



# NEWS

Volume 23 Number 1

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Strong Credit Rating  
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# & Views

January/February 2019

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

## RMFD Joins NCH Pilot Program Offering Post-Hospital/At-Home Care

The Rolling Meadows Fire Department will provide at-home follow-up care to residents who receive treatment at Northwest Community Hospital, through a program designed to improve community health and patient safety, Fire Chief Terry Valentino reports.



Rolling Meadows paramedics will provide at-home follow-up care through a new NCH pilot program.

The primary goal of the hospital's Mobile Integrated Healthcare Pilot Program is to "reduce preventable hospital visits and post-discharge readmissions by creating an innovative, community-based healthcare resource" for patients, according to the program agreement approved by City Council.

Patient eligibility is limited to those who have been treated for heart attack, heart failure, chronic obstructive pulmonary disease, pneumonia, or major joint replacement (e.g. hip or knee).

The hospital's collaboration with municipal emergency medical services partners – including RMFD, Palatine Fire Department,

and Palatine Rural Fire Protection District – helps ensure that trained medical personnel are available to check on patients and ensure their well-being once they leave the hospital.

"This type of proactive, at-home care program is designed to minimize patients' risk of injury following a hospital stay and allow them to spend more time recuperating at home," Chief Valentino explained. "It will also help decrease the community's dependency on the 911 emergency system.

"It's our privilege to partner with Northwest Community Hospital to provide ...continued on page 3

## City Officials to Hold Comprehensive Plan Discussion, January 9th

City officials will discuss a draft outline of Rolling Meadows' revised Comprehensive Plan during the January 9th (Wednesday) meeting of the Planning and Zoning Commission, Public Works/Community Development Division Director Fred Vogt reports.

The meeting will take place at 7:30 p.m., at City Hall. Residents are welcome to attend.

Last updated in 2006, the Comprehensive Plan serves as the main blueprint for development and land use in Rolling Meadows. The draft plan that will be discussed on January 9th was produced with the help of Teska Associates, an

Evanston-based urban planning consulting group.

It has also been shaped by extensive feedback received from residents, business owners, and other community stakeholders over the past several months. In total, more than 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 Comprehensive Plan later this spring.



## Contact City Officials: City Hall Hours: 8 a.m. to 4 p.m. 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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[www.cityrm.org](http://www.cityrm.org)

# Approved 2019 Budget Invests in Capital Project Upgrades; Reserve Fund Drawdown Helps Lower Residents' Tax Burden

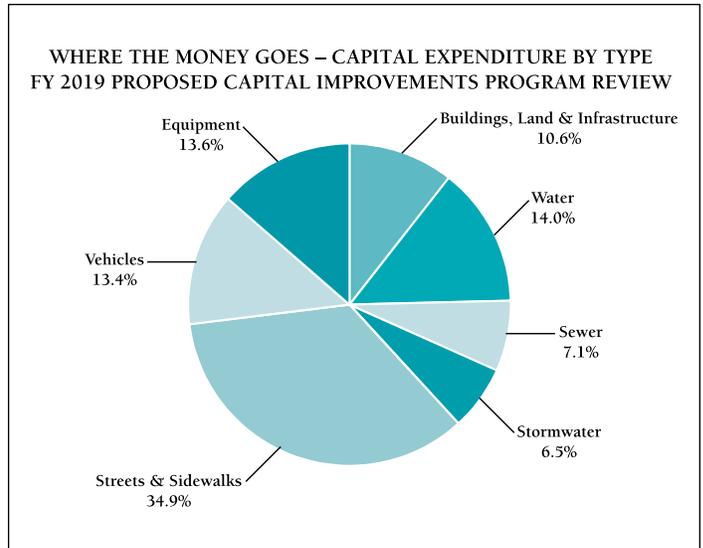
A commitment to prudent financial planning over the past several years offered City officials considerable flexibility in crafting a Fiscal Year 2019 Budget that funds important capital investment projects and municipal services while reducing the tax burden on residents and local businesses, Finance Director Melissa Gallagher reports.

