

NEWS & VIEWS

3600 KIRCHOFF ROAD | ROLLING MEADOWS, IL 60008 | 847-394-8500 | WWW.CITYRM.ORG

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VOLUME 24 ISSUE 5

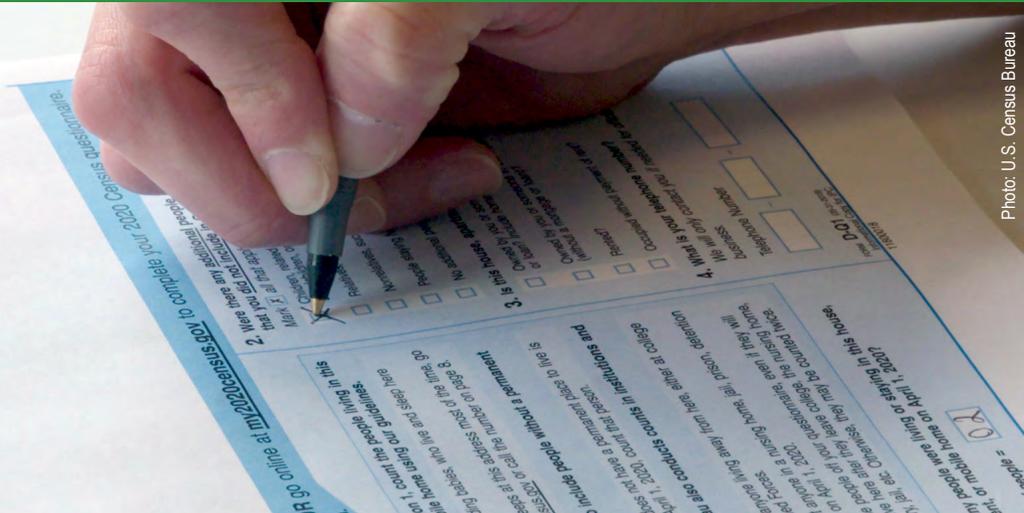


Photo: U.S. Census Bureau

Be counted: complete the 2020 census survey online, by phone, or by mail.

BE COUNTED: COMPLETE CENSUS FORMS BY SEPTEMBER 30TH

POPULATION COUNT TO DETERMINE CITY FUNDING LEVELS, REPRESENTATION FOR NEXT DECADE

Rolling Meadows residents who have not yet completed the 2020 census survey distributed to all households earlier this year have until September 30th to be counted, after the Census Bureau announced it would cease all counting efforts a month sooner than previously planned.

Local Participation Down

Census Bureau data showed that, as of mid-August, nearly 25% of City residents had not completed the questionnaire. Now is the time to do your part. It takes less than 10 minutes to complete this constitutionally mandated exercise that will affect Rolling Meadows for the next 10 years.

Protect City Funding

An accurate count of the City's population is critical for ensuring Rolling Meadows continues to receive the

(population-based) federal funding to which it is entitled under the law. This funding strengthens local schools, helps keep streets in good condition, and supports the police officers and firefighters who protect our community.

Effective Representation

Census results also serve as the basis for redistricting at the state and local levels – including re-drawn City ward boundaries to ensure fair representation of Rolling Meadows residents. It also drives the reapportioning of Congressional seats.

Act now!

Visit www.my2020census.gov and click the "Start Questionnaire" button to complete your survey online. Residents may also complete the survey by telephone (844-330-2020) or by mail.

SEASON'S FINAL CITY MARKET SET FOR SEPTEMBER 26TH

The curtain will fall on another market season Saturday, September 26th, when Rolling Meadows hosts its final City Market of 2020 at Community Church (2720 Kirchoff Road).

Wear a mask/face covering and stop by anytime between 10:00 am and 2:00 pm for local produce, fresh food purveyors, (safe) kiddie train rides, caricature portraits, live music, crafts, and more! City Council members will also be on hand from 10:00 – 11:00 am for a "meet & greet" with residents.

