

NEWS & VIEWS

3600 KIRCHOFF ROAD | ROLLING MEADOWS, IL 60008 | 847-394-8500 | WWW.CITYRM.ORG

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VOLUME 25 ISSUE 1



STAY INFORMED! FOLLOW CITY ONLINE, IN PRINT, ON TV, AND ON SOCIAL MEDIA

Rolling Meadows is committed to helping community members stay informed about all that's happening in the City through a variety of media formats.

The goal: deliver updates that are informative, accessible, and also provide context on everything from Council deliberations and public safety initiatives to road construction projects and new business openings. Information outlets offered by the City include:

Social Media

Facebook, Twitter, Instagram, and YouTube have proven to be powerful tools for delivering important information and compelling narratives that tell the City's dynamic story. Make sure to "follow" City departments on each platform:

• Administration

- Facebook (www.facebook.com/cityofrollingmeadows)
- Twitter (www.twitter.com/cityofrm1)
- YouTube (www.youtube.com/channel/UCGvDLWmJZTgP25Qsalj_xMw)

• Police Department

- Facebook (www.facebook.com/rollingmeadowspolice)
- Twitter (www.twitter.com/meadowspolice)
- Instagram (www.instagram.com/rmpd)
- YouTube (www.youtube.com/user/rollingmeadowspolice)

• Fire Department

- Facebook (www.facebook.com/rollingmeadowswire)
- Twitter (www.twitter.com/meadowswire)

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CITY RELEASES 2021 EVENTS SCHEDULE

A new year is upon us and, along with it, cautious optimism that Rolling Meadows residents may someday soon be able to gather again for community events. Below is the tentative listing of those planned for 2021:

- 02/27 Taste the Town
- 03/13 St. Patrick's Day Dinner
- 05/29 Memorial Day Parade/ Ceremony
- 05/29 City Markets
- 06/11 Community Block Party
- 06/18 Friday's ROCK! Concert
- 06/26 City Markets
- 07/04 July 4th Parade/Fireworks
- 07/09 Friday's ROCK! Concert
- 07/17 City Markets
- 07/31 Family Night with RM Cops
- 08/03 National Night Out
- 08/13 Wine-Down by the Creek
- 08/28 City Markets
- 09/07 Senior Luncheon
- 09/10 Friday's ROCK! Concert
- 09/23 Business & Community Showcase
- 09/25 City Markets
- 10/02 Hometown Hoedown Festival
- 10/30 Halloween Kick-Off on Kirchoff
- 11/05 Veterans Dinner
- 12/02 Holiday Tree Lighting/ Spaghetti Dinner

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Community Block Party



**NEW
PROGRAM
HIGHLIGHTS
'ROLLING
MEADOWS
PROUD'**

By Barry Krumstok, City Manager

2020 was, in so many ways, a year to forget. Yet despite the seemingly endless negative stories of illness, loss, and struggle associated with the COVID-19 pandemic and other challenges, there were plenty more narratives that offered solace, joy, and hope.

To help bring those stories to light, the City has launched its new "Making Rolling Meadows Proud" initiative. It encourages residents, businesses, community groups, City staff members, and friends of the community to nominate individuals or efforts that exemplify community service and good deeds.

We all need good news, good cheer, and warm thoughts – especially after the past year. We hope this encourages community members from all walks of life to share stories of people helping one another. These are the stories that spotlight Rolling Meadows' community spirit.

What makes Rolling Meadows proud? It's the local business that donated personal protective equipment (PPE) to the Police Department. It's the member of our community who created online Zoom presentations for local children. We can't wait to hear about more.

Submit nominations via email to admin@cityrm.org or by U.S. Mail to:

City of Rolling Meadows
Attn: City Manager
3600 Kirchoff Road
Rolling Meadows, IL 60008

Honorees will receive a certificate of appreciation, be recognized at upcoming City Council meetings, and be the subject of a write-up in the City's newsletter, *News & Views*.

Thanks for sharing!

**LOCAL TOWNSHIP SERVICES HELP IMPROVE
QUALITY OF LIFE FOR MEADOWS' SENIORS**

Rolling Meadows seniors have access to a wide range of assistance programs – financial, food, and otherwise – through their local township. In fact, townships offer a wealth of advocacy, informational, and referral services, as well as emergency assistance for residents facing life-threatening circumstances.

