



NEWS

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& Views

July/August 2012

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

City Locks in Power Supply Agreement to Lower Electricity Rates

The cost of electricity for Rolling Meadows homeowners and small businesses will drop later this summer, following the City's approval of an 18-month agreement to receive electricity at a lower rate.

Working with a team of consultants from Good Energy, www.goodenergy.com, a firm that helps communities across Illinois implement electrical aggregation programs, City leaders secured a bid from Akron, Ohio-based FirstEnergy Solutions to provide electricity at a rate of 4.62 cents per kilowatt hour.

That could mean significant cost savings for residents, depending on their usage.

Estimated annual savings may range from \$186 – \$381, based on average regional statistics.

The agreement requires FirstEnergy Solutions to match any drop in ComEd's rate, ensuring that residents will receive the lowest possible electricity rate for the entire 18-month term.

Information packets outlining details of the new agreement will arrive in mailboxes this summer, in advance of the transition. Residents and small businesses will be automatically enrolled in the program, but may opt-out at no charge. Homeowners will continue to receive

monthly bills from ComEd, which maintains responsibility for delivering energy to customers and is responsible for service issues and emergency repairs.

In addition to helping residents save money, the City purchased 100% Green Power by utilizing Renewable Energy Credits to support development of alternative, environmentally-friendly sources of energy that reduce reliance on fossil fuels.

For more information, contact FirstEnergy Solutions at 866-636-3749 or visit www.fes.com. Residents may also call City Hall at 847-394-8500 or visit www.cityrm.org.

Parade, Fireworks to Celebrate America's Independence, July 4

Community Parade: 11:30 a.m.

Volunteers and community members who epitomize the City's motto of "Progress Through Participation" will step off from the corner of Jay Lane and Central Road at 11:30 a.m. The parade will travel north on Jay to Grouse Lane, west to Meadow Drive, north to Kirchoff Road, then east to the Rolling Meadows Shopping Center.

Participants will include a kazoo band, area scout troops, the Rolling Meadows High School Band, RM Youth Baseball, the Monster Boom Box, Park District officials, local community groups and more.

All will help showcase Rolling Meadows' community spirit in light of City spending reductions that eliminated taxpayer funding for this year's event.

"Without funds, it is sure to be a challenge," Mayor Rooney says. "But we're confident that residents' spirit of independence will be more than enough to ensure a fine showing."

Fireworks at Salk Park: 9:30 p.m. (Dusk)

The City's celebration of America's 236th birthday concludes with an "explosive" fireworks display at dusk (9:30 p.m.) in the skies above Salk Park.



The Rolling Meadows High School Marching Mustangs will help showcase the City's community spirit this Independence Day.

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

City Honors Retiring Forester by Proclaiming 'Jim McFeggan Day'

Friday, June 29, was "Jim McFeggan Day" in Rolling Meadows, as City officials honored the retiring City Forester for his 41 years of service.

A Mayoral Proclamation praised McFeggan for his "outstanding friendly customer service to the residents of Rolling Meadows" while emphasizing his pride, dedication, passion, and professionalism.

"We thank Jim for his 41 years of service, loyalty, and dedication to our community," says City Manager Barry Krumstok. "He will be missed by all. We wish him a great retirement, health, and happiness."

McFeggan, a Certified Arborist, was born in Rolling Meadows the same year the City was founded (1955). He began his

career with the City in 1971 as a part-time seasonal Public Works employee.



Jim McFeggan (center) is honored for his 41 years of service by Mayor Tom Rooney (second from right) and Public Works Director Fred Vogt (far right) during City Council's June 12 meeting. Joining McFeggan are his wife, Sue (far left), grandson, Bryce, sons, Nick (seated) and Brad, daughter-in-law, Bridget, and granddaughter, Victoria.

After mentioning that he liked trees, he soon found himself as a member of a City tree trimming crew. Four years later, he took charge of the Public Works Department's Forestry Division.

For the next 37 years, it was McFeggan's responsibility to ensure that City trees were well cared for. His accomplishments included creation of a complete inventory of all Rolling Meadows trees on public property. This improved the City's approach to managing its urban forest and reduced long-term forestry costs.

