



# NEWS

Volume 17 Number 6



# & Views

November/December 2013

3600 Kirchoff Road . Rolling Meadows, IL 60008 . 847-394-8500 . [www.cityrm.org](http://www.cityrm.org)

## 'Farmers & Food Trucks' to Return in 2014 After Successful First Year

By all measures, the City's inaugural Farmers & Food Trucks program was a tremendous success, and plans are already underway for it to return in 2014, City Manager Barry Krumstok reports.

The 2014 events will take place Saturdays, May 24, June 28, July 26, August 23 and September 27 in the City Hall parking lot. They will feature an ever-growing number of vendors, offering everything from fresh produce and crafts to savory dishes prepared by on-site food trucks.

"From staff's perspective, this year's program was a great success that exceeded everyone's expectations," Krumstok says. "Residents should mark their calendars now, because everything we learned over this first year will be used to make next year's events even better."

Zach Creer, Assistant to the City Manager, believes the program will continue to grow and appeal to residents of all ages and backgrounds.



Thanks to strong community interest, planning is already underway for next year's Farmers & Food Trucks events.

"Building successful relationships with vendors and their customers over the course of the year helps drive demand for this type of community event," Creer explains. "We have already started our efforts to invite new vendors to participate, many of whom have expressed strong interest in what we have to offer."

Area vendors who are interested in joining next year's Farmers & Food Trucks events will find additional information

and registration forms on the City's Website, [www.cityrm.org](http://www.cityrm.org). Residents who wish to help organize the events should contact Zach Creer at [creerz@cityrm.org](mailto:creerz@cityrm.org) or 847-394-8500.

## Public Hearing on Proposed 2014 Budget Scheduled for November 12

A public hearing on the City's proposed 2014 budget will take place Tuesday, November 12, during City Council's regular meeting. The 7:30 p.m. hearing will give residents opportunities to express their views on the financial document that City leaders have been crafting over the past several months.



The proposed budget is available for review on the City's Website ([www.cityrm.org](http://www.cityrm.org)) and at the Rolling

Meadows Library (3110 Martin Lane). It contains no new taxes or fee increases for the General Fund, which is the City's main operating fund, according to Finance Director Melissa Gallagher.

"Overall economic growth, combined with ongoing City efforts to budget conservatively, hold the line on spending and rebuild fund balances, helps offset the need for other revenue sources," Gallagher explains.

The budget calls for small increases in the City's water, refuse, storm water and sewer rates. It also includes a proposed 1.3% increase in the City's property tax levy – part of a long-term plan to ensure the City meets its pension obligations – that will raise an additional \$159,461 for police and fire pension funds. Based on current estimates, a homeowner with a \$4,000 annual tax bill would pay an additional \$8 in property taxes to the City.

Plans call for City Council to approve the 2014 budget in early December.

### 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: *Len Prejna* . . . . . 847-776-9442
- 3rd Ward Alderman: *Laura Majikes* . . . . . 847-577-3746
- 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* . . . . . 847-394-8500

#### SERVICES

- Fire & Police Emergency . . . . . 911
- Fire 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



- [www.facebook.com/cityofrollingmeadows](http://www.facebook.com/cityofrollingmeadows)
- [@CityofRM1](http://www.twitter.com/@CityofRM1)
- Find Us on the Web: [www.cityrm.org](http://www.cityrm.org)

## Public Works' Randy Ritter Retires After 42 Years of Service

By the time he retired on October 11, after 42 years of service with the Public Works Department, Randy Ritter had worked for seven Rolling Meadows mayors, nine city managers, and every Public Works director the City ever had.

"Randy has a genuine love for Rolling Meadows that was reflected in his commitment to serving our residents for so many years," explains Superintendent of Facilities Don Wenzel, who worked with Randy for 25 years. "His passion for the job was unmatched. He always went out of his way to do the things that needed to be done."

Randy got his start with Public Works in 1971 as a part-time seasonal employee, before accepting a full-time maintenance position in 1972. Just over a year later, Randy was starting up the Department's Building and Grounds Division.

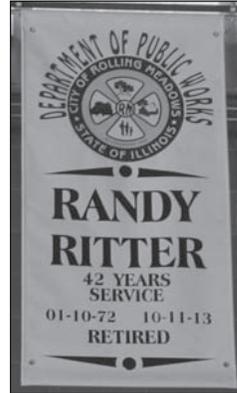


Randy Ritter and his wife, Carol, enjoy a laugh at his retirement luncheon in October. During the event, Public Works unveiled a banner to honor his 42 years of service.

