

# eNEWS

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

Rob Sabo takes helm as City Manager ..... 2  
 EDC establishes 2022 goals..... 3  
 RMHS graduate joins Police Department's  
 Social Services Division ..... 4  
 2021 new business recap..... 5  
 Ask PW: Winter Storm Edition ..... 6

VOLUME 9 ISSUE 1



The census offers a once-a-decade snapshot of the American population while ensuring fair representation at all levels of government.

## 2020 CENSUS: CITY POPULATION GROWS WHILE ILLINOIS' SHRINKS

Final numbers released by the U.S. Census Bureau, following completion of the latest census, confirm that Rolling Meadows' population increased slightly between 2010 and 2020. That growth stands in stark contrast to the state of Illinois' overall population, which declined over that same time frame, City Manager Rob Sabo reports.

Official Census Bureau data shows that the City's 2020 population stood at 24,200, an increase from 24,099 reported in 2010. Comparatively, Illinois' population dropped from 12,830,632 in 2010 to 12,812,508 in 2020.

"At a time when Illinois and other large population states across the country are experiencing net population loss, Rolling Meadows' growth bodes well for the strength and appeal of our city," Sabo explained.

Sabo and other City leaders credit the work of groups such as the ad hoc Complete Count Committee, which promoted the 2020 Census

and helped residents understand the importance of an accurate census, and the Rolling Meadows Police Department for conducting outreach efforts among multi-family complexes and other historically under-counted areas.

The census is a Constitutionally mandated exercise that counts every single individual in the United States and its territories every ten years. The final census count serves as the basis for:

- Distributing over \$675 billion in federal funds to states, counties, and communities.
- Redistricting at the state and local levels (including re-drawn City ward boundaries to ensure fair representation of Rolling Meadows residents).
- Reapportioning Congressional seats.

Learn more by visiting <https://www.census.gov>.

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

Follow all that's going on in Rolling Meadows through a variety of platforms that provide information – and context – on everything from Council deliberations and public safety initiatives to road construction projects and new business openings. These include:

#### SOCIAL MEDIA

Facebook, Twitter, Instagram, and YouTube are powerful tools for delivering important information and compelling narratives. Make sure to "follow" City departments on each available platform. *Click the icons below to visit each site:*

#### Administration



#### Fire Department



#### Police Department



#### Public Works



#### MONTHLY NEWSLETTER

Print editions of *News & Views* and its electronic counterpart, *eNews*, provide monthly updates on the City enterprise. The publications' format provides opportunities for additional detail and more in-depth reporting on City endeavors and activities. Past issues are archived on the [City website](#).

...continued on p. 3

## ROLLING MEADOWS EARNS SIXTH STRAIGHT DISTINGUISHED BUDGET PRESENTATION AWARD

Rolling Meadows has been recognized for meeting the highest principles of governmental budgeting by [Government Finance Officers Association](#) (GFOA), which presented the City with its sixth consecutive Distinguished Budget Presentation Award.

### Exceeds Guidelines

The award for the City's Fiscal Year 2021 budget certifies that Rolling Meadows met or exceeded all nationally accepted guidelines for effective budget presentation.

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

### Awards Streak Continues

Rolling Meadows has a decades-long track record of earning GFOA recognition: it has received another Association award, the Certificated of Achievement for Excellence in Financial Reporting, for 34 straight years.

The City is also one of only 286 governmental entities in the U.S. and Canada to be awarded the GFOA's "Triple Crown," a designation presented to organizations that earn all three GFOA awards for budget reporting and transparency in the same year. Rolling Meadows received the (1) Certificate of Achievement for Excellence in Financial Reporting; (2) Distinguished Budget Presentation Award; and (3) Popular Annual Financial Reporting Award for fiscal year 2019.



## ROB SABO TAKES HELM AS ROLLING MEADOWS' CITY MANAGER

Rob Sabo began his new role as Rolling Meadows' City Manager on January 4th, after spending the past five years as the City of Highland Park's Assistant City Manager.



City Manager Rob Sabo, his wife, Snezhana, and sons, Matthew and Alex.

Sabo began his career as a Management Analyst with the City of Highwood. His municipal government experience also includes service in Prospect Heights (Deputy City Clerk & Assistant to the City Administrator) and Northbrook (Assistant to the Village Manager).

He earned a bachelor's degree in Political Science (minor in Business Administration) from the University of Iowa and also holds a Master of Public Administration (MPA) degree from the University of Illinois, Chicago.

Upon his arrival in Rolling Meadows, Sabo discussed how his previous experiences prepared him for the City Manager position, recounted his initial impressions of the City, and offered insights into his approach to leadership.

