

July/August 2013



# NEWS

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# & Views

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

## Local Businesses, Police Partner to Upgrade Military Humvee For Severe Weather Response, Community Relations Roles

Weighing nearly 6,000 pounds and boasting a wheelbase of almost 11 feet, the Rolling Meadows Police Department's severe weather response vehicle is unlike anything that has patrolled City streets before.

The High Mobility Multipurpose Wheeled Vehicle (commonly known as the Humvee) has been a mainstay of the United States Armed Forces for more than two decades. The Humvee that now

serves Rolling Meadows was procured at no cost to taxpayers through a Federal Law Enforcement Support Office (LESO) program that provides surplus military equipment to law enforcement agencies nationwide.

"The vehicle was in great mechanical shape when we took delivery but we needed some help to make it more community-friendly," explains RMPD Sergeant Tom Gadomski.

Fortunately, several Rolling Meadows businesses stepped forward to donate their time, talents and expertise:

- **Body Builders Automotive** provided body work and a fresh paint job to reflect the Humvee's new mission.
- **Lehmann-Peterson Corporation** updated the threadbare interior of a military vehicle to one better-suited for civilian use.
- **Suburban Accents** designed and administered the Humvee's new exterior graphics and lettering.
- **MPC Communications and Lighting** (Northbrook) installed new police radios and lighting systems.

"The generosity and shared vision of these companies helped transform a vehicle that once served our country into one that now proudly serves our community," Sgt. Gadomski says.

The Police Department Humvee made its public debut in May at the City's Memo-

rial Day Parade, but Sgt. Gadomski says it is far more than simply a "show" vehicle.

"The Humvee serves primarily as a severe weather response vehicle, but it's also an important community relations tool that can make appearances at car shows, block parties and other community gatherings," he says. "We expect it will be a very effective way to further strengthen the relationships between police officers and the residents we serve."



The RMPD Humvee debuted at this year's Memorial Day Parade.

### Independence Day Events (Thursday, July 4)

**'America, the Beautiful' Parade** (11:30 a.m.) – This year's Independence Day Parade begins at Rolling Meadows High School, 2901 Central Rd. Participants will march west on Central Road, turn north on Owl Drive, then head east on Kirchoff Road to the Rolling Meadows Shopping Center.

**City-sponsored fireworks** (Approx. 9:15 p.m.) – Following an afternoon of celebrations with family and friends, residents are invited to Salk Park for the City's annual fireworks display.



### 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 Department 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

Look Us Up on the Web at: [www.cityrm.org](http://www.cityrm.org)

## Farmers & Food Trucks Event Draws Impressive Crowds

A combination of savory food truck dishes, freshly-grown local produce and hand-crafted art drew hundreds of guests to downtown Rolling Meadows for the City's debut Farmers & Food Trucks event, Saturday, May 25.

Upcoming events will be held July 20, August 24, September 28 and October 26, 10 a.m. – 2 p.m., at City Hall. Farmers & Food Trucks is designed to bring people together, celebrate Rolling Meadows' uniqueness and encourage visitors to explore the downtown area.

Area vendors who are interested in participating will find additional information



Residents select from a variety of fresh produce grown by local farmers.

and registration forms on the City's Website, [www.cityrm.org](http://www.cityrm.org). Residents who wish to help organize the events should



Long lines at participating food trucks raise the level of anticipation among hungry visitors.

contact Zach Creer, Assistant to the City Manager, at 847-394-8500 or [creerz@cityrm.org](mailto:creerz@cityrm.org).

## Fund Balance Growth Strengthens City's Financial, Economic Health

By Melissa Gallagher, Finance Director

As economic conditions at the national and local levels point slowly upward, ongoing efforts to rebuild depleted City fund balances have significantly strengthened Rolling Meadows' financial position and overall economic health.

An audit of last year's budget confirms that the City's overall cash position has improved dramatically, due to higher building permit revenues – including those from build-outs by large businesses such as Capital One. Sales, income and hotel tax receipts have also increased, as more people "Shop Rolling Meadows." Although not yet at pre-recession levels, we are encouraged by the way the numbers are trending.

Higher revenues have resulted in two consecutive years of surpluses in the General Fund, which is the City's primary operating fund. Last year's ending fund balance was more than \$4 million.

