

eNEWS

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VOLUME 7 ISSUE 2

Coronavirus Disease (COVID-19)

CORONAVIRUS DISEASE 2019 (COVID-19)



CITY RESPONDS TO COVID-19 PANDEMIC

City leaders in mid-March moved quickly to protect public safety, in response to the rapid spread of the COVID-19 virus that brought much of normal life across the country to a standstill.

Approve Emergency Proclamation

As schools across the U.S. emptied of students and faculty, and businesses braced for a decline in sales, Rolling Meadows aldermen held an emergency meeting on March 17th to approve a resolution that proclaimed the existence of a disaster emergency and activated the City’s Emergency Operations Plan.

The proclamation’s approval on a 7-0 vote empowered the City’s Emergency Management Agency to “authorize the furnishing of aid and assistance” where needed to protect public health.

“The Directors of the Departments of the City of Rolling Meadows are ordered to proceed with all haste to bring said disaster to a rapid conclusion...pursuant to the Illinois Emergency Management Agency Act and the City of Rolling Meadows Emergency Management Agency ordi-

nance,” the proclamation read.

Authorize ‘Executive Powers’

Council members also unanimously approved an ordinance that authorized the mayor to use temporary executive orders, if necessary, to ensure the City has the tools and resources to protect public safety.

The ordinance states that any executive action taken by the mayor can only occur when (1) a state of emergency exists and (2) immediate action is required. These actions must also be ratified by City Council members, who are also responsible for determining the timeframe of the mayor’s temporary powers.

Limit Public Access to City Buildings

City officials also announced the temporary closure of City Hall, Public Works, and Rolling Meadows fire stations for all regular business purposes – a move designed to protect the health of City employees who continued to report to work. The Police Department’s 24-Hour Service Desk (847-255-2416) remained open to accept non-emergency calls.

Stay Informed

City officials continue to provide updates on Rolling Meadows’ response to the COVID-19 outbreak. Access the latest information on the [City’s website](#) and [Facebook page](#).

VOTERS APPROVE NEW COUNCIL TERM LIMITS

Rolling Meadows residents who cast ballots in the March 17th Illinois Primary overwhelmingly approved a referendum that limits the service of City Council members to eight years (two consecutive four-year terms).

The new term limits take effect beginning with the April 2021 Consolidated Election. Previously, aldermen were able to serve for up to three terms (12 years) before being required to vacate their seat.

The Question posed to residents:

“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?”



The community’s answer:

YES	2,245 (76.9%)
NO	674 (23.1%)



City Council Chambers



2020 CENSUS TO SHAPE ROLLING MEADOWS' FUTURE

CENSUS 2020 IS HERE.

The United States Constitution mandates a full count of all people living in the United States once every 10 years. The results of this decennial effort help determine everything from the amount of annual federal funding Rolling Meadows receives to the physical boundaries of its seven wards.

Postcards inviting residents to join this year's census have been delivered throughout the country. Here at home, it takes just a few minutes to answer the survey's questions and help determine the City's path forward over the next decade.

How, When, & Why to Count

- **How:** The census may be completed online, by phone, or through the mail. Count each person who lives at your residence as of April 1st.
- **When:** Please complete the survey by April 30th.
- **Why:** Census results determine how hundreds of billions of dollars are allocated to local communities, including schools, roads, health care, and emergency response.

A full, accurate count will ensure that Rolling Meadows continues to receive the appropriate (population-based) federal funding levels.

For more information, visit the [City's website](https://2020census.gov) or <https://2020census.gov>.

Help prevent the spread of respiratory diseases like COVID-19.



For more information: www.cdc.gov/COVID19

Graphic: Centers for Disease Control and Prevention

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HELP LIMIT THE SPREAD OF ILLNESSES

The COVID-19 pandemic underscored how quickly respiratory diseases can be transmitted from person to person and across the globe. Public health experts recommend the following steps for limiting the spread of current and future illnesses:

- Avoid close contact with people who are sick.
- Cover coughs and sneezes with a tissue, then throw the tissue in the trash.
- Avoid touching your eyes, nose, and mouth.

