

NEWS & VIEWS

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City resident turns 100	2	Alarm permit renewals due Jan. 31st	5
2022 public meeting schedule	3	Community events preview	5
January/February calendars	4	FY2022 budget overview	6

VOLUME 26 ISSUE 1



Fire Station 15, at 3201 Algonquin Road, began operations in late 2019.

NEW 'ISO' RATING HIGHLIGHTS CITY-WIDE FIRE PROTECTION SERVICE IMPROVEMENTS Rating May Help Lower Residential & Business Insurance Premiums

Rolling Meadows Fire Department's new "Class 2" rating, awarded by the Insurance Services Office (ISO), affirms a series of steps taken by City leaders over the past several years to improve fire protection services to the entire community, Fire Chief Jeff Moxley reports.

The enhanced rating – RMFD has fluctuated between Class 3 and Class 4 over the past 30 years – may also help reduce insurance rates paid by residents and businesses, due to anticipated reductions in future fire-related property loss.

Class 2 is the second-highest available rating on ISO's 10-point scale and places RMFD among the top 5% of fire departments across the country. The reclassification follows an in-depth evaluation of the Fire Department's operational protocols, emergency communications, and City water supply.



"This is a very proud moment for our firefighters and our entire City," Chief Moxley remarked during a presentation to City Council members. "We are always on the lookout for ways to improve our services.

This classification will serve as the blueprint for identifying ways to be even better. Our goal is to earn Class 1 certification over the next several years," he added.

According to ISO reviewers, keys to earning the improved Class 2 rating included:

- **Locations of the City's two new fire stations.** Station 15 (3201 Algonquin Road) opened in late 2019. Station 16 (2340 Hicks Road) began operations in mid-2020. Both locations have improved response times to the entire community.
- **Operational response plans.** Regional operational guidelines, developed in conjunction with the

...continued on p.3

ONLINE PLATFORM LETS RESIDENTS SUBMIT FOIA REQUESTS THROUGH CITY'S WEBSITE

Rolling Meadows residents may now submit Freedom of Information Act (FOIA) requests online, through a web-based platform that makes it simpler than ever for staff members to process and respond to those requests.

Visit <https://cityrm.org/267/Freedom-of-Information-Requests> and click the "Online FOIA Request Page" to submit a records request.



Judy Brose

"Rolling Meadows' new FOIA system automatically assigns a case number and due date for information requests – processes that used to be performed manually by

City staff members," explained Deputy City Clerk Judy Brose. "Requests for Police Department records go directly to the Police Department, which also helps streamline the process.

"In total, the online system allows staff members to be more efficient in their work and helps reduce paperwork for everyone involved," she added.

Residents may also submit public record requests by U.S. Mail, fax, email, or in-person. Forms are available at City Hall.



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

A new "Hope Fund" established by the Rolling Meadows Police Department and funded by community donations aims to raise \$10,000 in emergency assistance funding for residents experiencing life-altering crises.

Community members may contribute to the Hope Fund via its GoFundMe page (<https://www.gofundme.com/f/rmpd-hope-fund>).

"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," explained Social Services Outreach Specialist Natalia Nieves, PhD, LCPC, AMFT. "Money raised through the Hope Fund will help the City provide timely emergency assistance to those who need it most."

Dr. Nieves says the Fund will improve the ability of the Police Department's Social Services Division to provide financial resources to residents just beginning to re-build their lives. The Finance Department will disperse emergency funds directly to approved recipients.

"Rolling Meadows is a caring, generous community. Our goal with the Hope Fund is to provide a helping hand towards a brighter future for those who need it most," she added.



Alice Fitzgerald, shown here at Public Works in 2014, has lived in her original Rolling Meadows home for 66 years.

'FOUNDING' RESIDENT, COMMUNITY VOLUNTEER ALICE FITZGERALD TURNS 100 YEARS-OLD THIS MONTH

Community volunteer extraordinaire Alice Fitzgerald has proudly claimed for years that she would live to see her 100th birthday. Alice will achieve that milestone later this month, and those who know her best – including co-workers, Rolling Meadows employees, and fellow volunteers – knew it was not wise to bet against her.

Dedicated Community Volunteer

Alice has provided an estimated 2,000 hours of service to multiple community organizations – always with a smile. These include several years volunteering at the Public Works Department, where she answered phones, prepared mailings, coordinated service requests, and maintained file records.

