



NEWS

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Happy
New Year
2012
& Views

January/February 2012

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

Police Department Program Encourages Residents to Report Suspicious Behavior

The Rolling Meadows Police Department's new "Eyes & Ears" public awareness program encourages residents to report suspicious behavior by calling the Department's non-emergency number, 847-255-2416.

At the center of the program are signs on display in the front windows of a growing number of area businesses. They serve as reminders for people to call police if they notice something unusual.

"Residents should call us if they observe something they believe is out of the ordinary."

– Police Chief Dave Scanlan

Businesses interested in participating in the Eyes & Ears Program may contact the Police Department at 847-255-2416. Window stickers for business vehicles

and fleets are also available.

Police Department officials see the Eyes & Ears program as an opportunity to improve communication between police officers and the community they serve.

"Reporting suspicious behavior to police enhances crime prevention efforts and may stop a crime from being committed,"

Police Chief Dave Scanlan explains. "An aware citizenry is a force multiplier. Residents should call us if they observe something they believe is out of the ordinary. We will check it out."



Eyes & Ears Program signs remind residents to report suspicious behavior to police.

The program also increases awareness of the Department's non-emergency number, which residents may call 24-hours per day.

Eyes & Ears is part of a community policing initiative known as Crime Stoppers,

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Federally-Funded Algonquin Road Lighting Project Nears Completion

By Fred Vogt, Public Works Director

The final phase of a federally-funded program in both Rolling Meadows and Arlington Heights to improve lighting along Algonquin Road and surrounding areas begins in early 2012.



Fred Vogt

Construction crews in January are scheduled to begin installing 205 modern street lamps that, once connected, will significantly brighten Algonquin Road between Illinois Route 53 and Arlington Heights Road.

Street lamps are also being installed along the stretch of New Wilke Road that runs south from

White Oak Street in Arlington Heights to Golf Road, and on Golf Road between the I-90 bridge and Marketplace of Rolling Meadows shopping center. Based on current timetables, the system is expected to be activated in late spring.

This project has been on the City's agenda for more than three years. Following a series of vehicular and pedestrian accidents on Algonquin Road – including at least one fatality – City officials proposed an inter-governmental agreement with the Village of Arlington Heights to conduct engineering studies for Algonquin Road lighting improvements.

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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

Council Approves Recycling Contract

City Council approved a six-month contract with Veolia Environmental Services to provide curbside recycling collection services for Rolling Meadows residents, Public Works Director Fred Vogt reports.

The agreement, effective January 3, gives City officials time to review possible options for combining refuse, yard waste, and recycling collection services under one provider. While the City currently operates its own fleet of refuse vehicles and a crew, aldermen want to explore any potential cost savings that may result from hiring a private contractor.

“Veolia offered an attractive proposal and demonstrated a willingness to work under a short-term contract,” Vogt explains. “The agreement also features an option to extend service for an additional six months.”

Compared with its recently concluded contact with Groot Industries, the City will realize approximate annual cost savings of \$20,000. City officials will use those savings to help build up the Refuse Fund balance.

Vogt expects that the service transition will proceed smoothly. Residents should notice no changes, with one exception: the name on the recycling trucks.

City’s Electronics Recycling Plan Helps Residents Comply with State Regulations

The Public Works Department has established a protocol to help Rolling Meadows residents comply with new state regulations that prohibit the disposal of electronics equipment in landfills, Assistant Public Works Director Bob Hartnett reports.

Obsolete electronics comprise the fastest-growing portion of landfill waste. These products contain toxic materials that pose a potential risk to human health and the environment.

Governor Pat Quinn signed legislation that expands the 2008 Illinois Product Recycling and Reuse Act and increases the number of electronics products banned from landfills.

In response, Public Works developed a plan that allows residents to place obsolete electronic devices at the curb on their regularly-scheduled refuse pick up days. Refuse crews will collect and transport the equipment to a designated drop-off site in Glenview.

“The plan minimizes residents’ inconven-

ience by letting them set out electronics equipment with their normal refuse,” Hartnett says. “It also gives our customers peace-of-mind, knowing that equipment will be collected and disposed of properly.”

