

# eNEWS

3600 Kirchoff Road | Rolling Meadows, IL 60008 | 847-394-8500 | [www.cityrm.org](http://www.cityrm.org)

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VOLUME 8 ISSUE 6



Guests convene at the Rolling Meadows Historical Museum for the City's 2019 Holiday Celebration.

## WELCOME SEASON'S ARRIVAL AT DECEMBER 2ND HOLIDAY CELEBRATION

It's time to welcome another season of laughter, joy, and wonder during Rolling Meadows' 2021 Holiday Celebration. This year's event will take place Thursday, December 2nd, 6:00 pm, at the Rolling Meadows Historical Museum (3100 Central Road).

### Holiday Wonderland

The 2021 Holiday Celebration promises a winter-inspired wonderland of glad tidings and seasonal fun for family members of all ages, including:

- Ceremonial lighting of the City's majestic Holiday Tree.
- Visits with Santa Claus and his reindeer.
- Horse-drawn sleigh and wagon rides along Barker Avenue.
- DJ-led holiday music and sing-alongs.
- Tours of the 1950s-themed Historical Museum.
- Performance by the Rolling Meadows High School Madrigals.
- Goodie bags for kids (*while supplies last*).

- Free hot cocoa and coffee for all attendees (*while supplies last*).

"Rolling Meadows' annual Holiday Celebration is a time for our community to come together and celebrate a wonderful time of year," Mayor Joe Gallo explained. "It's an opportunity to reflect on our past and look toward the future while acknowledging family, friends, and neighbors," he added.

The city will close off Barker Avenue and portions of Central Road to traffic during the event to ensure attendees' safety.

### Spaghetti Dinner Canceled

Erring on the side of caution, event planners decided to cancel this year's spaghetti dinner – a key component of past years' Celebrations – due to ongoing public health concerns associated with the COVID-19 pandemic.

For more information on Rolling Meadows' 2021 Holiday Celebration, contact Lori Ciezak, Assistant to the City Manager/Community Events Foundation Liaison (847-394-8500 x1002 or [ciezakl@cityrm.org](mailto:ciezakl@cityrm.org)).

## SUPPORT RMPD'S 12/4 HOLIDAY FOOD DRIVE

Make a difference in the community Saturday, December 4th, when the Rolling Meadows Police Department hosts its annual Holiday Food Drive. Bring non-perishable food items to Jewel/Osco (3000 Kirchoff Road) between 10:00 am and 2:00 pm.

This year's event 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 helping to provide life-sustaining food to a hungry child or struggling adult.



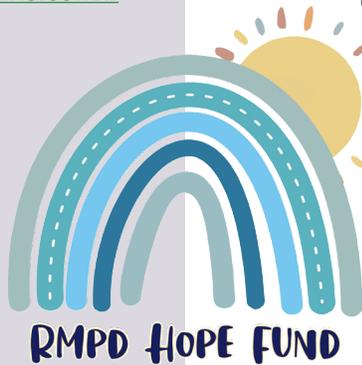
"The kindness, generosity, and compassion exhibited by the Rolling Meadows community has been tremendous at our previous food drives. I'm hopeful this will continue at this year's event as well," he added.

### Another Way to Contribute

During the drive, residents may also donate to the Police Department's new Hope Fund (*see story on page 2*), which offers a "helping hand towards a brighter future" for residents experiencing life crises.

## THREE WAYS TO SUPPORT THE RMPD HOPE FUND

1. Visit the Hope Fund's GoFundMe page (<https://www.gofundme.com/f/rmpd-hope-fund>).
2. Link to the page from Rolling Meadows Police Department's webpage (<https://cityrm.org/207/Police-Department>).
3. Make an in-person donation at the Police Department's December 4th Holiday Food Drive (at Jewel/Osco on Kirchoff Road).



## 'HOPE FUND' SETS \$10,000 GOAL TO HELP RESIDENTS IN CRISIS

A new "Hope Fund" established by the Rolling Meadows Police Department and supported by community donations aims to raise \$10,000 in emergency assistance funding for residents experiencing life-altering crises, Social Services Outreach Specialist Natalia Nieves, PhD, LCPC, AMFT reports.

"So often, residents facing dire circumstances – whether it be fire or floods, or more personal tragedies such as domestic violence and child abuse – have nowhere to turn," Dr. Nieves explained. "Money raised through the Hope Fund will help the City provide timely emergency assistance to those who need it most."