“This year’s approved budget focuses heavily on capital improvements, rebuilding City road and utilities, and providing the services residents and businesses deserve,” she explained when discussing this year’s budget document. “A long-standing commitment to careful financial forecasting and budgeting, combined with an improving economy, has allowed the City to rebuild its fund balances and operate from a position of relative strength.”

Those initiatives, combined with a willingness to meet annual pension obligations over the past decade, offered opportunities for this year’s budget to focus on other priorities:

**Invest in Capital Projects** – The 2019 budget allocates more than \$3.3 million to rebuild local roads and \$3.1 million for water, sewer, and stormwater infrastructure improvements, as outlined in the City’s Five-Year Capital Improvement Plan. It also positions the City to effectively proceed with other capital projects planned for 2020 and beyond, Gallagher adds.

**Reduce Tax Burden** – As debate on the proposed 2019 budget wound down, Council members approved a one-time use



of City reserves to help lower the tax burden on residents who fund operations. The move cut the 2019 tax levy increase from a proposed 4.7% to 2.7%, while assuring City finances remained within the established parameters of Rolling Meadows’ fund balance and pension contribution policies.

The approved 2019 budget is posted online at [www.cityrm.org/233/Financial-Reports](http://www.cityrm.org/233/Financial-Reports).



## ‘Twas the Season for Holiday Lights

An extremely cold winter’s night was no match for the community warmth generated by hundreds of residents who gathered in downtown Rolling Meadows on December 6th for the City’s annual Holiday Tree Lighting ceremony.

Afterwards, community members of all ages enjoyed a free spaghetti dinner at the Fogarty Fire Station and an Old-Time Radio Show performance at Trinity Lutheran Church.

## Aldermen Approve 2019 Meeting Schedule

City Council’s regular 2019 meetings will take place at 7:30 p.m. on the second and fourth Tuesdays of each month.\* Council members will also hold a Committee of the Whole “workshop” meeting on the third Tuesday of every month at 7:30 p.m.

Agendas for upcoming meetings, and approved minutes from prior meetings, are available online at [www.cityrm.org/AgendaCenter](http://www.cityrm.org/AgendaCenter).

The 2019 schedule also establishes meeting dates and times for the City’s many volunteer boards and commissions, including the:

- **Economic Development Committee** – meets the first Tuesday of each month (6 p.m.).
- **Environmental Committee** – meets the first Tuesday of each month (6:30 p.m.).
- **Planning & Zoning Commission** – meets the first Tuesday of the month (7:30 p.m.). \*\*1st Wednesday in January
- **Rolling Meadows Crime Stoppers** – meets the second Tuesday of the month (5:30 p.m.).

All meetings take place at City Hall, unless noted. A complete listing of City commissions is posted at [www.cityrm.org/349/Boards-Commissions](http://www.cityrm.org/349/Boards-Commissions).

Meeting information is also published monthly in *News & Views* and *e-News & Views*. Past issues of both publications are archived on the City’s website.

*\*Editor’s Note: City Council will convene on the first and third Tuesdays of December. The Committee of the Whole meeting will be held on the second Tuesday.*



City Council meeting information is available on Rolling Meadows’ website.

## Vast Knowledge of City Codes Places Elizabeth Payne in the ‘Zone’

Public Works Department Administrative Services Coordinator Elizabeth Payne continually impresses co-workers and supervisors alike with her vast knowledge of municipal zoning codes and procedures.

It's the result of experience gained here in Rolling Meadows over the past three years, combined with her prior service as a Code Enforcement Officer in the Village of Streamwood and Permit Processing Technician with the Village of Glenview.

However, her initial career plans were of an entirely different sort: Elizabeth graduated from Valparaiso University with a degree in Sociology (with a concentration in Criminology).

“My interest in the nuances of the zoning code began when I worked in Streamwood,” she recalled. “It's really very interesting to see how zoning codes guide municipal development. Understanding, interpreting, and properly administering the codes is critical to a community's long-term success.”

“Elizabeth is the ‘go-to’ person within the Community Development Division on pretty much anything related to the zoning code,” explained Public Works Director Fred Vogt, who also oversees CDD operations following a 2017 organizational restructuring.