Items banned from landfill disposal include:

- **Computers** – PCs and laptop models, monitors, printers, scanners, and peripherals (keyboards, external drives, computer mouse controls, etc.).
- **Office/Business Equipment** – Fax machines, mobile phones, and personal digital assistants (PDAs).
- **Home Entertainment Units** – TVs, DVD players, cable boxes, VCRs, mp3 players, and video game consoles.

For more information, contact the Public Works Department at 847-963-0500, or visit the Solid Waste Agency of Northern Cook County’s (SWANCC) Website, www.swancc.org.



Fiscal Year 2012 Budget Funds City Services, Pension Obligations

City Council approved the Fiscal Year (FY) 2012 budget on December 6 that maintains essential services, funds pensions, and continues to rebuild depleted fund balances, City Manager Barry Krumstok reports.

“The 2012 budget continues a process we began in 2011, which focuses on rebuilding fund balances, funding police and fire pensions, and improving the City’s overall financial health,” he explains. “Faced with continued flat sales tax receipts, Council members and City staff crafted a budget that funds essential services and ensures residents get the most value for their money.”

A proposed 15% increase in the City’s share of property tax rev-

enue was reduced to 11.7% through a re-examination of all City revenues and expenditures. The resulting budget includes non-essential service reductions, such as the elimination of the spring Chipper service, and moderate increases in residential service fees.

Storm water rates increase January 1, and vehicle sticker costs rise from \$22 to \$26 (stickers for seniors increase from \$10 to \$12). Refuse fees will increase by roughly \$4 per month beginning in February. Changes to water and sewer rates will

take effect March 1.

The complete 2012 budget is available for public review on the City’s Website, www.cityrm.org.

Estimated Property Tax Increase by Household

Total Tax Bill	City’s Share of Tax Bill	Approximate Increase
\$1,000	\$117	\$14
\$2,500	\$293	\$34
\$5,000	\$585	\$69
\$7,500	\$878	\$103

City Establishes 2012 Public Meeting Schedule

City Council in 2012 will conduct its regular meetings the second and fourth Tuesdays of each month, 7:30 p.m., at City Hall, except in December, when aldermen will convene the first and third Tuesday.

In addition, a workshop-style Committee of the Whole will meet every third Tuesday of the month at 7:30 p.m. In December, the meeting will take place the second Tuesday.

The following volunteer boards and commissions will also meet at City Hall, continuing the City's motto of *Progress through Participation* throughout the year:

- **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.
- **Board of Fire and Police Commissioners** – Second Monday of each month, 9 a.m.

Adjudication hearings will be held on Thursdays twice per month. Dates are available on the city's Website, www.cityrm.org.

More information on City meetings is available online and will be published in upcoming issues of *News & Views*.

Welcome New Businesses

- Cosmos Sunglasses – *Office and warehouse*
5420 Newport Drive #62 (847-670-0686)
- Dragonfly Studios – *Photography*
2800 Millstone Lane (434-249-2939)
- Falafel Bistro – *Restaurant*
1669 Algonquin Road (847-981-1002)
- Home Dimensions – *General contractor*
4450 Kirchoff Road (847-343-9476)
- Noodles & Company – *Restaurant*
1327 Golf Road (847-981-1175)
- P&M Enterprises – *Banners and graphics*
5400 Newport Drive #8 (847-397-7900)
- Realy Insurance & Associates
3701 Algonquin Road #570 (847-870-2350)
- ROM Construction – *General contractor*
4250 Kirchoff Road (773-418-6274)
- ZIV USA – *Engineering firm*
5410 Newport Drive (224-735-3961)

Eyes & Ears Program ...continued from page 1

which is taking root in communities across the country. Its goal is to establish partnerships between police departments and the communities they serve, and to prevent and solve crime in communities and schools.

Details on Rolling Meadows' Crime Stoppers program will be published in the March/April issue of *News & Views*.

City Sees Growing Demand 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.

Those who have signed up for eBilling receive an email each month that contains a link to their utility billing statement. 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*.

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

Recycle Old Batteries

Public Works will collect household batteries for recycling as part of an ongoing program sponsored by the Solid Waste Agency of Northern Cook County (SWANCC) and Skokie-based Interstate Batteries.

