

NEWS & VIEWS

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VOLUME 24 ISSUE 2

CITY OF ROLLING MEADOWS

INCORPORATED
1955



"Progress Thru
Participation"

STATE OF

ILLINOIS

Council
term limits on
March 17th
ballot



City Council chamber

VOTE IN MARCH 17TH ILLINOIS PRIMARY

Ballot Includes Question on City Council Term Limits

On Tuesday, March 17th, Illinois voters play their part in determining which candidates running for local, state, and federal offices will appear on the November 3rd General Election ballot.

Besides offering their preference for specific Democratic or Republican candidates at all levels of government, Rolling Meadows residents who vote in this year's Illinois Primary will also be able to weigh-in on a referendum question that, if approved, would impose new term limits on City aldermen.

...continued on p.2

CITY, PARK DISTRICT TEAM UP TO HOST ST. PATRICK'S DAY DINNER TRADITION

Rotary Club of Rolling Meadows' annual St. Patrick's Day Dinner has been a beloved community staple for many years. The City and Park District are proud to continue the tradition in 2020.

This year's event will take place Saturday, March 14th, 6:00 – 10:00 pm, at the Community Center. Paid admission includes:

- An Irish/American dinner
- Cash bar
- Live music by Irish band Arranmore
- "Best Irish attire" contest
- A chance to win the event's \$1,500

grand prize raffle (*raffle tickets sold separately*).



Tickets to attend the dinner are \$30 (\$35 after March 4th), and available on the City's website (www.cityrm.org/669/Community-Events).

Those planning to attend may also purchase tickets at City Hall (3600 Kirchoff Road) or the Community Center (3705 Pheasant Drive).

Proceeds from the event will benefit the City's Community Events Foundation and Rolling Meadows Park District Foundation.

65 & Live! ARRANMORE

Called a "Chicago staple" by WGN Radio's Dean Richards, Arranmore takes its name "after an island off the Northwest coast of Donegal in Ireland," according to the group's website (www.arranmore.com). The band is a "musical melting pot" that has roots in traditional Celtic music, as well as Folk and Americana.



Photo: Arranmore



Photo: U.S. Census Bureau

CENSUS 2020

SHAPE YOUR FUTURE

Everyone has a part to play in this year's census, the Constitutionally mandated count of all people living in the United States. Every 10 years, the census offers an opportunity to help shape the future by "counting every living person in the U.S. once, only once, and in the right place," according to the U.S. Census Bureau.

Census results are used to determine the number of seats each state has in Congress, draw boundaries for voting districts (including City ward boundaries), and determine how nearly \$700 billion in federal funding is spent in communities each year.

Here are a few other facts to keep in mind about the 2020 census:

It's Your Civic Duty

Completing the census is required, but it's also a way to participate in our democracy by standing up and saying, "I count!"

Your Information is Confidential

Federal law protects your responses. Answers provided may only be used to produce statistics. It is against the law for census information to be used against you by any government agency or court.

Census Responses are Secure

The Census Bureau employs the most sophisticated cybersecurity technology to protect agency information and resident responses.

Be informed. Be counted. To learn more, visit www.2020census.gov.

NEW ONLINE UTILITY BILLING PAYMENT PORTAL TO DEBUT IN MAY, IMPROVE USER CONVENIENCE

A new web-based customer service portal scheduled to go "live" in May will offer a convenient, easy-to-use interface that makes it simpler than ever for residents to pay their monthly utility bills online each month or enroll in the City's automatic bill payment program.

The new portal, powered by upgraded utility billing software, will allow customers to log on and make same-day payments with a credit or debit card. Users may also register for automatic monthly payments with a credit/debit card, or via bank draft from a checking or savings account.



Melissa Gallagher

"The updated portal will also offer several new features – including the ability to access and view one's billing history online, Finance Director Melissa Gallagher

explained. "The system is designed to bolster customer service and convenience while improving internal operations."

Take Note: System Changes Pending

As the transition to the new portal takes place, customers should note the following:

- Customers who pay online through their banking website via Electronic Funds Transfer (EFT) will need to update their Utility Billing account number once the City's software transition is complete. All account numbers will be changing (*more information to come*).
- Current auto payment customers who use credit/debit cards will need to re-enroll once the new system is active. Final payments scheduled through the current system will occur on March 20th. After March 20th, customers should submit payments by another method until they are able to re-enroll through the new customer portal.
- Existing bank draft (*checking or savings account*) customers will transition to the new software system without interruption.

Contact Finance Department with Questions

The City will post instructions on how to register for the "new" automatic payment system once it is active. Residents with questions about the pending changes may contact the Finance Department at 847-394-8500 or ub@cityrm.org.

