

# NEWS & VIEWS

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2023 meeting schedules . . . . . 2	Keep fire hydrants clear of snow . . . . . 3
Sanitary sewer backups? Call . . . . . 4	January/February calendars . . . . . 4
Public Works before calling a plumber . . . . . 2	Sneak peek: community events preview. . . . . 5

VOLUME 27 ISSUE 1

## Community Donations Drive Success of PD's Annual Holiday Food Drive

...Story on page 6



## COAL TAR SEALANT BAN TAKES EFFECT JANUARY 1ST

Rolling Meadows has joined a growing number of communities throughout Illinois and across the country that ban cancer-causing coal tar sealants commonly used to maintain asphalt driveways, parking lots, and walking paths.

The ordinance, which was approved by City Council last summer and takes effect January 1st:

- Prohibits the use of coal tar pavement sealants on public and private commercial property,
- Prohibits the sale of these products in Rolling Meadows,
- Requires contractors performing pavement sealant services in the City to obtain an annual license, and
- Establishes fines ranging from \$100 – \$500 per offense.

“Coal tar sealants contain extremely high levels of polycyclic aromat-

ic hydrocarbons (PAHs), which are a known carcinogen and toxic to humans, pets, and aquatic life,” explained Public Works Supervisor Ryan Rivard. “Eliminating their use will help safeguard residents’ health, protect our waterways, and improve the City’s quality of life.”

Coal tar sealants with high PAH concentrations are dangerous on multiple levels: sealants dry and eventually become pavement dust, which disperses into the City’s storm water system and nearby soil. Dust also adheres to vehicle tires and on the bottoms of people’s shoes.

“Simply walking on surfaces sealed with coal tar products introduces PAHs into our homes, where it settles as household dust and is inhaled by family members and pets,” Rivard added.

...continued on p. 6

## RECYCLE HOLIDAY LIGHTS AT CITY HALL

Tired of storing old holiday lights in your basement or attic? Rolling Meadows’ holiday light recycling program offers a safe, convenient way to dispose of them.

Bring holiday lights of all sizes and colors (*incandescent or LED*), electrical/extension cords, and wire to City Hall (3600 Kirchoff Road). Drop boxes are located at the southwest corner of the building.

The program, co-sponsored by the Solid Waste Agency of Northern Cook County (SWANCC) and Elgin Recycling, does not accept live greens (wreaths, trees, garland) or plastic/cardboard packaging.

This year’s collection will conclude Tuesday, February 7th.



## RM BUSINESS BUZZ WEBSITE LISTS LOCAL JOB OPPORTUNITIES

Are you considering a career change in the new year?

Explore employment opportunities with Rolling Meadows-based companies on the **RM Business Buzz**, a City-sponsored economic development initiative designed specifically to support local businesses and help residents connect with local service providers.

Visit [www.rmbusinessbuzz.org](http://www.rmbusinessbuzz.org) and select "Job Opportunities in RM" from the "What's New" pull-down menu to view a listing of available openings.

Want to know what else is happening on the "Buzz?"

### Find Local Deals

The Buzz makes it simple for users to support the City's growing business community. Click on the "Special Offers" link to view and download coupons offered by local stores and restaurants.

### Connect with Local Providers

The site lists more than 760 Rolling Meadows-based retail shops, restaurants, and companies. Users may search for specific businesses by name or by industry.

### Other Features

Read in-depth profiles of area companies, view past issues of the City's quarterly *BUSINESS MESSENGER* newsletter, stay on top of local business news, find updated listings of new business openings, and learn more about upcoming community events and programs.



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"Progress Thru  
Participation"

STATE OF

ILLINOIS



City Council members will meet the second and fourth Tuesdays of each month (first and third Tuesdays in December).

## CITY RELEASES 2023 PUBLIC MEETING SCHEDULE

The City Council in 2023 will hold its regular meetings at 7:30 pm on the second and fourth Tuesdays of each month. A workshop-style Committee of the Whole meeting will take place on the third Tuesday of every month, also at 7:30 pm.