That's a very encouraging sign after four consecutive years (2007-2010) of negative balances caused, in large part, by the Great Recession.

Reliance on higher revenues to ensure the City's continued financial health is not enough. Controlling expenditures and re-envisioning ways to provide the services residents expect at lower cost has also been a top priority. We are committed to providing transparency and effective management of limited taxpayer-funded resources.

Our efforts continue to pay dividends. Council members and City staff have been monitoring this year's financial projections on a monthly basis. Although it is far too early to predict final results, the early data suggests that 2013 will mark another step forward on the City's path to long-term fiscal health.

### City Refinances Bonds, Saves Taxpayers \$61,000

City officials have successfully refinanced more than \$2 million worth of general obligation bonds, which will save taxpayers \$61,125 over the next five years, Finance Director Melissa Gallagher reports. "Bond refinancing, especially at current low interest rates, is a very effective way to lower costs and save taxpayers money," she says.

The bonds were originally issued in 2003 to pay for redevelopment costs at the mixed use Riverwalk development on Kirchoff Road.

## Upcoming Fundraisers at Moretti's, Oberweis to Support Community Events Foundation

Looking for a great way to support Rolling Meadows' Community Events Foundation?

**Moretti's of Schaumburg** (1893 Walden Office Square) will donate 15% of all sales made from its restaurant menu to the Foundation's coffers, Thursday, July 11. Customers should mention the Community Events Foundation when ordering or bring a promotional flyer, available at City Hall. For menu items and other information, call 847-397-4200 or visit [www.morettischicago.com](http://www.morettischicago.com).

The Foundation will also be the beneficiary of a Thursday, August 15 event at

**Oberweis Ice Cream and Dairy Store** (1735 W. Algonquin Road). Oberweis has agreed to donate up to 30% of the store's daily receipts, based on total sales volume. Be sure to mention the Community Events Foundation when ordering. Call 847-290-9222 or visit [www.oberweis.com](http://www.oberweis.com) for information on Oberweis products.

As an added bonus, Oberweis customers who drop by between 4:30 and 8:00 p.m. will receive personalized service from Mayor Tom Rooney and City staff members, who have volunteered to work behind the counter.

# Public Works Explores Options for Replacing EAB-Infested Trees

As Public Works explores potential options for replacing Emerald Ash Borer-infested trees throughout Rolling Meadows, the Department is preparing to remove nearly 175 Ash trees that will soon pose a safety risk to residents, Public Works Director Fred Vogt reports.

“The Forestry Division continues to monitor the EAB’s effect on the local Ash tree population. The infestation has progressed steadily and as predicted,” Vogt explains. “Our immediate focus is on removing trees that become a public safety hazard. Longer term, we are starting to determine how best to replace the trees we lose.”

In the next few months, Public Works will present City Council with a series of possible approaches and potential costs for replacing lost trees. Vogt says the City has experimented, on a limited basis, with a program to treat EAB-infested Ash trees, but its cost-effectiveness has not been proven.

There are more than 1,500 Ash trees located on City-owned property, but EAB also poses a threat to Ash trees on private property, park lands and wooded lots. Vogt suggests that residents

identify Ash trees on their properties and watch for evidence of EAB’s presence, including damage to upper branches, unusual woodpecker damage and “D”-shaped holes on a tree’s trunk.

Residents who believe their trees have been infested by EAB should contact Public Works at 847-963-0500.



*Emerald Ash Borer*

More information on EAB is available at the Public Works Department, 3900 Berdnick Street, or on the Department’s Webpage, [www.cityrm.org/PublicWorks](http://www.cityrm.org/PublicWorks).