### Why did you pursue a career in public administration?

"I enjoy being part of a team and, more importantly, want to help improve people's lives. I've had the

good fortune to be involved in a variety of complex projects that made a positive difference in the communities I've served. It's rewarding to see the tangible results of a collaborative team effort that brings a project from concept to reality."

### What drew you to Rolling Meadows?

"Two things really stood out: (1) the City's well-earned reputation for excellence in municipal government services, and (2) the opportunity to work with a dedicated team of talented staff members and engaged residents who care deeply about their community."

### How have your past experiences prepared you to serve as Rolling Meadows' City Manager?

"Working for four different municipalities and with many excellent local government professionals helped me gain experience in all facets of local government. For example, I've worked on capital and operating budgets, overseen economic development efforts and initiatives, been involved in the redevelopment of multiple large-scale properties, and helped guide Highland Park through the pandemic."

### Three words that best describe you:

"Driven. Collaborative. Analytical."

### Who are your heroes?

"My parents are my biggest heroes and role models. They came to the United States from the former Soviet Union in the 1970s in pursuit of the American dream. They are the source of my strong work ethic. They also taught me to always aim for the absolute best outcome in anything I do. That has carried over into my career."

### Family:

"My wife, Snezhana, is an optometrist and an amazing mother to our two sons, Matthew and Alex, both of whom are in elementary school. We look forward to attending and being part of Rolling Meadows' many community events."

## ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT COMMITTEE ESTABLISHES PRELIMINARY 2022 GOALS

Members of Rolling Meadows' Economic Development Committee have established three preliminary goals that will guide their deliberations and actions in 2022, 3rd Ward Alderman and EDC member Kevin O'Brien reports.

The annual goals, which are preliminary in nature, are:

- Develop strategies to assist existing businesses.
- Attract new businesses to the community.
- Improve commercial area aesthetics.

To ensure successful implementation, the Committee assigned two members to lead each of the respective efforts.

"Committee members will provide additional ideas and details at upcoming meetings, which will allow the group to further discuss and

### Committee Members

Linda Ballantine  
Christine Burbidge  
Craig Carlson  
Heather Larson  
Roberta Marcinkus  
Nick Martinelli  
Janine Molinelli  
Kevin O'Brien  
Jenifer Vinezeano

refine the goals," Alderman O'Brien explained.

In addition, the preliminary EDC goals will be vetted at an upcoming City Council Committee of the Whole meeting. It will allow the Committee to collect feedback from aldermen and City staff, determine next steps, and discuss potential financial support that may be needed to achieve the goals as outlined.

### About the EDC

The Economic Development Committee serves as an advisory body to City Council. It's primary mission is to facilitate development of programs and services that promote the long-term well-being of Rolling Meadows' business community.

The nine-member committee is comprised of local business owners, City Council members, and a former chamber of commerce executive director. This combined experience helps the committee better understand the needs of local businesses and identify opportunities for their growth and success.

The EDC meets at 6:00 pm at City Hall on the first Monday of each month. Meetings are open to the public. View upcoming agendas and minutes from past meetings at <https://cityrm.org/354/Economic-Development-Committee>.

## STAY INFORMED! ...continued from page 1

### WEBSITE

Rolling Meadows' [website](#) serves as the City's informational clearinghouse. Access everything from Council agendas to local restaurant listings; pay utility bills online; find contact information for all City departments; and much more.

### SUBSCRIPTIONS

The [Notify Me®](#) feature on the City's website lets residents subscribe to, and receive updates on, topics such as construction updates, emergen-

cy alerts, department news updates, and more.



### ROLLING MEADOWS BROADCASTING NETWORK (RMBN)

View upcoming City Council meetings, District 15 Board of Education meetings, and community event information on Channel 6 (Comcast and WOW). RMBN is also accessible on most [mobile devices](#).

## ONLINE UTILITY BILLING PORTAL IMPROVES CUSTOMER CONVENIENCE

Rolling Meadows' "Citizen Service Portal" lets customers access a range of convenient online features, including the ability to pay their monthly utility bills and enroll in the City's updated automatic bill payment program.

Access the portal by clicking "Online Payments" on the City's [homepage](#). Once registered, customers will be able to:

- 
**Citizen Request**  
Submit any concerns or requests
- 
**Online Payments**  
Submit payment for City services
- 
**Government Transparency**  
Financial and budget information
- 
**Stay Notified**  
Stay informed with the City

- Receive monthly utility bills electronically (e-billing) at no charge. *Note: Customers may choose to continue receiving a paper bill at no charge.*
- Make secure online payments.
- Sign up for auto bill pay.
- Look up past bills.
- View usage and payment histories.
- Access their accounts from anywhere at any time.

