

eNEWS

3600 Kirchoff Road | Rolling Meadows, IL 60008 | 847-394-8500 | www.cityrm.org

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VOLUME 7 ISSUE 5



COUNTY CLERK ESTABLISHES SECURE DROP BOX PROGRAM TO COLLECT NOVEMBER ELECTION MAIL-IN BALLOTS

Rolling Meadows residents who request mail-in ballots for the November 3rd General Election but have concerns about the United States Postal Service's ability to deliver them may instead bring their completed ballots to a secure drop box located at the Cook County Circuit Courthouse (2121 Euclid Avenue) beginning October 9th.

The drop box program enables voters to hand-deliver their completed mail-in ballots from 8:30 am – 7:00 pm (M-F) and 9:00 am – 5:00 pm (weekends). The Cook County Clerk's Office will collect mail ballots from the drop box on a daily basis and time stamp them to confirm receipt.

Drop boxes will also be available at more than 50 other sites beginning October 19th. Nearby locations include Arlington Heights' Village Hall (33 S. Arlington Heights Road), Barrington Hills Village Hall (112 Algonquin Road), Elk Grove Village Hall (901 Wellington Avenue), and Schaumburg's Trickster Art Gallery (190 S. Roselle Road).

Apply for Mail Ballots

All registered Cook County voters are eligible to receive mail-in ballots. The application process, available through October 29th, helps verify applicants' identities. Once confirmed, residents will receive a ballot 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 at www.cookcountyclerk.com.

A complete listing of drop box locations, polling places, and other information regarding the November 3rd General Election is also available on the Cook County Clerk's website.

SHOWCASE YOUR HOME'S HALLOWEEN SPIRIT!

The lingering effects of a global pandemic may have dampened residents' appetite for celebrating Rolling Meadows' 65th birthday this year, but October 31st offers an opportunity for them to get in the spirit...the Halloween spirit, that is.

This season, City officials encourage homeowners to take part in a grass roots demonstration of community pride by showcasing their most amazing Halloween house decorations.



And, once the decorating is done, be sure to submit photos of your masterpiece for posting on the City's Facebook page*.

Send Halloween decoration photos to Lori Ciezak at ciezakl@cityrm.org by 3:00 pm on Friday, October 16th.

**The City reserves the right to reject Halloween display photos that are deemed overly-graphic in nature, inappropriate, or offensive.*

KEY ELECTION DATES

- 10/07: First day of grace period registration and voting
- 10/18: Final day of online voter registration
- 10/19: Early voting begins
- 10/29: Final day to request mail-in ballots
- 11/02: Early voting ends
- 11/03: Election Day/Deadline for mail-in ballots to be postmarked or delivered to a drop box.



PUBLIC WORKS TO HOST OCTOBER 3RD E-WASTE, DOC DESTRUCTION EVENT

The Public Works Department will host an electronics recycling and document destruction event at its 3900 Berdnick Street facility from 9:00 am – 12:00 pm, Saturday, October 3rd.

The event, sponsored by the Solid Waste Agency of Northern Cook County (SWANCC), will allow residents of Rolling Meadows and other SWANCC communities to safely recycle TVs, computers, and other old or outdated electronics equipment.

State law prohibits these items from being deposited in landfills.

It will also offer a safe, tamper-resistant way to dispose of sensitive documents – old tax forms, bank statements, medical records, and more. Residents may bring up to six (6) paper grocery bags filled with documents for secure shredding.

Guests should bring ID to confirm they are SWANCC customers.

For more information, and a full listing of accepted e-Waste items, please visit www.swancc.org or call Public Works at 847-963-0500.



AN EVENING TO UNITE: 'OLD-SCHOOL' NATIONAL NIGHT OUT OBSERVANCE SET FOR OCTOBER 6TH

The COVID-19 pandemic may have cancelled plans for Rolling Meadows' most exciting National Night Out yet, but that didn't stop the Police Department from developing a creative way to celebrate the bonds between local law enforcement professionals and the residents they serve.

The Department now encourages residents to turn on their porch lights Tuesday night, October 6th, as part of a community-wide initiative developed around a theme of "An Evening to Unite; Turn on Your Porch Light."

To help residents commemorate the evening, RMPD is offering complimentary celebration kits (while supplies last) comprised of a police bag, blue ribbon, yard sign, and blue light. Request kits in person at the 24/7 Police Desk at City Hall or by email at rmpd_events@cityrm.org.

