



May/June 2019



NEWS

Volume 23 Number 3

City Eliminates Vehicle Sticker Program

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& Views

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

Recognizing Those Who Gave Their Last Full Measure of Devotion May 25th Memorial Day Ceremonies to Honor Those Who Sacrificed All for Our Freedom

Rolling Meadows will honor those who gave their lives defending America's freedom Saturday, May 25th, with a Memorial Day parade along Kirchoff Road and ceremonial observance at the Carillon Tower.

Community Parade (11 a.m.)

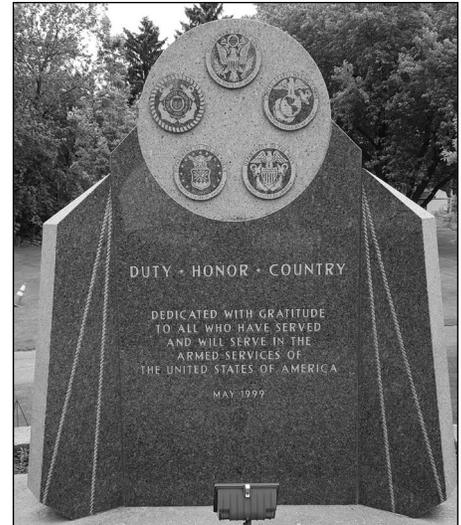
Multiple generations of local veterans and their family members will be the focal points of this year's Memorial Day parade. Parade participants will begin at the corner of Kirchoff Road and Meadow Drive, then proceed west to the Carillon Tower. Transportation will be available for those unable to walk the route.

Carillon Observance (11:30 a.m.)

Following the parade, City officials and invited dignitaries will hold a Memorial Day ceremony at the Carillon, site of

Rolling Meadows' Veterans Monument. Members of the City's Veterans Committee will lead a wreath-laying ceremony, following prepared remarks by keynote speaker Lieutenant Colonel William J. Starr, United States Army (Ret). *Note: See below for further information.*

The Veterans Committee maintains a list of veterans who have participated in past ceremonies. Armed Forces veterans who would like to join this year's events, and have not registered before, should contact City Hall at 847-394-8500.



Keynote Speaker: Lt. Col. William J. Starr (Ret.)



William J. Starr

U.S. Army Lieutenant Colonel William J. Starr (Ret.) possesses a decorated service record that spans more than 30 years and extends from Southeast Asia to Europe's Balkan Peninsula.

Lt. Col. Starr holds a Masters' degree in Military Science from the U.S. Army's Command and General Staff College, and is a graduate of its Air Assault School.

He received the Bronze Star Medal, two Army Commendation Medals, a Joint Service Commendation Medal, a Joint Service Achievement Medal, and the Defense Meritorious Service Medal.

Memorial Weekend to Commence with May 24th Veterans Dinner

Rolling Meadows' annual Veterans Dinner, a staple of the City's Memorial Day weekend observances, has helped local veterans reconnect with fellow service members since its inception in 2003. This year's dinner will take place Friday, May 24th, 6 p.m., at Meridian Banquets (1701 Algonquin Road). Check-in begins at 5:30 p.m.

Admission to the event – the only one of its kind in Illinois – is free for resident veterans and one guest. Attendees will enjoy complimentary appetizers, salad, dinner, and dessert. A cash bar will also be available.

For reservations, contact City Hall at 847-394-8500. Space is limited to 180.

Contact City Officials: City Hall Hours: 8:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. Monday-Friday

MAYOR and CITY COUNCIL

Mayor: *Len Prejna* 847-776-9442
 1st Ward Alderman: *Mike Cannon* 847-687-3276
 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: *Robert Williams* 847-303-0482
 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
 Community Development Division 847-506-6030
 Finance/Utility Billing Questions 847-394-8500
 Senior Handyman Program 847-506-6030
 Crime Stoppers 847-590-7867
 ComEd 1-800-EDISON-1



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Find Us on the Web:
www.cityrm.org

Building Inspector Jim Ooms Retires After 20 Years of Dedicated City Service



Jim Ooms

When looking back on his 30-year career as a building code enforcement officer – the past 20 of which were spent here in Rolling Meadows – Jim Ooms spoke of the pride he always felt when driving down City streets and seeing firsthand the results of his professional endeavors.

“Building inspections and code enforcement are such vital parts of local government services – they help ensure a safe community,” he explained. “What I’ve always enjoyed about Rolling Meadows, in particular, was the City’s commitment to protecting its residential housing stock. That, in my opinion, is the true reflection of a community’s overall health.”