MARCH 17TH ILLINOIS PRIMARY ...continued from p.1

Two-Term Limit Proposed for City Council Members

The referendum question, if approved, would limit the service of aldermen to two consecutive terms, or eight years. Currently, a City Council member may serve up to 12 years, or three consecutive terms, before being required to vacate his/her seat.

A YES vote indicates support for the revised two-term limit. A NO vote signals preference for maintaining the status quo. Voters approved a similar two-term limit for Rolling Meadows mayor in 1995.

Important Dates: Illinois Primary

Voters should be aware of key dates relating to the March 17th Primary:

March 2nd – Early voting begins.

March 12th – Final day to request a mail-in ballot.

March 16th – Last day of early voting & grace period registration.

March 17th – Deadline for mail-in ballots to be postmarked.

For more information on the 2020 Illinois Primary, contact the Cook County Clerk's Office (312-603-5656 or www.cookcountyclerk.com).

PUBLIC WORKS TO RESUME SEASONAL YARD WASTE COLLECTION MARCH 30TH

Public Works will resume seasonal yard waste collection services Monday, March 30th. Residents should place yard waste in 30-gallon kraft paper bags and place them at the curb the night before scheduled pick-up.

Separate Yard Waste from Household Refuse

All yard waste bags collected by Public Works crews are delivered to an eco-friendly composting facility for processing.

To minimize the risk of cross-contamination with household refuse (and help crews complete their routes

more efficiently), residents should place bags containing yard waste on the opposite end of the driveway and mark them with an "X."

Early Refuse Set-Out Ends

Friday, March 27th, is the final day of Rolling Meadows' seasonal early refuse set-out schedule. Beginning Monday, March 30th, residents should place refuse and recyclables at the curb after 6:00 pm. the evening before pick-up.

Learn more about the City's refuse and yard waste collection programs at www.cityrm.org.311/Refuse-Recycling.

APRIL 23RD BUSINESS & COMMUNITY SHOWCASE IS PART B2B NETWORKING EXPO, PART JOB FAIR

Are you a job seeker interested in furthering your career at one of the City's many local businesses? A resident interested in learning more about products and services available from City-based companies? A business owner or manager aiming to network with other leaders?

Then mark your calendar and make sure to attend this year's Business & Community Showcase.

What: 3rd Annual Business & Community Showcase

When: Thursday, April 23rd,
4:00 – 5:00 pm
(private B2B networking)
5:00 – 8:00 pm
(open to the public)

Where: Meridian Banquets
(1701 W. Algonquin Road)



Diverse Program Goals

The goals of the program are to:

1. Connect residents seeking employment with businesses that are hiring.
2. Provide a forum that promotes professional networking opportunities among business leaders.
3. Encourage residents to "shop local" by inviting them to learn more about Rolling Meadows-based businesses.

Job Fair Follows B2B Networking

The 2020 Showcase will lead off with a private, hour-long business-to-business networking (B2B) event. Members of the public are welcome to attend the Showcase from 5:00 – 8:00 pm. Admission is free.

Businesses May Register Online

Businesses planning to participate may register online at (www.cityrm.org). The \$25 event fee includes use of covered display tables to showcase marketing materials and a listing in the Showcase exhibitor guide.

For more information, contact Rolling Meadows Business Advocate Martha Corner at cornerm@cityrm.org or 847-870-9004.



POLICE DEPARTMENT UNLEASHES PUBLIC EDUCATION PROGRAM FOR DOG OWNERS

Prompted by multiple complaints of unleashed dogs in local parks and public areas, the Rolling Meadows Police Department is launching a public education program that will encourage residents to be responsible stewards of their dogs and ensure that they follow City ordinances governing dog ownership, Police Chief John Nowacki reports.

K9 Demonstrations

One of Rolling Meadows' finest is an ideal ambassador for the new program: Officer Chris Don and his four-legged partner, Scar, will promote responsible dog ownership and the importance of keeping dogs leashed when in public during a series of K9 demonstrations held throughout the year.

Other program elements include posting information on the Police Department's Facebook page, and on the City's website, to help residents avoid the risk of receiving a citation from police officers.

"Our goal is to promote accountability among pet owners while also ensuring the safety of residents and the animals themselves," Chief Nowacki explained.

Vaccinations & Microchipping

The program will also emphasize the importance of making sure dogs are vaccinated against rabies, and encourage owners to consider microchipping their animals (which helps shelters/veterinary clinics identify the owners of loose/stray animals and reunite them with their families).