Community members may contribute to the Hope Fund via its [GoFundMe page](#) or make an in-person donation at the Police Department Holiday

Food Drive on December 4th (see story on page 1).

Dr. Nieves believes the Hope Fund will improve the ability of the Police Department's Social Services Division to provide financial resources to residents just beginning to rebuild their lives. Emergency funds will be dispersed by the Finance Department directly to approved recipients.

The Hope Fund's creation was inspired by a condominium complex fire in late 2020 that displaced 17 Rolling Meadows families. In response, community members launched a GoFundMe page that raised over \$12,000 to support those who lost their homes.

For more information on the services provided by the Social Services Division, please contact Dr. Nieves ([NievesN@cityrm.org](mailto:NievesN@cityrm.org) or 847-870-2636) or visit <https://cityrm.org/611/Social-Services>.

## TOYS FOR TOTS DONATIONS ACCEPTED THRU DEC. 3RD

Rolling Meadows' Toys for Tots partnership with the U.S. Marine Corps Reserve has one simple goal: help spread holiday joy and make the season brighter for local children in need.

There's still time to contribute: bring new, unwrapped toys to drop boxes located at City Hall (3600 Kirchoff Road) or the Rolling Meadows Library (3110 Martin Lane). Donations will be accepted through Friday, December 3rd.

For more information, or to make a monetary donation, visit <https://toysfortots.org>.



## CITY-SPONSORED VETERANS DINNER HONORS TOMB OF THE UNKNOWN SOLDIER CENTENNIAL

Nearly 150 Rolling Meadows resident veterans and guests marked Veterans Day and commemorated the 100th anniversary of Arlington National Cemetery's Tomb of the Unknown Soldier, during the City's November 5th Veterans Dinner at Meridian Banquet & Conference Center.

Attendees enjoyed a multi-course meal, multi-generational camaraderie, and a keynote presentation by U.S. Army Sergeant David J. Dieringer, who, nearly 50 years ago, served as a member of the elite honor guard that keeps watch over the Tomb.

Veterans in attendance also received complimentary lapel pins commemorating the Tomb's centennial.

"I did not fully understand my role as a Tomb Sentinel at the beginning, but I soon learned," Sgt. Dieringer



Sgt. Dieringer addresses Veterans Dinner attendees.

explained to his audience during a moving, emotional presentation. "My role was to represent the American people.

"It has been my honor to serve you then...and now," he added.

Learn more about the 686 men and women who have served as Tomb Sentinels by visiting <https://tomb-guard.org>.

## HELP ROLLING MEADOWS FIREFIGHTERS 'KEEP THE WREATH RED' THIS SEASON

Festive wreaths that will soon be on display at Rolling Meadows fire stations are a public safety reminder that the upcoming season offers no "holiday" from fire danger.

Through the "Keep the Wreath Red" program, each wreath begins the holiday season illuminated with red light bulbs. Firefighters will add a white bulb for each fire in Rolling Meadows found to have been caused by seasonal décor.

"These wreaths will be illuminated 24-hours per day and serve as a constant reminder for residents to practice fire safety during the holidays," Fire Chief Jeff Moxley said.

Residents play a critical role in this effort. Firefighters offer the following home safety tips designed to ensure the wreaths stay red all season long:

### Christmas Trees

- Select only fresh trees that are deep green in color and have a strong scent of pine.
- Water trees regularly.
- Verify that artificial trees are flame retardant.
- Keep all trees away from fireplaces or heating vents.

### Lights

- Buy and use lights approved by a national testing laboratory.
- Discard any lights with frayed or worn cords, broken or cracked sockets, loose connections, bare wires, or ones that operate intermittently.
- Never use indoor lights outdoors.
- Avoid overloading electrical outlets. Use a maximum of three sets of lights per single extension.

- Do not run extension cords under carpets, across doorways, or near heaters.
- Unplug lights when you leave home and before going to bed.

### Candles

*Note: RMFD discourages residents from using traditional/open flame candles.*

- Extinguish all candles when leaving the room or going to sleep.
- Keep candles away from items that can catch fire, such as clothing, books, and curtains.
- Use candleholders that are sturdy, will not tip over easily, are made from materials that cannot burn, and are large enough to collect dripping wax.

- Keep candles away from flammable liquids.
- Avoid using candles for light during power outages. Use flashlights instead.