For 20 years – from April 26th, 1999 to his retirement on April 26, 2019 – Ooms devoted himself to bettering the community he served by providing residential/commercial/industrial construction inspections and business licensing services; and performing rental dwelling inspections, property maintenance, and fire prevention support efforts.

“I was always motivated by the idea that building inspectors represented the first wave of public safety responders,” Ooms recalled. “The Fire Department provides a critical service, but I wanted to do everything in my power to make sure that new

construction projects met all the necessary code guidelines to minimize their risk of catching fire in the first place.”

Ooms, a U.S. Air Force veteran, had spent nearly 20 years in the building trades and earned multiple code enforcement certifications when he began a second career as a building inspector with the Village of Palatine. He spent a decade there before joining Rolling Meadows’ Community Development Division – known in those days as Building & Zoning.

“These past 20 years have gone by in a flash. We never suffered for a lack of work with so much new development going on around town,” he said with a chuckle. “It was busy and fulfilling, but I’m looking forward to taking my foot off the gas pedal a bit.”

Retirement will give Ooms the space to pursue his personal interests (golf, fishing, hunting, and watching baseball games) and spend more time with his wife, two daughters, and three grandchildren, but he will carry fond memories of his fellow team members.

“I will really miss the people across all City departments with whom I’ve worked these past 20 years,” he said. “The camaraderie we experienced together was incredible. The relationships I was able to build with them, and our mutual commitment to serving the community, will always be a source of tremendous pride.”

Congratulations, Jim! Enjoy retirement!

How Do I Pay My Utility Bill?

Rolling Meadows offers multiple options for customers to pay monthly utility bills:

Auto-Pay – Sign up to have your monthly bills paid directly from a bank account, or by a credit or debit card on the 20th of each month. Visit the Applications & Forms page on the City’s website (www.cityrm.org/235/Applications-Forms) to register.

Online – Visit the website’s Online Payments section (www.cityrm.org/146/Pay) to pay your bill safely and conveniently with a credit or debit card.

In-Person – Stop by the Finance Department’s front counter at City Hall. Business hours are Monday – Friday, 8 a.m. – 4 p.m.

By Mail – Mail payments to: City of Rolling Meadows
3600 Kirchoff Road
Rolling Meadows, IL 60008

Drop Box – Place payments in the white drop box located in the City Hall parking lot. *Note: Drop box payments will post on the following business day.*

PW’s Fred Vogt To Retire May 31st

Another long-time Rolling Meadows employee will soon join Jim Ooms among the ranks of the recently retired: Public Works Director Fred Vogt has announced plans to leave City service, effective May 31st.



Fred Vogt

Vogt, who became the City’s Director of Public Works in October 1996, looks forward to having more time with family and “doing projects at home,” according to a letter he submitted to City Manager Barry Krumstok.

Assistant Public Works Director Rob Horne will succeed Vogt as Director on Monday, June 3rd.

More information on Vogt and his nearly 23-year career with Rolling Meadows will be featured in the June edition of *eNews & Views*.



‘School’ Now in Session on Apollo Drive

School Health Corporation has relocated to a brand new 112,505 square foot office facility and warehouse at 5600 Apollo Drive – the culmination of a 10-month redevelopment project at the City’s corporate campus on Golf Road.

The LEED-certified facility was designed to incorporate built-in automation features and expanded storage space for faster customer order processing.

Established in 1957, School Health is a family-owned provider of health supplies and equipment to the U.S. education market. Learn more at www.school-health.com.

Voters Choose Joe Gallo as Mayor; New Aldermen to Represent 3rd, 5th, & 7th Wards

Newly-elected officials will be sworn-in at the City Council's May 14th meeting.

Note: Results of the April 2nd Consolidated Election were officially certified upon review of provisional and absentee ballots – after this issue of News & Views went to press.

Mayor-elect Joe Gallo



Joe Gallo

4th Ward Alderman Joe Gallo won a four-person race for the office of Rolling Meadows Mayor, which also included incumbent Mayor Len Prejna, 6th Ward Alderman John D'Astice, and

Planning & Zoning Commission Chair Dave Whitney.

3rd Ward Alderman-elect Kevin O'Brien



Kevin T. O'Brien

3rd Ward residents chose Rolling Meadows Park District Board President Kevin T. O'Brien over incumbent Alderman Laura Majikes and retired City employee Deborah Banach.