"Public health concerns limit our ability this year to come together and celebrate National Night Out as usual," Police Chief John Nowacki explained. "So instead, we're taking an 'old school' approach that harkens back to the event's origins."

National Night Out began in 1984 as an initiative launched by the National

Organization for Town Watch. It initially involved front porch vigils and other symbolic efforts in communities across the country to highlight support for police officers and crime prevention. Today, National Night Out is observed by nearly 40 million people in over 16,000 communities across the U.S.



"We hope everyone in Rolling Meadows comes together to shine a light on the strong ties our officers have with this community," Chief Nowacki added. "It is our privilege to serve the residents and businesses that make this City a great place to call home."

The City's annual National Night Out celebration normally takes place on the first Tuesday in August. Planners earlier this year postponed the event until October in the wake of coronavirus-related safety concerns.

For more information on National Night Out, visit www.natw.org.

WELCOME NEW BUSINESSES

Accomplished Plumbing

Plumbing company office/storage
3840 Industrial Ave.
847-239-3529

DiCarlo Construction

Sewer/erosion control
4000 Industrial Dr.
847-833-1484

Dragons Lair Garage

Auto restoration
3870 Industrial Dr. Unit A
224-545-6330

I Mart*

Gas station/food mart
3321 Algonquin Rd.
847-873-0446

Phoenix HVAC

Commercial and residential heating/
air conditioning
1051 Rohlwing Rd. Ste A
224-829-4822

Subway*

Sandwich shop
1990 Central Road
847-398-0100

Weldy Lamont Group

Electrical power product
manufacturing rep
3201 Tollview Dr. #200
847-868-9750

*New ownership



SERVE UP KITCHEN FIRE SAFETY DURING FIRE PREVENTION WEEK

By Fire Chief Jeff Moxley

FACT: Cooking is the number one cause of home fires and home fire injuries.

FACT: Cooking fires are highly preventable.

A home's kitchen is often its heart: a space where food is prepared by, and shared among, family members. As firefighters, we've seen first-hand how cooking-related fires can cause severe home damage and gravely injure residents.

That's why the Rolling Meadows Fire Department is proud to partner with the National Fire Protection Association (NFPA) and fire departments across the country to commemorate Fire Prevention Week (October 4th – 10th). This year's theme: "Serve Up Fire Safety in the Kitchen!"™

Plan & Prepare

Minimizing your risk of a kitchen fire requires nothing more than a bit of safety planning and preparation:

- **Never leave cooking food unattended.** Remain in the kitchen when frying, grilling, or broiling. Turn off the stove if you have to leave the room – even for a short time.
- **Check food regularly while it is cooking.** Use a timer, and never

leave the house while cooking is in progress.

- **Establish a "child-free" zone** of at least three feet around the stove (and any other areas where hot food or drink is prepared or carried).
- **Always keep an oven mitt and pan lid nearby.** If a small grease fire starts, slide the lid over the pan to smother the flame and then turn off the burner. Leave the pan covered until it is completely cool. **For oven fires, turn off the oven and keep the door closed.*

If you encounter a cooking fire that cannot be smothered with a pan lid, leave the house immediately and then call 911.

Learn More

I invite residents to visit the NFPA's [Fire Prevention Week website](#) to find additional information – including videos, games, apps, and activities – designed to promote fire safety education.

You're also welcome to visit the Rolling Meadows Fire Department's webpage (www.cityrm.org/193/Fire-Department) and Facebook page (www.facebook.com/rollingmeadows-fire) to learn more about ongoing efforts to protect our community.

APPLY THREE 'W'S' TO HELP LIMIT COVID-19'S SPREAD

Everyone can contribute to efforts that help reduce the spread of COVID-19. Just remember the three W's:

- **WATCH** your distance. *Keep at least six feet away from people outside your immediate household.*
- **WEAR** face coverings. *Wear a mask or cloth face covering whenever social distancing is not possible – especially indoors.*
- **WASH** your hands. *Wash them often (with soap and water) and for at least 20 seconds. If soap is not available, use an alcohol-based hand sanitizer.*



For more information on protecting your and your family's health, visit the "Community Resources" page on the [Rolling Meadows website](#). The page offers links to the [Centers for Disease Control and Prevention](#) (CDC), the [Illinois Department of Public Health](#) (IDPH), and the state's recently-launched website that provides information about the novel coronavirus: www.coronavirus.illinois.gov/s.

