



NEWS

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& Views



March/April 2014

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

Upgraded AA+ Bond Rating Signals Investor Confidence In Rolling Meadows' Financial, Economic Strength

Standard & Poor's Rating Services (S&P) in December upgraded Rolling Meadows' long-term bond rating to AA+, underscoring the agency's confidence in the City's financial flexibility and overall economic strength.

The three-notch upgrade from A+ demonstrates that Rolling Meadows is an increasingly attractive investment option for economic growth and development, Finance Director Melissa Gallagher explains.

"Ratings agencies look favorably on Rolling Meadows as a good place to do business," she explains. "The improved rating allows the City to secure lower interest rates when issuing bonds for economic development or other purposes. This saves us considerable sums of

money when retiring those bonds."

S&P analysts cited a range of factors for the rating upgrade, including the City's:

- **Very strong economy**, which benefits from its participation in the Chicago metropolitan area's "broad and diverse" economy.
- **Very strong budgetary flexibility**, with available general fund reserves at 16.5% of expenditures.
- **Very strong liquidity** that provides very strong cash levels relative to debt service and expenditures.
- **Strong budgetary performance**, reflecting success in achieving General Fund surpluses.
- **Strong management** with good financial policies and practices.



S&P analysts say the City's upgraded bond rating demonstrates its financial flexibility and overall economic strength.

City Manager Barry Krumstok says the City's ratings upgrade places the City on equal financial footing with its much larger neighbors. Both Palatine and Schaumburg – communities more than twice Rolling Meadows' size – are also rated AA+.



February witnessed the launch of e-News & Views.

E-Newsletter Expands City's Coverage of Important News, Information

The February launch of e-News & Views, a sister publication to the printed newsletter sent to homeowners six times per year, enhances the City's ability to provide residents with timely news and information.

Residents may access the electronic newsletter, published in February, April, June, August, October and December, by clicking the "News & Views" icon on the City's Website, www.cityrm.org.

Together, the printed and electronic newsletters keep residents updated on what is happening in Rolling Meadows.

They provide information on important City initiatives, offer status reports on major redevelopment projects, highlight the City's growing business community, and share stories of the people who help make Rolling Meadows "a great place to call home."

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

www.twitter.com/@CityofRM1

Find Us on the Web: www.cityrm.org

City Seeks Resident Volunteers to Ensure Farmers & Food Trucks' Continued Success

Volunteers who help organize this year's Farmers & Food Trucks programs will ensure the continued growth and success of this unique community event, Market Manager Zach Creer reports.

This year's events will take place from 10 a.m. – 2 p.m. on Saturdays, May 24, June 28, July 26, August 23, and September 27th, in the City Hall parking lot.

“There is a growing buzz of excitement surrounding Farmers & Food Trucks that can be nurtured and developed with the help of a few dedicated Rolling Meadows residents,” Creer explains. “Based on the public's response to last year's program, and the growing interest among food and craft vendors who plan to participate this year,

now is a great opportunity to get involved and support the community.”

Residents who would like to volunteer may contact Deb Austerlade at 847-394-8500 or austerladed@cityrm.org.



Guests shop for fresh produce at last year's market.

Guests at this year's events will be able to choose from an array of savory menu items prepared by onsite food trucks, purchase hand-made crafts displayed by local artisans, select locally grown fresh fruits and vegetables, and much more.

Creer expects 2014's Farmers & Food Trucks to be bigger and better. “With the public's help, we will continue expanding Farmers & Food Trucks' appeal to residents in Rolling Meadows and throughout the area,” he says.



Farmers & Food Trucks 2014 Schedule

Saturday, May 24
 Saturday, June 28
 Saturday, July 26
 Saturday, August 23
 Saturday, September 27

All events held 10 a.m. – 2 p.m. in the City Hall parking lot (3600 Kirchoff Road).

Vendors who are interested in joining this year's Farmers & Food Trucks program will find additional information and registration forms on the City's Website, www.cityrm.org.