"I feel that it is time for me to move on, but I'm very proud to have served my entire career with Rolling Meadows as a member of a great team," McFeggan says.

Residents, Businesses Contribute \$8,144 to Community Events Foundation

In just over two months, through donations ranging from \$5 to \$500, Rolling Meadows residents and businesses contributed \$8,144 to the City's Community Events Foundation after it was granted tax-exempt status in April.

Tax-deductible donations help offset the costs of staging City-sponsored community events such as Rolling Meadows' Memorial Day Parade, annual veterans' dinner, Independence Day celebrations, and holiday tree lighting.

"The community's generosity has been overwhelming," Finance Director Melissa Gallagher says. "The Foundation's sole purpose is to financially support annual events that help make Rolling Meadows a great place to call home. We greatly appreciate everyone's commitment to supporting this initiative."

Residents and businesses interested in contributing to the Foundation should make checks payable to:

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

Support Friday, July 13 Foundation Fundraiser at Oberweis Ice Cream Store



Shop at the Oberweis Ice Cream and Dairy Store (1735 Algonquin Road) on Friday, July 13, and help support the Rolling Meadows Community Events Foundation, which will receive up to 30% of each purchase made between 11 a.m. – 8 p.m.

Fundraiser coupons are available at the Oberweis store, City Hall (3600 Kirchoff Road) or on the Community Events Foundation tab on the City's Website, www.cityrm.org. For more information, call 847-394-8500.

Information on plans for upcoming fundraisers at Noodles & Co., Buona Beef, and other local businesses over the next few months will be available on the City's Website and in future issues of *News & Views*.

Memorial Day Parade, Solemn Observance Honor Local Veterans



U.S. Army Brigadier General Gracus K. Dunn (left), the keynote speaker at this year's Memorial Day observance, offered a stirring tribute to those who have given their lives in service of their country during a solemn observance at the Carillon Tower, May 26. The ceremony followed a parade down Kirchoff Road that featured generations of local veterans.



Circle of Success Awards Honor Fire and Police Commissioner Bill Carleton, Rotary Club of Rolling Meadows

Bill Carleton, a member of the City's Board of Fire and Police Commissioners, Kiwanis, and a volunteer with the Police Department's Crime Stoppers program, was honored as Community Leader of the Year during the Chamber of Commerce's 2012 Circle of Success Awards Dinner, May 31, at the Meadow Club.

The annual event, which honors local business and community leaders, also presented the Rotary Club of Rolling Meadows with a "Special Recognition for 40 Years of Service."

Other members of this year's Circle of

Success are:

- Jeffrey Q. Palombo, Northrop Grumman Corporation (*Business Leader of the Year*).
- Methode Electronics, Inc. (*Business of the Year*).
- Joshua Avila, DUB VOX Studio Services (*Chamber Volunteer of the Year*).
- Harper College (*Community Outreach Award*).
- The Apartments of Woodfield Crossing (*Community Enhancement Award*).
- *Daily Herald Business Ledger* (Communications Partner).



Fire and Police Commissioner Bill Carleton accepts his 2012 Circle of Success Award.

Photo courtesy of DUB VOX Studio Services



Local Veterinarian Donates Animal Oxygen Masks to RMFD

Loving Care Animal Clinic's Dr. Joanne Carlson presents a Surgivet pet resuscitation kit to Acting Fire Chief Scott Franzgrote (second from right) and firefighters Colin Barr (far left), John Palmisano, Battalion Chief Mike Ahlman, and firefighter Lance Neuses (far right). The donated kit includes masks designed to provide oxygen to pets suffering from smoke inhalation.

