



NEWS

Volume 20 Number 4

Independence Day
Event Details
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& Views

July/August 2016

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

PD's July 30th Community Bike Ride to Promote Cycling Safety, Fitness

The Police Department's 3rd annual Community Bike Ride, set for Saturday, July 30th, will offer a three-mile scenic tour of Rolling Meadows' bike paths and green spaces, and raise awareness of bike safety, Police Commander Tom Gadomski reports.



The City's July 30th Bike Ride will feature bike helmet giveaways, safety demonstrations, and a chance to mingle with Rolling Meadows police officers.

Riders of all ages will gather at the Rolling Meadows Community Center at 6 p.m., where pre-ride activities include a bike helmet giveaway and safety demonstrations provided by Tammy Town, a traveling training "town" dedicated to keeping children safe.

"The Community Bike Ride is an ideal forum to promote bike safety while encouraging residents to take advantage of the City's extensive bike path system," Cmdr. Gadomski explains. "But it's more than that. It's also a chance for the community to come together and enjoy a leisurely summer evening ride through town."

Riders will enjoy free ice cream following the event.

Held just three days prior to the City's annual National Night Out celebration (see story on page 3), the Bike Ride also helps police officers interact with the residents they serve in a relaxed, informal setting.

For more information on this year's event, visit the RMPD's Facebook page (www.facebook.com/rollingmeadowspolice), the City's website (www.cityrm.org) or call the Department's 24-hour, non-emergency phone number (847-255-2416).

Wi-Fi Upgrades to Improve Employee Efficiencies, Operations

City officials are moving forward with a plan to install 27 Wi-Fi access points at City-owned buildings to improve connectivity among employees who increasingly use mobile devices.

The Internal Wi-Fi Project will help improve staff efficiencies and virtually eliminate "dead spots" at City Hall, Public Works, and the Police and Fire Departments where connection signals aren't available.

"These upgrades are designed to accommodate the City's growing mobile workforce and promote more efficient operations," Justin Chiappetta, the City's IT Manager, explains. "Wi-Fi networks are essential for providing connectivity to mobile devices

used in the workplace, such as tablets, laptop computers, and cellular phones."

As an example, Chiappetta points to Public Works Department employees who often use iPads to collect data while out in the field. The expanded Wi-Fi network will allow them to upload or share data with team members without having to sit down at their desks and "plug in" to their desktop computers.

The new system will also feature a separate network for use by vendors, contractors, and guests. Installation is expected to be complete by late summer.



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.* 224-639-6686
- 6th Ward Alderman: *John D'Astice* 847-409-9367
- 7th Ward Alderman: *Tim Veenbaas* 847-385-1425
- 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
- Senior Handyman Program 847-506-6030
- ComEd. 1-800-EDISON-1
- Curfew . . . Sun. - Thurs. 11 p.m.; Fri. & Sat. Midnight



- www.facebook.com/cityofrollingmeadows
- www.twitter.com/@CityofRM1
- Find Us on the Web: www.cityrm.org

Celebrate American Independence, July 4th

Community Parade (11:30 a.m.) – The City’s 2016 Independence Day Parade steps off at Rolling Meadows High School before heading north on Jay Lane, west on Grouse Lane, north on Meadow Drive, and west on Kirchoff Road to the Rolling Meadows Shopping Center. The event will feature floats, decorated bikes, a “pooch” parade, and much. To participate, call 847-394-8500 or visit www.cityrm.org.

City-sponsored Fireworks



(Approx. 9:15 p.m.) – Following a star-spangled afternoon of backyard celebrations with family and friends, residents are invited to Salk Park to enjoy the City’s dazzling fireworks display.



Richards Building Supply Opens New Rolling Meadows Location

Richards Building Supply Co., a wholesale distributor of residential and commercial building materials, has opened its newest location at 4001 Industrial Avenue in Rolling Meadows. The 52,000 sq. ft. property had been vacant for nearly six years.

The company relocated employees from its former Palatine location, and announced plans to expand its workforce by roughly 25% over the next few years.

