



Economic Development Update

Business Booming Once Again Throughout Rolling Meadows

Arthur J. Gallagher, Other Leading Companies View City as Excellent Investment

Large commercial insurance broker Arthur J. Gallagher's plan to move its headquarters from Itasca to the City's Golf Road corridor is the latest example of how business is once again booming in Rolling Meadows.

Gallagher will invest over \$85 million to upgrade and update its new home in the Meadows Corporate Center (2850 Golf Road), following the City's approval of a redevelopment plan that established a 15-year tax increment financing (TIF) district to help finance the project's costs.

Construction has already begun at the site, where Gallagher plans to relocate nearly 2,000 employees. It will be a homecoming of sorts: the company originally called Rolling Meadows home before moving to Itasca in 1991. Construction should be complete in early 2017.



Continental Towers is in the midst of a \$12 million property upgrade project.

"It definitely appears that the lingering effects of the 2009 recession are over, based on the level of activity we see occurring in the business community," Community Development Director Valerie Dehner reports. "We have experienced a tremendous increase in plan review submissions and permit applications from area businesses. It's exciting to see companies once again viewing Rolling Meadows as an essential part of their long-term success."

Rolling Meadows has long been known as a business-friendly community. Its reputation as a "Great Place to Do Business" is once again on display, as evidenced by several other high-profile economic development success stories now unfolding across the City:

- **Continental Towers** (1701 Golf Road) – The second phase of a \$12 million capital improvement project by ownership to revitalize the Class A commercial property will upgrade all building entry ways, create a new main entrance, incorporate new landscaping features, and install modern LED lighting. Plans also call for construction of a four-story parking garage to accommodate additional tenants, including Panasonic Corp. of North America and Verizon, both of whom recently signed long-term leases.



Design rendering of Arthur J. Gallagher's new Rolling Meadows headquarters at 2850 Golf Road.

- **Lexington Crossing** (downtown Rolling Meadows) – Visible progress is being made on Lexington Crossing, a 54-unit townhome development that is rising on the site of the former AMF Bowling Center.
- **Alliant Credit Union and Bank of America** (1600 Golf Road) – Bank of America and Alliant Credit Union are both undertaking significant expansion projects at each company's Golf Road commercial office sites. When complete, Bank of America will have renovated three floors of the six-story property, while Alliant's operations will cover an entire floor of its own.

In addition, Dehner says that plans have been submitted to the Community Development Department for a new upscale restaurant that will be located at the former Old Country Buffet, near Walmart.

Contact City Officials: City Hall Hours: 8 a.m. to 4 p.m. Monday-Friday

MAYOR and CITY COUNCIL

Mayor: *Tom Rooney* 847-392-2254
 1st Ward Alderman: *Mike Cannon* 847-925-8919
 2nd Ward Alderman: *Len Prejna* 847-776-9442
 3rd Ward Alderman: *Laura Majikes* 847-577-3746
 4th Ward Alderman: *Brad Judd* 847-902-3248
 5th Ward Alderman: *Rob Banger, Jr.* 847-818-1663
 6th Ward Alderman: *John D'Astice* 847-409-9367
 7th Ward Alderman: *Tim Veenbaas* 847-385-1425
 City Manager: *Barry Krumstok* 847-394-8500

SERVICES

Fire & Police Emergency 911
 Fire Non-emergency 847-397-3352
 Police Non-emergency 847-255-2416
 Public Works 847-963-0500
 Finance/Utility Billing Questions 847-394-8500
 Community Development 847-506-6030
 Senior Handyman Program 847-506-6030
 ComEd 1-800-EDISON-1
 Curfew . . . Sun. – Thurs. 11 p.m.; Fri. & Sat. Midnight



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www.cityrm.org



City, Park District to Host 60th Anniversary Senior Luncheon, September 15th

A 60th Anniversary Luncheon for Rolling Meadows seniors ages 55 and up will feature an Italian buffet from Moretti's, live music, free raffle drawings, and much more.

The event will take place Tuesday, September 15th, 12:30 p.m., at Park Central (3000 Central Road).

