

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

THIS MONTH IN ROLLING MEADOWS

January 1 — New Year's Day, City Hall and Public Works closed. Refuse collection delayed one day

January 2 — Zoning Board of Appeals, 7:30 p.m., City Hall

January 7 — Board of Fire and Police Commissioners, 9 a.m., City Hall

January 8 — Economic Development Committee, 6 p.m.; **City Council,** 7:30 p.m., both at City Hall. **Library Board,** 7 p.m. at the Library

January 9 — Urban Affairs Committee, 5 p.m., **Plan Commission,** 7:30 p.m., both at City Hall

January 10 — Adjudication Hearing, 1 p.m., City Hall

January 15 — City Council Committee of the Whole, 7:30 p.m., City Hall

January 17 — Adjudication Hearing, 1 p.m., City Hall

January 21 — Martin Luther King Day, City Hall & Public Works Closed. Normal refuse collection

January 22 — City Council Meeting, 7:30 p.m., City Hall

January 24 — Adjudication Hearing, 1 p.m., City Hall

City Manager Tom Melena: 2008 Budget A 'Policy Statement'

The budget for Fiscal Year (FY) 2008 passed by City Council is an action plan that reflects priorities set forth by community leaders for the next 12 months, according to City Manager Tom Melena.

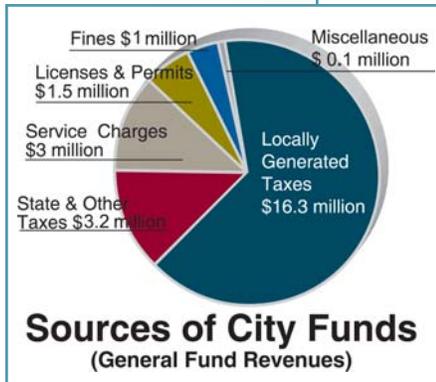
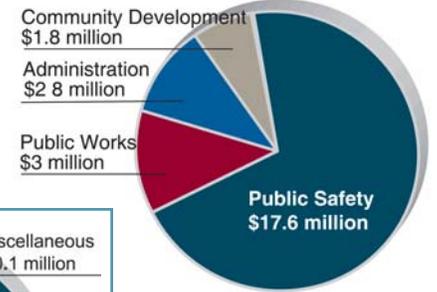
"The budget approved by Council is a performance-oriented document that just happens to have a bunch of dollar signs attached to it," Melena says with a touch of understatement. "The programs we fund are those that will continue to provide residents with excellent value for their tax dollars, and help us achieve goals established each year during our annual strategic planning sessions.

"In total, the budget is probably the most important document City Council and staff produce each year. It outlines spending plans and, therefore, priorities for the

coming year," he adds.

Finance Director Jim Egeberg credits City alderman for their guidance in preparing the

General Fund Expenditures



Sources of City Funds (General Fund Revenues)

overall financial document.

"The FY2008 budget funds services that Council members feel will add value to Rolling Meadows residents and businesses," Egeberg explains. "Across the country, communities are trying to make the best

use of limited resources. Rolling Meadows' budget places a priority on funding services that make an impact on our community and maintain our financial strength," he adds.

Egeberg cites, as an example, Council's commitment to providing all Rolling Meadows homeowners with 65-gallon recycling carts. The move was based on the results of a recently completed pilot program that demonstrated a vast increase in the amount of

Continued on page 4

City to Pick Up Holiday Trees On Regular Refuse Days

Public Works crews will pick up discarded holiday trees for disposal during regularly scheduled refuse days in January. Residents should strip trees of lights, tinsel and ornaments, and place them with the cut end toward the curb.

City Officials Welcome U.S. Waterproofing to Rolling Meadows



Ward 2 Alderman Barb Lusk (far left), 6th Ward Alderman Kathy Kwandras (second from left) and Mayor Ken Nelson (center, left) join U.S. Waterproofing employees December 6 for a ribbon-cutting ceremony to officially dedicate the company's new Rolling Meadows facility. The combined grand opening and open house event also celebrated U.S. Waterproofing's 50th year in business as the largest basement waterproofing company in the Midwest.

Citizens Academy to Explore Public Works' Vital Role

Explore the vital role Public Works plays in maintaining Rolling Meadows' quality of life this spring, when the Department hosts its inaugural Citizens Training Academy.

