

NEWS & VIEWS

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

VOLUME 29 ISSUE 3



Tribute towers highlighting American soldiers who died in Afghanistan, Iraq, and elsewhere are the centerpieces of the "Remembering Our Fallen" traveling war memorial.

'REMEMBERING OUR FALLEN' WAR MEMORIAL ARRIVES IN ROLLING MEADOWS ON MAY 16TH

"Remembering Our Fallen," a traveling photographic war memorial honoring American service members lost in the Global War on Terror, will arrive in Rolling Meadows on Friday, May 16th for a three-day exhibition.

The exhibit, comprised of 34 "tribute towers" featuring images of fallen American soldiers who served in Afghanistan and Iraq, will be located in the shadow of the City's Carillon Tower and Veterans Monument, along the banks of Salt Creek.

Visitor parking is available at City Hall (3600 Kirchoff Road) and at nearby retail centers.

The Memorial is a project of Patriotic Productions, Inc., a 501(c)3 non-profit organization dedicated to honoring veterans.

Special thanks goes to members of the City's Veterans Committee for their role in bringing this exhibit to Rolling Meadows.

MAY 24TH CEREMONY TO HONOR SOLDIERS WHO DIED IN DEFENSE OF AMERICA'S FREEDOM

Rolling Meadows' 2025 Memorial Day observance will feature a moving tribute to the men and women who gave their "last full measure of devotion" in defense of America.

The May 24th ceremony, scheduled for 11am at the Carillon Pavilion on Kirchoff Road, will also feature a wreath-laying ceremony at the City's Veterans Monument (shown below).

Resident veterans and their family members are invited to take part in this year's event.

The City will provide reserved seating for all attending veterans and their guests.



MEMORIAL SCHEDULE

Friday, May 16th
• 6pm – Opening Ceremony

Saturday, May 17th
• 7am – Invocation
• 4pm – Ceremony

Sunday, May 18th
• 7am – Invocation
• 2pm – Closing Ceremony

REMEMBERING OUR FALLEN NATIONAL MEMORIAL
★ MAY 16 - MAY 18 ★

A Gold Star family's greatest fear is that their Fallen will be forgotten.

Hosted by the Rolling Meadows Veterans Committee and the City of Rolling Meadows

Join us at this photographic war memorial to honor and remember our country's Fallen service men and women from 9/11/2001 to present.

MAY 17TH OPEN HOUSE TO PRESENT UP CLOSE VIEW OF PUBLIC WORKS OPERATIONS & STAFF

The Public Works Department's upcoming community Open House is a chance for residents to enjoy a "behind the scenes" glimpse of Department operations and explore the remarkable variety of services it provides to the community.

This family-friendly event will take place Saturday, May 17th, 11am –2pm, at the Department's 3900 Berdick Street facility.



Attractions will include:

- Touch-a-Truck.
- Live demonstrations showcasing Department operations.
- Free food and refreshments (*while supplies last*).
- Kids giveaways.
- Interactions with Public Works staff.

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

PUBLIC WORKS SUPERINTENDENT BRAD VALENTINO HAS STRONG CONNECTION TO ROLLING MEADOWS

Brad Valentino has spent nearly 20 years serving Rolling Meadows residents as a Public Works Department employee. But the Streets and Refuse Superintendent has a connection to this City that dates back even further: he grew up here.



Brad Valentino

"I lived on Oriole Street until I was 21, but working here and seeing friends and family makes me feel as if I never moved away," Valentino said. "I love Rolling Meadows' small-town feel, which extends to City operations. Public Works staff members always make customer service and satisfaction our number one priority."

Began as Part-Timer

Valentino launched his Public Works career as a maintenance worker in what was then known as the Streets & Refuse Division. He began as a part-time employee but soon decided to pursue municipal service as a full-time career.

"I focused on working hard and learning as much as I could," he recalled. "I had always enjoyed working with my hands and being outdoors, so it felt like a good fit."