Questions about the Portal or online bill payments? Contact the Finance Department at 847-394-8500 or [ub@cityrm.org](mailto:ub@cityrm.org).

All meetings take place at City Hall, unless noted.

2/1: **Environmental Committee**, 6:30 pm; **Planning & Zoning Commission**, 7:00 pm

2/3: **Adjudication Hearing (Parking)**, 2:00 pm

2/4: **Holiday Light Recycling Program ends** (see page 6 for details)

2/7: **Economic Development Committee**, 6:00 pm

2/8: **Crime Stoppers**, 5:30 pm; **City Council Meeting**, 7:30 pm

2/10: **Adjudication Hearing**, 1:00 pm

2/12: **Lincoln's Birthday**

2/14: **Valentine's Day**; **Board of Fire & Police Commissioners**, 9:00 am

2/15: **Community Events Foundation Volunteer Committee**, 6:00 pm; **City Council Committee of the Whole**, 7:30 pm

2/16: **Veterans Committee**, 6:30 pm

2/17: **Adjudication Hearing (Red Light)**, 2:00 pm

2/21: **Presidents' Day**; **Water bills due**

2/22: **Washington's Birthday**; **Community Events Foundation**, 6:00 pm; **City Council Meeting**, 7:30 pm

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](#).

February 2022						
Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
		1	2	3	4	5
6	7	8	9	10	11	12
13	14	15	16	17	18	19
20	21	22	23	24	25	26
27	28					

## SOCIAL WORKER KIMBERLY QUINTANILLA HELPS POLICE DEPT. EXPAND COMMUNITY OUTREACH



Kimberly Quintanilla

Kimberly Quintanilla, MSW, joined the Police Department's Social Services Division last April, but she was already quite familiar with the community she serves.

Kimberly previously completed a student internship with the RMPD while enrolled at Northeastern Illinois University (Chicago), where she earned her bachelor's degree in Social Work. She is also a Rolling Meadows High School graduate.

Her return to Rolling Meadows – after graduating from Dominican University (River Forest, IL) with a master's degree in Social Work – reunited her with Dr. Natalia Nieves, who has led the Social Services Division for the past nine years.

"The experiences I gained here as an intern helped determine my career path," Kimberly explained. "I'm excited to work with Natalia once again and – most of all – residents who need our help."

The mission of the Police Department's Social Services Division is to promote the health and well-being of all Rolling Meadows residents by connecting them with available resources. Division staff members also provide services such as short-term counseling, crisis intervention, court advocacy, well-being checks, senior citizen assistance, community education/workshops, orders of protection, and more.

These initiatives play important roles in the Department's efforts to build trust between police officers and the residents they serve.

"Kimberly has helped us expand the scope of our service offerings to residents throughout the City," Dr. Nieves explained. "She is caring, compassionate, and is only concerned with helping people through difficult times."

Police Chief John Nowacki appreciates how Kimberly works closely with patrol officers to offer onsite help to residents in need of assistance.

"In certain situations, Kimberly will work with police officers at the scene of a call to provide crime victims with immediate support," he said. "The services we offer through our Social Services Division give residents – and responding officers – great peace-of-mind."

### The mission of the Police Department's Social Services Division is to promote the health and well-being of all Rolling Meadows residents.

Looking ahead, Kimberly will help implement one of the Division's latest initiatives: establishing a neighborhood office

at the Preserve at Woodfield apartment complex near Route 53 and Algonquin Road. The onsite office, similar to one located at East Park Apartments for the past seven years, will help the Police Department expand outreach to, and build relationships with, Preserve residents.

"The data proves that these types of outreach programs have a profound impact on the communities they serve," Dr. Nieves explained. "For example, the number of reported incidents at East Park dropped significantly after that substation was established."

For more information, on the Police Department's Social Services Division, visit <https://cityrm.org/611/Social-Services>.

## ROLLING MEADOWS WELCOMES FIFTY NEW BUSINESSES IN 2021

Rolling Meadows' reputation as a great place to do business continued to pay dividends in 2021, with 50 new companies putting down roots in the community.

The City has welcomed 230 new businesses in a variety of fields over the past five years, including industry leaders in healthcare, publishing, information technology (IT), automotive repair, technology consulting, and more.

"Rolling Meadows' well-established reputation as a business-friendly community helps attract new companies that expand shopping and service options for residents," Business Advocate Martha Corner explained. "Meanwhile, these new additions help diversify the City's tax base and reduce the burden on residents to fund essential services. Diversification also helps limit our risk in the event of an economic downturn."

