



November/December 2019



NEWS
Volume 23 Number 6

**Hometown Hoedown
Highlights**

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& Views

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

Police Department Earns State of Illinois Accreditation for Standards of Excellence

The Rolling Meadows Police Department has achieved Tier 1 accreditation through the Illinois Law Enforcement Accreditation Program, following a thorough evaluation of Department operations that confirmed compliance with 67 established standards of excellence, Police Chief John Nowacki reports.

RMPD scored highly during a two-day, onsite assessment of Department operations conducted earlier this year by members of the Illinois Law Enforcement Accreditation Council.

Des Plaines Police Chief Bill Kushner, Vice President, Illinois Association of Chiefs of Police, personally presented the accreditation certificate to Chief Nowacki during City Council's September 10th meeting.

"This accreditation is the culmination of two years of hard work and effort by Department members," Chief Nowacki explained. "Rolling Meadows is fortunate to have such a dedicated group of men and women. I offer my congratulations to them for a job well done."



Rolling Meadows Police Chief John Nowacki (right) displays the accreditation certificate presented by IACP Vice President Bill Kushner.



Revelers gather around the City's Holiday Tree.

City Selects New Locales for December 5th Tree Lighting and Spaghetti Dinner

Thursday, December 5th will begin an exciting new era for two of Rolling Meadows' most cherished holiday traditions.

'Historic' Tree Lighting: 6:00 p.m.

Celebrate the season's arrival with family members, friends, and neighbors at the City's annual Tree Lighting ceremony, which will begin at 6:00 p.m. at the Rolling Meadows Historical Museum (3100 Central Road). Enjoy light refreshments and caroling, followed by a special appearance by Old St. Nick to light Rolling Meadows' majestic Holiday Tree.

Spaghetti Dinner at Willow Bend: 6:30 p.m.

Once Tree Lighting festivities are com-

plete, hop aboard a decorated horse-drawn wagon or walk over to Willow Bend School (4700 Barker Avenue) for a free spaghetti dinner, prepared by Stadium Sports Club. The buffet-style meal will include spaghetti and sauce, garlic bread, salad, soft drinks, and dessert (while supplies last).

Mark your calendars now for this joyous year-end celebration. Visit www.cityrm.org for further details.



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

MAYOR and CITY COUNCIL

Mayor: Joe Gallo 847-814-9271
1st Ward Alderman: Mike Cannon 847-687-3276
2nd Ward Alderman: Nick Budmats 847-202-0855
3rd Ward Alderman: Kevin O'Brien 847-212-2587
4th Ward Alderman: Jenifer Vinezeano. 630-546-8133
5th Ward Alderman: Jon Bisesi. 847-772-8428
6th Ward Alderman: John D'Astice 847-409-9367
7th Ward Alderman: Lara Sanoica 847-770-3097
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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Twenty-Seven-Year Police Veteran John Sircher Named Deputy Chief

Upon joining the Rolling Meadows Police Department in 1992, John Sircher never allowed himself to imagine he would one day rise to the rank of Deputy Police Chief.

But that's just what happened on October 1st when he succeeded Bill Arneson, who retired after 32 years of department service (see below).

"My philosophy has always been, 'do the job the right way and take advantage of opportunities if they present themselves,'" Deputy Chief Sircher recalled.

"This was an easy decision. I'm so proud of the way this Department serves Rolling Meadows residents, and the Deputy Chief position offers an opportunity for me to ensure our officers have the training,

tools, and skills they need to continue providing exceptional services."

"Deputy Chief Sircher has served with distinction throughout his 27 years with the Department and I congratulate him on his promotion," Police Chief John Nowacki said. "John is an outstanding leader whose dedication to public service is obvious. I'm very excited to work with him as he begins the next chapter in an already exceptional career."

Deputy Chief Sircher served with the Cook County Department of Corrections before joining the Rolling Meadows Police Department as a patrol officer. Among his many accomplishments, he has served as a member

(and leader) of the Investigations Unit, earned promotions to sergeant and commander, and worked with students as a school resource officer based at Rolling Meadows High School.

In 2001, he was honored as recipient of the District 214 Leadership Award for his work with local schools. He was the first non-district employee to receive the award.

Deputy Chief Sircher always planned to follow in the footsteps of his father, a Chicago police officer. He's proud of the career he's built to-date here in Rolling Meadows, and eager to take on his next professional challenge.

"I love this community and I love the people I work with. I wouldn't want to be anywhere else," he explained. "This City has been very good to me, and I'm going to give everything I have in return."



John Sircher

A Look Back: Bill Arneson Recalls 32-Year Police Department Career

News & Views caught up with Bill Arneson on the eve of his retirement as Deputy Police Chief to discuss his 32 years of service to Rolling Meadows and his future plans.