How Does This Winter 'Measure' Up to Past Years?

- The 33.7 inches of snow that fell at O'Hare International Airport in January 2014 exceeded the previous winter's **total** snowfall of 30.1 inches.
- As of February 19, 67.9 inches of snow had fallen this winter – the fifth-snowiest season on record. (Record: 89.7 inches set in 1978-79).
- February 12 marked the 22nd sub-zero temperature day of the season. (Record: 25 days set in 1884-85).

*Data collected from Murray and Trettel (weathercommand.com) and Chicagoland Weather Center (blog.chicagoweathercenter.com)

Yard Waste Collection Begins March 31; Residents Encouraged to 'Bag It Then Tag It'

When Rolling Meadows' annual yard waste collection program begins Monday, March 31, Public Works crews encourage residents to **BAG IT THEN TAG IT**. The tongue-in-cheek slogan is intended to help residents keep yard waste separate from other household refuse. All it takes is a few simple steps:

1. Place yard waste in 30-gallon kraft paper bags. Roll down the bags' tops to seal them and avoid spillage. This also makes it easier for refuse crews to pick them up.
2. Use a thick marker to TAG the BAG with an X.
3. Place yard waste bags on the opposite side of the driveway – away from household refuse awaiting pick up by City crews (see photo below).

Separating yard waste from other refuse ensures that it is delivered to an environmentally-friendly composting facility for processing instead of the landfill.

Assistant Public Works Director Bob Hartnett says it also helps make City refuse collection services even more efficient.

“Many of our residents use kraft paper bags for household garbage, then place them by the curb alongside bags filled with yard waste,” he explains. “Often, Public Works employees cannot determine what kind of waste the bag contains unless they stop to look. That slows down collection services over the course of nearly 1,000 daily stops and reduces operational efficiencies.”



Business Spotlight Grande Jake's Popularity Precedes Rolling Meadows Grand Opening

Jacob Rodriguez saw "tremendous opportunity" when he decided to open a new Grande Jake's Fresh Mexican Grill in Rolling Meadows. After its doors opened in December, he was surprised – and very honored – to learn that many of the City's residents already called themselves customers.

"In talking with our guests these past few months, we discovered that many of them have been regular customers at our Buffalo Grove location," he explains. "That was a wonderful surprise. We are so happy to be part of the Rolling Meadows community. Business has been fantastic since we opened," he adds.

Grande Jake's, located at 5500 New Wilke Road, offers "fresh Mexican food fast." Guests will find a diverse menu of authentic Mexican dishes – everything from specialty tacos and fajitas to burritos and quesadillas. The menu also offers an assortment of burgers and hot dogs, appetizers, soups, salads and beverages.

"We pride ourselves on serving fresh, delicious food and providing fast,

friendly service," Rodriguez says. "Our restaurant provides a comfortable family atmosphere where people can come for dinner or a quick tasty lunch, or phone-in an order for pick-up. We also offer catering services."



Grande Jake's ceremonial ribbon-cutting took place on a frigid January day.

Just three months after opening, Rodriguez already has big plans for his new Rolling Meadows location. Grande Jake's will soon expand seating with the

addition of an outdoor patio. Meanwhile, Rodriguez is making preparations for the restaurant's *Cinco de Mayo* celebration.

He also seeks opportunities to donate food or gift certificates in support of local fundraising activities and other community initiatives. "We see ourselves as members of this community. I love being asked to help," Rodriguez adds.

Rodriguez is most proud of the fact that Grande Jakes is a family business. He and his wife, Georgia, are continuing in the footsteps of his parents, who owned several Mexican restaurants in Chicago and the suburbs. He is extremely grateful to his employees, who have helped him open restaurants in Lindenhurst, Antioch, Buffalo Grove and Rolling Meadows over the last 15 years.

"We would not have been able to do this if it were not for the families who have worked with us all these years," Jake says. "They have been so critical to our success."

For more information, call 847-483-9200 or visit www.grandejakes.com.

