



July/August 2018



NEWS

Volume 22 Number 4

City earns 'StormReady' certification

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& Views

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

Leaders Take First Steps to Update Comprehensive Plan, Zoning Code

City Council members have approved a contract with an Evanston-based urban planning firm to help update Rolling Meadows' Comprehensive Plan and Zoning Code.

The \$60,000 contract with Teska Associates will help modernize the current Comprehensive Plan – last updated in 2006 and recently deemed “old, antiquated, and complex” by City officials.

Funding for Comprehensive Plan updates are included in the Fiscal Year 2018 budget.

“These updates will provide a blueprint for development and land use in Rolling Meadows for the next 10-12 years,” City

Manager Barry Krumstok explained. “When completed, the Comprehensive Plan will serve as a guideline when considering new development proposals, help the City pursue state and federal grant funding, and market its advantages to developers and businesses.”

According to the terms of the contract, Teska will deliver a preliminary

plan update for officials' review by the end of 2018, along with a “technical assessment of Zoning Code issues.”

Zoning Code updates will commence in early 2019 during the project's \$65,000

“These updates will provide a blueprint for development and land use for the next 10-12 years.”

– City Manager Barry Krumstok



Comprehensive Plan and Zoning Code updates will help attract new businesses such as Arthur J. Gallagher (pictured), which relocated its headquarters here in 2017.

second phase, followed by extensive review by the City's Planning & Zoning Committee. Plans call for City Council to approve the updated Comprehensive Plan and Zoning Code next spring.

City to Celebrate U.S. Independence with July 4th Parade, Fireworks

The City's star-spangled celebration of American independence begins Wednesday, July 4th, with a late-morning community parade and concludes hours later

with thundering fireworks lighting the sky over Salk Park.

Community Parade: 11:30 a.m.

Rolling Meadows' 2018 Independence Day Parade will feature the Oscar Mayer Wienermobile, community floats, the Rolling Meadows High School Marching Mustangs, and much more.

The parade route begins at Rolling Meadows High School. With cheering spectators lining the route, participants will travel north on Jay Lane to Grouse Lane, head west on Grouse to Meadow Drive, journey north on Meadow to Kirchoff

Road, then turn west on Kirchoff and conclude at the Rolling Meadows Shopping Center.

Salk Park Fireworks: Dusk (Approximately 9:15 p.m.)

City leaders invite family, friends, and neighbors to gather in Salk Park for another awe-inspiring fireworks display – continuing a tradition enunciated by Founding Father John Adams, who expressed his desire that our nation's independence be marked by “illuminations” for years to come.



See the Oscar Mayer Wienermobile at this year's parade.

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: 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: Vacant
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

Memorial Day Ceremonies Honor Sacrifices Made by ‘Unsung Heroes’

Rolling Meadows’ Memorial Day Parade allowed residents to honor multiple generations of local veterans (A), while a public ceremony at the Carillon Tower paid tribute to those who gave their lives defending our nation’s freedom.

Retired United States Air Force Colonel Robert L. McKillop (B), keynote speaker at this year’s event, shared his memories of visiting the National Memorial Cemetery of the Pacific in Hawaii. There, among the thousands of graves, he “re-alized what a tremendous price that had been paid on foreign soil, so we could be free here in the City of Rolling Meadows.”

The observance concluded with a wreath-laying ceremony performed by members of the City’s Veterans Committee (C), a rifle salute, and Taps.



Sergeant John Manfredi Completes Advanced Police Command Training

Police Sergeant John Manfredi has returned to Rolling Meadows after completing an intensive command training program at the Northwestern University Center for Public Safety’s School of Police Staff and Command (SPSC).

The 10-week program featured advanced police management training in multiple areas: contemporary policing; resource allocation; planning and policies; organiza-

tional behavior; decision making/problem solving; and more.

Established in 1983, the SPSC is a nationally-renowned training program that draws law enforcement professionals from police departments across the country. It is a “dynamic police management program designed to prepare today’s progressive public safety managers for senior command positions,” the school’s website states.



Sergeant John Manfredi (center) is congratulated by Police Chief John Nowacki (right) and Deputy Chief William Arneson at his SPSC graduation.

Police Department’s Animal Control Services Focus on Public Safety; Residents Should Call Professionals for Removal of Nuisance Wildlife



John Nowacki

Rolling Meadows police officers respond to an average of 200 animal service calls per year – approximately 2% of all calls received. The Department’s animal control services focus mainly on protecting the public from sick/dangerous animals and returning lost or stray animals to their owners.

They do not include the removal of wild animals – such as skunks and raccoons – from private property. That, explained Police Chief John Nowacki, is the responsibility of the property owner.