It also features a COVID-19 Assessment, Tracking, and Triage module, offered by the Northwest Central Dispatch System (NWCDS). Access the module on the City's [Coronavirus Information Page](#) by clicking the "COVID-19 Online Assessment Tool" link.

Users answer a series of questions about symptoms and risk factors. An algorithm then helps the program offer general advice, recommended next steps, and telephone numbers and websites of area resource providers that may be able to help.

Note: City meetings and events may be held remotely or postponed for public health reasons. Find the latest updates [online](#) and on [social media](#).

10/01 — **Adjudication Hearing (Parking)**, 2 pm

10/06 — **Economic Development Committee**, 5:30 pm; **Environmental Committee**, 7 pm; **Planning & Zoning Commission**, 7:30 pm

10/08 — **Adjudication Hearing**, 1 pm

10/12 — **Fire Pension Board**, 8:30 am; **Adjudication Hearing (Red Light)**, 2 pm

10/13 — **Crime Stoppers**, 5:30 pm; **City Council Meeting**, 7:30 pm

10/19 — **Board of Fire & Police Commissioners**, 9 am

10/20 — **Community Events Foundation**, 6 pm; **City Council Committee of the Whole**, 7:30 pm; **Water bills due**

10/22 — **Community Blood Drive**, 1 – 7 pm. *Appointments required (877-258-4825). Wear a mask.*

10/26 — **Police Pension Board**, 3:30 pm

10/27 — **City Council Meeting**, 7:30 pm

10/31 — **Halloween**

All meetings take place at City Hall (3600 Kirchoff Road) unless noted.



Enjoy a Happy, Safe Halloween!
Trick-or-Treat Hours:
Saturday, October 31st, 1 – 6 pm

RESPONDING TO FOIA REQUESTS HELPS CITY PROMOTE TRANSPARENCY, PROTECT INDIVIDUALS' PRIVACY

Rolling Meadows' commitment to upholding the state of Illinois' Freedom of Information Act (FOIA) involves an approach that promotes transparency and accountability while simultaneously protecting citizens' right to privacy, Deputy City Clerk Judy Brose reports.



Judy Brose

Enacted in 1984 and updated in 2010, Illinois' FOIA provides public access to government documents and records – everything from reports, forms, writings, maps, photographs and microfilm to recordings, electronic communications, or other documentary materials that pertain to the transaction of public business.

“The United States was founded on the idea that an informed citizenry is an essential element of a free society,” Brose explained. “The Freedom of Information Act provides an opportunity for the public to gain a better understanding of how their government operates. However, as we provide this information, we must also enforce the Constitution, protect residents' privacy, and ensure the rights of others.”

Five-Day Response Window

Upon receiving a FOIA request, the City has up to five business days to respond (requests made for commercial purposes have a 21-day deadline). Officials may ask for an additional five business days if more time is needed to gather the information.

“Certain records may be redacted in order to protect individuals' privacy, but most – if not all – of the relevant information is accessible,” Brose added.

Request Forms Online

Members of the public may download a Public Record Request Form from the City's [Freedom of Information Requests](#) page, or submit requests via email to Brose at clerk@cityrm.org. Once received, Brose assigns a case number to the request and passes it on to the proper City departments for follow-up.

Certain fees may apply. Applicants who request copies of reports that exceed 50 pages will be charged 15 cents per page (certified copies are \$1 per document). Documents that are less than 50 pages, or sent electronically, are available at no cost. *Note: police traffic crash report requests cost \$5 (even if they are electronically transmitted).*



FOIA Requests Declining

The number of FOIA requests received by the City have been declining over the past three years – in large part because police reports are now stored electronically on the [LexisNexis Police Reports](#) database. In 2018, the City responded to 1,182 requests. That number dropped to 935 in 2019 and, in 2020, stands at 473 (as of mid-September).

Want to learn more about Illinois' Freedom of Information Act? Access this [FAQ page](#) published by the Illinois Attorney General's Office or contact Rolling Meadows' City Clerk's Office (clerk@cityrm.org).





City officials and M/I Homes representatives gather to celebrate the Meadows Square construction project's official start.

MEADOW SQUARE BEGINS TO TAKE SHAPE

Things are moving briskly at the new Meadow Square townhome development going up at the southeast corner of Kirchoff Road and Meadow Drive.