Rebuilt Golf/New Wilke Intersection, New Lanes Now Open

A 10-month Illinois Department of Transportation (IDOT) project to rebuild the intersection at Golf and New Wilke Roads is essentially complete, with all new lanes re-opened and new traffic signals installed.

City and state officials expect the \$5.3 million project – funded by federal and state grants – to significantly improve traffic flow in an area traveled by roughly 70,000 vehicles each day. Construction crews rebuilt and widened nearly 2,000 feet of Golf Road to create an additional lane in each direction, as well as an

extra turn lane for eastbound vehicles turning left onto New Wilke. A new traffic signal helps improve traffic flow through the intersection.

In addition, the City was able to use \$50,000 in funding from the Illinois' Department of Commerce and Economic Opportunity (DCEO) to widen a significant portion of the north/south bike path on New Wilke Road. Final details, such as area landscaping, and additional traffic signal activation and pavement improvements, will be completed later this spring.

Open House to Celebrate Senior Center Renovations

The Rolling Meadows Golden Years Council will kick-off a year-long celebration of its 30th anniversary Thursday, March 27, 6 – 8 p.m., with an Open House at the renovated Rolling Meadows Senior Center, 3705 Pheasant Drive.

For more information, call 847-818-3205 or visit www.rmparks.org.

Welcome New Businesses

Digital Optics – Optics research
1645 Hicks Rd, Ste H (847-358-2592)

Integra Benefits Inc. –
Health & life insurance
3501 Algonquin Rd, #240 (800-265-7977)

Panera Bread – Restaurant
1321 Golf Rd (847-596-3601)

RMZ Consulting –
Freelance writing/public relations
4002 Walnut Ct (847-303-0285)

Revolution-X – Soccer trainer/team shirts
2803 Hawk Ln (847-385-1105)

Siena Digital –
Video production & Web design
2260 Hicks Rd, #405 (847-969-2100)

State Farm – Insurance
3501 Algonquin Rd, #510 (847-873-0048)

Zhone Technologies –
Telecomm equipment/support
1701 Golf Rd. (T3) #108 (847-593-4430)

March 2014

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
						1
2	3 Casimir Pulaski Day	4 Economic Development Committee , 6 p.m. Environmental Committee , 7 p.m. Plan Commission , 7:30 p.m., all at City Hall	5	6 Adjudication Hearing , (Parking), 2 p.m., City Hall	7	8 Rotary Club of Rolling Meadows' St. Patrick's Day Dinner/Auction , 6-10:30 p.m. (3705 Pheasant Drive)
9 Daylight Saving Time begins... move clocks ahead one hour. Change batteries in smoke and carbon monoxide detectors.	10 Board of Fire & Police Commissioners , 9 a.m., City Hall	11 Crime Stoppers , 5:30 p.m. City Council Meeting , 8 p.m., both at City Hall	12	13 Adjudication Hearing , 1 p.m., City Hall	14	15
16	17 St. Patrick's Day	18 City Council Committee of the Whole , 7:30 p.m., City Hall Illinois Primary Election . Visit cookcountyclerk.com for polling places.	19	20 Adjudication Hearing , (Red Light), 2 p.m., City Hall Water bills due First Day of Spring	21	22
23	24	25 Community Forum : Fire Station Relocation, 6 p.m. City Council Meeting , 7:30 p.m., both at City Hall	26	27 Rolling Meadows Senior Center Open House , 6-8 p.m. (3705 Pheasant Drive) Community Forum : Fire Station Relocation, 6 p.m. Fogarty Fire Station (3111 Meadow Dr.)	28	29
30	31					

