



NEWS

Volume 20 Number 1



& Views

January/February 2016

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

Events Foundation Volunteers, Donations Help Ensure Good Times ‘Roll in Meadows’

Members of the now-disbanded Celebrate 60! Committee who successfully organized Rolling Meadows’ 60th Anniversary events have taken on another challenge: supporting the Community Events Foundation’s mission to ensure that the good times continue to “Roll in Meadows” in 2016 and beyond.

Volunteers are already hard at work planning an expanded roster of community celebrations for the coming year. Those that have already been confirmed include:

- An expanded number of Farmers & Food Trucks events.
- A summer block party along Kirchoff Road.
- Another summer “Wine Down by the Creek” event with craft beer, fine wine, and live entertainment.



Rolling Meadows’ Independence Day festivities are among the many events being organized by volunteers.

Volunteers have also taken the lead in coordinating more established activities, such as Rolling Meadows’ Independence Day festivities, holiday tree lighting, and National Night Out.



Kids line up at the dunk tank during last year’s Parking Lot party.

“The overwhelming success of last year’s 60th Anniversary celebration was a testament to the community’s desire for events that appealed to residents of all ages and interests,” explains Lori Ciezak, who, as Assistant to the City Manager, serves as the staff liaison to the Foundation. “Looking ahead to 2016, we are fortunate to have a dedicated group of volunteers who are committed to continuing in those footsteps.”

Residents interested in volunteering to help organize upcoming events may contact Ciezak at 847-394-8500 or ciezakl@cityrm.org.



More Farmers & Food Trucks events are in store for 2016.

Support the Foundation

The 501 (c) 3 Community Events Foundation was established in 2012 to help offset the costs associated with staging City-wide events, and to support ongoing maintenance at the Rolling Meadows Historical Museum. Tax-deductible contributions by residents, local businesses, and community groups have helped the Foundation raise more than \$50,000. Nearly 40% of that total was raised last year alone.

Foundation leaders hope to raise about \$50,000 annually – the equivalent of \$2.06 for each City resident.

Those who would like to contribute should make checks payable to *Rolling Meadows Community Events Foundation* and submit them to:

City of Rolling Meadows
Community Events Foundation
3600 Kirchoff Road
Rolling Meadows, IL 60008

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.* 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



www.facebook.com/cityofrollingmeadows

www.twitter.com/@CityofRM1

Find Us on the Web:
www.cityrm.org

Verizon to Relocate 900 Employees from Elgin to Rolling Meadows

Verizon will relocate 900 employees to Rolling Meadows this year, after leasing 159,000 square feet of space in the newly-renovated Continental Towers on Golf Road.

Staff members from the company's Customer Service, Information Technology (IT), and Human Resources departments will move from its current Elgin facility over the next several months. The transition is scheduled to be completed this spring, according to *REJournals.com*, an online real estate publication.

'Enhanced Work Environment'

Verizon also announced plans to expand its Rolling Meadows operations to accommodate up to 200 new full-time jobs. Continental Towers "will provide for a greatly enhanced work environment for Verizon employees, including a state-of-the-art cafeteria, health and wellness center, and more conference space," *REJournals.com* reported.

Continental Towers' owners recently began the second phase of a \$12 million capital improvement plan to revitalize the 910,796 square foot, Class A facility at 1701 Golf Road. The project calls for a new main entrance and upgraded building entryways; updated lobbies, elevators, and restrooms; landscaping improvements; and a new, 669-space parking garage to accommodate the property's growing tenant roster.

Local Business Growth Benefits Residents

The continued growth and development of the local business



Work continues on a new 669-space parking garage at Continental Towers, which will accommodate the Class A commercial property's expanded tenant population.

community benefits residents in a variety of ways.

"As businesses renovate their facilities and expand, it raises the equalized assessed value (EAV) that is used to calculate a property's tax rate," City Manager Barry Krumstok explains. "The higher the EAV, the more revenue the City collects from businesses to fund services. That, in turn, reduces the tax burden on homeowners."

Larger commercial businesses also help boost the City's "day-time" population – increasing the number of customers who visit the restaurants, shops, and service providers that comprise Rolling Meadows' diverse business community.

New Residents, New Car Buyers Eligible for Half-Price Vehicle Stickers



Beginning in January, new residents and motorists who have purchased a new vehicle may purchase 2015-16

vehicle stickers for 50% off the regular price.

Discounted stickers, starting at \$10 for senior residents and \$15 for passenger vehicles, are available at City Hall. The City will mail 2016-17 vehicle sticker renewal applications to all motorists in early June.