“She knows the procedures and she knows the requirements. That enables us to provide faster, more responsive services to our customers.”



Elizabeth Payne

As part of the 2017 restructuring, Elizabeth wears many hats: she serves as Clerical Supervisor for both Public Works and Community Development; is a Planning Assistant for the City's Planning & Zoning Commission; coordinates services available through the City's Senior Snow Removal Program; and provides additional HR and payroll assistance.

While appreciating the praise she receives from her peers, Elizabeth is adamant that her success wouldn't be possible without her co-workers. Dorothy Bartsch, Lolita Engram, Maria Tarpinian, and Dorris Ho-Slomiany all play critical roles in the City's commitment to delivering outstanding customer service.

“I'm lucky to be part of a great team. Dorothy, Dorris, Lolita, and Maria are amazing,” she said.

Elizabeth is currently pursuing a Master's degree in Public Administration and a Certificate in Public Management from Northern Illinois University.

## Community Events: Rolling Meadows Prepares for an ‘Event’ful 2019

2019 may well be one of the most “eventful” years in Rolling Meadows' history: City and Park District officials, Community Events Foundation supporters, and a dedicated team of volunteers are adding final touches to a year-long series of events offering all-ages, family-friendly fun!



The annual Summer Block Party draws thousands to the downtown area.

From summer City Markets and free concerts in Kimball Hill Park to the Hometown Hoedown Fall Fest and Holiday Tree Lighting, planners have assembled a schedule of 30 events de-

signed to showcase Rolling Meadows' community spirit and bring people together.

View a complete listing of this year's Community Events schedule online at [www.cityrm.org/669/Community-Events](http://www.cityrm.org/669/Community-Events).

### City Hall Hosts Monthly Foundation Volunteer Meetings

Monthly meetings of Community Events Foundation volunteers are tentatively scheduled for 6:00 p.m. on the third Tuesday of each month (January – October) at City Hall. Residents who would like to learn more about Foundation activities or volunteer their time and talents are welcome to attend. The more, the merrier!

### Tax-Deductible Donations Support Foundation

Financial support for the City's community events is provided by the Rolling Meadows Community Events Foundation, a 501 (c) 3 nonprofit organization that relies on tax-deductible donations from residents and local businesses.

To contribute, please visit [www.cityrm.org/679/Community-Events-Foundation](http://www.cityrm.org/679/Community-Events-Foundation).

## RMFD Joins NCH Pilot Program Offering Post-Hospital/At-Home Care ...continued from page 1

these services to our residents and improve overall patient care throughout the area,” he added.

Specially-credentialed firefighter/paramedics will schedule at-home visits with the patient's consent and in coordination with NCH discharge planners. Those appointments will enable Fire Department personnel to assess patients' overall health, determine how well they are proceeding with their discharge plan,

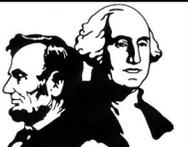
and answer any health-related questions they may have.

Patient information will be kept strictly confidential in accordance with the Health Insurance Portability and Accountability Act (HIPAA). Under the terms of the agreement, the Fire Department will be reimbursed by Northwest Community Hospital for any personnel time and equipment used in support of the program. At-home services are provided to patients at no cost.

# January 2019

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
		City offices closed. Refuse collection delayed one day all week.  <b>New Year's Day</b>		<b>Adjudication Hearing</b> (Parking), 2 pm, City Hall		
<b>Historical Society Holiday Open House</b> , 1-4 pm (3100 Central Road)		<b>Crime Stoppers</b> , 5:30 pm <b>Environmental Committee</b> , 6:30 pm <b>City Council Meeting</b> , 7:30 pm, all at City Hall	<b>Planning &amp; Zoning Commission</b> , 7:30 pm, City Hall	<b>Adjudication Hearing</b> , 10 1 pm, City Hall		
	<b>Board of Fire &amp; Police Commissioners</b> , 9 am, City Hall	<b>Community Events Foundation</b> , 6 pm <b>City Council Committee of the Whole</b> , 7:30 pm, both at City Hall		<b>Adjudication Hearing</b> (Red Light), 2 pm, City Hall		
	City offices closed. Regular refuse collection.	<b>Water bills due</b> <b>City Council Meeting</b> , 7:30 pm, City Hall				
	<b>Martin Luther King Day</b>					
					<b>Christmas Tree Disposal</b> Public Works will collect Christmas Trees for disposal December 31st – January 11th. Remove all decorations and place trees at the curb on regular refuse days.	