As part of the City’s commitment to economic development, aldermen last year approved a resolution supporting the company’s efforts to obtain a Class 6b Tax incentive from Cook County. 6b is an economic development tool used to revitalize vacant properties by temporarily reducing their property tax rates.

Memorial Day Observance Remembers Heroes

Rolling Meadows residents honored the lives and legacies of service members who paid the ultimate price during the City’s annual Memorial Day observance on May 28th.

Residents who lined Kirchoff Road for this year’s Memorial Day Parade saved their greatest cheers for generations of local veterans who proudly marched along the downtown route. Hundreds of community members then gathered at the Carillion Tower to pay homage to those who died in defense of our nation.

Memorial Day is an opportunity to re-



Members of the Police Department Honor Guard present our nation’s colors to begin the ceremony.



Lt. Commander John P. Mikols delivers the keynote address during this year’s Memorial Day observance.

member the “brave men and women who died to make sure we were able to come home,” explained keynote speaker and Rolling Meadows native John P. Mikols, Lieutenant Commander, United States Navy Reserve. “Their sacrifice allows us to progress as a society and as a country. We have an obligation to tell their stories and celebrate their lives.”

After honoring the 28 Rolling Meadows resident veterans who passed away in 2015, Veterans Committee members conducted a wreath-laying ceremony at the base of the Veterans Monument. The Rolling Meadows Police Department Honor Guard then raised their rifles for a traditional 21-gun salute, followed by Taps.

Community Block Party Kicks Off Summer

Hot food, cool treats, and an expansive display of police and fire vehicles were just a few of the attractions that drew hundreds of residents to the City’s second annual Community Block Party on Friday, June 10th.

Held along a stretch of Kirchoff Road just east of downtown (between Meadows Drive and Oriole Lane), event guests also



Tomorrow’s PGA pros took to the “links” for some miniature golf.



As temperatures approached 90 degrees, block party attendees kept cool with a variety of treats from Kona Ice.

visited the season’s first Friday evening edition of Farmers and Food Trucks at Community Church, and the Rolling Meadows Cruisers’ weekly “Cruise Night” car show at Meadows Christian Fellowship.

Largest Ever National Night Out Community Celebration to Feature Expanded Roster of Entertainment, Attractions, August 2nd

Take a stand against crime with the Rolling Meadows Police Department Tuesday, August 2nd, 6 – 8:30 p.m., when the City hosts its largest ever National Night Out celebration at the Rolling Meadows Community Center (3705 Pheasant Drive).

This year's free event will feature an expanded roster of family-friendly entertainment and attractions, including:

- Demonstrations by performers from Medieval Times.
- Aerial acrobatics by the Jesse White Tumblers.
- Up-close views of the "Flight for Life" medical transport helicopter and other emergency vehicles.



National Night Out helps residents and police officers take a stand against crime.

- Performances by the official Chicago Bears Drum Line.
- Appearances by Chicago sports mascots.
- Free snacks and refreshments (while supplies last).

"National Night Out is designed to heighten awareness of local crime prevention efforts and promote valuable safety informa-



Sophisticated life-saving equipment, including the Flight for Life helicopter, will be on display.

tion in a setting where everyone can enjoy themselves," Police Chief John Nowacki explained. "I invite everyone to join us for what is sure to be a fun-filled evening of community spirit and camaraderie."

Rolling Meadows' annual National Night Out celebration has been recognized for excellence by the National Association of Town Watch (NATW), which organized the first National Night Out observance in 1983. Last year, the City was one of only 191 communities recognized by NATW as a National Award Winner, when more than 16,000 communities hosted National Night Out events.

Patient Surveys Commend Firefighters' Training, Professionalism; Help Fire Department Assess Quality of Emergency Services



Scott Franzgrote

Rolling Meadows firefighters are "angels of mercy" who are "well-trained" and "very professional," according to patients who received emergency medical services from the Rolling Meadows Fire Department in the first three months of 2016.