Sticker sales generate approximately \$500,000 each year for street maintenance and infrastructure improvement projects. These help keep City roadways in good condition and prevent excessive wear and tear on residents' vehicles.

Council Approves 2016 Meeting Schedule; Dates Posted Online, in Monthly Newsletters

City Council in 2016 will hold its regular meetings at 7:30 p.m. on the second and fourth Tuesdays of each month at City Hall (3600 Kirchoff Road). A workshop-style Committee of the Whole will meet the third Tuesday of every month, also at 7:30 p.m.

Agendas for upcoming City Council meetings, and minutes from past Council meetings, are available on the Rolling Meadows website, www.cityrm.org.

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

- **Economic Development Committee** – meets the first Tuesday of each month at 6 p.m.
- **Plan Commission** – meets the first Tuesday of each month at 7:30 p.m.

- **Zoning Board of Appeals** – meets the first Wednesday of each month at 7:30 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 Events Calendar, available at www.cityrm.org/calendar.aspx.

Meeting information is also published monthly in every issue of *News & Views* and *e-News & Views*.



View upcoming meetings on Rolling Meadows' web-based community events calendar.

City's Fiscal Year 2016 Budget Avoids New General Fund Taxes, Fees

An improving economic climate and a continuation of Rolling Meadows' cautious approach to fiscal planning helped City officials pass a 2016 budget that ensures delivery of high-quality City services without requiring new General Fund taxes or fees, Finance Director Melissa Gallagher reports.

"City Council and staff's commitment to conservative budgeting reduces the risk of short-term borrowing to cover expenses," she explains. "This prudent, fiscally responsible approach also helps us proceed with important capital improvement projects, fund essential services to resident and businesses, and continue to grow City reserves."

It's a formula that has produced results: As the calendar turned to 2016, Rolling

Meadows maintained a nearly \$7.5 million balance in the General Fund, which covers the majority of City operations. That's the equivalent of nearly 30% of annual fund expenditures.

A tremendous surge in local investment by residents and businesses has also helped the City avoid excessive fee increases. Between January and November 2015, the Community Development Department collected \$1.3 million in permit fees for property improvements valued at over \$77 million. That's a vast increase over 2014, when the City received \$574,000 in permit fees for projects valued at \$27.9 million.

Other aspects of the Fiscal Year (FY) 2016 Budget include:

- A \$1 average increase in Rolling Meadows' building and permit fees. Fees had remained unchanged since 2010 and are now competitive with neighboring communities.
- A modest 4.9% increase in the City's property tax levy to cover its pension obligations. Based on current estimates, a homeowner with a \$5,000 tax bill will pay an additional \$3.16 per month to the City.
- Minor increases to monthly water, storm water, and sewer fees, which are charged to the City by local utilities. The increases will cost an average family of four an additional \$6.66 per month.
- No change in the monthly refuse collection fee paid by homeowners.

The adopted 2016 budget is available for review at City Hall and the Rolling Meadows Library. It is also posted online at www.cityrm.org/233/Financial-Reports.



Historical Museum Open House to Recall Holidays Past, January 10th

Historical Society members have "decked the halls" of the Rolling Meadows Historical Museum with authentic 1950s and 1960s seasonal décor for its annual Holiday Open House, Sunday, January 10th. Held from 1 – 4 p.m., the event will offer a wide range of activities designed to provide guests of all ages with a glimpse of holidays past:

- Marvel at the Museum's aluminum tree and other vintage decorations from Historical Society archives.

- Sample free cookies and punch.
- Learn more about Rolling Meadows' early days during tours of the Museum and Education Center.
- Take home a variety of raffle giveaways, including cookbooks, ornaments, and other Museum novelties.

The Museum, a replica of an original Kimball Hill home, is located at 3100 Central Road. For more information, call 847-577-7086.



Public Works Dept. Schedules Curbside Tree Pick-Up

Public Works will provide Christmas Tree pick-up service to all refuse customers Monday, January 4th – Friday, January 15th. Residents should remove lights, tinsel and ornaments, and place trees at the curb (cut end facing the street) on their regular refuse collection days.

Recycling Program Offers Residents Safe, Convenient Holiday Light and Wire Disposal

A seasonal program offered by the Solid Waste Agency of Northern Cook County (SWANCC) and Elgin Recycling offers Rolling Meadows residents an opportunity to safely dispose of old holiday lights, electrical cords, and wire.

