



November/December 2014



NEWS

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& Views

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

Global Engine Manufacturer Chooses Rolling Meadows for North American HQ

Weifang, China-based Weichai Group, one of the world's largest diesel engine manufacturers, has chosen Rolling Meadows over Toronto, Ontario, Canada as the site of its North American headquarters. Weichai America Corporation will proceed with an interior demolition and renovation of its 166,772 square-foot property on Golf Road. All work is expected to be completed in 2015.

"Rolling Meadows was chosen as the

North American headquarters for Weichai America Corp. because of its proximity to a high-tech supply base, our customers, and the availability of highly-skilled and talented personnel," Weichai America President Houman Kashanipour explains in a news release distributed by Cook County announcing the company's decision.

The news release says that the renovation project is expected to create approxi-



Weichai America's new North American headquarters, 3100 Golf Road.

mately 51 construction jobs and over 50 full-time technology-based jobs.

Robert Smith, April 20, 1945 – September 30, 2014 Veterans Committee Chair Held Rolling Meadows Close to Heart

As a member of the City's Veterans Committee, Robert Smith would stand at the base of the Carillon Tower each Memorial Day and help recite the names of Rolling Meadows veterans who passed away the previous year.

Next May, during the City's 2015 Memorial Day observance, his name will be among those recited.

Smith, who chaired the Committee since 1999, passed away September 30. He was 69 years-old.

News & Views had the privilege of talking with Smith many times over the years – most recently in advance of the 2014 Memorial Day Parade and observance. He was always quick to praise Rolling Meadows residents and City officials for their unwavering support of those who served in the U.S. Armed Forces.

"I have been involved in veterans groups in several other communities, but none match what takes place here in Rolling Meadows," he told us just six months ago. "As a community founded by many who served in World War II and Korea, it is wonderful to see residents take such pride in their local veterans."



Robert Smith (right), with Army Reserve Colonel Robert Carlson at this year's Memorial Day observance, always called Rolling Meadows "a special community."

Smith enlisted in the U.S. Army just two weeks after graduating from high school in 1963. He served 14 months in Southeast Asia, attached to the 5th Special Forces Group in Vietnam.

Smith learned first-hand just how much Rolling Meadows residents support its veterans after moving here with his family in 1998. It was Veterans Day, and Smith heard a knock at his door. He answered and found his neighbors' children standing at attention.

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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
 - TDD 847-506-0490
 - ComEd. 1-800-EDISON-1
 - Curfew . . . Sun. – Thurs. 11 p.m.; Fri. & Sat. Midnight



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December 4 Tree Lighting Kicks Off Holiday Season

The spirit of holidays past, present and future will come together Thursday, December 4, when City officials and residents gather to light the City's Holiday tree.

Join family, friends, and neighbors for this annual downtown gathering, held in front of the McDonald's on Kirchoff Road at 6 p.m. Sing songs, share memories, and enjoy refreshments and good cheer.

New Employee Lori Ciezak 'Comes Home' to Serve City Where She Graduated High School



Lori Ciezak

When Lori Ciezak arrived at City Hall in August for her first day as the newly-hired Assistant to the City Manager, it was a homecoming of sorts for the Arlington

Heights native and Rolling Meadows High School graduate.

"The Rolling Meadows community is easy to miss once you have been away," she says. "It feels great to be back, and working for a city that is so full of friendliness and pride. I have many family and friends who call Rolling Meadows home."

Lori wasted no time embracing her new responsibilities, which include organizing and coordinating community events, working with Finance Department professionals on special budget projects, and serving as staff liaison to the City's new 60th Anniversary Committee.

"My fellow employees have made me feel right at home," Lori explains. "Everyone here is very supportive and dedicated to serving our residents. I enjoy being a part of a team that is so focused on customer service."

Lori comes to Rolling Meadows with nearly five years of municipal experience. She previously served as Deputy Clerk with the Village of McCullom Lake, and also served on the staff of the McHenry County Council of Governments – including several months as its Acting Director.

Away from work, Lori enjoys spending time with her husband, Paul, and their three children (ages 12, 10 and 8). She has played violin since age 5, and all of her children are members of a violin performance group. Between the kids' hockey, skating and gymnastics practices, Lori enjoys "pet-friendly" family outings, such as nature walks and bike rides. She is also an avid reader.