Drop off old batteries at the Public Works Department, 3900 Berdnick Street, weekdays between 9 a.m. – 4 p.m. Batteries accepted for recycling include alkaline batteries (AA, AAA, C, D, 9-Volt), and rechargeable batteries (NiCad, NiMh, lithium ion, lithium polymer).

For more information on battery recycling – including specific instructions for preparing rechargeable batteries for recycling – visit the Public Works Department's Webpage, www.cityrm.org/PublicWorks/HTML/Recyclables.htm, or call 847-963-0500.

Algonquin Road Lighting Project Nears Completion ...continued from page 1

Those studies helped secure \$950,000 in federal funding through the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act. The City's share of the \$1.8 million project is \$275,000 (approximately 15%).

The lighting will also im-



New lighting will improve accessibility to Algonquin Road businesses.





prove visibility for commercial/retail businesses in the Golf/Algonquin Road area.

Until this project began, the area had only sporadic highway lighting installed at different times over a 25-year span.

January 2012

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
1 New Year's Day	2 New Year's Day (Observed) City offices closed. Refuse pick-up delayed one day all week.	3 Economic Development Committee, 6 p.m. Environmental Committee, 7 p.m. Plan Commission, 7:30 p.m., all at City Hall	4 Zoning Board of Appeals, 7:30 p.m., City Hall	5	6	7
8	9 Board of Fire & Police Commissioners, 9 a.m., City Hall	10 City Council Meeting, 7:30 p.m., City Hall	11	12 Adjudication Hearing, 1 p.m., City Hall	13	14
15 Historical Museum Open House, 1 to 4 p.m., 3100 Central Road	16 Dr. Martin Luther King Day City offices closed. Regular refuse pick-up.	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	21
22	23	24 City Council Meeting, 7:30 p.m., City Hall	25	26	27	28
29	30	31		Christmas Tree Disposal Public Works will pick up Christmas trees for disposal January 3 – 13. Remove lights, tinsel, and ornaments, and place trees at the curb (cut end facing the street) on regular refuse day.		

February 2012

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
			1 Zoning Board of Appeals, 7:30 p.m., City Hall	2	3 Holiday light recycling program ends	4
5	6	7 Economic Development Committee, 6 p.m. Environmental Committee, 7 p.m. Plan Commission, 7:30 p.m., all at City Hall	8	9	10	11
12 Abraham Lincoln's Birthday	13 Board of Fire & Police Commissioners, 9 a.m., City Hall	14 City Council Meeting, 7:30 p.m., City Hall Valentine's Day	15	16 Adjudication Hearing, 1 p.m., City Hall	17	18
19	20 Water bills due Presidents' Day	21 City Council Committee of the Whole, 7:30 p.m., City Hall	22 George Washington's Birthday	23 Adjudication Hearing (Red Light), 2 p.m., City Hall	24	25
26	27	28 City Council Meeting, 7:30 p.m., City Hall	29			

Support Community Events Foundation

Rolling Meadows' Community Events Foundation gives residents an opportunity to support City-sponsored activities held throughout the year.

Citizen donations to the foundation will help offset the costs of staging community events, such as Rolling Meadows' Memorial Day Parade, annual veterans dinner, Independence Day celebrations, holiday tree lighting, and historical museum maintenance.

City officials expect the foundation's tax-exempt status to be approved by

the Internal Revenue Service in the next few months. Once approved, all contributions – including those made before exemption is granted – will be tax-deductible.

Residents and businesses interested in contributing should make checks payable to "City of Rolling Meadows." Submit donations to:

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



The Carillon Tower is site of the City's annual Memorial Day observances.



Register to Vote in Illinois Primary by February 21

The deadline to register to vote in the March 20 Illinois Primary is February 21.

Voters will cast primary ballots for candidates running for offices at the federal, state and township levels. The ballot will also feature a referendum that, if approved, would authorize City officials to shop for lower electricity rates on behalf of the community (see page 6).

Offices on the ballot include president of the United States, seats in the House of Representatives and the state legislature, local township committeemen, and others.