Valentino's work ethic and knack for acquiring new skills helped him rise through the ranks. After his promotion to Foreman, he helped plan and implement more efficient processes for scheduling curb and sidewalk repair work, improving the City's street patching operations, and creating banners and signs for City events.

Today, as Streets and Refuse Superintendent, Valentino's many responsibilities include managing annual street maintenance/repairs, forestry operations, refuse collection, and winter snow and ice removal services.

He and his team also offer valuable support for City-sponsored community events and assist the Police and Fire Departments with traffic control in emergency situations.

Technology & Approaches Foster More Efficient Services

"We recognize that the world of municipal services is constantly evolving, but I believe we do an excellent job adapting to advancements and using them to our advantage," Valentino explained.

He cites new, resin-based pipe lining that can help repair, and extend the lifespan of, underground water and sewer lines (without costly replacements) as a prime example of the City's commitment to improve service by adopting new operational efficiencies.

"I love Rolling Meadows' small-town feel, which extends to City operations. Public Works staff members always make customer service and satisfaction our number one priority."

"And our refuse service is the best in the area," Valentino added.

Strong Support System

Away from work, Valentino and his wife, Emilie, have three children – all of whom are involved in various activities (dance, gymnastics, football, baseball, basketball).

He coaches youth football and baseball, which "keep me busy about 10 months a year," and also enjoys fishing.

"Family time is incredibly important to me. My wife comes from a large family with roots in Rolling Meadows and I truly value our gatherings, whether they occur during the holidays or just involve a casual Sunday dinner," he said. "I'm very grateful to have such a strong support system."

UPCOMING FAMILY SERVICES DAY, BLOCK PARTY EVENTS EPITOMIZE CITY'S COMMUNITY SPIRIT

Rolling Meadows' community spirit will be on full display at these upcoming May and June events!

FAMILY SERVICES DAY

Saturday, May 10th
10am–1pm
Neighborhood Resource Center
(2260 Algonquin Parkway)

This lively pre-Monther's Day celebration is an opportunity to learn more about local social service resources! Guests will enjoy games, live entertainment, face painting, music, massages, and a complimentary barbeque (*while supplies last*).



Attendees will also have the chance to engage with members of the City's Human Services Department and area nonprofit organizations – including Rolling Meadows Library, local schools, and Rolling Meadows Park District, and more.

COMMUNITY BLOCK PARTY

Friday, June 6th
5:30–9:30pm
Rolling Meadows High School
(2901 Central Road)

One of the northwest suburbs' biggest block parties returns with family-friendly activities, music, food, and fun. The action takes place on Central Road (between Barker Avenue and Jay Lane). This year's Block Party will feature live performances by **Esso Funk** (*Latin Funk/Jazz/dance fusion*) and **Oh Yes!** (*Rock, Pop, & Country favorites*).

HISTORICAL SOCIETY'S MAY 4TH CRAWFORD'S THEMED EVENT TO COMMEMORATE CITY'S 70TH ANNIVERSARY

"Crawford's, Fashion, and Memories of the 1950s and Beyond" is the theme of a May 4th program sponsored by the Rolling Meadows Historical Society to celebrate the City's 70th anniversary of incorporation.

This HISTORIC event – which includes a fond recollection of the department store that anchored the City's downtown shopping center for over 30 years – takes place from 2-4pm at the Rolling Meadows Library (3110 Martin Lane).



Guests will enjoy refreshments, prizes, giveaways, and more.

The event's panel of guest speakers will include:

- **Susan Klein** – author/television producer/columnist.
- **Tracey Colagrossi** – former Crawford's employee.
- **Christine & Thomas Thiry** – longtime Rolling Meadows residents who will share family stories of how this community came together to support them in the face of unspeakable personal loss more than 40 years ago.