City Briefs

Early Refuse Set Out Begins November 3

Beginning Monday, November 3, residents may place refuse at the curb after 3 p.m. the day prior to their scheduled pickup. Per City ordinance, the "early refuse set out" time runs through Tuesday, March 31, 2015. Regular set out times (after 6 p.m.) remain in effect during the months of April – October.

Annual Yard Waste Collection Ends November 29

The City's yard waste collection service will conclude for the year during the week of November 24 – 29. Residents should place yard waste in craft paper bags at the curb – separate from household waste – for pickup on their regular collection date. *Note: Thursday and Friday collections will be delayed one day, due to the Thanksgiving holiday.* Public Works will begin yard waste collection again next spring.

Robert Smith, April 20, 1945 – September 30, 2014 ...continued from page 1

They saluted him and said, "Thank you for serving our country."

"At that moment, I realized my family lived in a special community," he recalled in 2005. "Everyone, from my neighbors to our elected officials, is committed to honoring veterans and treating them with respect. I hold that close to my heart."

Smith epitomized the mission of the Veterans Committee, which was established "to promote appropriate and respectful veterans affairs within the City of Rolling Meadows."

Support Marines' Toys for Tots Program

The United States Marine Corps Reserve is once again "enlisting" the help of Rolling Meadows residents to support its annual Toys for Tots collection drive. Residents may deliver new, unwrapped toys to drop boxes at City Hall (3600 Kirchoff Road) or the Rolling Meadows Library (3110 Martin Lane) through Friday, December 5. For more information, contact Joyce DeLeon (847-394-8500 or joyced@cityrm.org).

USPS to Establish Seasonal Post Office in City Hall Lot

The United States Post Office has announced plans to offer temporary, seasonal postal services in the City Hall parking lot, 9 a.m. – 3 p.m., November 17 – January 3. For more information, contact City Hall at 847-394-8500.

"Everyone on the Committee shares a commitment to honor veterans for their service," he explained in that same interview. "It can be easy to take everything for granted. Committee members believe it is important to remember that our freedom was hard-fought. We owe it to those who serve to be thankful for what we have. We believe that their memories should live forever," he added.

As will the memory of Robert Smith. He is survived by his wife, Chris, three children, and six grandchildren.

Rolling Meadows Chamber of Commerce Serves Local Businesses, Supports City's Overall Economic Development Goals

In a rapidly-changing business world – where new technology and demands for greater efficiency have changed the way organizations operate – the Rolling Meadows Chamber of Commerce continues to seize new opportunities that help it more effectively serve local businesses.

“More than ever, local chambers of commerce must be flexible in adapting to the needs of its diverse membership bases,” explains Linda Liles Ballantine, who has served as the Rolling Meadows Chamber’s Executive Director for 30 years. “Large, multi-national corporations have far different needs than family-owned businesses, but there is one common goal: making connections that promote business growth and benefit the entire community.”



The annual Golf Outing is one of the Rolling Meadows Chamber’s most successful events.

To that end, the Chamber offers a variety of programs – networking events, sponsorships, ribbon cuttings, legislative updates and more – that help strengthen the bonds between businesses and their customers. Signature programs, such as the Regional Business Expo and annual Circle of Success Dinner, offer innovative ways to help businesses promote themselves and generate new leads.

“Social media has changed the way businesses communicate. At the same time, cold-calling is no longer considered an effective approach,” Ballantine says. “In our experience, face-to-face contact with potential prospects remains one of the most effective ways to grow your business. That’s why the Chamber is consistently modifying our programming to provide opportunities that best serve our members.”

Contrary to what people may think, the Chamber is not part of Rolling Meadows’ municipal operations. It is an independ-

ent organization whose mission is to represent the interests of the local business community. However, the Chamber plays an active role in supporting the City’s overall economic development efforts. It often receives calls from businesses that are interested in relocating to Rolling Meadows or expanding current operations. Ballantine will then help organize meetings between company leaders and City officials.

The latest example of this successful collaborative approach came when Weichai America, one of the world’s largest diesel engine manufacturers, announced plans to expand their North American Technology Development and Testing Center on Golf Road (see story on page 1).