Admission to the luncheon is \$3 per person, or \$5 per couple. Space is limited.

Residents who plan to attend the event must RSVP by September 7th.

For reservations, contact Jan Nowotarski, Rolling Meadows Park District's Senior Activities Coordinator, at 847-818-3200 x 229 or jnowotarski@rmparks.org.

Red Light Cameras Prove Highly Successful for Closing Police Department Investigations



Mark Hogan

Red light traffic cameras at select Rolling Meadows intersections have helped police solve dozens of investigations over the past year – everything from vehicular accidents to DUI cases – by providing video feeds that often help officers identify suspects' vehicles, Deputy Police Chief Mark Hogan reports.

Case-in-point: Rolling Meadows police officers on routine patrol this summer witnessed a motorcycle heading westbound on Algonquin Road at 90 miles-per-hour. When the officers attempted to initiate a traffic stop, the cyclist weaved through traffic and escaped – or so he thought.

By remotely accessing the video feed from a red light traffic camera at Algonquin and New Wilke Roads, investigators were able to identify the license plate number of the motorcycle as it passed through the intersection. That helped them identify the suspect's name and address. An arrest is pending.

"The cameras are incredibly powerful tools that improve our ability to identify – and successfully apprehend – suspects who try and run from police," Deputy Chief Hogan says. "Our officers know where the cameras are located and are trained to let them work on their behalf. Incorporating this technology also minimizes potential 'high-speed chase' situations and keeps the community safer."



Red Light cameras help police officers identify suspect vehicles.

Another situation showcasing the camera system's ability to enhance law enforcement investigations involved a hit-and-run that occurred on Algonquin Road, beneath the Route 53 overpass. A truck that hit a pedestrian was later identified in camera footage heading away from the accident

scene, after witnesses provided on-scene officers with a description of the vehicle.

"We reviewed the video footage from cameras in the area, identified the license plate on the truck, and used that information to locate and arrest the suspect," Deputy Chief Hogan adds.



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Summer Celebrations Commemorate Rolling Meadows' 60th Anniversary

Oh, what a summer it was in Rolling Meadows, where a diverse variety of community events helped residents celebrate the 60th anniversary of Rolling Meadows' incorporation.



Residents of all ages joined police officers for the Department's second annual Community Bike Ride, August 1st.



Cruise Nights turned downtown Rolling Meadows into a classic car show every Friday evening this summer.



Guests line up for the dunk tank at the City's July 18th Parking Lot Party.



An expanded variety of food trucks played an integral role in this year's Farmers & Food Trucks program, as well as the City's June 19th Block Party.



Heavy rains couldn't dampen the enthusiasm of residents who turned out for the June 26th "Wine Down by the Creek," which featured fine wines, craft beer and live music.



Chicago Blackhawks singer Jim Cornelison turned the Community Center into the "Madhouse on Pheasant Drive" during August 4th's National Night Out, with a stirring rendition of the national anthem.

Re-designed City Website Delivers More Information, Simpler Navigation

One primary objective guided City officials as they began a comprehensive re-design of Rolling Meadows' municipal website (www.cityrm.org) earlier this year: improve residents' ability to quickly and conveniently access information on City operations. Now, just over a month since the new site made its debut, it appears they've achieved success.

"Mission accomplished," explains the City's IT Coordinator Justin Chiappetta. "The new Website delivers a more user-friendly platform that allows residents to find information they need without clicking through multiple page layers."

Request Services, Stay Informed

The Website redesign project offers residents an entirely new level of convenience as soon as they log on. Users may submit requests for services and sign up for customized email notifications on the site's homepage. There is also a series of "Quick Links" that provide access to upcoming City Council agendas, minutes

from prior meetings, and answers to many frequently asked questions (FAQs).

How Do I...?

Discover how to apply for permits, pay utility bills, request a fire station tour, contact City staff, report sanitary sewer back-ups, view annual financial reports and much more in one simple step. Simply hold the cursor over the "How Do I..." link at the top right of the page and choose from nearly 50 service and information options available via drop-down menu.