Wenzel says that Randy's sense of humor helped him develop close professional relationships with staff members from all City departments. His fellow employees found Randy's affinity for duct tape somewhat amusing, but nonetheless marveled at his ability to fix anything with it.

"Randy would always do whatever you asked of him," recalls Assistant Public Works Director Bob Hartnett. "He was a dedicated municipal employee who always kept busy. We all wish him the very best in retirement."

During a retirement luncheon held on his last day, Randy shared fond memories of his time with Public Works. He thanked his fellow employees and called them "my second family." He also expressed sincere appreciation to Rolling Meadows for hosting Diamond Fest back in 1986: it was where he met his wife, Carol.



## Fire Department Updates Auto-Aid Agreements



### Police Deploy Radar Speed Monitors in City School Zones

In response to a growing number of incidents involving vehicles speeding through local school zones, Rolling Meadows Police have placed a dozen radar trailers and post-mounted speed signs near the City's elementary and junior high schools.

The equipment was purchased with \$54,854 in federal grant funding that is administered through the Illinois Department of Transportation's Safe Routes to Schools program. The signs are designed to inform motorists of their speed as they enter a school zone and encourage safer driving habits, Police Chief Dave Scanlan says.

Motorists caught speeding in a school zone are subject to a \$285 citation, plus administrative costs.



Scott Franzgrote

The Rolling Meadows Fire Department has updated its longstanding automatic aid agreements with the Palatine Fire Department and Palatine Rural Fire Protection District to provide more efficient services to area residents, Rolling Meadows Fire Chief Scott Franzgrote reports.

Under the revised agreements, RMFD now assumes command of all emergency incidents within Palatine Rural's jurisdiction that occur south of Palatine Road. Previously, Rolling Meadows provided incident command services for Palatine Rural's northern sections – locations that are farther away. These areas are now covered by the village of Palatine.

"It's about making the best use of limited resources to maximize efficiencies and save taxpayers money," Chief Franzgrote

explains. "The modified agreements allow Rolling Meadows firefighters to respond to, and take command of, emergencies within Palatine Rural that are geographically closer to our fire stations. That helps us respond more quickly to emergencies and keeps our incident command operations closer to the City."

The updated auto-aid agreements are part of an ongoing effort to consolidate administrative and operational duties, where possible. In 2012, RMFD and Palatine Rural consolidated their separate training operations, which are now overseen by a Joint Training & Safety Officer. The move saved the City the cost of hiring a new training officer.

It also offers both departments additional opportunities to standardize training protocols and coordinate more effectively on future equipment purchases, Chief Franzgrote adds.

***"It's about making the best use of limited resources to maximize efficiencies and save taxpayers money." – Chief Scott Franzgrote***

## 'Like' Us on Facebook, Follow Us on Twitter



There's a lot to "LIKE" about Rolling Meadows. Check us out on Facebook ([www.facebook.com/cityofrollingmeadows](http://www.facebook.com/cityofrollingmeadows)) or Twitter (@CityofRMI) for real-time delivery of City news, service updates and other important information.



## Welcome New Businesses

3 Point Payment Processing Inc. –  
*Payment processing*  
 1725 Winnetka Circle (651-483-3321)

Advanced Roofing – *Roofing contractor*  
 3601 Edison Pl. (847-945-6565)

Amber Realty, inc. – *Real estate brokerage*  
 3701 Berdnick St. Ste. C (847-660-6020)

Bryant Gomez & Associates – *Law offices*  
 5105 Tollview Dr. #130 (847-440-3555)

C.E. Anderson & Company –  
*Closing/financial services*  
 1225 Carnegie St. #107 (847-463-7721)

CST Corp. – *Equipment sales/service*  
 1225 Carnegie St. #106 (847-873-1037)

Classic Oak Designs, Inc. –  
*Warehouse furniture storage*  
 1125 Carnegie (847-797-8585)

DTR USA Corp. – *Tool manufacturer office*  
 1865A Hicks Rd. (847-375-8892)

EVOLVE IMG Inc. –  
*TV film production services*  
 5410 Newport Dr. #28 (517-712-2132)

Hiossen, Inc. –  
*Dental implant supplier/education institute*  
 1701 Golf Rd. T3 #110 (847-795-8285)

JGP Law LLC – *Attorney*  
 3501 Algonquin Rd. #340 (847-721-8122)

Leben Light Inc. – *LED lighting & electronics*  
 5301 Keystone Ct. #5 (847-577-8105)

Lehmann-Peterson Corp. –  
*Automobile modification*  
 3737 Industrial Ave. (847-202-0080)

McKleen Cleaners – *Dry cleaning*  
 1950 Central Rd. (847-818-8829)

