

# NEWS & VIEWS

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

**3-DAY EVENT ✨ SEPT. 12, 13, 14**  
**KIMBALL HILL PARK**

VOLUME 29 ISSUE 5

# MEADOWS Fest

**THE TAYLOR EXPERIENCE**  
**HI INFIDELITY ✨ 7TH HEAVEN**  
**HOW RUDE (90'S) & IN THE STIX (COUNTRY)**  
**BEVERAGES PROVIDED BY REP'S PLACE, MILLER & PEPSI**

NO OUTSIDE FOOD/DRINK ALLOWED

*Friday*

5:00 PM - DJ, FOOD & BAR OPEN  
7:00 PM - ANNUAL DUCK RACE  
8:00 PM - THE TAYLOR EXPERIENCE

*Sunday*

12-4:00 PM - FAMILY FUN & MARKET VENDORS  
4:00 PM - IN THE STIX ~ 6:00 PM - 7TH HEAVEN

*Saturday*

2-6:00 PM - FAMILY FUN & MARKET VENDORS  
6:00 PM - HOW RUDE ~ 8:00 PM - HI INFIDELITY

★ *Every day* ★

TASTE OF RM, BEER TENT & HEADLINING BAND

## CITY EARNS 'GOLD' FOR EV READINESS

Rolling Meadows is one of only four communities in Illinois to achieve "Gold Level" recognition by ComEd and the Metropolitan Mayors Caucus for completing a series of initiatives designed to support the growth of electric vehicles (EVs) and EV infrastructure.

In total, 38 communities across the state have participated in the **EV Readiness Program**, a joint effort launched by ComEd and the Caucus in 2022 to help prepare municipalities to accommodate the growing number of EVs on state roadways. Currently, more than 145,000 EVs are registered in Illinois; the vast majority operate in ComEd's northern Illinois service territory, which includes Rolling Meadows.

"The results of the EV Readiness Program show what's possible when cities decide to lead instead of follow," Mayor Lara Sanoica  
...continued on p. 3



## EIGHTEEN-YEAR RMPD VETERAN ANTHONY PELUSO TO SUCCEED RETIRING POLICE CHIEF JOHN NOWACKI

Nearly 30 years after beginning his law enforcement career – the last 18 spent here in Rolling Meadows – Deputy Police Chief Anthony Peluso will become the City’s new Chief of Police, effective September 29th.

Current Chief John Nowacki, who has held the position since 2016, recently announced plans to retire.

“I’m truly humbled by the fact that City leaders have entrusted me to guide the Rolling Meadows Police Department into the future,” Deputy Chief Peluso explained.

“It is an honor to work with the outstanding men and women who serve this organization. They dedicate themselves on a daily basis to providing excellent police services and, more importantly, are always looking for ways to improve.

“My sincere thanks to Chief Nowacki for his leadership these past nine years and for all of his support. I speak for the entire Department in offering him best wishes for a happy, fulfilling retirement,” he added.

### Personifies Public Service

Meanwhile, the outgoing police chief knows the Department’s future is bright.

“Deputy Chief Peluso has a deep understanding of the community we serve and the men and women who protect it,” Chief Nowacki said. “It has been my pleasure to work with him and watch him rise through the ranks. I have every confidence that he will be a fantastic leader in the years ahead. Rolling Meadows is in excellent hands.”

Chief Peluso joined the Department in 2007 with nearly a decade of law enforcement experience. He served

as a patrol officer, traffic officer, patrol sergeant, and administrative commander before earning promotion to deputy police chief last December.

Chief Peluso credits his career success to the Rolling Meadows Police Department’s sworn officers and civilian staff members.



Anthony Peluso



John Nowacki

As he looked back on a career comprised of service to the Elk Grove Village and Rolling Meadows Police Departments, he realized that he had indeed lived that dream for nearly 40 years. It was time to step away and let others take the lead.

“I could easily have stayed here in Rolling Meadows for many more years. I love this community, but it’s time to start a new chapter. Every good thing has to end at some point,” he explained.

