



eNEWS

**Fire Prevention Week
October 8 – 14
Story on Page 4**

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& Views

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October 14 Fire Department Open House to Feature Glimpse of ‘Life in the Fire Service’

Meet highly trained firefighter/paramedics and learn more about life in the fire service, when the Rolling Meadows Fire Department hosts its 11th annual Open House. This year’s event will take place Saturday, October 14th, 10 a.m. – 2 p.m., at the Neuckranz Fire Station (2455 Plum Grove Road).

Attractions will include:

- **Touch-a-truck:** Climb aboard state-of-the-art vehicles – fire engines, ambulances, and more – used by firefighters to protect the community.
- **Live fire and sprinkler demonstration:** Witness the speed at which fire can spread throughout the home – and how fire sprinklers can help reduce property damage – during a live burn overseen by Rolling Meadows firefighters.



A future firefighter undergoes his first “training” session at a recent Open House.



The Open House lets residents come together to view sophisticated Fire Department vehicles and learn more about services Rolling Meadows firefighters provide.

- **Automobile extrication:** Watch Department personnel perform an extrication from a damaged vehicle using advanced tools and techniques.
- **Bounce house** and a wide range of children’s activities.

Attendees will also enjoy free food (while supplies last), courtesy of Culver’s, Grande Jakes, JC Restoration, and Jewel.

...continued on page 4

2nd Annual ‘Hometown Hoedown’ Festival to Feature Children’s Entertainer Miss Jamie, Fall-Themed Activities, October 7th

Children’s entertainer Miss Jamie, leader of the popular “Miss Jamie from the Farm” music show, will make her Rolling Meadows

debut Saturday, October 7th, at the City’s 2nd annual Hometown Hoedown. This year’s “stomp” takes place in Kimball Hill Park from 1 – 6 p.m.

boy Cookout” from 2 – 5 p.m., which includes a hamburger or hot dog, chips, and a soft drink for just \$5.



Photo courtesy of Miss Jamie from the Farm.

Miss Jamie will perform at Kimball Hill Park during the City’s 2017 Hometown Hoedown.

Miss Jamie will take the stage at 1:15 p.m. for a 45-minute show. Her “energetic and engaging performances have been praised by WGN, the *Chicago Tribune*, and *Chicago Parent Magazine*,” according to her [website](#).

This year’s Hoedown festival, sponsored by Constellation Energy, will offer plenty of other attractions: horse-drawn hayrides, kids games, performance by a local folk/Americana group (3:30 p.m.), community bonfire, and more.

Guests will also be able to join the “Cow-

In This Issue

<i>Library Upgrades Completed</i>	2
<i>City Hires New Business Advocate</i>	3
<i>Fire Prevention Week Focuses on Home Escape Plans</i>	4
<i>Duck Race Raises \$2,500 for Local Conservation</i>	5
<i>Budmats Named 2nd Ward Alderman</i>	6
<i>City Publishes New Bike Path Map</i>	6

Library Expansion Project Wraps on Time, Under Budget; Upgrades Add Group Meeting Rooms, ‘Garden Lounge’

Rolling Meadows Library Director Dave Ruff chuckles when recalling a conversation last fall in which he was asked to provide a completion date for a facility expansion project that had just gotten underway.

“We hadn’t even completed the bid process yet, so any date I gave involved some speculation,” he explains. “But I suggested Sunday, August 27th, at noon, thinking it was a goal to strive for.”

For the record, Ruff’s prediction was off...by seven days.

A dedication ceremony to unveil the newly-expanded facility took place at noon on Sunday, August 20th. It was an opportunity for Library officials to showcase 1,625 square feet of new interior space that features two small group meeting rooms, and a “Garden Lounge” with open seating that may also be used as a setting for community programs.

Key elements of the Garden Lounge include abundant natural lighting, a wall-mounted fireplace, scenic views of Salk Park, multiple charging stations for mobile devices, and an onsite vending area.

Each meeting room features a flat screen monitor and A/V equipment for delivering multimedia presentations. “Idea walls,” meanwhile, let users write notes on the wall and easily wipe it clean afterwards.

These rooms allow the Library to more effectively provide the types of resources today’s patrons seek. Indeed, when *News & Views* toured the new facility last month, one of the rooms was occupied by a parent homeschooling her young children.

“Our old configuration did not offer small group meeting spaces, so it’s exciting to now offer those resources,” Ruff explains.



The Garden Lounge offers a warm, welcoming space for patrons and provides more room for Library programs.

“Patrons have been very enthusiastic about, and receptive to, the new facilities.”