Poma Marble Inc. –  
*Marble/granite installation*  
 5410 Newport Dr. #31 (847-678-7662)

Rolling Meadows Marathon\* –  
*Gas station/convenience store*  
 3321 Algonquin Rd. (773-391-6075)

Simply Beauty – *Beauty salon*  
 1301 Meijer Dr. (630-452-4889)

Sonic Cleaning Services LLC –  
*Healthcare/housekeeping/laundry providers*  
 3501 Algonquin Rd. #340 (847-305-3004)

Subway\*\* – *Sandwiches*  
 1990 Central Rd. (847-398-0100)

Total Teledate Inc. –  
*Telecommunications equipment sales/service*  
 5400 Newport Dr. #4 (847-398-5700)

WSP Holdings – *Restaurant holding company*  
 1685 Winnetka Circle (224-764-4500)

\*New owner  
 \*\*New location

### New Business Spotlight



### Neighborhood Coffee Shop Offers Specially-Crafted Beverages, Relaxing Atmosphere

Coffee Planet offers guests a wide variety of locally-brewed coffees and loose leafed teas. Its friendly, experienced baristas know the secrets to preparing delicious hot and cold beverages, according to the company's Website.

The shop's Website also encourages residents to "come in, sit down, and enjoy" at Rolling Meadows' newest "neighborhood meet-up." Free WiFi is available. For more information, please contact:

Coffee Planet  
 1450 Golf Road  
 847-364-8000  
[www.coffeeplanetinc.com](http://www.coffeeplanetinc.com)



### Support U.S. Marines' Toys for Tots Program

Rolling Meadows has once again partnered with the United States Marine Corps Reserve to collect toys for children in need through the Marines' Toys for Tots program.

Beginning Friday, November 1, residents may deliver new, unwrapped toys to drop boxes located at City Hall (3600 Kirchoff Road) and the Rolling Meadows Library (3110 Martin Lane). Donations will be accepted through Sunday, December 1.

For more information, or to make a monetary donation, visit [www.toysfortots.org](http://www.toysfortots.org).

## At Public Works, Detailed Preparation Ensures Effectiveness of City's Snow Removal Operations

The area's first winter storm may cover Rolling Meadows in a blanket of white at any time, so Public Works crews spend each fall mounting plows to Department vehicles, testing hydraulics, calibrating salt applicators and more.



runs along designated snow removal routes prior to winter's arrival.

This detailed preparation is essential for maintaining the effectiveness of the City's snow removal operations, which clear the streets, and designated side-

walks and bike paths, of snow and ice.

Contributing greatly to public safety is the fact that Public Works uses 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.

"Treated salt sticks to the pavement better and is more effective over a longer period of time," Public Works Director Fred Vogt explains. "That allows us to reduce our salt usage during heavy storms and is better for the environment."

More information on the City's snow removal operations, as well as snow removal tips for homeowners, is available at [www.cityrm.org/PublicWorks](http://www.cityrm.org/PublicWorks).

# November 2013

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
					1	2
<b>Daylight Saving Time Ends.</b> Clocks "fall back" one hour. Change batteries in smoke and carbon monoxide detectors. 3	4	<b>Economic Development Committee, 6 pm</b> <b>Environmental Committee, 7 pm</b> <b>Plan Commission, 7:30 pm,</b> all at City Hall 5	<b>Zoning Board of Appeals, 7:30 pm,</b> City Hall 6	<b>Adjudication Hearing (Parking), 2 pm,</b> City Hall 7	8	9
10	<b>Veterans Day</b> City Hall closed. Regular refuse pickup. 11	<b>Board of Fire &amp; Police Commissioners, 9 am</b> <b>Crime Stoppers, 5:30 pm</b> <b>City Council Meeting/Budget Hearing, 7:30 pm,</b> all at City Hall 12	13	<b>Adjudication Hearing, 14</b> 1 pm, City Hall <b>Community Events Foundation Fundraiser,</b> Buona Beef (1420 Golf Road)	15	<b>Friends of the Rolling Meadows Library Used Book Sale, Nov. 14-17.</b> Call 847-259-6050 or visit <a href="http://www.rmlib.org">www.rmlib.org</a> for sale hours. 16
17	18	<b>City Council Committee of the Whole, 7:30 pm,</b> City Hall 19	<b>Water bills due</b> 20	<b>Adjudication Hearing 21</b> (Red Light), 2 pm, City Hall	22	23
<b>Library Used Book Sale</b>	24	<b>City Council Meeting, 26</b> 7:30 pm, City Hall	<b>Hanukkah</b> 27	<b>Thanksgiving Holiday</b> 28 City Hall and Public Works closed. Refuse pickup routes (Thursday & Friday) delayed one day.	<b>Thanksgiving Holiday</b> 29 City Hall and Public Works closed. Refuse pickup routes (Thursday & Friday) delayed one day.	<b>Yard waste collection ends</b> 30
<b>Friends of the Rolling Meadows Library Used Book Sale, November 14 – 17</b>						

