



NEWS

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& Views

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

January/February 2017

City's Prime Location, Economic Development Efforts Support Golf Road Corporate Resurgence

Arthur J. Gallagher's arrival at the company's new Rolling Meadows headquarters on Golf Road later this year will represent the latest in a string of economic development success stories that have transformed the area over the past five years.

Companies have leased nearly 1.4 million square feet of Golf Road office space in Rolling Meadows since 2012, drawn by the City's prime northwest suburban location and business-friendly environment. In fact, nine of the City's "Top 12" employers identified by the Chamber of Commerce are located along the Golf Road corridor.

Key to this ongoing economic development success is the Community Development Department (CDD), which provides a wide range of services and acts as a partner for companies seeking to join the Rolling Meadows business community.

"Time is money for the types of corporate enterprises who have been putting down roots in Rolling Meadows at an increasing rate," Community Development Director Valerie Dehner explained. "Their primary goal is to find ideal office space and move in as quickly as possible. We help them do that."



Arthur J. Gallagher will begin operating from its new Golf Road corporate headquarters later this year.

CDD works with companies to secure building permits, schedule inspections and, if necessary, petition for zoning changes. This guidance helps businesses

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Expanded Community Events Calendar to Feature 'Taste' of Rolling Meadows, Friday Night Concerts at Kimball Hill Park

A Taste of Chicago-inspired food and drink experience, and a summer concert series in Kimball Hill Park will join an expanded slate of Rolling Meadows community events in 2017.



Taste the Town – Enjoy fine food, wine, and beer served by some of Rolling Meadows' finest establishments. This indoor event will take place Saturday, March 4th, 6 – 9 p.m., at the Rolling Meadows Community Center (3705 Pheasant Drive).

FRIDAYS 'ROCK' & Roll in Meadows – Friday nights will "rock" in more ways than one this summer, with live music performances at Kimball Hill Park. Raise your fists and mark your calendars for Fridays, June 16th, July 7th, and Septem-

ber 8th. Performers will be announced in the weeks leading up to each show.

Details on these events will be featured in upcoming issues of *News & Views*, and on the City's website and social media.

The new activities join more established events – such as Farmers & Food Trucks, Wine Down by the Creek, and National Night Out – that continue to generate growing interest from residents of all ages each year.

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Contact City Officials: City Hall Hours: 8 a.m. to 4 p.m. Monday-Friday

MAYOR and CITY COUNCIL

Acting Mayor/7th Ward Alderman:

- Tim Veenbaas 847-385-1425
- 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
- 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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Find Us on the Web: www.cityrm.org



Voters to Select New Mayor, Council Members During April 4th Election

Rolling Meadows residents who vote in this spring's Consolidated General Election will determine City Council's makeup for the next two years.

Local offices on the April 4th ballot will include:

- **Mayor** – candidates will vie to complete the final two years of the current four-year mayoral term.
- **Aldermen** – candidates will seek to represent residents in Wards 2, 4, and 6 for the next four years.
Note: Wards 1, 3, 5, and 7 will be up for election in 2019.

As this issue of *News & Views* was being finalized, several residents were busy submitting candidate petitions to secure their place on the ballot. Brief profiles of all candidates will be featured in the March/April print edition.

For more information on the April 4th election, including voter registration deadlines, please visit www.cookcountyclerk.com.

Golf Road Corporate Resurgence ...continued from page 1

relocate and begin operations in the most efficient manner.

"We help educate new businesses on what needs to be done, then help coordinate those efforts on their behalf," Dehner added. "Responsive, business-friendly services are part of the reason we've seen such a boom along Golf Road these past



Capital One, at Atrium Corporate Center, is one of Rolling Meadows' 'Top 12' Employers.

few years."

The Golf Road area has also benefitted from recent improvements in pedestrian mobility. New sidewalks and crossings – funded entirely by regional transportation grants – have improved access to area retail businesses and to Pace buses that connect Rolling Meadows with the area's larger public transportation system.

Dehner explained that these efforts are important components of the City's overall economic development plans for the Golf Road area.

"Access to public transportation and greater pedestrian mobility helps area companies attract and retain younger employees – many of whom live in Chicago and prefer to use public transportation," she said.

Free Holiday Light Recycling Available



Safely and conveniently dispose of old holiday lights and other materials through a free recycling program developed by the City of Rolling Meadows, the Solid Waste Agency of Northern Cook County (SWANCC) and Elgin Recycling.