Ballantine says the effort required many months of meetings, extensions, follow ups, conference calls and progress reports to help company leaders fully understand the benefits of reinvesting in its Rolling Meadows facility. The Chamber also worked tirelessly to identify county, state and federal incentives available to the company.

“The support and endless encouragement we received from City officials was truly amazing,” Ballantine explains, praising



Guests network at the Chamber’s annual “Taking Care of Business” luncheon, which includes an economic development update presented by Mayor Tom Rooney.

the efforts of Mayor Tom Rooney, City Council members, City Manager Barry Krumstok and Community Development Director Valerie Dehner in particular. “This was a collaborative effort that secured an important economic development success story for Rolling Meadows and the region.”

A Rolling Meadows resident since 1974, Ballantine possesses an encyclopedic knowledge of local business history. She calls her 30-year tenure as Chamber Executive Director a “labor of love.”

“I feel like I’ve had a front row seat to witness Rolling Meadows’ amazing growth,” she says. “I take tremendous satisfaction in helping our City’s businesses succeed, and I am always excited to see what will happen next.”

Vote on November 4

Rolling Meadows residents will cast ballots in the November 4 General Election to choose the next governor of Illinois, elect Congressional and state representatives, and determine the outcome in a variety of state-wide offices.

The ballot will also feature a series of referendum questions on a range of topics, including a proposed minimum wage increase (to \$10/hour), and changes to the Illinois Constitution regarding victims’ rights and voters’ rights.

Polling places will be open 6 a.m. –

7 p.m. on Election Day. Residents with questions about the November 4 election may contact Deputy Clerk Ginny Cotugno (cotugno@cityrm.org or 847-870-9007).

Additional election information, including a complete list of polling places and a full list of ballot referenda, is available through the Cook County Clerk’s Office: (www.cookcountyclerk.com or 312-603-0906).



November 2014

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 .		1
Daylight Saving Time Ends. Clocks "fall back" one hour. Change batteries in smoke and carbon monoxide detectors. 2	Early refuse set out begins 3	Election Day Economic Development Committee, 6 pm Environmental Committee, 7 pm Plan Commission, 7:30 pm, all at City Hall 4	Zoning Board of Appeals, 7:30 pm, City Hall 5	Adjudication Hearing (Parking), 2 pm, City Hall 6	7	8
9	10	Veterans Day City Hall closed. Regular refuse pickup. Crime Stoppers, 5:30 pm City Council Meeting/ Budget Hearing, 7:30 pm, both at City Hall 11	12	Adjudication Hearing, 13 1 pm, City Hall	14	15
16	Board of Fire & Police Commissioners, 9 am, City Hall 17	City Council Committee of the Whole, 7:30 pm, City Hall 18	19	Water bills due Adjudication Hearing (Red Light), 2 pm, City Hall 20	Park District Family Fun Night, 6 – 8 pm, Rolling Meadows Community Center 21	22
23	24	City Council Meeting, 25 7:30 pm, City Hall	26	Thanksgiving Holiday City Hall and Public Works closed. Refuse pick up routes (Thursday & Friday) delayed one day. 27	Thanksgiving Holiday City Hall and Public Works closed. Refuse pick up routes (Thursday & Friday) delayed one day. 28	Yard waste collection ends 29
30						

December 2014

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
	1	Economic Development Committee, 6 pm Environmental Committee, 7 pm Plan Commission, 7:30 pm, all at City Hall 2	Zoning Board of Appeals, 7:30 pm, City Hall 3	Adjudication Hearing (Parking), 2 pm, City Hall 4	5	Breakfast with Santa Claus, 8:30 & 10:45 am, Rolling Meadows Community Center 6
7	Board of Fire & Police Commissioners, 9 am, City Hall	Crime Stoppers, 5:30 pm Urban Affairs Committee, 5:45 pm City Council Meeting, 7:30 pm, all at City Hall 9	10	Adjudication Hearing, 11 1 pm, City Hall	12	13
14	15	City Council Committee of the Whole, 7:30 pm, City Hall 16	17	Adjudication Hearing (Red Light), 2 pm, City Hall 18	19	20
21	Water bills due 22	City Council Meeting, 23 7:30 pm, City Hall	Christmas Eve 24 City Hall closed. Early refuse pick up.	Christmas 25 City Hall and Public Works closed. Refuse pick up routes (Thursday & Friday) delayed one day.	Kwanzaa 26	27
28	29	30	New Year's Eve 31 Be safe! Don't Drink and Drive.	January 1 New Year's Day City Hall and Public Works closed. Refuse pick up routes (Thursday & Friday) delayed one day.		