The addition of the new Garden Lounge and meeting rooms also offered opportunities to reconfigure the Library’s west wing layout and create a more open, user-friendly area: computer terminals have been relocated to the south-facing windows; the New Non-Fiction section has been expanded; and the Reference Desk has been moved to the center of the space.

The interior changes are striking. However, the updates appear quite modest – almost unnoticeable – from the outside.

“That’s what we wanted,” Ruff admits. “We wanted to improve the building without radically changing its character.”

The additions were completed by “filling in” an outdoor rock garden that was located at the southwest corner of the building. It’s an approach that allowed the Library to maintain its existing footprint, minimize the amount of demolition required, and reduce costs.

In fact, the final construction cost (\$729,000) was roughly \$40,000 below the initial contract approved by the Library Board last fall. The project was financed entirely through the Library’s capital reserves.

“The community support we’ve enjoyed at every level of this project has been incredibly helpful,” explains Ruff, who had overseen facility upgrade projects at libraries in Schaumburg and Lake Geneva before coming to Rolling Meadows in 2001. “Patron support has been essential, but we also thank the City for its help with the permit and inspection processes.”

“Of course, credit also goes to the Library Board and staff. We work with really great people,” he adds.



The new space “fills in” an outdoor rock garden (top photo) that was created in 1987.



Business Advocate Martha Corner (far right), 4th Ward Alderman Joseph Gallo (2nd from right) and Chamber of Commerce Executive Director Linda Ballantine (5th from left) welcome officials from Shanghai, China during a tour of Rolling Meadows business facilities.

Experienced Economic Planning Professional Hired as City's New 'Business Advocate'

Martha Corner, a community development professional with nearly 15 years of municipal economic development and planning experience, was hired as Rolling Meadows' Business Advocate in September.

She is the first person to hold the new position, which was established by a City Council-approved ordinance earlier this year.

Corner's key responsibilities include developing and maintaining relationships with business owners; planning and directing economic development initiatives; and providing ongoing analysis of business activity throughout the City.

"Having lived and worked in the northwest suburban market for over a decade, I knew about Rolling Meadows' long-standing reputation as a business-friendly community," Corner recalls. "When I first read the Business Advocate job description, it felt as though it was written specifically for me. I'm proud to be here and excited to be part of such a dynamic, forward looking team."

Corner possesses a wealth of professional experience that prepared her well for her new position. She previously served as Economic Development Coordinator/Manager in Arlington Heights, Elmhurst, and Glen Ellyn; and gained valuable comprehensive planning skills while serving in Northbrook and Roselle.

She has also provided permit processing advisory services while with the Village of Lakemoor, and brings a strong understanding of land use, zoning, financial incentives, and workforce development to the table.

That experience will now be applied toward supporting Rolling Meadows' ongoing economic development and long-term planning efforts. Almost immediately after arriving at City Hall, Corner was busy reaching out to her many contacts in the real estate, commercial, retail, service, and industrial fields.

She was also getting up to speed on concepts for redevelopment of the former Dominick's site, and ongoing plans to upgrade the Holiday Inn/Holiday Inn Express property on Algonquin Road.

"Rolling Meadows has an ambitious agenda for promoting economic development," Corner explains. "There is a lot going on here, so it's a great opportunity to get involved in multiple projects and help the City maximize its potential."

Corner earned a Bachelor's Degree in Economics from the University of Akron, and completed her Master's in Urban Planning at the University of Oregon. She holds AICP certification through the American Planning Association – a nationally recognized designation that demonstrates an individual's professional competence and ethics.

This Month in Rolling Meadows

October 3: **Economic Development Committee**, 6 pm; **Environmental Committee**, 6:30 pm; **Planning & Zoning Commission**, 7:30 pm, all at City Hall

October 4: **Coffee with a Cop**, 8 – 10 am, McDonalds (3140 Kirchoff Rd)

October 5: **Adjudication Hearing (Parking)**, 2 pm, City Hall

October 7: **E-waste and Document Destruction Event**, 9 am – noon, Public Works Dept. (3900 Berdnick St); **Hometown Hoedown**, 1 – 6 pm, Kimball Hill Park

October 8 – 14: **National Fire Prevention Week**

October 9: **Columbus Day Rolling Meadows Crime Stoppers Fundraiser**, 5 – 8 pm, Portillo's (1900 Golf Rd)

October 10: **Crime Stoppers**, 5:30 pm; **City Council Meeting**, 7:30 pm, both at City Hall

October 12: **Adjudication Hearing**, 1 pm, City Hall

October 14: **Fire Department Open House**, 10 am – 2 pm, Neuckranz Fire Station (2455 Plum Grove Rd)