## Rolling Meadows Welcomes New Businesses

Access Home Health Care –  
*Home health agency*  
3501 Algonquin Rd. (847-581-0691)

Across Town Glass & Mirror –  
*Glass/mirror installation*  
3603 Finch Ct. (847-529-6349)

American Family Mutual Insurance Co. –  
*Insurance*  
2850 Golf Rd. #401 (847-378-0480)

American Heritage Corp. –  
*Property management*  
1941 Rohlwing Rd. #C (630-773-9000)

Anix Inc. – *General Contractor*  
4201 Weber Dr. (312-863-1225)

Capital One Financial Corp. –  
*Call center/administration office*  
3800 Golf Rd. #105 (224-544-3210)

Castema Technology –  
*Computer & network-related services*  
3501 Algonquin Rd. (847-479-1350)

Chicago Home Help Desk –  
*Computer repair/training*  
3400 Wellington Ct. #308 (708-334-7909)

Coyle & Associates –  
*Financial services*  
3701 Algonquin Rd. #150 (847-736-7954)

Emium Lighting – *LED lighting*  
5400 Newport Dr. #6 (469-387-7372)

Flaming Grill & Buffet – *Asian cuisine*  
1440 Golf Rd. (847-593-9810)

Frederick Capital Management –  
*Financial services*  
1788 Vermont Ct. (847-358-5177)

Green Hill Landscaping –  
*Landscaping contractor*  
2309 Sigwalt St. (847-790-6542)

Idex Financial Group –  
*Financial advisor/investment sales*  
1701 Golf Rd. #109 (847-592-7130)

KB Werks Inc. – *Auto repair*  
3831 Berdnick St. (847-496-5754)

Know Yoga Know Peace – *Yoga studio*  
2240 Hicks Rd. #313 (847-749-2672)

Kos inc. – *Range maintenance office*  
2603 School Dr. (847-846-4135)

L&K Services Inc. – *Transportation services*  
4780 Calvert Dr. (224-578-1954)

LG Machinery Service – *Technical consultants*  
2800 Pebblebrook Ln. (847-341-3447)

Modern Factory Homes LLC –  
*Modular homes/real estate broker*  
1600 Golf Rd. #1200 (847-699-4770)

MPO Designs Inc. – *Online furniture sales*  
3 Applejack Rd. (630-237-4727)

North Town Home Services –  
*Appliance/HVAC service/repair call center*  
5420 Newport Dr. #45 (800-533-0030)

PRGX USA Inc. – *Accounts payable/auditing*  
3501 Algonquin Rd. (847-398-7158)

Professional Land & Construction  
Surveyors – *Land surveying*  
1875 Rohlwing Rd., #C (847-888-3322)

Roadster Salon, LLC –  
*Vintage car restoration*  
3620 Edison Pl. (847-769-7880)

Sound Structures Inc. –  
*Structural engineering*  
1835 Rohlwing Rd. #C (847-749-0923)

Whitfield & Reninger LTD. –  
*CPA & tax accountants*  
1895 Rohlwing Rd. #B (847-259-9700)

## Fire Department Honors Past Generations

Firefighters John Palmisano (from left), Mark Mueller and Evan Dolinsky stand before an enlarged copy of a vintage photograph of Rolling Meadows Fire Department members circa 1959. The historical photo, part of a Department effort to honor the service of former Rolling Meadows firefighters, is on display at the Fogarty Fire Station (3111 Meadow Drive) and Neuckranz Fire Station (2455 Plum Grove Road).



# July 2013

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday				
	1	Environmental Committee, 7 p.m., City Hall	2	3	Independence Day 4 City Hall; Public Works closed. Th./Fri. refuse collection delayed one day. Parade, 11:30 a.m. Fireworks, 9:15 p.m.	5	Meadows Cruise Night, 6 – 9 p.m., 2401 Kirchoff Rd.	6		
7	Board of Fire & Police Commissioners, 9 a.m., City Hall	8	Crime Stoppers, 5:30 p.m. City Council Meeting, 7:30 p.m., both at City Hall	9	10	Adjudication Hearing, 1 p.m., City Hall Community Events Foundation Fundraiser, Moretti's (1893 Walden Office Sq., Schaumburg)	11	Meadows Cruise Night, 6 – 9 p.m., 2401 Kirchoff Rd.	12	13
14	15	City Council Committee of the Whole, 7:30 p.m., City Hall	16	17	Fire Pension Board, 8:30 a.m., Fogarty Fire Station, 3111 Meadow Dr. Adjudication Hearing (Red Light), 2 p.m., City Hall	18	Meadows Cruise Night, 6 – 9 p.m., 2401 Kirchoff Rd. Duck race to benefit Salt Creek Restoration, 7 p.m., Nelson Sports Complex	19	Farmers and Food Trucks, 10 a.m. – 2 p.m., City Hall	20
21	Water bills due	22	City Council Meeting, 7:30 p.m., City Hall	23	24	25	Meadows Cruise Night, 6 – 9 p.m., 2401 Kirchoff Rd.	26	27	
28	29	30	31							