City Markets will return in May 2021. Find the latest Market updates on the City's website (www.cityrm.org) and on its Facebook page (www.facebook.com/cityofrollingmeadows).



CORONAVIRUS INFORMATION UPDATES POSTED ONLINE

Visit the “Community Resources” page on the Rolling Meadows website (www.cityrm.org) for the latest information on COVID-19 and tips for protecting your – and your family’s – health.

The page offers web links to the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC), the Illinois Department of Public Health (IDPH), and a dedicated site that provides information about the novel coronavirus (www.coronavirus.illinois.gov).

Additional resources available on the City’s website include:

- **Operational updates** for City departments.
- **Online payment options** for monthly utility bills, real estate transfers, etc.
- **Hours of operation for grocery stores** and other essential businesses around town.
- **Help for small businesses.**
- **An online assessment tool** for monitoring COVID-19 symptoms and potential exposure (*developed by Northwest Central Dispatch System*).

Social Media Updates & City Message Boards

Residents will also find updates on Rolling Meadows’ Facebook page (www.facebook.com/cityofrollingmeadows) and on message boards at City Hall (3600 Kirchoff Road), Fire Station 15 (3201 Algonquin Road), and Fire Station 16 (2340 Hicks Road).

City Buildings Open for Business

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

HEIGHTENED CORONAVIRUS RISK BURSTS OCTOBER FIREWORKS PLANS

A City fireworks display that had been pushed back from July 4th to October 6th has been cancelled in light of ongoing public safety concerns related to the COVID-19 pandemic.



The City had originally rescheduled Rolling Meadows’ Independence Day fireworks for October, in hopes that the risk to residents’ health and well-being would be diminished.

However, recent increases in the confirmed number of coronavirus cases in Illinois (and recommendations from federal and state health officials), caused event planners to rethink their initial strategy.

‘STRICTLY BUSINESS’ PODCAST HIGHLIGHTS LOCAL COMPANY’S ‘NEXT LEVEL’ SUCCESS STORY

A recent episode of the “Strictly Business” Podcast lets listeners hear first-hand how Next Level Northwest, a nonprofit business accelerator founded in 2018 by Rolling Meadows and four other northwest suburban municipalities, helped a City-based title insurance company achieve their marketing, sales, and staffing goals.

Episode 42 of the podcast, which is produced by Elk Grove Village (also a NLNW founder), featured a roundtable discussion with Min Bowler, Principal of Lakeshore Title Agency; Rolling Meadows Business Advocate Martha Corner; Next Level Northwest business coach Jeff Williams; and host Josh Grodzin.

The topic: how Next Level Northwest

“We simply couldn’t justify proceeding with the event, knowing that doing so could potentially put families at risk,” City Manager Barry Krumstok explained.

Other upcoming events that have been cancelled due to COVID-19 include:

- **Senior Luncheon** (9/8)
- **Friday’s ROCK! and Roll in Meadows** (9/11 & 9/18)
- **Duck Race** (9/18)
- **Business & Community Showcase** (9/24)

City officials are still determining whether or not to proceed with the Hometown Hoedown Fall Fest at Kimball Hill Park (October 3rd). Meanwhile, the Police Department is in the process of reimagining its annual National Night Out celebration, scheduled for October 6th.

Find the latest updates on the City’s website (www.cityrm.org) and on the RMPD’s Facebook page (www.facebook.com/rollingmeadowspolice).

business coaching helped Lakeshore Title develop and implement a more “professional-looking” marketing approach – especially online. The result: a 30% increase in sales and an expanded staff.



“We are a small business, but our website and marketing made us appear as more of a ‘Mom & Pop’ operation,” Lakeshore’s Bowler explained. “Jeff really assisted us in cleaning up our image and developing new strategies.

We finally have a website that reflects who we are in the market.”

Hear the complete episode online at www.egvbizhub.com/strictly-business-podcast.