As he leaves Rolling Meadows, Chief Nowacki is extremely proud of the many Department accomplishments that were made possible by its members working together, including:

- Establishing the Seniors and Law Enforcement Together (SALT) Advisory Council.
- Launching the K9 Unit.
- Recruiting and promoting outstanding law enforcement professionals.
- Expanding available social services (which presaged creation of Rolling Meadows’ new Human Services Department in 2024).
- Supporting ongoing community outreach efforts and events.

Most of all, Chief Nowacki takes pride in the men and women who selflessly serve the community by putting their lives in harm’s way.

“The Rolling Meadows Police Department belongs to the residents it serves. The men and women who answer the call are in a class all their own. They are leaders in the field of public service and law enforcement,” he said.

“It has been my privilege to work with them these past nine years.”

“The expectations placed on police officers have always been high. Our officers and civilian employees consistently exceed those expectations,” he explained. “We hire and train exceptional people who do an outstanding job of providing police services to Rolling Meadows residents and businesses.”

Continuing education and certification is another way Chief Peluso and Department staff maintain the high standards expected of them. The new chief holds a Master of Science degree in Public Safety Administration from Lewis University (Romeoville, IL) and is a graduate of the School of Police Staff and Command at the Northwestern University Center for Public Safety.

### ‘All Good Things...’

Chief Nowacki admits he wrestled with his decision to retire. It seemed only yesterday that he dreamt of one day becoming a police officer.



Crowds cheer as ducks "race" down the waterfall at Kimball Hill Park.

## SEPT. 12 DUCK RACE TO AWARD \$300 GRAND PRIZE Event Proceeds Support Local Conservation Efforts

Rolling Meadows' sensational 2025 Duck Race will run – or, more accurately, swim – down the Kimball Hill Park waterfall on Friday, September 12th, at 7pm. It's a chance for residents to help raise money for local environmental initiatives 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), City Hall (3600 Kirchoff Road), and the Rolling Meadows Historical Museum (3100 Central Road – Sundays only) 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 District.



## CITY EARNS 'GOLD' FOR EV READINESS...continued from p. 1

explained. "Rolling Meadows is proud to be recognized among the leaders creating a more sustainable future for our region."

Participation in the EV Readiness Program has helped communities increase EV registrations, while also helping them qualify for additional grant funding to support EV infrastructure buildout.

Rolling Meadows' participation also tracks with its long-term commitment to expand EV use on a City-wide scale. Plans call

for adding EVs to the municipal vehicle fleet and installing EV charging stations at City Hall for public use (currently in progress).

In addition, many local businesses and organizations host EV charging infrastructure, including AJ Gallagher, Meijer, Northrop Grumman, and Rolling Meadows High School.

For more information on the EV Readiness Program, visit the Metropolitan Mayors Caucus website ([www.mayorscaucus.org](http://www.mayorscaucus.org)).

# LOCAL EATS

## MEETCH'S BLENDS OLD-SCHOOL FLAVORS, NEW-SCHOOL BUZZ

Rolling Meadows foodies are flocking to Meetch's Wings & Things, where "the wings are wild, the burgers are smashed, and the dogs come with a Chicago accent."

Meanwhile, owner and chef Demetri Kontogiannis recently brought his signature wings and sauces to Chicago area TV screens during a "Cooking Up a Storm" segment on ABC7 Eyewitness News, earning Meetch's a growing regional following.



What's the secret behind the growing buzz? Everything – from the golden fries to the saucy wings – is cooked in 100% beef tallow, delivering a rich, crisp, nostalgic flavor that sets Meetch's apart.

Check out the full menu at [www.meetchswings.com](http://www.meetchswings.com).

**Meetch's Wings & Things**  
1911 W. Algonquin Road  
224-248-9620



# SEPTEMBER 2025

All meetings take place at City Hall, unless noted.