About Bill Arneson

Deputy Chief Bill Arneson's 32 years with the Rolling Meadows Police Department included service as a patrol officer, field training officer, firearms range master, sergeant, commander, and acting police chief.

He also served on a regional auto theft task force and was Department Coordinator for the NIPAS regional SWAT team.

"Bill is an outstanding leader who was always 100% committed to Rolling Meadows," Police Chief John Nowacki explained. "He was an excellent resource for me when I joined the Department in 2016 and, on a more personal level, made me feel welcome. On behalf of the entire Department, I wish Bill a long, happy, and fulfilling retirement."

Excerpts from that conversation follow.

Describe what has changed since you first joined the Department in 1987?

"The rise of regional collaborative organizations in the 1990s – including the Northern Illinois Police Alarm System (NIPAS) and Major Case Assistance Team (MCAT) – really offered an opportunity for individual departments to provide better services by sharing resources and knowledge. Then, after 9/11, everything changed again. Local agencies, including RMPD, became an essential part of ensuring national security because of our day-to-day connection with the communities we serve."

How has technology improved coordination between agencies and police personnel?

"It's been a game-changer on so many levels. We used to keep plenty of quarters on-hand so we could make calls from payphones (laughs). Now, there's a smartphone in every police vehicle. That's a

very simple example of how much things have changed."

From a career standpoint, what do you feel is your greatest accomplishment?

"From a Department-wide operational perspective, I'm most proud of our efforts to improve responses to school and workplace violence - updating our training and tactics to meet new challenges and improve community safety."

What will you miss the most?

"Residents' support for their police department is unmatched. As an organization, we are grateful for their enthusiasm; it helps us do our jobs more effectively. I'll miss being part of that."

What are your plans for retirement?

"Spend more time with my family and get moving on some home improvement projects that I've had on my list for too long. I also enjoy hunting and fishing, so my goal is to focus more on those, too."



Bill Arneson

Toys for Tots Collection Drive to Make Holidays Brighter for Children in Need

Rolling Meadows and the United States Marine Corps Reserve have once again partnered to spread holiday joy to children in need through the Marine's Toys for Tots program.

This year's collection drive begins Monday, November 4th. Help make a difference by bringing new, unwrapped toys



to City Hall (3600 Kirchoff Road) or the Rolling Meadows Library (3110 Martin Lane). Collection boxes provided by the Marines are available at both locations.

Donations will be accepted through Friday, December 6th. For more information, or to make a monetary donation, visit www.toysfortots.org.

2020 Census Update: What You Need to Know

What is a census and why is it important?

Once every 10 years, America comes together to count every single resident living in the United States. The final population count serves as the basis for:

- Reapportioning Congressional seats.
- Redistricting at the state and local levels (including re-drawn City ward boundaries to ensure fair representation of Rolling Meadows residents).
- Distributing over \$675 billion in federal funds to states, counties, and communities.

When will the next census take place?

The 2020 census is fast approaching. All U.S. households will receive an invitation to participate by April 1st. Rolling Meadows residents may complete the survey online, by mail, or by phone.

The success of the 2020 census is dependent on everyone's participation.

An accurate population count will ensure the City continues to receive the proper (population-based) funding from federal sources.

How is my information used?

All information provided by residents through the census is strictly confidential. Federal law prohibits the Census Bureau from sharing data with immigration and law enforcement agencies or allowing it to be used to determine eligibility for benefits.

The countdown to 2020 is on. Be informed. Be counted. Visit www.census.gov for more information.



Upgraded Notification System Alerts Residents in Emergency Situations

Register for the newly upgraded Citizen Alert program operated by Northwest Central Dispatch System (NWCDS) to receive timely notifications about community emergencies.

System Delivers Emergency & Community Information

The Citizen Alert program helps City and public safety officials immediately notify residents of potential emergencies. The system is designed to deliver messages to residents in the manner they prefer to receive the information. Users may choose from a variety of options, including email, text message, home phone/landline, and cell phones.

The system is also equipped to distribute non-emergency community information provided by City officials.

Registration is completely secure. Visit the Police Department's webpage (www.cityrm.org/207-Police-Department) and choose "Emergency Alert System" from the INFORMATION & FORMS link on the left side of the page.

For more information, contact the Police Department's Help Desk at 847-255-2416.

Note for Current Users

Users who have already registered should update their passwords in order to take advantage of recent system upgrades.

'Home' for the Holidays: Shop, Dine & Play Locally

Why "Shop Rolling Meadows" this holiday season?

