



# eNEWS

Welcome Holidays  
with December 6th  
Tree Lighting  
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# & Views

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

## Fight Holiday Hunger: Support December 1st Police Dept. Food Drive

Police officers are calling for “back-up” from community members and asking their support for the Police Department’s third annual Holiday Food Drive on Saturday, December 1st.

Bring non-perishable food items to the Police Humvee that will be parked in front of Jewel-Osco (3000 Kirchoff Road) between 10 am and 2 pm. This year’s event will help restock the shelves of the Harvest Bible Food Pantry, located at 1051 Rohlwing Road.

Police Chief John Nowacki urges all Rolling Meadows residents to



Help Rolling Meadows Police officers “fill the Humvee” during the Department’s December 1st Holiday Food Drive.



Deputy Police Chief Bill Arneson (left) and Chief John Nowacki accept donations from a generous resident at last year’s drive.

support this year’s initiative. He credits their generosity for making the food drive a tremendous success over the past two years.

“It’s truly amazing how much our residents care for those in need and give from the heart,” he explained. “Last year, we not only filled the Humvee with food, but also a box truck donated by U-Haul.”

For more information, visit the Police Department’s [Facebook page](#) or call its 24-hour, non-emergency number (847-255-2416).

## Proposed Comprehensive Plan Revisions to be Discussed at Planning & Zoning Meeting

City officials will discuss a draft outline of Rolling Meadows’ revised Comprehensive Plan during the January meeting of the Planning and Zoning Commission, Public Works’ Community Development Division Director Fred Vogt reports.

The meeting will take place on Wednesday, January 9th, 7:30 pm, at City Hall. Residents are welcome to attend.

**“The draft being presented has been shaped by extensive feedback from community stakeholders over the past several months.”**

The Comprehensive Plan serves as the main blueprint for development and land use in Rolling Meadows. It was last updated in 2006.

The draft being presented in January was produced with the help of Teska Associates, an Evanston-based urban planning consulting group. It has also been shaped ...continued on page 2

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## TOYS FOR TOTS



U.S. MARINE CORPS RESERVE

### Support Annual Toys for Tots Drive; Donate New Toys by December 7th

Join residents throughout Rolling Meadows to support the United States Marine Corps Reserve's annual Toys for Tots program. This year's collection drive runs through Friday, December 7th.

Bring new, unwrapped toys and games to City Hall (3600 Kirchoff Road) or the Rolling Meadows Library (3110 Martin Lane).

Donated items will be distributed to children throughout the area who otherwise would not receive a gift this holiday season.

For more information, or to make a monetary donation, visit [www.toys-fortots.org](http://www.toys-fortots.org).

### Mustangs Stampede to Undeclared Season

Three cheers for the Rolling Meadows Mustangs and an unforgettable season of high school football! This year's squad compiled a perfect 9-0 regular season record and advanced to the second round of Illinois Class 7A playoffs.



Congratulations, Mustangs! You've represented Rolling Meadows with excellence!



Community members gather at the Fogarty Fire Station for a complimentary spaghetti dinner and holiday warmth.

## Welcome Holidays' Arrival with December 6th Tree Lighting, Fireworks, and Spaghetti Dinner

Rolling Meadows' annual Tree Lighting celebration offers the perfect setting in which to welcome the holiday season with family members, friends, and neighbors. City officials welcome residents to once again gather downtown on Thursday, December 6th, for this year's event, followed by fireworks and a free spaghetti dinner at the Fogarty Fire Station.



Residents celebrate the lighting of the City's Holiday Tree.

### Event Celebration Timeline

**6:00 pm** – Crowds will gather in front of McDonald's (3140 Kirchoff Road) to enjoy caroling, treats, and holiday surprises – including a special visit from the North Pole's most famous resident.

**6:30 pm** – City officials will countdown the season's arrival, then "flip the switch" to light the Holiday Tree and launch a spectacular fireworks display over the downtown area.

**6:30 – 8:30 pm** – Firefighters will open the doors to the Fogarty Fire Station (3111 Meadow Drive) and welcome guests to a free spaghetti dinner (*while supplies last*). Attendees may also visit Santa's elves and reindeer!

**7:30 – 8:00 pm** – Old-time Radio Show at Trinity Lutheran Church (*next door to the Fire Station*). Desserts and refreshments will be served.