Welcome New Businesses

Actus Consulting Group – *Staffing services*
3701 Algonquin Rd., #250 (847-734-8857)

Adidas America, Inc. – *Sales office*
3800 Golf Road, #115 (847-631-1330)

American Mold Builders Association
Education for AMBA members
3601 Algonquin Rd., #304 (847-222-9402)

Archadeck of Chicagoland
Custom deck builders
3445 Kirchoff Rd. (847-359-8002)

Arete Systems, Inc. – *Software services*
3601 Algonquin Rd., #200 (847-577-0221)

Automated Mail Services LLC
Mail pre-sort services
1801 Hicks Rd., Suite H (847-359-9803)

Caliber Funding LLC – *Mortgage lender*
1600 Golf Rd., #1200 (847-979-5205)

Charles Li Violins – *Violin repair*
111 New Castle Ct. (847-253-5415)

Complete Web Reviews – *Phone center*
5005 Newport Dr., #503 (847-346-1801)

Electune International, Inc. – *LED sales*
5301 Keystone Ct. (312-860-2464)

embedUR Systems Inc. – *Software design*
3601 Algonquin Rd., #608 (847-754-3059)

Euclid Academy Inc. – *Tutoring services*
1841 Hicks Rd., Suite D (224-595-3077)

Good Logistics, Inc. – *Logistics & transportation*
3657 Blackhawk Dr. (847-868-7100)

In His Hands Home Health
Health agency office
3501 Algonquin Rd., #340 (847-483-9082)

Jayron Home Care Inc. – *Health agency office*
3501 Algonquin Rd., #320 (847-647-6681)

Lincoln Financial Group – *Financial services*
1701 Golf Rd. (Twr. 3), #500 (847-181-3913)

Medical Shipment
Medical educational supply sales
3750 Industrial Ave., Suite B (847-253-3000)

Midwest Office Solutions
Small machine repair
3618 Kirchoff Rd. (847-977-0710)

Murillo Western Wear and Sports
Internet sales
2308 Willow Ln. (847-687-4513)

PSI Marketing Consultants, Inc.
Radio sales organization
3501 Algonquin Rd., #350
(847-227-5200)

Steven More Sales, Inc.
Commercial kitchen filter sales
2509 George St. (847-529-5698)

Thomas Krystofer, Inc.
General contractor
3102 Dove Ct. (847-833-7534)

Tifomy Technologies, Inc.
Electronics sales office
1600 Golf Rd., #1200 (847-956-4910)

Transamerica Financial Advisors
Financial advisors
3501 Algonquin Rd., #290 (847-590-8779)

True North Financial Group
Retirement planning/financial services
1600 Golf Rd., #1200 (847-981-5040)

July 2012

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday	
1	2	Environmental Committee , 7 p.m. Plan Commission , 7:30 p.m., both at City Hall	Independence Day 4 City Hall; Public Works closed. Refuse collection delayed one day. Parade , 11:30 a.m. Fireworks , 9:30 p.m.	5	6	Meadows Cruise Night , 6 to 9 p.m., 2401 Kirchoff Road	
8	Board of Fire and Police Commissioners , 9 a.m., City Hall	9 City Council Meeting , 7:30 p.m., City Hall	10 City Council Meeting , 7:30 p.m., City Hall	11 Zoning Board of Appeals , 7:30 p.m., City Hall	12 Adjudication Hearing , 1 p.m., City Hall	13 Community Events Foundation Fundraiser , 11 a.m. to 8 p.m., Oberweis Ice Cream Store, 1735 Algonquin Road	14 Meadows Cruise Night , 6 to 9 p.m., 2401 Kirchoff Road
15	16 City Council Committee of the Whole , 7:30 p.m., City Hall	17 City Council Committee of the Whole , 7:30 p.m., City Hall	18	19 Adjudication Hearing (Red Light) , 2 p.m., City Hall	20 Water bills due Duck race to benefit Salt Creek Restoration , 7 p.m., Nelson Sports Complex, 3900 Owl Dr.	21 'Out & About' with City Council , 8:30 a.m., Community Center Gazebo, 3705 Pheasant Drive Meadows Cruise Night , 6 to 9 p.m., 2401 Kirchoff Road	
22	23 City Council Meeting , 7:30 p.m., City Hall	24 City Council Meeting , 7:30 p.m., City Hall	25	26	27	28 Meadows Cruise Night , 6 to 9 p.m., 2401 Kirchoff Road	
29	30	31					