Residents may drop off materials for recycling at a collection box outside City Hall (3600 Kirchoff Road). The program runs through Friday, February 12th.

Items suitable for recycling include incandescent and LED lights (all sizes, lengths, and colors), extension cords, household cords/wiring, and computer wire/cords.

The City cannot accept garland, live greens, wreaths, or other non-recyclables. For more information, please visit www.swancc.org or www.elginrecycling.com.

January 2016

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
					New Year's Day 1 City offices closed. Refuse pick-up delayed one day.	2
	3 Jan. 4 – 15 Christmas Tree pick-up on regular refuse collection days.	4 Economic Development Committee , 6 pm Environmental Committee , 7 pm, both at City Hall	6	7 Adjudication Hearing (Parking), 2 pm, City Hall	8	9
10 Historical Museum Open House , 1-4 pm, (3100 Central Road)	11 Board of Fire & Police Commissioners , 9 am, City Hall	12 Crime Stoppers , 5:30 pm City Council Meeting , 7:30 pm, both at City Hall	13	14 Adjudication Hearing , 1 pm, City Hall	15	16
17	18 Martin Luther King, Jr. Day City offices closed. Regular refuse pick-up.	19 City Council Committee of the Whole , 7:30 pm, City Hall	20 Water bills due	21 Fire Pension Board , 8:30 am Adjudication Hearing (Red Light), 2 pm, both at City Hall	22	23
24	25 Police Pension Board , 3:30 pm, City Hall	26 City Council Meeting , 7:30 pm, City Hall	27	28	29	30
31						

February 2016

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
	1	2 Economic Development Committee , 6 pm Environmental Committee , 7 pm Plan Commission , 7:30 pm, all at City Hall	3 Zoning Board of Appeals , 7:30 pm, City Hall	4 Adjudication Hearing (Parking), 2 pm, City Hall	5	6
7	8 Board of Fire & Police Commissioners , 9 am, City Hall	9 Crime Stoppers , 5:30 pm City Council Meeting , 7:30 pm, both at City Hall	10	11 Adjudication Hearing , 1 pm, City Hall	12	13
14	15	16 City Council Committee of the Whole , 7:30 pm, City Hall	17	18 Adjudication Hearing (Red Light), 2 pm, City Hall	19	20
Valentine's Day	President's Day	21	22	23	24	25
21	22 Water bills due	23 City Council Meeting , 7:30 pm, City Hall	24	25	26	27
28	29				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 .	

December Revelry Caps City's Year-Long 60th Anniversary Celebration

The chill of a December 3rd evening was no match for the warmth created by hundreds of residents who gathered downtown for the City's annual Holiday Tree lighting – the final event of Rolling Meadows' year-long 60th Anniversary celebration.

The celebration began with a performance by the Rolling Meadows High School Madrigals, then featured carols sung by members of local Cub Scouts and Brownie troops.

Mayor Tom Rooney was delighted to welcome a VIP from the North Pole, as Santa Claus arrived in a "nick" of time to light the tree and officially welcome the holiday season.

After the tree was lit, the sky erupted with a special 60th Anniversary fireworks display that brightened the downtown area in dazzling bursts of color.

The line of hungry residents eager to share a free spaghetti dinner with family, friends, and neighbors stretched out the door of the Fogarty Fire Station, where City officials and volunteers served over 350 meals. The menu featured spaghetti, meatballs, and garlic bread, courtesy of Stadium Sports Club, and dessert provided by Nothing Bundt Cakes.

Outside, a steady stream of residents both young and young at heart snapped pictures with Santa's elves and reindeer.



Santa Claus greets residents before joining Mayor Tom Rooney to officially welcome the holiday season.



Fireworks light up downtown Rolling Meadows after City officials light the Holiday Tree.



Rolling Meadows Fire Chief Scott Franzgrote (left) serves guests during the City's free spaghetti dinner at the Fogarty Fire Station.

Recycling Contractor Announces Minor Scheduling Modifications; Changes to Have No Impact on Residents' Weekly Curbside Service

Minor scheduling modifications announced by the City's curbside recycling contractor, Advanced Disposal, will have no effect on the quality of service provided to Rolling Meadows residents, although observant customers may notice some changes in the timing of their regu-

larly-scheduled weekly pick-ups.

For example, residents who have grown accustomed to having their recycling collected in the morning may discover that the truck does not arrive until the afternoon – or vice-versa.

