



# NEWS & Views

Volume 22 Number 1



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

## Let the Good Times 'Roll in Meadows' 2018 Events Calendar to Feature Mix of New, Returning Favorites

With no fewer than 21 community events already in the planning stages, 2018 is shaping up to be another momentous year – one in which the good times continue to “Roll in Meadows.”

### What's New?

For its sixth season, **City Markets** (formerly *Farmers & Food Trucks*) will relocate from the City Hall parking lot to Community Church of Rolling Meadows (2720 Kirchoff Road). Markets will take place from 10 a.m. – 2 p.m. on Saturdays, May 26th, June 23rd, July 21st, August 25th, and September 22nd.

Planning is also underway for the City's first **Business & Community Showcase**, a forum where local businesses can network with other companies and interact with residents. City officials will present additional details in the coming months.

### Returning Favorites

Several popular events that made their debut in 2017 are back again for Year Two! Leading the way are **Taste the Town** (March 3rd) and the **FRIDAYS ROCK!** summer concert series (June 15th, July 6th, and September 7th).

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City Markets will relocate from City Hall to Community Church in 2018.

## Squibb Avenue Extension Improves Driver Safety at Golf Rd. Campus

The recent extension of Squibb Avenue, one of the interior roads serving businesses based at the City's Golf Road corporate campus, significantly improves area traffic flow and safety, and represents an important milestone in the continued



The Squibb Avenue extension (shown here under construction) improves safety around the Golf Road corporate campus.

redevelopment of the site, Public Works Director Fred Vogt reports.

Nearly 500 feet of new pavement extending westward allows Squibb drivers to connect with Ring Road, which features a traffic signal that provides safe access to and from Golf Road. Previously, that section of the campus was served only by Apollo Drive, which has no traffic signal, or Gallagher Way – a state road.

City officials view the Squibb extension project as the next phase in what has been an ongoing series of improvements to the Golf Road corporate area over the past several years.

“The sheer volume of traffic that Golf Road handles each day makes driver and pedestrian safety in that area a priority,” Vogt explained. “Through grant funding, we have added pedestrian walkways and other improvements for greater mobility, but the Squibb extension is a major step in providing local businesses and their employees with a safer option for entering and leaving the campus.”

The new road extension passes in front of J.C. Restoration, which dedicated the land on which it was built. School Health Corporation, which is building a new warehouse and office facility on an

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

#### MAYOR and CITY COUNCIL

Mayor: **Len Prejna** . . . . . 847-776-9442  
1st Ward Alderman: **Mike Cannon** . . . . . 847-925-8919  
2nd Ward Alderman: **Nick Budmats** . . . . . 847-202-0855  
3rd Ward Alderman: **Laura Majikes** . . . . . 847-577-3746  
4th Ward Alderman: **Joseph Gallo** . . . . . 847-814-9271  
5th Ward Alderman: **Rob Banger, Jr.** . . . . . 224-639-6686  
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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# 2018 Budget Invests in Infrastructure, Enterprise Software Upgrades

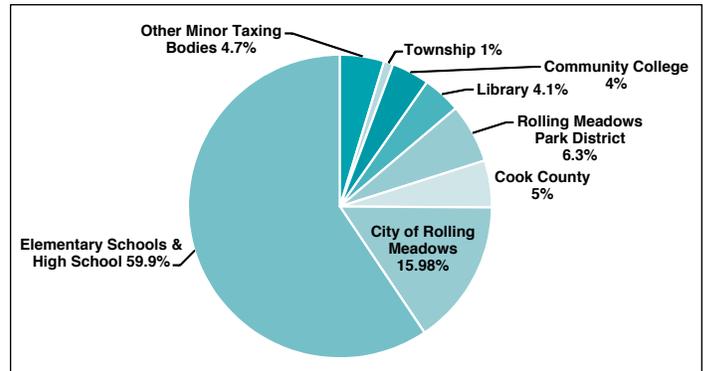
Rolling Meadows' 2018 budget provides expanded funding for roads and local infrastructure, and supports continuing upgrades to City software platforms that will vastly improve customer service and convenience, Finance Director Melissa Gallagher reported after its passage in November. Both initiatives were priority goals for Council members during budget discussions that took place throughout 2017.