# August 2013

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday					
				Adjudication Hearing (Parking), 2 p.m., City Hall	1	Meadows Cruise Night, 6 – 9 p.m., 2401 Kirchoff Rd.	2	3			
4	5	Economic Development Committee, 6 p.m. Environmental Committee, 7 p.m. Plan Commission, 7:30 p.m., all at City Hall	6	Zoning Board of Appeals, 7:30 p.m., City Hall	7	8	Meadows Cruise Night, 6 – 9 p.m., 2401 Kirchoff Rd.	9	10		
11	Board of Fire & Police Commissioners, 9 a.m., City Hall	12	Crime Stoppers, 5:30 p.m. City Council Meeting, 7:30 p.m., both at City Hall	13	Urban Affairs Committee, 5:45 p.m., City Hall	14	Adjudication Hearing, 1 p.m., City Hall Community Events Foundation Fundraiser, Oberweis (1735 W. Algonquin Rd.)	15	Meadows Cruise Night, 6 – 9 p.m., 2401 Kirchoff Rd.	16	17
18	19	City Council Committee of the Whole, 7:30 p.m., City Hall  Water bills due	20	21	Adjudication Hearing (Red Light), 2 p.m., City Hall	22	Meadows Cruise Night, 6 – 9 p.m., 2401 Kirchoff Rd.	23	Farmers and Food Trucks, 10 a.m. – 2 p.m., City Hall	24	
25	26	City Council Meeting, 7:30 p.m., City Hall	27	28	29	Meadows Cruise Night, 6 – 9 p.m., 2401 Kirchoff Rd.	30				

# Chamber Honors Don Wenzel with Community Leader of the Year Award

Don Wenzel, Public Works' Superintendent of Facilities, was honored as Community Leader of the Year by the Rolling Meadows Chamber of Commerce during its annual Circle of Success Dinner in May.

Wenzel, a 30-year Rolling Meadows resident with 25 years of service to Public Works, is a long-time member of the Rotary Club of Rolling Meadows. He also serves with the Illinois Emergency Services Management Association, the Illinois Public Works Mutual Aid Network, and the Illinois Emergency Management Assistance Team.



Public Works' Don Wenzel (left) with Mayor Tom Rooney.  
Photo courtesy of Journal & Topics Newspapers

Other members of this year's Circle of Success include:

- Rafal Piontkowski, BMO Harris Bank – *Business Leader of the Year*
- Body Builders Automotive – *Business of the Year*
- Carol Grewe, Travel Network – *Chamber Volunteer of the Year*
- Loving Care Animal Clinic – *Community Outreach Award*
- Rolling Meadows Environmental Committee – *Community Enhancement Award*
- *Journal & Topics Newspapers – Communications Partner*



The Duck Race will benefit Salt Creek preservation efforts.

## Duck Race to Award \$500 Grand Prize, Benefit Salt Creek

A \$500 grand prize will be presented to the winner of the 6th annual Duck Race, an event that raises funds to support Salt Creek restoration and other environmental preservation efforts throughout Rolling Meadows, Friday, July 19, 7 p.m.

The race, sponsored by the City's Environmental Committee, Rotary Club of Rolling Meadows, and the Rolling Meadows Park District Foundation, will feature a flotilla of plastic ducks "racing" down the water slide at the Nelson Sports Complex Pool, 3900 Owl Drive.

Tickets for the event (one ticket per duck) are \$5 each. Residents may also purchase a "Quack Pack" of five tickets for \$20.

Tickets are available at the Rolling Meadows Community Center (3705 Pheasant Drive) or City Hall (3600 Kirchoff Road).

Other prizes to be awarded include a Disney Park Hopper Pass, passes to Six Flags Great America, tickets to Chicago's Museum of Science and Industry, movie theater passes, and a variety of products and services from local businesses.

For more information, contact the Park District at 847-818-3220 or visit [www.rmparks.org](http://www.rmparks.org).



