

NEWS & VIEWS

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VOLUME 24 ISSUE 4

ONLINE CUSTOMER SERVICE PORTAL TO DEBUT AUGUST 1ST

Rolling Meadows' long awaited Citizen Self-Service Portal will go live Saturday, August 1st, making it simpler than ever for residents to pay their monthly utility bills online or enroll in the City's automatic bill payment program.

The online portal will allow residents to:

- Receive monthly utility bills electronically (e-billing). *Residents may choose to continue receiving paper bills each month at no charge.*
- Make secure online payments.
- Sign up for auto bill pay.
- Look up past bills.
- View usage and payment histories.
- Access their accounts 24/7.

“The system is specifically designed to improve customer service and convenience, while also improving internal department operations,” Finance Director Melissa Gallagher explained.

As part of the City's transition to the new portal, customers will also receive newly formatted paper bills in August.

Making Payments During Transition

As the transition to the new portal begins in July, customers should note the following:

1. Those who previously had their utility bills paid automatically with a debit or credit card will have to choose a different payment method **for July only** while the transition takes place. Options include payment by mail, City Hall drop box, or

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The new Fire Station 16 on Hicks Road began operations this spring.

MODERN FIRE STATIONS LAUNCH FIRE DEPARTMENT INTO NEW ERA

Summer 2020 finds the Rolling Meadows Fire Department at the starting line of a new era: operating from two state-of-the-art stations that will help firefighters serve residents and businesses more effectively for generations to come.

The new Station 15, located at 3201 Algonquin Road, began operations in December 2019. It was joined this spring by the new Station 16 at 2340 Hicks Road. The stations replace aging, outdated facilities on Meadow Drive and Plum Grove Road that had been in service since the late 1950s and early 1980s, respectively.

“The former Fogarty and Neuckranz stations were an important part of the City's fabric and, from a community standpoint, we understand that this has been an emotional topic for some,” Fire Chief Jeff Moxley explained. “Years of planning, research, and preparation have gone into the development of these new stations, which will play a critical role in Rolling Meadows' con-

tinued growth and development for the next 50-75 years.”

Locations Speed Response Times

The location of each station was the result of a multi-year effort to identify suitable sites that would improve response times to all areas of Rolling Meadows. Both are situated on or near major thoroughfares – including Illinois Route 53, Algonquin Road, & Kirchoff Road – that help firefighters greatly reduce the time required to arrive at emergency scenes.

“We have already seen the benefits of the new station locations in the form of reduced response times,” explained Deputy Fire Chief Rick Acosta. “Long-term data is not yet available, but our internal operational reports clearly demonstrate that we are providing better service to our citizens in every one of our districts.”

Chiefs Moxley and Acosta also cited several other advantages offered by the new fire stations, including:

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EXPANDED PUBLIC SAFETY GUIDELINES PAVE WAY FOR SUMMER EVENTS

City officials are carefully proceeding with plans to resume community events over the next several months, as Rolling Meadows and cities throughout Illinois begin to re-open in the wake of the COVID-19 pandemic.



Upcoming events, including City Markets (above), will have new guidelines to protect guests' health.

New Safeguards

Planners have instituted a series of COVID-19-based safeguards to ensure participants' safety, including:

- Adhering to the latest updates/guidelines from federal and state health officials regarding recommended crowd sizes.
- Maximizing event location space, wherever possible.
- Implementing social distancing policies.
- Increasing space between vendors, food trucks, and other event features.
- Mandating use of sanitizing wipes/other cleaners for event staff and volunteers.

- Expanding the number of hand washing stations and portable restrooms.

"2020 has been anything but fun, but our goal is to help residents enjoy their summer," explained Lori Ciezak, Assistant to the City Manager and Community Events Foundation Liaison. "We have taken every precaution, based on federal and state guidelines, to ensure attendees' safety, but we also want guests to use common sense: wear face coverings, when appropriate, and practice social distancing when necessary."

Find the latest updates on the City's website (www.cityrm.org) and on its Facebook page. In the meantime, mark your calendars for the following community celebrations:

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MODERN FIRE STATIONS LAUNCH FIRE DEPARTMENT INTO NEW ERA ...continued from p.1

- Improved operational footprint that expands Department access to previously underserved areas – particularly the City's southern and eastern sections that have experienced rapidly increasing call volumes.
- Expanded opportunities to implement more flexible deployment models, when beneficial.
- Decreased reliance on neighboring communities for fire/emergency medical services (EMS).

