



September/October 2017



NEWS

Volume 21 Number 5

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October 14th
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& Views

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

Fire Chief Scott Franzgrote to Retire After Serving 27 Years

Fire Chief Scott Franzgrote, who joined the Rolling Meadows Fire Department in 1990 as a firefighter/EMT, will retire on September 29th after 27 years of service.



Scott Franzgrote

Deputy Chief Terry Valentino, who possesses more than 40 years of fire service experience, will succeed him as the City's Fire Chief, effective September 30th.

Over the course of his career, Chief Franzgrote served at virtually every level of the RFD hierarchy: he spent 10 years as a "blue shirt" (firefighter) before earning promotion to Lieutenant. Six years later, he was named one of the Department's Battalion Chiefs. Franzgrote became Deputy Chief in 2007, and has served as Fire Chief since 2012.

"I've been fortunate to fulfill my professional ambitions as a member of this department. It's time for me to step aside and let others have the same opportunities," Chief Franzgrote explained. "There's a

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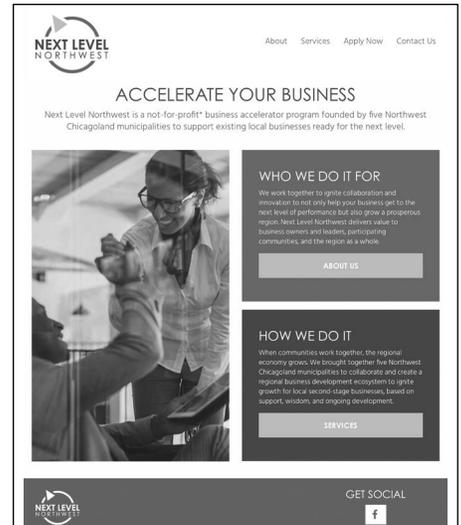
City Co-founds Non-Profit 'Accelerator' Program to Strengthen Local Businesses

Rolling Meadows is a founding member of a regional "acceleration" program designed to help strengthen businesses in the northwest suburbs.

Next Level Northwest (NLNW) was established earlier this year as a non-profit collaborative partnership between the City and Elk Grove Village, Hanover Park, Hoffman Estates, and Schaumburg. The organization's goals are to:

- Promote innovative ideas that help Stage 2 businesses* grow.
- Help businesses adapt to a rapidly changing external environment.
- Create a regional network for business development and excellence.
- Establish collaborative support with existing regional stakeholders.
- Achieve national prominence for business acceleration and performance excellence.

"All five municipal partners agree that the transcendent purpose of NLNW is to grow the regional economy, strengthen new business development, and increase the diversity of the local business base," City Manager Barry Krumstok explained. "It is designed to serve as a regional collaborator for business development in northwest Cook and northern DuPage counties, and facilitate continuing education, development, and innovation."



NLNW's website outlines the program's aim to "create a regional business ecosystem."

Each founding community has agreed to commit \$15,000 per year to fund the three-year pilot program.

Business leaders who enroll in NLNW have access to a regional mentor network, and will learn how to solve challenging business issues and increase productivity with the help of an NLNW-approved business coach.

For more information and to apply, visit www.nextlevelnorthwest.org.

*Stage 2 businesses are defined as having between 10 and 100 employees, and revenues between \$750,000 and \$50 million.

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

MAYOR and CITY COUNCIL

Mayor: Len Prejna 847-776-9442
 1st Ward Alderman: Mike Cannon 847-925-8919
 2nd Ward Alderman: Vacant
 3rd Ward Alderman: Laura Majikes 847-577-3746
 4th Ward Alderman: Joseph Gallo 847-814-9271
 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



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City Mourns Passing of Alderman Jerry Hill

Alderman Jerry Hill, who was elected to represent the residents of Ward 2 on City Council last April, passed away August 13th. He was 64 years-old.