Bring materials to City Hall (3600 Kirchoff Road) through Friday, February 10th. Drop boxes are located on the west side of the facility.

Items that may be recycled include:

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

Garland, live greens, wreaths, and other non-recyclables are not accepted.

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

City Recognized for 30 Consecutive Years of Fiscal Reporting Excellence

For the 30th consecutive year, Rolling Meadows' reputation for budgetary transparency and high accounting standards has garnered award-winning recognition by the Government Finance Officers Association of the United States and Canada (GFOA).

The City's latest Certificate of Excellence in Financial Reporting followed the annual audit of its Fiscal Year 2015 accounting processes. The review was completed by independent financial professionals from around the country.

The 2015 Comprehensive Annual Financial Report (CAFR) "has been judged by

an impartial panel to meet the highest standards" of governmental accounting procedures, the GFOA announced in a news release.

"This latest recognition confirms three decades of outstanding effort by City officials and staff on behalf of the residents we serve," Finance Director Melissa Gallagher said after GFOA announced the award. "The review process serves as a benchmark for excellence that encourages continual improvement of our internal operations."

A 30-year streak of award-winning excellence deserves a bit of historical per-

spective. When the City earned its first Certificate of Excellence in 1986:

- The Chicago Bears beat the New England Patriots 46-10 in Super Bowl XX.*
- *Top Gun* ruled the box office as the year's top-grossing film.*
- The Dow Jones Industrial Average closed the year at 1,895 points.**
- Gasoline cost an average of 89 cents per gallon.**
- The average new home price was \$89,450.**

*Source: mrpopculture.com

**Source: thepeoplehistory.com

2017 Budget Represents Investment in Rolling Meadows' Future

Rolling Meadows' Fiscal Year 2017 budget continues City officials' ongoing commitment to invest in Rolling Meadows future while pursuing a cautious, prudent fiscal approach that minimizes the burden on taxpayers.

Per City Council's direction, this year's budget allocates approximately \$3 million for road improvements and other critical infrastructure projects. It also advances long-term efforts to pay down existing debt service, strengthen the City's growing financial reserves, and meet annual pension obligations mandated by state officials.

"The 2017 budget achieves key goals outlined by City Council at the onset of this year's budget deliberations," Finance

Director Melissa Gallagher explained. "It also ensures continued delivery of essential services to residents and businesses."

Aldermen also approved a freeze on refuse customers' monthly refuse fees, and voted to maintain current vehicle sticker costs. Minor utility fee increases will help offset the rising cost of purchasing water and fund ongoing maintenance of Rolling Meadows' extensive network of water, sanitary sewer, and storm sewer lines.

The budget's 4.8% tax levy increase will raise \$612,597 to cover Rolling Meadows' state-mandated pension obligations. The City's share of residents' property taxes may increase slightly, according to estimates, based on their total tax bill (see chart).

View the FY2017 budget online at cityrm.org/233/Financial-Reports.

Estimated City Property Tax Increase – FY2017

Total Tax Bill	City's Share	Estimated Household Increase
\$2,500	\$375	\$18
\$4,000	\$600	\$29
\$6,000	\$900	\$43
\$7,500	\$1,125	\$54
\$10,000	\$1,500	\$72

The City's portion of residents' property tax bills is approximately 15%, or 15¢ per dollar (three township average).

2017 Public Meeting Schedule Posted Online

City Council in 2017 will hold its regular meetings at 7:30 p.m. on the second and fourth Tuesdays of each month. Council's Committee of the Whole "workshop" meetings will be held the third Tuesday of every month, also at 7:30 p.m.

December's meetings will take place the

first and third Tuesdays of the month, while the Committee of the Whole meeting will be held the second Tuesday of the month.

Agendas for upcoming City Council meetings, and minutes from past Council meetings, are available on Rolling Meadows' website, www.cityrm.org.

View City Council Meetings on RMBN Channel 6 or Stream Meetings Online



Rolling Meadows Broadcasting Network

Residents may watch monthly

City Council meetings from the comfort of their homes by accessing the Rolling Meadows Broadcast Network. Comcast and Wide Open West customers can tune into Channel 6 to observe Council discussions and deliberations as they happen.