October 16: **Board of Fire & Police Commissioners**, 9 am, City Hall

October 17: **City Council Committee of the Whole**, 7:30 pm, City Hall

October 19: **Adjudication Hearing (Red Light)**, 2 pm, City Hall; **"Community Portal" Educational Seminar**, 7 pm, Library (3110 Martin Ln)

October 20: **Water bills due**

October 24: **City Council Meeting**, 7:30 pm, City Hall

October 31: **Halloween**
(Trick or
Treat hours:
3 – 8 pm)



Crowd of 800 Packs Kimball Hill Park for Season's Final 'FRIDAYS ROCK!' Performance

Popular Eagles tribute band **Heartache Tonight** closed out the season's "FRIDAYS ROCK! and Roll in Meadows" series on Friday, September 8th, with a performance in Kimball Hill Park before a packed crowd of 800 attendees.



Audience members "take it easy" during Heartache Tonight's September 8th set.

The free summer concert series proved to be a hit with Rolling Meadows residents the entire summer: previous performances by Chicago area band SODA, as well as acoustic performer Paul Allodi, drew more than 500 guests for each concert.

Onsite food trucks helped feed hungry crowds, but many families packed their own picnic dinners for what Community Events volunteers billed as a "Ravinia-style" event.

Special thanks to the Rolling Meadows Holiday Inn for sponsoring the September 8th performance.

Those who missed out on this year's performances can take heart: another series of free Friday night concerts will return to Kimball Hill Park in summer 2018.

Fire Prevention Week Theme Emphasizes Importance of Home Fire Escape Plans

Seven people die in U.S. home fires every day, according to data compiled by the National Fire Protection Association (NFPA). That's why the Rolling Meadows Fire Department is urging residents to plan and practice home fire escape routes in observance of National Fire Prevention Week (October 8th – 14th).

"Every Second Counts: Plan 2 Ways Out!" is the theme developed by the NFPA for this year's Fire Prevention Week observance. It encourages families to identify two ways out of every room in the house, and to practice home fire

drills twice per year.

"A small flame can grow into a major fire in just 30 seconds, and it takes only minutes for a home to be engulfed in flames and thick smoke," Rolling Meadows Fire Chief Terry Valentino explains. "Our Fire Department is proud to support NFPA's efforts to educate residents about home fire dangers, and reinforce the critical importance of getting out quickly and safely."

According to the NFPA, nearly 75% of American families have a home fire escape plan, but fewer than half of them have ever practiced it.

Residents should also test their homes' smoke alarms monthly, and replace each alarm's batteries twice per year. Studies show that working smoke alarms help reduce one's risk of fire death by 50%.

Learn more about National Fire Prevention Week, and access tools for developing your own home fire escape plan, at www.fpw.org.

Home Fire Safety: Did You Know?

U.S. Fire departments in 2015 responded to roughly 365,500 home fires that caused 2,560 deaths, 11,075 civilian injuries, and \$7 billion in property damage.

Fire Department Open House...from page 1

The Open House is also a chance for elementary school students who participated in the Fire Department's coloring contest to pick up their prizes.

"The Open House is an excellent opportunity for residents to learn more about fire safety and the wide range of services we

provide," Fire Chief Terry Valentino said.

"It's also exciting for us to welcome the people we serve daily."

For more information, call the RMFD at 847-397-3352 or visit www.facebook.com/rollingmeadowsfire.

10th Annual Duck Race Raises \$2,500 for Environmental Preservation

A flotilla of small plastic ducks – each sponsored by residents of Rolling Meadows and neighboring communities – wound its way along Salt Creek on September 8th during the City’s 10th annual Duck Race and, in the process, raised more than \$2,500 for local conservation efforts.

This year’s event was organized by the Rolling Meadows Environmental Committee, Rotary Club of Rolling Meadows, and the Park District Foundation. The three groups share a common goal and work collaboratively to preserve local green space.



Laura Jarvis, with her husband, Joshua, proudly showcases her 1st Place prize envelope.

Environmental Committee Chair Karen Gill said the race’s success was due to the generous support of area residents who sponsored the ducks; the City’s Public Works Department and community volunteers who helped staff the event; and a change in venue. For the past several years, the race had been held at the Nelson Sports Complex pool.

“We coordinated with the Community Events Foundation to bring the race back to its original Salt Creek location, where it coincided with the



Assistant Director of Public Works Rob Horne (center) tallies the race’s results as ducks cross the finish line.

City’s Friday night concert series,” she explained. “The result was an event that raised significantly more money for environmental preservation than in the past several years. Thanks to everyone who supported the effort!”