Geographical Information Systems (GIS)

The "Property Search" feature, located on the new GIS page, allows residents to access their regular refuse and recycling pick-up dates, the school district in which they reside, their voting precinct, polling location, and other information simply by entering their address. The page also offers updated Ward maps and a special 60th Anniversary interactive map that charts locations of previous community celebrations.





Links to the City's Facebook page, Twitter feed and YouTube channel are also prominently featured.

Chiappetta says that the Website will continue to grow and evolve to serve residents more effectively. In the next few months, the City will expand the site's capabilities to allow users to stream monthly City Council meetings online from their computers, tablets, and other mobile devices.

September 2015

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
Keep updated on City news with Rolling Meadows' electronic newsletter, E-News & Views , published in February, April, June, August, October and December. Each newsletter is archived on the City's Website, www.cityrm.org .		Economic Development Committee , 6 pm Environmental Committee , 7 pm Plan Commission , 7:30 pm, all at City Hall	Zoning Board of Appeals , 7:30 pm, City Hall	Adjudication Hearing (Parking), 2 pm, City Hall	Cruise Night , 5-8 pm, Meadows Christian Fellowship (2401 Kirchoff Road)	
6	City Hall and Public Works closed. Refuse collection delayed one day. Labor Day	Crime Stoppers , 5:30 pm City Council Meeting , 7:30 pm, both at City Hall	9	Adjudication Hearing , 10 1 pm, City Hall	11	12
13	Board of Fire & Police Commissioners , 9 am, City Hall	60th Anniversary Senior Luncheon , 12:30 pm, Park Central (3000 Central Rd) City Council Committee of the Whole , 7:30 pm, City Hall	16	Adjudication Hearing (Red Light), 2 pm, City Hall	18	19
20	Water bills due First Day of Fall	City Council Meeting , 7:30 pm, City Hall	23	24	25	Farmers & Food Trucks , 10 am-2 pm, City Hall Prescription Drug Take-Back Event , 10 am-2 pm, Old PW (3200 Central Rd)
27	28	29	30			

October 2015

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
	Learn more about City services by visiting Rolling Meadows' re-designed, updated Website. Visit www.cityrm.org .			Adjudication Hearing (Parking), 2 pm, City Hall	2	Electronics Recycling & Document Destruction Event , 9 am – noon, Public Works Dept. (3900 Berdnick St.)
National Fire Prevention Week , October 4 – 10	5	Economic Development Committee , 6 pm Environmental Committee , 7 pm Plan Commission , 7:30 pm, all at City Hall	Zoning Board of Appeals , 7:30 pm, City Hall	8	9	RMFD Open House , 10 10 am-2 pm, Neuckranz Fire Station (2455 Plum Grove Rd)
11	Board of Fire & Police Commissioners , 9 am, City Hall Columbus Day	Crime Stoppers , 5:30 pm City Council Meeting , 7:30 pm, both at City Hall	Urban Affairs Committee , 5:45 pm, City Hall	Adjudication Hearing , 15 1 pm, City Hall	16	17
18	19	Water bills due City Council Committee of the Whole , 7:30 pm, City Hall	21	Adjudication Hearing (Red Light), 2 pm, City Hall	23	24
25	26	City Council Meeting , 27 7:30 pm, City Hall	28	29	30	31 Halloween

Fire Prevention Week to Highlight Importance of Smoke Alarms

By Scott Franzgrote, Rolling Meadows Fire Chief



Scott Franzgrote

Fire Departments around the country responded to nearly 370,000 home structure fires in 2013, which caused nearly 15,000 fire-related deaths and injuries. More than half of those deaths occurred between 11 p.m. and 7 a.m., when most of us are asleep.

That's why the Rolling Meadows Fire Department has again partnered with the National Fire Protection Association (NFPA) to urge residents to "Hear the Beep Where you Sleep," the theme of this year's Fire Prevention Week, October 4th – 10th.

The premise of this year's campaign: every bedroom needs a working smoke alarm.