Learn more about Next Level Northwest at www.nextlevelnorthwest.org.

RECYCLE OLD BATTERIES & CFLS AT PUBLIC WORKS

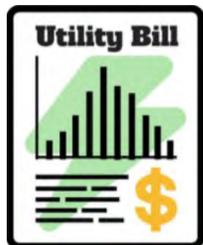
Rolling Meadows offers a convenient way for residents to safely dispose of spent household batteries and compact fluorescent light bulbs (CFLs): simply bring them to the Public Works Department (3900 Berdnick Street) for recycling. Drop-off hours are Monday – Friday, 8 am – 4 pm.

Public Works will also accept drop-offs at this month's City Market, scheduled for Saturday, September 26th, 10 am – 2 pm, at Community Church (2720 Kirchoff Road).

For more information, call Public Works at 847-963-0500.



CITY UTILITY BILLS GET A DESIGN MAKEOVER; NEW FORMAT AIMS TO IMPROVE CONVENIENCE



Utility customers likely noticed something different when opening their August bills: a “new look” format that more clearly details what residents pay for their water, sewer, and refuse/recycling services.

Key features of the updated bills include:

- Improved readability.
- New seven-digit customer account number.
- Updated payment stub (required to process payments made by check or in-person).
- Customer ID number (specific to individual accounts).
- Bill number (required for payment).
- 12-month usage history at a glance.

The new bills are part of the City's continuing efforts to improve custom-

er service and convenience. Another was the August debut of an online Citizen Self-Service Portal, which is accessible by clicking “Online Payments” on the City's homepage (www.cityrm.org).

Once registered through the online portal, customers are able to:

- Receive monthly utility bills electronically (e-billing) at no charge. *Like your paper bill? No action needed. You will continue to receive a paper bill at no charge!*
- Make secure online payments.
- Sign up for auto bill pay (see instructions posted online).
- Look up past bills.
- View usage and payment histories.
- Access their accounts from anywhere at any time.

For more information on the new utility bills and/or Citizen Self-Service Portal, contact the Finance Department (ub@cityrm.org or 847-394-8500).

'E-NEWS' OFFERS RESIDENTS EXPANDED CITY COVERAGE

Stay on top of what's happening in Rolling Meadows with *eNews*, a supplemental online newsletter published in February, April, June, August, October, and December.

Combined with the printed *News & Views* publication, *eNews* provides expanded monthly coverage of City plans, events, and initiatives.

The web-based PDF format also offers embedded links in many stories that give readers access to additional resources and insights.

Here's a sampling of stories published in recent *eNews* editions:

- Zoning Code Revisions Intended to Promote Future Growth (August)
- Web-Based Citizen Service Portal Goes Live (August)
- Drive-Thru COVID-19 Test Site Opens in Rolling Meadows (June)
- How to Prioritize Emotional Health Amid Global Pandemic (June)
- City Introduces Expanded Utility Bill Payment Options (June)
- Voters Approve New Term Limits for City Council (April)

Access Rolling Meadows' newsletter archives at www.cityrm.org and select “Monthly City Newsletters” from the “Our Community” menu.

The screenshot shows the 'eNEWS' newsletter for August 2020. The cover features the title 'eNEWS' in large green letters, with 'City of Rolling Meadows' and 'AUGUST 2020' above it. A table of contents lists articles such as 'COVID-19 operational update', 'New collection FAQs', 'The road to Rolling Meadows', 'Duvall Road August 27th', and 'Support local businesses'. Below the cover, there are several article teasers. One highlights 'NEW WEB-BASED CITIZEN SERVICE PORTAL GOES LIVE AUGUST 1ST', mentioning that the portal allows for secure online payments and auto bill pay. Another article discusses 'CENSUS RESULTS TO AFFECT CITY REVENUES & WARD BOUNDARIES', noting that the 2020 census results will determine the number of seats for each state in the U.S. House of Representatives. A third article mentions 'Influence City Revenues & Ward Boundaries', stating that data from the 2020 census will impact everything from City ward boundaries to the revenue Rolling Meadows receives from state and federal governments. The newsletter also includes a 'PLEASE NOTE' section regarding the transition to a new software system for bill payments.