Jerry Hill

A Rolling Meadows resident for more than 55 years, Alderman Hill previously chaired the City's Zoning Board of Appeals, served on Rolling Meadows' Diamond Fest Committee, and coached boys basketball and football.

He is survived by his wife, Nancy; two daughters (Stacey and Kim); and three grandchildren.

Mayor Len Prejna will appoint a successor – subject to Council's approval – to serve until the 2019 election.

Council Members Voice Support for Proposed Holiday Inn Redevelopment Program

City Council members signaled their support for a plan to redevelop the Holiday Inn and Holiday Inn Express hotels on Algonquin Road by passing an ordinance and resolution that will help the property owner's efforts to apply for tax credits to fund improvements.

Aldermen took action following an appraisal of the property that confirmed the site met nine of 13 criteria necessary to earn "blighted" designation, as defined by the Illinois Tax Increment Allocation Redevelopment Act.

The August 8th votes mean that the property owner, Rolling Meadows Properties, LLC, is eligible to apply for Class 7B tax incentives, which "help encourage commercial projects (that) would not be economically feasible without the incentive," according to the Cook County Assessor's website.

The proposed project would convert the existing Holiday Inn to an Aloft Hotel –



Council members support plans to redevelop the Holiday Inn Express at 3477 West Algonquin Road.

a brand known for its contemporary architectural design – and a separate senior living facility. Holiday Inn Express would undergo renovations that match the company's new "Formula Blue" branding concept.

City officials believe the property's redevelopment will help the facilities attract new customers and better leverage their location in the heart of a rapidly growing northwest suburban hotel/convention industry.



Burger King Unveils New Look

Burger King (1901 Algonquin Road), a long-time staple of Rolling Meadows' restaurant scene, recently completed a major interior and exterior renovation that presents a clean, contemporary look. Burger King's appearance may have changed, but the façade clearly reminds passers-by of the restaurant's heritage: "flame grilling since 1954."



Fire Chief Scott Franzgrote to Retire...continued from page 1

lot of energy and excitement among members of the Department's leadership team. I'm confident they, under Terry's guidance, will continue to steer this organization toward a successful future."

While looking forward to spending more time with family and doing volunteer work, Chief Franzgrote admits that he will miss the team atmosphere he's been a part of for nearly three decades.

"There's a special bond that exists between our firefighters. That camaraderie extends to the other department heads, employees, and volunteers who work for this City," he explained. "I'm extremely grateful to have been a part of that culture, which encourages interdepartmental coordination and serves as the foundation for service excellence."

"Scott's leadership and commitment to public service will be greatly missed," Police Chief John Nowacki said. "When I came to Rolling Meadows last year, Scott was one of the first to offer a

helping hand as I got acclimated to the community. I am forever grateful for that, and wish him a healthy, happy, and well-deserved retirement."

Before becoming a firefighter, Chief Franzgrote originally planned a career as a high school teacher. He graduated with a degree in psychology from Eastern Illinois University, Charleston, where he also earned a teaching certificate. He then accepted a one-year teaching position at a suburban high school, where he covered for a faculty member on sabbatical.

On a whim, Chief Franzgrote began testing at area fire departments while continuing his career in education.

"Rolling Meadows hired me, and I quickly realized that the fire service was my true calling," he recalled. "I've tried to show my gratitude for the opportunity this city gave me in 1990 by working hard for the community and being accountable to the residents we serve. I'm proud of what we've accomplished."

Smoke Testing Program Helps Reduce Residential Sewer Rates

Public Works this summer completed the first step in a multi-year program to identify areas where storm water may be entering the City's underground sanitary sewer lines – an effort to keep sewer fees paid by Rolling Meadows homeowners as low as possible.

The review included “smoke testing” in neighborhoods near Salt Creek to pinpoint areas where rainwater can potentially seep into the City's sanitary sewer system.