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
	<b>1</b> <b>LABOR DAY</b> City offices are closed. Refuse & recycling collections delayed one day all week.	<b>2</b> Planning & Zoning Commission, 7pm	<b>3</b>	<b>4</b> Environmental Committee, 6pm	<b>5</b>	<b>6</b>
<b>7</b>	<b>8</b> Board of Fire & Police Commissioners, 8:30 am	<b>9</b> City Council Meeting, 7pm	<b>10</b> RM Garden Club, 6pm (3705 Pheasant Dr) Library Board, 7pm (3110 Martin Ln)	<b>11</b> <b>PATRIOT DAY</b> Adjudication Hearings 11am (Red Light); 1pm (Code); 2pm (Parking)	<b>12</b> Fridays ROCK! Concert, 6–10pm Duck Race, 7pm (both at Kimball Hill Park)	<b>13</b>
<b>14</b>	<b>15</b>	<b>16</b> CEF Volunteer Committee, 6pm City Council Committee of the Whole, 6:30pm	<b>17</b>	<b>18</b>	<b>19</b>	<b>20</b>
Meadows Fest					Meadows Fest (Kimball Hill Park)	
<b>21</b>	<b>22</b> <i>Water bills due</i> <b>FIRST DAY OF FALL</b> ROSH HASHANAH begins at sunset	<b>23</b> Veterans Committee, 6pm	<b>24</b> Bites & Beats on Kirchoff, 5-7pm (2720 Kirchoff Rd)	<b>25</b>	<b>26</b>	<b>27</b>
<b>28</b>	<b>29</b>	<b>30</b> Capital Projects Committee, 6pm City Council Meeting, 7pm				

# OCTOBER 2025

All meetings take place at City Hall, unless noted.

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
<b>VIEW UPCOMING MEETING AGENDAS</b> Find agendas for upcoming City Council meetings, and minutes of past meetings, at <a href="http://www.cityrm.org/AgendaCenter">www.cityrm.org/AgendaCenter</a> .			<b>1</b> <b>YOM KIPPUR</b> begins at sunset	<b>2</b> Environmental Committee, 6pm	<b>3</b>	<b>4</b> eWaste & document shredding event, 9am–noon (Kimball Hill Park) Hometown Hoedown, 2–8pm (Kimball Hill Park)
<b>5</b>	<b>6</b> Economic Development Committee, 6pm	<b>7</b> Planning & Zoning Commission, 7pm	<b>8</b> RM Garden Club, 6pm (3705 Pheasant Dr) Library Board, 7pm (3110 Martin Ln)	<b>9</b> Adjudication Hearings 11am (Red Light); 1pm (Code); 2pm (Parking)	<b>10</b>	<b>11</b> Fire Department Open House, 10am–2pm (3201 Algonquin Rd)
<b>12</b>	<b>13</b> Board of Fire & Police Commissioners, 8:30am	<b>14</b> City Council Meeting, 7pm	<b>15</b>	<b>16</b>	<b>17</b>	<b>18</b>
<b>19</b>	<b>20</b> <i>Water bills due</i>	<b>21</b> CEF Volunteer Committee, 6pm City Council Committee of the Whole, 7pm	<b>22</b>	<b>23</b>	<b>24</b>	<b>25</b>
<b>26</b>	<b>27</b> Police Pension Board, 3:30pm	<b>28</b> Capital Projects Committee, 6pm Veterans Committee, 6pm City Council Meeting, 7pm	<b>29</b>	<b>30</b> Firefighters' Pension Board, 8:30am	<b>31</b> <b>HALLOWEEN</b>	

## Community Development Dept. Staff Profile: JORDAN ELLENA PLAYS KEY ROLE IN HELPING DEVELOPMENT PLANS BECOME REALITY



Jordan Ellena

From smaller home improvement projects to large business property expansions and upgrades, Jordan Ellena takes great pride in helping those efforts succeed.

As Deputy Director of Rolling Meadows' Community Development Department, Ellena oversees many of its day-to-day operations. He supervises the service team that helps customers with permit and licensing applications, along with the City's health inspection activities. He is also a department liaison to the Rolling Meadows Planning & Zoning Commission.