“Most wild animals in Illinois are legally protected by the state’s Wildlife Code, which makes it illegal for a person to trap or kill an animal without a permit,” he said. “Residents who are experiencing wild animal problems on their properties should consider hiring a professional who possesses the necessary permits and

training to get the job done.”

Chief Nowacki outlined multiple reasons for hiring a trained professional, rather than trying to trap an animal yourself:

- **Convenience and safety:** It is simpler and safer for a licensed wildlife control operator to capture a wild animal.
- **Risk of physical injury:** Most wild animals will try to bite or scratch when cornered.
- **Disease:** Wildlife can be carriers of diseases that could be transmitted to humans.

Tips to Reduce Animal Nuisance Problems

1. Keep garbage securely stored/do not leave food out.
2. Secure home or property entry points, such as crawl spaces or beneath front porches, that may attract wildlife.
3. Never leave pets outdoors unattended – especially at night.
4. Feed pets indoors.

Let the Good Times 'Roll in Meadows'

Upcoming Community Events to Deliver All-Ages Summer Fun

Another "Summer in the Meadows" is heating up! Planners have assembled an action-packed roster of community events for residents to enjoy. Come see what's happening in Rolling Meadows!

Independence Day Parade (Wednesday, July 4th, 11:30 a.m.).

Celebrate America's independence with this year's must-see community parade (see page 1 for details).

4th of July Fireworks (approximately 9:15 p.m.). Gather with family, friends, and neighbors in Salk Park at twilight's last gleaming.

Fridays ROCK! & Roll in Meadows (Friday, July 6th and September 7th, 7–10 p.m.). Bring a picnic dinner (or purchase food from onsite vendors) and enjoy lively performances at Kimball Hill Park by popular Chicago area rock band SODA (www.sodarocks.com) and Centerfold (www.centerfoldband.com), respectively.

Parking Lot Party (Saturday, July 14th, 3–11 p.m.). Rolling Meadows' ultimate tailgate! Stop by the Community Center for games, activities, and performances by Chicago-based HiFi Superstar (www.hifisuperstar.com), a band specializing in "great dance party rock covers with a sprinkling of fresh originals."

Rolling Meadows Community Day at Arlington Park (Sunday, July 29th, 12–5 p.m.). Community Day returns to Arlington International Racetrack after a six-year absence! Attractions include amusement rides and games, live kids' concert, pony rides, a petting zoo, and more! Find additional details at www.arlingtonpark.com.

Community Bike Ride (Saturday, August 4th, 6 p.m.). Join Rolling Meadows police officers at the Community Center for a two-wheeled tour of the City's bike paths and green spaces.



The City's award-winning National Night Out brings police officers and residents together to celebrate community.

National Night Out (Tuesday, August 7th, 6–8:30 p.m.).

Special attractions for this year's event at the Community Center include performances by Stunt Dog productions and the Guinness World Record-holding XPOGO (extreme pogo) Stunt Team; mock battles by the knights of Medieval Times; an exotic animal show; games, music, and giveaways; and free snacks and refreshments (while supplies last).

Wine-Down by the Creek (Friday, August 17th, 6–11 p.m.).

Fine wine, beer, and live music by popular Eagles cover band Heartache Tonight will deliver the perfect soundtrack for a mid-summer evening in Kimball Hill Park.

For more information on these summer events, follow the City of Rolling Meadows on Twitter (@CityRMI), Facebook (www.facebook.com/cityofrollingmeadows), online (www.cityrm.org), and in print (News & Views).

'StormReady Certification' Demonstrates City's Commitment to Safety

Rolling Meadows has been recognized as a "StormReady" community by the National Weather Service Forecast Office – one of only 79 communities across Illinois to earn the distinction, Rolling Meadows Fire Chief Terry Valentino announced.

Data compiled by the NWS confirms that approximately 98% of all presidentially-declared natural disasters are weather-related. These result in roughly 500 deaths and \$15 billion in damage every year. StormReady communities have developed advanced plans, and implemented proactive safety and communica-

tions programs, that help save lives and protect property before, during, and after severe storms.



"This was a time-consuming, sometimes arduous process completed over several months by members of Rolling Meadows' Emergency

Management Team," Chief Valentino explained. He credited Team members Don Wenzel (Public Works), Lieutenant Ben Dwyer (Fire Department), Deb Austerlade (Administration), Justin Chiappetta (Information Technology), and Mick Fleming (Northwest Central Dispatch System) for their dedication.

To achieve the StormReady designation, communities must:

- Establish a 24-hour warning point and emergency operations center.
- Develop redundant system capabilities that allow officials to receive severe weather warnings and forecasts in multiple formats, and notify the public of severe weather conditions.
- Create a system that monitors local weather conditions.
- Offer education programs that promote the importance of public readiness.
- Institute a formal hazardous weather plan, which includes trained weather spotters and emergency exercises.