Smoke testing involves air, combined with non-toxic smoke, being forced into



Non-toxic smoke escapes from the cap of a homeowner's “cleanout,” pinpointing a spot where storm water runoff can seep into the sanitary sewer system.

the sewer at manholes located in the street. Smoke appears where there are defects in the main sewer line (usually located under the road), lateral lines located beneath homeowners' properties, or where other sewer connections exist.

“City sewer rates paid by Rolling Meadows residents are based on the amount of water that is treated at regional wastewater plants. An ideal way to help reduce those costs is to minimize the risk of outside water leaching into the system,” Assistant Director of Public Works Rob Horne explains.

Before testing began, the City sent notification letters to area residents that outlined the program and the steps involved. The letter also offered simple tips to prevent sewer gases or odors from entering nearby homes.

Door hanger cards distributed by the City's contracted engineer, and temporary signs posted in the areas where testing took place, also helped promote residents' understanding of the program.



Smoke testing (shown here on City-owned parkway) helps keep residential sewer fees low.

Information gleaned from this year's testing will be used to seal gaps or openings in the sanitary sewer system. Plans call for that work to occur next summer.

The City's smoke testing program meets newly-established requirements issued by the Metropolitan Water Reclamation District of Greater Chicago (MWRD), which manages water supply and wastewater treatment efforts over 883 square miles of Cook County.

For more information, contact the Department of Public Works at 847-963-0500.

Residents to Re-Live ‘Fabulous Fifties’ At September 12th Senior Luncheon



Residents ages 50 and up are invited to re-live the fabulous fifties at Rolling Meadows' annual Senior Luncheon.

This year's gathering will take place Tuesday, September 12th, 11:30 a.m., at the Senior Center (3705 Pheasant Drive).

Guests will enjoy a delicious lunch, courtesy of Stadium Sports Club, free raffles, and a headline performance by tribute artist “Ed Elvis.” The event is open to all Rolling Meadows seniors and Senior Center members. Admission is \$5 per person. For reservations, call 847-818-3205.

Residents ‘Wine-Down’ in Kimball Hill Park



Residents await the start of a live performance by rock n' roll cover band Centerfold at Rolling Meadows' August 11th “Wine-Down by the Creek” event. Hundreds of guests gathered in Kimball Hill Park for a late summer evening filled with music, food trucks, wine, and beer.

Special thanks to primary event sponsor **Ben Franklin Bank**, and **Stadium Sports Club**, **Meijer**, **Rolling Meadows Park District**, **Rolling Meadows Chamber of Commerce**, and **Community Events Committee volunteers** for making this year's event a tremendous success.



September 8th Duck Race to Support Local Conservation

Rolling Meadows' 10th annual Duck Derby, to raise money for local environmental preservation efforts, will take place Friday, September 8th, 7 p.m., at the bridge spanning Salt Creek near Kimball Hill Park. Entrants will have a chance to win a variety of prizes – including a \$500 grand prize.

Purchase plastic ducks to “race” in the derby at the Community Center (3705 Pheasant Drive) and City Hall (3600 Kirchoff Road) for \$5 each. Or buy a “Quack Pack” of five ducks for \$20.

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

September 2017

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
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 .					Cruise Night, 5-8 pm, 2401 Kirchoff Road 1	2
3	Labor Day City Hall and Public Works closed. Refuse collection delayed one day all week.	4	5	6	7	8
		Economic Development Committee , 6 pm Environmental Committee , 6:30 pm Planning/Zoning Commission , 7:30 pm, all at City Hall		Adjudication Hearing , (Parking) 2 pm, City Hall		Duck Race , 7 pm, Salt Creek FRIDAYS ROCK! and Roll in Meadows (featuring Heartache Tonight), 7 pm, Kimball Hill Park
10	Patriot Day Board of Fire & Police Commissioners , 9 am, City Hall	11	12	13	14	15
		Senior Luncheon , 11:30 am, Community Center Crime Stoppers , 5:30 pm City Council Meeting , 7:30 pm, both at City Hall		Adjudication Hearing , 1 pm, City Hall		Sprinkling Ban Ends
17		18	19	20	21	22
		City Council Committee of the Whole , 7:30 pm, City Hall	Water bills due	Adjudication Hearing (Red Light), 2 pm, City Hall		Farmers & Food Trucks , 10 am-2 pm, City Hall
24		25	26	27	28	29
		City Council Meeting , 7:30 pm, City Hall				30

