



eNEWS

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& Views



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

Rolling Meadows Recognized for ‘Outstanding’ National Night Out

National Night Out was celebrated by nearly 40 million people in 16,728 communities worldwide last year, but Rolling Meadows was one of only 191 selected as a National Award Winner by the National Association of Town Watch (NATW).

NATW recognized the Rolling Meadows Police Department for its “outstanding participation in the 32nd annual National Night Out,” wrote Matt A. Peskin,



National Night Out helps build trust between police officers and the residents they serve.

NATW’s National Project Coordinator, in a letter to Commander Tom Gadomski. “We extend our congratulations for being selected among the nation’s best. We salute you and your community for a job well done,” he added.

National Night Out promotes community spirit and focuses attention on local law enforcement efforts. Residents who attend Rolling Meadows’ celebrations have enjoyed:

- Games, giveaways, and free snacks.
- Law enforcement vehicle displays and the Air One rescue helicopter.
- Headlining performances by the Jesse White Tumblers.
- Special appearances by the Chicago Bears Drum Line, sports mascots Staley Da Bear and the Chicago Wolves’ Skates, and much more.



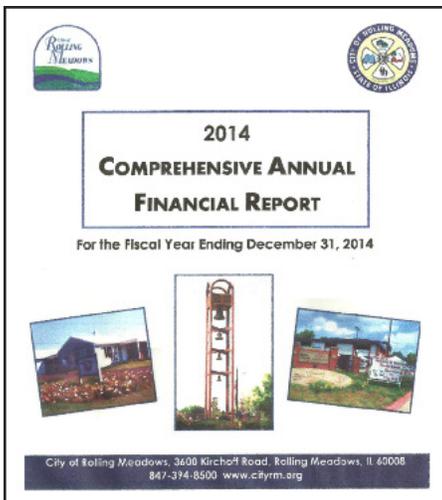
Chicago Bears mascot, Staley, is a regular at Rolling Meadows’ National Night Out events.

“National Night Out fosters a true sense of community by bringing residents and police officers together for an evening of fun,” Cmdr. Gadomski says. “It’s a great opportunity to reach out to families, and build relationships that help us improve our services and the City’s quality of life.”

Mark your calendars:

This year’s National Night Out will take place Tuesday, August 2nd.

29th Consecutive GFOA Accounting Award Reinforces City’s Commitment to Excellence



Independent auditors determined the City’s 2014 CAFR met the highest standards of government accounting.

The Government Finance Officers Association of the United States and Canada (GFOA) has awarded Rolling Meadows a 29th consecutive Certificate of Achievement for Excellence in Financial Reporting for its Fiscal Year 2014 Comprehensive Annual Financial Report (CAFR).

The award recognizes the City’s commitment to budgetary transparency and full financial disclosure, following an annual review of Rolling Meadows’ accounting processes for the prior year by independent financial professionals.

Auditors determined the CAFR meets “the highest standards of the program,”

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Rolling Meadows' Ash Tree Removal Program Ahead of Schedule

The City's multi-year program to remove and replace ash trees ravaged by the Emerald Ash Borer Beetle (EAB) is ahead of schedule, with removals currently on pace to be completed by the end of 2016, Rolling Meadows Forester Graham Strebler reports.

Public Works has already removed

more than 1,500 of the approximately 2,500 ash trees located on residential parkways, easements, and other City-owned land. More than 700 of those removals occurred last year – five years after EAB was first confirmed in Rolling Meadows.

“We have accelerated our removal efforts due to the ongoing deterioration of the infested trees,” Strebler explains. “In most situations, ash trees are able to withstand the damage caused by EAB for a few years before they become a public safety threat. Now, we’ve reached the point where many of those trees must be removed to prevent falling tree limbs from injuring residents or causing property damage.”

The non-native beetle, small and shiny green in appearance, is responsible for the deaths of more than 50 million ash trees throughout North America. Beetle larvae feed on an ash tree's outer sapwood, which cuts off the flow of water to its top branches and eventually kills the tree.

New Plantings Replace Dying Ash Trees
Strebler has worked diligently over the past several years to catalog City ash

trees for removal before they pose a threat to public safety. He also oversees a multi-year City program to replace trees lost to EAB infestation. New tree plantings are again scheduled for this spring and fall.

