

# NEWS & VIEWS

3600 KIRCHOFF ROAD | ROLLING MEADOWS, IL 60008 | 847-394-8500 | WWW.CITYRM.ORG

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Since 2003, Rolling Meadows' annual Veterans Dinner has brought generations of former service members together for an evening of camaraderie.

## NOV. 7TH VETERANS DINNER TO WELCOME ARMY MAJOR GENERAL JAMES H. MUKOYAMA AS SPEAKER

U.S. Army Major General (Ret.) James H. Mukoyama, Jr., will serve as Keynote Speaker during the City's November 7th Veterans Dinner.

General Mukoyama, a Chicago native whose more than 30 years of service to the Army and Army Reserve included two combat tours of duty, is the author of *Faith, Family, & Flag: Memoirs of an Unlikely American Samurai Crusader*.

### Community Tradition Since 2003

Rolling Meadows' annual Veterans Dinner has helped generations of local veterans reconnect with fellow service members since its inception in 2003. This year's celebration will be held Friday, November 7th, 5–8:30 pm, at Meridian Banquets (1701 W. Algonquin Road).

Admission is free for resident-veterans and one guest. Attendees will enjoy a multi-course meal, pre-dinner appetizers, cash bar,



Major General James H. Mukoyama

raffle prizes, a professional photographer, and more.

### Sales Support Military Families

Signed copies of General Mukoyama's book will be available for purchase. Proceeds will benefit Military Outreach USA, a nonprofit organization he founded that provides support to U.S. Armed Forces families.

## PUBLIC WORKS & PARK DISTRICT TEAMING UP FOR NOVEMBER 8TH 'PUMPKIN SMASH' EVENT

**Don't trash your pumpkins... SMASH them!**

The Public Works Department and the Rolling Meadows Park District are joining forces for a "Pumpkin Smash" composting event that will take place from 9–11am on Saturday, November 8th, at the Community Center (3705 Pheasant Drive).

Pumpkins dropped off for composting will be SMASHED using a "custom contraption" designed by Parks crews. They must be free of all decorations, including candles, wax, aluminum foil, string, and glow sticks. Painted pumpkins will be accepted only if they are decorated with acrylic paint.

Composting helps reduce the amount of waste sent to local landfills and reduce greenhouse gas emissions caused by decomposing pumpkins.

For more information, contact the Public Works Department (847-963-0500 or [pw@cityrm.org](mailto:pw@cityrm.org)) or Park District (847-818-3200 or [www.rmparks.org](http://www.rmparks.org)).



## HOLIDAY REFUSE & RECYCLING COLLECTION SCHEDULE UPDATES

**Thanksgiving:** Public Works will be closed Thursday, November 27th and Friday, November 28th. *Regular Thursday and Friday refuse/recycling collection will be delayed one day.*

**Christmas Eve:** Public Works will be closed Wednesday, December 24th. *Crews will conduct regular refuse & recycling collection.*

**Christmas:** Public Works will be closed Thursday, December 25th. *Regular Thursday and Friday refuse/recycling collection will be delayed one day.*

**New Year's Day:** Public Works will be closed Thursday, January 1st. *Regular Thursday and Friday refuse/recycling collection will be delayed one day.*

For more information, contact Public Works (847-963-0500 or [pw@cityrm.org](mailto:pw@cityrm.org)) or visit [www.cityrm.org/984/Refuse-and-Recycling](http://www.cityrm.org/984/Refuse-and-Recycling).



## GET READY TO CELEBRATE HOLIDAYS' ARRIVAL DURING CITY HALL TREE LIGHTING, DECEMBER 4TH

Join family, friends, and neighbors for a festive evening of caroling, seasonal refreshments, and a special visit from the North Pole's most famous resident on Thursday December 4th, as community members gather for the City's annual Holiday Celebration and tree lighting at City Hall (3600 Kirchoff Road). The magic will begin at 6pm.