- Clean and disinfect frequently touched objects and surfaces.
- Stay home when you are sick (*except to get medical care*).
- Wash your hands often with soap and water for at least 20 seconds.

For the latest information on how to prevent the spread of respiratory viruses, and updates on the response to COVID-19, please visit:

- [Centers for Disease Control](https://www.cdc.gov)
- [Illinois Dept. of Public Health](https://www.idph.state.il.us)
- [Cook County Dept. of Public Health](https://www.cookcountyhealth.gov)

COVID-19 DELAYS UTILITY BILLING SYSTEM UPGRADES

City officials have postponed plans to launch updated utility billing invoices and a new online customer service portal for handling utility payments, in order to ensure employee health and safety due to Covid-19.

City Hall's temporary closure to the public and implementation of "social distancing" protocols to help prevent the spread of illness created new obstacles for City's Finance and IT staff as they prepared for the new software to "go live" on May 1st, as originally planned.

Protect Employee Health

"We simply cannot guarantee the successful launch of this critical software without the onsite support of our technical consultants," Finance Director Melissa Gallagher explained, referring to the private sector IT specialists scheduled to visit City Hall and help oversee the process.

"The data transfer will also require staff to work in close proximity to one another over the course of several weeks or months. For the health and safety of our employees, that is a risk we will not take at this time," she added.

HOW DO I PAY (& HOW WILL I RECEIVE) MY UTILITY BILL?

Currently...

City Hall is temporarily closed due to public health guidelines issued in response to the COVID-19 outbreak, but there are still many ways for residents to pay their utility bill:

- **Online:** Visit the City's [online payments page](#).
- **Drop Box:** Place payments in the white drop box located in the City Hall parking lot.
- **U.S. Mail:** Mail payments to:
City of Rolling Meadows
3600 Kirchoff Road
Rolling Meadows, IL 60008
- **Automatic Payments:** The City's current auto payment system remains in place for customers

The temporary delay will instead allow City staff to focus more effort on ensuring continuity of services and emergency planning/logistics, as needed.



Rolling Meadows distributed a four-page informational piece detailing features of the new billing platform and online portal to all utility customers in late March. Please retain this information for future use.

Upgraded System Features Coming

Once activated, the new system will allow residents to:

- Sign up to receive monthly utility bills electronically (e-billing).*
- Make secure online payments.
- Sign up for auto bill pay.
- View past bills.
- View usage and payment histories.
- Access their accounts 24/7.

**Paper bills will remain available at no cost to residents.*

Contact the Finance Department (847-394-8500 or ub@cityrm.org) for more information.

already enrolled. *Plans originally called for segments of this service to be suspended in late March, during planned software upgrades that have been temporarily delayed due to COVID-19 precautions.*

The City has temporarily waived financial penalties for customers who are late paying their bills.

Coming Soon...

Paper bills will continue to be sent to all customers each month. In the future, when the City's new billing platform is available (*see story above*), residents will have their choice of receiving a paper bill or electronic bill at no cost.



BUSINESS 'SHOWCASE' RESCHEDULED FOR FALL

Rolling Meadows' 2020 Business & Community Showcase, originally scheduled for Thursday, April 23rd, has been postponed due to state-wide public health guidelines issued in response to the COVID-19 pandemic, Business Advocate Martha Corner announced.

Plans call for the Showcase to take place sometime after Labor Day. The event's new date and time will be announced once details are confirmed.

Companies that have already registered to exhibit at the Showcase will have their spots saved for the rescheduled event. Businesses that are unable to participate will receive a full refund.

"Our top priority is protecting the health and well-being of Showcase exhibitors and guests," Corner said when describing the decision to postpone. "Rescheduling the Showcase for later this year also ensures that attendees will be able to gain the most value from the program we've developed."