"Alice had a knack for answering residents' questions about Public Works Department services," recalled former Public Works Director Fred Vogt. "People listened to her because of her background and experience. She also loved working with the guys and telling them what to do."

Outside of Public Works, Alice spent over a decade of service as a member of the Rolling Meadows Historical Society (including a term as Society President); served as a Rolling Meadows Senior Center volunteer; helped organize and host Rolling Meadows Library book sales; drove senior citizens to medical appointments; and was a graduate of the Rolling Meadows Fire, Police, and Public Works Department Citizen Academies.

Pioneering Resident

Alice has been a part of Rolling Meadows' fabric since the City was incorporated in 1955. She moved here with her husband, Ted, after making a \$10 down payment for an original Kimball Hill home.

"We had seen an ad in the *Chicago Tribune* about a new community called Rolling Meadows," she told *News & Views* in 2014. "We looked at model homes on Campbell Street and Wilke Road, and knew immediately that it was the place for us."

She still lives in that same house 66 years later.

After settling in Rolling Meadows, Alice and Ted went about the business of raising a family in their new community.

"Mom worked at the Transo Envelope Company in Chicago, where she rose over time from machine operator to factory production manager," explained her son, Frank. "Dad set up a home-based watch repair business, which allowed him to tend to our house and also keep an eye on me."

Frank, who went on to earn a PhD and become a college professor, now has children, grandchildren, and great-grandchildren of his own. That, of course, makes Alice a proud great-great-grandmother.

Happy birthday, Alice! Your City celebrates your milestone with you!

A MAGICAL SEASON IN THE MEADOWS

Community members gathered at the Rolling Meadows Historical Museum on December 2nd for the City's annual Holiday Celebration and then demonstrated the true meaning of the season by joining the Police Department's Holiday Food Drive on December 4th.

Making Holiday Memories

Holiday Celebration highlights included the lighting of the City's holiday tree, performances by the Rolling Meadows High School Madrigals and local scout troops; festive tunes, courtesy of DJ Jules; horse-drawn carriage rides, and visits with Santa and Mrs. Claus.



The Rolling Meadows High School Madrigals' performance captivates Celebration attendees.



A festival of lights adorn the City's Historical Museum and Holiday Tree.

Food Donations Fight Hunger

Residents, local businesses, City departments, and community members then came together to "take a bite out of hunger" by donating vast supplies of nonperishable food items to benefit the Elk Grove and Palatine Township food pantries.

"Rolling Meadows once again answered the call and made our 2021 Food Drive one of our most successful yet," Police Chief John Nowacki said. "On behalf of our entire Department, I thank everyone for their generosity and continued support."



Public Works Director Rob Horne (center), Community Development Interim Superintendent Elizabeth Kwandras, and Police Chief John Nowacki collect Food Drive donations.

FIRE PROTECTION SERVICE IMPROVEMENTS ...continued from p. 1

Village of Palatine and Palatine Rural Fire Protection District, provide greater service coverage to each respective community.

- **New ladder truck.** Truck 15 (below) entered RMFD service in 2020 and offers a versatile platform for aerial fire/rescue services.

- **Improved documentation and record-keeping.**

Chief Moxley also credited the Public Works Department's Water Division and the Northwest Central Dispatch System for ensuring effective water supplies and emergency dispatch operations, respectively.



CITY ANNOUNCES 2022 PUBLIC MEETING SCHEDULE

City Council's regular 2022 meetings will take place at 7:30 p.m. on the second and fourth Tuesdays of each month.* Council members will also hold a Committee of the Whole "workshop" meeting on the third Tuesday of every month at 7:30 p.m.

Agendas for upcoming meetings, and approved minutes from prior meetings, are available online at <https://cityrm.org/AgendaCenter>.

The 2022 schedule also establishes meeting dates and times for the City's volunteer boards and commissions, including the:

- **Community Events Foundation Committee (ad-hoc)** – meets the 3rd Tuesday of each month (6:00 pm, Feb. – Nov.).
- **Crime Stoppers** – meets the 2nd Tuesday of the month (5:30 pm).
- **Economic Development Committee** – meets the first Monday of each month (6:00 pm).
- **Environmental Committee** – meets the first Tuesday of each month (6:30 pm).
- **Planning & Zoning Commission** – meets the first Tuesday of the month (7:00 pm).
- **Veterans Committee** – meets the 3rd Wednesday of each month (6:30 pm, Feb. – Nov.).