These life-saving tools could mean the difference between surviving a fire and dying in one. NFPA statistics prove that smoke alarms reduce the risk of fire mortality by 50%, and three out of every five U.S. home fire deaths (60%) occur in homes without them.

Of course, a smoke alarm can't save lives unless it is operational. Residents should test all smoke detectors monthly, following the manufacturers' instructions. Remember to change the batteries twice per

year, when we change the clocks each spring and fall for Daylight Saving Time.

The Rolling Meadows Fire Department's commitment to promoting the benefits of smoke alarms is a year-round effort. Through our Safe Seniors program, residents ages 65 and up are eligible to receive free smoke and carbon monoxide alarms, along

with information to help them stay safe in their homes. To learn more, call 847-397-3352.

For more information on fire prevention week, visit www.firepreventionweek.org.



Council, Staff to Discuss Proposed 2016 Budget at September Meeting

City Council members will begin discussions on the proposed Fiscal Year (FY) 2016 budget Tuesday, September 15th, 7:30 p.m., during their monthly Committee-of-the-Whole (COW) meeting.

The budget draft was distributed to aldermen in late August.

Over the following months, Council members and City staff will discuss potential modifications to the budget draft, ensuring that the final document reflects Rolling Meadows' commitment to provide services while maintaining fiscal discipline.

A series of public hearings and budget workshops will allow residents to provide input into the crafting of next year's budget.

Plans call for aldermen to approve the 2016 budget in November.

The budget draft is available for public review at City Hall (3600 Kirchoff Road), Rolling Meadows Library (3110 Martin Lane), and online at www.cityrm.org.

October 10th RMFD Open House to Showcase Fire Department Equipment, Operations

Family members of all ages will explore the inner-workings of the Rolling Meadows Fire Department during its 8th annual Open House, 10 a.m. – 2 p.m., Saturday, October 10th, at the Neuckranz Fire Station (2455 Plum Grove Road).

"Our annual Open House is an opportunity to welcome the residents we serve and help them learn more about how we protect the community," Fire Chief Scott Franzgrote explains. "Our goal is to provide insights on the Fire Department's proud history of service in a fun, relaxed atmosphere."

Guided station tours conducted by firefighters, and up-close review of the RMFD's fleet of fire engines and ambu-

lances, will offer a "behind-the-scenes" glimpse of Department operations. Firefighters will also provide free hot dogs, chips and soft drinks for attendees, courtesy of the International Association of Firefighters' Local 3075 Bargaining Unit.

The Open House coincides with this year's National Fire Prevention Week (October 4th – 10th). Additional information will be featured in the October edition of *e-News & Views*, available on the City's Website in late September.

For more information on Rolling Meadows Fire Department operations and activities, call 847-397-3352 or visit www.cityrm.org/193/Fire-Department.

School's in Session; Give Bus Drivers a 'Brake'

Illinois state law prohibits drivers on two-lane roads from passing a stopped school bus when its lights are flashing and its stop signal arm is extended. Motorists found guilty of illegally passing a stopped school bus will have their drivers licenses revoked for three months and face fines starting at \$150.

Drivers on roads with four or more lanes are not required to stop when *approaching* a bus that is stopped on the opposite side of the street, but should always use cau-



tion. However, motorists who are *behind* a stopped bus on a four-lane street are not allowed to pass.

For more information, contact the Rolling Meadows Police Department Help Desk at 847-255-2416, or visit www.cyberdriveillinois.com.

Local Voters: You've Been Overruled by Springfield

by Mayor Tom Rooney

I've always said that I can't ask people to agree on everything,

but I do ask that people be consistent in their logic. Let's apply that approach to the current goings-on in Springfield.

On the one hand, we all know from the newspaper that a property tax freeze is being proposed in Springfield. Interestingly enough, the state government doesn't have a property tax, so they're not proposing a freeze that affects them. Rather, they're pushing the problem onto smaller local governments that do levy property taxes.