The rescheduled 2020 Business and Community Showcase is designed to appeal to multiple constituencies:

- **Job seekers** exploring employment opportunities with local businesses.
- **Residents** interested in learning more about products and services offered by community-based companies.
- **Business professionals** looking to expand their customer and peer networks.

For more information, please contact Martha Corner at 847-870-9004 or cornerm@cityrm.org.



'Taste the Town' revelers savored local restaurant fare on February 29th.

4TH ANNUAL 'TASTE' SHOWCASES ROLLING MEADOWS' RESTAURANT SCENE

Nearly 500 people celebrated Leap Day (Feb. 29th) by sampling great food from a variety of Rolling Meadows restaurants during the City's 4th annual "Taste the Town" celebration.

The event, held once again at the Community Center, also featured live entertainment by [Howl2Go Dueling Pianos](#), a cash bar, laughter among friends and neighbors, and tantalizing menu fare from 18 establishments.

Proceeds from the event benefitted the Rolling Meadows Community Events Foundation and the Rolling Meadows Park District Foundation.

Thanks to the following businesses for participating in this year's Taste:

- | | |
|--------------------------------|---|
| Amish Farmers | Little Caesars |
| Culver's | Los 2 Amigos |
| Daisy's Café | Noodles & Co. |
| Dunkin Donuts | Papa Saverio's |
| Fratellos 2 | Picante Mexican Bar & Grill |
| Giant Sakura | Portillo's |
| Grande Jake's | Rep's Place |
| Honeybaked Ham | Señor Tacos |
| Kirchoff Marathon Food Mart | Stadium |

Support Local Restaurants

As local businesses grapple with the effects of COVID-19, it's more important than ever for residents to support local restaurants. Consider helping where you can. Some ideas include purchasing gift cards for future use, ordering curbside take out, and following favorites on social media.

CHAMBER EVENT HIGHLIGHTS KEY ECONOMIC DRIVERS

Around 70 local business professionals were among those in attendance at the Rolling Meadows Chamber of Commerce's 15th annual "Taking Care of Business" luncheon, held in early March at Meridian Banquet & Conference Center.

The event's featured speaker, Mayor Joe Gallo, highlighted four areas where business leaders, City officials, and Chamber members can work together to foster a dynamic local economy: (1) Economic Development, (2) Innovation & Infrastructure, (3) Transportation & Mobility, and (4) Workforce Development.

He also noted recent local business

success stories:

- New gaming cafes that have filled vacant retail space.
- Approval of G1 licensing that has contributed to local restaurants' bottom lines.
- Major redevelopment projects, including Meadow Square townhomes on Kirchoff Road and A Loft Hotel (former Holiday Inn site on Algonquin Road) that will expand the tax base and create new demand for local retailers and service providers.
- Growth of new industries, such as legal cannabis and driverless technology, that are creating new markets and employment opportunities.

Note: Meeting schedules are tentative and may be postponed for public health reasons.

4/05 – Palm Sunday

4/08 – Passover begins; Rolling Meadows Garden Club, 6:30 pm, Community Center

4/10 – Good Friday

4/12 – Easter

4/13 – Board of Fire & Police Commissioners, 9 am

4/14 – City Council Meeting, 7:30 pm

4/20 – Water bills due

4/21 – Community Events Foundation, 6 pm; City Council Committee of the Whole, 7:30 pm

4/22 – Earth Day

4/23 – Fire Pension Board, 8:30 am;

