

NEWS & VIEWS

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VOLUME 25 ISSUE 6



Community members gather for Rolling Meadows' 2021 Memorial Day observance, an event led by members of the City's Veterans Committee.

COMMITTEE'S EVOLUTION HELPS MEMBERS BETTER SERVE ROLLING MEADOWS VETERANS

"Honoring those who serve" will always be the primary mission of Rolling Meadows' Veterans Committee, but its eight members are embracing new ways to achieve that goal, Committee Chair Ron Willer reports.

These include:

- Expanding outreach efforts to younger veterans.
- Helping veterans understand the benefits to which they are entitled.
- Getting involved in other City activities throughout the year.

"Our committee is evolving to better serve our resident veterans," Willer explained. "We view ourselves as an organizational and informational resource. As we continue to connect with more veterans – particularly those who have recently served – we will be even more effective as a support network for our fellow brothers and sisters in arms."

Willer has encountered countless veterans who were unaware of the many benefits available to them – including health care coverage, home loan guarantees, education/training programs, and others.

"Veterans have earned these benefits, but it can be difficult figuring out how to access them," he explained. "Our committee is here to help in that regard."

Community Engagement

Willer points to an expansion of the Committee's responsibilities as an example of its newfound community engagement. Members have always played pivotal roles in the planning and coordination of the City's annual Memorial Day ceremonies, but they now take part in the City's Independence Day Parade and other community events – including this year's Veterans Dinner set for Friday, November 5th.

...continued on p.3

PROPOSED 2022 BUDGET FREEZES CITY TAX LEVY FOR 3RD STRAIGHT YEAR

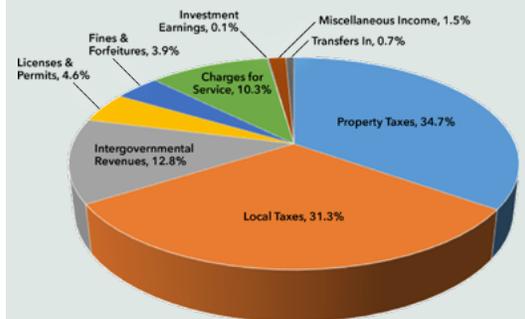
Rolling Meadows' proposed budget for fiscal year (FY) 2022, scheduled for adoption by City Council this month, features no increase in the City's property tax levy for the third consecutive year.

Highlights of the 2022 budget include:

- No rate increases in water, sewer, storm water, or refuse fees.
- Continued investments in capital infrastructure.
- Maintaining fund balance reserves within established parameters.

The latest version of the budget – reflecting recent deliberations by alderman and City staff – is available for public review on the City's website (<https://cityrm.org/233/Financial-Reports>), or in-person at City Hall (3600 Kirchoff Road) and the Rolling Meadows Library (3110 Martin Lane).

Finance Department staff members will file the adopted budget with Cook County, as required by law, following its approval by the City Council.



FY 2022 General Fund revenues by source

HOLIDAY FOOD DRIVE

SUPPORT RMPD'S DECEMBER 4TH HOLIDAY FOOD DRIVE

Rolling Meadows Police Department's Holiday Food Drive, set for Saturday, December 4th, is a chance for residents and businesses to partner with local law enforcement to make a difference in the community.

Compassionate Community

Donations of non-perishable food items will be accepted between 10:00 am and 2:00 pm, in front of Jewel-Osco (3000 Kirchoff Road). This year's drive will benefit the Elk Grove Township and Palatine Township Food Pantries.

"2021 has been a difficult year for many families in our area who have struggled to put food on the table," Police Chief John Nowacki explained. "I can't think of a better gift this holiday season than providing life-sustaining food to a hungry child or struggling adult.

"The kindness, generosity, and compassion exhibited by the Rolling Meadows community has been tremendous at our previous food drives. I'm hopeful this will continue at this year's event as well," he added.

PD Launches Hope Fund

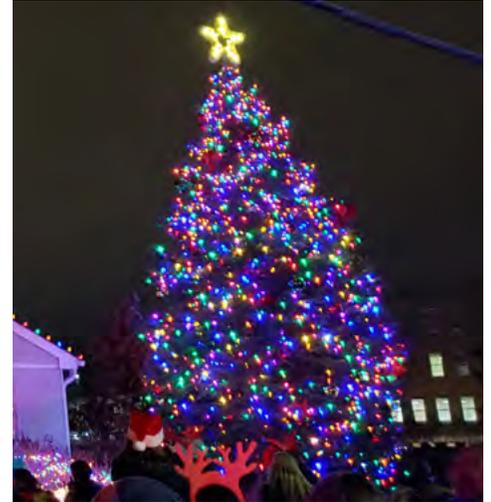
During the drive, residents may also donate to the Police Department's new Hope Fund (<https://gofund.me/ed459051>), which was established to offer a helping hand to residents who are crime victims or those experiencing life crises.