MARCH 2020

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
1	2	3 Economic Development Committee, 6 pm Environmental Committee, 7 pm Planning & Zoning Commission, 7:30 pm	4	5 Adjudication Hearing (Parking), 2 pm	6	7
8 Daylight Saving Time Begins. Clocks "spring" ahead one hour.	9 Board of Fire & Police Commissioners, 9 am	10 Crime Stoppers, 5:30 pm City Council Meeting, 7:30 pm	11	12 Adjudication Hearing, 1 pm	13	14 St. Patrick's Day Dinner, 6-10 pm, Community Center (3705 Pheasant Drive)
15	16	17 <i>ST. PATRICK'S DAY ILLINOIS PRIMARY</i> City Council Committee of the Whole, 7:30 pm	18	19 FIRST DAY OF SPRING Adjudication Hearing (Red Light), 2 pm	20 <i>Water bills due</i>	21
22	23	24 City Council Meeting, 7:30 pm	25	26	27 Early refuse set-out ends	28
29	30 Yard waste collection begins	31	All meetings take place at City Hall, unless noted.	WANT MORE NEWS? Check out Rolling Meadows' electronic newsletter, <i>eNews</i> , published in February, April, June, August, October and December, and archived at www.cityrm.org .		

APRIL 2020

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
BE INFORMED. BE COUNTED. Learn more about the 2020 census and its impact on Rolling Meadows. See related story on page 2 and visit www.2020census.gov for details.			1	2 Adjudication Hearing (Parking), 2 pm	3	4
5 <i>PALM SUNDAY</i>	6	7 Economic Development Committee, 6 pm Environmental Committee, 7:00 pm Planning & Zoning Commission, 7:30 pm	8 <i>PASSOVER BEGINS</i>	9 Adjudication Hearing, 1 pm	10 <i>GOOD FRIDAY</i>	11
12 <i>EASTER</i>	13 Board of Fire & Police Commissioners, 9 am	14 Crime Stoppers, 5:30 pm City Council Meeting, 7:30 pm	15	16 Adjudication Hearing (Red Light), 2 pm	17	18
19	20 <i>Water bills due</i>	21 Community Events Foundation, 6 pm City Council Committee of the Whole, 7:30 pm	22 <i>EARTH DAY</i>	23 Fire Pension Board, 8:30 am Business & Community Showcase, 4-5 pm (B2B networking); 5-8 pm (public), Meridian Banquets	24 <i>ARBOR DAY</i>	25
26	27 Police Pension Board, 3:30 pm	28 City Council Meeting, 7:30 pm	29	30		All meetings take place at City Hall, unless noted.

RETIRING FIRE CHIEF REFLECTS ON RMFD'S TRACK RECORD OF SERVICE EXCELLENCE

Terry Valentino's 40+ year fire service career will conclude Friday, March 13th, when he steps down as Rolling Meadows Fire Chief to embark on life's next phase: retirement.

As he looks ahead to spending more time with family – his grandchildren, in particular – Chief Valentino shared his thoughts about the Fire Department and its future, and fond memories of his time in Rolling Meadows. Excerpts from that conversation follow:

On Rolling Meadows' firefighters:

"They are professional, personable individuals who work as a team to provide outstanding services to this community. They hold themselves to a higher standard and always come through when needed – whether they were operating from a 60-year-old building or a 60-day-old building*. It has been my honor to serve with them."

On how technology is improving fire/ems service delivery:

"It's been exciting to integrate new technology that drives advances in patient care. Whether it's integrating geographic data to improve response times, or cloud-based operational statistics that help us analyze treatment protocols on a case-by-case basis, we are leveraging technology to offer more effective treatments that save lives."

On RMFD's strong relationships with other City departments:

"From my first day here in 2014, I have been amazed by the strong bonds we have with other City departments – Public Works and the Police Department, in particular. Everyone works together for the mutual benefit of our residents. A lot of communities can't really say that. It's truly remarkable."

On improving coordination with local schools:

"We've made tremendous progress on our outreach to local school districts. Developing effective school-based emergency response procedures



Terry Valentino

that improve student safety has been a pet project of mine. In fact, one of my last days on duty will be spent conducting a tabletop training exercise with school staff members to make sure we keep this good thing going."

On the support the Fire Department receives from the community:

"Residents' appreciation for the firefighters who serve them has always been amazing. It's gratifying to have that support. I speak for everyone in the Department in also thanking the City's leadership team – City Manager Barry Krumstok, in particular – for providing the resources we need to deliver the high levels of service our community deserves."

On the future:

"RMFD will continue to showcase its excellence and achieve great things. Throughout my tenure as chief, my goal was to build upon the foundation established by my predecessors. I have every confidence that Chief (Jeff) Moxley and Deputy Chief (Rick) Acosta will continue that tradition and guide the Department to new levels of success."