Important dates voters should be aware of are:

- February 9: First day absentee ballot applications are accepted.
- February 21: Last day to register to vote in the Illinois Primary.
- February 27 through March 15: Early voting.
- March 19: Last day for mailed absentee ballots to be post-marked.

For more information on the March 20 Illinois Primary, contact Deputy Clerk Ginny Cotugno at 847-394-8500. Election information is also available on the Cook County Clerk's Website, www.cookcountyclerk.com.

Local Businesses Celebrate New Wilke Road Completion

Rolling Meadows businesses on New Wilke Road are celebrating the completion of an intensive roadway reconstruction project that made it difficult for customers to access their facilities.

City officials encourage community members to reconnect with these local businesses:



Einstein Bros. Bagels
Bagels, sandwiches, beverages
5500 New Wilke Road
847-427-9888
www.einsteinbros.com

Pepe's Mexican Restaurant
Authentic Mexican food
5153 New Wilke Road
847-577-7373
www.pepes.com

Portillo's
Hot dogs, beef, burgers
1900 W. Golf Road
847/228-0777
www.portillos.com

Burger King
Fast food
1901 W. Algonquin Road
708-255-9310
www.bk.com

Sharkey's Car Wash
Car wash and detail center
5600 New Wilke Road
847-439-9274
www.sharkeyscarwash.com



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



Make Informed Decisions on Municipal Electric Aggregation

by Mayor Tom Rooney

In just a short while, we'll all be voting on a referendum about pooling together to get lower electricity rates.

Municipal electric aggregation (as it's called) sounds like a good idea. Who doesn't want to pay lower rates for electricity? The members of the City Council and I thought it sounded good enough to propose to Rolling Meadows voters on the March 20 ballot.

There's a lot to be learned from municipalities who have already started the process, and I'm sure we'll all be learning more over the next few months. We're still pretty early in the game. After all, I'm writing this column in

mid-December – before we've even selected a consultant to help with this.

Nevertheless, please take time to learn more about the issue. As I said, aggregation sounds like a good idea, but one of my pet peeves is when someone overstates a case. The Illinois Attorney General's office has recently expressed concern that some aggregation efforts overstate the benefits to be gained.

Personally, I believe that the benefits of aggregation don't need to be exaggerated or sugar-coated. But when our chosen consultant presents the information, let's not necessarily take it as the last word or best source. As the saying goes: "Trust, but verify."

Recycling Program to Collect Holiday Lights, Cords & Wire

A recycling program operated by the Solid Waste Agency of 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 3.



Even in mid-December, the holiday light collection box at City Hall was nearly full.

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

For more information, visit swancc.org or elginrecycling.com.

City Honors Cancer Victims with Banners

City officials invite residents to purchase commemorative banners that honor cancer survivors and residents who are battling, or have died from, the disease.



The banners will hang in downtown Rolling Meadows from April through October.

Vinyl banners sell for \$125. Each will feature a colored ribbon to represent one of 18

different forms of the disease – everything from lung and prostate to colon, breast and ovarian cancers. Residents may choose from a variety of phrases and include the name of the person they wish to honor.

A portion of all proceeds will go to the American Cancer Society. The deadline to purchase banners is March 1. Order forms are available at City Hall or online at cityrm.org/online_payments.htm. This is the program's final year.

Historical Museum Open House To Recall Seasons Past, January 15

Historical Society members invite residents to revisit fond memories of seasons past, during the Rolling Meadows Histori-

Support the Museum

Tax-deductible donations support ongoing educational programs and help cover museum expenses. Submit donations to:

Rolling Meadows Historical Society
3100 Central Road
Rolling Meadows, IL 60008

cal Museum's annual community open house, Sunday, January 15, 1 – 4 p.m.

Guests of all ages will enjoy guided tours and refreshments. The museum, a replica of an original 1950s Kimball Hill home, is adorned with vintage décor that helps display holiday traditions from yesteryear.

The museum (3100 Central Road) is open Sundays, 1 – 4 p.m., during its regular winter hours. For more information on Rolling Meadows Historical Society activities, call 847-577-7086 or visit

www.cityrm.org/HTML/historical_museum.htm.