Promote Firefighter Safety

The new stations also feature modern decontamination systems that vent dangerous diesel fumes from Fire Department vehicles and sanitize turnout gear worn by firefighters in emergency situations. Both are critical components of an effort to protect the long-term health of Department personnel. Statistics prove that firefighters face an increased risk of developing rare cancers when compared to the general population.

"These facilities incorporate the very latest advances in fire science and safety, and offer the ability to easily adopt new guidelines and practices in the future,"

Deputy Chief Acosta added. "Besides improved public safety, these stations also represent a long-term investment in our firefighters' health."

Bond Issue Funds Construction

To raise the funding required for the new stations (*and other capital projects...see page 5*), City leaders issued municipal bonds that will be paid back over a 20-year time frame. This approach also helped avoid property tax increases to cover construction costs.

City officials also negotiated a guaranteed maximum price for both stations: \$5.8 million for Station 15 and \$5.2 million for Station 16. Those prices compare very favorably with new stations built in other Chicago area communities.

"City officials in general – and City Manager Barry Krumstok and Finance Director Melissa Gallagher in particular – were instrumental in making these stations a reality for far less than we've seen in other communities. I thank them for all of their hard work and dedication," Chief Moxley said.

Chief Moxley also noted that the firefighters themselves pitched in by mov-



Serving the City: Fire Chief Jeff Moxley (left) and Deputy Chief Rick Acosta possess over 55 years of combined experience.

ing furniture from the old stations, building new furniture, mounting hose reels in the equipment bays, and completing countless other 'detail' projects.

"Those efforts alone very likely shaved tens of thousands of dollars off the project, but they also showed the pride and dedication our firefighters have for this department. That is priceless," he added.

CITY RESCHEDULES BUSINESS 'SHOWCASE'

Rolling Meadows' 2020 Business & Community Showcase, originally scheduled for April but postponed due to COVID-19 public health guidelines, will take place Thursday, September 24th, at Meridian Banquet & Conference Center (1701 West Algonquin Road).

The event will be free and open to the public from 5:00 – 8:00 pm. A private business-to-business (B2B) networking event will run from 4:00 – 5:00 pm.

Business Advocate Martha Corner believes the September Showcase's format will appeal to multiple constituencies, including:

- **Job seekers** exploring employment

opportunities with local businesses.

- **Business owners** looking to strengthen connections with current and potential customers.
- **Residents** interested in learning more about products and services offered by community-based companies.

Local business owners and leaders who wish to exhibit at this year's Showcase may register online (\$25) at www.cityrm.org/728/Business-Community-Showcase.

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

PW LEADER RETIRES AFTER 34 YEARS OF HOMETOWN SERVICE

Public Works officials celebrated the career of Underground Utilities Superintendent Dan Seveska, who retired from the Public Works Department in June after 34 years of service to Rolling Meadows residents and businesses.



Dan Seveska

"Dan epitomizes the absolute best you could expect from a public service employee: tremendous historical knowledge, learned leadership, organizational loyalty, and a true respect and love for the staff he's led and the community he has served," Public Works Director Rob Horne explained. "Like many other Public Works employees who came before him, his commitment to this City is part of a legacy for others to follow. I'm very proud of Dan for his accomplishments, and I wish him well in retirement."

Seveska, who grew up in Rolling Meadows, joined the Public Works Department in 1986. He took great pride in his role as an underground utilities worker and, during winter months, helped clear City streets and sidewalks of snow and ice. He earned promotion to foreman in 1999, supervisor in 2011, and superintendent in 2018.

"I was always a 'field guy,'" he recalled when looking back on his career. "I loved being outside working with my team. Being a public service employee requires a tremendous commitment of time and energy. I'm proud of the fact that I worked side by side with people who, day-in and day-out, really care for each other and the community we serve."

Seveska and his wife, Eve, have relocated to a new house they recently built in the mountains of Tennessee, but he will always call Rolling Meadows home.

SUMMER EVENTS ...continued from p.2

City Markets

Saturdays, July 18th & August 22nd
10:00 am – 2:00 pm

Rolling Meadows' popular City Markets offer a bounty of food and fun for guests of all ages: local produce, fresh food purveyors, food trucks, artisan crafters, live music, and more. Monthly Markets take place at Community Church of Rolling Meadows (2720 Kirchoff Road).

View upcoming events at www.cityrm.org/669/Community-Events.

Due to COVID-19-related circumstances, upcoming events may be postponed, rescheduled, or cancelled outright in the interest of public health.

Family Night with Rolling Meadows Cops

Friday, August 1st
7:00 – 10:00 pm

Rolling Meadows Police Department will welcome families to the Community Center (3705 Pheasant Drive) for an evening of games, kid-friendly activities, music, and food (while supplies last).

