

eNEWS

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

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VOLUME 8 ISSUE 1



Rolling Meadows' annual Community Block Party is among 22 events set to return in 2021.

FEBRUARY TASTE THE TOWN, MARCH ST. PATRICK'S DAY DINNER PULLED FROM 2021 COMMUNITY EVENTS SLATE

City officials have called off the first two community events that had been tentatively planned for this year to protect public health and minimize the risk of further spreading the COVID-19 virus.

"Taste the Town," originally set for Saturday, February 27th, and a community St. Patrick's Day Dinner planned for Saturday, March 13th, will return in 2022.

With positivity rates throughout the region in flux and vaccinations still unavailable to the majority of the public, planners decided to err on the side of caution and cancel those events scheduled to take place in early 2021.

"The decision to cancel was made with the community's well-being in mind," explained Lori Ciezak, Assistant to the City Manager and Community

Events Foundation Liaison. "We all look forward to the day when Rolling Meadows residents gather again to celebrate the City, but the health and well-being of our residents will always take top priority."

Rolling Meadows' 2021 community events calendar is now slated to kick off Saturday, May 29th, with Memorial Day ceremonies and the season's first City Market.

All City events are subject to cancellation or postponement at any time due to local, state, or national COVID-19 guidelines and mandates. Find the latest updates on the City's [website](#) and [Facebook page](#).

Events will incorporate social distancing and sanitation procedures to maximize health and safety for all attendees.

CITY RECOGNIZED WITH 4TH STRAIGHT BUDGET AWARD

For the fourth consecutive year, the Government Finance Officers Association (GFOA) has recognized Rolling Meadows for "meeting the highest principles of governmental budgeting," as represented by the Association's Distinguished Budget Presentation Award.

The award for the City's Fiscal Year 2019 budget certifies that Rolling Meadows met or exceeded nationally accepted guidelines for effective budget presentation.

GFOA reviewers confirmed that the budget document was rated "proficient" in 14 mandatory criteria that measured its success as a (1) policy document, (2) financial plan, (3) operations guide, and (4) communications device.



Financial Reporting Award Application Under Review

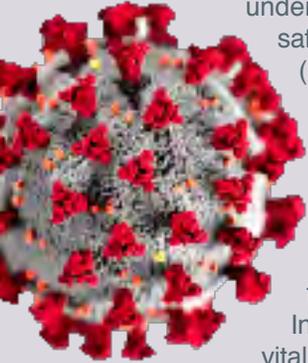
City officials are also monitoring the status of another award application submitted to the GFOA for the City's annual audit: the Certificate of Achievement for Excellence in Financial Reporting.

Rolling Meadows has earned this award, which recognizes organizations for effective accounting/financial reporting and budgetary transparency, for 33 consecutive years.

Due to COVID-19 protocols, GFOA review of the City's application has been delayed. However, Finance Director Melissa Gallagher is "optimistic we will extend our streak to 34 years."

STAY VIGILANT: APPLY '3 W'S' DURING COVID-19 VACCINATION EFFORT

A national effort to vaccinate hundreds of millions of people across the country against COVID-19 is now underway, with public safety/first responders (including Rolling Meadows firefighters) among those at the head of the line.



This effort will take time and patience. In the meantime, it is vital that residents and businesses remain vigilant:

protect yourself and minimize the risk to others by following the three W's:

- **WATCH** your distance. *Keep at least six feet away from people outside your immediate household.*
- **WEAR** face coverings. *Wear a mask or cloth face covering whenever social distancing is not possible – especially indoors.*
- **WASH** your hands. *Wash them often (with soap and water) and for at least 20 seconds. If soap is not available, use an alcohol-based hand sanitizer.*

For more information on protecting your and your family's health, visit the "Community Resources" page on the [Rolling Meadows website](#). The page offers links to the [Centers for Disease Control and Prevention](#) (CDC) and [Illinois Department of Public Health](#) (IDPH) websites, and the state's online information clearinghouse dedicated to the novel coronavirus (<https://coronavirus.illinois.gov>).

