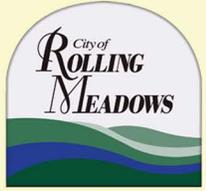




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& Views



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APWA Awards Recognize Public Works Leaders for Excellence

Three Rolling Meadows Public Works professionals were honored for service and leadership excellence by the American Public Works Association (APWA) in January, during an awards banquet hosted by the association's suburban Chicago branch:

Public Works Director Fred Vogt was presented with the *Top Ten Public Works Leaders of the Year Award*. It highlights outstanding career achievements and service to the profession. Vogt has served as Rolling Meadows' Public Works Director since 1996.

Internal Services Superintendent Don Wenzel received the *Professional Manager of the Year – Emergency Management*

Award, for his role in developing the City's emergency operations plan (EOP). He was also recognized for his work with the Illinois Public Works Mutual Aid Network (IPWMAN). Wenzel recently served as IPWMAN President.

Water/Utilities Superintendent John Somogyi was honored with APWA's *Samuel A. Greeley Award*, which recognizes "dedicated and continued" service to a local public

agency. Somogyi has been a member of the City's Public Works Department for nearly 45 years.

"Fred, Don, and John have dedicated their lives to public service, and it is fitting to see them earn such high regard from our peers," said Assistant Public Works Director Rob

Horne. "It is my privilege to work side by side with them, and to congratulate them on jobs well-done."



Don Wenzel (from left), Fred Vogt, and John Somogyi have "dedicated their lives to public service," Assistant Public Works Director Rob Horne said.

March 3rd 'Taste the Town' to Spotlight Meadows' Restaurant Scene

The City's finest food and beverage establishments will showcase their diverse offerings Saturday, March 3rd, 6 – 9 p.m., at the second annual Taste the Town. The "sample and sip" event will take place at the Rolling Meadows Community Center (3705 Pheasant Drive).

Attendees will enjoy sample-sized menu items (while supplies last), a 50/50 event

raffle, and a cash bar where guests may purchase soft drinks, wine, and beer. The event will also feature music by David Paige, a local favorite.

Tickets are \$15 each, and are available in advance at the Rolling Meadows Community Center. Attendees may also purchase tickets at the door.

Restaurants that would like to participate in this year's event may contact Lori Ciezak, Assistant to the City Manager (ciezakl@cityrm.org or 847-394-8500).



Taste the Town is hosted by the Rolling Meadows Park District, City of Rolling Meadows, Rolling Meadows Chamber of Commerce, and Rolling Meadows Community Events Foundation.



More than a dozen restaurants, including Grande Jake's (pictured) joined last year's event.

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Community Garden to Host March 29th Seasonal Seed Swap

Rolling Meadows' Community Garden project will kick-off its fifth growing season Thursday, March 29th, 6 – 7:30 p.m., when members gather for an introductory meeting and seed swap at the Rolling Meadows Library (3100 Martin Lane).

The event is an opportunity for members to discuss plans for this year's garden – a City-owned parcel of land near Salt Creek in downtown Rolling Meadows.



Rob Banger

“We welcome anyone who might be interested in learning more about gardening and strengthening their community ‘roots,’” explained 5th Ward

Alderman Rob Banger, who led the effort to create the Community Garden in 2014. “Everyone is welcome.”

The Garden features 25 plots – each measuring 4' x 8' – that allow residents to cultivate fresh vegetables, flowers, and other types of plants. Plots are available for an annual fee of \$25 each.

Residents who are interested in attending the March 29th meeting should RSVP to Alderman Banger at robangerjr@gmail.com. More information is available at www.rmcommunitygarden.com and www.facebook.com/rmcommunitygarden.

Police K9 Unit Makes Strong First Impression

In just over two months of active duty service, the Rolling Meadows Police Department's new K9 Unit has made quite an impact in two critical areas of Police Department operations: community outreach and crime prevention.

The unit – comprised of Officer Chris Don, a four-year RMPD veteran; and Scar, a Belgian Malinois/German Shepherd mix – has proven to be a popular draw for residents. The two have helped collect donations for the Department's holiday food drive, and taken part in the “Shop with a Rolling Meadows Cop” and “Breakfast with Santa” programs.

