



# NEWS

Volume 21 Number 3

Friday Night  
Concert Series  
Debuts in June  
*Story on Page 2*

# & Views

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

## 'We Honor Those Who Serve' Memorial Day Parade, Observance to Pay Tribute to Veterans, May 27th

Rolling Meadows will hold its annual tribute to local veterans, and honor all who gave their "last full measure," at the City's Memorial Day Parade and observance Saturday, May 27th.

**Downtown Veterans Parade (11 a.m.)**  
Resident veterans and family members



Veterans Committee members lead a wreath-laying ceremony at the Carillon Tower.

will start at the Fogarty Fire Station and march west along Kirchoff Road, while residents line both sides of the street to commemorate their service. Vehicles will be provided for those who prefer to ride the length of the route.

**Memorial Day Observance (11:30 a.m.)**  
Parade-goers will convene at the Carillon Tower, where retired U.S. Army Chief Warrant Officer Eliseo Lopez will present the ceremony's keynote address. Dignitaries will lead a wreath-laying ceremony at the base of the City's Veterans Monument, and members of the Rolling Meadows Veterans Committee will read the names of local veterans who passed away over



Rolling Meadows' Memorial Day Parade allows younger generations to thank veterans for their service. the previous year.

Veterans who have not participated in prior Memorial Day ceremonies, and would like to join this year's event, should contact City Hall at 847-394-8500.

## Community Events Foundation Partners with Portillo's for May 4th Fundraiser

Enjoy a delicious meal with family and friends while supporting the City's Community Events Foundation, during an evening fundraising event at the Rolling Meadows Portillo's (1900 West Golf Road).

From 5 – 8 p.m. on Thursday, May 4th, Portillo's will donate 20% of all eligible purchases to the Foundation, which helps fund annual City-sponsored community events.

Bring in this flyer or show it on your smartphone and 20% of the proceeds will benefit

ROLLING MEADOWS COMMUNITY EVENTS FOUNDATION

May 4th, 2017  
5pm - 8pm

at the Portillo's located at:  
1900 W. Golf Rd.  
Rolling Meadows, IL 60008

We look forward to seeing you there!

To learn more about how you can partner with us to serve as a better tomorrow, visit [portillos.com/good](http://portillos.com/good)

Guests who want Portillo's to contribute 20% of their food purchases to the Foundation must bring a fundraising flyer – available on the City Website ([www.cityrm.org](http://www.cityrm.org)) and at City Hall (and pictured here). Diners may also take a picture of the flyer and display it on their smartphones.

Snap a photo of the flyer pictured here, and share with others to spread the word!

## City's 15th Annual Veterans Dinner Set for May 26th

Veterans and guests will enjoy an evening of camaraderie with fellow service members during Rolling Meadows' 15th annual Veterans Dinner, set for Friday, May 26th, 6 – 9 p.m.

The annual event – a centerpiece of the City's Memorial Day activities – will be held at Meridian Banquets (1701 West Algonquin Road). Space is limited to 200. Contact City Hall at 847-394-8500 for reservations.

## Contact City Officials: City Hall Hours: 8 a.m. to 4 p.m. Monday-Friday

### MAYOR and CITY COUNCIL

Acting Mayor/7th Ward Alderman:

- Tim Veenbaas . . . . . 847-385-1425
- 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
- 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



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Find Us on the Web:  
[www.cityrm.org](http://www.cityrm.org)



SODA band members perform great music from many different genres.

## Outdoor Summer Concert Series Kicks Off in Kimball Hill Park on June 16th

Popular Chicago-area band SODA will headline the first of several free summer concerts in Kimball Hill Park at 7 p.m. on Friday, June 16th, as the City unveils its new *FRIDAYS ROCK! and Roll in Meadows* event series.

Bring a picnic dinner to this all-ages “Ravina-style” event – or purchase food from onsite food trucks – while enjoying SODA’s diverse live set list.

According to its website, the band excels at performing a variety of music – everything from Johnny Cash and The Zac Brown Band to John Mellencamp and Bruno Mars. Genres covered include Classic Rock, 80s New Wave, Motown, Disco, Hip-Hop, Reggae, and Alternative.

Additional *FRIDAYS ROCK!* concerts will take place July 7th and September 8th, 7 – 10 p.m. Show details will be available in upcoming issues of *News & Views* and in the weeks leading up to each performance.