Residents are welcome to attend in-person, but may also view meetings live on the Rolling Meadows Broadcasting Network (cable channel 6 or online at [www.cityrm.org/520/Rolling-Meadows-Broadcasting-Network](http://www.cityrm.org/520/Rolling-Meadows-Broadcasting-Network)).

Agendas for upcoming meetings, and approved minutes from prior meetings, are available at [www.cityrm.org/AgendaCenter](http://www.cityrm.org/AgendaCenter).

The 2023 public meeting schedule also establishes dates and times for the City's volunteer boards and commissions, including the:

- **Capital Projects Committee** – meets at 6:30 pm on the fourth Tuesday of April, May, June, July, September, and October.
- **Community Events Foundation Volunteer Committee** – Meets at 6:00 pm on the third Tuesday of

each month (except January and December).

- **Economic Development Committee** – meets at 6:00 pm on the first Monday of February, April, June, August, October, and December.

*"Find agendas for City Council meetings, and meetings of volunteer boards and commissions, at [www.cityrm.org](http://www.cityrm.org)."*

- **Environmental Committee** – meets at 6:30 pm on the first Tuesday of each month.

- **Planning & Zoning Commission** – meets at 7:00 pm on the first Tuesday of each month.

- **Veterans Committee** – meets at 6:00 pm on the fourth Tuesday of each month.

All meetings take place at City Hall, unless noted. A complete listing of City commissions is posted at [www.cityrm.org/349/Boards-Commissions](http://www.cityrm.org/349/Boards-Commissions). Meeting information is also published monthly in *News & Views* and *e-News*.

*Editor's Note: City Council will convene on the first and third Tuesdays of December. December's Committee of the Whole meeting will take place on the second Tuesday of the month.*

## RENEW ALARM PERMITS BY JANUARY 31ST

The City has sent alarm permit renewal applications to home and business owners who use security alarms to protect their properties. Customers should renew their permits by mail, in-person at City Hall, or online at [www.cityrm.org/146/Pay](http://www.cityrm.org/146/Pay) by Tuesday, January 31st, to avoid late fees.

Annual permit 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 also be assessed to businesses (see chart). There is no charge for police or fire department responses to alarms triggered in emergency situations.

For more information, contact the Police Department (847-255-2416) or Fire Department (847-397-3352).

### Alarm Permit Fees

Business.....	\$30
Residential.....	\$20 (\$10 seniors)
Duress/Panic Button .	\$10 (\$5 seniors)

### False Alarm Fines

#### Police:

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

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

#### Fire:

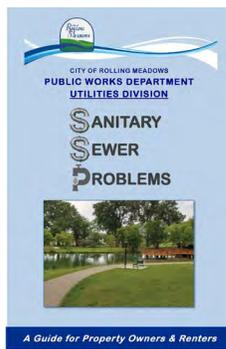
1 false alarm .....	No fine
2-3 false alarms.....	\$350 each
4-6 false alarms.....	\$450 each
7+ false alarms .....	\$600 each (and revocation of permit)

## SANITARY SEWER BACKUPS? CONTACT PUBLIC WORKS

Homeowners experiencing clogged, slow-draining, or backed up sanitary sewers should call the Rolling Meadows Public Works Department **before** calling a contractor, Supervisor Ryan Rivard reports.

Public Works staff members will identify the causes of residential sanitary sewer backups at no cost by first checking the City sewer main for problems. If none are found, crews can use a sophisticated camera to inspect the lateral (which connects the house to the sewer main) for blockage caused by tree roots, debris, defects, or other problems, such as a collapsed pipe.

“Our goal is to help homeowners save money by identifying what is causing the sanitary sewer backup,” Rivard added. “This can help them determine if they need to hire a plumbing contractor to make repairs or clear the line.”



Rivard says that Department employees have encountered situations where residents hired contractors without first contacting Public Works and may have been charged for services that were not necessary.

However, Public Works will not offer referrals or recommendations for plumbers to perform work if it is required.

Residents who believe they may have sanitary sewer backups should contact the Public Works Department at 847-963-0500 (ext. 7011 or 7022) during regular business hours (8:00 am – 4:00 pm, Monday – Friday). Call the Police Department’s non-emergency number (847-255 2416) after-hours and during weekends.