All meetings take place at City Hall, unless noted. A complete listing of City commissions is posted at <https://cityrm.org/349/Boards-Commissions>.

Meeting information is also published monthly in *News & Views* and e-News.

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

JANUARY 2022

All meetings take place at City Hall, unless noted.

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
WANT MORE NEWS? Check out Rolling Meadows' electronic newsletter, eNews, published in February, April, June, August, October and December, and archived at www.cityrm.org .						1 <i>NEW YEARS DAY</i>
2	3 Economic Development Committee, 6:00 pm	4 Environmental Committee, 6:30 pm Planning & Zoning Commission, 7:00 pm	5	6 Adjudication Hearing (Parking), 2:00 pm	7	8
9	10 Board of Fire & Police Commissioners, 9:00 am	11 Crime Stoppers, 5:30 pm City Council Meeting, 7:30 pm	12	13 Adjudication Hearing, 1:00 pm	14	15
16	17 <i>MARTIN LUTHER KING, JR. DAY</i> City offices closed. Regular refuse collection schedule.	18 City Council Committee of the Whole, 7:30 pm	19	20 <i>Water bills due</i> <i>Fire Pension Board</i> , 8:30 am Adjudication Hearing (Red Light), 2:00 pm	21	22
23	24 Police Pension Board, 3:30 pm	25 City Council Meeting, 7:30 pm	26	27	28	29
30	31					

FEBRUARY 2022

All meetings take place at City Hall, unless noted.

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
		1 Environmental Committee, 6:30 pm Planning & Zoning Commission, 7:00 pm	2	3 Adjudication Hearing (Parking), 2:00 pm	4 <i>Holiday Light Recycling</i> <i>Program ends</i>	5
6	7 Economic Development Committee, 6:00 pm	8 Crime Stoppers, 5:30 pm City Council Meeting, 7:30 pm	9	10 Adjudication Hearing, 1:00 pm	11	12 <i>LINCOLN'S BIRTHDAY</i>
13	14 <i>VALENTINE'S DAY</i> Board of Fire & Police Commissioners, 9:00 am	15 Community Events Foundation, 6:00 pm City Council Committee of the Whole, 7:30 pm	16 Veterans Committee, 6:30 pm	17 Adjudication Hearing (Red Light), 2:00 pm	18	19
20	21 <i>PRESIDENTS' DAY</i> <i>Water bills due</i>	22 <i>WASHINGTON'S BIRTHDAY</i> Capital Projects Committee, 6:30 pm City Council Meeting, 7:30 pm	23	24	25	26 Taste the Town, 6:00 – 9:00 pm, Community Center (3705 Pheasant Dr.)
27	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		



Rolling Meadows' Independence Day Parade is among nearly 20 community events scheduled to take place in 2022.

CITY UNVEILS 2022 COMMUNITY EVENTS SCHEDULE

An 'eventful' 2022 is on tap for Rolling Meadows residents and businesses!

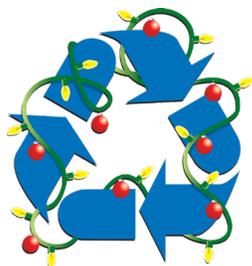
City and Park District officials, Community Events Foundation supporters, and a dedicated team of volunteers are coordinating a year-long series of events offering all-ages, family-friendly fun.

Highlights will include everything from free summer concerts in Kimball Hill Park and Independence Day festivities to the Hometown Hoedown Fall Fest and Holiday Tree Lighting. View a complete listing of this year's Community Events schedule online at <https://cityrm.org/669/Community-Events>.

"Our annual events calendar is a testament to the City's unique spirit – epitomized by everyone from the individuals who help set up specific events to the residents and businesses who provide financial support," said Community Events Foundation Liaison Lori Ciezak.

Monthly Volunteer Meetings

Monthly meetings of the ad-hoc



RECYCLE HOLIDAY LIGHTS AT CITY HALL THROUGH FEB. 4TH

Rolling Meadows, in tandem with the Solid Waste Agency of Northern Cook County (SWANCC) and Elgin Recycling, offers residents the opportunity to recycle old and outdated holiday lights at no cost through Friday, February 4th.

Rolling Meadows Community Events Foundation Committee will be held at 6:00 pm on the third Tuesday of each month (February – November) at City Hall. Residents who would like to learn more about Foundation activities or volunteer their time and talents are welcome to attend.