- **Value & Variety:** The City's business community is comprised of independent merchants, Big Box retailers, and everything in between.
- **Convenience:** Unique gifts for everyone on your list may be found right here at home.
- **Shop & Dine:** Enjoy great meals at Rolling Meadows' restaurants, which offer a variety of menu items to please anyone's palate.
- **Time for Play:** Visit the City's gaming cafés for "fun" gift ideas... or take a break from the crowds and enjoy yourself.

Recycle Holiday Lights & Cords through City's Collection Program

Rolling Meadows, through a partnership with the Solid Waste Agency of Northern Cook County (SWANCC) and Elgin Recycling, again offers a seasonal recycling program that lets residents safely and conveniently dispose of old holiday lights, electrical cords, and wire.

Simply drop off materials for recycling at the collection box outside City Hall (3600 Kirchoff Road).

Accepted items include incandescent and LED lights (all sizes and colors); extension cords; household wire; and computer wires and cords.

This year's collection program begins Friday, November 1st and will continue until February 14th, 2020.

For more information, please visit www.swancc.org or www.elginrecycling.com.



November 2019

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
Visit www.cityrm.org to access eNews & Views, Rolling Meadows' electronic newsletter published in February, April, June, August, October, and December.					1	2
Daylight Saving Time ends. Clocks fall back one hour. 3	Early Refuse Set-out begins. 4	Economic Development Committee, 6 pm Environmental Cte., 6:30 pm Planning & Zoning Commission, 7:30 pm, all at City Hall 5	6	Adjudication Hearing (Parking), 2 pm, City Hall 7	8	9
10	Veterans Day 11 City offices closed. Regular refuse collection provided.	Board of Fire & Police Commissioners, 9 am Crime Stoppers, 5:30 pm City Council Meeting, 7:30 pm, all at City Hall 12	13	Adjudication Hearing, 14 1 pm, City Hall	15	16
17	18	Community Events Foundation, 6 pm City Council Committee of the Whole, 7:30 pm, both at City Hall 19	Water bills due 20	Adjudication Hearing 21 (Red Light), 2 pm, City Hall	22	23
24	25	City Council Meeting, 26 7:30 pm, City Hall	27	Thanksgiving 28 City offices closed. Thursday and Friday refuse collection delayed one day.	City offices closed. Thursday and Friday refuse collection delayed one day. 29	Yard waste collection ends. 30

December 2019

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
1	2	Economic Development Committee, 6 pm Environmental Cte., 6:30 pm City Council Mtg., 7:30 pm Planning & Zoning Commission, 7:30 pm, all at City Hall 3	4	Adjudication Hearing 5 (Parking), 2 pm, City Hall Tree Lighting, 6 pm, Historical Museum Spaghetti Dinner, 6:30 pm, Willow Bend School	6	RMPD Holiday Food Drive, 10 am – 2 pm, Jewel Shopping Center 7
8	Board of Fire & Police Commissioners, 9 am, City Hall 9	Crime Stoppers, 5:30 pm City Council Committee of the Whole, 7:30 pm, both at City Hall 10	11	Adjudication Hearing, 12 1 pm, City Hall	13	14
15	16	City Council Meeting, 17 7:30 pm, City Hall	Blood Drive, 1-7 pm, City Hall 18	Adjudication Hearing 19 (Red Light), 2 pm, City Hall	Water bills due 20	21
Hanukkah begins 22	23	Christmas Eve City offices closed. Early refuse pick-up. 24	Christmas City offices closed. Wednesday – Friday refuse collection delayed one day. 25	Kwanzaa 26	27	28
29	30	New Year's Eve 31			City offices will be closed Wednesday, January 1st, 2020 (New Year's Day). Wednesday – Friday refuse collection will be delayed one day.	

Development Professional Named City's New Assistant Public Works Director

Jo Ellen Charlton, a well-respected planning, zoning, and business development professional with nearly 30 years of experience, has been named Rolling Meadows' new Assistant Public Works Director.

Charlton, who succeeds Rob Horne following his promotion to Director, previously served as Community Development Director in Darien and DeKalb. She also gained over a decade of experience with a regional engineering firm, often acting as a liaison between the company and its municipal clients. In addition, she has provided consulting services for local governments in search of qualified employees.

"I've spent my career serving local government in various capacities, but I've never directly worked in a public works setting until now," she explained. "It was one of the things that drew me to the position."

"With her background and extensive experience in development and managing government processes, Jo Ellen is a tremendous addition to our entire team," Horne said. "My goal is to leverage that experience for the benefit of all Public Works divisions, and the residents and businesses we serve."