## Proposed Comprehensive Plan Revisions to be Discussed at Planning & Zoning Meeting...from page 1

by extensive feedback received from residents, business owners, and other community stakeholders over the past several months.

In total, over 450 people contributed their ideas for Rolling Meadows' future development at public meetings and workshops, via online surveys, and through other outreach activities.

"Throughout this process, we've had many interesting, engaging discussions with community members about the

City's future," Vogt explained. "We are now analyzing the data and combining it with other suggestions put forward by our professional consultants and City department heads.

"From there, we'll continue our discussions with Planning and Zoning Commission members to prepare an updated plan that meets the City's needs for the next 10 – 15 years," he added.

Plans call for City Council to approve the updated Comprehensive Plan next spring.

# Shop Rolling Meadows for Holiday Value, Variety and Convenience

“Shop Rolling Meadows” this holiday season and take advantage of great values, variety, and convenience offered by the City’s business community.

## Support Local Merchants

Fill your sleigh with the latest electronics, toys, and apparel from local “Big Box” retailers; find the perfect stocking-stuffer at any of the City’s independent merchants; support local restaurants by purchasing gift cards for loved ones. No matter what you’re looking for, it’s a

good bet that Rolling Meadows’ business community has it. Shopping locally also makes “cents” by boosting sales tax revenues that reduce the City’s reliance on property taxes to fund essential services.

## Shop First, Then Dine!

Want another reason to “Shop Rolling Meadows?” Take time to explore the City’s bustling restaurant scene – offering a savory menu of flavors that will suit any taste.



Shop Rolling Meadows! Channel your inner-Santa Claus and find great gifts for everyone on your list.

# ‘Keep the Wreath Red’ Program Helps Firefighters Promote Fire Safety



Holiday decor, such as this tree on display at the Neuckranz Fire Station, can pose a fire risk if not properly maintained.

This year’s “Keep the Wreaths Red” public awareness campaign marks the 12th straight year that the Rolling Meadows Fire Department has used festive seasonal décor to promote holiday fire safety.

Illuminated wreaths now on display at the Neuckranz Fire Station (2455 Plum Grove Road) and Fogarty Fire Station (3111 Meadow Drive) are covered in red bulbs. Firefighters will replace an existing bulb with a white bulb for each fire in Rolling Meadows that is caused by holiday decorations.

“This program is a subtle reminder to residents that the season offers no holiday from fire dangers,” Fire Chief Terry Valentino said. “Let’s make sure everyone enjoys a happy – and safe holiday season. We all need to work together in order to ‘keep the wreath red.’”

## Holiday Hints to Help “Keep the Wreath Red”

- Carefully inspect all holiday light strings and discard any with frayed cords or loose connections.
- Turn off all holiday lights when leaving the house or going to sleep each night.
- Keep candles away from combustible materials, such as clothing and curtains. Never leave burning candles unattended.
- Keep live trees in water-holding stands and keep stands full of water.
- Verify that artificial trees are flame retardant.
- Place trees away from heat sources and a safe distance from exits.

## Candidate Filing Deadline for 2019 Local Election is December 17th

Residents running for local office in next spring’s Consolidated Election must file their completed candidate petitions at City Hall by 5 pm on Friday, December 17th. Filing begins Monday, December 10th.

City offices that will be contested on the April 2nd, 2019 ballot are:

- Mayor (4-year term).
- 1st Ward Alderman (4-year term).
- 2nd Ward Alderman (final two years of the current 4-year term).

- 3rd Ward Alderman (4-year term).
- 5th Ward Alderman (4-year term).
- 7th Ward Alderman (4-year term).
- City Clerk (4-year term).

Candidates must have lived in Rolling Meadows for at least one year and, if running for City Council, reside in the ward they seek to represent.

For more information, call the Deputy Clerk’s Office at 847-394-8500.

## City Announces Holiday Refuse Schedule

**Christmas Eve:** Public Works will be closed Monday, December 24th. City crews will provide early refuse collection. Place all refuse at the curb by 6 am.

**Christmas:** Public Works will be closed Tuesday, December 25th. Refuse collection will be delayed one day for the remainder of the week.

**New Year’s Eve:** Regular refuse collection is scheduled.

**New Year’s Day 2019:** Public Works will be closed Tuesday, January 1st. Refuse collection will be delayed one day for the remainder of the week.