The comments were collected through the Fire Department's EMS Customer Service Survey, which allows patients who have been treated by RMFD personnel to rate their experiences. Patient feedback allows Department officials to continually assess the quality of services provided to community members. RMFD has been collecting this information via patient surveys for the past three years.

"I've always known that Rolling Meadows firefighter/paramedics do outstanding work, but these surveys demonstrate that our residents feel the same way," Fire Chief Scott Franzgrote explains. "The vast majority of Rolling Meadows residents will never need our services, but the small number that do are our best measure of excellence."

"I'm extremely proud of the way Rolling Meadows firefighter/paramedics and officers continually challenge themselves to exceed our residents' expectations."

– Fire Chief Scott Franzgrote

Between January 1st and March 31st, more than 96% of survey respondents "strongly agreed" that Fire Department personnel:

- Acted in a professional manner.
- Demonstrated courtesy and respect.
- Were helpful and informative.

Patient responses from April 1st – June 30th will be tabulated and made available for review later this summer.

"As fire chief, I'm extremely proud of the way

Rolling Meadows firefighter/paramedics and officers continually challenge themselves to exceed our residents' expectations," Chief Franzgrote says.

"Feedback from the customer surveys consistently demonstrates that our community holds their fire department in very high regard," he adds. "We are grateful for those who took the time to complete the survey, which also helps us validate our services and gain perspective on ways to improve in the future."

July 2016

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
Summer fun continues Saturday, July 16th, at the Rolling Meadows Community Center during the City's second annual Parking Lot Party. See story on page 5.					Cruise Night , 5-8 pm, Meadows Christian Fellowship (2401 Kirchoff Road) 1	2
3	Independence Day 4 Parade , 11:30 am Fireworks , Dusk (9:15 pm)	Economic Development 5 Committee , 6 pm Environmental Committee , 7 pm Plan Commission , 7:30 pm, all at City Hall	Crime Stoppers , 5:30 pm, City Hall 6	7	Farmers & Food Trucks , 8 4-8:30 pm, Community Church (2720 Kirchoff Rd) Cruise Night , 5-8 pm	9
10	Board of Fire & Police 11 Commissioners , 9 am, City Hall	City Council Meeting , 12 7:30 pm, City Hall	13	Adjudication Hearing , 14 1 pm, City Hall	Cruise Night , 5-8 pm 15	Community Event: 16 Parking Lot Party , 3-11 pm, Community Center
17	18	City Council Committee 19 of the Whole , 7:30 pm, City Hall	Water bills due 20	Adjudication Hearing 21 (Red Light), 2 pm, City Hall	Cruise Night , 5-8 pm 22	Farmers & Food Trucks , 10 am-2 pm, City Hall 23
24	Police Pension Board, 25 3:30 pm, City Hall	City Council Meeting, 26 7:30 pm, City Hall	27	28	Cruise Night , 5-8 pm 29	RMPD Community 30 Bike Ride , 6 pm, Community Center
31						

August 2016

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
	1	Econ. Dev. Cte. , 6 pm 2 Environmental Cte. , 7 pm Plan Commission , 7:30 pm, all at City Hall Natl. Night Out , 6-8:30 pm, Community Center	Crime Stoppers , 5:30 pm 3 Zoning Board of Appeals , 7:30 pm, both at City Hall	Adjudication Hearing 4 (Parking), 2 pm, City Hall	Cruise Night , 5-8 pm, Meadows Christian Fellowship (2401 Kirchoff Road) 5 Community Event: Wine Down by the Creek , 6-10 pm, Kimball Hill Park	Cornfest , 11am-7 pm, Community Church (2720 Kirchoff Rd) 6
7	Board of Fire & Police Commissioners , 9 am, City Hall 8	City Council Meeting , 9 7:30 pm, City Hall 9	10	Adjudication Hearing , 11 1 pm, City Hall	Farmers & Food Trucks , 12 4-8:30 pm, Community Church Cruise Night , 5-8 pm 9th Annual Duck Derby , 6:30 pm, Nelson Sports Complex (3900 Owl Dr)	13
14	15	City Council Committee 16 of the Whole , 7:30 pm, City Hall	First day of school for grades 1-8 (District 15) 17	Adjudication Hearing 18 (Red Light), 2 pm, City Hall Kindergarten and early childhood classes begin (District 15)	Cruise Night , 5-8 pm 19	20
21	Water bills due 22	City Council Meeting , 23 7:30 pm, City Hall	24	25	Cruise Night , 5-8 pm 26	Farmers & Food Trucks , 10 am-2 pm, City Hall 27
28	29	30	31		Keep updated on City news with Rolling Meadows' electronic newsletter, E-News & Views , published in February, April, June, August, October and December. Each newsletter is archived on the City's Website, www.cityrm.org .	