As specified in the contract between the City and Advanced Disposal, curbside recycling pick-ups may occur any time between 6 a.m. and 7 p.m.

Residents with questions may contact the Public Works Department at 847-963-0500.



Bring Old Batteries, Compact Fluorescent Light Bulbs to Public Works for Safe Disposal

Rolling Meadows offers a convenient way for residents to safely dispose of spent compact fluorescent light bulbs (CFLs) and household batteries.

Bring old batteries and CFLs to the Public Works Department (3900 Berdnick Street) for proper recycling. Drop-off hours are

Monday – Friday, 8 a.m. – 4 p.m.

Saturday drop-offs will also be offered at this summer's Farmers & Food Trucks events.

For more information, contact Public Works at 847-963-0500.



City's 100% Transparency Rating Serves as Model for Openness and Taxpayer Accountability

by Mayor Tom Rooney

In a state with a well-deserved reputation for secrecy and corruption, Rolling Meadows has been recognized as a model of openness and taxpayer accountability by the Illinois Policy Institute. In fact, we're one of only 76 local governmental entities (cities, park districts, school boards, etc.) in all of Illinois to receive the Institute's "Sunshine Award" – and **one of only nine** to achieve a perfect 100% rating.

The Sunshine Award honors taxpayer-funded organizations for their commitment to transparency: the more "transparent" an organization, the easier it is for citizens to access information on its operations. We can all agree that, as much as possible, this information should be readily available.

To receive the Sunshine Award, organizations must achieve a score of 80% or higher, based on the IPI's extensive criteria. Four years ago, Rolling Meadows' score was in the 20s. I asked our staff to become familiar with the transparency standards and make improvements.

We were able to raise our score dramatically at the time – into the 60% range – but the launch of the City's expanded, upgraded website last year offered new opportunities to improve our rating. Staff members went back to work and delivered outstanding results: I am very happy to report that Rolling Meadows is now 100% transparent.

New Multi-Purpose Engine Enters Fire Department Service

The Rolling Meadows Fire Department has taken delivery of a new, multi-purpose fire engine/rescue pumper that can deliver up to 1,500 gallons of water per minute at a fire scene, but its capabilities extend far beyond fire suppression, Deputy Fire Chief Terry Valentino reports.

Engine 16, which entered frontline service in late December, also improves firefighters' ability to provide urban rescue and life-saving medical services in a wide variety of emergency situations.

The vehicle's custom-built design includes climate-controlled storage areas for housing advanced life support (ALS) equipment, which allows firefighters to stabilize patients on-scene while ambulances are being dispatched. It also carries specialized equipment for auto extrication, high-rise rescue, and many other emergency scenarios.

"Engine 16's custom-built design improves our ability to serve residents," Deputy Chief Valentino explains. "The

vehicle's versatility enables firefighters – all of whom are certified paramedics – to provide an array of life-saving services in nearly any situation they encounter."

The rescue pumper's design also improves firefighter safety by providing improved head- and leg room, seating, and floor space. Meanwhile, storage compartments and ladders are configured to improve operational effectiveness and make it simpler for firefighters to access equipment during emergencies.

"The Rolling Meadows Fire Department places a high priority on operational flexibility to deliver high-quality services," Deputy Chief Valentino says. "Our people serve in many different capacities. We need our vehicles to match those capabilities."

City officials conducted a very thorough search process to procure Engine 16, which replaces an older engine (Engine 610) that had reached the end of its 20-year service life. Firefighters and employees of the Public Works Department's



Engine 16 is a multi-purpose vehicle that will serve residents for the next 20 years.

Vehicle Services Division served on an Apparatus Committee that spent more than a year researching vehicle specifications and manufacturers who could meet RMFD's unique needs.

Engine 16 was built by Pierce Manufacturing, an Appleton, WI-based company that provides custom-built vehicles for fire departments across the country. It is expected to serve residents for at least 20 years.

City leaders had fully budgeted for the vehicle's \$644,264 cost, but saved taxpayers more than \$22,000 by taking advantage of a prepay discount offered by Pierce. That funding was used to purchase new equipment for Engine 16 before it entered service.

Fire Department Hosts Monthly CPR Classes

The Rolling Meadows Fire Department offers monthly CPR classes for residents and healthcare providers. Sessions take place the third Wednesday of each month, 6 – 9 p.m., at the Fogarty Fire Station (3111 Meadow Drive). The \$35 classes also provide instruction on automated external defibrillators (AEDs).

Register online at www.cityrm.org/193/Fire-Department, or call 847-397-3352.