

NEWS & VIEWS

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

Get ready for Sept. 8th Duck Race 2	September & October calendars 4
Visit Public Works Open House, Sept. 23rd . 2	National Fire Prevention Week preview . . . 5
RMPD: Use caution with unknown callers . . 3	Hometown Hoedown & fall events preview . 6

VOLUME 27 ISSUE 5



Updated guidelines are designed to help preserve an important natural resource that enhances property values.

CITY UPDATES TREE PRESERVATION GUIDELINES; PERMITS REQUIRED FOR SOME TREE REMOVALS

Updates to Rolling Meadows' Tree Preservation guidelines recently approved by City Council are designed to ensure the preservation of a vital natural resource that promotes commercial and residential property values and enhances the City's overall quality of life.

The new guidelines require property owners to acquire a permit before removing trees from commercial, office, industrial, or multi-family properties. Approved permits will be issued at no charge to applicants by the Community Development Department, with input provided by the Public Works Department's Forestry Division.

"Similar to how zoning laws help local governments protect the communi-

ty's interest, the newly revised tree guidelines ensure the preservation of an important natural resource," explained Assistant Public Works Director Jo Ellen Charleton. "They also ensure that property owners plant new trees when existing trees are removed."

In certain situations, property owners may be able to pay a replacement fee instead of planting new trees. Fees are determined by a formula based on the size and number of trees being removed.

Exemptions Provided

The guidelines exempt certain "nuisance tree" species from the protected list, meaning they may be removed without a permit. Diseased trees, or those that pose a public

...continued on p. 5

CITY'S 2022 FINANCIAL STATEMENTS RECEIVE 'CLEAN' BILL OF HEALTH

Rolling Meadows' Annual Comprehensive Financial Report (ACFR) for fiscal year 2022 meets the highest level of governmental accounting standards, according to reviewers at the accounting firm of Lauterbach & Amen, LLP who conducted an audit of last year's City finances.



Molly Talkington

The City received a "clean" audit opinion – the highest available – which reflects the fact that Rolling Meadows continues to meet or exceed all legally required national reporting guidelines. Furthermore, the findings underscore its commitment to operational excellence, fiscal responsibility, and transparency, Finance Director Molly Talkington said.

"Auditors determined that the data provided in the City's reporting was accurate and followed a format that enables residents to gain a better understanding of Rolling Meadows' finances," she explained. "Finance Department staff members did a wonderful job gathering the information and providing everything the reviewers asked for. I commend them for their effort, professionalism, and commitment to excellence."

Affects Bond Rating

Achieving the highest standards for financial operations also helps the City maintain its excellent credit ratings with Moody's Investors Service

...continued on p. 5

SEPTEMBER 8TH DUCK RACE TO SUPPORT ENVIRONMENTAL PRESERVATION EFFORTS

Rolling Meadows' annual Duck Race will take place Friday, September 8th, 6:30 pm, at Kimball Hill Park. It's a chance to help raise money for local environmental preservation efforts and win a variety of prizes – including the race's \$300 grand prize.

Purchase plastic ducks at the event or in advance at the Community Center (3705 Pheasant Drive) and City Hall (3600 Kirchoff Road) for just \$5 each. Increase your odds of winning with a "Quack Pack" of five ducks for \$20.

Proceeds from the event will support initiatives of the Rolling Meadows Environmental Committee, Rolling Meadows Historical Society, and Rolling Meadows Park Foundation.

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



Plastic ducks race down the "roaring rapids" at Kimball Hill Park while raising money for local environmental initiatives.

EXPLORE PUBLIC WORKS DEPARTMENT OPERATIONS DURING SEPTEMBER 23RD OPEN HOUSE EVENT

The Public Works Department's September 23rd Open House is a chance for residents to learn more about Department operations and explore the remarkable variety of services it provides to the community.

Drop by the Public Works facility at 3900 Berdnick Street anytime between 10:00 am – 2:00 pm for:

- **Live demonstrations** that showcase Department operations
- **Q&A sessions** with Public Works employees
- **Touch-a-Truck**

- **Free food** and refreshments (*while supplies last*)
- **Prizes** and giveaways

"Department employees are excited to showcase our services to the residents we serve," explained Public Works Director Aaron Grosskopf. "We think our guests will have a lot of fun and, in the process, gain a better understanding of the many ways Public Works helps make Rolling Meadows a great place to call home."

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



Residents learn more about Public Works services at last year's open house.