Long-time Rolling Meadows Police Department veteran Mike Fior is sworn-in following his promotion to Commander.



Newly-promoted Police Sergeant Brian Barry has served Rolling Meadows for 20 years.



Mayor Len Prejna welcomes Sean Biltgen, Rolling Meadows' newest police officer, to the force.

## PD Promotes Long-Time Professionals, Welcomes New Officer

Mike Fior, a 21-year Rolling Meadows Police Department veteran, was sworn-in as Police Commander at City Council's November 13th meeting.

His promotion follows the retirement of

Commander Tom Gadomski, who retired in October after nearly 30 years of service.

Commander Fior's successor as Police Sergeant is Brian Barry, a 20-year Department veteran with a unique professional back-

ground (see story, below).

The Police Department also welcomed Officer Sean Biltgen, who came to Rolling Meadows after serving four years with the Park Forest Police Department.



## Police ATV Expands Patrol Officers' Reach

The Police Department's new ATV allows officers to more effectively protect areas around town such as public parks, commercial business properties, and retail shopping centers that may not be ideally-suited for traditional patrol vehicles.

The \$9,000 ATV, purchased entirely with drug seizure funds, is powered by a rechargeable electric battery that makes the approaching vehicle almost impossible to hear. It features emergency lights and other law enforcement equipment that was procured with the help of a \$5,000 donation from the Rolling Meadows Park District.

## Career Path Took Brian Barry from Professional Wrestling to Law Enforcement



Brian Barry

Newly-promoted Sergeant Brian Barry has served as a Patrol Officer, Investigator, Juvenile Officer, and Field Training Officer, but it is his "priors" that continue to draw interest.

Before entering the law enforcement field, he was a member of the World Wrestling

Federation (now known as World Wrestling Entertainment). As "Johnny Utah," Sgt. Barry competed against popular wrestling icons such as King Kong Bundy and Tatanka.

He also crossed paths with an up-and-coming Dwayne "The Rock" Johnson – now one of Hollywood's A-List movie stars.

## Police Department Honors Meijer with 'Community Partnership' Award

Police Chief John Nowacki (right) and Officer Carlos Saez (left) presented Meijer Director Brian Latch with the first ever Rolling Meadows Police Department Community Partnership Award in October. The award recognized Meijer's "continued service to the public, goodwill, generosity, and committed partnership" in supporting multiple City events such as "National Night Out" and "Shop with a Rolling Meadows Police Officer."

"It's an honor to have Meijer partner with this agency on so many of these worthy causes that help make Rolling Meadows 'A Great Place to Call Home,'" Chief Nowacki said. "The Police Department is extremely fortunate to have such a friend within our community."





Annual City events such as Wine-Down by the Creek (top) and National Night Out showcase Rolling Meadows' remarkable community spirit.

## City Releases Community Events Schedule

Looking forward to an action-packed 2019 filled with an ever-expanding array of Rolling Meadows community events? We are, too!

We're also excited to announce that the City's official 2019 community events schedule is now available online! Visit the [Community Events](#) page to:

- Access a printable events calendar.
- Learn more about the Community Events Foundation.
- Volunteer for specific events.
- Make a tax-deductible contribution to support future events.

Be part of the fun in 2019! Contact Lori Ciezak at 847-394-8500 or [ciezakl@cityrm.org](mailto:ciezakl@cityrm.org) for more information.



Residents enjoy a law enforcement vehicle display at the downtown block party.



## This Month in Rolling Meadows

December 2: **Hanukkah begins**

December 4: **Economic Development Committee**, 6 pm; **Environmental Committee**, 6:30 pm; **City Council Meeting**, 7:30 pm, **Planning & Zoning Commission**, 7:30 pm, all at City Hall

December 6: **Adjudication Hearing (Parking)**, 2 pm, City Hall; **Holiday Tree Lighting**, 6 pm, McDonald's (3140 Kirchoff Rd); **Spaghetti Dinner**, 6:30 pm, Fogarty Fire Station (3111 Meadow Dr)

December 10: **Board of Fire & Police Commissioners**, 11 am, City Hall

December 11: **Crime Stoppers**, 5:30 pm; **City Council Committee of the Whole**, 7:30 pm, both at City Hall

December 13: **Adjudication Hearing**, 1 pm, City Hall

December 18: **City Council Meeting**, 7:30 pm, City Hall

December 19: **Community Blood Drive**, 1-7 pm, City Hall. Visit [vitalant.org](http://vitalant.org) to schedule a donation (use group code RM98).

