

eNEWS

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

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VOLUME 11 ISSUE 1



Mayor Lara Sanoica (third from left) takes part in a ceremonial ribbon-cutting ceremony at Jannat Restaurant in November 2023.

NEW BUSINESS GROWTH SURGES 25% IN 2023

Rolling Meadows welcomed 64 new businesses to the community in 2023, a 25% increase over the previous year, Business Development Manager Martha Corner reports.

From IT consulting firms and security services to new restaurants and software developers, the City continues to welcome companies in a wide range of industries. In total, Rolling Meadows has seen more than 250 new businesses open over the past five years.

“New businesses help our city improve residents’ quality of life by expanding local options for shopping, dining, and entertainment,” Corner explained. “It also helps diversify the local tax base, which reduces reliance on property taxes to fund essential services.”

The City’s business community is comprised of all types of enterprises – from an expansive selection of restaurants and independent merchants to Fortune 500 corporations. In fact, many of the world’s leading companies call Rolling Meadows home, including:

- **Arthur J. Gallagher** (insurance brokerage/risk management),
- **Verizon Connect** (automation),
- **Northrop Grumman** (aerospace/defense),
- **Weichai America** (alternative fuel engine manufacturing).

Find a complete listing of businesses that opened in 2023 [here](#). Learn more about Rolling Meadows’ business development and support services by visiting www.cityrm.org/35/Business.

CITY OFFERS DISCOUNTED SENIOR REFUSE RATE

Rolling Meadows residents ages 65 and up are invited to apply for a 10% discount on their monthly refuse collection fees.

To receive the discount, applicants must be:

- At least 65 years of age at the time of application,
- A current Rolling Meadows resident, and,
- Current with their utility account (no outstanding or past-due balances).

Discounts will be applied to customers’ future monthly balances. Previously paid balances are not eligible.

To apply, complete the Senior Discount application (available at www.cityrm.org/DocumentCenter/View/4967/Senior-Discount-Application-and-Procedures). Provide proof of age – a copy of a valid driver’s license or state-issued ID – along with a copy of a current utility bill with your name and address.

Return completed applications and supporting documents to City Hall in-person (weekdays 8:00 am – 4:00 pm) or by mail.

For more information, contact the Finance Department at 847-394-8500 or fin@cityrm.org.



FIRE DEPARTMENT OFFERS MONTHLY CPR/AED TRAINING CLASSES

Monthly courses offered by the Rolling Meadows Fire Department afford community members the opportunity to earn Cardiopulmonary Resuscitation (CPR) and Automated External Defibrillator (AED) certification.



Classes take place at Station 16 (2340 Hicks Road), 6:00 – 9:00 pm, on the third Wednesday of each month, except December.

Each session is led by Rolling Meadows firefighters who hold CPR Instructor accreditation from the [American Heart Association](#).

Upon course completion, participants will be certified for two years.

Registration is \$40 per person. Monthly classes are limited to 10 participants. Group training is also available.

Visit www.cityrm.org/699/Sign-Up-For-CPR-Class to register. For more information or questions, contact the Rolling Meadows Fire Department at 847/397-3352.

2024 Course Dates

Classes held 6:00 – 9:00 pm on third Wednesday of each month.

- February 21st
- March 20th
- April 17th
- May 15th
- June 19th
- July 17th
- August 21st
- September 18th
- October 16th
- November 20th



Water and storm water sustainability is one of 10 priority categories outlined in Rolling Meadows' newly-adopted Sustainability Plan (Kennedy Pond shown in photo).

CITY COUNCIL ADOPTS SUSTAINABILITY PLAN

City Council members formally adopted Rolling Meadows' new Sustainability Plan in December, which will provide a road map for sustainable development – defined as “meeting the needs of the present without compromising the ability of future generations to meet their own needs.”

The 48-page plan, which is posted on the City's [website](#), is an extension of Rolling Meadows' updated Comprehensive Plan adopted in 2019.

Local Focus, Global Impact

The volunteer-led initiative is the result of extensive work by members of the City's Environmental Committee over a period of two-and-a-half years. It is based on the Greenest Region Compact (GRC), a broad set of sustainability goals established by the regional [Metropolitan Mayors Caucus](#) that provides a framework for member communities to develop and align their own sustainability plans.

