

NEWS & VIEWS

3600 KIRCHOFF ROAD | ROLLING MEADOWS, IL 60008 | 847-394-8500 | WWW.CITYRM.ORG

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VOLUME 28 ISSUE 1



The City's new Human Services Department will help residents address a broad variety of community needs, such as mental health, aging-in-place, parenting, family violence prevention, and more.

NEW HUMAN SERVICES DEPARTMENT TO ENHANCE QUALITY OF LIFE FOR ALL MEADOWS RESIDENTS

Rolling Meadows' newly established Human Services Department was created to address the high demand for community mental health support, crisis intervention, and other social services that can improve the quality of life for residents of all ages and backgrounds, Human Services Director Natalia Nieves, Ph.D., LCPC, announced.



Natalia Nieves

Offering a variety of community outreach initiatives and programs to help residents cope with challenges before they require police intervention will also strengthen public safety by allowing police officers to focus more of their energies on crime prevention and law enforcement.

'A More Connected, Resilient Community'

"Communities across the country are facing a mental health crisis, but it's not just about people who are in crisis: it's about enhancing overall wellness," Dr. Nieves explained. "Through the Human Services Department, we can provide counseling and assistance before issues such as eviction or hunger turn into tragedies. We can help anyone facing life's challenges – everything from parenting to growing older. It's an opportunity to make our community more connected and resilient."

Human Services will be able to address a broad range of community needs in areas such as aging-in-place, mental health, family violence prevention, financial and computer literacy, youth- and adult well-

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RECYCLE HOLIDAY LIGHTS AT CITY HALL

Not sure what to do with old, worn, or damaged holiday lights? Don't trash them...recycle them!

Rolling Meadows' holiday light recycling program offers a safe, convenient way for residents to get rid of those old and outdated light strings gathering dust in garages and attics.

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



CURBSIDE CHRISTMAS TREE PICK-UP SET FOR EARLY JANUARY

Public Works crews will conduct curbside Christmas tree pick-up service during the first two weeks of January, as part of the City's regular refuse collection. Customers should strip trees of all decorations and place them at the curb (cut end facing the street) the evening before their scheduled pick-up date.

2024 CITY COUNCIL MEETINGS HAVE NEW START TIME, FOLLOW NEW SCHEDULE

City Council meetings in 2024 will begin earlier than in years past and will follow a slightly modified seasonal schedule.

Regular meetings, formerly held at 7:30 pm, will now take place at 7:00 pm on the second and fourth Tuesdays of each month – except in June, July, and August, when Council members meet only on the fourth Tuesday.

December will also feature just one meeting on the third Tuesday (December 17th).

Workshop-style Committee of the Whole meetings will continue on the third Tuesday of every month but will also change their start times to 7:00 pm.

Residents are welcome to attend City Council meetings in-person or view them live or on-demand on the Rolling Meadows Broadcasting Network (cable channel 6 or online at www.cityrm.org/520/Rolling-Meadows).

[Broadcasting-Network](#)).

Agendas for upcoming meetings, and approved minutes from prior meetings, are available at www.cityrm.org/AgendaCenter.



The 2024 public meeting schedule also codifies dates and times for the City's volunteer boards and commissions, including the:

- **Community Events Foundation Volunteer Committee (ad hoc)** – meets at 6:00 pm on the third Tuesday

of each month (except December).

- **Economic Development Committee** – meets at 6:00 pm on the first Monday of February, April, June, August, October, and December.
- **Environmental Committee** – meets at 6:00 pm on the first Tuesday of each month.
- **Planning & Zoning Commission** – meets at 7:00 pm on the first Tuesday of each month.
- **Veterans Committee** – meets at 6:00 pm on the fourth Tuesday of every month (except for November and December).

All meetings take place at City Hall, unless noted. A complete listing of committees is posted at www.cityrm.org/349/Boards-Commissions. Meeting information is also published monthly in *News & Views* and *eNews*.

ELECTRICAL AGGREGATION PROGRAM PROVIDES OPTIONS FOR CUSTOMERS

The cost of electricity provided by ComEd may be lower than prices currently being paid by Rolling Meadows residents and businesses who receive energy from Chicago-based MC Squared Energy Services, LLC (MC²). The City is in the midst of a one-year contract with MC² to provide electricity through the electrical aggregation process that allows communities to shop for rates on the open market.

Last year, Rolling Meadows locked in a rate of 7.25 cents per kilowatt-hour (kWh) with MC². At the time, ComEd's rate was 9.665 cents per kWh, which helped the average resident save nearly \$20 per month on their electric bill.