4/24 – Arbor Day

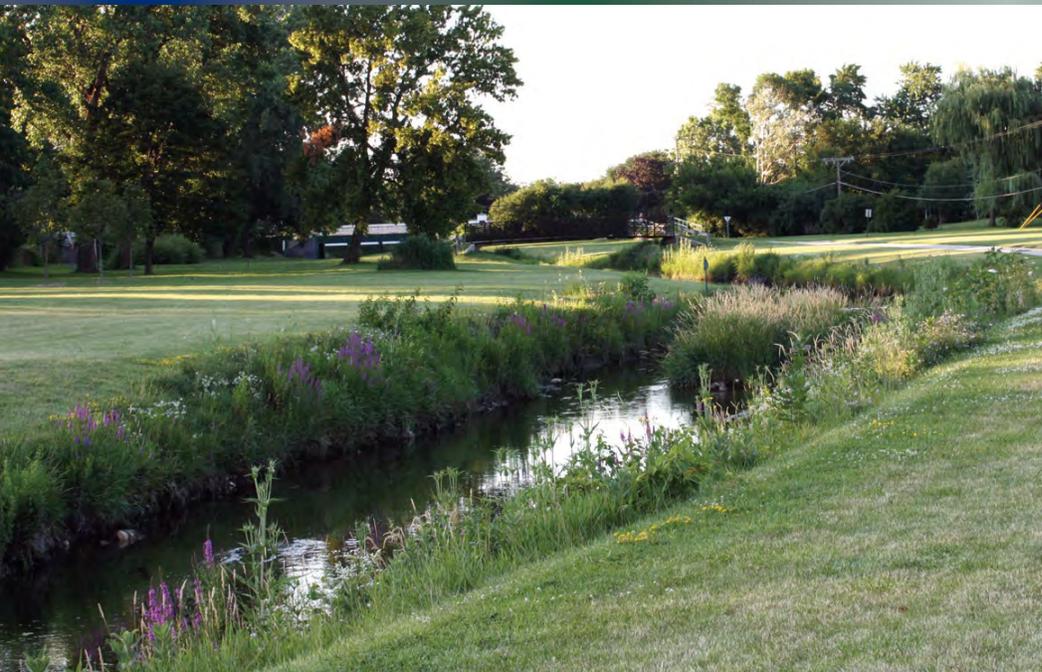
4/27 – Police Pension Board, 3:30 pm

4/28 – City Council Meeting, 7:30 pm

Meetings take place at City Hall, unless noted.



Business leaders gather at the Chamber's annual "Taking Care of Business" luncheon.



Surface water runoff travels through the City's underground storm water system to Salt Creek (pictured).

ILLEGAL SEWER DUMPING AFFECTS PUBLIC HEALTH, PLANTS, WILDLIFE

Rolling Meadows' storm water system is comprised of more than 54 miles of underground pipes that carry surface water runoff (caused by everything from rain to melting snow) to Salt Creek for natural dispersal. While quite effective at reducing the risk of community flooding, the system offers no opportunity to treat storm water runoff compromised by dangerous pollutants that may affect public health.

So, when the Public Works Department was recently notified of a situation involving a resident illegally dumping a combination of motor oil and antifreeze into a City sewer grate, employees moved quickly to minimize the potential damage.

Mitigate Environmental Damage

"There are two points we need to stress here," explained Utilities Superintendent Dan Seveska. "First, it is against the law for residents to pour chemicals, paints, and other household wastes into City sewers. Secondly, Rolling Meadows is required to follow all EPA regulations for protecting surface water sources – including Salt Creek. That means mobilizing resources to mitigate the impact of illegal dumping whenever and wherever it occurs."

Public Works was able to limit potential damage to Salt Creek by placing specialized absorbent materials into the storm sewers. These helped trap the concentrated toxic chemicals while letting remaining water pass through.

"We were successful in reducing the scope of environmental damage, but the best approach is to avoid creating illegal storm water pollution in the first place," Seveska added.

Storm Water Pollution 101

Conventional wisdom says that common sources of pollution in area streams, rivers, and lakes include industrial facilities and wastewater treatment plants. However, up to 50% of surface water pollution is created by so-called "non-point source" pollutants such as detergents, pesticides from lawns and gardens, and motor vehicle chemicals. These can pose a health risk to residents and native plant and wildlife.