Learn more about the Hope Fund in December's eNews, which will be posted online in late November.

HOLIDAY TREE LIGHTING & SPAGHETTI DINNER TO WELCOME HOLIDAY SEASON, DECEMBER 2ND

Join family members, friends and neighbors Thursday, December 2nd, for Rolling Meadows' annual Holiday Tree Lighting ceremony, followed by a free spaghetti dinner for all residents:

- **Tree Lighting (6 pm)** – Gather at the Rolling Meadows Historical Museum (3100 Central Road) for a festive ceremony featuring holiday carols, hot chocolate, and other goodies. Guests will welcome a special guest from the North Pole, who will arrive to pull the switch that lights the City's "brilliant," festive tree.
- **Spaghetti Dinner (6:30 pm)** – Following the ceremony, journey down the street to Willow Bend School (4700 Barker Avenue) for a complimentary community dinner featuring spaghetti and sauce, garlic bread, salad, beverages, and dessert.



Rolling Meadows' Holiday Tree at 3100 Central Road

Note: Guests must follow all COVID-19-related health and safety precautions – social distancing, face coverings, etc. – as required by Illinois Department of Public Health guidelines.

CITY JOINS FORCES WITH U.S. MARINE CORPS TO SUPPORT HOLIDAY TOY DRIVE THROUGH DEC. 3RD

Rolling Meadows and the United States Marine Corps Reserve have once again partnered to spread holiday joy to children in need through the Marine's Toys for Tots program. This year's collection drive begins Monday, November 8th.



Help make a difference by bringing new, unwrapped toys to City

Hall (3600 Kirchoff Road) or the Rolling Meadows Library (3110 Martin Lane). Collection boxes provided by the Marines are available at both locations.

Donations will be accepted through Friday, December 3rd. For more information, or to make a monetary donation, visit <https://toysfortots.org>.

HOME FOR THE HOLIDAYS: SHOP, DINE & PLAY

Why "Shop Rolling Meadows" this holiday season?

- **Value & Variety:** The City's wide-ranging business community features independent merchants, Big Box retailers, service providers, and everything in between.
- **Convenience:** Find unique gifts for everyone on your list right here at home.

- **Shop & Dine:** Enjoy great meals at Rolling Meadows' restaurants, which offer menu items to please anyone's palate.



- **Time for Play:** Visit the City's gaming cafés for fun gift ideas (or take break from the crowds and treat yourself).

CROWDS GATHER AT KIMBALL HILL PARK FOR ROUSING HOMETOWN HOEDOWN CELEBRATION

Rolling Meadows welcomed the changing season with a *boot-stomp-in'* Hometown Hoedown celebration in Kimball Hill Park on October 2nd that drew nearly one thousand guests. This year's Hoedown featured a range of all-ages attractions: square dancing, line dancing, pony rides, free petting zoo, live musical performances, horse-drawn hayrides, a Cowboy Cookout, and more.



Hayrides offered riders new park perspectives.



Pony rides provided smiles for all-ages.



Country line dancing was a popular draw.



The petting zoo was always hopping.



Guests basked in the sights and sounds of autumn.

VETERANS COMMITTEE ...continued from p.1

"It's increasingly common for residents to find our members at City events," Willer added. "That type of face-to-face outreach is a key part of our strategy to connect with a new generation of veterans."

Cultivate Registry of Resident Veterans

The Veterans Committee maintains a registry of resident veterans with whom they have connected. This list also ensures that these veterans receive invitations to Rolling Meadows' annual Veterans Dinner (*see adjacent story*) and other City events. Veterans who would like to add their name to the registry may contact

Veterans Committee Members

Carol Adams
Dana Betzner
Phil Burns
Jerry Inselberger
Dale Kriesel
Chuck Ohrn
Father Brian Simpson
Ron Willer

Deb Austerlade at City Hall via email (austerladed@cityrm.org).

Willer has chaired the Veterans Committee since 2014. He served in the United States Army from 1966 – 1972, which included a tour of duty in Vietnam. He and his wife, Sally, came to Rolling Meadows in 1978 and still live in the same house they originally purchased.

"We love the City and were proud to raise our son here," Willer recalled. "I'm retired now, but committee work keeps me active and involved in the community we've called home for 43 years."

FORMER HONOR GUARD SENTINEL FOR TOMB OF UNKNOWN SOLDIER TO KEYNOTE CITY'S NOV. 5TH VETERANS DINNER

Rolling Meadows' 2021 Veterans Dinner will feature a keynote address by U.S. Army Sergeant (retired) David J. Dieringer, who once served as a member of an elite honor guard responsible for keeping watch over Arlington National Cemetery's Tomb of the Unknown Soldier.