### Stay Connected with Facebook, Twitter, Web

 [www.facebook.com/cityofrollingmeadows](http://www.facebook.com/cityofrollingmeadows)

 [@CityofRMI](http://www.twitter.com/CityofRMI)

 Find Us on the Web: [www.cityrm.org](http://www.cityrm.org)



## Len Prejna Elected Rolling Meadows Mayor; Council to Welcome Two New Members



Len Prejna

Len Prejna, who has represented Ward 2 residents on the City Council for the past four years, was elected Rolling Meadows mayor on April 4th to complete the final two years of the current mayoral term.



Jerry Hill

His decision to seek the mayor’s seat, along with contested races in the 4th and 6th Wards, means that City Council will soon have a new roster of representatives.

Long-time resident Jerry Hill will succeed Prejna as 2nd Ward Alderman, after running unopposed for a four-year term.



Joe Gallo

Voters in the 4th Ward elected Joe Gallo to represent them for the next four years. Alderman-elect Gallo will succeed current Alderman Brad Judd, who has served on the City Council since 2009.



John D’Astice

In the 6th Ward, residents re-elected Alderman John D’Astice to a third consecutive four-year term in a race that also featured 45-year resident Tom Trapani.

Plans call for the newly-elected Council members to be sworn-in on May 9th, after election results have been certified.

## Aggressive Tree Removal/Planting Program Helps Offset City Losses Caused by EAB

More than 2,500 ash trees dotted City-owned public property when the Emerald Ash Borer (EAB) arrived in Rolling Meadows six years ago. As this issue of *News & Views* went to press, that number stood at 215, City Forester Graham Strebler reports.

The rapid decline is, in large part, due to an aggressive strategy implemented by Public Works to remove infested ash trees before they pose a threat to public safety. The City is also replacing lost trees with a diverse set of species to strengthen Rolling Meadows’ urban forest.

### New Plantings Offset Losses

“The City has removed about 2,300 infested ash trees over the past several years, with another 50 slated for removal in 2017,” Strebler explained. “We have offset those losses with new tree plantings – an additional 400 of which will be completed this year.”

The tree replacement program includes multiple species to replace dying ash trees. “Planting a variety of different types of trees is essential for creating a healthy population,” Strebler says. “We make sure a par-

ticular tree species does not exceed 10% of the City’s total population, which limits the risk of future invasive threats wiping out a significant portion of our trees.”

The 165 ash trees that will remain after this year’s removal effort are undergoing pesticide treatment by either the City or adjacent property owners. Strebler says treatments will likely continue until they are no longer effective.



### Trees on Private Property Also at Risk

The program does not cover ash trees located on private property, park lands, and wooded areas. Strebler encourages homeowners to watch for evidence of the EAB’s presence: damage to upper branches, unusual woodpecker damage, growth of new “sucker” branches near the base of a tree’s trunk, or “D”-shaped holes on a tree’s trunk.

Rolling Meadows ordinance allows the City to charge property owners for the removal of stricken ash trees that pose a danger to public safety. Residents with questions or concerns about trees located on their property should contact Public Works at 847-963-0500.

## Permit Rebates Encourage Residents to Reinvest in their Current Homes

Residents who may be considering home improvements to increase overall square footage now have some added incentive to proceed with their plans: reduced City permit fees.

A “House Redevelopment Program” approved by City Council earlier this year lets single-family homeowners take advantage of rebates that lower the cost of building permit fees issued by Rolling Meadows’ Community Development Department.



Valerie Dehner

The goal, according to CDD Director Valerie Dehner, is to help residents remain in their homes as their families grow, and keep their roots in Rolling Meadows.

“Much of the City’s housing stock is comprised of smaller houses situated on larger lots, which can provide available space for residents to consider additional square footage,” Dehner explained. “This program is an opportunity for homeowners to reinvest in their properties and grow with the City.”

Rebates available through the pilot program cover up to 90% of City permit fees, based on the type of home improvement being pursued. Contact the Community Development Department at 847-506-6030 for details.

The program requires all construction to be complete – and occupancy permits issued – by December 31st for homeowners to qualify for the rebates.

## 2017-18 Vehicle Stickers Go on Sale June 1st; Available Online, by Mail, or In-Person

The 30-day window for residents to purchase and display 2017-18 City vehicle stickers begins June 1st. Motorists may buy their stickers online, by mail, or in-person at City Hall and select retail outlets.

Prices start at \$30 for most passenger vehicles (\$20 for senior citizens ages 65 and up), and are free to active duty members of the U.S. Armed Forces.

Pre-printed applications being mailed in late May will allow drivers to purchase vehicle stickers online through the City’s website ([www.cityrm.org](http://www.cityrm.org)). Residents may also use the enclosed pre-addressed envelope to order stickers from home.