The Academy, tentatively scheduled for March, will offer participants hands-on training activities, tours of City facilities, and informational presentations by experienced Public Works team members. It will take place over consecutive weeks, with evening and Saturday classes. Class size will be limited to 12 – 15 people.

"The Academy will offer residents a 'behind-the-scenes' look at how the Public Works Department keeps Rolling Meadows rolling," Assistant Public Works Director Bob Hartnett explains. "Public Works crews provide a range of services – from snow plowing operations and underground utility repairs to water quality testing and road work – that have a tremendous impact on our daily lives. Academy graduates will enjoy a greater understanding of these operations and how they affect us all."

For more information on the 2008 Public Works Citizens Academy, call 847-963-0500. Additional information will be published in the February and March issues of *News & Views*.

RMFD: New Fire Station Required Along Algonquin Road

A third fire station positioned along the Algonquin Road corridor would dramatically improve the ability of the Rolling Meadows Fire Department to serve residential and businesses in the City's growing southern district, a report presented to City Council concluded.

The needs analysis, presented by Fire Chief Ron Stewart, and Deputy Chiefs Brian Dempsey and Scott Franzgrote, found that the Department's Plum Grove Fire Station responds to roughly 31% of calls routed through the City's Emergency Dispatch Center. Meadow Drive Fire Station (Station 15), however, currently responds to nearly 70% of all emergency calls received.

The report's conclusion: A new Station 17 – one of ten official goals approved by City Council in 2007 – would provide effective support to the growing southern portions of the City, and reduce the burden on Station 15 crews by nearly 50%.

"Fire departments are measured by their fire prevention efforts and their ability to rapidly respond to calls for assistance. Fire Department officials offered compelling evidence that, due to continued growth in the southern districts, we now face a coverage gap. We are short one fire station," City Manager Tom Melena explains.



Cutting even a few minutes off response times will significantly improve the Fire Department's ability to provide emergency assistance:

- Fires that burn for more than eight minutes most often result in the total destruction of a structure.

- The chances of survival for people requiring emergency medical care decrease by 7 – 10% for every minute that passes without treatment.

"Time is not on firefighters' side when responding to an emergency. A third station will save lives and reduce the potential for catastrophic property damage," Chief Stewart says.

Two sites are currently under consideration for a planned Station 17. One is adjacent to Willow Bend School; the other is along the Algonquin Road corporate corridor. Both offer an excellent location from which to serve the growing commercial/retail area in the vicinity of Golf and Algonquin Roads, and the surrounding residential neighborhoods.

"Adding capacity along Algonquin Road in the form of a third station will have a 'ripple effect' that will benefit the entire City," Chief Stewart adds. "It will allow the Fire Department to allocate resources more effectively among three locations, improving response times for all areas of the community."

Tiered Water Rates Eliminate Minimum Fees, Encourage Conservation

A two-tiered water rate approved by City Council as part of the 2008 budget will cut water bills for residents who consume less than 1,000 gallons of water each month and encourage conservation of this important natural resource by charging higher rates for those who use more than 15,000 gallons in a month, Finance Director Jim Egeberg reports.

Egeberg says that in 2007, approximately 10 percent of residential water

users were paying the monthly minimum of \$7.24 for 1,667 gallons, despite their actual water usage being lower.

"The minimum rate was originally intended to help fund the cost of maintaining the City's water infrastructure, but it actually punished those who put less strain on the system," Egeberg says. "The new rates for 2008, which reflect actual usage, will lower the monthly bills for residents

who consume very little water."

In lieu of the minimum rate, City Council approved a \$2 per-month access fee to retain the City's ability to cover increasing costs for water operations and maintenance. The 2008 rate structure will bill customers at a rate of \$4.64 per 1,000 gallons (up to 15,000 gallons). Any water consumed above the 15,000-gallon tier will be charged at a rate of \$5.41 per 1,000 gallons.

"The two-tiered rate will affect only those consuming large quantities of water. The vast majority of residential users consume less than 15,000 gallons in a month," Egeberg points out.

The lower-tiered rate of \$4.64 includes a 7% increase over the previous year, reflecting an increase the City must pay the Northwest Suburban Joint Action Water Agency (JAWA) to purchase water consumed in Rolling Meadows.