December 20: **Water bills due**; **Adjudication Hearing (Red Light)**, 2 pm, City Hall

December 24: **Christmas Eve**. City offices closed. Early refuse pick-up.

December 25: **Christmas**. City offices closed. Tuesday – Friday refuse collection delayed one day.

December 26: **Kwanzaa**

December 31: **New Year's Eve**

January 1, 2019: **New Year's Day**. City offices closed. Tuesday – Friday refuse collection delayed one day.



Prescribed burns are an important tool for ensuring the health and long-term well-being of the City's open prairie spaces.

**Guest Column**

**Prescribed Burns Essential for Rejuvenation of Natural Areas, Open Prairie Spaces**

By *Alysse Dahlgren, Rolling Meadows Environmental Committee*



*Alysse Dahlgren*

Periodic prescribed burns performed by the Rolling Meadows Park District and Department of Public Works promote the rejuvenation and conservation of the City's open prairie spaces.

These efforts – contained to a specific area and supervised by trained personnel – help ensure a balanced eco-system by hastening the decomposition of debris, improving light exposure for regeneration, returning nutrients to the soil, and preventing invasive species from displacing native prairie plants.

**Historical Precedent**

Fire is an essential and ancient method for maintaining prairies. Native American tribes burned sections of prairie knowing the buffalo would be more likely to return after grasses re-grew more vigorously. Fire was also useful for driving game during hunting.

Governmental agencies at the local, state, and federal levels recognize the importance of controlled burns for maintaining prairies. They offer a practical means to remove brush piles and facilitate the sowing of seeds once a burn has been completed.

**Prescribed Burn at Emily's Prairie**

Every spring, the Rolling Meadows Environmental Committee hosts a Work Day event to commemorate Earth Day. The celebration includes a prescribed burn at Emily's Prairie, located along the City's bike path behind Rolling Meadows High School and Willow Bend School.

Residents who would like to learn more about local environmental conservation efforts are welcome to attend our monthly meetings at City Hall. Meetings are held the first Tuesday of each month at 7:30 p.m. Visit [www.cityrm.org/626/Environmental-Committee](http://www.cityrm.org/626/Environmental-Committee) for additional information.



Discarded holiday lights in the City Hall drop box await recycling.

**Holiday Light Recycling Program Returns**

Safely and conveniently dispose of old or outdated holiday light strings through the City's Holiday Light Recycling program. This year's effort was organized with the help of the Solid Waste Agency of Northern Cook County (SWANCC) and Elgin Recycling.

Bring materials for recycling to City Hall (3600 Kirchoff Road). Drop boxes are located on the west side of the facility.

In addition to holiday lights of all colors and sizes, residents may also drop off extension cords, household wire, and computer cords/wires.

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

**Welcome New Businesses**

**Security Pay One**

*Rent collection*  
3501 Algonquin Rd. #132 (847-431-3300)

**Tree Hopper Toys**

*Wholesale gifts/personalized toys*  
5410 Newport Dr. #44 (847-420-3286)

**Contact City Officials: City Hall Hours: 8 am to 4 pm Monday-Friday**

**MAYOR and CITY COUNCIL**

- Mayor: *Len Prejna* . . . . . 847-776-9442
- 1st Ward Alderman: *Mike Cannon* . . . . . 847-687-3276
- 2nd Ward Alderman: *Nick Budmats* . . . . . 847-202-0855
- 3rd Ward Alderman: *Laura Majikes* . . . . . 847-577-3746
- 4th Ward Alderman: *Joseph Gallo* . . . . . 847-814-9271
- 5th Ward Alderman: *Rob Banger, Jr.* . . . . . 224-639-6686
- 6th Ward Alderman: *John D'Astice* . . . . . 847-409-9367
- 7th Ward Alderman: *Robert Williams* . . . . . 847-303-0482
- 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
- Community Development Division . . . . . 847-506-6030
- Finance/Utility Billing Questions . . . . . 847-394-8500
- Senior Handyman Program . . . . . 847-506-6030
- ComEd . . . . . 1-800-EDISON-1
- Curfew Sun. – Thurs. 11 p.m.; Fri. & Sat. Midnight



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