SEPTEMBER 2020

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY	
All meetings take place at City Hall, unless noted.		1 Economic Development Committee, 6 pm Environmental Committee, 6:30 pm Planning & Zoning Commission, 7:30 pm	2	3 Adjudication Hearing (Parking), 2 pm	4	5	
	6	7 LABOR DAY City offices closed. Refuse collection delayed one day all week.	8 Crime Stoppers, 5:30 pm City Council Meeting, 7:30 pm	9	10 Adjudication Hearing, 1 pm	11 PATRIOT DAY	12
	13	14 Board of Fire & Police Commissioners, 9 am	15 Community Events Foundation, 6 pm City Council Committee of the Whole, 7:30 pm	16	17 Adjudication Hearing (Red Light), 2 pm	18	19
	20	21 Water bills due	22 City Council Meeting, 7:30 pm	23	24 Public Hearing: Zoning Code Revisions, 7:30 pm	25	26 City Markets, 10 am – 2 pm, Community Church (2720 Kirchoff Rd)
	27	28	29	30	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.		

OCTOBER 2020

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY	
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 .			All meetings take place at City Hall, unless noted.	1 Adjudication Hearing (Parking), 2 pm	2	3 Hometown Hoedown Fall Fest, 12 – 5 pm, Kimball Hill Park	
4	5	6 Economic Development Committee, 6 pm Environmental Committee, 6:30 pm Planning & Zoning Commission, 7:30 pm		7	8 Adjudication Hearing, 1 pm	9	10
11	12	13 Crime Stoppers, 5:30 pm City Council Meeting, 7:30 pm		14	15 Fire Pension Board, 8:30 am Adjudication Hearing (Red Light), 2 pm	16	17
18	19 Board of Fire & Police Commissioners, 9 am	20 Community Events Foundation, 6 pm City Council Committee of the Whole, 7:30 pm Water bills due		21	22	23	24
25	26 Police Pension Board, 3:30 pm	27 City Council Meeting, 7:30 pm		28	29	30	31 HALLOWEEN

SEPT. 24TH PUBLIC HEARING TO PRESENT RECOMMENDED ZONING CODE UPDATES

The Planning and Zoning Commission will hold a public hearing on recommended revisions to Rolling Meadows' Zoning Code Thursday, September 24, 7:30 pm, at City Hall. The hearing marks the latest step in a long-term planning effort that has already achieved notable results: approval of an updated Comprehensive Development Plan, which was adopted by City Council last year.

"The revised Comprehensive Plan was a critical step in our long-term efforts to guide the City's future growth and development," explained Community Development Division Planning Assistant Elizabeth Payne.



Elizabeth Payne

Elizabeth Payne. "Since then, we've been working on updates to the City's Zoning Ordinance that better align with the vision outlined in the new Plan. The public hearing will give community members an opportunity to review the proposed code changes and lend their voices to the process," she added.

According to Payne, the proposed updates:

• Establish a new, improved, simpler code for residents, businesses, and developers.

- Implement minor changes to residential districts, such as changing district names to allow for a more logical code, modifying regulations for non-residential uses (such as schools and churches), and ensuring that requirements for new developments meet Comprehensive Plan guidelines.
- Eliminate "transitional" zoning district classifications. Any properties in these districts will be re-classified/rezoned to "Commercial," as appropriate. Owners will be notified individually by mail of these changes.
- Revise the sign code to align with the updated Comprehensive Plan.

- "Zoning code updates that align more fully with the Comprehensive Plan will help promote economic development throughout the City," she said, adding that all current rights and allowed uses will not be affected.
- Copies of the revised draft code are available online at www.cityrm.org or at the Community Development Division at City Hall during normal business hours (8:00 am – 4:00 pm).
- Residents who have questions about the proposed Zoning Code updates are welcome to contact Payne at 847-870-9033 or paynee@cityrm.org.