And from an operational/law enforcement standpoint, Scar has proven he has the “chops” to support multiple PD operations.

“As part of an ongoing investigation, Scar

recently led police officers directly to a large stockpile of illegal narcotics and currency that had been hidden in a vehicle. We may not have found that without his detection abilities,” Officer Don said. “He's quickly making name for himself throughout the Department.”

Scar is a dual-purpose K9 with a skill-set that includes narcotics detection, building and vehicle searches, and scent tracking. Working in tandem with Officer Don, Scar has ably applied his diverse proficiencies in support of the Police Department's mission.

“K9 units are a very effective way to improve police services. Research has proven that the mere presence of a well-marked K9 vehicle has a positive effect on crime reduction,” Police Chief John Nowacki explained. “Scar excels in a wide range of areas, including drug detection, missing persons cases, school searches, community relations, and officer safety.”

Both Scar and Officer Don were well-prepared to begin active duty, after completing six weeks of intensive training last year at Vohne Liche Kennels in Denver, IN. It was a time for them to learn how to work together: for Scar to heed Officer Don's commands, and for Officer Don to learn a new language (Dutch) in order to communicate with his canine partner.

“Vohne Liche was a good start, but Scar's training is ongoing,” Officer Don reported. “When off-duty, I usually spend at least an hour a day working with him. We also get together with other K9 units in the area a couple of times a month to work on inter-agency training.”

For Officer Don, serving as the Department's K9 officer is a 24/7 job: Scar even goes home with him after each shift.

“It's non-stop, but Scar is a really friendly, sociable dog who likes to play,” Officer Don explained. “And he's much more popular than I am. Whenever someone sees me, their first question is always, ‘Where's Scar?’” he added with a laugh.



Reporting for duty: Officer Chris Don and Scar.

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 Find Us on the Web:
www.cityofrm.org

Street Banner Program Helps Market Community Groups, Local Businesses

Rolling Meadows' annual street banner program offers local businesses and community groups a high-profile opportunity to market themselves while supporting the City's Community Events Foundation.

The program, now in its fourth year, lets organizations link themselves to specific community activities taking place throughout the year. Banners promoting upcoming events such as the 4th of July Parade, National Night Out, Wine-Down by the Creek, and Downtown Block Party can be customized to include a sponsor's name or logo.

Customized banners are available for \$250 per banner (or \$350 for two). Only 45 banners will be produced in 2018. Sponsorships are available on a first-come, first-serve basis. Order forms will be distributed to all Rolling Meadows businesses in February. Forms are also available online at www.cityrm.org.

For more information, contact Lori Ciezak, Assistant to the City Manager (ciezakl@cityrm.org or 847-394-8500).

Thanks to the City's 2017 Street Banner sponsors:

- Ben Franklin Bank
- Christopher B. Burke Engineering
- Culver's
- Divine Design & Marketing
- Fujifilm Hunt Chemicals
- Holiday Inn
- Holiday Inn Express
- JC Restoration
- JML Overhead Door
- Komatsu



Event banners promote City events and market local businesses.

- MB Financial Bank
- Meadows Christian Fellowship
- Meadows Credit Union
- Meadows Funeral Home
- Molly Maid
- Northrop Grumman
- Papa Savario's Pizza
- Phoenix Builders
- Platinum Home Mortgage
- Plum Creek of Rolling Meadows, LP
- Roberta Williams Salon
- Rolling Meadows IAFF Local 3705
- St. Colette Church
- Storino, Ramello & Durkin
- Suburban Accents
- Trinity Lutheran Church
- Village Bank & Trust



This Month in Rolling Meadows

February 1: **Adjudication Hearing (Parking)**, 2 pm, City Hall

February 6: **Economic Development Committee**, 6 pm; **Environmental Committee**, 6:30 pm; **Planning & Zoning Commission**, 7:30 pm, all at City Hall

February 12: **Lincoln's Birthday; Board of Fire & Police Commissioners**, 9 am, City Hall

February 13: **Crime Stoppers**, 5:30 pm; **City Council Meeting**, 7:30 pm, both at City Hall

February 14: **Valentine's Day**

February 15: **Adjudication Hearing**, 1 pm, City Hall

February 19: **President's Day**

February 20: **Water bills due; City Council Committee of the Whole**, 7:30 pm, City Hall

February 22: **Washington's Birthday; Adjudication Hearing (Red Light)**, 2 pm, City Hall

February 27: **City Council Meeting**, 7:30 pm, City Hall

Free Holiday Light Recycling Program Ends Friday, February 16th

Safely and conveniently dispose of old holiday lights and other materials through the City's free recycling program, developed in tandem with the Solid Waste Agency of Northern Cook County (SWANCC) and Elgin Recycling. The seasonal program runs through Friday, February 16th.