5th Ward Alderman-elect Jon Bisesi



Jon Bisesi

28-year resident Jon Bisesi garnered a narrow majority of votes cast in a three-person contest to succeed retiring Alderman Rob Banger. Others seeking the 5th Ward seat were former

Alderman Glenn Adams and Park District employee Joe Szafran.

7th Ward Alderman-elect Lara Sanoica



Lara Sanoica

Environmental Committee member Lara Sanoica defeated incumbent Alderman Rob Williams, who was appointed in 2018 to fill a vacant Council seat.

New Phone App Promotes Public Safety, Enhances 'Community' Policing Efforts



A new app available for Android and iPhone devices allows Rolling Meadows residents to share real-time

safety information with neighbors and law enforcement personnel, Police Chief John Nowacki reports.

The Neighbors app, which was developed by Ring (maker of video doorbell security systems), is designed to help residents monitor neighborhood activity; share crime and safety-related videos, photos, and text-based posts; and receive real-time safety alerts from police, according to a Police Department news release.

"The Neighbors app makes it easier than ever for residents to keep one another informed of local crime and safety situations by using photos, videos, and text updates shared directly from their smartphones," Chief Nowacki said. "In fact, video footage shared through the app was

recently used to identify a burglary suspect connected to an incident in a neighboring community. Those efforts helped result in the suspect's arrest," he added.

The app is free to download and available to anyone – users are not required to have a Ring home security device. Residents also have complete control over the information they decide to share with fellow network members. Other users, including the Police Department, are unable to access residents' smartphones or the data contained within.

For all its advantages, Chief Nowacki emphasized that the Neighbors app is not intended to replace 911. "Residents who witness a crime occurring or notice any suspicious activity should never hesitate to call 911. We will look into it," he added.

For more information on the Neighbors app, contact Sergeant John Manfredi at 847-255-2416.

City Water Quality Again Surpasses EPA Standards

Rolling Meadows drinking water in 2018 again met all standards established by the Environmental Protection Agency, according to the City's annual Consumer Confidence Report (CCR) that provides information on the source and quality of the water used by residents and businesses.

The full 2018 report will be available on the City's website after June 30th. Posting the CCR online helps streamline the process of delivering this information to water customers (which is required by law) and reduces printing/mailing costs.

Printed Reports Available

Customers may request a printed copy of the report by contacting the Public Works Department at 847-963-0500.

Share with Others

We encourage landlords, businesses, schools, and other groups to share this information with their tenants, employees, students, and other water users at your location who do not receive monthly utility bills from the City.

Access Rolling Meadows' 2018 Consumer Confidence Report after June 30th at www.cityofrm.org/Archive.aspx?ADID=5825.

City's Social Media Tally Approaches 11,000

Almost 11,000 people now follow the City of Rolling Meadows, Rolling Meadows Police Department, and Rolling Meadows Fire Department on Facebook and Twitter – popular social media platforms that supplement the City's ability to keep residents informed in a timely fashion. Log on and connect with us!



Facebook:

@cityofrollingmeadows
@rollingmeadowspolice
@rollingmeadowsfire



Twitter:

@cityofRM1
@meadowspolice

May 2019

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
Weekly "Cruise Nights" featuring vintage cars, music, and family activities return to Rolling Meadows Friday, May 24th, at Meadows Christian Fellowship (2401 Kirchoff Road).			Community Events Foundation Fundraiser, (11 am-9 pm), Pita Pita Mediterranean Grill <i>*Flyers available at City Hall</i>	Adjudication Hearing (Parking), 2 pm, City Hall		
5	6	Economic Development Committee, 6 pm Environmental Committee, 6:30 pm Planning & Zoning Commission, 7:30 pm, all at City Hall	"Creativity in the Garden" (Garden Club program), 6:30 pm, Community Center	Adjudication Hearing, 1 pm, City Hall	10	GYC Pancake Breakfast, 11 8-11 am, 3000 Central Rd Historical Museum Bake Sale, 9 am-2 pm, 3100 Central Rd Plant & Craft Sale, 9 am-2 pm, 3200 Central Rd
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 (Red Light), 2 pm, City Hall	16
19	Water bills due	20	City Council Committee of the Whole, 7:30 pm, City Hall	22	23	Cruise Night, 5-8 pm, Meadows Christian Fellowship Veterans Dinner, 6 pm, Meridian Banquets
26		27	City Council Meeting, 7:30 pm, City Hall	29	30	Cruise Night, 5-8 pm, Meadows Christian Fellowship
						