April 2014

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
Monday, March 31 Early refuse setout ends. Place refuse at the curb after 6 p.m. the day prior to scheduled pickup. Yard waste collection begins.		1 Economic Development Committee , 6 p.m. Environmental Committee , 7 p.m. Plan Commission , 7:30 p.m., all at City Hall	2 Zoning Board of Appeals , 7:30 p.m., City Hall	3 Adjudication Hearing (Parking), 2 p.m., City Hall	4	5
6	7 Board of Fire & Police Commissioners , 9 a.m., City Hall	8 Crime Stoppers , 5:30 p.m. Community Forum : Fire Station Relocation, 6 p.m. City Council Meeting , 7:30 p.m., all at City Hall	9 Urban Affairs Committee , 5:45 p.m., City Hall	10 Adjudication Hearing , 1 p.m., City Hall Community Forum : Fire Station Relocation, 6 p.m. Fogarty Fire Station (3111 Meadow Dr.)	11	12
13	14	15 City Council Committee of the Whole , 7:30 p.m., City Hall Passover	16	17 Fire Pension Board , 8:30 a.m., Fogarty Fire Station (3111 Meadow Drive) Adjudication Hearing , (Red Light), 2 p.m., City Hall	18	19
20	21 Water bills due	22 City Council Meeting , 7:30 p.m., City Hall	23	24	25	26
Easter		Earth Day			Arbor Day	
27	28	29	30			

City Joins Efforts to Develop County-Wide Hazard Response Plan



Rolling Meadows' participation in the development of a county-wide hazard mitigation plan will enhance its ability to respond to natural disasters and improve residents' safety, City Manager Barry Krumstok reports.

The program, overseen by the Cook County Department of Homeland Security and Emergency Management, will help county officials identify areas where residents may be most vulnerable. Participating communities are eligible for federal funding that may be used to proactively reduce the risk of damage caused by natural dis-

asters such as flooding, drought, earthquakes, tornadoes, and dam or levee failures.

The program also seeks input from residents through a short, anonymous online survey that allows them to share how natural disasters have affected them in the past. To access the survey, visit www.surveymonkey.com/s/CookCountyHazMit.

"We encourage residents to take the survey and ensure that Rolling Meadows is represented in this process," Krumstok explains. "It only takes about 10 minutes and is completely anonymous. No personal information is collected."

For more information on the Cook County hazard Mitigation Plan, visit www.cookcountyhomelandsecurity.org.

Public Meetings to Review Proposed Fire Station Relocation Plans

A series of upcoming public meetings to discuss proposals for moving the Rolling Meadows Fire Department's two fire stations will help City leaders determine the best option for ensuring the Department continues to meet the changing needs of the community, Fire Chief Scott Franzgrote reports.

The meetings will take place at 6 p.m. on Tuesdays, March 25 and April 8 (at City Hall), and Thursdays, March 27 and April 10 (at the Thomas Fogarty Fire Station, 3111 Meadow Drive).

"The decisions we make over the next several months will most likely impact the Fire Department's operations for the next 50 years," says Chief Franzgrote, who will lead the discussions. "These community meetings will provide residents with information on each option being considered, and help us explain why something must be done to ensure the Fire Department is positioned to

continue providing the highest levels of service."



Proposed station relocation plans are aimed at ensuring the Fire Department is able to meet the needs of a growing community.

The meetings will review the three options currently being discussed by City officials:

- **Relocate both fire stations** – Moving the Fogarty Fire Station (Station 15) further south and the Neuckranz Fire Station (Station 16, 2455 Plum Grove Road) further east would realign the two fire stations in a manner that is

more appropriate to the City's geographical layout, population density, risk profile and service demand levels.

- **Relocate Station 15 only** – Finding a suitable new location for Station 15, while leaving Station 16 in its current spot, would also improve the Fire Department's ability to better meet the needs of the community it serves.
- **Repair/Rebuild Station 15 at its current location** – Rebuilding Station 15 at its existing location would address worsening problems with the building's structural integrity, but would not alleviate concerns over the amount of time it takes to reach the southeastern portions of the City. Completing these repairs will require a substantial financial investment.

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

Detectors Limit Risk of Carbon Monoxide Poisoning



Scott Franzgrote

After a January incident where excessive carbon monoxide (CO) levels sent four residents to area hospitals, the Rolling Meadows Fire Department urges residents to check all carbon monoxide detectors in their homes to make sure they are in proper working condition.