This year's gathering will take place Friday, November 5th, 6:00 – 8:00 pm, at Meridian Banquet & Conference Center (1701 West. Algonquin Road). Resident veterans and a guest will enjoy a multi-course meal, live performances by the Northwest Concert Band, pre-dinner appetizers, raffle prizes, and more.

Attending veterans will receive a commemorative lapel pin honoring the Tomb's 100th anniversary.

First established in 2003, Rolling Meadows' annual Veterans Dinner was among the first events of its kind in Illinois: a City-sponsored event to honor those who have served in our nation's armed forces and encourage multi-generational camaraderie among brothers and sisters in arms.

In past years, the dinner was held in May, in conjunction with the City's Memorial Day ceremonies. Planners moved the event to November this year to align it more closely with Veterans Day (November 11th).



NOVEMBER 2021

All meetings take place at City Hall, unless noted.

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
	1 Economic Development Committee, 6 pm; <i>Early refuse set-out begins.</i>	2 Environmental Committee, 6:30 pm Planning & Zoning Commission, 7 pm	3	4 Adjudication Hearing (Parking), 2 pm	5 Veterans Dinner, 6–8 pm, Meridian Banquets	6
7 <i>Daylight Saving Time ends. Clocks "fall back" one hour.</i>	8 Board of Fire & Police Commissioners, 9 am	9 Crime Stoppers, 5:30 pm City Council Meeting, 7:30 pm	10	11 VETERANS DAY City offices closed. <i>Regular refuse pick-up.</i>	12	13
14	15	16 Community Events Foundation, 6 pm City Council Committee of the Whole, 7:30 pm	17	18 Adjudication Hearing, (Red Light), 2 pm	19	20
21	22 <i>Water Bills Due</i>	23 Capital Projects Committee, 6:30 pm City Council Meeting, 7:30 pm	24	25 THANKSGIVING City offices closed. <i>Thursday refuse collection delayed one day.</i>	26 <i>City offices closed. Friday refuse collection delayed one day.</i>	27 <i>Yard waste collection ends</i>
28	29	30	WANT MORE NEWS? Access Rolling Meadows' electronic newsletter, eNews , published in February, April, June, August, October, and December, and archived at www.cityrm.org .			

DECEMBER 2021

All meetings take place at City Hall, unless noted.

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
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.			1 Planning & Zoning Commission, 7 pm	2 Adjudication Hearing (Parking), 2 pm Holiday Tree Lighting, 6 pm, Historical Museum Spaghetti Dinner, 6:30 pm, Willow Bend School	3	4 RMPD Holiday Food Drive, 10 am – 2 pm, Jewel/Osco (3000 Kirchoff Rd)
5	6 Economic Development Committee, 6 pm	7 Environmental Committee, 6:30 pm City Council Meeting, 7:30 pm	8	9 Adjudication Hearing, 1 pm	10	11
12	13 Board of Fire & Police Commissioners, 9 am	14 Crime Stoppers, 5:30 pm City Council Committee of the Whole, 7:30 pm	15	16 Adjudication Hearing (Red Light), 2 pm	17	18
19	20 <i>Water Bills Due</i>	21 Community Events Foundation, 6 pm City Council Meeting, 7:30 pm	22	23	24 CHRISTMAS EVE City offices closed. <i>Early refuse pick-up.</i>	25 CHRISTMAS
26 KWANZAA	27 <i>City offices closed. Early refuse pick-up.</i>	28	29	30	31 NEW YEAR'S EVE City offices closed. <i>Early refuse pick-up.</i>	



Contest winner Dustin Salyers (second from right), holds up a banner of his artwork with Mayor Joe Gallo (second from left) and his parents, Lora and James.

CITY HONORS DUSTIN SALYERS, WINNER OF PUBLIC WORKS' 'STRONGER TOGETHER' CONTEST

Congratulations to Rolling Meadows resident Dustin Salyers, winner of the Public Works Department's "Stronger Together" community art contest.

Salyers, 14, was honored for his artistic vision during City Council's September 28th meeting. Public Works Director Rob Horne offered praise for how the artwork "connects Dustin's vision of working together with our department's core values: caring, respect, and service to the Rolling Meadows community."

SUPPORT CITY'S COMMUNITY EVENTS 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, visit <https://cityrm.org/679/Community-Events-Foundation>. Supporters may also make checks payable to *Rolling Meadows Community Events Foundation* and send them to 3600 Kirchoff Road, Rolling Meadows, IL 60008.

APPRECIATING PAST ACCOMPLISHMENTS...continued from p.6

We have also set a standard for financial excellence and transparency. Rolling Meadows is one of only 24 governmental agencies in Illinois to receive the Government Finance Officers Association's Triple Crown Award. It recognizes organizations that earn GFOA's Certificate of Achievement in Financial Reporting (COA), Popular Annual Financial Reporting Award (PAFR), and the Distinguished Budget Presentation Award in the same calendar year.