“Rolling Meadows cannot solve worldwide environmental issues alone, but our work – and the work of communities across the globe – can contribute to achieving many of these goals,” Mayor Lara Sanoica said. “The City's Sustainability Plan establishes a guide for moving toward our goal of becoming a sustainable community.”

Goals and Strategies

Rolling Meadows' plan identifies a series of “immediate,” “short-term,” and “long-term” actions and strategies to achieve goals in 10 specific categories:

- Climate change,
- Economic development,
- Clean energy,
- Land use,
- Leadership,
- Mobility,
- Municipal operations,
- Sustainable communities,
- Waste and recycling, and,
- Water/storm water sustainability.

Looking Ahead

“Creating a sustainable community requires the participation of the community as a whole,” the Plan states. “While the City as a body politic can set the direction, the tasks of implementing projects that will affect change requires the participation of everyone and every business.”

The City is grateful for the contributions of so many community stakeholders – residents, business owners, and community organizations – whose feedback was essential to the Sustainability Plan's development.

**HUMAN SERVICES DEPARTMENT MISSION:
IMPROVE RESIDENTS' QUALITY OF LIFE**

Rolling Meadows' newly established Human Services Department (HSD) was created to address community-wide demand for 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, PhD, LCPC, announced.



Natalia Nieves

HSD will also strengthen public safety and allow police officers to focus more of their energies on crime prevention and law enforcement by offering a variety of services that help residents cope with challenges before they can spiral into crises requiring police intervention.

"The Human Services Department is designed to provide counseling and assistance before issues such as eviction or hunger turn into tragedies," Dr. Nieves explained. "It's an opportunity to make our community more connected and resilient."

Human Services will address a broad range of community needs in areas such as aging-in-place, mental health, parenting, family violence prevention, financial and computer

literacy, youth- and adult wellness programs, and more.

The department's operating concept was based on the Police Department's former Social Services Division, which helped crime victims and helped connect them with area resources.

Dr. Nieves previously led that program before being named Human Services Director.

Funded by State Grant

The Human Services Department was created with the help of a \$500,000 operating grant from the state of Illinois, secured with the assistance of Senator Ann Gillespie (D-27th).

Later this year, HSD will conduct a strategic planning initiative to chart a path for future programs and services. The goal is to ensure that residents' needs continue to be met as the department grows and establishes itself in the community.

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

CITY RELEASES SCHEDULE OF COMMUNITY EVENTS

It's official: there's a LOT of fun ahead in Rolling Meadows.

The official release of the City's 2024 community events schedule means that we're one step closer to free live music concerts, a summer block party, Independence Day celebrations, annual fall festivals, year-end holiday celebrations, and much, more.

Event dates and schedules are subject to change. Visit www.cityrm.org/669/Community-Events and the City's social media platforms for updates.

COMMUNITY EVENTS CALENDAR

- 5/4: RM Police Family Services Day
- 5/18: RM Public Works Open House
- 5/25: Memorial Day Parade and Ceremony
- 6/7: Block Party on Central Road
- 6/21: Fridays Rock! & Roll in Meadows
- 7/4: 4th of July Parade and Fireworks
- 7/19: Fridays Rock! & Roll in Meadows
- 8/3: Family Movie Night with the RM Cops
- 8/6: RM Police National Night Out
- 8/16: Fridays Rock! & Roll in Meadows
- 9/10: Senior Luncheon
- 9/13: Fridays Rock! and Duck Race
- 10/5: Hometown Hoedown Fall Fest
- 10/12: Fire Department Open House
- 11/8: Veterans Dinner
- 12/5: Holiday Celebration (Tree Lighting)

HUMAN SERVICES DEPARTMENT PRIMARY SERVICE AREAS

Rolling Meadows' new Human Services Department is structured into three divisions to serve 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 (inc. trauma, grief, family, and couple's), 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.

To access department services, contact Dr. Nieves at nievesn@cityrm.org or 847-870-2636.



All meetings take place at City Hall, unless noted.

2/5: Economic Development Committee, 6:00 pm

12/6: Environmental Committee, 6:00 pm; Planning & Zoning Commission, 7:00 pm; Library Board Meeting, 7:00 pm (3110 Martin Lane)

2/8: Adjudication Hearings, 11:00 am (Red light), 1:00 pm (Code), 2:00 pm (Parking)

2/12: Lincoln's Birthday; Board of Fire & Police Commissioners, 8:30 am

2/13: City Council Meeting, 7:00 pm

2/14: Valentine's Day

2/19: President's Day

2/20: Water bills due; CEF Volunteer Committee, 6:00 pm; City Council Committee of the Whole, 7:00 pm

2/22: Washington's Birthday

2/27: Veteran's Committee, 6:00 pm; City Council Meeting, 7:00 pm

NEW EATS!