August 2012

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday	
			1 Zoning Board of Appeals , 7:30 p.m., City Hall	2	3	4 Meadows Cruise Night , 6 to 9 p.m., 2401 Kirchoff Road	
5	6	7 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	8 Urban Affairs Committee , 5:45 p.m., City Hall	9	10	11 Meadows Cruise Night , 6 to 9 p.m., 2401 Kirchoff Road	
12	Board of Fire and Police Commissioners , 9 a.m., City Hall	13 City Council Meeting , 7:30 p.m., City Hall	14	15	16 Adjudication Hearing , 1 p.m., City Hall	17	18 Meadows Cruise Night , 6 to 9 p.m., 2401 Kirchoff Road
19	20 Water bills due	21 City Council Committee of the Whole , 7:30 p.m., City Hall	22	23 Adjudication Hearing (Red Light) , 2 p.m., City Hall	24	25 Meadows Cruise Night , 6 to 9 p.m., 2401 Kirchoff Road	
26	27	28 City Council Meeting , 7:30 p.m., City Hall	29	30	31		

Rolling Meadows' Citizens Police Academy Graduates 14 Residents

Fourteen area residents gained a greater appreciation of police work following their graduation from the Rolling Meadows Police Department's Citizens Training Academy in June.

The 10-week program, funded entirely by grants, included hands-on training in evidence collection and processing, accident investigation, firearms safety, traffic enforcement, and defense tactics. Commander Tom Calcagno says the Academy "helped dispel a lot of popular Hollywood myths" about law enforcement procedures and tactics.

"We had great group members who asked very intelligent questions and were always ready to participate in the training sessions organized by police officers," he says. "Our goal was to help residents understand how Rolling Meadows police officers enforce the law and serve the community with pride."



Academy faculty and graduates included (from left) Cmdr. Tom Calcagno, Leonard J. Prejna, Jr., Stephen W. MacCabe, Carol L. MacCabe, Brian Simpson, James W. Carleton, Terry Riley, Patti Riley, Marsha Betchtold, Patti Sutherland Weicker, Hugo Jacobo, Maria Guadalupe Reza, Janet M. Orrico, and Cmdr. Bill Arneson. Not pictured: Deb Austerlade and Tom Riley.

Duck Race to Support Environmental Preservation Efforts, July 20



A flotilla of plastic ducks will raise money for local preservation efforts Friday, July 20, when the City's Environmental Committee, Rotary Club of Rolling Meadows, and Rolling Meadows Park District Foundation host the 2012 Duck Race.

The "quack-tastic" event – now in its fifth year – includes a \$500 grand prize and

more than 20 other prizes. It will take place at 7 p.m., at the Nelson Sports Complex, 3900 Owl Drive.

Residents may adopt their lucky ducks at the Park District Community Center (3705 Pheasant Drive) or City Hall (3600 Kirchoff Road). Individual ducks are \$5 each, or purchase a "Quack Pack" of five ducks for \$20.

Money raised through the event will support environmental conservation efforts throughout Rolling Meadows, including Salt Creek preservation and a Rain Garden demonstration project at Park Central (3000 Central Road).

For more information, contact the Park District at 847-818-3220 or visit www.rmparks.org.



Jan Kolakowski

Former Community Development Department Office Manager Jan Kolakowski, who retired in June after a 22-year career with the City, marvels at how technology has improved customer service since she arrived at City Hall in 1990.

At the time, the Department – known then as Building and Zoning – had one personal computer. "We all shared that one unit. We placed it on a cart and wheeled it around the office," Jan recalls with a laugh.

Much has changed in the ensuing years, with Jan experiencing it all first-hand.

As with other City departments, Community Development continues to embrace new technologies designed to improve

Community Development's Jan Kolakowski Retires After 22 Years of Service to Rolling Meadows Residents

Former Community Development Department Office Manager Jan Kolakowski, who retired in

customer service while maximizing staff efficiencies.

Today's highly-digitized office environment allows employees to scan, email and receive important documents, such as building improvement plans, permit applications, contractor insurance certificates, and inspection reports. In addition, a database of electronic records on past business and residential projects is accessible from any Department computer with just a few keystrokes.