Viewers may also stream meetings on their computers, tablets, or other mobile devices by visiting www.cityrm.org/609/Live-Feed. The site features real-time feeds of current Council meetings, past meeting archives, and special events video clips.

Police Officers and Meijer Partner for Holiday 'Shop with a Cop' Event

Rolling Meadows Police and Meijer helped make the season a whole lot brighter for 20 local children, through the Department's first "Shop with a Cop" event on December 14th. Police Chief John Nowacki and RMPD members helped the children select gifts for their families – a shopping spree made possible through Meijer's generosity.



Historical Museum to Host January 8th Open House

Rolling Meadows Historical Society members invite residents of all ages and all eras to its annual Holiday Open House Sunday, January 8th.

The festivities will take place 1 – 4 p.m.

at the City's Historical Museum (3100 Central Road).

Guests will enjoy refreshments and the museum's vintage holiday décor. For more information, call 847-577-7086.

Curbside Tree Pick-Up Runs January 3rd – 13th

Public Works crews will offer curbside Christmas Tree pick-up service to all refuse customers during the first two weeks in January*. Residents should remove all lights, tinsel, and ornaments, and place trees at the curb (cut side facing the street) on their regular refuse days.

**City Hall and Public Works will be closed Monday, January 2nd. Refuse and recycling collection will be delayed one day all week.*

January 2017

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
1 New Year's Day	2 City offices closed. Refuse pick-up delayed one day all week.	3 Environmental Committee , 6:30 pm Plan Commission , 7:30 pm, both at City Hall	4	5 Adjudication Hearing (Parking), 2 pm, City Hall Economic Development Committee , 6 pm, both at City Hall	6	7
8 Historical Museum Open House , 1-4 pm (3100 Central Road)	9 Board of Fire & Police Commissioners , 9 am, City Hall	10 Crime Stoppers , 5:30 pm City Council Meeting , 7:30 pm, both at City Hall	11	12 Adjudication Hearing , 1 pm, City Hall	13	14
15	16 City offices closed. Regular refuse pick-up. Martin Luther King Day	17 City Council Committee of the Whole , 7:30 pm, City Hall	18	19 Adjudication Hearing (Red Light), 2 pm, City Hall	20 Water bills due	21
22	23 Police Pension Board , 3:30 pm, City Hall	24 City Council Meeting , 7:30 pm, City Hall	25	26	27	28
29	30	31		 Christmas Tree Disposal Public Works will collect Christmas Trees for disposal January 3rd – 13th. Remove all decorations and place trees at the curb (cut end facing the street) on regular refuse day.		

February 2017

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
Keep updated on City news with Rolling Meadows' electronic newsletter, E-News & Views , published in February, April, June, August, October and December. Each newsletter is archived on the City's website, www.cityrm.org .			1 Zoning Board of Appeals , 7:30 pm, City Hall	2 Adjudication Hearing (Parking), 2 pm, City Hall	3	4
5	6	7 Economic Development Committee , 6 pm Environmental Committee , 6:30 pm Plan Commission , 7:30 pm, all at City Hall	8	9	10	11
12 Abraham Lincoln's Birthday	13 Board of Fire & Police Commissioners , 9 am, City Hall	14 Crime Stoppers , 5:30 pm City Council Meeting , 7:30 pm, both at City Hall Valentine's Day	15	16 Adjudication Hearing , 1 pm, City Hall	17	18
19	20 Water bills due President's Day	21 City Council Committee of the Whole , 7:30 pm, City Hall	22 George Washington's Birthday	23 Adjudication Hearing (Red Light), 2 pm, City Hall	24	25
26	27 City Council Meeting , 7:30 pm, City Hall	28 City Council Meeting , 7:30 pm, City Hall				

Residents Play Key Role in Ensuring Effective Snow Removal Efforts

Rolling Meadows' long-standing reputation for effectively clearing city streets of snow and ice each winter is aided by City residents, who play important roles in ensuring public safety, Public Works Director Fred Vogt believes.

"Our policy of completely clearing the roads after winter storms is a team effort. Residents are natural partners in ensuring that Rolling Meadows streets are the envy of the northwest suburbs after blustery Chicago storms," he explained.

Here are a few tips for residents to help snow plow drivers deliver faster, more responsive service and simultaneously promote public safety:

- **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.

