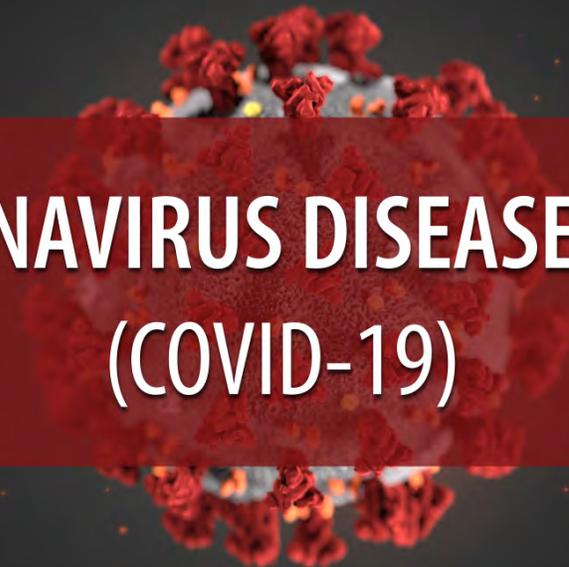


NEWS & VIEWS

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VOLUME 24 ISSUE 3



CORONAVIRUS DISEASE 2019 (COVID-19)



WHEN THE WORLD WENT ON LOCKDOWN, CITY DEPARTMENTS STEPPED UP

Rolling Meadows department leaders and staff members were well into developing operational plans to assure continued delivery of essential City services when Illinois Governor J.B. Pritzker announced a state-wide shelter-in-place strategy on March 20th to slow the spread of the novel coronavirus (COVID-19).

From Police, Fire, and Public Works to Finance and Administration, City employees developed and applied creative social distancing strategies to maintain full staffing levels and deliver vital operations while simultaneously protecting their own personal health.

“Rolling Meadows employees have demonstrated outstanding professionalism and commitment to high-level service during a difficult, uneasy time,” City Manager Barry Krumstok recalled. “Early on, departments were

adopting their approaches on the fly, based on new information we were continually receiving from federal, state, and local jurisdictions about limiting employee risk.

“Staff greatly appreciates the support we’ve received from residents and businesses throughout the community,” he added.

Following are snapshots of the actions taken by City departments in the wake of COVID-19 to (1) provide important services to residents and businesses, and (2) protect the health of all employees.

PW Adopts ‘Split’ Staffing Plan

Ensuring the continuation of refuse and water operations, and other critical functions, led Public Works to split its 40-plus employees into two

...continued on p.2

ACCESS LATE-BREAKING UPDATES ON CITY’S COVID-19 RESPONSE

Find the latest updates on Rolling Meadows’ response to the COVID-19 pandemic and other essential notifications on the City’s website, www.cityrm.org.

Individual weblinks offer access to a wealth of information on a variety of topics, including:

- **Weekly video updates** from Mayor Joe Gallo and online payment options for monthly utility bills, real estate transfers, and more. *Click the “COVID-19 (Coronavirus Information) link at the left side of the homepage.*
- **Operational updates** for City departments and information provided by the State of Illinois on the COVID-19 virus. *Click “Community Resources” under the homepage’s “News” section.*
- **Hours of operation for grocery stores** and other essential businesses around town. *Click “Essential Business Listing and Hours.”*
- **Help for small businesses.** *Click “Small Business Help.”*

Information is also being shared on Rolling Meadows’ Facebook page.



facebook.com/cityofrollingmeadows

CITY DEPARTMENTS STEPPED UP ...continued from p.1

separate shifts throughout their respective divisions. By implementing a staggered work schedule that ran Monday – Saturday, the department introduced redundancies that assured each division’s responsibilities would be able to proceed uninterrupted if an employee from one shift fell ill.

“We also expanded cleaning procedures for all facilities and vehicles, and kept crews isolated from one another,” Public Works Director Rob Horne explained.

In addition to effectively covering daily operations, the new schedule enabled Public Works to begin important seasonal projects on-time, including yard waste collection, street sweeping, street patching, maintaining public rights-of-way, and preparing for 2020 capital projects that are now underway.

Permit Processing Continues at Community Development

A similar approach was applied at Public Works’ Community Development Division. Employees were separated into two work groups: one continued to operate from its City Hall offices; the other took up space in the recently vacated administrative offices at Rolling Meadows’ former Plum Grove Road fire station.

The division also adopted new ways to process permits submitted by developers, businesses, and residents (see “Community Resources” on the City website’s homepage).