## Eco-Friendly 'eBilling' Saves 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 more than 900 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](http://www.cityrm.org/finance). For more information, contact the Finance Department at 847-394-8500.

## eLockbox Service Streamlines Utility Payment Processing, Improves Convenience

With an increasing number of customers paying their utility bills through online banking, the Finance Department's electronic check processing service improves customer convenience and streamlines Department operations.

J.P. Morgan Chase's "eLockbox" service electronically processes customer payments submitted via online banking in just one or two days. Before, banks would literally "cut" a paper check on behalf of the customer and send it to the City for processing. That would often take anywhere from 7 – 10 days.

"Electronic payment processing significantly improves the Finance Department's operational efficiencies because it virtually eliminates the time-consuming process of manually entering customer payment data," 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.

## City's Vision for Electrical Aggregation Proves Successful

by Mayor Tom Rooney

Rolling Meadows' electrical aggregation program saved me \$228.31 in the first seven months. I'm pretty sure you have

noticed some savings as well.

I really cannot stand it when people – especially elected officials – overextend their arguments, so I try to avoid overextending my own. So, even though the electrical aggregation plan that voters approved last year will continue to save us all money as long as it remains in effect, I'll stop counting now at \$228.31. That's because, from this point forward, our savings are pretty much the same as in other communities that have followed in our footsteps.

What's noteworthy is that, because we acted quickly and "got in" early, we've saved more than everyone immediately around

us. We were among the first to realize aggregation's benefits, and our most of our neighbors took note and got on board.

For example, the village of Schaumburg chose not to pursue aggregation as early as we did (they generally frown on referenda). Once they saw the real benefits of aggregation, though, they quickly made an exception. They're now enjoying the benefits of aggregation, too, but seven months behind us.

Other communities developed aggregation programs when we did, but our consultants negotiated a marginally better rate for us. For example, an Arlington Heights customer using the same amount of electricity paid \$9.51 more over those seven months than I did. That's not a staggering amount to be sure, but it's nearly ten dollars that I wouldn't have if I didn't live in Rolling Meadows.

## Memorial Day Events Honor Veterans as the 'Heart' of Rolling Meadows

Nearly 200 veterans and guests enjoyed an evening of fine dining and camaraderie during the City's May 24 Veterans Dinner, which kicked off a weekend of Memorial Day events honoring local veterans. The dinner gathering remains one of only two such community-sponsored events in the entire state of Illinois.

Among the evening's highlights was a poignant presentation by guest speaker Georgette Frank, who, with her husband, Roy, co-founded The Heart of a Marine Foundation ([www.heartofamarine.org](http://www.heartofamarine.org)). She described the agony of losing their son, Phillip, who was killed in action in Iraq. To honor him and his service, "we took our pain and our pride and turned it into a foundation that cares for veterans with health issues," Mrs. Frank explained.



Veterans Committee Chair Robert Smith leads a wreath-laying ceremony at the Veterans Monument.

The City's tribute to veterans continued the next morning with a Memorial Day Parade through downtown Rolling Meadows and a solemn observance at the Carillon Tower.

Following a wreath-laying ceremony at the base of the City's Veterans Monument, Mayor Tom Rooney shared

the inspirational words of Georgette Frank from the prior night's event and urged residents to "find ways to support those who defend our freedom." Members of the City's Veterans Committee read the names of the 44 Rolling Meadows resident veterans who passed away last year.



City employee Deb Austerlode greets veteran Tom Coombs at the Carillon Tower after the parade.

## Renovated Meadows Marketplace to Boost City Tax Revenues

The new Meadows Marketplace shopping center will provide a significant boost to City sales tax revenues and draw more people to the downtown area when completed later this year, City officials believe.

Plans developed by Chicago-based Clark Street Development call for the redeveloped property, located at the site of the former Dominick's property on Kirchoff Road, to debut this fall. Uncle Joe's Tuscan Fresh Market, a 55,000 sq. ft. grocery store will serve as the shopping center's anchor tenant.



Latest design rendering of the new Meadows Marketplace

"When completed, Meadows Marketplace will play a vital role in strengthening Rolling Meadows' overall economic

health and enhancing the City's downtown business sector," Community Development Director Valerie Dehner explains.