How Educational Conferences Keep Us Fresh

By TOM MELENA, CITY MANAGER

I'm a believer in lifelong learning. We all need continu-

ing education. The world around us is changing rapidly. Yesterday's education needs to be updated. We have to keep learning to keep up.

City managers, like many other organization leaders, also need to escape the isolation that is an inevitable part of executive responsibility. We benefit from informal discussion with other managers facing the same kinds of issues and problems. In our business, we need to know what new ideas other cities have for dealing with things like waste water treatment and public transportation.

One of the best ways to satisfy this need for continuing education and maintain contact with leaders in city management across the nation is to participate in well-planned conferences sponsored by organizations like the International City Managers Association and the National League of Cities. The time I've given to these conferences is usually very well spent. The batteries get recharged, and I come back with ideas that contribute to the quality of management we strive to provide in this City every day.

Another benefit of attending such conferences is seeing first-hand how other cities work. They hold these meetings in different cities

every year. I've attended such conferences in Atlanta, Charlotte, Cincinnati, Des Moines, Fort Worth, Montreal, Portland, Oregon, Reno, Toronto, and many other cities. It expands your horizons to see these cities with their managers. They are eager to lead tours to show us what they're doing. I enjoy nothing more than leading a similar tour of our city.

This year, the International City Managers Association's (ICMA) held its annual conference in Pittsburgh. It started with a daylong tour. Pittsburgh has remade itself from a fading steel town to a modern metropolis. It's an inspiring story.

Each day's ICMA educational session started early with a keynote speaker addressing the issues we face—topics like leadership or the lack thereof, how to

deal with the impact of unfunded mandates, innovations that are working in other communities. I find these sessions stimulating and educational. Next, they offer a variety of sessions to choose from—financial management, budgeting, economic development, human resource planning. You build your own curriculum, depending on priorities and needs.

One track included a presentation headed, "Think Like a Constituent, Manage Like a CEO." Other topics included "Leverage Retail to Expand Economic Development" and "Building Public Support for Public Improvements." Some of these topics may not sound fascinating to people outside the world of city management, but for us they are leading edge.

Those of us who have devoted a career to city management look back on these conferences as experiences in mentoring. We renew friendships with mentors who have

exerted important influence on our career development, and we share our experience by mentoring the younger people coming along. The opportunities to mix, share and just kibitz can be very valuable.

The National League of Cities held a conference this year in New Orleans. Many other organizations had moved their meetings after Hurricane Katrina, but the League's leaders decided instead to come to New Orleans to learn from the 2005 disaster and its aftermath and to help the struggling city. It was an eye-opening and uplifting experience for us.

In New Orleans, I followed the budget track, and it helped me appreciate the distinction of the performance-based budgeting we do in Rolling Meadows. We are ahead of many cities in goal setting and performance-based budgeting. It's an accomplishment of which City Council and the residents and businesses we serve can be proud.



Around Town

Historical Museum to Host 1950s Holiday Open House, January 6

Experience how the holidays were celebrated in 1950s' Rolling Meadows Sunday, January 6, 1 – 4 p.m., during an open house at the Rolling Meadows Historical Museum, 3100 Central Road.

Historical Society members have adorned the museum, a replica of an original Kimball Hill home, in authentic 1950s holiday décor. This festive trip down memory lane – complete with baked goodies and an aluminum Christmas tree – will bring back memories from holidays of yesteryear.

For more information, contact the Rolling Meadows Historical Society at 847-577-7086.

Fire Department Provides CPR, First-Aid Training to Residents

The Rolling Meadows Fire Department in 2008 will hold CPR, Automatic External Defibrillator (AED) and First Aid training courses at one of its fire stations on a monthly basis. Department personnel will also hold training courses at offsite locations to accommodate the needs of businesses and other organizations.

For more information, contact the Rolling Meadows Fire Department at 847-397-3352.

E-Mail, Fake Check Scams Rising, Officials Warn

If an e-mail or a telephone call from someone you don't know involves giving you a check or money order and asking for cash or a check in return, watch out, warns Rolling Meadows Police Investigations Unit Commander Joe Waitzman.