June 2019

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
Just a reminder: Sunday - Thursday curfew is 11 p.m. (Midnight on Fridays & Saturdays).						1
2	3	Economic Development Committee, 6 pm Environmental Committee, 6:30 pm Planning & Zoning Commission, 7:30 pm, all at City Hall	4	5	Adjudication Hearing (Parking), 2 pm, City Hall	6
9	Board of Fire & Police Commissioners, 9 am, City Hall	10 Crime Stoppers, 5:30 pm City Council Meeting, 7:30 pm, both at City Hall	11	Pollinator-Friendly Garden (Garden Club program), 6:30 pm, Community Center	12	Adjudication Hearing, 1 pm, City Hall
16		17	City Council Committee of the Whole, 7:30 pm, City Hall	18	19	Water bills due
23		24	City Council Meeting, 7:30 pm, City Hall	25	26	Community Blood Drive, 1-7 pm, City Hall
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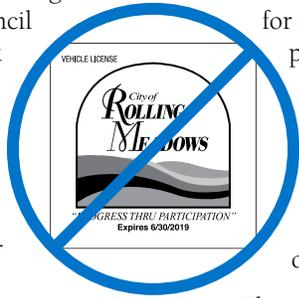
City Eliminates Annual Vehicle Sticker Sales

Drivers who have grown accustomed to purchasing new vehicle stickers every June no longer need to check the mail for their renewal notices: they won't be arriving.

In line with a growing trend among area municipalities, City Council members approved a five cent per therm natural gas use tax to generate funding for annual roadway and infrastructure improvements. In the past, that revenue has been collected by selling vehicle stickers.

The natural gas tax took effect on December 1st, 2018 and marked the official end of Rolling Meadows' vehicle sticker program. Customers' monthly Nicor gas bills reflect the new utility fee, estimated to range from \$20 to \$85 per year, based on usage. *Note: It is up to residents to complete their own cost estimates, based on the number of therms used each month or on an annual basis.*

Key benefits of eliminating vehicle stickers and moving to a natural gas use tax



include:

Improved customer convenience – Motorists no longer have to wait in line to purchase stickers, remember to order them online or through the mail, or face late fees and possible police citations for not having new stickers displayed on their vehicles.

More efficient operations – Monthly fees are collected by the gas company and passed directly to the City, which improves internal operating efficiencies.

This approach also eliminates the costly, time-consuming processes required to implement the annual vehicle sticker program and encourages more efficient use of staff time.

Increased revenue – City officials expect to collect more for road and infrastructure improvements, as local businesses and other community stakeholders will also pay their share – not just motorists.

Visit www.cityrm.org/229/Vehicle-Stickers to learn more.

May 11th Checklist: Pancake Breakfast, Plant & Craft Sale, Museum Open House

There's plenty to do in Rolling Meadows on Saturday, May 11th. Enjoy hot, delicious pancakes prepared by Rolling Meadows firefighters; 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.

Golden Years Council's Annual Pancake Breakfast (8 – 11 a.m.)

Local firefighters will break out their chef's aprons and feed hungry residents of all ages, during the Rolling Meadows Golden Years Council's annual Pancake Breakfast at Park Central (3000 Central Road). Tickets are \$6 for adults and \$4 for children when purchased in advance at the Rolling Meadows Senior Center (\$7 and \$5 at the door). For more information, call 847-818-3205.

Historical Museum's Spring Open House & Bake Sale (9 a.m. – 2 p.m.)

Historical Society members will welcome guests to a spring open house/bake sale at the Rolling Meadows



Historical Museum (3100 Central Road).

The museum, a replica of an original Kimball Hill home, tells the story of the City's founding and growth with an array of authentic 1950s memorabilia and exhibits. Call 847-577-7086 for more information.

Garden Club's Hometown Plant and Craft Sale (9 a.m. – 2 p.m.)

Find wonderful hanging baskets, unusual annuals, perennials, garden accessories, and much more, when the Rolling Meadows Garden Club hosts its annual Hometown Plant & Craft Sale at Old Public Works (3200 Central Road). Visit www.rollingmeadowsgardenclub.org for further details.

'eNews' Offers In-Depth Coverage of City Plans

Stay on top of what's happening in Rolling Meadows with eNews & Views, a supplemental online information source published in February, April, June, August, October, and December.

eNews, a sister publication to the print-based News & Views, provides expanded coverage of City plans, events and initiatives. The web-based .pdf format also offers embedded links in many stories that give readers access to additional resources and insights. Topics covered in recent eNews editions include:

- S&P affirms City's strong AA+ credit rating (April)
- Motorists prepare for Kirchoff Road

resurfacing (April)

- City earns 32nd consecutive financial reporting excellence award (April)
- New business openings continue long-term growth trend (February)
- Police K9 Unit achieves 1-year operational milestone (February)
- 'Exceptional' compliance rating/risk management policies deliver value for taxpayers and ensure employee well-being (February)

To access Rolling Meadows' newsletter archives, visit www.cityrm.org and select "Monthly City Newsletters" from the "Our Community" tab.