### Cooking

- Remain in the kitchen when frying, grilling, broiling, or boiling food.
- Clean up food or grease that may accumulate on burners and stovetops.
- Turn off the stove when leaving the room – even for a brief period.
- Use a timer when simmering, baking, or roasting food.
- Wear clothes with tight-fitting sleeves when cooking.

For more information on holiday fire safety, contact the RMFD at 847-397-3352 or find the Department on [Facebook](#).



## SHOP (& DINE) ROLLING MEADOWS THIS HOLIDAY SEASON TO KEEP SALES TAX DOLLARS AT HOME

Searching for great shopping value, variety, and convenience this holiday season? Look no further than Rolling Meadows!

The City's business community – featuring "Big Box" retailers, independent shops and galleries and everything in between – offers a wide range of unique gift ideas.

### Boost Sales Tax Revenues

Supporting Rolling Meadows businesses offers advantages that go well beyond exceptional service, convenience, and selection: shopping locally also boosts sales tax revenues that fund City operations and reduce reliance on residents' property taxes.

### Shop First, Then Dine

Once you've stocked your sleigh (or other preferred vehicle) with gifts, take some time and explore the City's renowned restaurant scene. Local establishments offer a savory menu of flavors and experiences – from casual or fine dining to grab & go – that cater to practically any taste and budget. Visit the City's online [Dining Guide](#) to learn more.



All meetings take place at City Hall, unless noted.

12/01: **Planning & Zoning Commission**, 7:00 pm

12/02: **Adjudication Hearing (Parking)**, 2:00 pm; **Holiday Celebration**, 6:00 – 7:30 pm, Historical Museum (3100 Central Rd)

12/04: **RMPD Holiday Food Drive**, 10 am – 2 pm, Jewel/Osco (3000 Kirchoff Rd)

12/06: **Economic Development Committee**, 6:00 pm

12/07: **Environmental Committee**, 6:30 pm; **City Council Meeting**, 7:30 pm

12/09: **Adjudication Hearing**, 1:00 pm

12/13: **Board of Fire & Police Commissioners**, 9:00 am

12/14: **Crime Stoppers**, 5:30 pm; **City Council Committee of the Whole**, 7:30 pm

12/16: **Adjudication Hearing (Red Light)**, 2:00 pm

12/20: **Water bills due**

12/21: **City Council Meeting**, 7:30 pm

12/24: **Christmas Eve**. City offices closed. Early refuse pick-up.

12/25: **Christmas**

12/26: **Kwanzaa**

12/27: City offices closed. Early refuse pick-up.

12/31: **New Year's Eve**. City offices closed. Early refuse pick-up.

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](#).

## SAVE LIVES: KEEP FIRE HYDRANTS CLEAR OF SNOW

Do you have a fire hydrant near your home? Rolling Meadows firefighters ask your help keeping it clear and accessible this winter.

### Easy as 1, 2, 3

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

“Clearing away snow that accumulates around fire hydrants helps

save lives,” Fire Chief Jeff Moxley explained. “It significantly improves our ability to quickly connect hose lines and reduce the risk of injury and potential property damage.”

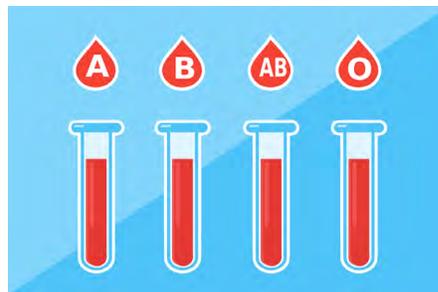


NO

YES

## ‘TIS THE SEASON TO SAVE LIVES: SUPPORT CITY’S DECEMBER 23RD HOLIDAY BLOOD DRIVE

Rolling Meadows’ upcoming holiday blood drive offers residents the opportunity to give the greatest gift of all: the gift of life.



The event, co-sponsored by Vitalant, is scheduled for Thursday, December 23rd, 1:00 – 7:00 pm, at City Hall. Residents interested in becoming literal “life savers” may call 877-258-4825 to schedule an appointment. No walk-ins will be accepted. All donors must wear face coverings.

