



School Health's headquarters at 5600 Apollo Drive is one example of a business using 6b tax incentives to upgrade its property.

Photo: Krusinski Construction Company

City's '6b' Review Process Helps Businesses Earn County Tax Breaks

Rolling Meadows is an important partner for business owners who plan to apply for Cook County Class "6b" tax incentives: if approved, the classification allows them to take advantage of savings from potential property tax reductions to reinvest in their properties.

The 6b classification is an economic development tool offered by the Cook County Assessor's Office that supports the development of new industrial facilities, rehabil-

itation of existing industrial facilities, and re-utilization of abandoned properties.

Lower Assessments

Industrial properties are normally assessed at 25% of their market value. Those with the 6b classification are assessed at a lower rate for a period of 12 years:

- 10% of market value (years 1 – 10),
- 15% of market value (year 11),
- 20% of market (year 12).

Applicants must have the support of/approval from the municipality in which they operate in order to be considered for 6b reclassification. That's where Rolling Meadows' Class 6b review process benefits business owners.

'Detailed Review'

"The City's detailed review process for local companies pursuing 6b incentives eliminates much of the uncertainty for the applicants and increases their odds of

success," Business Advocate Martha Corner explained. "It also ensures that proposals for property upgrades are consistent with Rolling Meadows' Comprehensive Plan."

Business owners requesting City support for a 6b reclassification must submit a completed application package for examination by City staff. Following administrative review, members of the Economic Development Committee

...continued on page 4

Mayor's 'State of the City' Address Highlights Operational Innovation, Fresh Perspectives



Mayor Joe Gallo

More than 60 local business leaders turned out to hear Mayor Joe Gallo's keynote address at a "Taking Care of Business" networking luncheon co-organized by the Rolling Meadows Chamber of Commerce and hosted by Meridian Banquet and Conference Center.

Mayor Gallo's "State of the City" presentation highlighted Rolling Meadows' commitment to operational innovation – citing the City's new automated refuse collection program as an example. He also welcomed the addition of new leaders, including City Manager Rob Sabo and Finance Director Molly Talkington, who bring fresh insights and perspectives to the business of governing.

In This Issue

- 'Triple Crown' highlights City's financial/budgetary reporting excellence 2
- Welcome new Finance Director 2
- Meijer store manager named Community Partnership award winner 3
- City thanks Street Banner program sponsors 3
- City/Walmart partnership begins next chapter 4

'Triple Crown' Designation Recognizes City's Commitment to Financial Reporting Excellence

For the second consecutive year, the Government Finance Officers Association (GFOA) has awarded its Triple Crown designation to Rolling Meadows in recognition of the City's commitment to financial/budgetary reporting excellence.

The Triple Crown, presented last year to fewer than 300 communities across the country – approximately 25 in the state of Illinois – certifies that Rolling Meadows earned all three of the GFOA's budgeting and financial transparency awards in fiscal year 2020. They include the:

- **Certificate of Achievement for Excellence in Financial Reporting:** demonstrates a commitment to budgetary transparency and the highest accounting standards.
- **Distinguished Budget Presentation Award:** certifies that an organization meets or exceeds all



nationally accepted guidelines for effective budget presentation.

- **Award for Outstanding Achievement in Popular Annual Financial Reporting (PAFR):** recognizes governmental entities for their commitment to financial transparency and public education on budget-related matters.

According to the GFOA, Triple Crown recipients are committed to "producing annual reports that evidence the spirit of full disclosure and transparency."

"Earning the Triple Crown two years in a row re-affirms



Rolling Meadows' 30-plus year commitment to embracing the highest standards of governmental budgeting and accounting," Finance Director Molly Talkington explained.

Reputation for Excellence
The 2020 awards are the latest municipal accounting accolades presented to Rolling Meadows and reflect the City's decades-long reputation for financial reporting excellence.

It has earned the GFOA's "Certificate of Achievement for Excellence in Financial Reporting" every year since 1985 (35 consecutive years) and is a six-time recipient of the association's "Distinguished Budget Presentation Award."



Reports Available Online
Members of the public may view a range of Rolling Meadows financial reports online by visiting www.citym.org/233/Financial-Reports. PAFRs, in particular, offer a brief analysis of City revenues/expenditures and also provide an overview of local economic trends. These may be found by clicking the page's "Citizens Financial Report" link.

For more information on Rolling Meadows Finance Department operations, visit www.citym.org/221/Finance-Department.

Learn more about the GFOA at www.gfoa.org.

City Welcomes New Finance Director Molly Talkington



Molly Talkington

Molly Talkington, a municipal finance professional with nearly 20 years of professional experience, has been hired as Rolling Meadows' new Finance Director.

Talkington began her career as a budget analyst in Naperville and spent the previous three years with the Chicago Metropolitan

Agency for Planning as a Finance Principal. She served multiple communities in between, including Glenview, Champaign, DeKalb, and East Dundee.

Diversified Experience
"Molly brings an impressive, multi-faceted background to the Finance Director position," City Manager Rob Sabo explained.