This year's replacement program will feature up to 40 different species that

are available to replace dying ash trees. The new, 1.5-inch trunk diameter trees are planted at no charge to homeowners. The City offers residents who lose parkway trees the opportunity to purchase larger replacement trees, if desired.

Prior to the EAB's spread, ash trees comprised around 25% of trees planted on City-owned land. In the 1970s, ash trees were viewed favorably as a low-cost option for communities seeking to replace trees lost to Dutch elm disease. Strebler points out that EAB's arrival three decades later underscored the importance of species diversity to prevent excessive loss.



The Emerald Ash Borer has destroyed more than 50 million trees throughout North America.

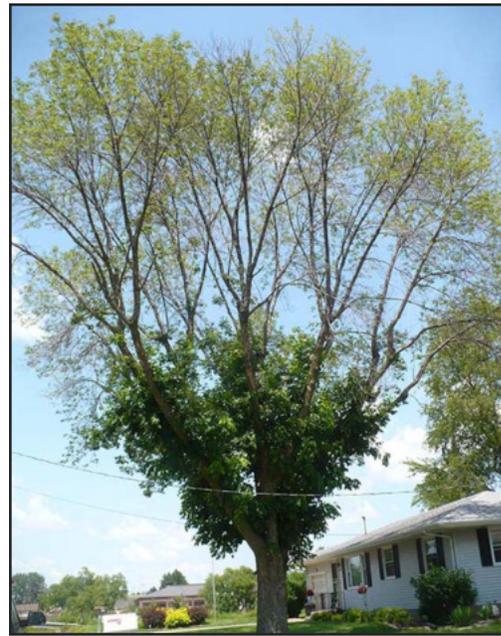
“Planting a variety of different types of trees is essential for creating a healthy urban forest,” Strebler says. “To limit the risks of future invasive threats, such as EAB, that can wipe out a significant portion of our trees, we make sure a particular tree species does not exceed 10% of the City's total population.”

Strebler estimates all new tree plantings will be complete by late 2017.

Trees on Private Property Also at Risk
Rolling Meadows' tree removal and replacement program does not cover ash trees located on private property, park lands, and wooded areas. Strebler encourages homeowners to watch for evidence of the EAB's presence: (1) damage to upper branches, (2) unusual woodpecker damage, (3) growth of new “sucker”

branches near the base of a tree's trunk, or (4) “D”-shaped holes on a tree's trunk.

Rolling Meadows ordinance allows the City to charge property owners for the removal of stricken ash trees that pose a danger to public safety. Residents with questions or concerns about trees located on their property may contact Public Works at 847-963-0500.



Upper branch damage and unusual leaf growth along extending branches are tell-tale signs of EAB infestation.

29th Consecutive GFOA Accounting Award ...continued from page 1



and demonstrates “a constructive spirit of full disclosure” that clearly communicates Rolling Meadows' finances, according to a GFOA news release.

“The audit process reinforces the City's culture of openness and financial transparency, which encourages staff to continually identify ways to improve our operations,” Finance Director Melissa Gallagher explains. “The GFOA's Certificate

of Achievement is the highest form of recognition in the area of governmental accounting. We are extremely proud to continue Rolling Meadows' nearly three decades of award-winning excellence.”

The GFOA is a nonprofit professional association serving nearly 18,000 government finance professionals. The Association's Certificate of Achievement recognizes excellence among government units and public employee retirement systems. For more information, visit www.gfoa.org.

City Founder's Family Member Wins 60th Anniversary Commemorative Quilt Raffle

Diane Hill, daughter-in-law of Rolling Meadows founder Kimball Hill, was the winner of a beautiful handstitched quilt that was raffled off at the Senior Center's December luncheon.

The queen-sized commemorative quilt, called "Streets of Rolling Meadows," was made by a group of 16 senior residents who meet monthly to craft and quilt. Group members sold raffle tickets at each of last year's special 60th Anniversary events, which raised money for a college scholarship to be awarded to a Rolling Meadows High School student in May.

"A lot of time, effort, and love went into creating that quilt," says Park District Senior Activities Coordinator Jan Nowotarski. "It is entirely fitting that the winner of the 60th Anniversary quilt is a family member of Rolling Meadows' founder."

Special thanks to the residents who spent nearly a year creating the 60th Anniversary quilt: Betty Anderson, Gloria Anzalone, Jean Brockway, Virginia Gauger,



Diane Hill, daughter-in-law of Rolling Meadows founder Kimball Hill, displays the "Streets of Rolling Meadows" commemorative quilt.

