

eNEWS

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VOLUME 7 ISSUE 1



Gather with family and friends to enjoy a wide variety of flavors at Feb. 29th's 'Taste the Town.'

65TH ANNIVERSARY CELEBRATION GETS ROLLING WITH 'TASTE,' ST. PAT'S DINNER

A year-long series of community events to commemorate Rolling Meadows' 65th birthday kicks off February 29th with the City's 4th annual "Taste the Town" extravaganza, and a March 14th St. Patrick's Day Dinner celebration co-sponsored by the Rolling Meadows Park District.

Taste the Town (Sat. 2/29) 6:00 – 9:00 pm

Rolling Meadows Community Center
(3705 Pheasant Drive)

The City's 4th annual "Taste" promises a flavorful tour of Rolling Meadows' culinary scene. Enjoy menu samples from top restaurants (*while supplies last*) that showcase the wide range of local options available to diners. The evening's soundtrack will be provided by [Howl2Go Dueling Pianos](#).

Tickets are \$15 each and available at the door.

Taste also offers a marketing opportunity for restaurants to connect with potential customers. Past events have drawn an average of 500 people.

Restaurants that would like to participate in this year's Taste may contact Ciezak at 847-394-8500 or ciezakl@cityrm.org.

St. Patrick's Day Dinner (Sat. 3/14) 6:00 – 10:00 pm

Rolling Meadows Community Center
(3705 Pheasant Drive)

Part Community Events Foundation fundraiser; part St. Patrick's Day revelry; all fun! Join this lively Celtic celebration that features an Irish/American dinner, cash bar, and live music provided by Irish pub/folk band [Arranmore](#).

Attendees may enter a "best Irish attire" contest and purchase tickets for the Dinner's \$1,500 grand prize raffle.

Event tickets are \$30 per person (\$35 after March 4th) and available [online](#). Those planning to attend may also purchase them in person at City Hall or the Community Center.

Make checks payable to "Rolling Meadows Community Events Foundation."

MARCH 17TH REFERENDUM TO LET VOTERS DETERMINE ALDERMANIC TERM LIMITS

A referendum question on Illinois' March 17th Primary ballot may lead to changes in the makeup of future Rolling Meadows City Councils.

The question before voters, if approved, would limit the service of incumbent aldermen to two (2) consecutive terms, or eight years. Currently, a City Council member may serve up to 12 years, or three consecutive terms, before being required to vacate his/her seat.

The March 17th ballot question will read:

"Shall the terms of office for those persons elected to the office of alderman in the City of Rolling Meadows at the April 6, 2021 Consolidated Election, and at each election thereafter, be limited such that no person shall be eligible to seek election to or hold the office of alderman where that person has been previously elected to the office of alderman of the City of Rolling Meadows for two (2) consecutive full four (4) year terms."

A YES vote indicates support for the revised two-term limit.

For more information on the March 17th Illinois Primary, visit the [Cook County Clerk's website](#).





Community Events Foundation volunteers at last year's Hometown Hoedown Fall Festival.

LOCAL SUPPORT DRIVES SUCCESS OF CITY'S COMMUNITY EVENTS

There are multiple ways to show your support for Rolling Meadows' community events:

Attend

From February's Taste the Town (see page 1) to December's Holiday Celebration, Rolling Meadows packs a ton of excitement into every calendar year. Check out a [listing of upcoming events](#) online, mark your calendars, and join the fun!

Volunteer

Resident volunteers are the engines that make these events successful and we're always looking for more people to join the ranks. It's a great way to make a difference in the community. Learn more by contacting Lori Ciezak (ciezakl@cityrm.org or 847-394-8500).

Contribute

Financial support for 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. For more information and to contribute, visit the City's [Community Events Foundation webpage](#).

CAPITAL INVESTMENTS AND RATE STABILIZATION STRATEGIES DELIVER VALUE FOR TAXPAYERS

By Melissa Gallagher, Finance Director

The Fiscal Year budget approved by aldermen last November focuses planning efforts and resources to achieve key goals outlined by City leaders for 2020:

1. Building for Rolling Meadows' future through continued capital infrastructure investments.
2. Leveraging rate stabilization strategies to maintain current water, sewer, and storm water fees.
3. Meeting state pension obligations while simultaneously limiting property tax levy increases funded by residents and businesses.

City Council and staff take a thoughtful and fiscally responsible approach to annual budgeting. This provides the means to continually improve Rolling Meadows' financial strength by increasing fund balances, funding pensions, and investing in infrastructure – all while continuing to provide quality services to the City's residents and businesses.