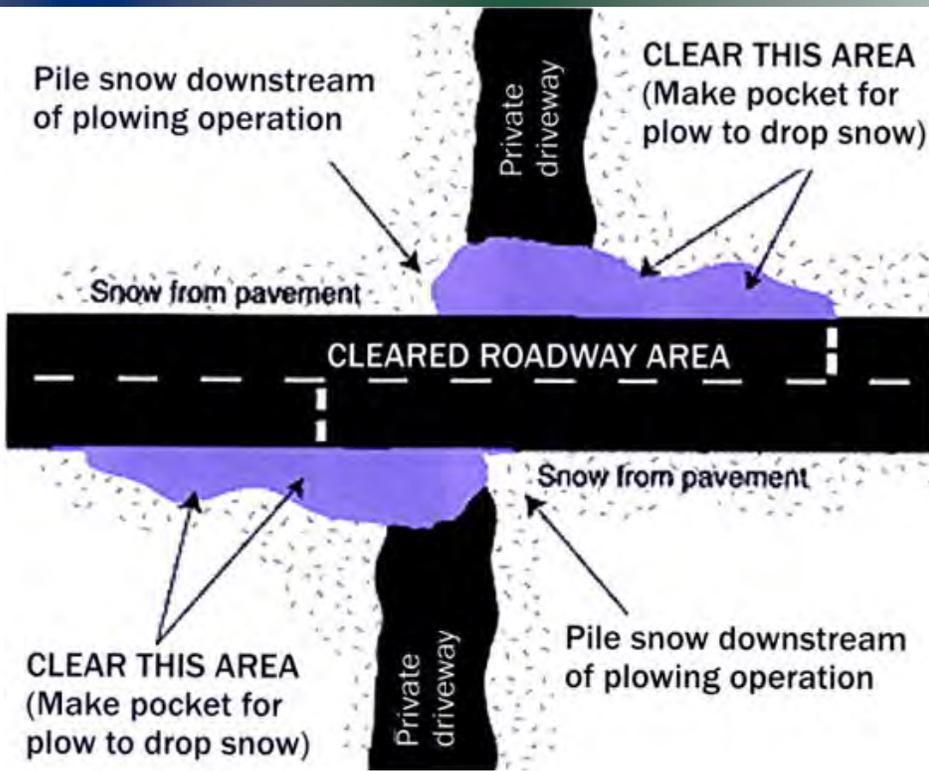
“Blood drives are a great way to give back to the community,” explained Joyce DeLeon, Rolling Meadows’ HR Specialist. “Vitalant has been especially appreciative of our efforts to host local blood drives over the past year-and-a-half. The pandemic has made it quite challenging to find locations willing to host these types of events,” she added.

Rolling Meadows’ partnership with Vitalant has proven extremely successful throughout 2021, as evidenced by the outpouring of support by residents at past City-sponsored blood drives (see table below).

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

## ROLLING MEADOWS & VITALANT: A LIFE-SAVING PARTNERSHIP

Blood Drive	Units Collected/Patients Helped
October 28th	26 units/78 patients
August 26th	20 units/60 patients
June 24th	35 units/105 patients
April 29th	34 units/102 patients
February 21st	25 units/75 patients
<b>Total:</b>	<b>140 units/420 patients</b>



## TEAMWORK: RESIDENTS PLAY KEY ROLE IN CITY SNOW REMOVAL EFFORTS

Rolling Meadows’ long-standing reputation for effectively clearing City streets of snow and ice each winter would not be possible without help from residents, who play important roles in ensuring public safety.

“Our policy of completely clearing the roads after winter storms is a team effort,” Public Works Director Rob Horne explained. “Residents are natural partners in ensuring that Rolling Meadows streets are the envy of the northwest suburbs after blustery Chicago storms.”

Here are a few tips for residents to help snowplow drivers deliver faster, more responsive service and simultaneously promote public safety:

- **Observe winter parking bans** – Local ordinances prohibit parking on City streets 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 dangerous to drivers and

counterproductive. Passing plows will push that snow right back onto your driveway.

- **Maintain mailboxes\*\*** – Mailboxes that have been maintained and are in good condition should withstand the rigors of a typical snow season. Public Works employees conduct visual inspections of residents’ mailboxes during initial practice runs and contact customers whose mailboxes need new posts or other repairs.

For more information on Rolling Meadows’ snow removal program, contact Public Works at 847-963-0500 or visit [www.cityrm.org/301/public-works](http://www.cityrm.org/301/public-works).

*\*If possible, clear a “pocket” on the left side of the driveway to collect snow that accumulates on passing snowplows (see above graphic).*

*\*\*The City will install a standard replacement mailbox for those hit during snow removal operations. It does not offer reimbursement for mail service interruptions that may occur if a mailbox becomes inaccessible, damaged, knocked over, or buried by accumulated snow.*

## CITY-SPONSORED WEBSITE GENERATES ‘BUZZ’ FOR LOCAL BUSINESSES

Residents who are motivated to “shop locally” will find a growing number of great deals and promotions on the [RM Business Buzz](http://www.cityrm.org/businessbuzz), a City-sponsored website that makes it simpler than ever to support local businesses.