Bring materials to City Hall (3600 Kirchoff Road). Drop boxes are located on the southwest 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.



Holiday lights fill the City Hall drop box.

City Software Upgrades to Transform Operations, Customer Service

Major upgrades to Rolling Meadows' internal operating systems began in earnest last fall, with Finance Department staff members working closely with IT consultants to implement the first phase of the City's transition to Enterprise Resource Planning (ERP) software.

Improved Service and Employee Productivity

ERP implementation will modernize City records and information by combining data currently stored in multiple databases into a fully-integrated system. The result: improved employee productivity and more responsive customer service.

"ERP offers opportunities for customer service-focused efficiencies that far surpass what we can currently offer," Finance Director Melissa Gallagher explained.

"When completed, residents will be able to pay their utility bills online, track the status of service requests, pay for building permits, and much more."

These "customer-friendly" service modules are expected to be available in the first half of 2019, once internal processes have been fully installed

and brought online. Members of the City's consulting team (Baker Tilly) and ERP software licensing firm (Tyler Technologies) have been onsite at City Hall every few weeks to help set up and configure the new system.



Initial development is focusing on internal operations such as budgeting, accounts payable/accounts receivable, project and grant accounting, and purchase order processing.

GIS Component Helps Streamline Operations

Rolling Meadows' approach to ERP operations will incorporate geographic information system (GIS) technology – an address-driven database that the City has been developing for several years. GIS will help staff members across all City departments better serve residents by making it simple to access a range of information – everything from customers' utility billing history to the status of permit applications – from any computer or mobile device.

"Having this information at our fingertips and readily accessible will make a tremendous difference in the level of service we provide residents," Gallagher added. "We are on the verge of a new level of City-wide connectivity."

Finance Department employees have already started training on the ERP financial modules, with an emphasis on system configuration and security integration.

Project timetables call for full implementation of the ERP software by 2020. Upgrades are being completed in phases to avoid service disruptions.

Police Dept. Accepting Applications for Six-Week Citizen Academy



Learn more about law enforcement tactics and strategies, and gain an appreciation for the Rolling Meadows Police Department's proud history, during a Citizen Police Academy that will begin Thursday, March 8th.

The program curriculum will cover a variety of topics, including use of force/firearms training, crime scene investigation, canine (K9) operations, and 911 dispatch.

Classes will be held Thursdays, March 8th and 22nd; April 5th and 19th; and May 3rd and 17th. The Academy is open to anyone who lives or works in Rolling Meadows and is at least 18 years-old. Applicants will be required to undergo a preliminary background investigation.

For more information and to apply, contact Officer Carlos Saez at 847-870-2449 or saezc@cityrm.org.

Energy-Efficient Street Light Upgrades Expected to Reduce Costs 75%

Rolling Meadows and ComEd have successfully upgraded the City street light system to energy-efficient LED lighting, a move expected to reduce maintenance, electricity, and equipment costs by 75%, Public Works' Internal Services Superintendent Don Wenzel reported.

The entire system upgrade, comprised of approximately 700 street lamps, was completed over the past 16 months.

City officials secured an agreement that required ComEd to install LED lighting in the roughly 350 street lamps it owns and operates within City limits.

The City then secured more than \$100,000 in grant funding from ComEd's Energy Efficiency Program, which provided the resources to upgrade the remaining City-owned street lights in just one year. Project plans originally

called for a phased approach over a four-year timeframe.

"These LED upgrades are part of our overall focus on achieving cost-effectiveness through energy efficiency," Wenzel explained. "Going forward, we are exploring additional grant funding resources to update exterior lighting at City-owned buildings and parking lots."