There is also a **COVID-19 Online Assessment Tool** that lets users answer a series of questions about symptoms and risk factors; and offers recommended next steps and contact information for area resource providers. Access the module on the City's [Coronavirus Information Page](#).

CITY'S FY2021 BUDGET FREEZES TAX LEVY, SERVICE RATES AT 2020 LEVELS

The Fiscal Year 2021 Budget adopted by City Council in November features no increase in the City's property tax levy and freezes service rates (water, sewer, storm water, and refuse) paid by customers at 2020 levels, Finance Director Melissa Gallagher reports.



Melissa Gallagher

The freezes represent leaders' efforts to help lessen the financial burden on residents and businesses who fund City operations in the wake of the COVID-19 pandemic. However, Gallagher also points out that they were made possible by Rolling Meadows' long-term approach to financial planning: one that helped City officials respond to potential revenue shortfalls from a position of strength.

"Like many households across the country, the City has faced revenue shortages caused by pandemic-related economic circumstances," Gallagher explained. "We've been able to weather those challenges in large part due to strong fund balances; long-range planning; and prudent use of financial reserves, where appropriate."

FY2021 Highlights

Key highlights of the City's fiscal year (FY) 2021 budget include:

- Providing nearly \$2 million for annual road maintenance and reconstruction.

- Creating flexible Capital Project plans that allow City officials to direct resources to critical needs.
- Expanding revenue stream diversity (including recreational marijuana).
- Maintaining established fund balance parameters.
- Evaluating proposed expenditures: determining "needs" vs. "wants".

Revenue Increases

Gallagher reported that tax revenues in certain economic sectors – online sales and "Big Box" retail in particular – have proven resilient and helped offset declines elsewhere.

"We've seen significant increases in these areas, mainly because people are ordering more from home. These figures have helped balance things out a bit more than we initially expected."

Seizing Opportunities

Effective planning had made the 2021 rate freezes feasible even before the pandemic struck, but Rolling Meadows also took quick action to mitigate potential financial repercussions. To date, the City has qualified for and received over \$300,000 in COVID-19 reimbursement funds from federal, state, and county assistance programs.

The approved 2021 budget is available online at www.cityrm.org/233/Financial-Reports.

RECYCLE OLD BATTERIES & CFLS AT PUBLIC WORKS

Looking for a safe, convenient way to dispose of old household batteries and compact fluorescent light bulbs?

Bring them to the Public Works Department (3900 Berdnick Street) for recycling.

Drop-off hours are Monday – Friday, 7:30 am – 3:30 pm. Collection bins are located just inside the main entrance.

For more information, call Public Works at 847-963-0500 or visit the Department's [webpage](#).



WELCOME TO THE RM BUSINESS BUZZ

START EXPLORING

WHAT'S ALL THE 'BUZZ' ABOUT? CITY-SPONSORED WEBSITE MAKES IT EASIER THAN EVER TO 'SHOP LOCAL'

Find great deals and special offers from a variety of Rolling Meadows businesses at the RM Business Buzz (<https://rmbusinessbuzz.org>), a City-sponsored website launched last year to support area companies and encourage residents to “shop local.”



“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. “Visitors who click on the site’s ‘Special Offers’ link are able to view and download coupons and deals offered by local service providers,” she added.

The site’s navigation features allow users to search for more than 760 businesses by name or review company listings organized by category, including Shopping, Dining, Construction, Services, and Health/Well-Being.

Expanded Features

Additional features recently introduced on the Buzz website include:

- **Business of the Month Showcase** that highlights a member of Rolling Meadows’ local business community.
- **Community Events Preview**, offering a listing of upcoming events.
- **Job Opportunities** detailing openings at local companies.

Join the Buzz!

It’s easy for local businesses to be featured on the RM Business Buzz. Contact Business Advocate Martha Corner (cornerm@cityrm.org or 847-870-9004) or visit <https://rmbusinessbuzz.org> and click the “Join the Buzz” button on the homepage. Rolling Meadows offers **all** local businesses the opportunity to be featured on the site at **no** cost.