More than 760 Rolling Meadows-based companies, retail shops, and restaurants have a presence on the site, which allows users to search for specific companies by name or industry.



“The Buzz makes it easier and more convenient for residents to take advantage of Rolling Meadows’ thriving local business community,” explained Business Advocate Martha Corner. “Simply click on the site’s ‘Special Offers’ link to view and download special coupons,” she added.

The “Buzz” also features monthly local business profiles, listings of job openings at area companies, new business listings, and more. Visit <https://rmbusinessbuzz.org>.





Community Events Foundation donations support City activities, such as Rolling Meadows' Independence Day Parade.

## FOUNDATION DONORS DRIVE SUCCESS OF ROLLING MEADOWS' COMMUNITY EVENTS

Residents, businesses, and local organizations played an invaluable role in the success of Rolling Meadows' 2021 community events by making tax-deductible donations to the City's Community Events Foundation.

Donations to the 501(c)3 Foundation help offset the costs of staging events such as the Independence Day Parade and Fireworks, Wine-Down by the Creek, National Night Out, and others.

To donate, visit <https://cityrm.org/679/Community-Events-Foundation>.

Thanks to the following donors for their support this past year:

- Aerex Pest Control
- A.J. Gallagher & Co.
- Aloft Hotel
- American Star Residential Service
- ATS Sortimat USA LLC
- BEAR Construction Co.
- Erik Bracamontes
- Chiro 1
- Chipotle Mexican Grill
- Christopher B. Burke Engineering Ltd.
- Citizens for Tom Morrison
- ComEd
- Complete Lawn & Snow Services
- Consumers Credit Union
- Daisy's Cafe
- Dorchester Developers LLC
- Edward Jones & Co.
- Elite Remodeling Group Inc.
- Emerald Lawn Care
- Michael Erricos, DDS
- Flood Brothers
- Jerry & Karen Inselberger
- J.C. Restoration
- JML Overhead Door, Inc.
- Nicole Jagielski
- Lake Shore Title Agency
- Maid Brigade
- McDonald's
- Robert McEwen
- Meet Chicago Northwest
- Northwest Special Recreation Assoc.
- Northwest Suburban College
- Phoenix Builders
- Plum Creek Supportive Living
- Plum Grove Properties
- Portillo's Hot Dogs
- Roberta Williams, Inc.
- RTC
- Smile Nails
- Spacelite
- Suburban Accents, Inc.
- Village Bank & Trust
- Wintrust Financial Corp.



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

### MAYOR and CITY COUNCIL

- Mayor Joe Gallo . . . . .847-814-9271
- 1st Ward Alderman  
Karen McHale . . . . .773-517-3873
- 2nd Ward Alderman  
Nick Budmats . . . . .847-202-0855
- 3rd Ward Alderman  
Kevin O'Brien . . . . .847-212-2587
- 4th Ward Alderman  
Jenifer Vinezeano . . . . .630-546-8133
- 5th Ward Alderman  
Jon Bisesi . . . . .847-772-8428
- 6th Ward Alderman  
Mandy Reyez . . . . .847-209-5435
- 7th Ward Alderman  
Lara Sanoica . . . . .847-770-3097

### SERVICES

- Fire & Police Emergency . . . . .911
- Fire Non-emergency . . . . .847-397-3352
- Police Non-emergency . . . . .847-255-2416
- Temporary City Manager  
John Nowacki . . . . .847-394-8500
- Finance/Utility Billing . . . . .847-394-8500
- Public Works . . . . .847-963-0500  
Community Dev. Division .847-506-6030
- Senior Handyman Program .847-506-6030
- Crime Stoppers . . . . .847-590-7867
- ComEd . . . . .1-800-EDISON-1

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 [www.twitter.com/@CityofRM1](https://www.twitter.com/@CityofRM1)

### REFUSE SCHEDULE 2021

**Christmas Eve/Christmas:** Public Works will be closed Friday, Dec. 24th, and Monday, Dec. 27th. City crews will provide early refuse collection on both days. Place all refuse at the curb by 6:00 am.

**New Year's Eve:** Public Works will be closed Friday, Dec. 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](https://www.cityrm.org/301/Public-Works).