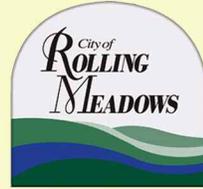




eNEWS

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& Views



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

Infrastructure Project to Improve ‘Golf Road Corridor’ Accessibility

Rolling Meadows is proceeding with a plan to vastly improve public access to major commercial and retail businesses along the busy Golf Road corridor through an innovative partnership between the City and the Regional Transportation Authority (RTA).



Meadows Corporate Center is among the properties that the project will benefit.

The \$1.2 million Golf Road Access to Transit Improvement Project will also encourage greater use of public transportation, reduce area traffic congestion and enhance pedestrian safety. The project will be funded entirely by grants secured by the RTA on the City's behalf.

It will add two miles of new sidewalks along Golf Road between Route 53 and New Wilke Road, and five crosswalks and two pedestrian crossing signals. These upgrades will improve access to public transportation services, especially Pace bus routes that connect the City to the region's greater public transportation system.

Community Development Director Valerie Dehner says the improvements will also address concerns expressed by some of the City's largest employers about the area's limited accessibility.

"Public transportation and pedestrian accessibility are important components of the City's plans for economic growth," she explains. "This project will help improve customers' access to Golf

Road businesses, and help companies attract and retain young employees – many of whom prefer to use public transportation."

The project is the result of more than two years of planning by City officials, RTA and Pace representatives, and local business leaders to identify options for improving the area's accessibility. Dehner believes it offers a template for effective collaboration to improve public infrastructure.

"From the beginning, everyone involved made a commitment to find new ways to work together for the benefit of the entire community," Dehner explains. "The RTA's willingness to apply for grant funding on the City's behalf is a perfect example of that commitment. It allows us to move from the planning phase to implementation," she adds.

Besides upgrading public access to some of Rolling Meadows' largest companies and improving pedestrian safety, the project offers additional benefits. According to RTA estimates, the project's emphasis on promoting public transportation will reduce area traffic congestion. The corresponding reduction in vehicle emissions will help improve the City's air quality.

Tentative plans call for the project to begin later this year and be completed sometime in 2015.



The Golf Road Corporate Corridor is currently over-reliant on motor vehicles for accessibility.

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: *James Larsen* 630-244-4228
City Manager: *Barry Krumstok* 847-394-8500

SERVICES

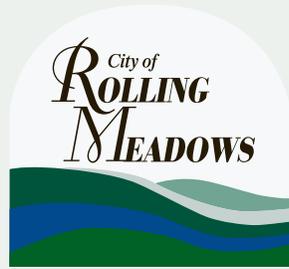
Fire & Police Emergency 911
Fire Non-emergency 847-397-3352
Police Non-emergency 847-255-2416
Public Works 847-963-0500
Finance/Utility Billing Questions 847-394-8500
Community Development 847-506-6030
TDD 847-506-0490
ComEd 1-800-EDISON-1
Curfew . . . Sun. – Thurs. 11 p.m.; Fri. & Sat. Midnight



 www.facebook.com/cityofrollingmeadows

 [@CityofRM1](http://www.twitter.com/@CityofRM1)

 Find Us on the Web:
www.cityrm.org



This Month in Rolling Meadows

February 4 – Crime Stoppers, 5:30 p.m.; **Economic Development Committee,** 6 p.m. **Environmental Committee,** 7 p.m.; all at City Hall

February 6 – Adjudication Hearing (Parking), 2 p.m., City Hall

February 10 – Board of Fire & Police Commissioners, 9 a.m., City Hall

February 11 – City Council Meeting, 7:30 p.m., City Hall

February 13 – Adjudication Hearing, 1 p.m., City Hall

February 17 – President's Day. City Hall, Public Works open; regular refuse pick-up scheduled.

February 18 – City Council Committee of the Whole, 7:30 p.m., City Hall

February 20 – Adjudication Hearing (Red Light), 2 p.m., City Hall

February 25 – City Council Meeting, 7:30 p.m., City Hall

Alderman Rob Banger to Host Informational Meeting on New Community Garden, Feb. 24



Rob Banger

Fifth Ward Alderman Rob Banger will host an informational meeting on plans to create a Community Garden in downtown Rolling Meadows, Monday, February 24, 5 p.m. in

Room 230 at City Hall. Residents who would like to take part in the project are welcome to attend.