Wine-Down by the Creek

Friday, August 14th
6:00 – 11:00 pm

Fine wine, beer, food trucks, and live music by Roots Rock Society (reggae) and Semple Band (70s rock/modern pop) will highlight a breezy summer evening in Kimball Hill Park. Admission is free. Drinks will be sold for \$5 each to guests ages 21 and older.

Community Block Party

Saturday, August 22nd
4:30 – 8:30 pm

The City's annual Community Block Party on Central Road (between Barker Avenue and Jay Lane) will feature a live performance by American English, a popular Beatles tribute band; food trucks; law enforcement vehicle displays; and more.

Beatles tribute band American English (left) will headline this year's block party on Central Road.



JULY 2020

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
<p>Due to ever-changing circumstances related to COVID-19, meetings and events may be held remotely or postponed for public health purposes. Find the latest updates on the City's website and on Facebook.</p>			1	2 Adjudication Hearing (Parking), 2 pm	3 City offices closed. Regular refuse collection..	4 INDEPENDENCE DAY
5	6	7 Economic Development Committee, 6 pm Environmental Committee, 6:30 pm Planning & Zoning Commission, 7:30 pm	8	9 Adjudication Hearing, 1 pm	10 Fridays ROCK! & Roll in Meadows, 7-10 pm, Kimball Hill Park	11
12	13 Board of Fire & Police Commissioners, 9 am	14 Crime Stoppers, 5:30 pm City Council Meeting, 7:30 pm	15	16 Fire Pension Board, 8:30 am Adjudication Hearing (Red Light), 2 pm	17	18 City Market, 10 am – 2 pm, Community Church (2720 Kirchoff Rd)
19	20 <i>Water bills due</i>	21 Community Events Foundation, 6 pm City Council Committee of the Whole, 7:30 pm	22	23	24	25
26	27 Police Pension Board, 3:30 pm	28 City Council Meeting, 7:30 pm	29	30	31	All meetings take place at City Hall, unless noted.

AUGUST 2020

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
<p>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.</p>			<p>All meetings take place at City Hall, unless noted.</p>			1 Family Night with Rolling Meadows Cops, 7-10 pm, Community Center (3705 Pheasant Dr)
2	3	4 Economic Development Committee, 6 pm Environmental Committee, 6:30 pm	5 Planning & Zoning Commission, 7:30 pm	6 Adjudication Hearing (Parking), 2 pm	7	8
9	10 Board of Fire & Police Commissioners, 9 am	11 Crime Stoppers, 5:30 pm City Council Meeting, 7:30 pm	12	13 Adjudication Hearing, 1 pm	14 Wine-Down by the Creek, 6 – 11 pm, Kimball Hill Park	15
16	17	18 Community Events Foundation, 6 pm City Council Committee of the Whole, 7:30 pm	19	20 <i>Water bills due</i> Adjudication Hearing (Red Light), 2 pm	21	22 City Market, 10 am – 2 pm, Community Church (2720 Kirchoff Rd) Community Block Party, 4:30-8:30 pm, Central Rd (between Barker and Jay)
23	24	25 City Council Meeting, 7:30 pm	26	27	28	29
30	31					

ON TAP: 2020 CAPITAL IMPROVEMENTS

Despite ongoing economic uncertainty caused by the COVID-19 pandemic, Rolling Meadows is proceeding with a series of infrastructure improvement projects that had already been scheduled – and funded – for 2020.

Water Main Replacements

Water main upgrades taking place across the City this spring and summer are replacing decaying, under-sized cast iron lines with stronger and safer materials in the following areas:

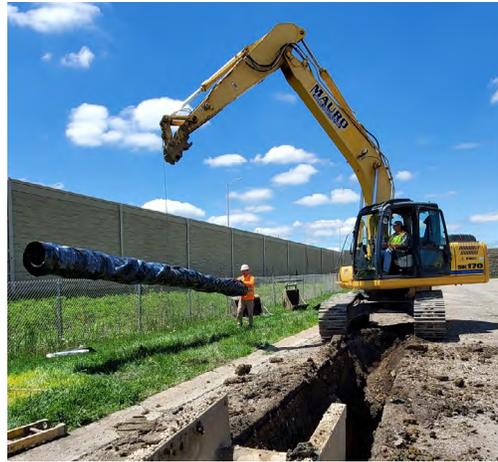
- Arbor Drive (Phase II).
- Plum Grove Drive & South Street.
- Weber Drive/Waverly Park (Phase II).

Upgrading these underground lines will improve water capacity, fire protection coverage, and system reliability for area residents and businesses.