2025 marks this popular event's return to Kirchoff Road after a seven-year absence: annual celebrations have taken place at the Rolling Meadows Historical Museum (3100 Central Road) since 2019.

Before that, festivities were held in front of the Rolling Meadows Shopping Center on Kirchoff Road.

Stay tuned for further event details and updates in the



December eNews, on the City's website ([www.cityrm.org](http://www.cityrm.org)), and on Facebook.

## CITY'S EARLY REFUSE SET-OUT PROGRAM RUNS NOVEMBER 2025 THROUGH MARCH 2026

Rolling Meadows' early refuse set-out program lets residents place



their weekly refuse, recycling, and yard waste at the curb after 3pm (instead of the standard 6pm) on the day before their scheduled weekly pick-up.

Early set-out times take effect November 1st and run through next March. Contact Public Works (847-963-0500 or [pw@cityrm.org](mailto:pw@cityrm.org)) for more information.

## YARD WASTE COLLECTION ENDS DECEMBER 12TH

Weekly yard waste collection services provided by the Public Works Department will conclude Friday, December 12th.

Residents should place any remaining yard waste in craft paper bags and set them at the curb for pick-up on their regular collection date.

Crews will begin service collection again next spring.



## HOLIDAY SPIRIT: SUPPORT POLICE DEPARTMENT'S 10TH ANNUAL HOLIDAY FOOD DRIVE, DECEMBER 6TH

Help the Rolling Meadows Police Department "haul away hunger" on Saturday, December 6th, during its 10th annual Holiday Food Drive.

Bring non-perishable food and personal care items to Jewel/Osco (3000 Kirchoff Road) between the hours of 10am and 2pm. Financial donations will also be accepted.

Police Department members also invite community members to volunteer their time in support of the drive.

Donations will support Palatine Township Food Pantry and help families in need over the holidays.

### 2024 Holiday Food Drive highlights



The new Resident Access Portal lets customers pay utility bills and other fees online or by phone.

## CITY INTRODUCES NEW ONLINE PORTAL FOR PAYING UTILITY BILLS & OTHER FEES

The City's Resident Access Portal makes it easier than ever for customers to pay monthly utility bills and City-generated invoices for permits, licenses, and other fees.

### What's New?

For the first time, residential and business customers are able to pay by phone, through an automated Interactive Voice Response (IVR) system. Users will also be able to make one-time payments without logging into their accounts.

### How to Enroll

Visit [www.cityrm.org](http://www.cityrm.org) and choose 'Online Payments' to create a login and password (have account and customer numbers available). Customers may then set up automatic payment preferences.

*NOTE: Customers who previously set up automatic payments via credit card through the City's for-*

*mer Citizen's Self-Service Portal will need to re-enroll. Those currently enrolled in EFT auto draft do not have to re-enroll.*

### No-Fee Payment Options Available

The City offers several ways to make payments while avoiding additional fees. These include cash, check, e-check, EFT debit, or in-person at City Hall (utility bills only).

Customers who prefer the convenience of paying online or by phone with a credit or debit card will incur a 3% convenience fee to help offset processing fees charged by credit card companies. Those fees cost the City nearly \$100,000 in 2024.

For more information or enrollment assistance, contact the Finance Department at 847-394-8500 or [ub@cityrm.org](mailto:ub@cityrm.org).



Access the new portal via the City's website (pictured).



# NOVEMBER 2025

All meetings and events take place at City Hall, unless indicated.