“Developers are still pursuing projects throughout Rolling Meadows,” Assistant Public Works Director Jo Ellen Charlton explained. “We don’t have the luxury of closing down for weeks and expecting customers to wait while their application collects dust.”

Police Maintain Regular Patrols

As the risks associated with COVID-19 became more apparent in the days and weeks leading up to Illinois’ stay-at-home order, the Rolling Meadows Police Department adopted new standards that guide patrol officers’ use of personal protective equipment (PPEs) in the field.

Department leaders also expanded reliance on web-based training modules, online reporting, and remote briefings. These ensured police officers were able to serve residents while minimizing their – and the public’s – risk of exposure.

“Technology has allowed us to keep the Department running at full capacity, but the community’s needs did not change,” Police Chief John Nowacki said. “We implemented the appropriate social distancing procedures here within the Department so our officers can be out on patrol every day and respond to the community’s needs.”



City departments were fully-staffed and prepared to serve when the statewide COVID-19 lockdown began.

Fire Department Activates ‘Recon’ EMS Teams

New Fire Chief Jeff Moxley succeeded retiring chief Terry Valentino on March 14th, just as the coronavirus’ impact was being felt nationwide. He and newly promoted Deputy Chief Rick Acosta worked closely with RMFD personnel to develop expanded safety protocols that protect firefighters who provide emergency medical services.

Firefighter/paramedics now deploy a two-person “reconnaissance team” that provides initial patient evaluation and treatment. If a situation requires additional onsite assistance, other responding firefighter/paramedics step in one person at a time. Masks, gloves, and other PPEs help further reduce risks to firefighters’ health.

“As a precaution, our approach is to assume every EMS call is a potential

COVID-19 situation until proven otherwise,” Chief Moxley explained. “The vast majority of responses to residents exhibiting flu-like or other symptoms can be handled effectively by two-person teams, but we also deploy additional resources to handle more urgent or life-threatening emergencies.”

Finance Department Expands Online Payment Services

With City Hall closed to the public, the Finance Department moved quickly to offer expanded online payment options for real estate transfers, building permits, local motor fuel taxes, and food

and beverage tax payments. Customers are also able to pay their monthly utility bills via the City’s website.

In addition, the City extended deadlines for local businesses to make payments for food & beverage and liquor license payments.

“We realize that customers are facing new uncertainties and want to work with them to lighten the burden as much as we can,” Finance Director Melissa Gallagher explained. “To that end, the City has also temporarily waived financial penalties for customers who are late paying their bills.”

For the latest updates on the City’s evolving response to COVID-19, visit www.cityrm.org and follow Rolling Meadows on Facebook (www.facebook.com/cityofrollingmeadows).

UPDATED COVID-19 REFUSE GUIDELINES

Public Works has issued the following recommendations for residential refuse customers to protect the health of City refuse crews:

- **Bag and Tie All Garbage** – Place all trash in bags (*and completely seal those bags*) before placing them at the curb. Open, untied, or damaged bags will not be picked up.
- **Do Not Recycle PPEs** – Place all used personal protective equipment (masks, gloves, tubes, etc.) into the trash. They cannot be recycled.
- **Throw Away Recyclables if Symptoms Appear** – Place all recyclables into the trash if someone in your home experiences symptoms indicative of COVID-19. *It is safe to resume recycling once all family members are healthy.*



TOSS IT, DON'T FLUSH IT NON-FLUSHABLES CAUSE SEWER BACK-UPS

Across Rolling Meadows, Public Works has reported a spike in emergency sewer back-ups caused by residents flushing “non-flushable” items down their toilets.

Dan Seveska, Public Works’ Utilities Superintendent, has some advice for homeowners looking to avoid similar problems: unless it’s toilet paper, DON’T FLUSH IT.

“Items such as wipes and paper towels cause sewer system clogs if flushed down the toilet. This can lead to back-ups and costly home repairs,”

he explained. “Residents should only be flushing toilet paper. Toss everything else in the garbage.”

Non-flushable items include:

- Paper towels.
- Baby wipes.
- Sanitary products.
- Kleenex.

Seveska warned that residents should avoid even so-called “flushable/biodegradable” wipes. They don’t break down as advertised and can clog sewer lines.



KEEP ROLLING MEADOWS BEAUTIFUL: THROW PROTECTIVE GLOVES AWAY AFTER USE

Wearing latex gloves has brought some peace of mind to shoppers at grocery stores, banks, and other essential businesses that have remained open during the COVID-19 pandemic.

They also are creating a litter problem: users are leaving them behind at stores and in parking lots around town.