Since then, ComEd has lowered its fixed rate much further than expected. It's current rate of 6.872 cents per kWh*, good through May, is lower than the rate Rolling Meadows negotiated with MC² last year. The difference could potentially save the average household around \$3 per month.

**NOTE: ComEd's rate does not include the Purchased Electricity Adjustment (PEA), which is calculated monthly and may cause customers' bills to rise or drop. Customers who get their electricity from MC² through the City's aggregation program do not receive the PEA.*

Current MC² customers who would like to opt out of the



aggregation program and switch to ComEd should contact MC² (rollingmeadows@mc2energyservices.com or 833-879-0713). Please provide your name and service address.

All residents will be able to re-enroll with the City's contracted provider upon program renewal later this year.

Questions? Contact Adam Hoover, Rolling Meadows' aggregation consultant, at ahoover@nimec.net.

Information about Rolling Meadows electrical aggregation program is available at <https://www.cityrm.org/900/Electrical-Aggregation>.

NEW HUMAN SERVICES DEPARTMENT...continued from p.1

ness programs, and more. It will also enhance programming at the City's Neighborhood Resource Center at East Park Apartments, which offers social services outreach and crime prevention initiatives.

The department's operating concept was based on the Police Department's former Social Services Division, which helped crime victims and connected them with area resources. Dr. Nieves previously led that program before being named Human Services Director.

"In the past, we were just dealing with the consequences of mental health and conflict in our community," recalled Mayor Lara Sanoica. "This wasn't strategic or comprehensive, and it meant we were often playing catch-up. The Human Services Department will be proactive and help us allocate resources more effectively."

Primary Service Areas

The new department is structured into three service divisions to serve Rolling Meadows residents more effectively:

- **Community Social Services** – helping senior citizens, vulnerable adults, new immigrants, and any residents in need of general social work and case management.
- **Mental Health** – providing short-term therapy and connections to psychiatric care, support groups, and advocacy.
- **Police Social Services** – offering court advocacy for criminal cases related to domestic violence, sexual abuse, and other types of violent crimes; assistance with civil and criminal orders

of protection; and crime prevention program support.

Funded by State Grant

The Human Services Department was created with the help of a \$500,000 operating grant from the state of Illinois, as part of its new budget.

"The new Human Services Department will be an essential component of Rolling Meadows' approach to public safety," said Illinois Senator Ann Gillespie (D-27th), who helped secure the funding. "Integrating social services, mental health expertise, and community outreach will help streamline operations and ensure residents receive the support they need – both proactively and in response to emergencies."

Additional funding comes from a 0.25% increase in Rolling Meadows' Home Rule Sales Tax that will generate an estimated \$750,000 annually for department operations. The increase applies to goods and services purchased locally.

Groceries, medicine, and licensed personal property (such as cars and trucks) are exempted.

Similar Programs in Other Communities

Local communities with similar programs devoted to human services include Arlington Heights, Des Plaines, Evanston, Hoffman Estates, Morton Grove, Mount Prospect, Niles, and Skokie.

For more information or to access assistance, contact Dr. Nieves (nievesn@cityrm.org or 847-870-2636).

CLEARING FIRE HYDRANTS OF SNOW AND ICE SAVES LIVES

Do you have a fire hydrant near your home? Rolling Meadows firefighters ask your help keeping it clear and accessible this winter.

It's as easy as 1, 2, 3:

1. Remove snow and ice from the hydrant.
2. Clear the perimeter around the hydrant for firefighters to walk (3 ft. minimum).
3. Clear a path from the hydrant to the street.



"We thank residents who take the time to ensure that firefighters have access to City hydrants in situations where seconds often count," Fire Chief Pete Sutter explained. "It's a simple, yet significant act that helps reduce the risk of injury and property damage."



RECYCLE BATTERIES AT PUBLIC WORKS

Rolling Meadows offers a convenient way for residents to safely dispose of spent household batteries: bring them to the Public Works Department (3900 Berdnick Street). Drop-off hours are Monday – Friday, 8:00 am – 3:30 pm.

Public Works accepts all types of alka-

line batteries (AA, AAA, C, D, 9V). Rechargeable batteries (lithium, NiMh, and NiCad) must have masking tape covering contact points or be contained in individual, self-sealing plastic bags.

For more information, call 847-963-0500.

JANUARY 2024

All meetings take place at City Hall, unless noted.