All drivers with cars registered or housed in Rolling Meadows – including residents with Palatine mailing addresses – should



Vehicle sticker sales help fund infrastructure improvement projects.

purchase stickers by June 30th, as prices will double beginning July 1st. Vehicle owners who do not display the new sticker by that date will be subject to a \$100 police citation.

Vehicle sticker sales generate around \$500,000 each year for street maintenance and infrastructure improvement projects.

### 2017-18 Sticker Fees

Type	Price	After June 30
Passenger vehicles (under 8,000 lbs.)	\$30	\$60
Motorcycles and trailers	\$30	\$60
Recreational vehicles (RVs)	\$37	\$74
Vehicles over 8,000 lbs.	\$68	\$136
Senior residents (65+) or Antique vehicle	\$20	\$40
Disabled	\$11	\$22
Active military (with ID)	FREE	FREE

## U.S. Waterproofing Donates \$2,000 to Support Meadows’ Community Events



City officials thank U.S. Waterproofing for its generous \$2,000 donation

to the Rolling Meadows Community Events Foundation.

Tax-deductible contributions by residents and Rolling Meadows-based businesses support the Foundation’s efforts to offset the cost of staging the annual downtown block party, Farmers & Food Trucks, Wine Down by the Creek, and other community events held throughout the year.

### Support the Foundation

Those interested in donating may visit [www.cityrm.org/679/Community-Events-Foundation](http://www.cityrm.org/679/Community-Events-Foundation). 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

## Golden Years Council, RMFD to Partner for May 20th Pancake Breakfast at Park Central

Rolling Meadows Firefighters will trade their fire hose for spatulas on Saturday, May 20th, 8 – 11 a.m., and serve breakfast to residents at the Rolling Meadows Golden Years Council’s annual Pancake Breakfast at Park Central (3000 Central Road).

Tickets are \$6 for adults and \$4 for kids when purchased in advance (\$7 and \$5 at the door). Children ages 4 and under are free.

For more information, contact the Rolling Meadows Senior Center at 847-818-3205.

# May 2017

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
	1	2	3	4	5	6
	<b>Board of Fire &amp; Police Commissioners</b> , 9 am, City Hall	<b>Environmental Committee</b> , 6:30 pm <b>Plan Commission</b> , 7:30 pm, both at City Hall		<b>Adjudication Hearing</b> (Parking), 2 pm, City Hall		
7		8	9	10	11	12
		<b>Crime Stoppers</b> , 5:30 pm <b>City Council Meeting</b> , 7:30 pm, both at City Hall		<b>Adjudication Hearing</b> , 1 pm, City Hall		<b>Plant &amp; Craft Sale</b> , 9 am-2 pm, Old Public Works facility <b>Open House/Bake Sale</b> , 9 am-2 pm, Historical Museum
14	15	16	17	18	19	20
	<b>Sprinkling Ban Begins</b> To conserve water, lawn sprinkling is prohibited 12-6 pm daily and on consecutive days.	<b>City Council Committee of the Whole</b> , 7:30 pm, City Hall		<b>Adjudication Hearing</b> (Red Light), 2 pm, City Hall		<b>Golden Years Council Pancake Breakfast</b> , 8-11 am, Park Central
21	22	23	24	25	26	27
	<b>Water bills due</b>	<b>City Council Meeting</b> , 7:30 pm, City Hall			<b>Cruise Night</b> , 5-8 pm, Meadows Christian Fellowship (2401 Kirchoff Road) <b>Veterans Dinner</b> , 6 pm, Meridian Banquets	<b>Farmers &amp; Food Trucks City Market</b> , 10 am-2 pm, City Hall <b>Memorial Day Parade and Observance</b> , 11am (see story on page 1)
28	29	30	31			
	City Hall and Public Works closed. Refuse collection delayed one day all week.  <b>Memorial Day</b>			Rolling Meadows Cruisers will kick off another season of "Cruise Nights" May 26th. Weekly events, featuring vintage cars, music, and family activities, will take place Fridays, 5-8 pm, at Meadows Christian Fellowship, 2401 Kirchoff Road.		