For more information on the StormReady program, visit www.weather.gov/storm-ready.

July 2018

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
1	2	Environmental Committee , 6:30 pm Planning/Zoning Commission , 7:30 pm, both at City Hall	Independence Day 4 City Hall and Public Works closed. Refuse collection delayed one day (Wed.-Fri.) Parade : 11:30 am Fireworks : Dusk (9:15 pm)	5	Cruise Night , 5-8 pm, Meadows Christian Fellowship FRIDAYS ROCK! & Roll in Meadows , 7-10 pm, Kimball Hill Park	7
8	Board of Fire & Police Commissioners , 9 am, City Hall	9 Crime Stoppers , 5:30 pm City Council Meeting , 7:30 pm, both at City Hall	10	11	Adjudication Hearing , 12 1 pm, City Hall	Cruise Night , 5-8 pm, Meadows Christian Fellowship Parking Lot Party , 14 3-11 pm, Community Center
15	Community Events Foundation Fundraiser , 4-8 pm, Chipotle (1211 Golf Road)	16 City Council Committee of the Whole , 7:30 pm, City Hall	17	18	Adjudication Hearing 19 (Red Light), 1 pm, City Hall	Water bills due 20 Cruise Night , 5-8 pm, Meadows Christian Fellowship
22	23	City Council Meeting , 24 7:30 pm, City Hall	25	26	Cruise Night , 5-8 pm, Meadows Christian Fellowship	27 28
Community Day at Arlington Park , 29 12-5 pm	30	31	Weekly "Cruise Nights" featuring vintage cars, music, and family activities take place Fridays, 5-8 pm, at Meadows Christian Fellowship, 2401 Kirchoff Road.			

August 2018

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 .			1	Adjudication Hearing 2 (Parking), 2 pm, City Hall	Cruise Night , 5-8 pm, Meadows Christian Fellowship	Cornfest , 11 am-7 pm, Community Church Community Bike Ride , 6 pm, Community Center parking lot
5	6	National Night Out , 6- 7 8:30 pm, Community Center Environmental Committee , 6:30 pm, City Hall	Planning and Zoning Commission , 7:30 pm, City Hall	8	9	Cruise Night , 5-8 pm, Meadows Christian Fellowship
12	Board of Fire & Police Commissioners , 9 am, City Hall	13 Crime Stoppers , 5:30 pm City Council Meeting , 7:30 pm, both at City Hall	14	15	Adjudication Hearing , 16 1 pm, City Hall	Cruise Night , 5-8 pm, Meadows Christian Fellowship Wine-Down by the Creek , 6-11 pm, Kimball Hill Park
19	Water bills due 20	City Council Committee of the Whole , 7:30 pm, City Hall	21	22	Adjudication Hearing 23 (Red Light), 2 pm, City Hall	Cruise Night , 5-8 pm, Meadows Christian Fellowship
26	27	City Council Meeting , 28 7:30 pm, City Hall	29	30	Cruise Night , 5-8 pm, Meadows Christian Fellowship	31 

Tim Veenbaas Bids Farewell to 7th Ward Council Seat, Rolling Meadows



Tim Veenbaas

Alderman Tim Veenbaas, who represented residents of Rolling Meadows' 7th Ward on the City Council for the past four years, resigned his seat on May 22nd – just days before he and his family moved out of state.

City statute requires aldermen to reside in the wards they represent.

Appointed in 2014 to complete the term of retiring Alderman James Larsen, Veenbaas was elected to a four-year term by

Ward 7 residents the following year. He also served six months as interim mayor, after then-Mayor Tom Rooney stepped down following his appointment to the Illinois Senate.

Veenbaas, a 21-year Rolling Meadows resident, returned to his 7th Ward seat after the 2017 mayoral election – a contest in which he did not run.

"It has been an honor and my privilege to serve my ward and the City of Rolling Meadows," Veenbaas said when announcing his resignation. He later told the *Daily Herald*, "All the time and effort I put into

this – as an interim mayor, as alderman – and all the people I've come across, I got a lot more out of it than I put into it."

Mayor Len Prejna will nominate a 7th Ward resident to serve the remaining 10 months of Veenbaas' term, pending City Council's approval. (*Editor's Note: Mayor Prejna had not yet appointed a successor as News & Views went to press.*)

The 7th Ward is one of multiple City Council seats up for election in April 2019. Residents will also select candidates for aldermen in Wards, 1, 2, 3, and 5; city clerk; and mayor.



Teeming crowds fill Kirchoff Road, between Meadow Drive and Oriole Lane.



Billy Elton performs beloved songs by Rock and Roll Hall of Famers Billy Joel and Elton John.