Please help keep Rolling Meadows beautiful by properly disposing of protective gloves after you have used them. It also helps limit the risk of spreading illness to those who pick them up.

shop
local

SIX WAYS TO SUPPORT LOCAL BUSINESSES FROM A DISTANCE

The impact of the COVID-19 virus on the national economy remains unclear but one thing is certain: it’s more important than ever to support local businesses.

In an age of social distancing, here are six simple ways to help local businesses during this difficult time:

Buy gift cards from your favorite merchants. Local businesses gain an infusion of income and customers can start planning a future shopping spree.

Order takeout or delivery. Enjoy a “taste” of Rolling Meadows’ restaurants – many of which remain open to fulfill phone orders. Stop by and pick up your meal or have it delivered to your door.

‘Shop local’ online. Just because you can’t visit your favorite local shops doesn’t mean you can’t enjoy local goods and services. Surf the web and load up your online cart.

Tip generously. Many workers, including restaurant servers, bartenders, and delivery drivers, have experienced a dramatic loss of income over the past few months. If you’re able, consider leaving a generous tip for services provided.

Post an online review. Share your experiences on platforms such as Yelp, Google, and Facebook, and help local businesses gain new customers with your recommendations.

Say thanks. Send a thank you note or an email to local business owners to let them know you appreciate their services. They’ll be grateful for your patronage.

MAY 2020

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
Due to ever-changing circumstances related to COVID-19, meetings and events may be postponed or held remotely for public health purposes. Find the latest updates on the City's website and on Facebook.			All meetings take place at City Hall, unless noted.		1	2
3	4	5 Environmental Committee, 7 pm Planning & Zoning Commission, 7:30 pm	6	7 Adjudication Hearing (Parking), 2 pm	8	9
10 MOTHER'S DAY	11 Board of Fire & Police Commissioners, 9 am	12 Crime Stoppers, 5:30 pm City Council Meeting, 7:30 pm	13	14 Adjudication Hearing, 1 pm	15	16
17	18	19 Community Events Foundation, 6 pm City Council Committee of the Whole, 7:30 pm	20 Water bills due	21 Adjudication Hearing (Red Light), 2 pm	22	23
24	25 MEMORIAL DAY. City offices closed. Refuse collection delayed one day all week.	26 City Council Meeting, 7:30 pm	27	28	29	30
31						

JUNE 2020

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
	1	2 Economic Development Committee, 6 pm Environmental Committee, 7 pm Planning & Zoning Commission, 7:30 pm	3	4 Adjudication Hearing (Parking), 2 pm	5	6
7	8 Board of Fire & Police Commissioners, 9 am	9 Crime Stoppers, 5:30 pm City Council Meeting, 7:30 pm	10	11 Adjudication Hearing, 1 pm	12	13
14	15	16 Community Events Foundation, 6 pm City Council Committee of the Whole, 7:30 pm	17	18 Adjudication Hearing (Red Light), 2 pm	19	20 SUMMER BEGINS
21 FATHER'S DAY	22 Water bills due	23 City Council Meeting, 7:30 pm	24	25	26	27 City Market, 10 am - 2 pm, Community Church (2720 Kirchoff Rd)
28	29	30	All meetings take place at City Hall, unless noted.			

STILL HAVEN'T COMPLETED YOUR CENSUS SURVEY? NOW'S THE TIME

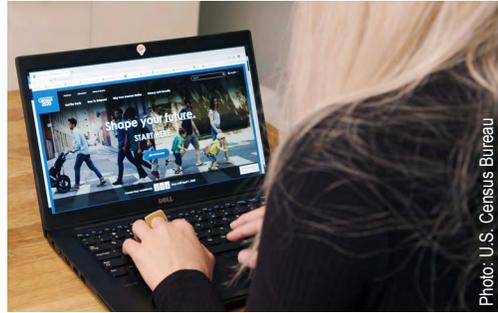
On May 27th, census takers will begin visiting the homes of residents who have not responded to the 2020 census invitation that was sent to all households nationwide in March.

Fortunately, it's not too late to complete the 2020 survey online. Simply visit www.my2020census.gov and click the "Start Questionnaire" button.

It takes just minutes to complete this (*constitutionally mandated*) exercise that will help determine Rolling Meadows' future for the next 10 years.

That's because the final census count serves as the basis for:

- **Reapportioning** Congressional seats for every state.
- **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.

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

Be informed. Be counted. Visit the U.S. Census Bureau's website to complete the survey.