FREE HOLIDAY LIGHT RECYCLING AVAILABLE AT CITY HALL



Rolling Meadows’ Holiday Light Recycling Program offers a free and easy way for residents to safely dispose of old and outdated holiday lights.

Simply bring light strings – all sizes and colors accepted – to City Hall (3600 Kirchoff Road) and deposit them in collection boxes located on the west side of the building. Residents may also drop off exten-

sion cords, household wire, and computer cords and wiring.

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

The program, hosted in partnership with the [Solid Waste Agency of Northern Cook County](#) (SWANCC) and Elgin Recycling, runs through Friday, February 12th.

SUBMIT NOMINATIONS FOR 'RM PROUD' PROGRAM

The City’s new “Making Rolling Meadows Proud” initiative encourages residents, businesses, community groups, City leaders, and others to nominate individuals or efforts that exemplify community service and good deeds.

“It’s easy to focus on the negative – especially after the past year. ‘Making Rolling Meadows Proud’ is a way to highlight the good that takes place in our City every day,” explained City Manager Barry Krumstok.

“We hope this encourages community members from all walks of life to share stories of people helping one another. These are the stories that highlight Rolling Meadows’ spirit,” he added.

Examples cited by Krumstok include a local business that donated personal protective equipment (PPE) to the Police Department, volunteers who turned out to support the PD’s holiday food drive (below), and a community member who created online Zoom presentations for local children.

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

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

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



Holiday Food Drive

All meetings take place at City Hall, unless noted.

2/02 — **Environmental Committee**, 6:30 pm; **Planning & Zoning Commission**, 7 pm

2/08 — **Board of Fire & Police Commissioners**, 9 am

2/09 — **Crime Stoppers**, 5:30 pm; **City Council Meeting**, 7:30 pm

2/12 — **Lincoln's Birthday; Holiday Light Recycling Program Ends**

2/14 — **Valentine's Day**

2/15 — **Presidents' Day**

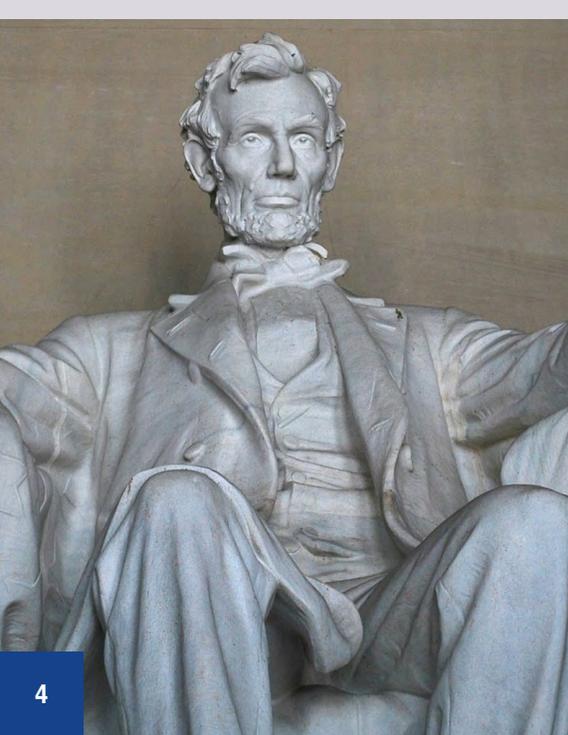
2/16 — **City Council Committee of the Whole**, 7:30 pm

2/22 — **Washington's Birthday; Water bills due**

2/23 — **Capital Improvements Committee**, 7 pm; **City Council Meeting**, 7:30 pm

2/25 — **Blood Drive**, 1–7 pm. Call Vitalant (877-258-4825) to schedule appointments. No walk-ins accepted. Face coverings required.

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](#).