# December 2013

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
1	2	<b>Economic Development Committee, 6 pm</b> <b>Environmental Cmte., 7 pm</b> <b>City Council Mtg., 7:30 pm</b> <b>Plan Commission, 7:30 pm,</b> all at City Hall 3	<b>Zoning Board of Appeals, 7:30 pm,</b> City Hall 4	<b>Adjudication Hearing (Parking), 2 pm,</b> City Hall 5 <b>Tree Lighting, 6 pm</b> <b>Events Foundation Fundraiser, 5-7 pm,</b> both at McDonald's (3140 Kirchoff Rd)	6	7
8	<b>Board of Fire &amp; Police Commissioners, 9 am,</b> City Hall 9	<b>Crime Stoppers, 5:30 pm</b> <b>City Council Committee of the Whole, 7:30 pm,</b> City Hall 10	<b>Urban Affairs Committee, 5:45 pm,</b> City Hall 11	<b>Adjudication Hearing, 12</b> 1 pm, City Hall	13	14
15	16	<b>City Council Meeting, 17</b> 7:30 pm, City Hall	18	<b>Adjudication Hearing 19</b> (Red Light), 2 pm, City Hall	<b>Water bills due</b> 20	21
22	23	<b>Christmas Eve</b> 24 City Hall and Public Works closed. Early refuse pickup.	<b>Christmas</b> 25 City Hall and Public Works closed. Refuse pickup routes (Wednesday – Friday) delayed one day.	<b>Kwanzaa</b> 26	27	28
29	30	<b>New Year's Eve</b> 31 Be safe! Don't Drink and Drive.	<b>January 1 New Year's Day</b> City Hall and Public Works closed. Refuse pickup routes (Wednesday – Friday) delayed one day.			

# Roland J. Meyer Scholarship Fund Established for High School Seniors

The children of former Mayor Roland J. Meyer have established a memorial fund to provide an annual \$1,000 scholarship to a graduating Rolling Meadows High School senior planning to attend college or a vocational/trade school.



*Roland Meyer*

Members of the Meyer family have pledged to make annual contributions to the Roland J. Meyer Memorial Fund, and invite community members to consider making tax-deductible donations to ensure the fund's success for years to come. For more information, contact Eileen Hart, Rolling Meadows High School Principal (847-718-5610 or eileen.hart@d214.org).



Submit tax-deductible donations to:  
Rolling Meadows High School  
Roland J. Meyer Scholarship Fund  
2901 Central Road  
Rolling Meadows, IL 60008

Roland J. Meyer passed away in April, after a distinguished public service career. Between 1958 and 1982, he served the City of Rolling Meadows as park commissioner, alderman, finance committee chairman, and as mayor (1967-1979). He also served on many of the City's boards and commissions, and represented residents of the 3rd Legislative District in the Illinois General Assembly.



## Eco-Friendly 'eBilling' Saves Money

eBilling, Rolling Meadows' Web-based utility billing program, helps save taxpayers thousands of dollars each year in printing and mailing costs.

Rather than receiving a printed bill in the mail, eBilling customers receive a monthly email with a link to their utility billing statement. Balances may be paid through online banking, the City's Web-

based Utility Bill Management System, by mail or in person at City Hall. The service – currently used by nearly 15% of the City's utility customers – also lets users review a two-year billing history for their account and provides a link to the City's newsletter, *News & Views*.

Register for eBilling online at [www.cityrm.org/finance](http://www.cityrm.org/finance). For more information, contact the Finance Department at 847-394-8500.

## eLockbox Service Streamlines Payment Processing

With an increasing number of customers using online banking to pay their monthly utility bills, the Finance Department has introduced an electronic check processing service that improves customer convenience and significantly improves Department operations.

J.P. Morgan Chase's "eLockbox" service electronically processes customer pay-

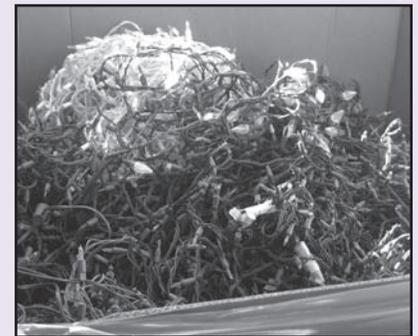
ments submitted via online banking in just one or two days. Before, banks would literally "cut" a paper check on behalf of the customer and send it to the City for processing. That would often take anywhere from 7 – 10 days.