City officials last year issued municipal bonds to raise the funding necessary to complete these and other important water main replacement projects within a two-year timeframe. The bond issue helped Rolling Meadows improve services to residents and local businesses while avoiding excessive upfront costs, maintain fund balances, and manage costs more effectively on taxpayers' behalf.

PREVENT CRIME: LOCK VEHICLE DOORS

The majority of criminal activity that occurs in Rolling Meadows involves property theft from unlocked vehicles. That's why the Police Department urges residents to make it harder on potential thieves by locking their cars and trucks – and avoid leaving valu-



Street resurfacing and water main replacement projects (pictured) represent long-term investments in Rolling Meadows' future.

Street Resurfacing

Rolling Meadows' 2020 Street Resurfacing Program is resurfacing six residential side streets in the Waverly Park area: Birch Lane, Carr Street, Cedar Street, Linden Lane, Oak Lane, and Willow Lane.

The \$795,000 project – which came in more than \$200,000 below what was originally budgeted – is being funded by money from Rolling Meadows' Motor Fuel and Local Roads Funds.

Stay updated on all construction projects taking place throughout Rolling Meadows. Visit www.cityrm.org and click the "Construction Projects" link.

ables in unattended vehicles.

"The vast majority of recent vehicle break-ins have not involved broken windows or other types of forceable entry. Thieves simply opened the door and took what they wanted," Police Chief John Nowacki explained. "Let's make it harder for these 'simple' crimes to occur. Your odds of becoming a victim decrease significantly if you simply lock your car's doors."

If you must leave personal items in your vehicle, Chief Nowacki recommends locking them in the trunk, glove compartment, or similar storage area where they will be out of sight to passers-by.

CITY BUILDINGS REOPEN WITH GUIDELINES IN PLACE

City Hall and the Rolling Meadows Police Department (3600 Kirchoff Road), and the Public Works Department (3900 Berdnick Street) re-opened to the public in June. All visitors are required to wear face coverings and maintain safe distances between themselves, other guests, and City employees.

Visits to the City's fire Stations (3201 Algonquin Road and 2340 Hicks Road) are by appointment only, in order to minimize on-duty crews' exposure to potential illness.

ONLINE PORTAL

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online. Customers may re-enroll in the updated auto pay program beginning August 1st.

2. Customers who pay online through their bank's website via Electronic Funds Transfer (EFT) will need to update their utility billing account number, as all customer account numbers will be changing.
3. Existing bank draft (checking or savings account) customers will transition to the new software system without interruption.

The City will post instructions on how to register for the "new" automatic payment system once it is active. Residents may also contact the Finance Department (847-394-8500 or ub@cityrm.org) to request instructions.

Transfer Begins in July

The Finance Department's cashier's window at City Hall will be closed through July 3rd for utility billing data transfer. No in-person payments will be accepted during this time.

Due to continuing COVID-19 social distancing guidelines, in-person payments should be made only if necessary.



Not comfortable with an online census questionnaire? Residents may complete the survey by phone or by mail instead.



Photo: U.S. Census Bureau

BE COUNTED: COMPLETE U.S. CENSUS TODAY

The 2020 census – the act of counting every single individual in the United States and its territories – will continue into October due to the effects of COVID-19, but it’s never too early to complete the survey online.

If you haven’t already, please visit www.my2020census.gov and click the “Start Questionnaire” button. Residents may also complete the census by telephone (844-330-2020) or mail back the questionnaire sent to all households in March.

It takes just minutes to complete this constitutionally mandated exercise, which will help determine Rolling

Meadows’ future for the next 10 years. The final census count serves as the basis for:

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

Perform your civic duty. Take a moment to complete the survey today.

YELLOW RIBBONS HELP MARK MEMORIAL DAY

COVID-19 public safety-related guidelines prevented Rolling Meadows residents from gathering for the City’s annual Memorial Day observance, but Veterans Committee members made sure those who gave their “last full measure of devotion” in defense of this country were not forgotten.



Committee members and volunteers tied yellow ribbons around trees lining Kirchoff Road through the City’s downtown area. The ribbons have



long represented public support for, and remembrance of, armed forces members stationed overseas, missing in action, or who have fallen in battle.

The Committee also posted a banner at the Carillon Tower that read, “Remembering those who made the ultimate sacrifice for the freedom of our great nation.”

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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PUBLIC WORKS FOOD DRIVE A SUCCESS

Public Works employees hosted a “no contact” food drive in the City Hall parking lot in late May to mark the 60th annual National Public Works Week. The two-day drive collected over 60 cartons of food and household supplies, which were distributed to the Elk Grove Township and Palatine Township food pantries.