# February 2019

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
Keep updated on City news with Rolling Meadows' electronic newsletter, <b>E-News &amp; Views</b> , published in February, April, June, August, October and December. Each newsletter is archived on the City's website, <a href="http://www.cityrm.org">www.cityrm.org</a> .						
		<b>Economic Development Committee</b> , 6 pm <b>Environmental Committee</b> , 6:30 pm <b>Planning &amp; Zoning Commission</b> , 7:30 pm, all at City Hall		<b>Adjudication Hearing</b> (Parking), 2 pm, City Hall		
	<b>Board of Fire &amp; Police Commissioners</b> , 9 am, City Hall	<b>Crime Stoppers</b> , 5:30 pm <b>City Council Meeting</b> , 7:30 pm, both at City Hall  <b>Lincoln's Birthday</b>		<b>Adjudication Hearing</b> , 1 pm, City Hall  <b>Valentine's Day</b>	<b>Holiday Light Recycling Program Ends</b>	
		<b>Community Events Foundation</b> , 6 pm <b>City Council Committee of the Whole</b> , 7:30 pm, both at City Hall	<b>Water bills due</b>	<b>Adjudication Hearing</b> (Red Light), 2 pm, City Hall		
	<b>President's Day</b>				<b>Washington's Birthday</b>	
		<b>City Council Meeting</b> , 7:30 pm, City Hall				



## Fratellos II Joins Hot Dog Hall of Fame

Rolling Meadows' own Fratellos II was officially inducted into the Vienna Beef Hot Dog Hall of Fame in December – becoming just the 128th restaurant in the United States to earn such recognition.

During a brief ceremony in the restaurant's dining area, Fratellos' owner/operator John Manios accepted a commemorative plaque from Bob Schwartz, Vienna Beef's Senior Vice President, and Tom McGlade, Vice President of Marketing.

City Manager Barry Krumstok and Business Advocate Martha Corner were on hand to represent the City and congratulate Manios on his accomplishment.

"Consistent great food and service at Fratellos have been daily goals to work and live by," Schwartz explained during the ceremony, as he congratulated Manios, and his family and staff. Schwartz also recognized the restaurant as an "iconic part of the community."

For more information on Fratellos' Hall of Fame induction, visit <https://www.viennabeef.com/hall-of-fame/fratellos-ii-hot-dogs>.

The Vienna Beef Hot Dog Hall of Fame was established in 2006 to honor "hot dog operations that have achieved longevity and developed into neighborhood landmarks," according to a news release.

## Credit Agencies Reaffirm City's Strong Rating Moody's, S&P Cite Excellent Performance, Policies

Moody's Investor Service and S&P Global Ratings have reaffirmed Rolling Meadows' strong credit rating, following an extensive review process in which the agencies praised the City's "budgetary performance and commitment to excellent financial policies/practices," City Manager Barry Krumstok reports.

S&P's latest report, issued in November 2018, cited the City's exemplary budgetary flexibility and liquidity (available cash), strong management, and strong economy as compelling reasons for maintaining Rolling Meadows' AA+ rating, which was first issued nearly five years ago.

Moody's previously confirmed Rolling Meadows' exceptional Aa3 rating by citing many of the same merits.

**MOODY'S**  
**S&P Global**  
**Ratings**

Strong ratings offer City officials the financial flexibility to raise money for economic development initiatives or other purposes by issuing general obligation bonds at more attractive (lower) rates. This helps save taxpayers money – potentially hundreds of thousands of dollars in interest – when paying off those bonds.

"The recent Moody's and S&P reports confirm that rating agencies continue to look favorably on Rolling Meadows as a great place to do business," Krumstok explained.