UTILITY PAYMENTS 101 EXPANDED 'EPAY' OPTIONS AVAILABLE

The City offers multiple ways for customers to pay their monthly utility bills:

- **Online:** Visit the City's Online Payments page (www.cityrm.org/146/Online-Payments).
- **Drop Box:** Place payments in the white drop box outside City Hall.
- **U.S. Mail:** Mail payments to:
City of Rolling Meadows
3600 Kirchoff Road
Rolling Meadows, IL 60008
- **Automatic Payments:** Auto payments are available for customers who previously enrolled.

Residents and businesses may also make online payments for real estate transfers, building permits, local motor fuel taxes, and food and beverage taxes. For more information, contact the Finance Department at 847-394-8500 or finance@cityrm.org.



STREET RESURFACING PROGRAM SCHEDULED TO BEGIN IN MAY; APPROVED CONSTRUCTION BID MORE THAN \$200,000 UNDER BUDGET

City Council has approved a \$795,000 bid to resurface six residential side streets this summer, as part of Rolling Meadows annual street maintenance program.

The bid, which came in more than \$200,000 below what was originally budgeted for 2020, will focus on the following streets in the vicinity of Waverly Park:

- Birch Lane.
- Carr Street.
- Cedar Street.
- Linden Lane.
- Oak Lane.
- Willow Lane.

City officials have allocated money from Rolling Meadows' Motor Fuel and Local Roads Funds to cover all resurfacing and engineering costs.

Visit the "Construction Projects" page of the City's website (www.cityrm.org) for updates.

UPDATE: As this edition of *News & Views* went to press, City Council members in April voted to postpone implementation of this year's street resurfacing program due to coronavirus-related circumstances.

CITY WATER QUALITY SURPASSES EPA STANDARDS



Rolling Meadows drinking water in 2019 again met all standards established by the Environmental Protection Agency, according to the City's latest 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.

Customers who would like to receive a printed version of the report, once it is complete, may contact Public Works at 847-963-0500.



MAYOR'S CORNER BY MAYOR JOE GALLO

TESTING OUR RESILIENCE

At 5:00 pm on March 21st, our City – our entire state – found ourselves in a scenario most of us have never experienced: a mandated shelter-in-place.

The executive order issued by Governor J.B. Pritzker directed us to stay at home except for essential activities, required all non-essential businesses to cease operations, and banned gatherings of more than 10 people. The order, drastic as it may seem, was intended to curb the spread of the coronavirus. And as a City, we adapted quickly to maintain continuity of operations.

While activities and information moved rapidly in the days leading up to March 21st, Rolling Meadows made sure we provided our residents

and businesses access to accurate and reliable information. We posted a series of informational links on the City's website, including timely updates and details on local resources, for anyone who may need it.

City departments closed to the public for health reasons, but staff members remain on-duty to ensure public safety and service continuity. And City Council members have been holding "virtual" web conference meetings – with opportunities for public comment – at their regularly-scheduled times.

We don't know exactly what the future holds. Our success will be determined by the strength of our community and our willingness to adapt as circumstances require.



CITY RESCHEDULES SUMMER BLOCK PARTY, NATIONAL NIGHT OUT

Rolling Meadows' summer block party on Central Road, originally scheduled for June 12th, has been moved to Saturday, August 22nd, in an effort to ensure public safety following the COVID-19 pandemic.

Other rescheduled events (and their new dates) include:

- **Fridays ROCK! & Roll in Meadows:** September 11th, 7:00 – 10:00 pm, Kimball Hill Park.
- **National Night Out:** October 6th, 4:30 – 8:30 pm, Community Center.

Top Priority: Residents' Safety

With shelter-in-place guidelines in effect across the U.S. and growing uncertainty about just how long social distancing policies would be needed to limit the coronavirus' spread, City staff members and event planners agreed to reschedule major events slated for June.

"Without a definitive timeline for when social distancing policies might be lifted, we thought it best to reschedule our more popular City events as quickly as possible," explained Lori Ciezak, Assistant to the City Manager and Community Events Foundation Liaison.

Memorial Day/City Markets

In the meantime, the City's annual Memorial Day Parade/Observance and the season's inaugural City Market scheduled for May 23rd have been called off for public health reasons.

City officials hope that other upcoming events – including June's City Market and the 4th of July Parade and Fireworks – will be able to proceed as planned.

Visit the City's website (www.cityrm.org) and follow Rolling Meadows on Facebook for the latest updates.

**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. Division847-506-6030
- Senior Handyman Program847-506-6030
- Crime Stoppers847-590-7867
- ComEd1-800-EDISON-1

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