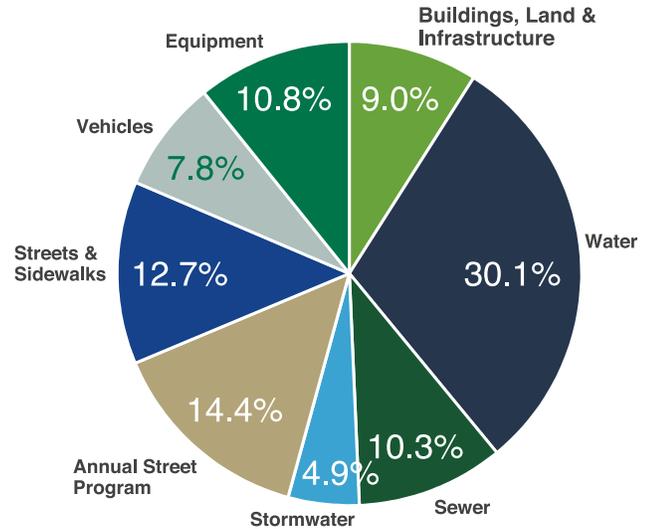
It's also an approach that provides the flexibility, when necessary, to make decisions that help limit the burden on taxpayers who fund City services.

Rebuild Infrastructure

Faced with the need to complete extensive repairs to Rolling Meadows' aging system of water mains, City officials approved the sale of municipal bonds to raise the revenue necessary for completing these projects throughout 2019 & 2020.

Revenue from the bond sales helped avoid excessive upfront costs involved with upgrading antiquated

FY 2020 Proposed Capital Project Where the Money Goes – Capital Expenditure by Type FY 2020 At-a-Glance



underground lines, manage costs more effectively on behalf of taxpayers, maintain healthy fund balances, and improve system/service reliability.

Stabilize Rates

Meanwhile, the City's approval of a 2019 Utility Rate Study, prepared by civil engineering firm Baxter & Woodman, outlined a multi-year plan for rate stabilization and future capital improvements.

By implementing the study's recommendations (and with funds generated through the bond sales), the 2020 budget freezes the City's water, sewer and storm water fees at 2019 levels.

Limit Property Tax Levy Increase

Aldermen initially debated a 7.1% increase (\$1,026,166) in the City's property tax levy to fund its 2020 pension obligations. Instead, they approved a one-time use of funding reserves to reduce the property tax levy by nearly \$670,000. The result: a more modest 2.4% (\$350,058) increase that provides some relief to taxpayers and ensures the City continues to meet its lawfully mandated obligations.



American English will headline June 12th's Community Block Party.

Photo: American English

65 & LIVE! CITY TO MARK 65TH ANNIVERSARY WITH INCREDIBLE LIVE MUSIC PERFORMANCES

Rolling Meadows is the place to catch great live music in 2020, as the City celebrates its 65th anniversary with an expanded roster of exciting bands and solo artists:

- **Howl2Go Dueling Pianos** – *“The variety of a DJ and the excitement of a live band.”* (Taste the Town, February 29th)
- **Arranmore** – *Irish pub/folk band* (St. Patrick’s Day Dinner, March 14th)
- **The David Paige Band** – *Rock & pop* (City Market, May 23rd)
- **American English** – *Beatles tribute band* (Community Block Party, June 12th)
- **Hi Infidelity** – *80s covers* (Fridays ROCK!, June 19th)
- **Stann Champion** – *Guitarist/singer/songwriter* (City Market, June 27th)
- **Hot Rocks** – *Rolling Stones tribute band* (Fridays ROCK!, July 10th)
- **Semple Band** – *“70s rock, modern pop, and everything in between.”* (Wine-Down by the Creek, August 14th)
- **Roots Rock Society** – *Reggae* (Wine-Down by the Creek, August 14th)
- **Boy Band Review** – *Tribute band* (Fridays ROCK!, September 18th)
- **Wild Earp** – *“Old school, newfangled, funky country western rock n roll-abilly!”* (Hometown Hoedown, October 3rd)

“Rolling Meadows is celebrating its 65th birthday, but age is just a number,” said Lori Ciezak, Assistant to the City Manager and Community Events Foundation liaison. “Live bands have proven very popular with residents over the past few years, so we’ve doubled down for 2020. We’ll see everyone at the shows!”

More information, and a complete listing of all 2020 Community Events, is available online at www.cityrm.org/669/Community-Events.

NEW ONLINE UTILITY BILLING PORTAL DEBUTS THIS SPRING

A new web-based customer service portal debuting this spring will make it easier for residents to enroll in the City’s automatic bill pay program or pay their monthly utility bills online.

The portal is powered by upgraded utility billing software that will offer several new features – including the ability to access and view one’s billing history online. Customers will be able to select their preferred payment option: automatic monthly payments by credit/debit card or bank draft, or same day payment with a credit/debit card.

At its core, the new system is designed to bolster customer service and convenience while improving internal operations.