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
	1 NEW YEAR'S DAY City offices closed. Refuse & recycling collection delayed one day all week.	2 Environmental Committee, 6:00 pm Planning & Zoning Commission, 7:00 pm	3	4	5	6
7	8 Board of Fire & Police Commissioners, 8:30 am	9 City Council Meeting, 7:00 pm	10 Library Board Meeting, 7:00 pm (3110 Martin Lane)	11 Adjudication Hearings 11:00 am (Red Light); 1:00 pm (Code); 2:00 pm (Parking)	12	13
14	15 MARTIN LUTHER KING, JR. DAY City offices closed. Regular refuse & recycling pick-up.	16 Community Events Foundation Volunteer Committee, 6:00 pm City Council Committee of the Whole, 7:00 pm	17	18	19	20
21	22 <i>Water bills due</i>	23 Veterans Committee, 6:00 pm City Council Meeting, 7:00 pm	24	25	26	27
28	29	30 Fire Pension Board, 8:30 am	31	CURBSIDE CHRISTMAS TREE PICK-UP (Jan. 2nd – Jan. 12th). Remove decorations and place trees at curb for pick-up on regular refuse days.		

FEBRUARY 2024

All meetings take place at City Hall, unless noted.

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
WANT MORE NEWS? Check out Rolling Meadows' electronic newsletter, eNews, at www.cityrm.org .				1	2	3
4	5 Economic Development Committee, 6:00 pm	6 Environmental Committee, 6:00 pm Planning & Zoning Commission, 7:00 pm Library Board Meeting, 7:00 pm (3110 Martin Lane)	7	8 Adjudication Hearings 11:00 am (Red Light); 1:00 pm (Code); 2:00 pm (Parking)	9	10
11	12 LINCOLN'S BIRTHDAY Board of Fire & Police Commissioners, 8:30 am	13 City Council Meeting, 7:00 pm	14 VALENTINE'S DAY	15	16	17
18	19 PRESIDENT'S DAY	20 <i>Water bills due</i> Community Events Foundation Volunteer Committee, 6:00 pm City Council Committee of the Whole, 7:00 pm	21	22 WASHINGTON'S BIRTHDAY	23	24
25	26	27 Veterans Committee, 6:00 pm City Council Meeting, 7:00 pm	28	29		



Mayor Lara Sanoica (third from left) takes part in a ceremonial ribbon-cutting ceremony at Jannat Restaurant with (to her left) Kyrgyzstan Ambassador Baktybek Amanbaev, Consul General Bolotbek Borbiev, and Jannat owner Mirlanbek Nurmatov.

KYRGYZSTAN AMBASSADOR VISITS ROLLING MEADOWS FOR GRAND OPENING OF NEW JANNAT RESTAURANT

Mayor Lara Sanoica was joined by Baktybek Amanbaev, Kyrgyzstan's Ambassador to the United States and Canada; and Bolotbek Borbiev, Kyrgyzstan Consul General in Chicago; at a November 30th ribbon-cutting that celebrated the grand opening of Jannat Restaurant (2997 Kirchoff Road).

Following remarks by Mayor Sanoica and the Kyrgyz Ambassador, attendees were treated to a food eating competition and then lunch for honorary guests.

The restaurant, which serves an extensive menu of Central Asian and

Turkish cuisine, is owned by Mirlanbek Nurmatov and managed by Kanatbek Satinbaev, two cousins who grew up in Kyrgyzstan before coming to the U.S.

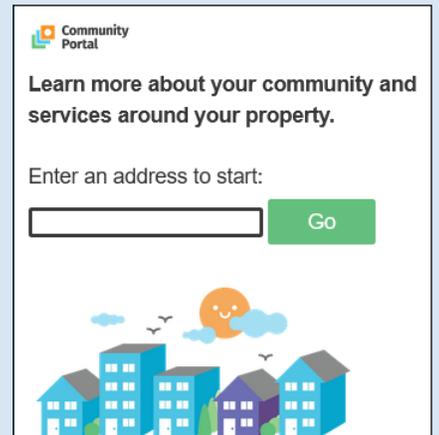


They opened Jannat to serve the large population of residents whose families have immigrated from Kyrgyzstan and put down roots in the Chicago area over the past few decades.

Officially known as the Kyrgyz Republic, Kyrgyzstan is located in Central Asia and was part of the Soviet Union before its dissolution in 1991.

ACCESS PROPERTY INFORMATION THROUGH GIS/COMMUNITY PORTAL

Access a wealth of information on your property – including the township and school district in which you reside, your scheduled refuse collection days, your voting precinct and polling location, and more – with Rolling Meadows' "Community Portal," available on the City's homepage (www.cityrm.org).