"Make sure your carbon monoxide detector is working and test it once per month," Fire Chief Scott Franzgrote says. "If you do not have a carbon monoxide detector, go buy one. It could save your life." Illinois law requires that all homes – single and multi-family units – have a carbon monoxide detector within 15 feet of every sleeping room.

Known as the "silent killer," carbon monoxide is a colorless, odorless gas produced by burning fuels such as oil, kerosene, natural gas and wood. It is the leading cause of poisoning deaths in the United States, according to the National Fire Protection Association (NFPA).



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

Setting Priorities Helps Council, Staff Put City's Fiscal House in Order

by Mayor Tom Rooney

One of the most interesting things about public service is getting credit or being blamed for things that we really have no control over. That's not a complaint; it usually balances out, and it's part of being in this business.

The City's "fiscal house," though, is something that's **completely** within our control. A couple of years ago in this space, I explained how City Council established the goal of improving our financial situation. Now, there is real proof of significant progress in that area.

The City's bond rating was recently upgraded – that's right, **upgraded** – from A+ to AA+ by Standard & Poor's. That doesn't seem to happen much these days. We hear so much about the

State of Illinois, City of Chicago and so many other units of government being downgraded that it has almost become the norm.

Just like a person's credit score, the City's bond rating doesn't just happen. It is built by decisions. Improving it requires effort and a consistent pattern of choosing responsibility over the quick-fix. It requires the setting of priorities by the Council, and the discipline and commitment exhibited by the Staff.

Everything may not be completely rosy in our town yet, but the bond rating is a good measure of how we're doing with the kinds of things we really control. And we measured up!

'Tickets' at Core of Innovative Program to Support PD's Community Outreach Programs

The Rolling Meadows Police Department and tix4cause, a Web-based ticket exchange, have partnered on an innovative program that leverages the convenience of online ticket purchasing to raise money for the Department's community outreach efforts.

Residents who are planning to purchase theater, concert, sports or other tickets may visit www.tix4cause.com to choose from a wide range of events across the country. Select "Rolling Meadows Police

Social Service Outreach" as the beneficiary from the Website's pull-down menu.

Once the tickets have been purchased, tix4cause will donate 7.5% of the total purchase price directly to the Police Department. The Department also benefits when customers want to sell tickets they already have. When users donate tickets on behalf of the Police Department to tix4cause, the Police Department receives 90% of the resale price. Ticket donations are tax-deductible.

"The Police Department's partnership with tix4cause is a simple, effective way to support important programs that help build a stronger community," explains Social Services Outreach Specialist Natalia Mercado.

In particular, Natalia hopes to raise \$3,000 for the Police Department's summer camp that begins in June. The camp includes weekly outings to the pool and library, field trips to explore downtown Chicago, and more for children ages 8 – 12.



Lincoln Park Zoo was one of many trips the children enjoyed during last summer's camp program.



Residents enjoy 2013's Independence Day Parade.

Support Community Events Foundation

Tax-deductible donations to the Rolling Meadows Community Events Foundation have raised more than \$20,000 to help offset the costs of staging City-sponsored events throughout the year.

Contributions support the City's Memorial Day observance, annual veterans' dinner, Independence Day festivities and holiday tree lighting, as well as ongoing maintenance for the Rolling Meadows Historical Museum.

Residents and businesses interested in contributing should make checks payable to *Rolling Meadows Community Events Foundation* and submit them to:

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

Community Painting Program to Assist Homeowner in Need

Members of the City's Urban Affairs Committee have partnered with Northrop Grumman and J.C. Licht/Epcos Painting and Decorating Center to paint the home of a Rolling Meadows resident in need this summer.

The program is open to qualified homeowners who are unable to perform the work themselves, due to physical limitations or limited financial resources. Residents interested in applying to have their home's exterior painted may send an email describing their situation to Deb Austerlade (austerladed@cityrm.org) by June 30. All applications will be reviewed by members of the Urban Affairs Committee.