October 2017

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
1	2	3	4	5	6	7
		Economic Development Committee , 6 pm Environmental Committee , 6:30 pm Planning/Zoning Commission , 7:30 pm, all at City Hall		Adjudication Hearing (Parking), 2 pm, City Hall		Hometown Hoedown , 1-6 pm, Kimball Hill Park
8	Columbus Day	9	10	11	12	13
		Crime Stoppers , 5:30 pm City Council Meeting , 7:30 pm, both at City Hall		Adjudication Hearing , 1 pm, City Hall		Fire Department Open House , 10 am-2 pm, Neuckranz Fire Station (2455 Plum Grove Rd)
OCTOBER 8-14: NATIONAL FIRE PREVENTION WEEK						
15	Board of Fire & Police Commissioners , 9 am, City Hall	16	17	18	19	20
		City Council Committee of the Whole , 7:30 pm, City Hall		Adjudication Hearing (Red Light), 2 pm, City Hall	Water bills due	21
22		23	24	25	26	27
		City Council Meeting , 7:30 pm, City Hall				28
29		30	31	<p>Learn more about National Fire Prevention Week, and ways to keep your family safe, at www.nfpa.org/fpw.</p>  		
		Halloween Trick or Treat hours: 3-8 pm				

Thousands Showcase City's Community Spirit at National Night Out

Police Chief John Nowacki called the City's 2017 National Night Out celebration "a party among friends, family, and community" that showcased Rolling Meadows' unique community spirit and demonstrated police officers' strong bonds with those they serve.

More than 2,000 guests of all ages enjoyed the August 1st event's law enforcement vehicle display (A), performances by Stunt Dog Productions (B), mock sword battles by the Knights of Medieval Times (C), an exotic animal display presented by Dave DiNasso's World of Reptiles (D), and many other attractions. The event also featured special guests Ronald McDonald (E) and Staley Da Bear, free food and refreshments, and giveaways from a variety of local businesses.

Residents' support for their police department was evident by "the outpouring of compliments, kind words, and positive feedback," Chief Nowacki said.

"We are very fortunate here in Rolling Meadows to have such strong support from

the public. It's a reflection of our officers' professionalism, compassion, commitment, integrity, and dedication to excellence."

National Night Out is an annual event held the first Tuesday in August. See you next year!



Community Events Preview

Eagles Tribute Band, 'Hometown Hoedown' Festival on Tap for Fall

Rolling Meadows' schedule of upcoming community events continues full bore into the Fall season! Residents are invited to enjoy a free Friday evening concert in Kimball Hill Park, the second annual Hometown Hoedown Fall festival, and the City's final Farmers & Food Trucks City Market of 2017.

Friday, September 8th

Summer Concert Series Welcomes Eagles Tribute Band

The City's FRIDAYS ROCK! summer concert series at Kimball Hill Park concludes Friday, September 8th, with a free performance by Heartache Tonight, a popular Eagles tribute band. The show begins at 7 p.m.

Bring a picnic dinner to this all-ages Ravinia-style event (or purchase food from onsite food trucks) and *Take It Easy* while experiencing what the band's website calls "an Eagles concert experience."

Saturday, September 23rd

Farmers & Food Trucks City Market Concludes

Another robust harvest concludes Saturday, September 23rd, 10 a.m. – 2 p.m., with 2017's final Farmers & Food Trucks City Market at City Hall.