Better yet, the best policy may be **never** to open an e-mail from someone you don't know. A Rolling Meadows man opened the wrong e-mail and didn't realize until weeks later that it came from a scammer who was able to break into a retirement account at his bank and steal \$108,000 after infecting the victim's computer with a virus.

The world of electronic commerce has made many routine tasks that used to be time-consuming easier, quicker, and more convenient. It can also expose people who manage accounts online to a huge risk.

Scams involving counterfeit checks, gift checks, traveler's checks or money orders are on the rise, according to the U.S. Postal Inspection Service, a federal law enforcement agency. It seized more than 540,000 "fake checks" worth over \$2.1 billion between January and August 2007. The agency has launched a public education campaign to warn people of the risks.

The Rolling Meadows Police Department reported 109 identity theft and fraud cases in 2007, according to Commander Waitzman.

A Rolling Meadows bank noticed a pattern of unusual withdrawals from an elderly man's account. Finally, they suggested he speak with the police when he came in to withdraw equity from his home mortgage. It turned out he had lost \$25,000 to \$30,000 to a scammer.

The fake check scams typically involve offers to make large sums in a foreign business, foreign lottery or sweepstakes winnings, sudden riches, love losses, offers to work at home, overpayments and rental schemes. In most of these cases, the scammer gives the victim a realistic looking check or money order and asks the victims to deposit the bogus check or money order and then mail or wire Western Union cash in return, keeping a small financial reward for themselves.

Here are some other warning signs, according to the U.S.

Postal Inspection Service:

- Scammers befriend you and ask you to cash a check or money order as a favor.
- They want to buy something that you are selling and send a check or money order for more than you're asking.
- They hire you to work at home and ask you to deposit checks or money orders in your account as part of your job.
- They send you a check or money order as an "advance" on the millions that you're going to receive from a sweepstakes, lottery, or inheritance.
- They offer you a foreign business deal and a check or money order as an advance on your profits.



Beware of phone and computer scams.

"There's no legitimate reason for anyone to give you a check or money order and ask you to send a check or cash in return," Waitzman says. "These cases are very difficult to investigate and harder to prosecute," he adds.

A Scam to Watch For

Rolling Meadows Police Investigation Unit Commander Joe Waitzman alerts

residents to this credit card scam, reported on www.snopes.com:

A person calling says, "This is Joe Gumshoe (or any name). I'm calling from the Security and Fraud Department at VISA. My badge number is 48319. Your card has been flagged for an unusual purchase pattern, and I'm calling to verify. This would be on your VISA card issued by XYZ Bank. Did you purchase an Anti-Telemarketing Device for \$497.99 from a marketing company based in Arizona?"

When you say "no," the caller continues, "Then we will be issuing a credit to your account. This is a company we have been watching and the charges range from \$297 to \$497, just under the \$500 purchase pattern that flags most cards. Before your next statement, the credit will be sent to (gives you your address), is that correct?"

You say, "yes," and the caller continues, "I will be starting a fraud investigation. If you have any questions, you should call the 800 number listed on your card and ask for Security. You will need to enter this control number." Then, he gives you a (bogus) six-digit number and says he needs to verify you are in possession of your card. "Turn the card over. There are seven numbers. The first four are 1234 (whatever). The next three are security numbers that verify you are in possession of the card. Read me the three numbers." Then he says, "That is correct. I just needed to verify that the card has not been lost or stolen, and that you still have your card. Do you have any other questions? Don't hesitate to call back if you do."

You actually say very little, and they never ask for or tell you the card number. They had your name, address, and card number. All they needed was the three-digit security number. When you get your next statement, you will see a purchase of \$497.99 on your card and wait for the credit. By the time you recognize the scam, the bandits could have put through thousands of dollars in fraudulent charges.

Budget . . . *Continued from page 1*

recyclable materials collected through use of the larger containers.

"Council directed staff to implement this new program that will simultaneously reduce what the City pays in disposal fees and help protect the environment," he says.

Aldermen also approved an increase in the business license fee, which had remained unchanged for the past 25 years. The new fee structure is based on total

square footage, as opposed to the flat fee in place since 1983.

"The increase brings the City's business license fees in line with other municipalities and helps fund the high level of service Rolling Meadows' residents have come to expect," Egeberg adds.

The 2008 budget is available for review at City Hall or on the Web at www.cityrm.org.