Alice Ireland, Gwynne Johnson, Joan Kuhn, Christine Kwiczen, Marina Lund, Marion Morrissey, Marion Olson, Ethel Otto, Joan Russell, Beverly Shandor, Joan Simeon, and Pat Smith.

Richards Building Supply to Occupy, Revitalize Vacant Industrial Property

Richards Building Supply Co., a wholesale distributor of residential and commercial building materials, will relocate its northwest suburban operations to Rolling Meadows later this year, after its purchase of a 52,000 sq. ft. property on Industrial Avenue that has stood vacant for more than five years.

The company, which outgrew its current Palatine location, plans to invest nearly \$500,000 to upgrade the facility, creating nearly 40 construction jobs. It will move

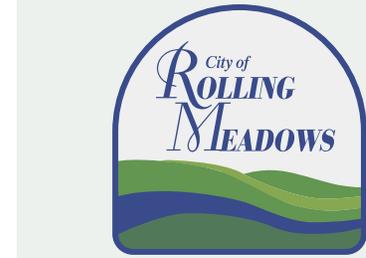
15 full-time employees to Rolling Meadows once the upgrades are complete, and announced plans to expand its workforce by roughly 25% over the next few years.

In December, City Council approved a resolution supporting the company's efforts to obtain a Class 6b Tax incentive from Cook County. 6b is an economic development tool used to revitalize vacant properties by temporarily reducing their property tax rates.

March 1st Meeting to Focus on Home Flood Mitigation Strategies

The March 1st meeting of the Rolling Meadows Environmental Committee will cover several tips homeowners may use to help reduce the risk of home flooding. Members of the public are welcome to attend.

A representative from Christopher B. Burke Engineering will discuss rain barrels, yard grading, and other strategies to keep rain water where it belongs – outside – and limit its ability to enter residents' homes.



This Month in Rolling Meadows

February 2nd: **Economic Development Committee**, 6 pm, **Environmental Committee**, 7 pm; **Plan Commission**, 7:30 pm, all at City Hall

February 4th: **Adjudication Hearing (Parking)**, 2 pm, City Hall

February 8th: **Board of Fire & Police Commissioners**, 9 am, City Hall

February 9th: **City Council Meeting**, 7:30 pm, City Hall

February 10th: **Crime Stoppers**, 5:30 pm, City Hall

February 11th: **Adjudication Hearing**, 1 pm, City Hall

February 12th: **Abraham Lincoln's Birthday**

February 14th: **Valentine's Day**

February 15th: **President's Day**

February 16th: **City Council Committee of the Whole**, 7:30 pm, City Hall

February 18th: **Adjudication Hearing (Red Light)**, 2 pm, City Hall

February 22nd: **George Washington's Birthday, Water bills due**

February 23rd: **City Council Meeting**, 7:30 pm, City Hall

The Environmental Committee meets the first Tuesday of each month, 7 p.m., at City Hall.

For more information, contact the Public Works Department at 847-963-0500.

Holiday Open House Draws Generations to City's Historical Museum

Residents of all ages witnessed first-hand how people celebrated the holidays in the mid-20th century, during the Historical Society's January 10th Open House at the Rolling Meadows Historical Museum.



and 1960s holiday décor, drew curious looks from younger guests as they learned more about the City's early days.

Attendees also enjoyed cookies baked by Historical Society members,

and took home a variety of raffle giveaways – cookbooks, ornaments, Museum novelties, and more.

Aluminum trees on display in the Museum's living room and educational center, along with other authentic 1950s



The Education Center is housed in the museum's "garage."

"Society members were incredibly pleased with the turnout, which far exceeded our expectations," explained Public Works Director Fred Vogt, who currently serves as Historical Society President. "The Education Center was packed wall-to-wall with guests. We really appreciate everyone who took the time to visit."

The Rolling Meadows Historical Museum is open Sundays, 1 – 4 p.m. Group tours are available by appointment. For more information, call 847-577-7086.



The Museum's interior recreates the look and feel of 1950s-era Rolling Meadows. Authentic mid-20th century décor adorns the kitchen and living room (pictured), and other spaces throughout the house.