July 4th Community Parade to Celebrate Independence Day

Rolling Meadows will celebrate America's independence Thursday, July 4th, with a fun-filled community parade. It's a "star-spangled" opportunity for businesses, community groups, schools, and other local organizations to build amazing floats and specialty vehicles; decorate bikes, trikes, wagons, strollers, and more (*patriotic pooches, anyone?*).

Online application forms are available at www.cityrm.org/669/Community-Events. Submit completed applications by Thursday, June 27th to reserve a place in this year's event.

The parade will begin at Rolling Meadows High School at 11:30 a.m. Participants will head west on Central Road to Owl Drive, proceed north on Owl to Kirchoff Road, and turn east on Kirchoff before ending at the Rolling Meadows Shopping Center.

For more information, contact Lori Ciezak, Assistant to the City Manager, at ciezakl@cityrm.org or 847-394-8500.

Hey, Kids! Apply to Serve as Parade Marshals

Independence Day Parade organizers will select enthusiastic residents ages 5 – 12 to serve as Grand Marshals and lead this year's event on a decorated horse-drawn wagon. Applications are available at City Hall or online under the "City News" section of the Rolling Meadows home-page (www.cityrm.org). Submit completed applications by Friday, May 31st. For more information, contact Lori Ciezak at 847-394-8500 or ciezakl@cityrm.org.

Summer Days Mean Fun in Rolling Meadows

Summer is fast approaching, and community events organizers are pulling out all the stops to make it the most exciting one yet! Don't miss the fun planned for May and June (and beyond), designed specifically to ensure that the good times continue to "Roll in Meadows" all summer long.

City Markets Return

Saturdays, May 25th & June 22nd,
10 a.m. – 2 p.m.

Community Church (2720 Kirchoff Road)



Locally-grown produce, freshly-made cuisine, live music, local merchants, and a host of other draws are all staples

of the City's 7th annual summer bazaar. For 2019, each monthly event will have its own special theme, beginning with May's focus on American patriotism and extending to "Pooch-a-palooza" in June. *Note: Additional markets are scheduled for July 20th, August 24th, and September 28th. Stay tuned for details.*

Community Block Party Moves to Central Road

Friday, June 7th, 4:30 – 8:30

Between Barker Ave. & Jay Lane

This year's Community Block Party is relocating to Central Road to avoid the Kirchoff Road resurfacing project, but guests can still expect a summer night to remember with attractions aplenty. We'll have food trucks, live music, classic car



Community Block Party

and law enforcement vehicle displays, a kiddie train, a special appearance by the Rolling Meadows Cruise Nights club, and more. Last year's event drew more than 2,000 people. Let's try to shatter that attendance record in 2019!



Fridays ROCK!

Summer Concert Series 'ROCKS' Rolling Meadows

Friday, June 14, 7 - 10 p.m.

Kimball Hill Park

Rolling Meadows' Fridays ROCK! series returns for another triumphant summer of music! Bring a picnic dinner to this free, all-ages "Ravinia-style" event that showcases popular area bands performing right here at home. *Plan ahead for additional Fridays ROCK! shows scheduled on July 19th and September 13th.*

'Keep on Rolling': City Releases 2019 Live Music Bill

Some incredible live musical acts are coming to town this summer – presenting a diverse range of genres guaranteed to suit nearly everyone's personal tastes. Here's the official itinerary for Rolling Meadows' Summer & Fall Music Tour:

June 7th (Community Block Party): **The Blooze Brothers** (Blues Brothers tribute band)

June 14th (Fridays ROCK!): **Spoken Four** (pop, rock, country, & more)

July 14th (Parking Lot Party): **HiFi Superstar** (rock & dance party)

July 19th (Fridays ROCK!): **1976** (1970s rock & pop)

August 16th (Wine-Down by the Creek): **7th Heaven** (70s, 80s, & 90s)

September 10th (Senior Luncheon): **Edizon Dayao** (50s – present)

September 13th (Fridays ROCK!): **Billy Elton** (Elton John tribute band)

October 5th (Hometown Hoedown): **Wild Earp** (country)