Rolling Meadows is located among four separate townships. Visit the "Community Portal" on Rolling Meadows' website (www.cityrm.org) and enter your address to confirm the township in which you live.

Examples of specific services offered by each township include:

- **Mobile Dental Clinic (Elk Grove Township):** Access preventive or simple restorative dental treatment in a state-of-the-art clinic on wheels for just \$30.
- **Discount Prescription Card (Palatine Township):** Save up to 75% on prescription drugs at over 59,000 pharmacies nationwide.
- **Low Income Energy Assistance Program (Schaumburg Township):** The LIHEAP program helps eligible households pay heating/cooling bills.
- **Home-Delivered Meals (Wheeling Township):** Daily meals are provided to homebound seniors who are unable to prepare food themselves.



Local townships offer a range of services for residents of all ages – including senior citizens.

To learn more about the array of available services provided by each township, please contact:

Elk Grove Township
600 Landmeier Road
Elk Grove Village, IL 60007
847-437-0300
www.elkgrovetownship.com

Palatine Township
721 South Quentin Road
Palatine, IL 60067
847-358-6700
www.palatinetownship-il.gov

Schaumburg Township
1 Illinois Boulevard
Hoffman Estates, IL 60169
847-884-0030
www.schaumburgtownship.org

Wheeling Township
1616 North Arlington Heights Road
Arlington Heights, IL
847-259-7730
www.wheelingtownship.com

**FY2021 BUDGET FREEZES TAX LEVY,
CITY SERVICE FEES AT 2020 LEVELS**

Highlights of the Fiscal Year (FY) 2021 budget formally adopted by City Council in November include:

- **NO** increase in the City's property tax levy.
- **NO** rate increases (water, sewer, storm sewer, refuse).
- Fund capital improvement projects.
- Maintain fund balances/reserves (24.3% of General Fund).

View the approved budget document online at www.cityrm.org/233/financial-reports.

Stay tuned for a more detailed overview of the FY2021 budget in next month's *eNews*.

SEWER TROUBLE? CALL PUBLIC WORKS FIRST

Homeowners experiencing clogged, slow-draining, or backed-up sanitary sewers are encouraged to contact Public Works before calling a plumbing contractor.

Department employees will first check the City sewer main for problems. If none are found, Public Works crews are often able to insert a special camera into a home's "cleanout" (if available) to check the sewer lateral for blockages, defects, or other problems, such as a collapsed pipe.

"Our goal is to help homeowners save money by helping them identify what is causing a sanitary sewer backup," Public Works Director Rob Horne explained. "This information may help residents make an informed decision if they need to hire a plumbing contractor to make repairs or clear the line."

Public Works will not offer recommendations for plumbers to perform the required work.

Residents who believe they may have sanitary sewer backups should contact the Public Works Department at 847-963-0500 during regular business hours (weekdays 8am – 4pm). Call the Police Department's non-emergency number (847-255-2416) after-hours and on weekends.

More information is available at www.cityrm.org/301/public-works.



Sewer laterals (shown) connect residents' homes to the City's sanitary sewer system.

STAY INFORMED ...continued from p.1

News & Views/eNews

Print editions of *News & Views* and its electronic counterpart, *eNews*, provide monthly updates on the City enterprise. Its format provides opportunities for greater detail and "long-form" narratives that do not usually fit within a social media context.

News & Views is published in January, March, May, July, September, and November. New editions of *eNews* are posted on the City's website in February, April, June, August, October, and December. Past issues of both publications are archived on the Rolling Meadows website (www.cityrm.org/archive.aspx?amid=46).

Website

Rolling Meadows' website (www.cityrm.org) serves as the City's informational clearinghouse. Visitors may access everything from upcoming Council agendas to local restaurant listings; pay their utility bills through

the new Online Portal; find contact information for all City departments; view COVID-19 safety updates; and much more.

Subscriptions

The Notify Me® feature on the City's website lets residents subscribe to, and receive updates on, items of interest. Information is sent via email or text message on topics such as construction updates, emergency alerts, department news updates, and more. Visit www.cityrm.org/list.aspx to register/subscribe.

Rolling Meadows Broadcasting Network (RMBN)

View City Council meetings, District 15 Board of Education meetings, and community event information on Channel 6 (Comcast and WOW). RMBN is also accessible online and on most mobile devices (visit www.cityrm.org/609/live-feed).