For more information, download Public Works’ free *Sanitary Sewer Problem Guide*, available at visit [www.cityrm.org/348/Sanitary-Sewer-Backups](http://www.cityrm.org/348/Sanitary-Sewer-Backups).

## KEEP FIRE HYDRANTS CLEAR OF SNOW

Do you have a fire hydrant near your home? The Rolling Meadows Fire Department asks your help keeping it clear and accessible this winter.



Clearing away snow that accumulates around fire hydrants saves lives. In emergency situations where seconds count, firefighters need quick access, so they can connect hose lines to hydrants without delay.

### Keep it Clear

- Remove snow and ice from the hydrant.
- Clear the perimeter around the hydrant for firefighters to walk (three-foot minimum).
- Clear a path from the hydrant to the street.

## SEWER BACKUP WARNING SIGNS

- Water bubbling from the ground.
- Standing water in an otherwise dry area.
- Water gurgling in the toilet or bathtub while doing laundry.
- Water above ground level at existing cleanout.

# JANUARY 2023

All meetings take place at City Hall, unless noted.

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
1 <b>NEW YEAR'S DAY</b>	2 <i>City offices closed. Refuse/recycling collection delayed one day all week.</i>	3 Environmental Committee, 6:30 pm Planning & Zoning Commission, 7:00 pm	4	5	6	7
8	9 Board of Fire & Police Commissioners, 9:00 am	10 Crime Stoppers, 5:30 pm City Council Meeting, 7:30 pm	11	12 Adjudication Hearings 11:00 am (Red Light); 1:00 pm (Code); 2:00 pm (Parking)	13	14
15	16 <b>MARTIN LUTHER KING, JR. DAY</b> <i>City offices closed. Regular refuse/recycling collection.</i>	17 City Council Committee of the Whole, 7:30 pm	18	19	20 <i>Water bills due</i> Fire Pension Board, 8:30 am	21
22	23 Police Pension Board, 3:30 pm	24 Veterans Committee, 6:00 pm City Council Meeting, 7:30 pm	25	26	27	28
29	30	31			Access upcoming City Council and volunteer committee meeting agendas at <a href="http://www.cityrm.org">www.cityrm.org</a> .	

# FEBRUARY 2023

All meetings take place at City Hall, unless noted.

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
<b>WANT MORE NEWS?</b> Rolling Meadows' electronic newsletter, <i>eNews</i> , is published in February, April, June, August, October and December, and archived at <a href="http://www.cityrm.org">www.cityrm.org</a> .			1	2	3	4
5	6 Economic Development Committee, 6:00 pm	7 Environmental Committee, 6:30 pm Planning & Zoning Commission, 7:00 pm	8	9 Adjudication Hearings 11:00 am (Red Light); 1:00 pm (Code); 2:00 pm (Parking)	10	11
12 <b>LINCOLN'S BIRTHDAY</b>	13 Board of Fire & Police Commissioners, 9:00 am	14 <b>VALENTINE'S DAY</b> Crime Stoppers, 5:30 pm City Council Meeting, 7:30 pm	15	16	17	18
19	20 <b>PRESIDENTS' DAY</b> <i>Water bills due</i>	21 Community Events Foundation Volunteer Committee, 6:00 pm City Council Committee of the Whole, 7:30 pm	22 <b>WASHINGTON'S BIRTHDAY</b>	23	24	25
26	27	28 Veterans Committee, 6:00 pm City Council Meeting, 7:30 pm				

## Oh, What a Celebration!



*Rolling Meadows' December 1st Holiday Celebration was a magical evening filled with spectacular lights, horse-drawn sleigh rides, hot cocoa with Kimball Hoot, and more!*

## SNEAK PEEK: CITY ANNOUNCES 2023 COMMUNITY EVENTS CALENDAR

It may only be January, but it's never too early to mark your calendars for Rolling Meadows's official 2023 Community Events schedule!

Highlights will include spring's Memorial Day parade and observance, summer's Community Block Party, fall's Hometown Hoedown, and winter's Holiday Celebration. There's also the City's annual July 4th Parade and Fireworks, National Night Out, Senior Luncheon, Veterans Dinner, and more!