- Construction crews are making rapid progress on the planned buildout that, when completed, will feature 106 two- and three-story townhomes.
- City leaders joined M/I Homes representatives for an August 20th ribbon-cutting ceremony to mark the project's official launch.
- M/I Homes reports strong buyer interest, with nearly 25% of the development's units already sold.



Learn more at www.mihomes.com.meadowsquare.

FILING DEADLINE PENDING FOR 2021 LOCAL ELECTION

Rolling Meadows residents who are planning to run for City Council in the April 6th, 2021 Consolidated Election should mark their calendar for December 21st. That's the deadline for candidates to file their completed petitions.

City Council seats representing Wards 2, 4, and 6 will be the local offices contested on the 2021 ballot. Each elected candidate will serve a four-year term.

Qualified candidates must be established City residents (one-year minimum) and live in the ward they seek

to represent.

Residents may access filing information and candidate packets by visiting the Illinois State Board of Elections website. Filing will begin Monday, December 14th, 8 am, and conclude at 5 pm on Monday, December 21st.

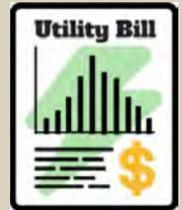
For more information on becoming a candidate in the 2020 Consolidated Election, visit the Cook County Clerk's website.

Learn more about the responsibilities of City Council members at www.cityrm.org.158/City-Council.

ONLINE UTILITY BILLING PORTAL IMPROVES CUSTOMER CONVENIENCE

Rolling Meadows' web-based "Service Portal" lets customers access a range of convenient new features, including the ability to quickly and easily pay their monthly utility bills online and enroll in the City's updated automatic bill payment program.

Access the portal by clicking "Online Payments" on the City's [homepage](#). Once registered, customers will be able to:



- Receive monthly utility bills electronically (e-billing). *Note: Customers may choose to continue receiving a paper bill at no charge.*
- Make secure online payments.
- Sign up for automatic bill pay (see instructions posted online).
- Look up past bills.
- View usage and payment histories.
- Access their accounts from anywhere at any time.

"The portal is part of the City's long-term investment in digital infrastructure to improve internal department operations, but the real benefits come from its ability to deliver more responsive customer service and convenience," Finance Director Melissa Gallagher explained.

For more information, contact the Finance Department at ub@cityrm.org or 847-394-8500.



Customers enjoy 24/7 access on any device.



Rolling Meadows' Bike Path takes riders to many of the City's natural wonders, including Kennedy Pond (pictured).

CITY BIKE PATHS OFFER HEALTH BENEFITS, OUTDOOR LEISURE ACTIVITIES

View Rolling Meadows' spectacular changing foliage from a new vantage point this fall: mile upon mile of majestic bike paths that connect all corners of the City and link up with those in surrounding communities.

Riders on the City's bike path system:

- Enjoy 13 miles of winding paths.
- Promote alternative transportation options.
- Reduce air pollution created by motor vehicle exhaust.
- Invest in their personal health and well-being.

"Cycling experienced an explosion in popularity this year, as people of all

ages sought a safe outlet for recreation and exercise," City Manager Barry Krumstok explained. "Rolling Meadows' bike path system offers a convenient, easily-accessible way for residents to enjoy outdoor activities while the weather remains cooperative."

Rolling Meadows bike paths are constantly being expanded. The latest extension, which runs along Euclid Road between Rohlwing Road and Salt Creek Lane in Arlington Heights, was officially dedicated in 2019. Plans call for the next addition – currently undergoing preliminary engineering studies – to expand biking access along Quentin Road (between Euclid Avenue and Hartung Road).

TWO MORE POPULAR DINING OPTIONS COMING SOON TO ROLLING MEADOWS

Popular restaurants serving authentic Chicago pizza and gourmet Mexican favorites will soon be opening their doors in Rolling Meadows. These latest additions to the City's thriving restaurant landscape include:

Burrito Parrilla Mexicana (2101 Plum Grove Road) – Fresh ingredients and flavors inspired by Mexico City, combined with "unbridled hospitality," result in a "gold standard in taste, quality, presentation, and innovation." **Tentative opening date: November 2020**

Rosati's Pizza (2631 Kirchoff Road) – A "slice of Chicago" is coming to Rolling Meadows. Rosati's has been "serving up five generations of greatness," including signature Chicago style pizzas, pastas, sandwiches, and more.

Want more great local flavors? Check out Rolling Meadows' [Dining Guide](#), available on the City's website.

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

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