"My favorite part of this job is seeing both small and large projects move from concept to completion," Ellena explained. "Whether it's a homeowner installing a new fence or a complex commercial redevelopment that sometimes takes years to complete, it's very satisfying to help customers achieve their goals."

Ellena arrived in Rolling Meadows in mid-2024. He previously served as a Development Services Manager in Des Plaines and, prior to that, spent eight years with the city of Independence, MO in various

roles, including Management Analyst and Development Manager.

"The Community Development Department plays an important role in Rolling Meadows' continued growth and development," he said. "It's a pleasure to work with my fellow department team members on behalf of the residents and businesses who call this City home."

When not working to help build the City's future, Ellena enjoys taking lunchtime walks along the paths that wind through Kimball Hill Park.

His hobbies include bike riding, completing DIY projects around the house, and playing games with his two young sons.

Born and raised in Decatur, IL, Ellena studied political science at the University of Illinois (Urbana-Champaign) and initially considered a career as an elected official.

He soon turned his focus to public policy, which motivated him to earn a Master of Public Administration (MPA) degree. He also holds accreditation as a Certified Planner through the American Institute of Certified Planners (AICP).

## COMMITTEE REGISTRY FOSTERS ENGAGEMENT, CAMARADERIE 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 City events throughout the year.

Veterans who would like to be added to the registry may contact Lori Ciezak, Assistant to the City Manager, at [ciezakl@cityrm.org](mailto:ciezakl@cityrm.org).



## OCTOBER 7TH LUNCHEON TO BENEFIT HOPE FUND

The Human Services Department is proud to announce plans for the second annual "Celebration of Hope" luncheon on Tuesday, October 7th, 11am, at Meridian Banquets (1701 W. Algonquin Road).

The event is a fundraiser for the Rolling Meadows Hope Fund, which provides:

- Relocation support for survivors escaping violence,
- Emergency funding for recovery-related expenses, and,
- Financial relief for families navigating trauma and legal processes.

The luncheon will also recognize several of the Human Services Department's outstanding community partners, including Illinois Senator Mark L. Walker (D-27th), Rolling Meadows Librarian Laura Garcia, and Advance Preschool owner Kimberly Bianchini.

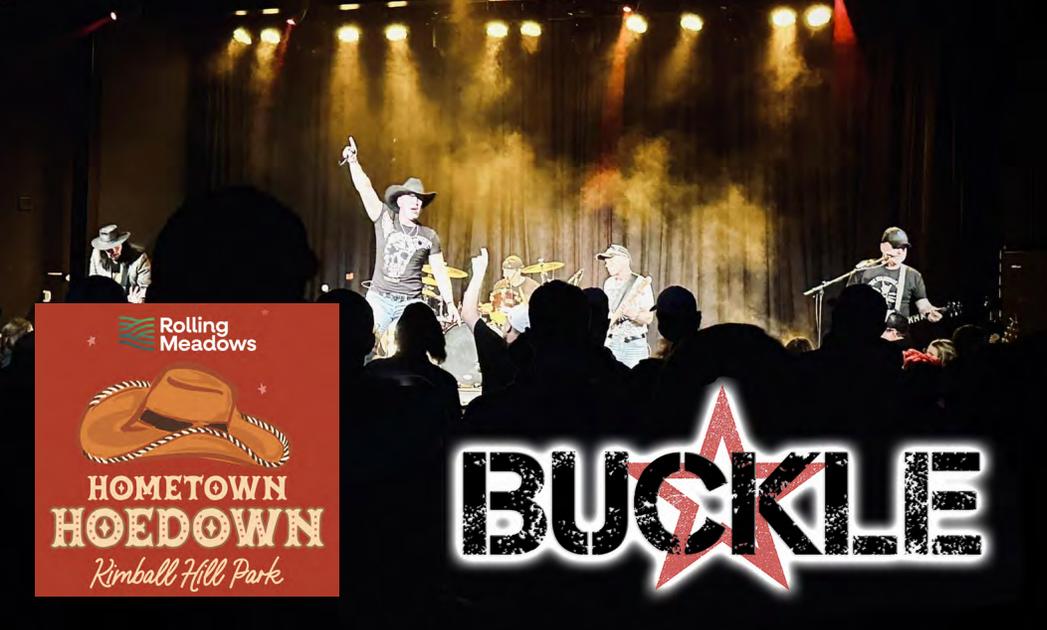
The Celebration of Hope is open to the public. Residents, businesses, and community groups are welcome to attend. Tickets are \$55 each.