Find freshly-grown produce and other high-quality foods from local vendors, and enjoy mouth-watering, made-to-order dishes from onsite food trucks. Shop for hand-made jewelry, clothing, pet supplies, home goods, and other items. The event also features live music, raffles, and more.

Saturday, October 7th

Hometown Hoedown Celebrates Fall's Arrival

Welcome Fall with horse-drawn hayrides, pumpkin decorating, kids' games, and more, when the City hosts its second annual Hometown Hoedown in Kimball Hill Park, Saturday, October 7th, 1 – 6 p.m.

The hoedown will also feature a live performance by local Americana/folk band Killing Bottles.

Admission is free. Food and drinks will be available for purchase.

Changing Seasons Present a Path Forward

by Mayor Len Prejna

As the calendar page turns to September, the pace of Rolling Meadows' community events schedule shows no signs of "falling" off. After an amazing, action-packed summer, we look forward to another FRIDAYS ROCK! concert at Kimball Hill Park (September 8th), the season's final City Market (September 23rd), and our Hometown Hoedown Fall Fest (October 7th).

The success of our community events is due to our residents who attend them; the volunteers who devote their

time and talents to bringing each event to life; and those who support the Community Events Foundation through financial contributions. I hope you'll consider volunteering for upcoming events. Our community spirit is the driving force that makes Rolling Meadows a great place to live and work.

On the economic development front, the pending hire of a new Business Advocate – reporting directly to the City Manager – is another positive step forward that will help guide the City along the path to prosperity. Plans call for that position to be filled this Fall.

The changing season also means saying goodbye to some long-time community members. Fire Chief Scott Franzgrote will retire at the end of September after 27 years of service. On behalf of all our residents, I thank him for his dedication to Rolling Meadows for so many years.

We also say farewell to 2nd Ward Alderman Jerry Hill, who sadly passed away in August. Jerry was one of our newest Council members, but he lived in Rolling Meadows for over 55 years. Please keep his wife, Nancy, his children, and his grandchildren in your thoughts during this very difficult time.

Public Hearings to Let Residents Participate in Development of City's 2018 Budget



Rolling Meadows will host a series of public hearings in September and October on the City's proposed Fiscal Year 2018 budget.

The hearings, scheduled for 7:30 p.m. on Tuesdays, September 19th and 26th, and October 10th and 17th, offer residents an opportunity to lend their voices to the

budget process.

The budget draft was presented in August, after months of preparation by City staff, and based on input from elected officials and long-term capital improvement plans. A copy of the latest budget draft is posted online at www.cityrm.org/233/Financial-Reports. Plans call for the budget's approval in November.

Learn About City's Online 'Community Portal' at October 19th Public Library Seminar

**Community Portal**
Learn more about your community and services around your property.
Enter an address to start:



Community Portal is located on the lower left side of the City's homepage (www.cityrm.org).

Join Geographic Information System (GIS) Specialist Mitch Greenan for an overview of the City's online "Community Portal" Thursday, October 19th, 7 p.m., during a one-hour educational seminar at the Rolling Meadows Library (3110 Martin Lane).

Community Portal, available at www.cityrm.org, is an information source that helps residents understand more about where they live by simply entering their home address: the township and school district in which they reside; contact information for elected officials at the local, state, and federal levels; information on City services; and much more. To register for the Library seminar, call 847-259-6050 or visit www.rmlib.org.



Fire Dept. to Host 10/14 Open House

Rolling Meadows firefighters will "open" the doors of its Neuckranz Fire Station (2455 Plum Grove Road) Saturday, October 14th, 10 a.m. – 2 p.m., and welcome residents of all ages to the Fire Department's 2017 Open House.

Guests will have the chance to explore sophisticated RMFD vehicles, observe training and fire safety demonstrations, and much more. The event will also include free hot dogs, refreshments, and kids' games.

More information on this year's Open House will be featured in the October edition of *eNews & Views*.

For more information, contact RMFD at 847-397-3352.