View a complete schedule of events at [www.cityrm.org/669/Community-Events](http://www.cityrm.org/669/Community-Events).

These community gatherings wouldn't be possible without the planning and dedication of City and Park District staff, sponsoring businesses and organizations, and community volunteers.

### Volunteers Wanted

Monthly meetings of Rolling Meadows' Community Events Foundation Volunteer Committee take place at 6:00 pm on the third Tuesday of each



*Residents explore the law enforcement vehicle display at the City's community block party.*

month (February – November) at City Hall. Stop by and get involved!

### Corporate Sponsorship Opportunities

Businesses that sponsor Rolling Meadows' community events enjoy an outstanding – and cost-effective – opportunity to connect with customers and build brand equity at the grass-roots level. To learn more, contact Lori Ciezak, Assistant to the City Manager, at [ciezakl@cityrm.org](mailto:ciezakl@cityrm.org) or 847-394-8500 x1002.

### Tax-Deductible CEF Donations

Financial support for the City's community events is provided by the

Rolling Meadows Community Events Foundation, a 501(c)3 nonprofit organization that relies on tax-deductible donations from residents and local businesses.

To contribute, please visit [www.cityrm.org/679/Community-Events-Foundation](http://www.cityrm.org/679/Community-Events-Foundation). Supporters may also make checks payable to *Rolling Meadows Community Events Foundation* and send them to:

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



Volunteers help unload Holiday Food Drive donations delivered by Rolling Meadows firefighters.

## Good for the Soul HOLIDAY FOOD DRIVE PROVIDES SEASONAL NOURISHMENT FOR ALL INVOLVED

The Rolling Meadows Police Department's December 3rd Holiday Food Drive was an extraordinary success, thanks to the incredible generosity of residents, community groups, local businesses, and City employees.

How successful? The event collected enough non-perishable food items and personal hygiene products to fill an entire delivery truck, while also raising hundreds of dollars in cash donations to benefit Palatine Township Food Pantry.

"Rolling Meadows has always been a caring, generous community, and our Holiday Food Drive seems to showcase the best of our City," Police Commander

Mike Fior said. "On behalf of the men and women of the Rolling Meadows Police Department, I want to thank everyone who donated and/or volunteered to make this year's program such a success."

The holidays draw attention to the need for local food pantry services, but hunger is an ongoing problem. According to its website, the Palatine Township Food Pantry served an average of 345 families per month over the past year.

To learn more about the pantry or to make a financial donation, visit [www.palatinetownship-il.gov/food-pantry](http://www.palatinetownship-il.gov/food-pantry).



**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 Reyex ..... 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

 [www.facebook.com/cityofrollingmeadows](http://www.facebook.com/cityofrollingmeadows)

 [www.youtube.com/@cityofrollingmeadows184](http://www.youtube.com/@cityofrollingmeadows184)

## '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.

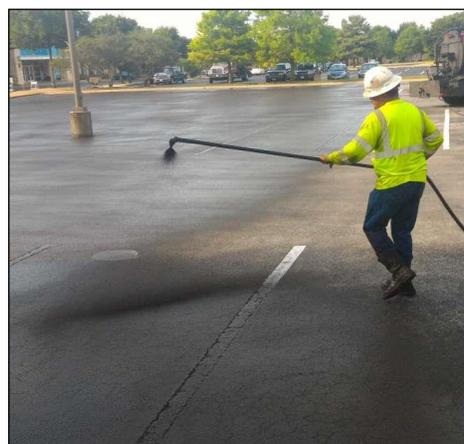
Find eNews at [www.cityrm.org](http://www.cityrm.org). Select "Monthly City Newsletters" from the "Our Community" menu.

## COAL TAR SEALANT BAN TAKES EFFECT ...continued from p.1

Safer alternatives to coal tar sealants include asphalt-based seal coats, and products containing gilsonite or acrylic.

Other communities with coal tar sealant bans include Deerfield, Evanston, Glenview, Hoffman Estates, Highland Park, and Mount Prospect.

Elsewhere, California, Minnesota, and Washington have instituted state-wide bans on coal tar sealants. Currently, there is no state law on the books in Illinois.



Coal tar sealants are toxic to humans and animals.