Pending Changes to Affect Automatic Payment Customers

As the transition to the new portal begins, please note that:

- Customers who pay online through their bank’s website (via EFT transfer) must update their Utility Billing account number after the City transitions to the new software on May 1st (*stay tuned for details*).
- Current auto payment customers who use credit/debit cards will need to re-enroll once the new system is active. Final payments scheduled through the current system will occur on March 20th. Use another payment method until you enroll through the new customer portal.
- Existing bank draft (checking or savings account) customers will transition to the new software system without interruption.

The City will post instructions on how to register for the “new” automatic payment system once it is active.

Residents with questions about the pending changes may contact the Finance Department at ub@cityrm.org or 847-394-8500.



Job seekers will engage face-to-face with local businesses at this year's Showcase.

APRIL 23RD SHOWCASE TO HELP CONNECT JOB SEEKERS WITH LOCAL BUSINESSES

The City's annual Business & Community Showcase will introduce a new "job fair" component to its 2020 program, allowing participating businesses to meet prospective employees, Rolling Meadows Business Advocate Martha Corner reports.

The Showcase (Thursday, April 23rd, 4-8 pm at [Meridian Banquets](#)) will also provide opportunities for local business leaders to network with other professionals, and engage with current customers and prospects.

"Previous Showcase participants consistently praise the effectiveness of the event's B2B networking opportunities," Corner explained. "As we develop the 2020 program, one of our goals is to help deliver greater value for exhibitors by creating a forum in

which businesses can also meet with potential candidates for job openings at their respective companies."

Residents are welcome to attend the Showcase free-of-charge from 5-8 pm.



The City will post a Showcase registration link later this month for businesses planning to participate. Registration is just \$25.

For more information on the 2020 Showcase, contact Martha Corner at cornerm@cityrm.org or 847-870-9004.

2/04 – Economic Development Committee, 6 pm; Environmental Committee, 6:30 pm; Planning & Zoning Commission, 7:30 pm

2/06 – Adjudication Hearing (Parking), 2 pm

2/10 – Board of Fire & Police Commissioners, 9 am

2/11 – Crime Stoppers, 5:30 pm; City Council Meeting, 7:30 pm

2/12 – Lincoln's Birthday

2/13 – Adjudication Hearing, 1 pm

2/14 – Valentine's Day; Holiday Light Recycling Program ends

2/17 – President's Day

2/18 – Community Events Foundation, 6 pm; City Council Committee of the Whole, 7:30 pm

2/20 – Water bills due; Adjudication hearing (Red Light), 2 pm

2/22 – Washington's Birthday

2/25 – City Council Meeting, 7:30 pm

2/29 – Taste the Town, 6-9 pm, Community Center (3705 Pheasant Drive). See story on page 1.

All meetings take place at City Hall, unless noted.

PUBLIC WORKS EMPLOYEES EARN APWA SCHOLARSHIPS

Public Works Director Rob Horne (right) congratulates Elizabeth Payne and Ryan Rivard on being awarded competitive scholarships from the American Public Works Association. Payne, Public Works' Administrative Services Coordinator, is pursuing her master's degree in Public Administration (MPA) at Northern Illinois University, DeKalb. Rivard, one of the City's Building Inspectors, is working toward his MPA at the University of Illinois – Springfield.



ROLLING MEADOWS HONORED WITH GFOA REPORTING AWARD

Finance Department's 'Win Streak' Extends to 33 Consecutive Years

If the Finance Department had a trophy case, it would probably be a bit overcrowded by now. That's because Rolling Meadows has collected its 33rd consecutive Certificate of Achievement for Excellence in Financial Reporting from the Government Finance Officers Association of the United States and Canada (GFOA).

GFOA officials presented the award after a thorough review of Rolling Meadows' financial and accounting processes for Fiscal Year (FY) 2018.

The review confirmed that the City's Comprehensive Annual Financial Report (CAFR) "met the highest standards of accounting and financial reporting," according to a GFOA news release.



Promote Budgetary Transparency

The award also demonstrates the City's commitment to budgetary transparency, Finance Director Melissa Gallagher reports.

"GFOA reviews help us identify ways to improve our operational processes, which facilitates a commitment to financial transparency," she explained. "This award validates those efforts and ensures that we are continuing to build on the City's tradition of accounting excellence."

View Financial Reports Online

Residents may view Comprehensive Annual Financial Reports (CAFRs) dating back to 2009 by visiting the [Financial Reports](#) page of the City's website.



COMMUNITY COMES TOGETHER TO SUPPORT POLICE DEPARTMENT'S HOLIDAY SHOP PROGRAM

The Police Department's annual "Shop with a Rolling Meadows Cop" event provided an opportunity for nearly 50 children to go on a Walmart shopping spree and purchase gifts for the holiday season.