Rolling Meadows resident Laura Jarvis won the event’s \$500 grand prize when her duck took 1st Place. Other prizes donated by committee members and local businesses – garden baskets, gift cards, stuffed toys, and more – were awarded to participants who sponsored the first 27 ducks to cross the finish line.

The Rolling Meadows Environmental Committee meets at 6:30 p.m. on the first Tuesday of each month at City Hall. For more information, visit www.facebook.com/citymcc.

Welcome New Businesses

Cross Country Mortgage, Inc. –
Mortgage firm
3315 Algonquin Rd, #110
(440-740-3967)

Eagle Home Mortgage, LLC –
Mortgage firm
1600 Golf Rd, #1200
(224-245-5539)

Kforce, Inc. – Staffing firm
1701 Golf Rd (T3), #604
(847-330-4000)

MRV Architects, Inc. –
Architecture firm
5105 Tollview Dr, #20
(847-373-5005)

Quintess Funding, LLC –
Mortgage loans
3501 Algonquin Rd, #300
(312-778-8999)

Topco Associates, LLC –
Showroom/general merchandise
2100 Golf Rd, #490 (847-329-3348)

Open Hive Event Helps Alderman Generate ‘Buzz’ about Backyard Beekeeping

Rolling Meadows residents learned more about the critical role bees play in the greater ecosystem during a late summer “Open Hive” event hosted by 5th Ward Alderman Rob Banger in his backyard garden.

Part educational program and part community gathering, the Open Hive offered guests a firsthand glimpse of how bees produce honey, an overview of the “tools of the trade” used by backyard beekeep-



Open Hive guests – including Rolling Meadows Police Chief John Nowacki (center) – enjoyed the taste of fresh comb honey taken from the hive just moments earlier.



5th Ward Alderman Rob Banger (left) and his son, Jackson, carefully remove a honey comb from one of his backyard bee hives.

ers, and refreshments – including fresh comb honey pulled directly from the hive.

City ordinance allows residents in single family homes to maintain bee hives in their backyards with a valid permit. For more information, visit www.cityrm.org and choose “Code of Ordinances,” located under the “Government” tab near the top of the homepage.

Resident Nick Budmats Appointed to Vacant Second Ward City Council Seat

Nick Budmats, a 22-year Rolling Meadows resident nominated by Mayor Len Prejna to serve as 2nd Ward Alderman, was sworn in at City Council's September 26th meeting. He succeeds Jerry Hill, who passed away in August.



Ward 2 Alderman Nick Budmats (right) is sworn in by Mayor Len Prejna at Council's September 26th meeting.

Alderman Budmats is co-founder of a consulting firm that focuses on elevator performance evaluation and modernization. He also founded and manages an elevator maintenance and repair business.

He and his wife, Theresa, have lived in

the 2nd Ward since 1995. They have raised two (now grown) daughters.

"I believe that Nick will make a fine addition to the City Council, and that is approach to the job will fit well with the City as a whole," Mayor Prejna explained.

Save the Dates

Public Works to Host October 7th Electronics Recycling and Document Destruction Event

The Public Works Department will host an electronics recycling and document destruction event at its 3900 Berdnick Street facility from 9 a.m. – noon, Saturday, October 7th.

The event, sponsored by the Solid Waste Agency of Northern Cook County (SWANCC), will allow residents to safely recycle TVs, computers, and other old equipment. State law prohibits electronic items from being deposited in landfills.

It will also offer a safe, tamper-resistant way to dispose of sensitive documents – old tax forms, bank statements, medical records, and more.

For more information, visit www.swancc.org or call Public Works at 847-963-0500.

October 19th Seminar to Explore Online 'Community Portal'

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

Community Portal 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 more.

To register, call 847-259-6050 or visit www.rmlib.org.



'Wheel' Deal: New, Improved Bike Path Map Available at City Hall

Planning a two-wheeled tour of Rolling Meadows' expansive bike path system? Make sure to pick up a copy of the City's new Bike Path map first!

The fold-out map, now available at

City Hall, showcases the City's 13-mile-long bike path circuit, highlights planned extension routes, and identifies where Rolling Meadows' paths connect with those in surrounding communities.



Visit John Woods Park and other sites located on Rolling Meadows' Bike Path.

The new map also offers an extensive list of sites (and sights) that residents may visit while peddling their way through town, along with bicycle safety tips, bike path facts, and more.

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

MAYOR

Len Prejna 847-776-9442
 1st Ward Alderman: Mike Cannon 847-925-8919
 2nd Ward Alderman: Nick Budmats 847-202-0855
 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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