In addition, the 70th anniversary celebration will also feature live readings of memories submitted by residents of life in Rolling Meadows during the 1950s and beyond. Attendees may bring and share their own memories as well.

Historical Society members encourage residents to reserve their spots at this event to ensure available seating for everyone. Register by contacting the Historical Society at 847-577-7086 or 847-254-8520. Walk ins are welcome, based on seating availability.

GET READY FOR SOME STAR-SPANGLED FUN! REGISTER FOR CITY'S 4TH OF JULY PARADE

Rolling Meadows' annual July 4th Parade is more than a fun-filled celebration of our nation's independence: it offers a unique opportunity for businesses, community groups, schools, and other local organizations to build amazing floats and specialty vehicles; decorate bikes, trikes, wagons, and strollers; and engage with the community!

Don't miss out! Free online registration for the 2025 parade is available at www.cityrm.org. Submit completed applications by Friday, June 20th to reserve your spot!

The parade will begin at 11:30am, starting at Rolling Meadows High School (2901 Central Rd). The route travels north on Jay Lane, west on

Grouse Lane, north on Meadow Drive, and west on Kirchoff Road before ending in the Jewel Shopping Center parking lot.

For more information, contact Dave Whitney at 847-528-6542 or dcwhitney103@gmail.com.



**GARDENING THIS SEASON?
THINK 'NATIVE SPECIES' WHEN PLANTING**

Submitted by the Rolling Meadows Environmental Committee

Transform your home garden into a resilient, vibrant habitat for migratory Monarch Butterflies and other pollinators with free seed packets* offered by the Rolling Meadows Environmental Committee!

These packets contain a mix of Illinois native seeds and grasses specifically designed to support migratory Monarch Butterflies, whose natural habitat has been vastly diminished by agriculture and urban development. Packets are available for pick-up at City Hall (3600 Kirchoff Road).

Better Adaptability & Lower Costs

Environmental Committee members and City officials encourage all gardeners to integrate native vegetation into their spring and summer planting regimens. Non-native plant species – common flowers and plants found in the majority of local gardens – are often more expensive and more difficult to maintain



because they do not adapt well to local conditions.

This poor adaptability increases their need for watering, makes them susceptible to drought and pests, and limits their effectiveness at managing standing water in your yard or garden.

Meanwhile, native wildflowers, grasses, and trees are well suited to manage these conditions and grow with little maintenance. They also promote habitat for pollinators such as native bees and butterflies, which are vital for local ecology.

Learn More

Residents are invited to explore other native plant options from their local nursery, and consult planting guides from the Morton Arboretum (www.mortonarb.org), Illinois Plants (www.illinoisplants.org), and other sources.

**Special thanks to our partner, Renovo Seed, a nationwide industry leader in positive land use solutions.*

ADDITIONAL RESOURCES

Native Plantings

- dnr.illinois.gov/education/fyg-main.html
(Native plants for your garden)
- possibilityplace.com
(Native plant nursery south of the Chicago area with online sales)
- www.prairiemoon.com
(Native plants and seeds)

**Conserving Natural Resources
SPRINKLING RESTRICTIONS BEGIN MAY 15TH**

To conserve water, City ordinance prohibits lawn sprinkling between 12pm and 6pm, May 15th through September 15th.

The ordinance, which meets updated conservation standards established

by the Illinois Department of Natural Resources, also prohibits lawn sprinkling on any two consecutive days.

Per City statute, newly planted lawns (less than three months old) may be exempt from this provision.

**ANNUAL REPORT
CONFIRMS CITY WATER
MEETS ALL EPA HEALTH
AND SAFETY STANDARDS**

Rolling Meadows' drinking water in 2024 met all quality and safety standards established by the Environmental Protection Agency, according to the City's new Consumer Confidence Report (CCR) that details the source and quality of the water used by residents and businesses.

The full 2024 report will be posted on the City's website in late June or early July at www.cityrm.org/Archive.aspx?A-DID=11073.