Charlton feels fortunate to arrive in the midst of exciting changes taking place throughout Public Works. Naturally, given her background, she points to recent achievements in the Community Development Division as examples of excellence already in motion when she



Public Works Director Rob Horne calls Assistant Director Jo Ellen Charlton a "tremendous addition" to the team.

arrived. These include new customer service initiatives, a streamlined application approval process, and establishing clearly defined time frames for reviewing plans and issuing permits.

"Public Works employees show outstanding initiative in their efforts to be responsive to community needs. That was not surprising, considering Rolling Meadows' well-known reputation for customer service," Charlton added. "I'm very happy to be here and look forward to being part of the team's continued success."

As she recalled her first few months on the job and looked ahead, Charlton identified one question, in particular, that will guide Public Works' future direction.

"How do we inspire the effective delivery of public services and reinvestment in our community in a manner consistent with the Community's vision? That is what we always need to ask ourselves," she concluded.

Council-Approved Ordinance Permits Chickens

City Council members in September approved an ordinance allowing homeowners to raise up to six chickens in backyard coops, provided they keep the coops at least 10 feet away from property lines and pay a \$25 annual licensing fee.

The program stipulates that single-family residential lots may have between two and six backyard hens – roosters are not allowed – in coops that are built in accordance with City code. The ordinance



limits the number of participants to 25 households throughout Rolling Meadows.

Refuse Collection Schedule

Early Refuse Set-out Begins November 4th

Beginning Monday, November 4th, residents may place refuse at the curb before dark (*after 3 p.m., instead of the standard 6 p.m.*) the day prior to their scheduled pick-up, as part of the City's "early refuse set-out" program. Early refuse set-out runs through March 2020.

Yard Waste Collection Ends November 30th

Yard waste collection service will conclude Saturday, November 30th. Residents should place yard waste in craft paper bags at the curb – separate from household waste – for pickup on their regular collection day. Public Works will begin collecting yard waste again next spring.

Holiday Refuse Schedule

- **Thanksgiving:** Public Works will be closed Thursday, November 28th, and Friday, November 29th, for the Thanksgiving holiday. *Regular Thursday and Friday routes will be delayed one day.*
- **Christmas Eve:** Public Works will be closed Tuesday, December 24th. *City crews will provide early refuse collection. Place all refuse at the curb by 6 a.m. that morning.*
- **Christmas:** Public Works will be closed Wednesday, December 25th. *Refuse collection will be delayed one day for the remainder of the week.*
- **New Year's Eve:** Regular refuse collection is scheduled for Tuesday, December 31st.
- **New Year's Day 2020:** Public Works will be closed Wednesday, January 1st. *Refuse collection will be delayed one day for the remainder of the week.*

For more information, contact Public Works at 847-963-0500 or visit www.cityrm.org/301/Public-Works.

Summer's Come and Gone; Opportunities Lie Ahead

by Mayor Joe Gallo

And just like that, autumn is upon us. It feels like overnight we left behind the bustling days of barbecues, block parties, long summer days, and evening walks – only to wake up to crisp, cool mornings that transition to mild afternoons.

Gone is the care-free frame of mind that so often accompanies summer. Soon it will be time to carve up the turkey, start our shopping sprees, and gather with family and friends on December 5th for the City's Holiday Tree Lighting ceremony.

In the meantime, the City Council and I have been participating in a series of meetings with the City Manager

and the Finance Director to work through the 2020 budget. It's an important time for us as we prepare to make decisions on where we allocate money. What takes financial priority? What improvements will we prepare to accomplish? These are among the questions we ask ourselves.

Even though it's more enjoyable to look back on the fun and care-free tenor the summer months gave us, it's important to look ahead with a strategic mind and with purpose.

Many great opportunities lie ahead for the City, and we will be exploring them all. Stay informed. Stay involved. Come out for a Council meeting. We would love to hear from you!

Live Music, Animals, Games Among Hometown Hoedown Highlights

Kimball Hill Park resembled a menagerie filled with animals during the City's October 5th Hometown Hoedown Fall Festival: horse-drawn hayrides, pony rides, and a petting zoo featuring, goats, ducks – even a llama – were among the many

attractions enjoyed by thousands of guests on a beautiful fall day. Special thanks to **Arthur J. Gallagher** for sponsoring this year's Hoedown.



Children take a bite out of fall during a 'donut on a string' contest.



Crowds gather along the banks of Kimball Hill Pond to witness the Environmental Committee's annual Duck Race, which raised \$3,100 for local preservation initiatives.



Hoedown attendees enjoy a leisurely horse-drawn hayride through Kimball Hill Park.



Wild Earp and the Free-for-Alls deliver a boot-stompin' performance for guests of all ages.



Little cowboys and cowgirls giddy-up at the Pony Rides.



What has six goats, a duck, and a llama? The Hometown Hoedown petting zoo!