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
<b>HISTORICAL MUSEUM HOLIDAY EVENT, NOV. 30TH</b> Join Santa and Mrs. Claus on Sunday, November 30th, 1–4pm, for a ‘historic’ holiday event at the Rolling Meadows Historical Museum (3100 Central Road). Call 847-577-7086 or visit <a href="http://rollingmeadowsmuseum.com">rollingmeadowsmuseum.com</a> to learn more.						<b>1</b> Early Refuse Set-Out begins. Residents may place refuse and recycling bins at curb after 3pm.
<b>2</b> Daylight Saving Time ends. Clocks “fall back” one hour.	<b>3</b>	<b>4</b> Planning & Zoning Commission, 7pm	<b>5</b>	<b>6</b> Environmental Committee, 6pm	<b>7</b> Veterans Dinner, 5–8:30pm (1701 W. Algonquin Rd) *See story on page 1	<b>8</b> Pumpkin Compost Collection, 9–11am (3705 Pheasant Dr)
<b>9</b>	<b>10</b> Board of Fire & Police Commissioners, 8:30am City Council Meeting, 7pm	<b>11</b> <b>VETERANS DAY</b> City offices closed. Tuesday–Friday refuse & recycling collection delayed one day.	<b>12</b> RM Garden Club, 6pm (3705 Pheasant Dr) Library Board, 7pm (3110 Martin Ln)	<b>13</b> Adjudication Hearings 11am (Red Light); 1pm (Code); 2pm (Parking)	<b>14</b>	<b>15</b>
<b>16</b>	<b>17</b>	<b>18</b> CEF Volunteer Committee, 6pm City Council Committee of the Whole, 7pm	<b>19</b>	<b>20</b> <i>Water bills due</i>	<b>21</b>	<b>22</b>
<b>23</b> / <b>30</b>	<b>24</b>	<b>25</b> City Council Meeting, 7pm	<b>26</b>	<b>27</b> <b>THANKSGIVING</b> City offices closed. Thursday & Friday refuse & recycling collection delayed one day.	<b>28</b> City offices closed.	<b>29</b>

# DECEMBER 2025

All meetings and events take place at City Hall, unless indicated.

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
	<b>1</b> Economic Development Committee, 6pm	<b>2</b> Planning & Zoning Commission, 7pm	<b>3</b>	<b>4</b> Environmental Committee, 6pm <i>Holiday Celebration, 6–8pm</i>	<b>5</b>	<b>6</b> <i>Holiday Food Drive, 10am–2pm (Jewel/Osco)</i>
<b>7</b>	<b>8</b> Board of Fire & Police Commissioners, 8:30am	<b>9</b>	<b>10</b> RM Garden Club, 6pm (3705 Pheasant Dr) Library Board, 7pm (3110 Martin Ln)	<b>11</b> Adjudication Hearings 11am (Red Light); 1pm (Code); 2pm (Parking)	<b>12</b>	<b>13</b>
<b>14</b> <b>HANUKKAH BEGINS AT SUNDOWN</b>	<b>15</b>	<b>16</b> CEF Volunteer Committee, 6pm City Council Committee of the Whole, 6:30pm City Council Meeting, 7pm	<b>17</b>	<b>18</b>	<b>19</b>	<b>20</b>
<b>21</b>	<b>22</b> <i>Water bills due</i>	<b>23</b>	<b>24</b> <b>CHRISTMAS EVE</b> City offices closed. Regular refuse & recycling collection.	<b>25</b> <b>CHRISTMAS</b> City offices closed. Thursday & Friday refuse & recycling collection delayed one day.	<b>26</b> <b>KWANZAA BEGINS</b>	<b>27</b>
<b>28</b>	<b>29</b>	<b>30</b>	<b>31</b> <b>NEW YEAR'S EVE</b>	<b>VIEW UPCOMING MEETING AGENDAS</b> Find agendas for upcoming City Council meetings, and minutes of past meetings, at <a href="http://www.cityrm.org/AgendaCenter">www.cityrm.org/AgendaCenter</a> .		

## THERE ARE MANY WAYS TO SUPPORT CITY'S COMMUNITY EVENTS

There are plenty of easy — and fun — ways to support Rolling Meadows' annual community events:

**Attend:** From summer block parties to year-end holiday celebrations, Rolling Meadows packs a TON of excitement into every calendar year. Learn more by visiting [www.cityrm.org/669/Community-Events](http://www.cityrm.org/669/Community-Events).