The program was made possible by the generous donation of Walmart gift cards by countless Rolling Meadows residents, financial contributions by Nature's Care and Walmart (which also hosted the event), and off-duty police officers who volunteered to chaperone the kids.

"We are very grateful to the community for their thoughtful contributions, and to Walmart and Nature's Care for funding the program," explained Dr. Natalia Nieves, RMPD's Social Services Outreach Specialist. "The smiles on the children's faces – and the gratitude expressed by their parents – was absolutely priceless."



CITY RECOGNIZED FOR 'OUTSTANDING' NATIONAL NIGHT OUT IN 2019

The National Association of Town Watch (NATW) honored Rolling Meadows with a plaque recognizing 2019's National Night Out celebration as an example of "outstanding participation in America's Night Against Crime."

The award, presented to Police Chief John Nowacki, highlights the City's continued support for the nationwide program first launched in 1984.

"Our city's annual National Night Out celebration continues to increase in size each year and has become a premier family event," Chief Nowacki explained. "It offers the perfect venue for residents, businesses, and the Police Officers who serve them to strengthen community partnerships and celebrate Rolling Meadows as "A Great Place to Call Home."

Below: Police Chief John Nowacki mingles with residents at last year's event.





The first enumeration (count) of the 2020 Census took place in Toksook Bay, Alaska, in January.

ACCURATE 2020 CENSUS COUNT ESSENTIAL FOR PROTECTING CITY'S FUTURE

It's surprisingly easy for residents to help ensure that Rolling Meadows (1) continues to be represented effectively at the local, state and federal levels, and (2) receives its fair share of (population-based) federal funding for the next 10 years: simply complete the 2020 census survey that will soon arrive in the mail.

The U.S. Constitution mandates that, once every 10 years, the government conduct a full and complete count of every single resident living in the United States. The final population count serves as the basis for:

- Reapportioning Congressional seats,
- Redistricting at the state and local levels (including re-drawn City ward boundaries to ensure fair representation of Rolling Meadows residents), and,
- Distributing over \$675 billion in federal funds to states, counties, and communities.

Here's more good news: it's never been easier to complete and submit the survey. Surveys will be distributed – the vast majority through the U.S. Postal Service – by April 1st. Residents will be able to fill out the questionnaire online, by phone, or return completed forms by mail.

Is my information safe?

All information provided by residents through the census is strictly confidential. Federal law prohibits the

Census Bureau from sharing data with immigration and law enforcement agencies or allowing it to be used to determine eligibility for benefits.

Why is a complete (and accurate) count so important?

There are several compelling reasons for residents to take time and complete the survey:

1. **Funding to states and local governments** – *Census totals help determine the amount of funding that state governments and local communities receive from the federal government for the next decade.*
2. **Emergency response** – *Detailed population information is critical for emergency response in the wake of disasters.*
3. **Apportionment** – *State population counts are used to reapportion seats in the U.S. House of Representatives.*
4. **Redistricting** – *Census results help redraw congressional, state, and local district boundaries (including City wards).*
5. **Planning** – *Data from the census inform a wide range of government, business, and nonprofit decision-making.*

Source: Population Reference Bureau

Be informed. Be counted. Visit the [U.S. Census Bureau's website](#) to learn more. Links are also available on the [City's homepage](#).

**CONTACT
CITY OFFICIALS**
City Hall Hours
8 am to 4 pm
Monday – Friday



MAYOR and CITY COUNCIL

- Mayor Joe Gallo847-814-9271
- 1st Ward Alderman
Mike Cannon847-687-3276
- 2nd Ward Alderman
Nick Budmats847-202-0855
- 3rd Ward Alderman
Kevin O'Brien847-212-2587
- 4th Ward Alderman
Jenifer Vinezeano630-546-8133
- 5th Ward Alderman
Jon Bisesi847-772-8428
- 6th Ward Alderman
John D'Astice847-409-9367
- 7th Ward Alderman
Lara Sanoica847-770-3097
- City Manager
Barry Krumstok847-394-8500

SERVICES

- Fire & Police Emergency 911
- Fire Non-emergency847-397-3352
- Police Non-emergency847-255-2416
- Finance/Utility Billing847-394-8500
- Public Works847-963-0500
- Community Dev. Division . .847-506-6030
- Senior Handyman Program .847-506-6030
- Crime Stoppers847-590-7867
- ComEd 1-800-EDISON-1

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WELCOME NEW BUSINESSES

Autobon Holdings, Inc.
Autonomous driving solutions
3653 Blackhawk Dr.
contact@autobon.ai

Auto Repairing with David
Auto repair
909 Rohlwing Rd.
224-334-5511

Triple Sem Inc.
Online store/general merchandise
5410 Newport Dr. #35
262-748-2310

Winnie Industries LLC
Electric supplies warehouse
5410 Newport Dr. #62
224-993-0011