SUPPORT LOCAL RESTAURANTS & BUSINESSES WHILE SOCIAL DISTANCING



SHOP/ORDER ONLINE

DRIVE-THRU, CURB-SIDE or TAKE-OUT

ENGAGE ON SOCIAL

LEAVE REVIEWS

SHOP & DINE, SOCIAL DISTANCING-STYLE

There's never been a better time to support Rolling Meadows' local businesses. Here are a few simple ways to help local stores and restaurants in an age of pandemic-induced social distancing:

'Shop local' online. Enjoy local goods and services without having to leave the comfort of your home. Surf the web and load your online shopping cart with gift cards and goods from your favorite shops.

Order takeout or delivery. Enjoy a "taste" of Rolling Meadows' restau-

rants. Place orders online or by phone, then pick up your meal or have it delivered to your door.

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.

2020 BUSINESS OPENINGS CONTINUED AMID COVID-19

Rolling Meadows' business community continued its multi-year expansion in 2020, with 37 new businesses opening their doors despite the ongoing nationwide economic impact of the COVID-19 pandemic.

More than 300 new businesses have set up shop in Rolling Meadows over the last six years.

These latest additions continue to diversify Rolling Meadows' local business offerings (and the City's tax base) while expanding available choices for residents and shoppers from neighboring communities.

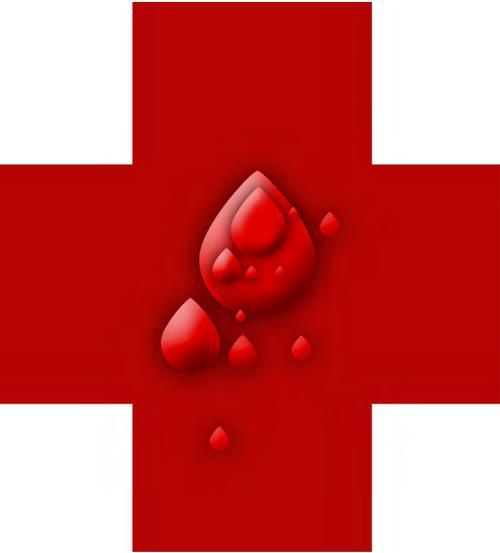
Businesses that opened in 2020 include restaurants offering authentic global cuisine, an apparel/print shop, a software development company, an auto restoration specialist, and a durable medical equipment sales group.

They also provide clear evidence that Rolling Meadows is viewed favorably by company leaders and entrepreneurs as an appealing location in which to conduct business.



COMMUNITY GIVES GENEROUSLY AT DECEMBER 23RD HOLIDAY BLOOD DRIVE

Rolling Meadows residents personified the spirit of giving during a holiday blood drive that will touch the lives of more than 130 people in need.



The December 23rd drive, held at City Hall, far surpassed expectations and continued to showcase the City’s successful partnership with Vitalant (formerly LifeSource) over the past several months. In total, three separate drives collected enough blood to impact 300 patients.

“Blood drives are a way for residents to give back to their community,” explained Joyce DeLeon, the City’s HR Specialist. “Vitalant has been very appreciative of our efforts, especially at a time when the need for donations – and the challenge of finding locations to host them – is greater than ever.”

Learn more about the need for blood donations and a schedule of area blood drives at <https://vitalant.org>.

SIX RESIDENTS TO VIE FOR FOUR CITY COUNCIL SEATS

The April 6th Consolidated Election will feature six Rolling Meadows residents running for four available seats on the City Council – with contested races in Wards 1 and 4. Following is a listing of those who are running to represent Rolling Meadows residents:

Ward 1

- Karen McHale (*sworn-in Jan. 2021*)
- Dave Whitney

Ward 2

- Nick Budmats (*incumbent*)

Ward 4

- Brad Judd
- Jenifer Vinezeano (*incumbent*)

Ward 6

- Mandy Reyez

Current 6th Ward Alderman John D’Astice will step down due to term limits following the election, ensuring the seating of at least one new Council member.

Biographical profiles highlighting the candidates will appear in the March/April edition of *News & Views*. Bios will also be posted on the City’s [website](#).