Scan the QR Code to reserve your seat. For more information, visit [www.cityrm.org](http://www.cityrm.org).



### Business Sponsorships Available

Event sponsorships help tie local business brands to this worthy cause. Sponsor benefits also include multiple opportunities to market your business. Learn more by contacting Human Services at 847-870-2695 or [hopefund@cityrm.org](mailto:hopefund@cityrm.org).



# BUCKLE

BUCKLE will bring their blend of country-rock to Kimball Hill Park for "Sundown at the Hoedown" on October 4th.

## 'GIDDY UP' TO KIMBALL HILL PARK FOR OCT. 4TH HOMETOWN HOEDOWN

Grab your boots and mosey on over to Kimball Hill Park Saturday, October 4th, for the City's annual Hometown Hoedown!

Highlights of this year's epic fall festival will include:

### Family Fun (2–5pm)

All-ages attractions will feature hay rides, pony rides, petting zoo, games and crafts, square dancing, line dancing, and more. Welcome fall's arrival with your family, friends, and neighbors!

## JUDSON BROWN BAND HEADLINES SEASON'S FINAL 'BITES & BEATS' EVENT ON SEPT. 24TH

Rolling Meadows' Bites & Beats on Kirchoff program series concludes Wednesday, September 24th, on the grounds of Community Church of Rolling Meadows (2720 Kirchoff Road). The event will run 5 - 7pm.

Enjoy tasty food truck faire and musical entertainment by the **Judson Brown Band**, which specializes in acoustic rock, pop, and country music.

Guests will also be able to purchase alcoholic drinks, courtesy of **Sayulita Mexican Restaurant**

### Cowboy Cookout Dinner & Bar (2:30–8pm)

Enjoy food and beverages provided by Rolling Meadows' own Rep's Place. Alcohol purchases will be available for guests ages 21 and up with valid ID.

### Sundown at the Hoedown (5–8pm)

Explore live music and food and drink specials, capped off by a performance by BUCKLE (6-8 pm), "the Midwest's hottest country-rock experience."

(ages 21 and up with valid ID). No outside food or beverages are permitted at these events.

For more information, visit [www.cityrm.org](http://www.cityrm.org).



**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 Reyez . . . . . 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](https://www.facebook.com/cityofrollingmeadows)

 [www.youtube.com/@cityofrollingmeadows184](https://www.youtube.com/@cityofrollingmeadows184)

## INQUIRE ABOUT CITY SERVICES

Contact specific departments for information about City services or operations.

**Administration**  
[admin@cityrm.org](mailto:admin@cityrm.org) . . . . . 847-394-8500

**City Clerk's Office**  
[clerk@cityrm.org](mailto:clerk@cityrm.org) . . . . . 847-394-8500

**Community Development**  
[cd@cityrm.org](mailto:cd@cityrm.org) . . . . . 847-506-6030

**Finance Department**  
[fin@cityrm.org](mailto:fin@cityrm.org) . . . . . 847-394-8500

**Fire Department**  
[fd@cityrm.org](mailto:fd@cityrm.org) . . . . . 847-397-3352

**Human Resources**  
[hr@cityrm.org](mailto:hr@cityrm.org) . . . . . 847-394-8500

**Human Services**  
[socialworkrm@cityrm.org](mailto:socialworkrm@cityrm.org) . . . 847-870-2695

**Information Technology**  
[it@cityrm.org](mailto:it@cityrm.org) . . . . . 847-394-8500

**Police Department**  
[pd@cityrm.org](mailto:pd@cityrm.org) . . . . . 847-255-2416

**Public Works**  
[pw@cityrm.org](mailto:pw@cityrm.org) . . . . . 847-963-0500