City common areas in order to improve bio-diversity and wildlife habitat.
- Conducted annual Earth/Arbor Day community work sessions to clear out invasive species along Salt Creek.
- Distributed complimentary milkweed plants at the Rolling Meadows Garden Club's annual plant sale to support Monarch Butterfly migration.
- Hosted an environmentally-themed guest speaker series at Rolling Meadows Library.

"As 2013 dawns, the Environmental Committee is moving forward with plans to create a Website with resources to help residents become 'greener' citizens," Lagoni says. "Our goal is to help make our community healthier and more livable. We invite residents to join us in our efforts."

The Rolling Meadows Environmental Committee meets at 7 p.m. on the first Tuesday of every month at City Hall. For more information, email ty_lagoni@yahoo.com.

Interior Demolition Marks Next Phase of Dominick's Property Redevelopment

Redevelopment of the 11-acre Dominick's property on Kirchoff Road has begun, as interior demolition work scheduled for January gets underway.

"With interior demolition commencing and environmental studies completed, we are very excited to be moving forward on the redevelopment of this important downtown property," Clark Street Development's Fritz Duda says.

Clark Street representatives have discussed preliminary commercial concepts with City officials, but will provide more detailed proposals for the property's development going forward. Updates will be featured in upcoming issues of *News & Views*.

City leaders believe that the site, when fully redeveloped, will add value to the City's tax base and make a significant contribution to the downtown area.

Recent economic studies conducted on behalf of the City indicate that a grocer, hardware/home improvement store, furniture retailer, or similarly-sized businesses may be ideal anchor tenants.

The property has been mostly vacant since Dominick's left the City in 2004.



Interior demolition of the former Dominick's property begins in January.