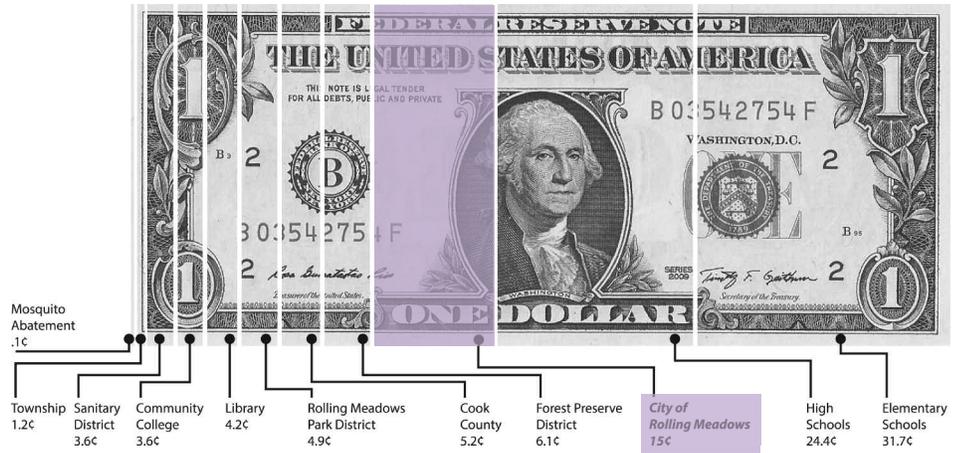
City to Host Public Hearing on Proposed 2015 Budget, November 11

City Council will hold a public hearing on the proposed Fiscal Year (FY) 2015 budget Tuesday, November 11, 7:30 p.m., during its regular meeting.

The hearing will offer residents an opportunity to voice their views on the budget, which City Council and staff have been crafting over the past several months.

Plans call for aldermen to pass the FY2015 Budget at Council's December 9 meeting.

Residents who wish to review the most recent budget draft may access the document on the City's Website, cityrm.org, or at the Rolling Meadows Library, 3110 Martin Lane.



The City's share of residents' property tax bills is 15%, or 15 cents per dollar (three township average).

'Shop Rolling Meadows' for the Holidays

Residents seeking great value, variety and shopping convenience this holiday season need look no further than Rolling Meadows.

From independently-owned shops that feature unique gifts to "Big Box" retailers offering the latest in apparel and electronics, the Rolling Meadows business community offers a wide range of goods and services, and is eager to welcome shoppers. Holiday shoppers should also consider gift cards from Rolling Meadows' growing number of restaurants.

"Rolling Meadows' blend of smaller merchants and large retail/service businesses offers unmatched convenience for busy shoppers," City Manager Barry Krumstok explains. "In addition to finding great value, shopping locally boosts sales tax revenues that reduce the City's reliance on property tax dollars to fund services."

For additional information to help residents "Shop Rolling Meadows," visit the Chamber of Commerce's Website (www.rmchamber.org) to access the Chamber's "Business Resource Guide."

City Seeks Volunteers for 60th Anniversary Committee, Community Events Foundation

City officials are seeking residents to serve on a newly-formed ad-hoc committee that will help celebrate Rolling Meadows' 60th Anniversary in 2015.

Committee members will help City staff with a variety of planning and organizational activities, including:

- Community event planning.
- Fundraising strategy development.
- Event promotion and staging.

Volunteers are also needed to serve with the City's Community Events Foundation. The 501(c)3 Foundation, established to help offset the costs of City-sponsored events such as the annual Memorial Day observance and Independence Day parade, is supported entirely through tax-deductible contributions from residents and local businesses.

Residents who would like to serve on the 60th Anniversary Committee or help promote Community Events Foundation activities may contact Lori Ciezak, Assistant to the City Manager, at ciezakl@cityrm.org or 847-394-8500 x 1002.