Award Confirms City's Commitment to 'Highest Budgeting Principles'



Rolling Meadows is one of only 1,491 entities across North America to earn the Government Finance Officers

Association of the United States and Canada's Distinguished Budget Presentation Award.

The award confirms that City officials and staff members achieve "the highest principles of governmental budgeting," according to a GFOA news release.

To earn the award, Rolling Meadows had to meet a series of nationally-recognized guidelines that assess how well its budget serves as a(n):

- Policy document.
- Financial plan.
- Operations guide.
- Communications device.

Along with other award recipients, the City has "pioneered efforts to improve the quality of budgeting and provide an excellent example for other governments throughout North America," GFOA officials said in the release.

This isn't the first time Rolling Meadows has been recognized by the GFOA for excellence. The City has received the Association's Certificate of Achievement for Excellence in Financial Reporting for the past 29 years – underscoring the City's commitment to financial transparency.

For more information, please visit www.gfoa.org.

Lexington Crossing Draws Strong Interest; Nearly 30 of 54 Planned Townhomes Sold

Chicago-based homebuilder Lexington Homes is experiencing strong demand for its new luxury townhome development now rising on Kirchoff Road, with nearly 30 of 54 planned units already sold.

The development, known as Lexington Crossing, is being built on the site of the former AMF Bowling Center that closed in 2012. It will feature a mix of two- and three-bedroom townhomes ranging in size from 1,605 – 1,913 square feet. Prices start at \$299,490. To learn more, call 847-299-0500 or visit www.lexingtonchicago.com.

City officials believe the project, which will boost the downtown area's residential population, will create new opportunities

for area businesses – many of which are within walking distance of the development. Lexington Crossing follows in the footsteps of other successful residential developments along Kirchoff Road, such as Riverwalk and Kimball Square.



Potential buyers may now view model townhomes at the new Lexington Crossing.

Let the Good Times 'Roll in Meadows' Foundation to Host July Parking Lot Party, August 'Wine and Beer' Event in the Park

Summer celebrations in Rolling Meadows kick into high gear with a Parking Lot Party at the Rolling Meadows Community Center on July 16th, followed by the second annual "Wine Down by the Creek" on August 5th in Kimball Hill Park.

Parking Lot Party (Saturday, July 16th,

3 – 11 p.m.) – Food trucks, dunk tanks, kiddie train rides, games, and children's entertainment will highlight this mid-summer community tailgate. The party will also feature live music by Sushi Roll, a group known for "high energy dance music and rock n' roll swagger," according to the band's website.



Torrential downpours at last year's Wine Down didn't "damper" the spirits of those in attendance.

Wine Down by the Creek (Friday, August 5th, 6 – 10 p.m.) – Mingle with family and friends at Kimball Hill Park and enjoy a variety of locally produced wines and beers. Admission to the event, sponsored by Ben Franklin Bank, is free. Adults 21 and up may purchase beverages with photo ID. The festivities will also feature live music and food trucks.

For more information on these events, contact City Hall at 847-394-8500.