For more information on eLockbox, contact the Finance Department at 847-394-8500.

## Open House Highlights RMFD Operations



Aspiring firefighters of all ages enjoyed hands-on experience with some tools of the trade (left), then observed vehicular extrication (right) and other specialized skills during the Rolling Meadows Fire Department's October 12 Open House. The annual event takes place each October.



Last year, Rolling Meadows residents recycled more than a ton – 2,516 pounds – of holiday lights.

## Recycling Program Lets Residents Safely Dispose of Old Holiday Lights

The Solid Waste Agency of Cook County (SWANCC) and Elgin Recycling have again partnered to offer a seasonal recycling program for Rolling Meadows residents to safely dispose of old holiday lights, electrical cords and wire.

Residents may drop off materials for recycling at a collection box outside City Hall (3600 Kirchoff Road) beginning Monday, November 4. The program will run through Friday, February 7, 2014.

Last year, Rolling Meadows residents recycled a ton – literally – of holiday lights. In total, 2,516 pounds of materials was collected in the City Hall drop box.

For more information, visit [www.swancc.org](http://www.swancc.org) or [www.elginrecycling.com](http://www.elginrecycling.com).

## A Community Problem That Really 'Stinks'

by Mayor Tom Rooney

Nothing frustrates public officials and citizens more than a problem without an ideal solution. Unfortunately, our neighborhoods are currently experiencing just such a problem: a growing number of skunks.

It's a problem that runs in cycles. About every ten years or so, we reach a point where skunks seem to be all over – like now. The question is: what can be done about it? The answer is: very little.

As unappealing as it sounds, the most effective solution is an animal disease called distemperment (distemper, for short)

that is contagious among animals and kills those that get it.

The period when that happens isn't a pleasant one. It creates unusual and dangerous behavior in the affected skunks, and it can be contagious to other animals, including dogs and cats. Skunks don't have predators, so distemper is nature's way of knocking the skunk population back down to manageable levels.

That may not be the answer residents and public officials would like to hear. It feels awkward to recommend. But it is how previous cycles of high skunk populations have been "solved." Sometimes the most efficient thing government can do is just wait.

## Dec. 5 Tree Lighting to Welcome Holidays, Raise Funds for City's Events Foundation

Rolling Meadows' annual Holiday Tree lighting – one of its most time-honored traditions – will help raise money for the City's Community Events Foundation, Thursday, December 5.

The tree lighting will take place at 6 p.m. in front of McDonald's (3140 Kirchoff Road), where family, friends and neighbors will gather for songs, refreshments and holiday cheer.

From 5 – 7 p.m., McDonald's will donate 20% of all sales to the Community Events Foundation, which was established to help offset the costs of staging City-sponsored events throughout the year.

To date, the City has received nearly \$20,000 in tax-deductible contributions to support the Foundation. Residents,



*At this year's Tree Lighting, the City will partner with McDonald's to raise funds for the Community Events Foundation.*

businesses or community groups interested in contributing should 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.*

## Shop Rolling Meadows This Holiday Season for Exceptional Value, Variety, Convenience

Want great value, variety and shopping convenience this holiday season? Be sure to "Shop Rolling Meadows."

From "Big Box" retailers with the latest electronics, toys and apparel to independent merchants offering unique products and services, Rolling Meadows' business community has something for everyone. Or, consider gift cards from the City's diverse variety of restaurants.

Shopping locally also boosts sales tax revenues that reduce reliance on property tax dollars to fund City services.



*From "Big Box" retailers to local restaurants, Rolling Meadows has something for everyone.*

## Buona Beef to Host November 14 Fundraiser

Buona Beef (1420 Golf Road) will donate up to 25% of all sales to the Rolling Meadows Community Events Foundation, Thursday, November 14. Mention the Foundation when ordering, or bring promotional flyers that are available at City Hall.

## Golf/New Wilke Intersection Taking Shape

In the past few months, construction crews have made significant progress on an Illinois Department of Transportation (IDOT) project to completely rebuild and widen about 2,000 feet of Golf Road, including the 41-year old intersection at Golf and New Wilke Roads.

Weather-permitting, IDOT and City officials hope to have all lanes open in December. The \$5.3 million project, which will feature upgraded traffic signals and new storm sewers, sidewalks and landscaping, is expected to be fully completed next spring.