Simply type your home address into the search box to find information on property attributes, local services, zoning classifications, and more.

Community Portal is made possible by Rolling Meadows' participation in the Geographic Information Systems (GIS) Consortium, which improves collaboration among City departments and streamlines the delivery of information to residents. To learn more, visit www.public.gisconsortium.org.

SUPPORT ROLLING MEADOWS' COMMUNITY EVENTS FOUNDATION

Financial support for the City's community events is provided by the Rolling Meadows Community Events Foundation, a 501(c)3 nonprofit organization that relies on tax-deductible donations from residents and local businesses.

To contribute, please visit the Community Events Foundation page (www.cityrm.org/679/Community-Events-Foundation) or scan the QR code at right.

Supporters may also make checks payable to Rolling Meadows Community Events Foundation and send them to:

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





FROM THE MAYOR'S DESK

TAKING STEPS TO REALIZE OUR CITY'S POTENTIAL

By Mayor Lara Sanoica

Hello! This is my first letter to you as your Mayor and, although this column is "my" message, I am writing to share the views of your City Council.

I'm proud that, in 2023, we took large steps toward realizing the potential that this moment has for Rolling Meadows. We have been aggressive in attracting new restaurants and retailers to the City, including Casa di Luigi, Honey Berry Café, Kong Dog, Jannat Restaurant, Jerky Jerk, Phoenix Flame, Raising Cane's, Sorry Mommy, and Sayulita.

There's even more on tap for 2024, including new City branding and transformative projects like the redevelopment of the Atrium Corporate Center and the former Sam's Club.

We've also developed strategic plans for the future that correspond to almost every City commission and address issues such as land use planning, financial position, business development, and community sustainability.

In the coming year, we will expand this approach to our Rolling Meadows Library and position this important community asset for the future. We recently added a member of the City Council to this group to facilitate better communication and planning, and we look forward to updates for the Library in 2024 that will coincide with a new Library Executive Director.

These plans will not sit on the shelf. They are tools to help the City work more strategically than it ever has before. You'll find these documents on the City's website, and I hope you will take some time to review them and learn about what your City government envisions for a successful future.

Many of the City's important functions rely on the passion of people like you who generously donate their time and abilities to our advisory committees. The commitment is often just one evening per month. Please write to me at mayor@cityrm.org if you are interested in serving.

JOIN FELLOW ROLLING MEADOWS VETERANS FOR PROGRAMS & EVENTS

The Rolling Meadows Veterans Committee maintains a registry of resident veterans that ensures these former service members receive invitations to Rolling Meadows' annual Memorial Day ceremony, November Veterans Dinner, and other City

events throughout the year.

Veterans who are not currently listed on the registry, and would like to add their names, may contact Lori Ciezak at ciezakl@cityrm.org.



CONTACT CITY OFFICIALS
City Hall Hours
8:00 am to 4:00 pm
Monday – Friday

MAYOR and CITY COUNCIL

- Mayor Lara Sanoica 847-770-3097
- 1st Ward Alderman
- Karen McHale 773-517-3873
- 2nd Ward Alderman
- Nick Budmats 847-202-0855
- 3rd Ward Alderman
- Kevin O'Brien 847-212-2587
- 4th Ward Alderman
- Jenifer Vinezeano 630-546-8133
- 5th Ward Alderman
- Stefanie Boucher 224-200-9015
- 6th Ward Alderman
- Mandy Reyez 847-209-5435
- 7th Ward Alderman
- Mike Koehler 847-912-8750
- City Manager
- Rob Sabo 847-394-8500

SERVICES

- Fire & Police Emergency 911
- Fire Non-emergency 847-397-3352
- Police Non-emergency 847-255-2416
- Community Development 847-506-6030
- Finance/Utility Billing 847-394-8500
- Public Works 847-963-0500
- Senior Handyman Program 847-506-6030
- Crime Stoppers 847-590-7867
- ComEd 1-800-EDISON-1

 www.facebook.com/cityofrollingmeadows

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

INQUIRE ABOUT CITY SERVICES

Contact specific departments for information about City services or operations.

Administration
admin@cityrm.org 847-394-8500

City Clerk's Office
clerk@cityrm.org 847-394-8500

Community Development
cd@cityrm.org 847-506-6030

Finance Department
fin@cityrm.org 847-394-8500

Fire Department
fd@cityrm.org 847-397-3352

Human Resources
hr@cityrm.org 847-394-8500

Information Technology
it@cityrm.org 847-394-8500

Police Department
pd@cityrm.org 847-255-2416

Public Works
pw@cityrm.org 847-963-0500