The Community Garden will be planted this spring on a City-owned parcel of land along Salt Creek, adjacent to the Jewel Shopping Center. To learn more, contact Alderman Banger at jrbanger@att.net.

As plans and preparations for the Garden move forward, *News & Views* talked with Alderman Banger about the project. Excerpts from the conversation follow:

Q. How did you get involved in this project? Do you have prior experience with a community garden?

A. I helped build a 16-plot community garden at work about four years ago. It has become a very successful venture that draws strong interest from my co-workers each spring. Based on discussions I have had with members of the Rolling Meadows Garden Club and people at last year's Farmers & Food Trucks events, I think there will be plenty of

interest in this new project as well.

Q. How many plots will be available?

A. We will start with a 16-plot garden, with each plot measuring 4' x 8'. We can add more if the demand is there and possibly expand to other locations throughout the City.

Q. What are your goals for the Community Garden?

A. I hope this will serve as an opportunity to help people learn more about our food supply. It will also offer residents with properties that have less-than-ideal soil and sun conditions, or those who live in apartments and condominiums, the opportunity to garden. Please excuse the pun, but this little project will hopefully "plant a seed" that grows into something much larger, as people become more interested in growing healthy, natural foods.

Q. What are your favorite foods to grow?

A. In my backyard garden, I grow tomatoes, spinach, peas, zucchini, hot and sweet peppers, potatoes, cucumbers, and bush and pole beans. They have always been my favorites. In a community garden setting, I usually prefer plants such as heirloom varieties, Brussels sprouts, eggplant and kale, that do not grow too large and overtake other plots.



Northrop Grumman Employee Honored for Engineering Excellence



Diane LaFortune

Northrop Grumman's Diane LaFortune was named a 2013 recipient of the Society of Women Engineers' Emerging Leader Award. The award cites LaFortune's "excellence in mechanical engineering for high-performance airborne systems" and for "successful and talented leadership of multidisciplinary teams."



'eBilling' Saves Taxpayers Money

eBilling, Rolling Meadows' Web-based utility billing program, helps save taxpayers thousands of dollars each year in printing and mailing costs. Rather than receiving a printed bill in the mail, eBilling customers receive a monthly email with a link to their utility billing statement. Balances may be paid through online banking, the City's Web-based Utility Bill Management System, by mail or in person at City Hall.

The service – currently used by nearly 15% of the City's utility customers – also lets users review a two-year billing history for their account and provides a link to the City's newsletter, *News & Views*.

Register for eBilling online at www.cityrm.org/finance. For more information, contact the Finance Department at 847-394-8500.

Extreme January Weather Proves No Match for Public Works Staff

“Polar vortex” entered the public lexicon in early January, as extreme winter weather wreaked havoc across the country. But for the City’s Public Works employees, it was just a usual few weeks on the job:

Record Snow Fall

When 12 inches of snow blanketed the City on the first two days of January – the worst New Year’s storm in 15 years – snow



Salt shipments arrive at Public Works.

removal crews sprang into action and successfully cleared the City’s streets from curb to curb. While several communities throughout the area experienced road salt shortages during the month, the City’s salt stockpile remained ample.

“We had a lot of salt left over from previous seasons with limited snowfall, but we still ordered enough to be ready for this winter,” Public Works Director Fred Vogt explains. “It proves that salt usage tends to balance out over time, as does winter weather.”

Sub-Zero Temperatures

There is one simple reason Public Works’ refuse crews completed their regular garbage pick up on Monday, January 6, when the thermometer dropped to minus 16 degrees. “No one gave any serious thought to cancel the service,” Vogt explains. “Our employees simply bundled up and went to work.”

As one of the only communities in the Chicago area that provides its own refuse pickup, Rolling Meadows customers avoided the fate of residents in other communities, where many contract refuse services were delayed due to the extreme cold.

Community Meetings to Discuss Proposed Fire Station Relocations



Scott Franzgrote

Fire Chief Scott Franzgrote will lead a series of community discussions in March and April to update residents on proposed plans to relocate the Fire Department’s two fire stations.

The discussions will take place Tuesdays, March 25 and April 8, at City Hall, prior to City Council’s regular meetings. Additional gatherings will be held Thursdays, March 27 and April 10, at the Thomas Fogarty Fire Station (3111 Meadow Drive). All meetings will begin at 6 p.m.