Rotary Club's St. Patrick's Day Dinner to Offer Grand Prize Jackpot

The winner of a grand prize jackpot worth up to \$2,500 at the Rotary Club of Rolling Meadows' 16th annual St. Patrick's Day Dinner and Auction next month will need more than the "Luck of the Irish." He or she must also purchase a ticket to the event!

This year's celebration will take place Saturday, March 12th, 6 – 10 p.m., at the Rolling Meadows Community Center (3705 Pheasant Drive). Guests will enjoy a traditional Irish-American menu of corned beef, cabbage, and chicken; an open bar

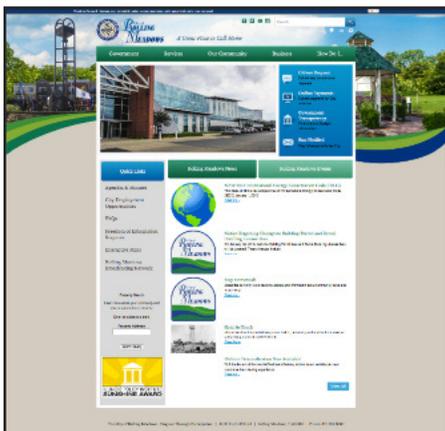
offering beer, wine, and soft drinks; and festive Irish music and dancing.



Dinner tickets are \$30 per person. Proceeds from the event will help Rotary support programs that benefit the Rolling Meadows community. Total sales will determine the amount of the grand prize raffle.

For more information, or to purchase tickets, contact Park District Director Amy Charlesworth (acharlesworth@rmparks.org) or Public Works Director Fred Vogt (vogt@cityrm.org).

Report Problems, Submit Service Requests through City's Website



Rolling Meadows' re-designed, upgraded website offers powerful online tools that allow residents to report problems and submit requests for residential services 24 hours a day, seven days a week.

Visit www.cityrm.org and click "Citizen Request" to notify City officials of potholes, broken sidewalks, missing street signs, and a host of other issues. Online submissions are immediately directed to the appropriate City personnel for follow-up.

"The website uses Request Tracker, a tracking system that improves customer

service by streamlining work processes," explains IT Coordinator Justin Chiappetta. "It enables residents to report non-emergency situations at all hours, which improves the City's ability to deliver faster, more effective services."

The "Citizen Request" link is available on every page of the redesigned website, making it simple and convenient for residents to access the Citizen Request form. It is located on the right side of the home page (pictured at left), and on the left side of all interior pages.

Newly-Licensed Medical Marijuana Dispensary Hosts Open House

Nature's Care Company, a state-licensed medical marijuana dispensary based in Rolling Meadows, welcomed City officials and the public to an open house of its Rohlwing Road facility in January, just days before the company officially opened for business.

Guests enjoyed guided tours of the facility, an open bar featuring wine and beer, and a catered buffet. The event allowed company officials to provide information on Nature's Care services available to registered patients.

In 2014, Illinois became the 22nd state to approve cannabis for medical use. The following year, City Council approved a permit allowing Nature's Care Company to establish a dispensary in Rolling Meadows.

Currently, Nature's Care Company is one of 24 state-regulated dispensaries that are licensed to provide medically-prescribed cannabis to patients with epilepsy, multiple sclerosis, ALS (Lou Gehrig's Disease), cancer, Crohn's Disease, and other debilitating illnesses.



Guests mingle during Nature's Care Company's January 19th Open House.

Illinois Suspends Annual License Plate Renewal Notification Program

The Illinois Secretary of State's Office has suspended mailings of license plate sticker renewal reminders to motorists, due to the ongoing budget impasse in Springfield. That means drivers must remember to renew their current license plate stickers before they expire.

In past years, renewal notices sent by U.S. mail or email included a personal

registration ID and PIN number that drivers used to order new stickers online. With the program on hold, more drivers may end up purchasing renewal stickers in person – either at the Secretary of State's Office or at local currency exchanges.

Residents who prefer to renew their plates online may contact the Public

Inquiry Division at 800-252-8980 to obtain their Registration ID and PIN number. To request renewal reminders by email, visit www.cyberdriveillinois.com.

According to the Secretary of State's website, suspension of the registration reminder notifications saves Illinois approximately \$450,000 per month.

Progress Through Participation: Serve on City Boards, Commissions

Rolling Meadows' motto is "Progress through Participation," which is exemplified by the work of many volunteer boards and commissions that play an important role in making the City a great place to live.