2021 CITY MEETING SCHEDULE RELEASED

City Council's regular 2021 meetings will take place at 7:30 pm on the second and fourth Tuesdays of each month*. Aldermen will also participate in a Committee of the Whole "workshop" meeting on the third Tuesday of every month – also at 7:30 pm.

Agendas for upcoming meetings, and approved minutes from prior meetings, are available online at www.cityrm.org/agendacenter.

The 2021 schedule also establishes meeting dates and times for the City's many volunteer boards and commissions, including the:

- **Capital Improvements Committee** – meets the fourth Tuesday of the month at 6 pm (*except for January, August, November, and December*).
- **Economic Development Committee** – meets the first Monday of each month at 6:00 pm (*new day*).
- **Environmental Committee** – meets the first Tuesday of each month at 6:30 pm.
- **Planning & Zoning Commission** – meets the first Tuesday of the month at 7:00 pm (*new time*).

All meetings take place at City Hall, unless noted. A complete listing of City commissions is posted at www.cityrm.org/349/boards-commissions.

Meeting information is also published monthly in every issue of *News & Views* and *e-News*. Both publications are archived on the City's website.

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



JANUARY 2021

All meetings take place at City Hall, unless noted.

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
 CHRISTMAS TREE DISPOSAL Public Works will collect Christmas Trees for disposal January 4th – 15th. Remove all decorations and place trees at the curb (trunk end facing the street) for pick-up on regular refuse days.					1 NEW YEAR'S DAY City offices closed. Refuse collection delayed one day.	2
3	4	5 Environmental Committee, 6:30 pm Planning & Zoning Commission, 7 pm	6	7	8	9
10	11 Board of Fire & Police Commissioners, 9 am	12 Crime Stoppers, 5:30 pm City Council Meeting, 7:30 pm	13	14	15	16
17	18 MARTIN LUTHER KING, JR. DAY City offices closed. Regular refuse collection schedule.	19 City Council Committee of the Whole, 7:30 pm	20 <i>Water bills due</i>	21 Fire Pension Board, 8:30 am	22	23
24	25 Police Pension Board, 3:30 pm	26 City Council Meeting, 7:30 pm	27	28	29	30
/	31					

FEBRUARY 2021

All meetings take place at City Hall, unless noted.

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
	1	2 Environmental Committee, 6:30 pm Planning & Zoning Commission, 7 pm	3	4	5	6
7	8 Board of Fire & Police Commissioners, 9 am	9 Crime Stoppers, 5:30 pm City Council Meeting, 7:30 pm	10	11	12 LINCOLN'S BIRTHDAY Holiday Light Recycling Program ends	13
14 VALENTINE'S DAY	15 PRESIDENTS' DAY	16 City Council Committee of the Whole, 7:30 pm	17	18	19	20
21	22 WASHINGTON'S BIRTHDAY Water bills due	23 Capital Improvements Committee, 7 pm City Council Meeting, 7:30 pm	24	25	26	27 Taste the Town, 6 – 9 pm, Community Center.
28	Due to ever-changing circumstances related to the COVID-19 pandemic, meetings and events may be held remotely or postponed for public health purposes. Find the latest updates on the City's website and on Facebook.				FREE HOLIDAY LIGHT RECYCLING AVAILABLE Leave old or worn holiday lights in drop boxes outside City Hall for safe, convenient disposal (through February 12th).	

POLICE DEPARTMENT'S HOLIDAY FOOD DRIVE DONATIONS SHATTER PREVIOUS RECORDS

The Rolling Meadows Police Department thanks all who came out to support its December 5th Holiday Food Drive. The success of this year's "Haul Away Hunger"-themed event vastly exceeded previous drives held by the police: food/personal hygiene item donations completely filled a U-Haul truck; monetary donations surpassed \$2,000; and nearly two dozen volunteers turned out to help.

Local businesses and organizations that partnered with the Police Department for this year's drive



Volunteers from School Health Corporation (pictured) helped make this year's holiday food drive the most successful one yet.

included Jewel/Osco, Islamic Society of Northwest Suburbs, School Health Corporation, U-Haul, and Rolling Meadows Crime Stoppers.

"These donations will go a long way toward helping Palatine Township Food Pantry provide nourishment to numerous families in need over the next several months," explained Commander Mike Fior. "Demand is greater than ever, due to the pandemic. Nevertheless, it was heartwarming to once again witness the generosity of Rolling Meadows residents."