City officials initiated a review of current station locations after data confirmed a growing number of emergency calls were concentrated in the City’s eastern and southern areas. These calls are experiencing longer response times based on current station locations. “Right now, we are increasingly unable to achieve our benchmark response time of four to six minutes because our stations are too far away from where these calls are originating,” Chief Franzgrote says. “As Fire Chief, I find that unacceptable.”

Fire Department and City officials have identified three potential options for ensuring that the Fire Department continues to deliver the highest levels of fire,

rescue and emergency medical services as the community continues to grow.

- **Relocate both fire stations** – Moving the Fogarty Fire Station (Station 15) further south and the Neuckranz Fire Station (Station 16, 2455 Plum Grove Road) further east would realign the two fire stations in a manner that is more

appropriate to the City’s geographical layout, population density, risk profile and service demand levels.

- **Relocate Station 15 only** – Finding a suitable new location for Station 15, while leaving Station 16 in its current spot, would also improve the Fire Department’s ability to better meet the needs of the community it serves.

- **Repair/Rebuild Station 15 at its current location** – Rebuilding Station 15 at its existing location would address worsening problems with the building’s structural integrity, but would not alle-

viate concerns over the amount of time it takes to reach the southeastern portions of the City. Completing these repairs will require a substantial financial investment.

“The decisions we make over the next several months will most likely impact the Fire Department’s operations for the



Fogarty Fire Station, 3111 Meadow Drive

next 50 years,” Chief Franzgrote explains. “These community meetings will provide greater detail and cost estimates for each option being discussed, and help gauge the opinions of

the residents we serve.”

The discussions will help City leaders determine the best option for moving forward. City Council members plan to discuss the issue in depth at its Tuesday, April 15 Committee of the Whole meeting.

For more information, contact the Rolling Meadows Fire Department at 847-397-3352 or visit at www.cityrm.org/rmfd.

Someone You Should Know

Longtime Resident Alice Fitzgerald Logs More Than 1,000 Volunteer Hours

Ninety-two year-old Alice Fitzgerald has logged more than 1,000 hours of service with the Public Works Department since she began volunteering there in the summer of 2011. It is just the latest example of her commitment to serving the community she has called home for nearly 60 years.



Alice Fitzgerald

Public Works Director Fred Vogt says Alice has a knack for answering residents' questions about Department services and is able to advise them about periodic changes in procedures.

"As a long-time resident, Alice is able to clearly explain to residents how certain procedures may be different than in years' past. People tend to listen to her because of her background," he says.

Alice also helps organize and maintain Department files, assists with residential mailings, answers phones, and completes a vari-

ety of other tasks, as needed.

"She always comes in with a smile," Vogt adds. "She loves working with the guys and telling them what to do. Alice is also a terrific baker. No one here can resist her lemon bars."

Alice is the current President of the Rolling Meadows Historical Society, and has been deeply involved in many City activities over the years, including the Citizens Public Works, Police and Fire Academies. She has helped with book sales at the Rolling Meadows Library, driven seniors to medical appointments, and volunteered at the Rolling Meadows Senior Center.

She is proud of the life she and her husband, Ted, built for themselves in Rolling Meadows. She still lives in the same home they bought with a \$10 down payment in 1955.

"That was one of the best days of our lives," Alice recalls. "We had seen the ad in the Chicago Tribune about a new community called Rolling Meadows. We looked at model homes on Campbell and Wilke, and knew immediately that it was the place for us."

Nearly 60 years later, Rolling Meadows is better off for it.

City Earns 27th Consecutive Award for Financial Reporting Excellence

Rolling Meadows collected its 27th consecutive Certificate of Achievement for Excellence in Financial Reporting, demonstrating the City's commitment to budgetary transparency and the highest accounting standards, Finance Director Melissa Gallagher reports.

The award, presented by the Government Finance Officers Association of the United States and Canada (GFOA), followed an annual review of Rolling Meadows' financial and accounting processes by independent auditors and financial professionals across the country.

The City's Comprehensive Annual Financial Report "has been judged by an

impartial panel to meet the highest standards of the program, including a commitment to fully disclose the City's financial situation," according to a news release by the GFOA.

Gallagher says these reviews help Finance Department professionals identify opportunities to further improve Rolling Meadows' financial operations.