**Firefighters began operating from a new fire station at 3201 Algonquin Road in December 2019. It replaces the station at 3111 Meadow Drive that was built in the early 1960s.*

MOXLEY TO SUCCEED VALENTINO AS FIRE CHIEF; ACOSTA NAMED DEPUTY CHIEF

Jeff Moxley, a Rolling Meadows Fire Department member since 1991, will succeed Terry Valentino as Rolling Meadows Fire Chief, effective Saturday, March 14th. Chief Moxley spent 16 years as a firefighter/paramedic before earning promotion to Lieutenant (2007), Battalion Chief (2012), and then Deputy Chief (2017).



Jeff Moxley



Rick Acosta

Filling the position of Deputy Fire Chief is Rick Acosta, who has served with RMFD since 1993. He served as a firefighter/paramedic for 22 years before being promoted to Lieutenant (2015) and Battalion Chief (2018).

Confirm Permit Needs Before Starting Improvement Projects

Are you gearing up to make improvements to your home or business in 2020? It's never too early to start the planning process – and your first step is to determine if you need a building permit.

Permits are required for new buildings, remodeling projects, home additions, business facility expansions, and a range of other property improvements.

Call Community Development at 847-506-6030, or stop by the Division's office at City Hall (3600 Kirchoff Road), for help confirming whether a permit is required for your next project.

Learn more at www.cityrm.org/169/Permits-Inspections.



MAYOR'S CORNER BY MAYOR JOE GALLO

TAKING CARE OF BUSINESS: FROM NEW YEAR'S TO APRIL'S CENSUS

I hope you've enjoyed this mild winter as I have. We've experienced just a few snow events, but our crew at Public Works has responded amazingly each time: clearing roads and keeping travels free from disruption.

The new year came quickly, and spring seems just around the corner. We're moving swiftly through the first quarter, and I'm happy to recap what's gone on – and share what's ahead.

January's Northwest Municipal Conference's Legislative Brunch offered insights on legislative decisions in Springfield and Washington that impact our community's fiscal health and stability. It provided important information on issues warranting our consideration, and practical guidance on how best to proceed.

I'm looking forward to the Chamber of Commerce's annual Taking Care of Business Lunch on March 11th. There, I will provide an overview of our local economy and a vision for economic development, recap operational improvements taking place within the City, highlight changes in transportation and mobility, and discuss alternative funding opportunities we'll be pursuing. Lastly, I'll be discussing the importance of participating in the 2020 census.

Residents have heard a lot about the census over the past six months, and your full participation is of critical importance to Rolling Meadows: this data has a direct impact on the federal funding we will receive for the next decade. Please join me in completing the census questionnaire this April.



2019 ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT PROGRAM DRAWS 51 NEW BUSINESSES TO ROLLING MEADOWS

Fifty-one new businesses opened in Rolling Meadows in 2019, continuing an impressive multi-year growth streak that has seen nearly 300 new companies base themselves here in the past five years.

The list of companies that joined the City's business community last year include School Health Corporation (*health supplies/services provider to schools and educational facilities*), Amish Farmers

(*neighborhood grocery store*) and Cottage Door Press (*children's book publisher*).

Welcoming new businesses to the City improves residents' quality of life by offering a greater variety of local retail stores and services. It also helps reduce reliance on property taxes to fund essential services by diversifying the City's tax base.



**CONTACT
CITY OFFICIALS**
City Hall Hours
8:00 am to 4:00 pm
Monday – Friday

MAYOR and CITY COUNCIL

- Mayor Joe Gallo847-814-9271
- 1st Ward Alderman
- Mike Cannon847-687-3276
- 2nd Ward Alderman
- Nick Budmats847-202-0855
- 3rd Ward Alderman
- Kevin O'Brien847-212-2587
- 4th Ward Alderman
- Jenifer Vinezeano630-546-8133
- 5th Ward Alderman
- Jon Bisesi847-772-8428
- 6th Ward Alderman
- John D'Astice847-409-9367
- 7th Ward Alderman
- Lara Sanoica847-770-3097
- City Manager
- Barry Krumstok847-394-8500

SERVICES

- Fire & Police Emergency911
- Fire Non-emergency847-397-3352
- Police Non-emergency847-255-2416
- Finance/Utility Billing847-394-8500
- Public Works847-963-0500
- Community Dev. Division . . .847-506-6030
- Senior Handyman Program .847-506-6030
- Crime Stoppers847-590-7867
- ComEd1-800-EDISON-1

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MARCH 17TH REFERENDUM QUESTION

“Shall the terms of office for those persons elected to the office of alderman in the City of Rolling Meadows at the April 6, 2021 Consolidated Election, and at each election thereafter, be limited such that no person shall be eligible to seek election to or hold the office of alderman where that person has been previously elected to the office of alderman of the City of Rolling Meadows for two (2) consecutive full four (4) year terms.”

See story on pages 1 & 2.