Salyers' artwork will be reproduced on a banner that will fly at City events throughout 2022.

His design will also be on display at the Public Works Department, 3900 Berdnick Street.

"Stronger Together" is a theme developed by the American Public Works Association to recognize the efforts of Public Works employees and their impact on the communities they serve.

Those successes, and all the others we enjoyed, were fueled by a spirit of collaboration between City Council and staff, and a commitment to ensure the City's long-term financial viability. I will miss working for the City, with staff and volunteers, and on behalf of the residents and businesses we all serve.

I may be leaving Rolling Meadows in a professional capacity, but I remain a resident. My family and I love this community. So, I'll see you around!

REFUSE REMINDERS

Early Refuse Set-out Begins November 1st

Beginning Monday, November 1st, residents may place refuse at the curb after 3:00 pm (instead of the standard 6:00 pm) the day prior to their scheduled pick-up, as part of the City's "early refuse set-out" program. Early refuse set-out runs through March 2022.

Yard Waste Collection Ends November 27th

Seasonal yard waste collection services provided by Public Works will conclude Saturday, November 27th. Residents should place yard waste in craft paper bags at the curb – separate from household waste – for pickup on their regular collection date. Crews will begin collecting yard waste again next spring.

Holiday Refuse Schedule 2021

- **Thanksgiving:** Public Works will be closed Thursday, November 25th, and Friday, November 26th. Regular Thursday and Friday routes will be delayed one day.
- **Christmas Eve/Christmas Day:** Public Works will be closed Friday, December 24th, and Monday, December 27th. City crews will provide early refuse collection both days. Place all refuse at the curb by 6:00 am.
- **New Year's Eve:** Public Works will be closed Friday, December 31st. Crews will provide early refuse collection. Place all refuse at the curb by 6:00 am.

For more information, contact Public Works at 847-963-0500 or visit www.cityrm.org/301/Public-Works.





GUEST COLUMN BY JENIFER VINEZEANO, 4TH WARD ALDERMAN

SERVICES TO HELP OUR SENIOR RESIDENTS

One of Rolling Meadows’ greatest strengths is its diversity – both in terms of cultures and age demographics. However, senior citizens are one of our most vulnerable populations and face many challenges: illness, poverty, mental health needs, and more. Protecting the senior population is one of my highest priorities.

Fortunately, the City offers many programs to help senior residents. These include discounted snow plowing, door to curb refuse pick up, discounted home repair services, home fire safety inspections, and Police Department education programs.

Programs to help seniors are also available through the Rolling Meadows

Park District, including a “lending closet” where residents may access walkers, wheelchairs, crutches, and other supplies. The townships serving Rolling Meadows (Elk Grove, Palatine, Schaumburg, and Wheeling) also offer a variety of services.

I look forward to working with City staff to further develop our senior program offerings. If COVID has taught us anything, it is that we need to be neighborly and help those who need help. If you or someone you know in Rolling Meadows could benefit from our Senior Program, please call City Hall for further information.

Stay safe and well.

APPRECIATING PAST ACCOMPLISHMENTS; BIDDING FAREWELL TO A GREAT TEAM

Rolling Meadows has been my professional home for the past 15 years. That makes it difficult to say goodbye.



Melissa Gallagher

Taking the next step on my career path – I have accepted a position as Deputy Finance Director for Lake County, Illinois – is made easier by knowing that Rolling Meadows’ Finance Department is in capable hands.

All Department staff members exhibit exceptional professionalism and an unwavering commitment to customer

service on a daily basis. They will ensure that operations continue without interruption as the City finds its next Finance Director. It has been my privilege to work with them – and with members of all City departments. I wish everyone the best going forward.

As a City, we have accomplished much in the last 15 years: we have stabilized utility rates through long-term planning strategies; we have rebuilt City fund balances to better protect against economic downturns; we have implemented financial policies that resulted in pension funding gains.

...continued on p.5

**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
- 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
- Mandy Reyez847-209-5435
- 7th Ward Alderman
- Lara Sanoica847-770-3097
- Temporary City Manager
- John Nowacki847-394-8500

SERVICES

- Fire & Police Emergency911
- 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
- ComEd1-800-EDISON-1



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‘ENEWS’ OFFERS EXPANDED COVERAGE

Want more news? Stay on top of all that is happening in Rolling Meadows with *eNews*, a supplemental online newsletter published in February, April, June, August, October, and December.

Together, *News & Views* and *eNews* provide expanded monthly coverage of City activities, events, and initiatives. The web-based PDF format also offers embedded links in many stories that give readers access to additional resources and insights.

Access *eNews* at <https://cityrm.org>. Select “Monthly City Newsletters” from the “Our Community” menu.