"The annual audit helps facilitate a commitment to financial transparency. That, in turn, offers opportunities to further improve our processes," she explains.

"Everyone in the Finance Department is very proud to continue Rolling Meadows' impressive streak of recognized accounting excellence."

The Certificate of Achievement for Excellence in Financial Reporting recognizes government units and public employee retirement systems whose comprehensive annual financial reports achieve the highest stan-

dards in accounting and financial reporting. For more information, visit www.gfoa.org.



Illinois State Law Bans Motorists' Use of Hand-Held Cell Phones

Illinois law now prohibits the use of hand-held cell phones while driving anywhere in the state. Fines begin at \$75 and rise for repeat offenders.

The law also stipulates harsher penalties, including prison time, for drivers who cause accidents while using cell phones or other electronic devices.

"Studies by the U.S. Department of Transportation show that motorists who talk on their phones while driving – so-called 'distracted drivers' – are four times more likely to be involved in an accident," Police Chief Dave Scanlan explains.

Chief Scanlan adds that drivers should use hands-free or voice-activated devices when in their vehicles. These are exempt from the new law.



Volunteers Sought to Continue Farmers & Food Trucks' Success

City officials are seeking volunteers to help organize this year's Farmers & Food Trucks program series, which will again offer guests a range of savory menu items prepared by onsite food trucks, handmade crafts from local artisans, locally-grown produce and much more.

This year's events will take place Saturdays, May 24, June 28, July 26, August 23, and September 27, 10 a.m. to 2 p.m., in the City Hall parking lot.

The monthly program series, launched in 2013, has succeeded beyond expectations. It is designed to bring people together, celebrate Rolling Meadows' uniqueness, and encourage visitors to explore the downtown area.



"Last year, we created a new vision for a community farmers' market. Now, we are asking residents to help build on that success," explains Zach Creer, Assistant to the City Manager and the program's Market Manager. "With your help, we can continue attracting new vendors to participate – many of whom have already expressed strong interest in what we have to offer – and expand the events' appeal."

Residents who would like to volunteer may contact Creer at 847-394-8500 or

creerz@cityrm.org. Vendors who are interested in joining this year's Farmers & Food Trucks program will find additional information and registration forms at www.cityrm.org.



Farmers & Food Trucks 2014 Schedule

- Saturday, May 24
- Saturday, June 28
- Saturday, July 26
- Saturday, August 23
- Saturday, September 27

All events held 10 a.m. – 2 p.m. in the City Hall parking lot (3600 Kirchoff Road).

Street of the Week Program 'Curbs' Unsafe Driving in Residential Areas

The Rolling Meadows Police Department's Street of the Week program has contributed to an overall decline in the number of speeding and other reckless driving incidents on residential side streets, Commander Tom Calcagno reports.

The program, launched in February 2012, places patrol officers in locations where residents have observed prolonged patterns of unsafe driving. Each week, police officers focus their efforts on a

specific section of Rolling Meadows. The goal is to improve driver awareness of posted speed limits and traffic signs, and encourage compliance.

"The Police Department has experienced a significant decrease in the number of speeding and unsafe driving violations issued in residential areas throughout the City, based in large part on the regular presence of police officers to enforce posted speed limits," Cdr. Calcagno explains. "It has proven to be a very successful approach for responding to residents' concerns about unsafe driving and improving public safety."

Residents – and drivers – may check the Police Department's Webpage (www.cityrm.org/rmpd) to learn where enforcement operations are taking place each week. To report areas of traffic safety concern, contact the Police Department Service Desk at 847-255-2416.

February 'Street of the Week' Schedule

WEEK OF	LOCATION
February 3	Owl Drive (at Bobwhite Lane)
February 10	Lincoln Avenue (Hicks Road to Taft Avenue)
February 17	Silentbrook and Pebblebrook Lanes
February 24	Hawk Lane (Dove Street to Meadow Drive)



Youth Baseball Registration

Registration for Lil & Big T-Ball (ages 4-6) or Youth Baseball (ages 7-18) runs through April 1. Register at www.rmparks.org or at the Community Center.

Super-Couponing: Changing the Way You Shop

Wednesday, February 19, 6:30 p.m.
Rolling Meadows Community Center
(3705 Pheasant Drive)

This fast-paced, fun workshop, led by couponing expert Jill Cataldo, offers techniques for following sales, and using coupons to their fullest advantage. This event is free to all Rolling Meadows Park District Residents (non-residents \$1). To RSVP, call 847-818-3205.