The additional street funding will support a planned Kirchoff Road resurfacing project later this year, and help City officials continue the transition to enterprise resource planning (ERP) software that will streamline internal operations.

"The 2018 budget's emphasis on infrastructure improvements and software upgrades underscores our long-term commitment to customer service," Gallagher explained. "It represents an investment in the future."

ERP will modernize City records and information by combining data currently stored in multiple databases into a fully-integrated system. It's a turn-key solution that will enable staff members to provide faster, more responsive services to residents.

When fully-completed in 2019, the new system will offer expanded web-based services, such as online utility billing, and allow City employees to track the status of residential service requests. Staff members across all departments will be able to access information remotely with tablets, smartphones, and



The City's average share of residents' property tax bills is approximately 16 cents per dollar paid. Source: City of Rolling Meadows' 2016 audited financial statements.

other mobile devices.

This year's budget also ensures the City meets state-mandated pension funding requirements. Council members approved a 4.8% property tax levy increase to fund Rolling Meadows' police and fire pension obligations. Pension funds are currently on track to be fully-funded by 2033.

As a result, officials estimate that homeowners with an annual property tax bill of \$7,000 will pay an additional \$54 to the City.

Residents may view the approved budget online at [www.cityrm.org/233/Financial-Reports](http://www.cityrm.org/233/Financial-Reports).

## March 3rd, 2018 'Taste the Town' Event to Showcase Rolling Meadows' Restaurant Scene

Experience a wide variety of savory menu items offered by the City's finest food and beverage establishments Saturday, March 3rd, at Rolling Meadows' *Taste the Town*. This year's "sample and sip" event will again take place at the Community Center (3705 Pheasant Drive) from 6 – 9 p.m.

At its debut last year, nearly 400 Taste the Town guests enjoyed free food samples from 15 local restaurants offering a diverse menu of international cuisine and some traditional American favorites. Soft drinks, wine, beer, and margaritas were also available for purchase.



*Taste the Town serves as a showcase for the City's many restaurants.*

"2017's inaugural event was a tremendous success that vastly exceeded all expectations," recalled Lori Ciezak, Assistant to the City Manager and liaison to the Rolling Meadows Community Events Foundation. "Our goal for 2018 is to build upon that success with an expanded roster of participating restaurants, along with live entertainment and other attractions."

Taste the Town is co-sponsored by the Rolling Meadows Park District, City of Rolling Meadows, Rolling Meadows Chamber of Commerce, and Rolling Meadows Community Events Foundation.

Additional information will be available in upcoming issues of News & Views, and on the City's website and social media feeds.

Restaurants interested in participating in this year's Taste the Town should contact Ciezak at [ciezakl@cityrm.org](mailto:ciezakl@cityrm.org) or 847-394-8500.



*Nearly 400 guests attended last year's inaugural event.*

### In Memoriam Former City Clerk Patricia Weicker Served on Park District Board

Patricia "Patti" S. Weicker, who served as Rolling Meadows' City Clerk from 1999 -2003, passed away in November.

Weicker also spent 12 years on the Rolling Meadows Park District Board of Commissions, including one year as Board President.

She is survived by her husband, David, and two sons.

## Did You Know?

# Snow Removal Program Involves Detailed Planning and Preparation

### Q. What streets get plowed first and why?

A. Snow plows are assigned to eight designated routes throughout the City. Crews tackle primary roads, such as Kirchoff Road and Rohlwing Road, first. This helps guarantee open roads and access for emergency vehicles. Once these routes are open, plows begin to clear residential streets on their assigned routes.



When winter storms strike, City snow plows tackle major streets, such as Kirchoff Road, first.

Other roadways, such as Golf and Algonquin Roads, and Euclid Avenue, are plowed by the Illinois Department of Transportation (IDOT) or the Cook County Highway Department.

Residents should avoid parking on City streets following one inch or more of snowfall. This helps plow drivers complete their routes more efficiently, and reduces the risk of parked cars being “snowed in.”

### Q. Who is responsible for clearing fire hydrants?

Residents should clear snow away from nearby fire hydrants to ensure that firefighters have access to them in emergency situations.