**Volunteer:** Resident volunteers are the ones who make these events successful, and we're always looking for more people to join the ranks. Contact Lori Ciezak, Assistant to the City Manager, ([ciezakl@cityrm.org](mailto:ciezakl@cityrm.org)) or 847-870-9005) to learn more.

**Contribute:** The Rolling Meadows Community Events Foundation is a 501(c)3 nonprofit organization that relies on tax-deductible donations from residents and businesses to provide funding for City events. Visit [www.cityrm.org/679/Community-Events-Foundation](http://www.cityrm.org/679/Community-Events-Foundation) or scan the QR code to contribute.

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

3600 Kirchoff Road  
Rolling Meadows, IL 60008



**Business Sponsorships:** Local businesses that are interested in sponsoring specific community events held throughout the year should also contact Lori Ciezak (847-870-9005 or [ciezakl@cityrm.org](mailto:ciezakl@cityrm.org)).



Assistant to the City Manager Lori Ciezak (front row, left) poses with CEF volunteers at Rolling Meadows' Hometown Hoedown Fall Festival.

## LORI CIEZAK ENJOYS UNIQUE, UP-CLOSE PERSPECTIVE ON ROLLING MEADOWS' TRADITION OF TEAMWORK & CIVIC PRIDE

The success of Rolling Meadows' most popular community events — from its Memorial Day ceremony and 4th of July parade to the Hometown Hoedown and annual Veterans Dinner — is the result of intensive planning, preparation, and teamwork by dozens of community volunteers, City staff members, and representatives of sponsoring organizations.

At the center of the mix is Lori Ciezak, Assistant to the City Manager. As staff liaison to both the Rolling Meadows Veterans Committee and the City's ad-hoc Community Events Foundation Volunteer Committee, she helps ensure that all the various puzzle pieces come together.

### Teamwork & Community Pride

"There are few things more satisfying than seeing the results of everyone's hard work," Ciezak explained. "I love watching residents enjoy themselves at our community events. I'm touched when I see local veterans smiling as they honor their fellow service members. I'm honored to work with Public Works, Police, and Fire Department staff, who play a critical role in the success of these initiatives.

"I get to experience the best of Rolling Meadows on a daily basis:

the City's tradition of teamwork and community service," she added.

### Rolling Meadows Roots

Ciezak grew up in Arlington Heights and is a Rolling Meadows High School alumnus. Before coming to work for Rolling Meadows in 2014, she served as Deputy Clerk for the Village of McCullom Lake, and as staff member with the McHenry County Council of Governments — including several months as its Acting Director.

Away from work, Ciezak and her husband, Paul, have three children (ages 23, 21, and 19). She has played violin since the age of five and enjoys hiking the woods with her dogs, skiing, and reading.



Ciezak with Veterans Committee members at the City's 2023 Blue Star Memorial dedication.



Park District Wood Shop volunteers “recreated” a holiday train display to match an original piece dating back to the 1950s and crafted holiday ornaments (inset) for sale at the Rolling Meadows Historical Museum.

## WOOD SHOP VOLUNTEERS’ CRAFTSMANSHIP ON DISPLAY AT HISTORICAL MUSEUM THIS DECEMBER

Festive décor on display in the “front yard” of the Rolling Meadows Historical Museum this December will include a wooden holiday train that was meticulously created by volunteers at the Rolling Meadows Park District Wood Shop to match an original piece dating back to the mid-1950s.

“We had repaired the original train several times over the past few years, but eventually the weather took its toll,” explained Wood Shop member Roger Fox, who led the project. “From there, we set out to build a new display piece with the same features as the original and with matching coloring.”

Rolling Meadows Historical Society member Jerry Inselberger donated the original train several years ago. It was a family heirloom that his father built in 1953.