# June 2017

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
Keep updated on City news with Rolling Meadows' electronic newsletter, <b>E-News &amp; Views</b> , published in February, April, June, August, October and December. Each newsletter is archived on the City's website, <a href="http://www.cityrm.org">www.cityrm.org</a> .				1	2	3
		<b>Economic Development Committee</b> , 6 pm <b>Environmental Committee</b> , 6:30 pm <b>Plan Commission</b> , 7:30 pm, all at City Hall	<b>Zoning Board of Appeals</b> , 7:30 pm, City Hall	<b>Adjudication Hearing</b> (Parking), 2 pm, City Hall	<b>Cruise Night</b> , 5-8 pm, Meadows Christian Fellowship (2401 Kirchoff Road)	
4	5	6	7	8	9	10
				<b>Downtown Block Party</b> , 4:30-8:30 pm (Kirchoff Road) <b>Cruise Night</b> , 5-8 pm		
11	12	13	14	15	16	17
	<b>Board of Fire &amp; Police Commissioners</b> , 9 am, City Hall	<b>Crime Stoppers</b> , 5:30 pm <b>City Council Meeting</b> , 7:30 pm, both at City Hall		<b>Adjudication Hearing</b> , 1 pm, City Hall	<b>Cruise Night</b> , 5-8 pm <b>FRIDAYS ROCK! and Roll in Meadows</b> , 7-10 pm, Kimball Hill Park	
18	19	20	21	22	23	24
		<b>Water bills due</b> <b>City Council Committee of the Whole</b> , 7:30 pm, City Hall		<b>Adjudication Hearing</b> (Red Light), 2 pm, City Hall	<b>Cruise Night</b> , 5-8 pm	<b>Farmers &amp; Food Trucks City Market</b> , 10 am-2 pm, City Hall
25	26	27	28	29	30	
		<b>City Council Meeting</b> , 7:30 pm, City Hall			<b>Cruise Night</b> , 5-8 pm	

## Customer-Focused Service Has Been Joelle's 'Hallmark' for 20 Years

The retail industry has changed dramatically in the 20 years since Joelle's Hallmark (3118 Kirchoff Road) began serving customers, but owner Anthony Brescia's commitment to personalized customer service has ensured that this family-owned business always treats its customers as if they were extended family.

### Built on Relationships

"After 20 years, it's almost impossible to think of our customers as anything other than family," he explained. "We know many of them by name, and plenty of others by their buying preferences. Those relationships help us offer the types of merchandise that most appeals to their distinct tastes."

Today, Joelle's Hallmark carries much more than cards. Customers enjoy a wide selection of products – everything from collectible figurines and jewelry to home décor and apparel such as scarves, hats, and purses. The store's appearance and

layout continually evolve, to accommodate updated merchandise lines and attract new generations of shoppers.



Joelle's Hallmark owner Anthony Brescia showcases one of the store's jewelry and apparel displays.

Despite the changes, holidays and special occasions remain a significant part of the store's business.

"I live my life holiday to holiday, rather than year-to-year," Mr. Brescia said with

a laugh. (Editor's Note: *News & Views* interviewed Mr. Brescia in mid-April, as he was finalizing the store's merchandising plans for the Christmas 2017 shopping season).

### 'Family' Business

Years ago, Mr. Brescia worked for his father's direct mail business. His mother, Dora, enjoyed collecting figurines, and he would often help her find them at area shops – including Hallmark stores. The connections Mr. Brescia made during those treasure hunts played a large role in his decision to pursue success as a small business owner himself.

Two decades later, Joelle's Hallmark remains a family affair. His wife, Joelle, helps with buying and merchandising decisions, while his older son works in the store when home on break from school.

## Utility Billing 101: What to Know About Smart Point Water Meters

### Q: Why do my monthly utility bills always end in three zeros?

**A:** The City's Smart Point Water Meter System bills utility customers in thousand gallon increments – with monthly usage rounded down to the nearest thousand. If a home's one-month usage is 2,385 gallons, the customer is billed for only 2,000 gallons during that specific billing period. (Note: Customers are eventually billed for these "dropped" amounts, once they add up to 1,000 gallons or more.)

### Q: My water bills tend to be the same amount every month. Is this common?

**A:** Most households use about the same amount of water from month to month. If your water usage increases by more than 1,000 gallons from one month to the next, consider possible

reasons for the increase (i.e. watering outdoor plants, washing vehicles, etc.).

### Q: What are some benefits of the Smart Point Water Meter System?

**A:** The new system provides accurate monthly readings, which eliminates "estimated" water bills and improves residents' ability to track their usage. Smart Point meters also make it easier to detect costly water leaks, help City staff quickly notify customers about potential plumbing issues, and minimize water loss by increasing flow accuracy.

For more information, contact the Finance Department (847-394-8500 or [ub@cityrm.org](mailto:ub@cityrm.org)) or visit the City's website ([www.cityrm.org/683/Is-Your-Water-Usage-the-Same-Each-Month](http://www.cityrm.org/683/Is-Your-Water-Usage-the-Same-Each-Month)).