### Q. What happens if my mailbox is damaged during a snow event?

A. 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.

The City will install a standard replacement mailbox for those hit during snow removal operations. It does not offer reimbursement for the interruption of mail service if a mailbox becomes inaccessible or is damaged, knocked over, or buried by accumulated snow.

For more information on snow removal services, contact the Department of Public Works at 847-963-0500 or visit [www.cityrm.org/316/Snow-Ice-Removal-Program](http://www.cityrm.org/316/Snow-Ice-Removal-Program).

## Squibb Avenue Extension...continued from page 1

adjacent property parcel, also agreed to provide land for Squibb’s widening. Meanwhile, Weichai America has provided land for future improvements to Apollo Drive.

The \$576,000 Squibb extension project, approved by City Council last May, was funded by revenue raised through a tax increment financing (TIF) district established in 2015 to cover

Golf Road corporate campus site upgrades. The TIF was part of the agreement that brought Arthur J. Gallagher’s headquarters to Rolling Meadows in late 2016.

Efforts to further improve traffic flow and accessibility will continue in 2018, with additional traffic studies and planned upgrades to the Golf/Ring Road intersection.

## Let the Good Times ‘Roll in Meadows’...continued from page 1

More established favorites, including the **Downtown Block Party** (June 8th), **Parking Lot Party** (July 14th), **Wine-Down by the Creek** (August 17th), and **Hometown Hoedown** (October 6th) will also be back for another season of fun.

### Community Traditions

Of course, the year-long community celebration would not be complete without the City’s traditional events and observances, including the **Memorial Day**

**Parade/Observance** (May 26th), **4th of July Parade and Fireworks** (July 4th) and **Holiday Tree Lighting** (December 6th).

A complete listing of this year’s community events is available online at [www.cityrm.org/669/Community-Events](http://www.cityrm.org/669/Community-Events).

Community volunteers who are interested in staffing upcoming events may contact Lori Ciezak, Assistant to the City Manager, at 847-394-8500 or [ciezakl@cityrm.org](mailto:ciezakl@cityrm.org).



Rolling Meadows’ annual Memorial Day observance (left) and Downtown Block Party are among several popular community events that will again take place in 2018.



## Support the Community Events Foundation

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 [www.cityrm.org/679/Community-Events-Foundation](http://www.cityrm.org/679/Community-Events-Foundation) or scan the QR code (above). 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*.

# January 2018

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
	City Hall and Public Works closed. Refuse collection delayed one day all week. <b>New Year's Day</b>	<b>Economic Development Committee</b> , 6 pm <b>Environmental Committee</b> , 6:30 pm <b>Planning &amp; Zoning Commission</b> , 7:30 pm, all at City Hall		<b>Adjudication Hearing</b> (Parking), 2 pm, City Hall		
<b>Historical Society Open House</b> , 1-4 pm (3100 Central Road)	<b>Board of Fire &amp; Police Commissioners</b> , 9 am, City Hall	<b>Crime Stoppers</b> , 5:30 pm <b>City Council Meeting</b> , 7:30 pm, both at City Hall		<b>Adjudication Hearing</b> , 11 am, City Hall		
	City offices closed. Regular refuse collection. <b>Martin Luther King Day</b>	<b>City Council Committee of the Whole</b> , 7:30 pm, City Hall		<b>Adjudication Hearing</b> (Red Light), 2 pm, City Hall		
	<b>Water bills due</b>	<b>City Council Meeting</b> , 7:30 pm, City Hall				
					<b>Christmas Tree Disposal</b> Public Works will collect Christmas Trees for disposal January 2nd – 12th. Remove all decorations and place trees at the curb (cut end facing the street) on regular refuse day.	

# February 2018

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
Keep updated on City news with Rolling Meadows' electronic newsletter, <b>E-News &amp; Views</b> , published in February, April, June, August, October and December. Each newsletter is archived on the City's website, <a href="http://www.cityrm.org">www.cityrm.org</a> .				<b>Adjudication Hearing</b> (Parking), 2 pm, City Hall		
		<b>Economic Development Committee</b> , 6 pm <b>Environmental Committee</b> , 6:30 pm <b>Planning &amp; Zoning Commission</b> , 7:30 pm, all at City Hall				
	<b>Board of Fire &amp; Police Commissioners</b> , 9 am, City Hall <b>Lincoln's Birthday</b>	<b>Crime Stoppers</b> , 5:30 pm <b>City Council Meeting</b> , 7:30 pm, both at City Hall	<b>Valentine's Day</b>	<b>Adjudication Hearing</b> , 15 am, City Hall		
		<b>Water bills due</b> <b>City Council Committee of the Whole</b> , 7:30 pm, City Hall		<b>Adjudication Hearing</b> (Red Light), 2 pm, City Hall <b>Washington's Birthday</b>		
		<b>City Council Meeting</b> , 7:30 pm, City Hall				