“That train had been sitting in storage for years,” Inselberger recalled. “We were happy to donate it when the Historical Museum put out a call for vintage holiday decorations several years back. Now, I’m looking forward to seeing the new piece on display,” he added.

### Ornaments & Other Projects

In addition to the new holiday train, Fox and his fellow Wood Shop members have completed

other projects on the Historical Society’s behalf: they have refinished a bench and built a Little Free Library – both located on the Museum’s property.

They have also created a series of hand-made wood ornaments now being sold at the Museum to raise money for Historical Society programs (\$20 each). Call 847-577-7086 or send an email to [info@rollingmeadowsmuseum.com](mailto:info@rollingmeadowsmuseum.com) for further details.

“Wood Shop members do exceptional work,” Historical Society President Fred Vogt said. “The Historical Society is grateful for their help, and we encourage Rolling Meadows residents to stop by the Museum over the holidays to see their craftsmanship up close.”

### About the Wood Shop

The Wood Shop, part of the Park District’s Adult Activity Center (3705 Pheasant Dr), is a fully equipped shop that allows users to practice woodworking in a safe, supportive environment. Woodworkers of all skill levels – including those interested in learning the craft – are welcome.

To learn more, visit [www.rmparks.org/adult-activity-center](http://www.rmparks.org/adult-activity-center) or contact Program Director Bryce Bilodeau (847-818-3200 x 1223 or [bbilodeau@rmparks.org](mailto:bbilodeau@rmparks.org)).

CONTACT CITY OFFICIALS  
City Hall Hours: 8am—4pm Mon.—Fri.

### MAYOR and CITY COUNCIL

Mayor Lara Sanoica . . . . . 224-230-8772

1st Ward Alderman  
Karen McHale . . . . . 224-580-6675

2nd Ward Alderman  
Nick Budmats . . . . . 224-580-8484

3rd Ward Alderman  
Kevin O’Brien . . . . . 224-221-3469

4th Ward Alderman  
Jenifer Vinezeano . . . . . 630-546-8133

5th Ward Alderman  
Stefanie Boucher . . . . . 224-200-9015

6th Ward Alderman  
Mandy Reyez . . . . . 847-209-5435

7th Ward Alderman  
Mike Koehler . . . . . 847-912-8750

City Manager  
Rob Sabo . . . . . 847-394-8500

### SERVICES

Fire & Police Emergency . . . . . 911

Crime Stoppers . . . . . 847-590-7867

ComEd. . . . . 1-800-EDISON-1

 [www.facebook.com/cityofrollingmeadows](http://www.facebook.com/cityofrollingmeadows)

 [www.youtube.com/cityofrollingmeadows184](http://www.youtube.com/cityofrollingmeadows184)

## INQUIRE ABOUT CITY SERVICES

Contact specific departments for information about City services or operations.

### Administration

[admin@cityrm.org](mailto:admin@cityrm.org) . . . . . 847-394-8500

### City Clerk’s Office

[clerk@cityrm.org](mailto:clerk@cityrm.org) . . . . . 847-394-8500

### Community Development

[cd@cityrm.org](mailto:cd@cityrm.org) . . . . . 847-506-6030

### Finance Department

[fin@cityrm.org](mailto:fin@cityrm.org) . . . . . 847-394-8500

### Fire Department

[fd@cityrm.org](mailto:fd@cityrm.org) . . . . . 847-397-3352

### Human Resources

[hr@cityrm.org](mailto:hr@cityrm.org) . . . . . 847-394-8500

### Human Services

[socialworkrm@cityrm.org](mailto:socialworkrm@cityrm.org) . . . 847-870-2695

### Information Technology

[it@cityrm.org](mailto:it@cityrm.org) . . . . . 847-394-8500

### Police Department

[pd@cityrm.org](mailto:pd@cityrm.org) . . . . . 847-255-2416

### Public Works

[pw@cityrm.org](mailto:pw@cityrm.org) . . . . . 847-963-0500