Did You Know? U.S. Flag Code Guides Proper Display of Stars and Stripes



The U.S. Flag Code, approved by Congress in 1942, offers guidelines for the proper, respectful display of the American Flag. The code states that the flag:

- Should be properly illuminated if flown past sunset.
- Should be hung vertically with the union (stars) to the north or east when displayed over a street.
- Should never touch anything beneath it.
- Should be hoisted briskly and lowered ceremoniously.
- Should never be carried flat or horizontally, but always aloft and free.

City Just One of Many Entities Comprising Property Tax Bills

by Mayor Tom Rooney

A local newspaper recently identified Rolling Meadows as fourth on the list of suburban communities where residents will see the highest increases in their August property tax bills. While the statistic quoted for the City (a 6.8% increase) is technically correct, the context in which it was presented is misleading.

As residents, we identify ourselves by the city or village where we live. When asked, nobody responds “I live in Cook County,” or “I live in District 15,” or “I

live in the Mosquito Abatement District.” In that sense, it was appropriate for the newspaper to identify Rolling Meadows as #4 on the list. However, the information presented in the article was based on *total* property tax, not the cities where residents who pay those taxes live.

Remember that property taxes are determined by multiple taxing bodies and other calculations. The City of Rolling Meadows itself is only responsible for about one-fifth of residents’ property tax bills. The rest is charged by school

districts, the county, the township, park district, and other area taxing bodies.

So what’s the bottom line? The City itself only collects about 20% of your property tax bill. That small portion of the total has increased 4.1%, mostly to cover our pension payment obligations.

Therefore, simple math says that if the average property tax bill paid by our residents is rising 6.8%, it is due to factors and taxing bodies other than the City of Rolling Meadows. The City did not – and cannot – make any changes to the other 80% of your property tax bill.

Torch Run Help Police Officers Support Special Olympics Illinois

The Rolling Meadows Police Department helped raise awareness of – and money for – athletes who participate in Special Olympics Illinois, during this year’s Law Enforcement Torch Run.

Department members proudly carried the “Flame of Hope” along a nearly two-mile stretch of Golf Road (Route 53 to Algonquin Road) on Sunday, June 5th, before passing it to officers in Arlington Heights. In total, thousands of law enforcement

professionals carried the torch nearly 1,500 miles across the state to its final destination – the opening ceremonies of Special Olympics Illinois’ Summer Games in Bloomington/Normal.

The Law Enforcement Torch Run was established in 1986. To date, it has helped raised nearly \$40 million in support of Special Olympics athletes and their accomplishments. Visit www.soill.org for more information.



Rolling Meadows police officers carry the Flame of Hope along Golf Road on June 5th.

RMFD Helps Grant Child’s Wish; 11-year-old Serves as Department’s ‘Honorary’ Fire Chief

Francis Oriji, an 11 year-old with Sickle Cell Anemia, served as “Honorary Fire Chief” of the Rolling Meadows Fire Department on May 28th, after the City partnered with the Make a Wish Foundation to help Francis achieve his goal of serving as a firefighter.

The title of Honorary Fire Chief was bestowed by mayoral proclamation, which was presented to Francis at City Council’s May 24th meeting. Francis met with firefighters, learned about the sophisticated equipment they use, toured Department facilities, and was given a ride in one of the City’s fire engines.

The Make a Wish Foundation helps grant wishes to children diagnosed with



11 year-old Francis Oriji takes the helm of the Rolling Meadows Fire Department during his 24-hour tenure as honorary fire chief. Assembled behind him are (from left) Battalion Chief Jeff Moxley; firefighter/paramedics Brad Petrik, Mike Padula, Mike Mullaney, and Tim King; Lieutenant Colin Finlay and Fire Chief Scott Franzgrote.

life-threatening medical conditions. Learn more at www.wish.org.

Register to Serve as Election Judge this November

Rolling Meadows residents with a strong interest in observing the democratic process up close may apply to serve as poll workers for the November 8th General Election.

The Cook County Clerk’s Office employs two types of workers on Election Day: election judges, who earn \$175 for their time; and equipment managers, who are paid \$325 for their service.

Applicants must be U.S. citizens and registered Cook County voters. Learn more or register online at www.cookcountryclerk.com.