- **Shovel snow to the right side of the driveway as you face the street**

– Shoveling snow into the street is counterproductive – and dangerous to drivers. That snow will likely be pushed right back onto your driveway by passing plows.

Instead, shovel snow to the right side of the driveway (while facing the street), and clear a "pocket" on the left side. This area will collect snow that accumulates on passing snow plows and limit the amount that ends up back in the driveway.

- **Keep fire hydrants clear of snow** – Uncovering fire hydrants after it snows

may save lives. In emergency situations, firefighters' ability to quickly access fire hydrants helps reduce the risk of injury to family members and neighbors, and potential property damage.



Support the Foundation!

Tax-deductible donations to the Rolling Meadows Community Events Foundation help offset the costs of staging annual events, such as the City's Memorial Day observance and Independence Day festivities.

Foundation leaders encourage residents and area businesses to help them raise at least \$50,000 annually. Donations are now accepted online at www.cityrm.org/679/Community-Events-Foundation.

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

Expanded Community Events Calendar ...continued from page 1

"Taste the Town and Fridays 'ROCK' signify the Community Events Foundation's commitment to developing new programs that residents will enjoy," Assistant to the City Manager Lori Ciezak



explained. "The 2017 calendar currently features 23 community events – with another six being organized solely by the Park District. All in all, we're confident that there will be something that appeals to everyone."

The 2017 Community Events calendar features a mix of long-time favorites and newer attractions. Highlights include the 3rd Annual Block Party (Friday, June 9th) and the 2nd Annual Hometown Hoe-down fall festival (Saturday, October 7th).

View the complete 2017 Community Events calendar online at www.cityrm.org/669/Community-Events.

Website Search Tool Helps Residents Access Property Records, Connect with Officials

Access a wealth of information on your property – everything from the township and school district in which you reside to your regular refuse collection days – with the City's online "Property Search" feature.



Visit cityrm.org and scroll down to the bottom of the homepage to access the

property locator. Simply type your home address where indicated to find information on property attributes, local services, and zoning classifications.

Click the "Government Representatives" tab at the top of the screen to learn more about – and connect to – elected representatives at the local, state and federal levels. There's also useful voter information, including homeowners' polling station, and precinct name and number.



Proactive Economic Development Efforts, Prudent Fiscal Approach to Ensure Rolling Meadows' Future Prosperity

by Acting Mayor Tim Veenbaas

I was deeply honored to be chosen by my fellow City Council members to serve as Rolling Meadows' Acting Mayor, following Tom Rooney's resignation. I will proudly serve in this capacity until residents elect his successor in the upcoming spring election.

I'm relatively new to public service – having been appointed to Council in 2014 before being elected to a 4-year

term as 7th Ward Alderman in 2015 – but I know Rolling Meadows is a special community. My wife, Amy, and I have been residents for 20 years and raised our daughters here.

As acting mayor, I will continue to advocate a prudent fiscal approach that helps residents avoid additional taxes, and aggressively support the City's economic development initiatives. We must continue to cultivate a business-friendly

environment that attracts new ventures to our city and further strengthens our tax base. Also, the development of the old Dominick's plaza is imperative. Thirteen years of vacancy is long enough.

I encourage all of you to get involved by offering your ideas and suggestions for improving our overall growth. Let's work together to ensure Rolling Meadows' future prosperity!

Tree Lighting & Spaghetti Dinner 'Wrap' City's 2016 Community Events

An estimated crowd of nearly 500 people gathered downtown for Rolling Meadows' December Holiday Tree lighting ceremony and a free spaghetti dinner at the Fire Department's Fogarty Fire Station.

The evening also featured hot chocolate and cookies, give-away goody bags, visits with Santa's elves and reindeer, and a complimentary radio play performance of *It's a Wonderful Life* at Trinity Lutheran Church.



Brilliant color filled the night sky as City officials lighted the Holiday Tree and fireworks erupted.



Members of the Rolling Meadows High School Madrigals led residents in a festive sing-along, featuring traditional holiday carols.



Santa Claus posed with residents both young and young-at-heart, after arriving on a special visit from the North Pole.



Residents warmed themselves at the Fogarty Fire Station and gathered with family, friends, and neighbors for an old-fashioned spaghetti dinner.

Special Thanks to Our Event Sponsors

- Costco • Meijer • McDonald's
- Nothing Bundt Cakes
- Rotary Club of Rolling Meadows
- Stadium Sports Club