# Tree Lighting and Spaghetti Dinner Welcome Holiday Season to Rolling Meadows

Hundreds gathered downtown on a bitter-cold December evening for the City's annual Holiday Tree Lighting celebration, led by Mayor Len Prejna and Santa Claus. The festivities also featured performances by the Rolling Meadows High School Madrigals and local Boys and Girl Scout troops, and culminated with dazzling



Santa Claus welcomes residents to the December tree lighting.

fireworks high above Kirchoff Road.

Residents then gathered with family and friends at the Fogarty Fire Station for a free spaghetti dinner served by local volunteers, including Illinois Representative Michelle Mussman (D-56th) and Illinois Senator Tom Rooney (R-27th).

Special thanks to Stadium Sports Club, Meijer, and Nothing Bundt Cakes for their help organizing this year's dinner.



## Dispose of Old Medications, Batteries, CFLs

Rolling Meadows makes it simple and convenient for residents to get rid of outdated prescription medications, old batteries, and spent compact fluorescent light bulbs (CFLs).

### Rx Drop Box at City Hall

Residents may safely dispose of unwanted prescription medications at City Hall,



City Hall drop box

where a secure collection box stands near the Police Department's second-floor service desk.

The drop box, courtesy of the Cook County Sheriff's Office, only accepts pills. **Liquids**

**and injectors/sharps are not allowed.**

For more information, please contact the Rolling Meadows Police Department at 847-255-2416.

### Free 'Sharps' Containers

Free plastic containers that help residents who administer home injections safely dispose of their used syringes, auto-injectors, and hypodermic needles are available at the Public Works Department

(3900 Berdnick Street).

The quart-sized locking containers are offered through a program administered by the Solid Waste Agency of Northern Cook County (SWANCC). Once filled, residents may return containers to Public Works and exchange them for a new one.

For more information on safe sharps disposal, contact Public Works at 847-963-0500 or review the City's refuse guidelines, available at [www.cityrm.org/PublicWorks](http://www.cityrm.org/PublicWorks).

### Battery and CFL Recycling

Residents may drop off batteries and spent compact fluorescent light bulbs (CFLs) at Public Works for proper recycling, Monday – Friday, 9 a.m. – 4 p.m.

- **Batteries:** Public Works will accept alkaline batteries (AA, AAA, C, D, 9-Volt) and rechargeable batteries (NiCad, NiMh, lithium ion, and lithium polymer). The battery collection is part of an ongoing program sponsored by SWANCC and Skokie-based Interstate Batteries.

- **CFLs:** Residents may drop off CFLs and fluorescent tubes (up to 4 feet-long) for proper recycling. CFLs contain trace amounts of Mercury and should not be thrown out with household refuse.

## Free Holiday Light Recycling Available Through Feb. 16th



Can't decide what to do with worn-out holiday lights? Recycle them through a free program developed in coordination with the Solid Waste Agency of Northern Cook County (SWANCC) and Elgin Recycling.

Bring materials to City Hall (3600 Kirchoff Road) through Friday, February 16th. Drop boxes are located on the west side of the facility. Items accepted for recycling include:

- Incandescent and LED lights (all sizes and colors).
- Extension cords.
- Household wire.
- Computer cords and wire.

Garland, live greens, wreaths, and other non-recyclables are not allowed.

For more information, visit [www.swancc.org](http://www.swancc.org) or [www.elginrecycling.com](http://www.elginrecycling.com).

## RMPD's #FightforGood Campaign to Help Local Families in Need

Support the Rolling Meadows Police Department's #FightforGood campaign to raise money for local residents in need.

In partnership with the Salvation Army, the Department's program is designed to help families "in times of familial, economic and financial crises," RMPD Outreach Coordinator Natalia Nieves explained.