City's Continuous 'Reinvention' Chronicled in *Chicago Tribune*

A front page feature in the November 26 *Chicago Tribune* chronicled the transformation of Rolling Meadows from a 1950s "landscape with unlovely, though loved, little 'cracker box' houses" to an established community where the streets are "pleasantly tree-lined and the houses have shaken off their original stamped-out look to blossom as individuals."

The report, part of a series that explored the growth of Chicago's suburbs in the last half-century, captured the essence of Rolling Meadows as a community that has strong ties to the past, yet has always looked forward to the future, City Manager Tom Melena believes.

"The City's first residents established a precedent for working together to create a healthy, prosperous community that is strengthened by all who live here," Melena says, citing examples from the *Tribune* article recalling how neighbors would help each other in the City's early years. "The story of Rolling Meadows is one of a City that constantly reinvents itself for the better."

In examining the growth and development of Rolling Meadows, the *Tribune* article concludes: "What has happened is the human touch, an innate desire to make a place uniquely your own. Homeowners have transformed a stark landscape of 'cracker box' houses set in mud into a softened, matured, varied setting in which

to raise their children and grow old."

As Rolling Meadows continues its journey, the City will continue the process of "reinvention."

"We're going to reinvent ourselves," Melena told the *Tribune*, offering an overview of the updated Comprehensive Plan calling for redeveloping downtown Rolling Meadows into a mixed-use "lifestyle center" that is open air and

pedestrian-friendly.

Lifestyle centers seek to recreate the ambiance of a traditional main street. A mixture of uses typically includes residential, office space, retail stores, hotels, churches, entertainment and municipal facilities such as libraries, Melena explains.

"Rolling Meadows' downtown currently features all these uses. The goal now becomes finding the best ways to tie them together," he explains. "We can't expect to attract 'big box' retailers to our downtown area, but it is ripe for redevelopment as a lifestyle center."

Work continues at the Riverwalk mixed-use development on Kirchoff Road, an essential aspect of the new downtown lifestyle center. When completed, it will feature 154 condominium homes and 28,000 sq. ft. of retail/office space.

"We know that many shoppers are bored with the traditional mall and are searching for new shopping experiences," Melena adds. "They like to feel a sense of community where they shop. Our vision, which includes Riverwalk and a redeveloped Dominick's site, will offer attractive opportunities to draw increased residential and retail density to our downtown."



Seniors Encouraged to Apply Early For Riverwalk Housing

Widespread interest in a City-sponsored program to help qualified senior citizens purchase homes at the new Riverwalk Condominiums on Kirchoff Road has led City officials to encourage residents to submit applications as soon as possible, according to Community Development Director Valerie Dehner.

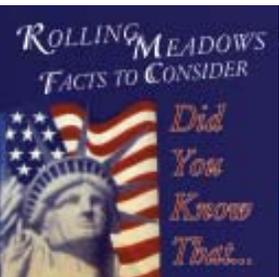
"A series of informational workshops held in late 2007 that detailed the senior housing program indicated strong demand for these new units," Dehner explains. "We encourage seniors who have not yet applied for the program do so quickly in order to get a jump on residents who traditionally wait until February or March to begin their search for new homes. Based on the response to the program thus far, we believe that demand will far exceed supply."

The program, established by the City and administered by the nonprofit Housing Opportunity Development Corporation (HODC), provides a \$30,000 subsidy to qualified senior buyers who purchase one of 30 designated senior housing units in the new Riverwalk development. The senior units will be located in two of the site's four buildings.

The goal of the program is to provide opportunities for senior residents to simplify their lifestyles without leaving Rolling Meadows.

Applicants must be at least 55 years of age and be able to qualify for a mortgage. Gross household income must be at or below that of the Chicago area median income (one person: \$52,800, two persons: \$60,300, three-persons: \$67,900). Preference will be given to current residents who have lived in the City for at least five years, and to those with very low or low household income.

Program applications are available at the Community Development Department, 3600 Kirchoff Road. For more information, contact Community Development at 847-506-6030, or HODC at 847-564-2900.