Daddy Daughter Dance

Friday, February 21, 6-8 p.m.
Park Central (3000 Central Road)

Join us as we transform the Park Central Banquet Hall into our very own Daddy and Daughter Carnival. There will be plenty of food, entertainment and dancing. Register online at www.rmparks.org or at the Community Center.

For more information, please visit www.rmparks.org or call 847-818-3220.

City Welcomes 82 New Businesses in 2013

Eighty-two companies in a variety of fields – from financial services and automobile modification/restoration to restaurants and IT consulting – joined the Rolling Meadows business community in 2013.

The City has a well-established reputation as a business-friendly community. Its commitment to attracting new business – and helping those companies succeed – benefits all residents, City Manager Barry Krumstok says.

“Our approach to welcoming businesses to our community pays dividends in multiple ways,” he explains. “First, it provides residents with a larger variety of local shopping options and services. It also helps diversify the City’s tax base,

and reduces reliance on residents’ property taxes to fund services.”

From independent merchants to Fortune 500 corporations, Rolling Meadows is home to many of the world’s leading companies, including:

- **Northrop Grumman** – Aerospace/defense technology.
- **Panasonic** – Consumer electronics.
- **Capital One** – Financial services.
- **BlackBerry Ltd.** [formerly *Research in Motion (R.I.M.)*] – Maker of the BlackBerry smartphone.
- **Method Electronics** – Custom-engineered, application-specific products and services.



Umi Grill was one of 82 businesses to open in Rolling Meadows last year.

eLockbox Service Streamlines Utility Payment Processing

The City’s electronic check processing service improves customer service by catering to the increasing number of residents using online banking to pay their utility bills and streamlines Finance Department operations by processing customer payments in just one or two days.

“Electronic payment processing significantly improves the Finance Department’s operational efficiencies,” explains Finance Department Director Melissa Gallagher.

“It also improves customers’ ability to better track their available balances because payments are debited from their accounts much faster.”

For more information on eLockbox, contact the Finance Department at 847-394-8500 or visit the Web site at www.cityrm.org/finance.

Fire Department’s Sarah McKillop Appreciates Opportunity to Serve

Fire Department Logistics Coordinator Sarah McKillop’s lifelong interest in public service brought her “home” to Rolling Meadows, where she feels extremely fortunate to begin her career in the City she knows so well.

A Rolling Meadows High School graduate, Sarah completed her Master’s Degree in Public Administration (MPA) at the University of Illinois at Chicago. Following graduation, she spent nearly a year looking for employment in a field with few available openings.

“When I heard that Rolling Meadows was looking for someone to serve as Logistics Coordinator, it sounded too good to be true,” Sarah recalls. “I figured it was an opportunity to serve a community that I will forever feel a part of.”

Sarah believes her commitment to helping stems from her upbringing: her father was a lieutenant with the Mount Prospect Fire Department, her mother completed paramedic school there, and

her brother was a community service officer (CSO) with the Mount Prospect Police Department.

Excited to continue her family’s history of service, Sarah joined the Rolling Meadows Fire Department in June 2012, where she is a veritable “Jack-of-all-Trades.” She helps manage Department finances and coordinate daily operations, answers phones, welcomes visitors and handles “whatever they need me to do,” she says.

However, Sarah’s duties extend far beyond finance and administration: she also serves as Chair of the City’s Emergency Planning Committee, which is responsible for ensuring the viability of Rolling Meadows state-certified emergency management plans.

“One of the committee’s most important responsibilities is having systems in place to respond to emergencies and access resources available at the county, state and federal levels,” she explains.

“We are constantly reviewing our protocols and conducting tabletop drills to make sure we know what to do in case of a natural disaster or other type of major emergency.”



Sarah McKillop

Sarah was recently recognized by Cook County Board President Toni Preckwinkle for her participation in the Cook County Suburban Duty Officer Program.

The two-day program, organized by the Cook County Department of Homeland Security and Emergency Management, helped participants learn more about the county’s available emergency management resources and how to access them in time of need.

When she’s not working, Sarah enjoys spending time with friends and taking her dog, a Cocker Spaniel named Cole, on long walks.