31st Consecutive Accounting Award Reinforces City's Commitment to Reporting Excellence

The Government Finance Officers Association (GFOA) has awarded Rolling Meadows its 31st consecutive *Certificate of Achievement for Excellence in Financial Reporting* for the City's Fiscal Year 2016 Comprehensive Annual Financial Report (CAFR).

The award recognizes the City's commitment to budgetary transparency and full financial disclosure. It was presented following an annual review of Rolling Meadows' accounting processes by independent financial professionals.

Auditors determined the CAFR meets "the highest standards of the program," 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 explained. "The GFOA's Certificate of Achievement is the highest form of recognition in governmental accounting. We are extremely proud to continue Rolling Meadows' three decades of peer-reviewed 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, please visit www.gfoa.org.



City Launches Business Messenger Newsletter to Engage Local Companies

City officials in February will celebrate the launch of the *Business Messenger*, a quarterly newsletter developed specifically to provide timely, accurate information on a range of topics that affect local businesses.

Rolling Meadows Business Advocate Martha Corner, AICP, views the publication's debut as the next step in



Martha Corner

the City's continued outreach to local companies.

"The *Business Messenger* is a way to consistently update the City's business community on all

that is happening in Rolling Meadows," she explained. "It's an opportunity to foster productive discussions with the businesses we serve, and help promote their continued growth and success."

The *Business Messenger* will be distributed directly by mail to all Rolling Meadows business and property owners. Each issue will also be available online at www.cityrm.org.



Charge It! Tesla Charging Station is First in Northwest Suburbs

A *Model S* (above) charges at the Tesla supercharging station that recently opened in Rolling Meadows – the first of its kind in the northwest suburbs. The station offers drivers a convenient destination where they can recharge their vehicles' batteries while away from home.



March 10th St. Patrick's Day Dinner to Feature Irish Music, Food, \$2,500 Cash Prize

Purchase tickets to the Rotary Club of Rolling Meadows' annual St. Patrick's Day Dinner and Raffle and claim your chance to win a grand prize raffle worth up to \$2,500. This year's festivities will take place Saturday, March 10th, 6 – 10 p.m.,



at the Community Center (3705 Pheasant Drive).

Guests will also enjoy a traditional Irish-American menu of corned beef, cabbage, and chicken; an open bar featuring beer, wine, and soft drinks; and festive Irish music and dancing.

Dinner tickets are \$30 per person (\$35 after March 3rd). Raffle tickets are \$50 each. To purchase tickets, contact Rolling Meadows Park District Director Amy Charlesworth (acharlesworth@rmparks.org) or Public Works Director Fred Vogt (vogt@cityrm.org).

View City Meetings on Television and Online

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.



Business 'Showcase' Set for April 28th

Rolling Meadows companies will be able to highlight their products and services, connect with potential customers, and network with other local businesses at the City's first "Business and Community Showcase". It will be held Saturday, April 28th, 10 a.m. – 3 p.m., at Rolling Meadows High School.

The Showcase will feature informational booths where residents can learn more about the companies that call Rolling Meadows home. Guests will also enjoy a variety of family-friendly attractions and performances.

Businesses interested in joining the Showcase may contact Martha Corner, AICP, at 847-870-9004 or cornerm@cityrm.org. Additional information will be featured in the March/April print edition of *News & Views*.

Online Portal Helps Residents Access 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 "Community Portal" feature.

The portal is available at the bottom left of the City's [homepage](#). 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 local, state and federal levels. There's also useful voter information, including homeowners' polling stations, and precinct names and numbers.



Learn more about your community and services around your property.

Enter an address to start:

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

MAYOR and CITY COUNCIL

Mayor: <i>Len Prejna</i>	847-776-9442
1st Ward Alderman: <i>Mike Cannon</i>	847-925-8919
2nd Ward Alderman: <i>Nick Budmats</i>	847-202-0855
3rd Ward Alderman: <i>Laura Majikes</i>	847-577-3746
4th Ward Alderman: <i>Joseph Gallo</i>	847-814-9271
5th Ward Alderman: <i>Rob Banger, Jr.</i>	224-639-6686
6th Ward Alderman: <i>John D'Astice</i>	847-409-9367
7th Ward Alderman: <i>Tim Veenbaas</i>	847-385-1425
City Manager: <i>Barry Krumstok</i>	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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