From independent merchants to Fortune 500 corporations, Rolling



Meadows is home to many of the world's leading companies, including Arthur J. Gallagher (insurance brokerage/risk management), Northrop Grumman (aerospace and defense), Panasonic (technology), Verizon Wireless (cell phones), and Weichai America (diesel engine manufacturing).

Find a complete listing of businesses that opened in Rolling Meadows over the past several years at <https://cityrm.org/706/New-Businesses>.

## POLICE OFFICERS, WALMART PARTNER TO HELP LOCAL FAMILIES SHOP FOR THE HOLIDAYS

Sergeant Sam Mollenhauer (pictured) was among the Rolling Meadows Police personnel who proudly took part in the department's annual



"Shop with a Rolling Meadows Cop" program on December 17th.

The initiative, sponsored by Walmart and organized by Dr. Natalia Nieves, Social Services Outreach Specialist, supports local families facing financial difficulties and other challenges that limit their ability to purchase gifts for the season.

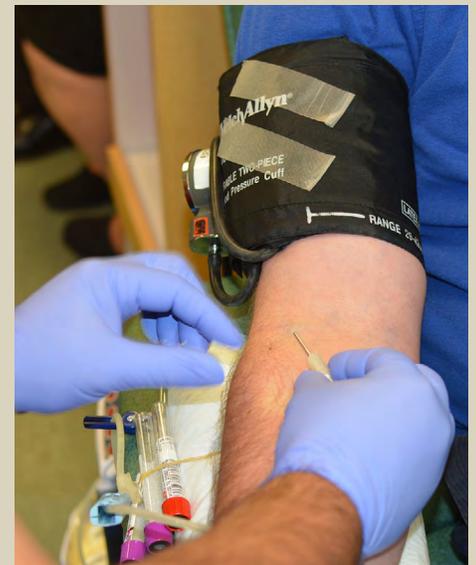
In total, 35 children received Walmart gift cards that helped them enjoy holiday shopping sprees for their families.

"Thanks to all 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," Dr. Nieves said.

## CITY TO HOST FEB. 24TH COMMUNITY BLOOD DRIVE

After City-sponsored blood drives helped make a difference in the lives of more than 500 patients last year, Rolling Meadows will again partner with Vitalant to host its next community drive Thursday, February 24th, 1:00 – 7:00 pm, at City Hall.

Call 877-258-4825 to schedule an appointment. Walk-ins will not be allowed. All donors must wear face coverings.



"Blood drives are a wonderful way for residents to give back to their community," HR Specialist Joyce DeLeon explained. "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 due to the pandemic – is greater than ever. Many thanks to all past, present, and future donors. We need you."

Other City-sponsored blood drives will take place April 28th, June 23rd, August 25th, October 27th, and December 22nd. Stay tuned for details.

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



**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 Development 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](http://www.twitter.com/@cityofrm1)

## ASK PW: WINTER STORM EDITION

**Q.** How does Public Works prepare for winter storms?

**A.** Crews have been conducting annual training, inspecting snow fighting equipment, installing plows on the City's fleet of snow removal trucks, and practicing their designated routes since last fall. This advance preparation ensures their readiness to completely clear the streets of ice and snow – and help residents travel safely – whenever and wherever snow arrives.

**Q.** What streets get plowed first? Why?

**A.** Snowplow drivers cover eight designated routes across Rolling Meadows. Crews tackle primary roads, such as Kirchoff Road and Rohlwing Road, first. This helps guarantee open roads for emergency vehicles to reach locations throughout the City and surrounding areas.

Once these routes are open, plows begin to clear residential streets on their assigned routes. Other streets, such as Golf and Algonquin Roads,

and Euclid Avenue, are plowed by the Illinois Department of Transportation (IDOT) or the Cook County Highway Department.

**Q.** Should residents shovel or blow snow into the street and let the plows remove it when they come?

**A.** No. Blowing snow into streets can cause icy hazards for motorists. Also, the snow you've shoveled into the street is likely to land back on your driveway when plows return.

**Q.** How can I prevent plows from pushing snow onto the driveway after I've already cleared it?

**A.** Shovel snow to the right side of the driveway (while facing the street) whenever possible. This will limit the amount of snow that is pushed onto the driveway by passing plows.

For more information on Rolling Meadows' snow removal program, contact Public Works at 847-963-0500 or visit <https://cityrm.org/301/Public-Works>

## FREE HOLIDAY LIGHT RECYCLING PROGRAM ENDS FEBRUARY 4TH

Friday, February 4th is the last day to take advantage of a free program that safely collects and recycles old holiday lights.

Bring light strings (all sizes and colors) 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.

Please do not include garland, live greens, wreaths, and other non-recyclables.