For more information about preventing storm water pollution, visit the Public Works Department's [storm water management webpage](#), the [Illinois EPA website](#), and the [Metropolitan Water Reclamation District of Greater Chicago website](#).



Three-story townhomes at Meadow Square (rendering).

NEW BUILDER TO OVERSEE KIRCHOFF ROAD TOWNHOME DEVELOPMENT

Townhomes comprising the new Meadow Square development at Kirchoff Road and Meadow Drive will be completed by a new builder, following the sale of the subdivision's residential lots in February.

M/I Homes of Chicago purchased the properties from original developer Taylor Morrison, as part of a transaction involving 228 individual home sites in various stages of construction throughout the Chicago area, according to a company news release.

Meadow Square was unique among the sites included in the sale, due to the fact that onsite land development was already underway. City Council signed off on the site development plan – a combination of residential units and restaurant/retail outlots – last year.

"It's great to come in pretty much from square one and be the builder working with buyers from start to finish," explained Rick Champine, Area President, M/I Homes.

When completed, Meadow Square will feature 106 two-and three-story townhomes starting at approximately \$305,000. For sale inquiries, contact Sales Manager Nicole Skrocki at SalesChicago@mihomes.com or 630-360-9080.



Rendering of Meadow Square's two-story townhomes



Dan Seveska and Bill Suhecki (holding awards) celebrate with Public Works colleagues and APWA leaders at the annual awards banquet.

PUBLIC WORKS SUPERINTENDENTS HONORED AT ANNUAL APWA AWARDS BANQUET

Two Public Works professionals were recognized for service and leadership excellence by the American Public Works Association, during an awards banquet hosted by its suburban Chicago branch:

Dan Seveska: Utilities Superintendent
Seveska received the APWA's *Professional Manager of the Year Award – Public Rights of Way*. According to the APWA, the award recognizes leaders who “demonstrate that all stakeholders share the public right-of-way in harmony and preserve it in the best interest and benefit of the public.”

Bill Suhecki: Streets & Refuse Operations Superintendent
Suhecki accepted the *Professional Manager of the Year Award – Transportation*. The award recognizes

“outstanding career service achievements and exceptional leadership and management” of professionals involved with transportation-related projects and programs.

“Throughout their service to Rolling Meadows, Bill and Dan have always exhibited the highest levels of professionalism and commitment to public service,” Public Works Director Rob Horne said. “I am pleased to see them recognized for their efforts and offer my congratulations for jobs well-done.”

**CONTACT
CITY OFFICIALS**
City Hall Hours
8 am to 4 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. Division847-506-6030
- Senior Handyman Program .847-506-6030
- Crime Stoppers847-590-7867
- ComEd1-800-EDISON-1

 www.facebook.com/cityofrollingmeadows

 [@CityofRM1](http://www.twitter.com/@CityofRM1)

WELCOME NEW BUSINESSES

An Enchanted Evening
DJ & event services
4300 Lincoln Ave. Suite L
847-490-1000

Boost Mobile
Cell phone sales
4023 Algonquin Rd.
847-890-0707

Cermak Medical
Immediate care office
1669 Algonquin Rd
847-322-7149

Epiq Solutions
Radio frequency platforms/applications
3740 Industrial Ave.
847-598-0218

The Korea Daily Chicago
Daily newspaper
3501 Algonquin Rd. #250
847-228-7200

MHS Restoration, Inc.
Disaster restoration
4300 Lincoln Ave. Suite N
847-991-7100

TWA Photographic Artists
Wedding photography
4300 Lincoln Ave. Suite L
630-271-1737

Webtrans Logistics, Inc.
Logistics
1600 Golf Rd. #450
847-357-1112

CITY WATER QUALITY SURPASSES STANDARDS

Rolling Meadows drinking water in 2019 again met all standards established by the Environmental Protection Agency, according to the annual Consumer Confidence Report (CCR) that provides information on the source and quality of the water used by residents and businesses. **The full 2019 report will be available on the City's website by 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/mailling costs.