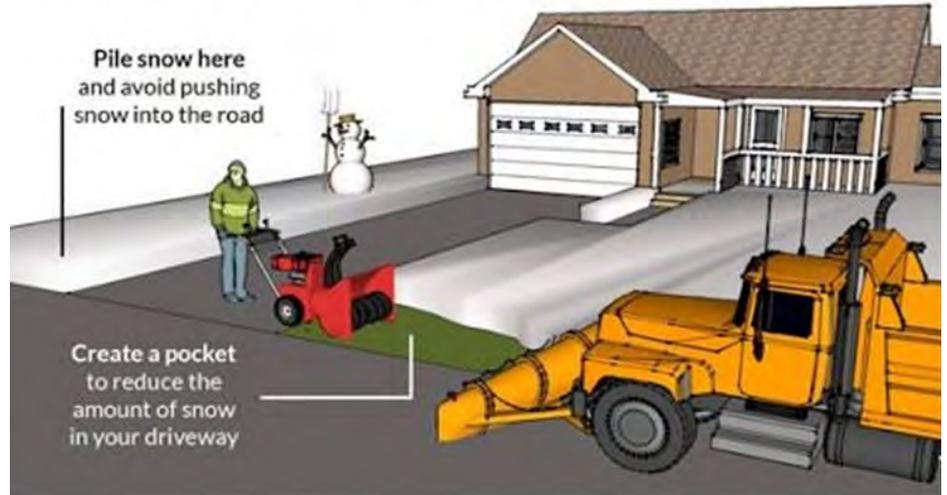
Rolling Meadows welcomes the new Sayulita Mexican restaurant, offering classic dishes with a gourmet flair – including Mexican seafood dishes – in a friendly, vibrant atmosphere. Sayulita also features a wide variety of beverages – everything from margaritas and handcrafted cocktails to beer and tequila.

Visit www.sayulitatequilarbar.com for menus, reservations, hours of operation, and more.

Sayulita
 1655 W. Algonquin Road
 Rolling Meadows
 847-258-4200

How Can I Keep Snow Out of my Driveway?

Before your street has been plowed, we recommend the following:



SNOW REMOVAL PROGRAM IS A TEAM EFFORT

The Public Works Department's ability to completely clear City streets of snow and ice after seasonal storm events is a team effort – and residents play an important role in the program's success.

Following are a few simple ways to help plow drivers deliver faster, more responsive service and ensure overall community safety:

- **Shovel snow to the right side of the driveway as you face the street** – Shoveling snow into the street is counterproductive: it will likely be pushed back onto your driveway by passing plows. It can also cause hazards for drivers and pedestrians.

A better option is to shovel snow to the right side of the driveway (while facing the street) and clear a "pocket" on the left side of the driveway (see diagram). This area will collect snow that accumulates in front of passing plows and limit the amount that ends up back on the driveway.

- **Observe winter parking bans** – Parking on City streets is prohibited for eight hours following a snowfall of at least one inch. This helps plow drivers clear roads more quickly without having to avoid parked vehicles.



Public Works snow plows are a common sight on City streets each winter.

- **Maintain mailboxes** – Mailboxes that have been maintained and are in good condition should withstand the rigors of a typical snow season. Public Works employees conduct visual inspections of residents' mailboxes during initial practice runs and contact customers whose mailboxes need new posts or other repairs. *Note: the City will install a standard replacement mailbox for those hit during snow removal operations. It does not offer reimbursement for mail service interruptions that may occur if a mailbox becomes inaccessible, damaged, knocked over, or buried by accumulated snow.*

CITY SECURES \$50K GRANT FOR EPA-MANDATED WATER SERVICE LINE INVENTORY; PROGRAM TO HELP IDENTIFY, REMOVE ANY LEAD-BASED PLUMBING MATERIALS

The Illinois Environmental Protection Agency has awarded Rolling Meadows a \$50,000 grant to help the City inventory all water service lines that connect homes and businesses to underground water mains, as required by the state's Lead Service Line Replacement and Notification (LSLRN) Act.