SUPPORT ROLLING MEADOWS' COMMUNITY EVENTS FOUNDATION



Financial support for the City's community events is provided by the Rolling Meadows Community Events Foundation, a 501(c)(3) nonprofit organization that relies on tax-deductible donations from residents and local businesses.

To contribute, please visit the Community Events Foundation page (www.cityrm.org/679/Community-Events-Foundation

on Rolling Meadows' website or scan the QR code, below.

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

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



PUBLIC WORKS, SWANCC TO PARTNER FOR OCT. 7TH E-WASTE/SHREDDING EVENT

The Public Works Department will host an electronics recycling and document shredding event at its 3900 Berdick Street facility from 9:00 am – 12:00 pm on Saturday, October 7th.



Sponsored by the Solid Waste Agency of Northern Cook County (SWANCC), the event will allow residents of Rolling Meadows and other SWANCC communities to safely recycle TVs, computers,

and other electronics equipment. State law prohibits these items from being deposited in landfills.

It will also offer a safe, tamper-resistant way to dispose of sensitive documents – including old tax forms, bank statements, medical records, and more

(limit six bag or boxes). Attendees should bring ID to confirm they are SWANCC customers.

For more information, and a listing of accepted eWaste items, visit www.swancc.org or call Public Works at 847-963-0500.

Recycle Outdated Electronics Equipment, including:

- Cable Receivers
- Cell phones
- Computer monitors
- Computers (Desktops, Notebooks, Tablets)
- Converter Boxes
- Fax machines
- Keyboards
- MP3 players
- Portable Digital Assistants (PDAs)
- Printers (multi-function printers)
- Satellite receivers
- Scanners
- Televisions (all types)
- Video Game Consoles
- Video Recorders/Players

'WHAT WOULD YOU DO?'

POLICE DEPARTMENT SAFETY TIPS HELP RESIDENTS AVOID COSTLY SCAMS

Would you be able to identify a con artist trying to scam you out of your hard-earned savings? Someone attempting to rob you of your personal possessions? Someone willing to trick you into sharing your personal information – either online or over the phone?

The Rolling Meadows Police Department is pleased to present the latest in a series of crime prevention tips to help residents protect themselves – and their family members – from all-too-common scams that victimize thousands of people each year.

Beware of Unknown Phone Numbers

Scenario: You receive a call from a

number you don't recognize. The person on the other end of the line claims to be your neighbor, the pharmacy, or even an old friend. **What should you do?**

Fact: Scammers often use automated messages to trick senior citizens into providing personal information. With that information – everything from social security numbers and prior addresses to driver's license numbers and dates of birth – criminals have the tools to hack into your financial accounts and withdraw funds without your authorization.

Solution: Do not answer calls from



unknown names or numbers; let the call go to voicemail. Once you have identified the caller and you KNOW this person, it's safe to call them back.

For more information, call the RMPD non-emergency number (847-255-2416).

LET'S GET SOCIAL! TAG POSTS WITH #CITYRMEVENTS

Let everyone know how much fun you are having! When attending City events, remember to tag your social media posts with [#cityrmevents](https://twitter.com/cityrmevents).

REGISTRY HELPS CITY CONNECT WITH LOCAL VETERANS

The Rolling Meadows Veterans Committee maintains a registry of resident veterans with whom they have previously connected. This list ensures that registered veterans receive invitations to Rolling Meadows' annual Memorial

Day ceremony, November Veterans Dinner, and other City events. Veterans who are not currently listed on the registry, and would like to add their names, may contact Lori Ciezak at ciezakl@cityrm.org.



SEPTEMBER 2023

All meetings take place at City Hall, unless noted.

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
WANT MORE NEWS? Access Rolling Meadows' electronic newsletter, <i>eNews</i> , published in February, April, June, August, October, and December, and archived at www.cityrm.org .					1	2
3	4 LABOR DAY City offices closed. Refuse & recycling collection delayed one day (Tuesday – Friday).	5 Environmental Committee, 6:00 pm Planning & Zoning Commission, 7:00 pm	6	7	8 Friday's ROCK! Concert, 6:00 – 10:00 pm, Kimball Hill Park	9
10	11 PATRIOT DAY Board of Fire & Police Commissioners, 9:00 am	12 Senior Luncheon, 12:30 – 2:30 pm, Community Center Crime Stoppers, 5:30 pm City Council Meeting, 7:30 pm	13	14 Adjudication Hearings 11:00 am (Red Light); 1:00 pm (Code); 2:00 pm (Parking)	15 ROSH HASHANAH	16
17	18	19 Community Events Foundation Volunteer Committee, 6:00 pm City Council Committee of the Whole, 7:30 pm	20 <i>Water bills due</i>	21	22	23 YOM KIPPUR FIRST DAY OF FALL Public Works Open House, 10:00 am – 2:00 pm (3900 Berdnick St)
24	25	26 Veterans Committee, 6:00 pm Capital Projects Committee, 6:30 pm City Council Meeting, 7:30 pm	27	28	29	30

OCTOBER 2023

All meetings take place at City Hall, unless noted.