Tax-Deductible Donations

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

Supporters may also make checks payable to Rolling Meadows Community Events Foundation and send them to:

City of Rolling Meadows
Community Events Foundation
3600 Kirchoff Road
Rolling Meadows, IL 60008

Bring light strings – all sizes and colors are accepted – and deposit them in collection boxes located outside City Hall (3600 Kirchoff Road). Residents may also drop off extension cords, household wire, and computer cords/wires.

Garland, live greens, wreaths, and non-recyclables will not be accepted.

RENEW ALARM PERMITS BY JANUARY 31ST

The City has sent alarm permit renewal applications to customers (homeowners and businesses) who use security alarms to protect their properties. Customers should renew their permits by mail, in-person at City Hall, or online at <https://www.cityrm.org/146/Pay> by Monday, January 31st, to avoid late fees.

Annual fees range from \$10 for senior citizens (ages 65 and up) to \$30 for businesses. In addition, fines may be assessed, based on the number of false security alarms experienced by a specific property each calendar year (see below).

Fines for false fire alarms may also be assessed to businesses. There is no charge for police or fire department responses to alarms triggered in emergency situations.

For more information, contact Police Commander Mike Fior (847-255-2416 or FiorM@cityrm.org) or Fire Department Logistics Coordinator Lisa Norton (847-397-3352 or NortonL@cityrm.org).

Alarm Permit Fees

Business: \$30
Residential: \$20
Senior Resident: \$10
Duress/Panic Button: \$10 (*seniors \$5*)

False Alarm Fines – Police:

1 – 3 false alarms: No fine
4 false alarms: \$100
5 false alarms: \$150 (*seniors \$50*)
6+ false alarms: \$200 each (*\$75 each for seniors*)
7+ false alarms: \$100 each (*seniors only*)
Note: Seniors are allowed up to four (4) false alarms per calendar year with no fines being assessed.

False Alarm Fines – Fire:

1 false alarm: No fine
2-3 false alarms: \$350 each
4-6 false alarms: \$450 each
7+ false alarms: \$600 each (*and revocation of permit*)



GUEST COLUMN BY JON BISESI, 5TH WARD ALDERMAN

NEW OPPORTUNITIES ABOUND AS 2022 DAWNS

The start of a new year is a time for reflection. 2021 will certainly go down as an eventful year in Rolling Meadows. Our employees were outstanding, as always, and maintained the high level of services for which they are known, despite the ongoing challenges related to COVID-19 and the uncertainty of a change in City leadership.

I would also like to credit my fellow Council members for supporting a series of initiatives to help those we serve. These include organizing a COVID-19 vaccination clinic, expanding our Police Department’s social services team, waiving utility bill late fees, and increasing funding for programs that support Rolling Meadows

residents in dire need.

As 2022 begins, we continue to implement a new enterprise resource planning (ERP) platform that will improve operations and transparency. We are also fortunate to welcome Rob Sabo as our new city manager.

As a member of the Manager Search Committee, I can tell you that Mr. Sabo’s outstanding mix of integrity, knowledge, and passion stood out. The top candidates were presented to the full Council and he quickly rose to the top of the list. He is ready to collaborate with the Council, staff, and residents to prepare us for future opportunities and challenges we will face as a City.

2022 BUDGET FREEZES PROPERTY TAXES, FEES

Rolling Meadows’ fiscal year (FY) 2022 budget maintains the City’s property tax levy at 2019 levels, in an effort to help limit the financial burden on residents and businesses as they continue to emerge from the COVID-19 pandemic.

Other highlights of this year’s budget include:

- No increases in water, sewer, storm water, or refuse fees.
- Continued investments in capital infrastructure.



- Maintaining fund balance reserves within established parameters.

The 2022 budget is posted on the City’s website (<https://cityrm.org/233/Financial-Reports>).



CONTACT CITY OFFICIALS
City Hall Hours
8:00 am to 4:00 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
- City Manager Rob Sabo 847-394-8500

SERVICES

- Fire & Police Emergency 911
- Fire Non-emergency. 847-397-3352
- Police Non-emergency. 847-255-2416
- 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

‘ENEWS’ OFFERS EXPANDED COVERAGE OF CITY INITIATIVES

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 extensive monthly coverage of City plans, events, and initiatives. The web-based PDF format also offers embedded links that give readers access to additional resources and insights.

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