Periodic vacancies on the City's Economic Development Committee, Plan Commission, Zoning Board of Appeals, and other

committees offer residents an opportunity to contribute. It's also a way to learn more about municipal government and public service.

Residents who would like to be considered for future board vacancies may email Mayor Tom Rooney at mayor@cityrm.org, or write to City Hall (3600 Kirchoff Road).

Annual Holiday Light Recycling Program Runs Through February 12th

Residents have until Friday, February 12th to take advantage of a free program that helps ensure the safe disposal of old holiday lights, electrical cords, and wire.

The program, developed by the Solid Waste Agency of Northern Cook County (SWANCC) and Elgin Recycling, lets Rolling Meadows residents drop off materials for recycling at a collection box outside City Hall (3600 Kirchoff Road). Acceptable items include:

- Incandescent and LED lights (all sizes, lengths, and colors).
- Extension cords.
- Household cords/wiring.
- Computer wire/cords.

The City cannot accept garland, live greens, wreaths, or other non-recyclables.

For more details, visit www.swancc.org or www.elginrecycling.com.



Holiday lights fill the City Hall collection box.

Illinois Policy Institute Lauds City for Transparency, Accountability

Rolling Meadows ranks among the top tier of state municipalities for its commitment to operational transparency and taxpayer accountability, according to the nonprofit Illinois Policy Institute, which named the City the latest recipient of its Sunshine Award.

The award has been presented to just 76 local government-

ent entities throughout Illinois. Rolling Meadows is one of only nine to earn a perfect rating, following a comprehensive review of City policies and protocols.

According to the Illinois Policy Institute's website, Sunshine Award recipients:

- Ensure that elected officials and senior administrators are available to the public.



- Provide open, accessible financial information to clearly account for how taxpayer dollars are spent.

- Prioritize online transparency.

- Encourage citizens to take an active role in local government's decision-making process.

"In a state with a well-deserved reputation for secrecy and corruption, I'm pleased to confirm that Rolling Meadows is a model for openness and transparency," Mayor Tom Rooney said. "This award is a testament to the dedication of our elected officials and City staff, who understand the importance of being accountable to those we serve."

For more information on the Sunshine Award, please visit www.illinoispolicy.org.

Police Department Offers Simple Tips to Prevent Home, Car Burglaries

Even in the safest communities, unlocked front doors or valuables left lying on a car's front seat offer inviting opportunities for thieves. Don't become a victim. Protect yourself by minimizing the potential for criminal behavior:

Prevent Car Burglaries

- Park vehicles in well-lit areas or in a garage.
- Avoid leaving valuables, such as cell

phones and purses, in plain view. Take them with you or lock them in the trunk so they are out of sight.

- Lock your vehicle.
- Never leave vehicles unattended with the engine running. It takes only seconds for someone to take something from inside – or steal the vehicle!

Home Safety/Security

- Lock all doors when leaving the house.

- Use timers for interior lights when gone for an extended period.
- Stop mail and newspaper delivery while away. A pile of newspapers at the bottom of the driveway is a clear indicator to would-be thieves that no one is home.
- Never allow solicitors or strangers claiming to be utility workers into your home unless you contacted them. They could be con artists trying to rob you.

Welcome New Businesses

Arc Church International –
Church assembly
4801 Emerson #112 (847-845-5165)

Bonaventure Medical Foundation –
Medical office
1669 Algonquin Rd (847-981-1959)

Boost Mobile – Cell phone sales/repair
3995 Algonquin Rd (224-801-8918)

CrossFit Red Star – CrossFit gym
2255 Lois Dr #5 (224-201-1762)

Evolvz Massage & Bodyworks –
Massage therapy
1931 Rohlwing Rd (815-404-7373)

Great Lakes Roofing & Siding –
General contractor
5105 Tollview #199 (224-489-5740)

Nature's Care Company –
Medical cannabis dispensary
975 Rohlwing Rd (847-754-4955)

OHS Construction –
Roofing & siding office
3951 Emerson (773-392-5937)

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.* 224-639-6686
6th Ward Alderman: *John D'Astice* 847-409-9367
7th Ward Alderman: *Tim Veenbaas* 847-385-1425
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
Senior Handyman Program 847-506-6030
ComEd 1-800-EDISON-1
Curfew . . . Sun. – Thurs. 11 p.m.; Fri. & Sat. Midnight



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www.twitter.com/@CityofRMI

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