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
1	2 Economic Development Committee, 6:00 pm	3 Environmental Committee, 6:00 pm Planning & Zoning Commission, 7:00 pm	4	5	6	7 Hometown Hoedown Fall Fest, 2:00 – 8:00 pm, Kimball Hill Park
8	9 COLUMBUS DAY Board of Fire & Police Commissioners, 9:00 am	10 City Council Meeting, 7:30 pm	11 Fire Pension Board, 8:30 am	12 Adjudication Hearings 11:00 am (Red Light); 1:00 pm (Code); 2:00 pm (Parking)	13	14 Fire Dept Open House, 10:00 am – 2:00 pm, Station 15 (3201 Algonquin Rd)
15	16	17 Community Events Foundation Volunteer Committee, 6:00 pm City Council Committee of the Whole, 7:30 pm	18	19	20 <i>Water bills due</i>	21
22	23 Police Pension Board, 3:30 pm	24 Veterans Committee, 6:00 pm Capital Projects Committee, 6:30 pm City Council Meeting, 7:30 pm	25	26	27	28
29	30	31 HALLOWEEN			Access upcoming City Council and volunteer committee meeting agendas at www.cityrm.org .	

Cooking safety starts with YOU.

Pay attention to fire prevention.™



FIRE PREVENTION WEEK™

fpw.org

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FIRE PREVENTION WEEK TO FOCUS ON SAFE COOKING

By Rolling Meadows Fire Chief Pete Sutter

Statistics compiled by the National Fire Protection Association (NFPA) confirms that cooking is the leading cause of home fires and home fire injuries in the United States. The data also show that unattended cooking is the leading cause of cooking fires and fire-related deaths.

In response, the Rolling Meadows Fire Department is proud to partner with NFPA to celebrate Fire Prevention Week 2023 (Oct. 8th – 14th) and promote this year's campaign: **"Cooking Safety Starts with YOU. Pay Attention to Fire Prevention."**

Our goal is to highlight simple but important actions residents can take while cooking to keep themselves and those around them safe.

As firefighters, we have seen homes damaged and people injured by fires that could easily have been prevented.

Key safety tips to help reduce the

risk of a cooking fire in your kitchen include:

1. **Watch what you heat.** Always keep a close eye on what you are preparing. Set a timer to remind yourself that food is cooking in your kitchen.
2. **Turn pot handles toward the back of the stove** and always keep a lid nearby when cooking. If a small grease fire starts, slide the lid over the pan and turn off the burner.
3. **Have a "child- and pet-free zone"** of at least 3 feet (1 meter) around the stove or grill and wherever hot food or drink is being prepared.

For more information on home fire prevention, contact the RMFD at 847-397-3352 or follow us on social media (Facebook and Instagram).

Learn more about National Fire Prevention Week at www.fpw.org.

UPDATES TO TREE PRESERVATION GUIDELINES ...continued from p.1

safety hazard, are waived from these requirements.

Single-family residential lots less than 20,000 square feet in size are also exempt, unless one or more "Protected Trees" totaling a cumulative 40" in diameter are being removed, or if the

property is being assembled with nearby properties for redevelopment.

Applications Available Online

Visit www.cityrm.org to learn more about program specifics and to access a tree removal permit application.

IN THE KNOW

REGISTER FOR 'CITIZEN ALERT' PROGRAM

Receive instant updates about community emergencies through the Citizen Alert platform operated by Northwest Central Dispatch System (NWCDS), the regional dispatch center that serves Rolling Meadows and nearly a dozen other northwest suburban communities.

Citizen Alert, powered by Everbridge, helps City and public safety officials notify residents of emergencies such as critical road closures, missing persons, traffic accidents, and more.



In the event of an emergency, the system will deliver messages to residents by email, voicemail, and text message, based on each user's preferences. To register, visit member.everbridge.net/1332612387831962/login.

For more information, visit www.cityrm.org and select "Emergency Citizen Alerts" from the "How Do I..." drop down menu.

FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

...continued from p.1

(Aa3) and S&P Global Ratings (AA+). These allow the City to borrow money through bond issues at lower rates, which can save taxpayers considerable sums of money over the life of the loan.

The ACFR is available for review online by visiting www.cityrm.org/233/Financial-Reports. For more information on Rolling Meadows' financial operations, contact the Finance Department at 847-506-6030 or fin@cityrm.org.



Visit Kimball Hill Park on Saturday, October 7th, for the City's annual Hometown Hoedown Fall Festival!

SNEAK PREVIEWS: UPCOMING COMMUNITY EVENTS

September

FRIDAYS ROCK! & Duck Race *Friday, 9/8, 6:00 – 10:00 pm* **Kimball Hill Park**

Rolling Meadows' annual Duck Race is a "quacktastic" way to support local environmental preservation efforts and win a variety of great prizes (see page 2 for details), but there's plenty more fun happening that evening! After the race, Kimball Hill Park comes alive with musical performances by *Barefoot Hawaiians* (Hula/Tahitian music and dancers) and *South of Disorder* (Jimmy Buffett tribute group).

Senior Luncheon *Tuesday, 9/12, 12:30 – 2:30 pm* **Rolling Meadows Community Center (3705 Pheasant Dr)**

Residents ages 50 and up will enjoy a lunch buffet, live performance by *Denny Diamond* (Neil Diamond tribute act), raffles, and more. Admission is \$8 per person. For reservations, call 847-818-3205.

Friday's ROCK! *Friday, 9/22, 6:00 – 10:00 pm* **Kimball Hill Park**

Get in the groove with *Mike & Traci from Good Clean Fun* (golden oldies and Motown) and *Rosie & the Rivets* (retro Rock n' Roll). *Rescheduled following July 14th rain-out.

Public Works Open House *Saturday, 9/23, 10:00 am – 2:00 pm* **3900 Berdnick St**

This "behind-the-scenes" glimpse of Public Works operations will feature live demonstrations, Q&A sessions with department employees, facility tours, vehicle displays (Touch-a-Truck), free food/refreshments, prizes and giveaways, and more. See story on page 2 for more information.

October

Hometown Hoedown *Saturday, 10/7, 2:00 – 8:00 pm* **Kimball Hill Park**

The City's popular Hoedown returns in 2023 with a new format: family-friendly afternoon attractions – pony rides, horse-drawn hayrides, kids' games, food, and more – followed by an evening of live entertainment featuring *Hillbilly Rockstarz* and their unique blend of Country and Rock & Roll music.

Fire Department Open House *Saturday, 10/14, 10:00 am – 2:00 pm* **Station 15 (3201 Algonquin Rd)**

Climb aboard fire engines, tour the fire station, and meet with the firefighters who protect our community.

Find the latest information on upcoming events at www.cityrm.org or on Facebook.

**CONTACT
CITY OFFICIALS**
City Hall Hours
8:00 am to 4:00 pm
Monday - Friday



MAYOR and CITY COUNCIL

Mayor Lara Sanoica	847-770-3097
1st Ward Alderman Karen McHale	773-517-3873
2nd Ward Alderman Nick Budmats	847-202-0855
3rd Ward Alderman Kevin O'Brien	847-212-2587
4th Ward Alderman Jenifer Vinezeano	630-546-8133
5th Ward Alderman Stefanie Boucher	224-200-9015
6th Ward Alderman Mandy Reyez	847-209-5435
7th Ward Alderman Mike Koehler	847-912-8750
City Manager Rob Sabo	847-394-8500

SERVICES

Fire & Police Emergency	911
Fire Non-emergency	847-397-3352
Police Non-emergency	847-255-2416
Community Development	847-506-6030
Finance/Utility Billing	847-394-8500
Public Works	847-963-0500
Senior Handyman Program	847-506-6030
Crime Stoppers	847-590-7867
ComEd	1-800-EDISON-1

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 www.youtube.com/@cityofrollingmeadows184

INQUIRE ABOUT CITY SERVICES

Contact specific departments for information about City services or operations.

Administration
admin@cityrm.org 847-394-8500

City Clerk's Office
clerk@cityrm.org 847-394-8500

Community Development
cd@cityrm.org 847-506-6030

Finance Department
fin@cityrm.org 847-394-8500

Fire Department
fd@cityrm.org 847-397-3352

Human Resources
hr@cityrm.org 847-394-8500

Information Technology
it@cityrm.org 847-394-8500

Police Department
pd@cityrm.org 847-255-2416

Public Works
pw@cityrm.org 847-963-0500