The annual CCR provides basic facts about the City's water system, so that individuals have the information necessary to make water consumption decisions based on their personal health. It provides a general overview of water quality and water system operations. It also details where the water comes from, what it contains, and how it compares to regulating agency standards.

Most of the information and statements contained in the report are required by the Illinois Environmental Protection Agency for public knowledge.

Customers who would like to receive a printed version of the report by mail, once it is complete, should contact Public Works at 847-963-0500.

For more information on the Water Quality report or the City's water system, contact Utilities Superintendent Mark Kilarski (kilarskim@cityrm.org or 847-963-0500 ext. 7022).



Ur MOM



Catch Park Ridge's own Ur Mom – inspired by classic rock, blues, funk, folk, and other influences – at May's Bites & Beats event.

'BITES & BEATS' EVENT SERIES RETURNS MAY 28TH

Enjoy Food Trucks & Live Music on Kirchoff Road All Summer Long!

Rolling Meadows' Bites & Beats on Kirchoff program series is back for another summer season of tasty food truck fare and live musical entertainment!

Events will take place on the grounds of Community Church of Rolling



Meadows (2720 Kirchoff Road) on the fourth Wednesday of May, June, July, August, and September.

Guests will also be able to purchase adult beverages, courtesy of **Sayulita Mexican Restaurant** (ages 21 and up with valid ID). No outside food or drinks are permitted at these events.

For more details, visit www.cityrm.org or contact Martha Corner (cornerm@cityrm.org or 847-870-9004).

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|----------------|--|---------------|
| MAY 28 | 5:00 PM DJ RICO 7:00 PM UR MOM (Alternative Pop) | 5-9 PM |
| JUNE 25 | 5:00 PM DJ RICO 7:00 PM PHAT CATS (Pop & Rock) | 5-9 PM |
| JULY 23 | 5:00 PM DJ RICO 7:00 PM BIG DOG MERCER (Blues & Rock) | 5-9 PM |
| AUG 27 | 5:00 PM DJ RICO 7:00 PM GENR8R BAND (Multi-genre) | 5-9 PM |
| SEPT 24 | 6:00 PM JUDSON BROWN BAND (Multi-genre) | 5-7 PM |

VETERANS COMMITTEE REGISTRY FOSTERS COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT AMONG FORMER SERVICE MEMBERS

The Rolling Meadows Veterans Committee maintains a registry of resident veterans to ensure these former service members receive invitations to Rolling Meadows' annual Memorial Day ceremony, November Veterans Dinner, and other 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.



Rolling Meadows

CONTACT CITY OFFICIALS
City Hall Hours: 8am–4pm Mon.–Fri.

MAYOR and CITY COUNCIL

| | |
|-------------------------------------|--------------|
| Mayor Lara Sanoica | 224-230-8772 |
| 1st Ward Alderman Karen McHale | 224-580-6675 |
| 2nd Ward Alderman Nick Budmats | 224-580-8484 |
| 3rd Ward Alderman Kevin O'Brien | 224-221-3469 |
| 4th Ward Alderman Jenifer Vinezeano | 630-546-8133 |
| 5th Ward Alderman Stefanie Boucher | 224-200-9015 |
| 6th Ward Alderman Mandy Reyex | 847-209-5435 |
| 7th Ward Alderman Mike Koehler | 847-912-8750 |
| City Manager Rob Sabo | 847-394-8500 |

SERVICES

| | |
|-------------------------|----------------|
| Fire & Police Emergency | 911 |
| Crime Stoppers | 847-590-7867 |
| ComEd | 1-800-EDISON-1 |



www.facebook.com/cityofrollingmeadows



[@cityofrollingmeadows184](http://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

Human Services

socialworkrm@cityrm.org 847-870-2695

Information Technology

it@cityrm.org 847-394-8500

Police Department

pd@cityrm.org 847-255-2416

Public Works

pw@cityrm.org 847-963-0500