## City Opens Registration for July 4th Parade; Online Form Available at [www.cityrm.org](http://www.cityrm.org)

Celebrate the pageantry of American independence by joining the ranks of those marching in Rolling Meadows' 2017 Independence Day parade. This year's star-spangled spectacular will take place Tuesday, July 4th, at 11:30 a.m.

Parade planners are seeking residents, local businesses, and community groups to build floats, decorate vehicles, and

march in this year's event. Bring four-legged friends and join the pet parade, or wrap your bike in red, white and blue. All are welcome!

Parade registration is available online at [www.cityrm.org/631/4th-of-July](http://www.cityrm.org/631/4th-of-July).

This year's parade will start at Rolling Meadows High School and head west on Central Road to Owl Drive. Participants



Scouts proudly fly Old Glory during the City's Independence Day Parade.

will march north on Owl to Kirchoff Road, then east to the Rolling Meadows Shopping Center.



## Community Involvement, Participation Essential for Building a Great City

by Acting Mayor Tim Veenbaas

Spring always brings a sense of renewal – even following our extremely mild winter.

Here in Rolling Meadows, the changing season also signifies our first steps forward after the April election.

I will soon return full-time to my seat as 7th Ward Alderman, after an extremely busy and exciting few months serving as acting mayor. I am eager to work with our newly elected mayor and a City Council that will welcome two new members to continue building on Rolling Meadows inherent strengths.

However, building a “great” community takes much more than the actions of its elected representatives and talented staff members. Great communities begin with an engaged residential population that takes pride in its families, friends, and

neighbors. One great way to get involved is to join the many upcoming community events that the City will be hosting in upcoming months.

This year’s slate of summer events offers something for everyone. Our fifth season of Farmers & Food Trucks begins later this month, along with the City’s annual Memorial Day ceremonies. From there, we move on to the community block party, free Friday night concerts at Kimball Hill Park, our annual “Wine Down” event, and much more excitement.

These types of events foster community spirit and bring people together in celebration of our city. Here in Rolling Meadows, we have a lot to celebrate, and much of which to be proud.

## Celebrate Spring with May 13th Garden Club Plant Sale, Historical Museum Open House

Celebrate spring’s arrival with a fun-filled day of family-friendly activities on Saturday, May 13th. Shop for plants and crafts to decorate your home and yard at the Rolling Meadows Garden Club’s annual sale, and then stop by the City’s Historical Museum for a free tour of Rolling Meadows’ proud past.

### Hometown Plant and Craft Sale at Old Public Works (9 a.m. – 2 p.m.)

The Rolling Meadows Garden Club’s annual Plant & Craft Sale will again feature a wide variety of hanging baskets, annuals and perennials, succulents, grasses,

and native plants for sun and shade. The event, held at the Old Public Works Building (3200 Central Road), will also offer Milkweed, garden accessories, a master gardener to answer questions, and much more. Visit [www.rollingmeadows-gardenclub.org](http://www.rollingmeadows-gardenclub.org) or call 847-397-0286 for more information.

### Open House and Bake Sale at Historical Museum (9 a.m. – 2 p.m.)

Stroll down memory lane and learn more about the community’s rich history at the Rolling Meadows Historical Museum’s spring open house and bake sale. The



The Garden Club’s Plant & Craft Sale is an annual rite of spring.

museum (3100 Central Road), a replica of an original Kimball Hill home, tells the story of the City’s founding and growth with an array of authentic memorabilia and exhibits. For more information, call 847-577-7086.

## Farmers & Food Trucks City Market Returns May 27th for Fifth Annual ‘Harvest’ Season

The annual harvest returns to Rolling Meadows on Saturday, May 27th, when the Farmers & Food Trucks City Market



Onsite food trucks add a unique twist to the traditional farmers market concept.

embarks on a fifth bountiful season with new vendors, new musical performances, and other surprises in store all summer.

Events take place on the fourth Saturday of each month (May – September) from 10 a.m. – 2 p.m. at City Hall.

Find locally-grown produce and other high-quality foods from a “growing” roster of vendors, and enjoy mouth-watering, made-to-order dishes from a rotating variety of onsite food trucks.

Residents may also shop for hand-made jewelry, clothing, pet supplies, home



Shop for fresh, locally-grown produce at each monthly City market.

goods, and a variety of other items. Rounding out each event will be live music, raffle prizes, and much more.

Other Farmers & Food Trucks City Markets will take Saturdays, June 24th, July 22nd, August 26th, and September 23rd.