"We can show residents exactly when work was completed on their homes, the contractor who performed the work, and provide copies of permits and inspection reports," Jan explains. "That information may also be useful to potential buyers, who can verify the type of work that has been performed on a home or business."

Promoted to Office Manager in 2000, Jan played a key role in maintaining the De-

partment's operational effectiveness and commitment to customer service. She also served for nearly 17 years as Recording Secretary to the Zoning Board of Appeals (ZBA).

Jan is fiercely proud of her tenure at Community Development. She is also proud to call Rolling Meadows her home.

"I worked for my City. My husband and I raised our family here," says the 33-year resident. "I loved the variety of work and the people I worked with for so many years. It has helped me see how much pride City employees have in serving our customers."

In retirement, Jan looks forward to traveling more with her husband, Jim, and enjoying her four grandchildren. She also enjoys genealogy, and has been studying her family's ancestry for nearly 40 years.

Review of the Data Underscores Need to Boost City's Cash Reserves

by Mayor Tom Rooney

In preparing for the City's financial goal-setting session last month, I was able to take some fairly technical data and present it in some easy-to-understand graphs. To me, a few things really stood out.

At some level, we can all say, "I'm taxed too much." But a review of our "revenue burden" – a measure of how heavily taxed the residents and businesses of a town are – shows that Rolling Meadows is right in the middle of our nearest neighbors.

Another statistic is the level of government debt. Many of you are familiar with the national and state debt levels. Our city's debt level is much more manageable than those of the higher levels of government. Our outstanding bonds total about two-thirds of one year's General Fund revenues. That's

not only reasonable, it's less than most of our neighbors. So, our taxation and public debt levels are both decent compared to our neighboring communities. That's the good news.

The bad news comes upon review of the City's cash position – the cash available to cover regular monthly expenses. Our cash position is weak. In fact, it is the worst of all of the towns in our area. Similarly, while our reserves are in better condition than they were, they are still much lower than they should be.

Fixing these two problems means taking some of the revenue we collect and spending it on...nothing, really. It means holding onto the money in order to be financially prepared for any unforeseen problems that may arise. That may not be very exciting, but it is good financial management.



Customer Demand Grows for eBilling

More than 750 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.

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 includes a web link to the City's newsletter, *News & Views*. "Electronic utility billing enhances customer convenience and helps save taxpayers thousands of dollars per year in printing and mailing costs," Gallagher explains.

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

Study to Offer Recommendations for Improving Fire Department Service

A comprehensive review of Fire Department operations by a team of consultants from the Illinois Fire Chiefs Association (IFCA) will help Department leaders improve service levels and meet future challenges that will arise as the City continues to grow, Acting Fire Chief Scott Franzgrote reports.

City Council approved a \$10,260 proposal for the Fire Service Staffing and Station Location Study in May. When completed, it will help Department officials assess deployment strategies to ensure continued delivery of excellent fire and emergency medical services.

"Our purpose in commissioning this study is to identify options for improving service and begin planning ways to meet operational objectives," Acting Chief Franzgrote says. "It will provide a blueprint for how the Fire Department should look in 10, 20, and 30 years, and offer recommendations for achieving optimal service levels."

As outlined in the services proposal submitted by the IFCA, the study will review:

- **Response times** – Consultants will compare recommended performance criteria with current Department protocols in an effort to further improve response times.
- **Fire station locations** – Offer recommendations for existing and future facilities to meet national standards for fire suppression and emergency medical service needs.

Currently, the Fire Department operates from two fire stations: the Neuckranz Fire Station (2455 Plum Grove Road) and the

Fogarty Fire Station (3110 Meadow Drive).

"Our long-range planning efforts will benefit significantly from the results of this study because of the knowledge and experience of IFCA consultants," Acting Chief Franzgrote adds.

About the Illinois Fire Chiefs Association

According to its Website, Illinois Fire Chiefs Association consultants are leaders in the fire service who deliver unique perspectives that help forecast future functional needs of public safety agencies and identify technologies to support those functions. ICFA offers educational, legislative, and technical assistance/services to fire departments and fire districts across the state. For more information, visit www.illinoisfirechiefs.org.



The Fogarty Fire Station, located at 3110 Meadow Drive.