HANDYMAN PROGRAM HELPS SENIORS WITH MINOR REPAIRS

Rolling Meadows' Senior Handyman Program connects residents ages 65 and up with a fully trained, trustworthy handyman to perform minor household repairs at a rate of \$35 per hour or less, depending on seniors' incomes.

- Leaky faucet repair.
- Light fixture repair/replacement.
- Drywall repair.
- Toilet and drain repairs.

Contact the Community Development Department (847-506-6030) for more information on the Senior Handyman program – including qualification criteria.

To schedule a service appointment, contact Tom directly at 847-870-7751.



Handyman Tom Thompson, who has been the face of the program since 2001, offers a range of services, including:

COUNTY CLERK ENCOURAGES MAIL-IN VOTING FOR NOVEMBER GENERAL ELECTION

The Cook County Clerk's Office is encouraging voters to apply online for mail-in ballots in advance of the November 3rd General Election. Mail-in voting will help minimize COVID-19-related health risks at regular polling places. Please visit www.cookcountyclerk.com to complete the online application.

All registered Cook County voters are eligible to receive mail-in ballots. The application process, available until October 29th, helps verify voters' identities. Once confirmed, voters will receive a ballot by mail.

Vote By Mail



Due to COVID-19, voters are strongly encouraged to vote by mail.

To complete the online ballot application, voters will need their:

- Driver's license or state identification number (or the last four digits of their Social Security number).
- The address where the ballot should be mailed.
- An email address.

Voters may also download, print, and fill out a mail-in ballot application, then send it to the Cook County Clerk's Office. Instructions are available on the website.

For more information, contact Cook County Clerk Karen A. Yarborough (312-603-5656 or clerk.yarborough@cookcountyil.gov).



MAYOR'S CORNER BY MAYOR JOE GALLO

BANDING TOGETHER AS A COMMUNITY

Every year I am amazed at how quickly summer comes and goes. Usually, the season is filled with community events and gatherings both large and small.

Despite everything that is going on in the world, I think the park district and City have done a wonderful job adjusting some of our favorite summer activities to help maintain at least some sense of normalcy. This is so important, especially for our younger residents.

School is starting back up but will be quite different for many of our families. Virtual learning is definitely not the norm and is hard on students, parents, and teachers alike. Let's do our best to support one another. We are all in this together.

That being said, let's continue to be vigilant in following the recommended guidelines (wearing masks, social distancing, limiting the number of people when gathering, etc.). Let's also continue to support our local businesses when we can and spread kindness and goodwill to one another

We live in a wonderful community and, as long as we band together in our efforts, we will get to the other side of all this.

On a final note, we are in the process of wrapping up our efforts with the 2020 Census. Thank you to everyone who participated or stopped by one of our census socials. For those of you who have not yet had a chance to complete your census survey, now is the time!

CONSTRUCTION UNDERWAY AT MEADOW SQUARE

Construction crews are making progress on the long-awaited Meadow Square residential development at the corner of Kirchoff Road and Meadow Drive.

When completed, the site will feature 106 two-and three-story townhomes –

part of a site development plan approved by City Council that also includes two outlots.

Project builder M/I Homes reports that it has already sold 23 units. Prices start in the \$270,000 range.



**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 Emergency 911
- 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
- ComEd 1-800-EDISON-1

 www.facebook.com/cityofrollingmeadows

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

KEY DATES FOR NOVEMBER 3RD ELECTION

- Oct. 7th:** First day of grace period registration and voting
- Oct. 18th:** Final day of online voter registration
- Oct. 19th:** Early voting begins
- Oct. 29th:** Final day to request mail-in ballots
- Nov. 2nd:** Early voting ends
- Nov. 3rd:** Election Day/Deadline for mail-in ballots to be postmarked