But let's take the proposed property tax freeze at face value. It says that property taxes could still be raised by voter referendum; the idea being that a referendum clearly represents the Voice of the People and outweighs choices made by government officials. That logic is perfectly sound, and I have even written in this space before about this City's honorable practice of respecting voter-approved referenda.

Now let's consider a recently passed item from Springfield that has already blown a \$150,000 hole in the City's 9-1-1 Fund budget for next year. This mandate eliminates the portion of 9-1-1 Fund rev-

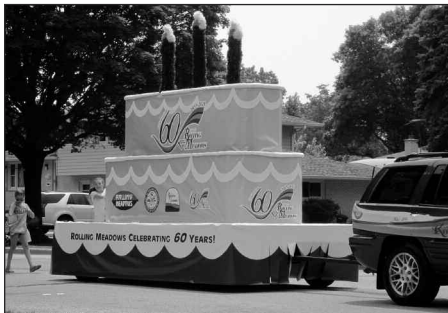
enues that were directly approved by Rolling Meadows in a referendum. State officials have swept aside a decision made by the voters, and left City government to pick up the pieces – and the tab.

Consistency requires that referenda are one of two things: (1) the voice of the people that can overrule elected officials, or (2) the simple "pulse" of the community that officials may choose to ignore. I believe referenda are the voice of the people; others don't feel bound by referenda at all. But state officials seem to believe they can pick and choose when referenda can be ignored.

Committee Harnesses Six Decades of City Pride to Organize 60th Anniversary Celebration

Rolling Meadows has enjoyed a rich history of residents coming together to celebrate their community, so when the City's 60th anniversary of incorporation drew closer, it was only natural that a dedicated group of people would come together and determine some way to mark the occasion.

In true Rolling Meadows fashion, the group turned the celebration into a year-long example of strong community pride.



The City's "Birthday Cake" float makes its debut at Rolling Meadows' Independence Day Parade.

"Residents' pride in their city is definitely something that separates Rolling Meadows from other communities," remarks Lori Ciezak, who, as Assistant to the City Manager, serves as staff liaison to the ad hoc Celebrate 60! Committee. "We all looked at each other and said, 'Let's show what we can do!' Everyone knew there was a tremendous opportunity to accomplish something special."

The celebration kicked off February 26th, when more than 500 guests attended a community birthday party to mark the exact date when Rolling Meadows was incorporated as a municipality. City officials applauded the event as a tremendous start to an ongoing celebration designed to appeal to residents of all ages and backgrounds.

In the following months, Committee members partnered with local community organizations, including the Park District, Chamber of Commerce, and Rotary Club, to host a diverse range of activities. Two that stood out were the St. Patrick's Day dinner and raffle in March, and June's Wine Down by the Creek, where guests enjoyed fine wines, craft beers and live music.

Committee members also built a 60th Anniversary commemorative birthday cake float for the City's Independence Day Parade, which is now on display at City Hall.

"Committee members, along with the many volunteers who have helped out, are a special group who share a common bond: they all love Rolling Meadows," Ciezak explains. "That devotion has been evident at our meetings and, I believe, serves as the fuel for making each celebration come to life."

The Committee's work is not yet finished. Members are finalizing the details for a



Celebrate 60! Committee members greet guests arriving for the City's June 19th Block Party on Kirchoff Road.

September 15th Senior Luncheon (see page 2 for details), and beginning to focus their efforts on a proposed spaghetti dinner to coincide with December's Holiday Tree lighting ceremony.

Residents who would like to support the Committee's efforts, offer their ideas, or volunteer their time and talents, may contact Lori Ciezak, Assistant to the City Manager (ciezakl@cityrm.org or 847-394-8500).

Celebrate 60! Committee members:

Alderman John D'Astice – Co-Chair
Alderman Len Prejna – Co-Chair
Lori Ciezak – Staff Liaison
Glenn Adams • Jen Hengels
Lois Hutchison • Jerry Inselberger
Karen Inselberger • Linda Liles-Ballantine
Jan Nowotarski • Scott Snell
Tricia Snell • Annette Szafran
Dennis Szafran • Nick Troy