Online donations are being accepted at <http://give.salvationarmyusa.org/goto/rollingmeadows> through January 31st. Call the Rolling Meadows Police Department at 847-255-2416 for more information.

## 2018 Shaping Up to be a Year of Growth, Development

by Mayor Len Prejna

Happy New Year and onward to 2018, a year in which we will harness the City's energy to focus on our community's future growth and development. We are building upon multiple changes that took place last year – everything from the election of new City Council members to the restructuring of our Community Development Division.

2018 will be a year of continued action: after six years of planning, and development, we are on target to resurface Kirchoff Road between Wilke and Hicks Roads later this year.

Meanwhile, our recently hired Business Advocate is working with local businesses to help them grow, and using the

information gained during last fall's business survey and focus groups as a guide. Listening to business owners' concerns will help existing businesses flourish, and help us welcome new restaurants and retail shops to the City.

We will also be working on ways to expand our presence on social media to highlight City events, and increasing our acknowledgment and appreciation of Rolling Meadows businesses that help make the City a great place to work and live.

Combine all that with an impressive roster of upcoming community events and it's easy to see why this is going to be a great year in Meadows. Don't forget to volunteer for an event or committee!

## Museum Renovations to Begin Following January 7th Open House

The Rolling Meadows Historical Society will host its 2018 holiday open house on Sunday, January 7th, 1 – 4 p.m. at the City's



Historical Museum (3100 Central Road).

It will be the final public event at the Museum before the start of a three-month facility renovation project that will shutter the facility until April.

### Open House to Recall Spirit of Holidays' Past

Society members have "decked the halls" of the Museum, a replica of an original Kimball Hill home, with authentic 1950s and 1960s seasonal décor.

Enjoy free refreshments and raffle prizes while marveling at vintage decorations from the Society's archives.

### 'Painting, Patching' Planned

The renovation project – the first of its kind since the facility opened in 2002 – will thoroughly clean the house and Education Center, patch minor wall cracks, and provide a fresh coat of interior paint for all rooms.

Public Works Director Fred Vogt said that winter is an ideal time to perform the renovations, since the Museum is only open Sunday afternoons during the season. Plans call for the work to be completed in April, which is around the time the Historical Society begins preparations for expanded summer hours.

## Meeting Schedules, Committee Information Available on City Website

City Council regular 2018 meetings will take place at 7:30 p.m. on the second and fourth Tuesdays of each month\*. Council's Committee of the Whole "workshop" meetings will be held the third Tuesday of every month, also at 7:30 p.m.

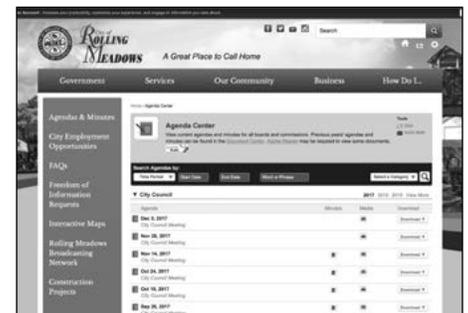
Agendas for upcoming City Council meetings, and minutes from past meetings, are available on Rolling Meadows' website, [www.cityrm.org](http://www.cityrm.org).

The website also offers information on the City's many volunteer boards and committees. Choose "Boards and Commissions" from the pull-down menu beneath the "Government" heading to learn more about them, including the

- **Economic Development Committee** – meets the first Tuesday of each month at 6 p.m.
- **Environmental Committee** – meets the first Tuesday of each month at 6:30 p.m.
- **Planning & Zoning Commission** – meets the first Tuesday of the month at 7:30 p.m.
- **Rolling Meadows Crime Stoppers** – meets the second Tuesday of the month at 5:30 p.m.

All meetings take place at City Hall, unless noted.

For a complete listing of meeting dates and times, check the website's Community Calendar, available at



[www.cityrm.org/calendar.aspx](http://www.cityrm.org/calendar.aspx). Meeting information is also published in each issue of *News & Views* and *e-News & Views*.

*\*Editor's Note: December's meetings will take place the first and third Tuesdays of the month, while the Committee of the Whole meeting will be held the second Tuesday.*