Community Block Party Draws Thousands to Downtown Area on Beautiful Summer Evening

Rolling Meadows' June 8th Downtown Block Party transformed a quarter-mile stretch of Kirchoff Road into a rollicking community celebration that drew thousands of people to the downtown area on a beautiful summer evening. Attractions

included an extensive law enforcement vehicle display, food vendors, a Police K9 demonstration, live music by Billy Elton, and classic cars on display at the adjacent "Cruise Night" car show.

City Earns Fifth Consecutive Award for Financial Reporting Transparency



For the fifth consecutive year, the Government Finance Officers Association (GFOA) has recognized Rolling Meadows' financial reporting as a model of transparency, following its review of the City's latest "Citizens Financial Report."

The Popular Annual Financial Reporting Award demonstrates Rolling Meadows' commitment to producing "high quality financial reports specifically designed to be readily accessible and easily understandable to the general public and other interested parties without a background in public finance," GFOA officials announced.

Rolling Meadows' report was reviewed by GFOA professional staff and by outside reviewers with experience in governmental accounting and financial reporting. It is available for public review on the City website (www.cityrm.org/233/Financial-Reports).

"We are proud to be recognized by the GFOA, but the real goal is to provide residents with clear, concise information about City finances," Finance Director Melissa Gallagher said. "These awards provide validation for those efforts."

Learn more about the GFOA and its awards programs at www.gfoa.org.



Officials Welcome Jersey Mike's Subs to Rolling Meadows

A ceremonial ribbon-cutting helped welcome Jersey Mike's Subs to Rolling Meadows – the latest addition to the City's booming restaurant scene. Mayor Len Prejna and Aldermen Mike Cannon (Ward 1), Laura Majikes (Ward 3), Joe Gallo (Ward 4), and John D'Astice (Ward 6) were among City leaders on hand for the event.

Located at 1450 Golf Road, Jersey Mike's features hot and cold subs; signature wraps; kid's meals; sides, drinks, and desserts, and more. Visit www.jerseymikes.com or call 224-404-6952 for more information.

Community Events Showcase City of Rolling Meadows

by Mayor Len Prejna

Rolling Meadows residents celebrated summer's arrival with several exciting events taking place throughout our city. The year's first City Market on May 26th featured great new vendors and a great new location (Community Church). The resulting attendance was better than ever! June, meanwhile, welcomed our annual downtown block party and the season's first Fridays ROCK! & Roll event in Kimball Hill Park.

Summer 2018 also marks the Grand Opening of Rep's Place, a new restaurant at 3200 Kirchoff Road. I'm confident that Rep's Place will soon be the "go-to" spot that residents have been looking for. It is a welcome addition to our downtown and we hope more restaurants will follow its lead in the future.

We recently said goodbye to 7th Ward Alderman Tim Veenbaas, who resigned from the City Council in May to accept a

business opportunity in another state. Tim and his family were 20-plus-year residents of Rolling Meadows. In addition to his service as alderman, Tim was also Rolling Meadows' interim mayor from December 2016 to May 2017. On behalf of everyone, I thank Tim for his service to the community.

The City continues to grow and move forward with the help of our citizens – specifically, their community involvement and participation. This month, I am asking residents to support the Urban Affairs Committee.

This committee's myriad responsibilities include outreach to residents with disabilities, and overseeing Rolling Meadows' ethics, health, and human relations efforts. To learn more about how to get involved, please contact Chairman Mike Hutchins at 630-336-2970.



Residents Graduate Citizen Police Academy

Community members (*above*) proudly display certificates marking their "graduation" from the Rolling Meadows Police Department's Citizen Training Academy this spring.

The six-week program helped participants gain a deeper understanding of professional law enforcement procedures and methodology, and develop an appreciation for RMPD's proud history of ser-

vice. The curriculum covered topics such as use of force/firearms training, crime scene investigation, canine (K9) operations, and 911 dispatch.

Congratulations to this year's graduates: Kathleen Bakos, James Beckert, Jose Casares, Reyna Cortez, Karen Gill, Emily Haeger, Carol and Stephen MacCabe, Mayor Len Prejna, David Whitney, and Annette Szafran.



Visit Saturday Morning City Markets This Summer

Monthly "City Markets" have relocated from City Hall to Community Church (2720 Kirchoff Road), providing more space to offer guests an ever-expanding "checklist" of family-fun:

- Freshly-grown produce. ✓
- Hand-made crafts and housewares. ✓
- Live music. ✓
- Food vendors. ✓
- Kids games and attractions. ✓

See you there!

Upcoming Markets

Join family, friends, and neighbors at Community Church for upcoming Saturday events:

- July 21st, 10 a.m. – 2 p.m.
- August 25th, 10 a.m. – 2 p.m.
- September 22nd, 10 a.m. – 2 p.m.