'Smart' Meters to Reduce Power Outage Lengths

New "smart meters" being installed at the homes of Rolling Meadows residents beginning this month will automatically notify ComEd of power outages and help it more efficiently restore service through quicker response times, the utility says.

The smart meters use two-way radio communications that securely transmit electricity usage information directly to ComEd. They are key elements of a modernized electric grid that, when completed, will allow for more effective response to electricity outages.

"With the smart grid, you can expect fewer and shorter outages because ComEd can better monitor the electric grid and

respond to potential problems and interruptions," ComEd says in the FAQ section on its Website.



The new meters – to be installed at no cost to residents – will also provide customers with access to detailed information about their home's energy use. Residents will be able to more efficiently manage their electricity costs with several online tools.

ComEd officials will attend the November 18 Committee of the Whole meeting to discuss the smart meter program.

For more information, visit ComEd's Website at www.ComEd.com/SmartMeter or call 866-368-8326.

WINGS Shelter Achieves 10-Year Milestone

by Mayor Tom Rooney

You've read about the WINGS (Women in Need Growing Stronger) organization in this space before. In October, WINGS reached a significant milestone: the domestic violence shelter they opened in Rolling Meadows has now been a part of our community for 10 years.

I remember very well the zoning struggles it took to get the shelter built. In my time on City Council, the room was never as packed with spectators as it was – multiple times – during the shelter debate.

Many residents who lived in the proximity of where the shelter was to be built were concerned about their neighborhood's safety. Residents from other parts of the City were passionate about wanting to help WINGS' worthy cause.

The first approval for the shelter was overturned in court because it only passed by a simple majority; the court determined that a two-thirds majority was necessary. It took almost another year to secure that two-thirds vote.

It's hard to believe 10 years have passed since the shelter finally opened. Former Mayor Tom Menzel and former City Manager Tom Melena have moved away. Former Aldermen Merton Staley and Suzanne Jungmann have passed away. Former Aldermen Glenn Adams and Ken Nelson (who, of course, also served as mayor) left Council after serving the maximum number of terms allowed. Without each and every one of them, the WINGS shelter would have died on the drawing board.

WINGS has done incredibly important work in our community for 10 years now. Here's wishing them many more.

Fire Dept. Hopes Residents 'Keep Wreath Red' for 8th Straight Year

For the eighth straight year, the Rolling Meadows Fire Department will participate in a public awareness program that uses festive décor to remind residents about the importance of holiday fire safety.

The centerpieces of the "Keep the Wreath Red" program are two holiday wreaths on display at the Neuckranz Fire Station (2455 Plum Grove Road) and the Fogarty Fire Station (3111 Meadow Drive).

Each wreath will begin the season fully illuminated with red bulbs. Firefighters

will replace a red bulb with a white bulb for each fire in Rolling Meadows that is caused by holiday decorations.

Since 2007, when the Fire Department began participating in the program, there has not been a single fire in Rolling Meadows caused by holiday decorations.

"For the past seven years, residents have successfully kept the wreath red. That's a testament to our residents and a trend we hope continues this holiday season," Fire Chief Scott Franzgrote explains. "The

program offers a unique approach for reminding the public to keep their families safe during the holidays."



For more information on fire safety, visit the Fire Department's Webpage, www.cityrm.org/rmfd.

Open House Showcases Fire Equipment, Training



Hands-on hose simulators gave residents of all ages a taste of life in the fire service, during the Rolling Meadows Fire Department's October 11 Open House. Guests also climbed aboard the Department's fleet of vehicles, toured the fire station, and watched specialized training demonstrations. In total, more than 500 people attended the event.

Recycle Old Holiday Lights, Extension Cords

Rolling Meadows residents will again be able to drop off old holiday lights for recycling at City Hall, through a program developed by the Solid Waste Agency of Northern Cook County (SWANCC) and Elgin Recycling.

Beginning Monday, November 3, collection boxes at City Hall (3600 Kirchoff Road) will let residents recycle holiday lights of all colors and lengths, extension cords, household cords/wiring, and computer wires/cords. The program runs through February 13, 2015.

For details, visit www.swancc.org or www.elginrecycling.com.