#1 TIP FOR PREVENTING HOME & CAR THEFT: LOCK DOORS

Fact: A significant percentage of crimes that occur in Rolling Meadows involve property theft from unlocked vehicles.

In response, the Police Department urges residents to always lock their cars and trucks – and to avoid leaving valuables in unattended vehicles – to make life more difficult for potential thieves.

‘Simply Opened the Door’

“Most vehicle break-ins that occur in our City do not involve broken windows or other types of forceable entry. Thieves simply open the door and take what they want,” Police Chief John Nowacki explained. “Your odds of becoming a victim decrease significantly if you simply lock your car doors.”

If you must leave personal items in your vehicle, Chief Nowacki recommends locking them in the trunk, glove compartment, or similar storage area where they will be out of sight to passers-by.

Safeguard Homes

These common-sense safety measures also help prevent home burglaries. Chief Nowacki recommends that residents:



- Lock all doors and windows before leaving the house or going to bed.
- Keep garage doors closed and locked.
- Store valuables – such as backyard grills and bicycles – out of sight.
- Use timers on interior lights if going away for an extended period of time.
- Place holds on mail and/or newspaper delivery when on vacation or out of town.

For more information, contact the Rolling Meadows Police Department’s 24-hour non-emergency desk at 847-255-2416.

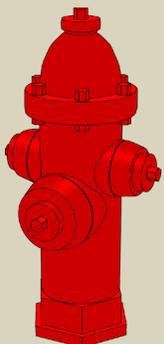
HELP SAVE LIVES

KEEP FIRE HYDRANTS CLEAR OF SNOW

Is there a fire hydrant near your home? If so, the Rolling Meadows Fire Department asks your help keeping it clear and accessible this winter.

Keep it Clear

1. Remove snow and ice from the hydrant.
2. Clear the perimeter around the hydrant for firefighters to walk (three-feet minimum).
3. Clear a path from the hydrant to the street.





City events would not be possible without the help of dedicated volunteers.

VOLUNTEERS NEEDED!

Volunteers are essential for helping make Rolling Meadows “a great place to call home.” Whether helping plan and organize upcoming community events, staffing the City’s Historical Museum, working at City departments, or everything in-between,

there is always a place for those willing to lend a hand.

To learn more about available volunteer opportunities, contact Lori Ciezak, Assistant to the City Manager, (ciezakl@cityrm.org, 847-394-8500).

2021 COMMUNITY EVENTS SCHEDULE

5/29	City Market & Memorial Day Parade/Observance	9/10	Friday’s ROCK! Concert
6/11	Community Block Party on Central Road	9/23	Business & Community Showcase
6/18	Friday’s ROCK! Concert	9/25	City Market
6/26	City Market	10/02	Hometown Hoedown Fall Festival
7/04	Independence Day Parade Fireworks	10/09	Fire Department Open House
7/09	Friday’s ROCK! Concert	10/30	Halloween Kick-Off on Kirchoff
7/17	City Market	11/05	Veterans Dinner
7/31	Police Dept. Family Night	12/02	Holiday Tree Lighting & Spaghetti Dinner
8/03	National Night Out		
8/13	Wine-Down by the Creek		
8/28	City Market		
9/07	Senior Luncheon		

Visit the City’s [Community Events page](#) for details.

RMPD HOLIDAY ‘SHOP’ PROGRAM BENEFITS 50 AREA CHILDREN

Police Chief John Nowacki helps a young resident (pictured) shop for his family’s Christmas presents during Rolling Meadows Police Department’s fifth annual “Shop with a Rolling Meadows Cop” program.

The initiative, sponsored by Walmart, supports local families facing financial difficulties and other challenges that limit their ability to purchase gifts for the season. In total, 50 children were able to enjoy a holiday shopping spree.

“My thanks to the department members who volunteered to serve as the kids’ personal shoppers, and to Walmart for providing the financial resources to make their holiday wishes come true,” Chief Nowacki said.





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
 Karen McHale773-517-3873
 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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