For more information on the City's credit rating, visit [www.cityrm.org/233/Financial-Reports](http://www.cityrm.org/233/Financial-Reports).



## Free Holiday Light Recycling Available

Can't decide what to do with those old, worn-out holiday lights? Recycle them through a free program developed by 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 15th. Drop boxes are located on the west side of the facility. Items accepted for recycling 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 allowed.

**ROLLING MEADOWS  
RUNS ON DUNKIN'**

### Next Generation Dunkin' Opens on Algonquin Road

The writing is (literally) on the wall: "Rolling Meadows runs on Dunkin'."

Guests visiting the new Dunkin' at 1921 Algonquin Road are greeted by that very slogan – a play on the company's well-known marketing tagline, "America Runs on Dunkin'."

The shop, which opened in November, is the first in the Chicago area to implement the company's new "Dunkin'" branding approach – although there are still plenty of donuts to be had!

The 2,900 sq. ft. facility also features two onsite conference rooms, a pick-up area for mobile orders, and new cold brew and espresso equipment.

## City Set to Welcome New Restaurants, Businesses in 2019

by Mayor Len Prejna

December was an exciting and busy time in Rolling Meadows, as evidenced by fun-filled holiday high school concerts and the Tree Lighting, fireworks, and spaghetti dinner downtown. While these gatherings helped showcase our amazing community spirit, we're already looking forward to 2019's roster of community events – kicking things off in March with Taste the Town!

Residents' strong participation in these types of events serves as a beacon to new businesses looking to put down roots in our City. They clearly see that Rolling Meadows is living up to its reputation as a great place to live, work, and do business.

We've been fortunate to welcome many new businesses in the last year, and we expect that momentum to continue as the

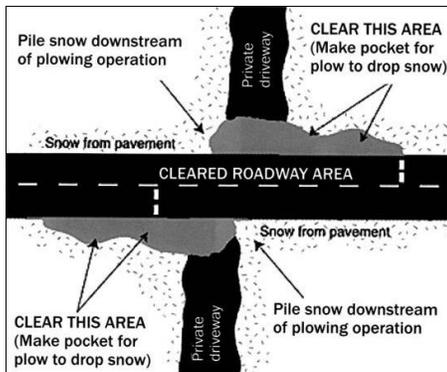
calendar turns to 2019. Keep your eyes on the Squire Court shopping center at Euclid & Plum Grove Road, which will soon offer residents several different dining and video gaming choices.

Meanwhile, along the downtown corridor, Rep's Place is expanding and adding video gaming to their premises. And we will welcome two new Kirchoff Road restaurants this spring. A growing selection of local restaurants will give our residents (and those from surrounding communities) plenty of choices for dining and entertainment. These businesses will also generate new tax revenue that will help reduce reliance on property taxes to fund City services.

I hope 2019 offers everyone health and happiness. As a community, let's make 2019 our best year yet!

## Teamwork Key to Effective City Snow Removal

Rolling Meadows' long-standing reputation for effectively clearing city streets of snow and ice each winter wouldn't be possible without help from City residents, who play important roles in ensuring public safety, Public Works Director Fred Vogt believes.



This diagram shows how to minimize the amount of snow pushed back onto freshly-cleared driveways by passing plows.

“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 of the driveway. 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 limit potential property damage.



When winter storms strike, City snow plows tackle major streets, such as Kirchoff Road, first.



## Museum to Host Jan. 6th Open House

2019 may have arrived, but there's one more festive gathering for Rolling Meadows residents to enjoy before the holiday season goes down in *history*.

Join the Rolling Meadows Historical Society on Sunday, January 6th, 1 – 4 p.m., for a Holiday Open House at the City's Historical Museum (3100 Central Road). Historical Society members have “decked the halls” of the Kimball Hill home replica with retro 1950s and 1960s décor from Rolling Meadows' early days.

Guests will enjoy free refreshments, guided Museum tours, and the chance to take home authentic historical items from the Society's collection. The first 50 visitors will receive a free ornament.

The event will also showcase Museum renovations completed in 2018.