1. Northrop Grumman Corp.
2. Citi Residential Lending
3. Countrywide

- The Top Ten Rolling Meadows employers, based on number of employees, are:
4. Meijer
5. Harris Bank
6. Fifth Third Bank
7. A.H. Management Corp.
8. Riverside Publishing Co.
9. Komatsu
10. Panasonic (coming spring 2008)

Information furnished by the Rolling Meadows Chamber of Commerce

2008 to Ring In Host of New City Projects

BY MAYOR KEN NELSON

Happy New Year and welcome to 2008! I'm looking forward to a very exciting year for our City.

Economic Redevelopment

Two major redevelopments could very well come along this year. Watch for a total redevelopment of the Woodfield Gardens area at Algonquin Road and Route 53. We'll soon be reviewing a proposal for a mixed-use development I believe will be one of the finest in the northwest suburbs.

Initial plans for the development call for somewhere around 1,500 residential units, including condos, apartments and town homes. We also anticipate about 500,000 square feet of retail space, one or more hotels, and office units. While those numbers are pretty tentative, this lifestyle development will include many amenities to give it a "town center" atmosphere.

We're also anticipating a new proposal for the old Dominick's site. Negotiations are currently underway between the property owner and the developer. If they are successful, we expect to see specifics later this year.

As mentioned elsewhere in this newsletter, we're also beginning the process of building a third fire station, which will be known as Station 17. We're concerned about response times to some of the southern portions of the City, particularly the rapidly

growing commercial and corporate areas.

Major Infrastructure Projects

A couple of major road reconstruction projects are scheduled for 2008 and, unfortunately, they both affect the same area. Once winter breaks, the state will begin phase II of the reconstruction of Plum Grove Road near Euclid Avenue and Kirchoff Road. That project will not be completed until this coming fall.

Meanwhile, Cook County is expected to begin reconstruction of Old Plum Grove Road from Algonquin to Plum Grove Road. About half of that distance is in Rolling Meadows, while the other half is in Schaumburg. It's uncertain which portion will be worked on beginning this summer, but I can assure you our Public Works Department will be doing everything possible to minimize traffic disruptions.

City Manager to Retire

Last, but not least, there will be a changing of the guard. City Manager Tom Melena, who has served us well for 7 years, will retire at the end of this year. We have already begun the process of seeking his replacement, although there are some big shoes to fill.

I hope 2008 is a good one for each of you and those you love. Happy New Year!

City Of Rolling Meadows

Mayor: Kenneth Nelson

City Clerk: Lisa Hinman

City Manager:
Thomas M. Melena

City Hall Hours:
8 a.m. to 5 p.m.
Monday-Friday

Curfew: Sun.-Thurs. 11 p.m./Fri. & Sat. Midnight

Aldermen

1st Ward: John Pitzafferro
847-655-1390

2nd Ward: Barb Lusk
847-567-2444

3rd Ward: Lawrence Buske
847-255-9126

4th Ward: Tom Rooney
847-392-2254

5th Ward: Glenn Adams
847-259-5875

6th Ward: Kathy Kwandras
847-398-7113

7th Ward: James Larsen
630-244-4228

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 Dept. — 847-506-6030

TDD: 847-506-0490

Senior Services
847-506-2061

ComEd — 1-800-EDISON-1

PNRC — 847-506-2059

City Council, Committee of the Whole, Zoning Board of Appeals, and Plan Commission Meetings are televised on Cable TV Channel 6

City Sets 2008 Meeting Schedule

City Council in 2008 will conduct its regular meetings the second and fourth Tuesdays of each month, 7:30 p.m., at City Hall, except in December, when Council meets 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, it will take place on the second Tuesday.

The following boards and commissions will also meet at City Hall, continuing the City's motto of *Progress through Participation* throughout 2008:

● **Economic Development Committee** — First Tuesday of each month, 6 p.m.

● **Zoning Board of Appeals** — First Wednesday of each month, 7:30 p.m.

● **Plan Commission** — First Tuesday of each month, 7:30 p.m.

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

● **9-1-1 Board** — First Wednesday of February, May, August and November, 3 p.m.

Other volunteer boards and commissions meet at the call of the chair.

Adjudication hearings will take place on the second, third and fourth Thursdays of each month, 1 p.m., except in May (15, 22 and 29), October (16, 23 and 30), November (13 and 20) and December (4, 11 & 18).

For more information, see the 2008 City calendar recently sent to residents, or upcoming issues of *News & Views*.