The goal of the program is to identify and document any service lines that are made of lead, and then schedule their removal and replacement. Lead is harmful to human health even at low levels and can enter the water supply when lead-based plumbing materials corrode or wear away.

Residential Survey

As part of that effort, the Public Works Department is preparing a community survey for distribution in February that will help utility customers identify what material their water service lines are made of. Recipients may complete the survey on their own or request an inspection by department employees.

"There are no known lead service lines in Rolling Meadows, but this survey is a way to ensure that we protect public health by identifying and replacing any that we may discover," explained



Utilities Superintendent Mark Kilarski.

Surveys will be mailed to all water customers but will also be accessible online. For more information, contact the Public Works Department (pw@cityrm.org or 847-963-0500).

Types of Service Line Materials

How can you identify what your water service line is made of? Inspect the piping that brings water into your home (usually near your water meter) for the following indicators:

- **PVC/Plastic** (safe) is usually black, white, or blue in color.
- **Galvanized steel** (safe) has a dull, silver/gray color and is also magnetic.
- **Copper** (safe) is reddish brown and similar in color/appearance to a penny.
**Copper piping made or installed before 1986 contains high lead levels.*
- **Lead** is silver/gray in color and turns bright silver when scratched with a key, screwdriver, or other tool. Lead does not possess magnetic properties.

For more information on lead, visit the CDC website at www.cdc.gov/nceh/lead/prevention/health-effects.htm.

FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

What is lead?

Lead is a naturally occurring element found in small amounts in the earth's crust. It is toxic to humans and animals. The Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) estimates up to 20% or more of a person's total exposure to lead comes from drinking water. Formula-fed infants can receive 40 percent to 60 percent of their exposure to lead from drinking water.

What are lead's health effects?

Lead is harmful to human health even at low exposure levels. Pregnant women, babies, and young children (ages 6 and under) are most vulnerable. There is no safe exposure to

lead. For more information about the health effects of lead in drinking water, visit the EPA at www.epa.gov/ground-water-and-drinking-water/basic-information-about-lead-drinking-water#health/.

Does Rolling Meadows test for lead in its drinking water?

Yes, the City performs regular testing for lead throughout the distribution system, as required by the Illinois Environmental Protection Agency (IEPA). The results are posted the City's Annual Water Quality report ([available here](#)) and are in full compliance with US and Illinois EPA and standards.



**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

**PLOTS AVAILABLE AS COMMUNITY GARDEN
PREPARES FOR 2024 GROWING SEASON**

Rolling Meadows' Community Garden will begin its 11th growing season this spring and welcomes residents who want to join the fun.

The Community Garden was established in 2014 to help residents to learn more about gardening, encourage community fellowship, and give anyone – especially those who live in apartments and condominiums – an opportunity to “get their hands dirty.”

The garden is located on a City-owned parcel of property near Salt Creek, just north of the Jewel Shopping Center on Kirchoff Road. It features 52 individual plots, each measuring 4' by 8' that residents may use to grow fresh fruits and vegetables, flowers, and other types of plants.

Plots are available for a \$25 annual fee.

For further details and to join, email tomkathy.rmcdgarden@yahoo.com.

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

 www.youtube.com/@cityofrollingmeadows184

**CRIME PREVENTION TIP:
NEVER LEAVE VEHICLES
UNATTENDED WHILE
KEYS ARE INSIDE**

Scenario: It's winter in the Chicago area. You're planning to run errands but notice your vehicle's interior is extremely cold. You decide to start the engine, turn up the heat, and let it warm up in the driveway for a few minutes while you head back inside.

Fact: Criminals are always searching for opportunities to steal cars.

A vehicle left running in the driveway – with keys in the ignition – is, in essence, a FREE CAR.



Solution: NEVER leave keys in your vehicle – even if it's locked. Unless you have an auto-start feature installed, it's never a good idea to leave your car or truck unattended.

For more information, call the RMPD non-emergency number (847-255-2416).

**PACE EXPANDS 'ON
DEMAND' REGIONAL
TRANSIT SERVICE ZONE**

Pace now offers an expanded zone to better serve customers in the Arlington Heights/Rolling Meadows area through Pace On Demand, the company's reservation-based rideshare service.

Popular destinations in the new larger zone include Randhurst Village in Mount Prospect, Mariano's in Arlington Heights, and more.

For details, visit www.PaceBus.com/OnDemand or call 224-803-9277.