"That experience will serve Rolling Meadows well as she helps build on our proven

record of excellence to further enhance the City's financial well-being."

Talkington was drawn to Rolling Meadows in part by its warm "neighborhood feel." From a professional perspective, she was intrigued by the chance to work for a stable community with a strong financial footing.

"I'm happy to be here and look forward to working with City Council and staff to build on Rolling Meadows'

already impressive record of achievement," she explained. "Everyone here really knows their stuff. The City's solid financial position and reputation are the tangible results of that."

Support Economic Development
Talkington is also excited to explore ways for the Finance Department to be more involved in supporting the City's economic development initiatives.

Police Dept. Presents Partnership Award to Meijer Store Manager

Meijer Store Manager Jasmine Edwards is the recipient of the Rolling Meadows Police Department's 2022 Community Partnership Award, Police Chief John Nowacki reports.

The award recognizes "service to the public, goodwill, generosity, and an unwavering partnership" with police to help make Rolling Meadows "A Great Place to Call Home."

"Meijer's compassion and generosity are measured by the countless outreach events it has hosted over the years," Chief Nowacki explained. "Jasmine personifies that commitment to service, and we are grateful for all she does to support this community."

The latest example of that support took place earlier this year, at the Police Department's Service Day. Ms. Edwards personally presented a \$1,000 college scholarship check to Rolling Meadows resident Orlando Cabrera, who will study broadcasting at Harper College this fall.

The scholarship program is a joint program developed by Meijer and the RMPD.

"Rolling Meadows is extremely fortunate to have a friend like Jasmine in our community," Chief Nowacki added.

For more information on the Police Department's Community Partnership Award, call 847-255-2416.



Police Chief John Nowacki (left) and Meijer's Jasmine Edwards present a \$1,000 college scholarship check to Orlando Cabrera at this year's Police Department Service Day event.

City Thanks 2022 Street Banner Program Sponsors

City officials offer a "thank you" to the businesses and community organizations that supported this year's street banner promotional initiative.

The annual program offers a literal "high-flying" opportunity for local groups to market

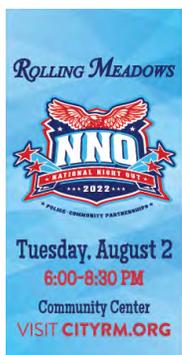
themselves to local audiences. Sponsors purchase customized panels (featuring an organization's name or logo) that hang beneath decorative street banners displayed along Kirchoff Road and other high-traffic areas to promote upcoming City events.

Proceeds from each sale help offset the program's costs while also benefitting the Rolling Meadows Community Events Foundation.

The Foundation is a 501(c)3 nonprofit entity whose mission is to provide financial support

to Rolling Meadows' community events. It relies solely on tax-deductible contributions and gifts from donors.

Learn more or make an online donation by visiting www.cityrm.org/679/Community-Events-Foundation.



- Thank You, Sponsors!**
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- Northwest Suburban College

- Nature's Care
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City/Walmart Community Partnership Begins Next Chapter

A grand re-opening celebration at the Rolling Meadows Walmart® last spring – following completion of a four-month, \$5.3 million store remodeling program – began a new chapter in the story of this trusted retail partner that has served the community for more than 20 years.

“The keys to this store’s longevity and success are a commitment to great service and an exceptional shopping experience,” explained store manager Nate Bolar. “Staying true to that mission helps us draw customers from across

the Chicago metropolitan area. They tell us repeatedly that they prefer coming here instead of visiting stores that are closer to their homes,” he added.

A More Inviting Shopping Experience
 Recently completed store renovations offer both long-time and new customers a brighter, more inviting interior. Features include new flooring and paint, updated signage, and a reconfigured layout to improve overall shopping convenience. There is also a completely new Vision Center

that offers a wider selection of high-end frames, and a more expansive grocery operation that caters more effectively to community preferences.

Moreover, the store’s nearly 200 associates underwent training that allows them to implement newer elements of the store’s operations more effectively. Those sessions also reinforced team members’ focus on customer service.



“Over the past 20-plus years, this community has come to rely on us,” Mr. Bolar said. “We’re all aligned in our mission to provide the goods and services residents want for the next 20 years.”

Read the full story of Walmart’s multi-million dollar store upgrade on the [RM Business Buzz \(rmbusinessbuzz.org/category/business-of-the-month-showcase\)](http://rmbusinessbuzz.org/category/business-of-the-month-showcase).

City’s ‘6b’ Review Process Helps Businesses Earn County Tax Breaks ...continued from page 1



assess the application and decide whether to support or reject the applicant’s request. City Council members then vote on applications supported by the EDC.

The final decision to grant or deny the 6b classification is made by the Cook County Board of Commissioners.

“Rolling Meadows has long been a supporter of local businesses that pursue Class 6b incentives,” Corner added. “By and large, companies that are approved for reclassification help bring new jobs to the City, as well as new employees and customers who shop at local stores and eat at local restaurants.”

For more information on Class 6b incentives and the City’s review process, visit www.cityrm.org/35/Business.