A full load of donations destined for Palatine Township Food Pantry.

SOCIAL DISTANCING APPROACH TO 'SHOP & DINE'

There's never been a better time to support Rolling Meadows' local businesses. In an age of social distancing, here are a few simple ways to help local stores and restaurants during this difficult time:

Shop online. Enjoy local goods and services without having to leave the comfort of your home. Surf the web (below) and load your online shop-

ping cart with gift cards and goods from your favorite shops.

Order takeout or delivery. Enjoy a "taste" of Rolling Meadows' restaurants – many of which are pleased to fulfill phone orders. Stop and pick up your meal or have it delivered.

Share a great online review. Share your experiences on platforms such as Yelp, Google, and Facebook, and help local businesses gain new customers through word-of-mouth recommendations.

Say thanks. Post a social media note or send an email to local business owners letting them know you appreciate their services. They are grateful for your continued patronage.



BUSINESS BUZZ SITE ENCOURAGES 'SHOP LOCAL' INITIATIVES

The RM Business Buzz, a new website launched by the City last fall, makes it simpler than ever for residents to support local businesses.

More than 760 Rolling Meadows-based companies, retail shops, restaurants, and more have a presence on the site, which also features coupons/special offers that appeal to all types of customers – consumers, businesses, etc.



RM Business Buzz homepage.

"The Buzz makes it easier and more convenient for residents to take advantage of Rolling Meadows' thriving local business community," explained Martha Corner, Rolling Meadows' Business Advocate. "Click on the site's 'Special Offers' link to view and download coupons and local deals provided by area businesses," she added.

The site's navigation features allow users to search for specific businesses by name or view company listings organized into specific categories: Shopping, Dining, Construction, Services, and Health/Well-Being.

Learn more at rmbusinessbuzz.org.





MAYOR'S CORNER BY MAYOR JOE GALLO

'CORNER' COLUMN TO SHARE COUNCIL MEMBERS' NEWS, VIEWS, AND PERSPECTIVES

Happy New Year!...with strong emphasis on "new."

2020 was definitely a year for the history books. I remember sitting down one year ago to write my thoughts for the "Mayor's Corner." The world was a very different place. Writing this today reminds me just how quickly things can change.

While there is no denying this past year brought about hardship and sadness, we also experienced moments of triumph and joy amidst the chaos. We saw new businesses open in our community and watched other businesses get creative to meet new pandemic-induced challenges.

As we focus on the future, we are also getting creative with the Mayor's

Corner. This column has offered a unique opportunity for me to connect directly with you. It's with this in mind that I've decided to open this column up to members of City Council. In each upcoming issue, readers will get to hear from one of the individuals who directly represent our residents.

Extending this platform to my peers creates more opportunities for them to interact with the community. It will allow them to share their perspectives and updates with all residents – not just those in their respective wards. I also believe it will help you to get to know each of them a little better. I hope you look forward to this change as much as I am.

May the new year bring all of us happiness and health.



COMMUNITY EVENTS SCHEDULE ...continued from p.1

"We hope to resume 'normal' activities as soon as possible, but residents' safety remains our top priority," explained Lori Ciezak, Assistant to the City Manager and liaison to the Rolling Meadows Community Events Foundation. "As the year progresses, we will continue to follow the guidance

of federal and state health agency guidelines. These may cause further delays or cancellations," she added.

For the latest updates, follow the City on Facebook (www.facebook.com/city-ofrollingmeadows) or visit www.cityrm.org/669/community-events.



CONTACT CITY OFFICIALS
City Hall Hours
8:00 am to 4:00 pm
Monday – Friday

MAYOR and CITY COUNCIL

- Mayor Joe Gallo847-814-9271
- 1st Ward Alderman
Vacant
- 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. Division847-506-6030
- Senior Handyman Program .847-506-6030
- Crime Stoppers847-590-7867
- ComEd 1-800-EDISON-1

 www.facebook.com/cityofrollingmeadows

 www.twitter.com/@cityofrm1

REGISTER TO VOTE IN APRIL ELECTION

On April 6th, Rolling Meadows voters will elect aldermen representing the 1st, 2nd, 4th, and 6th Wards. But you must be registered to vote in order to make your voice heard.



Residents who are not yet registered should visit the Cook County Clerk's website (www.cookcountyclerk.com) for details, and to download applications and forms. Registration is available online, in person, and through the U.S. Mail.