

NEWS & VIEWS

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

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VOLUME 25 ISSUE 3



The Veterans Monument: site of the City's annual Memorial Day observance.

MEMORIAL DAY: REMEMBERING FREEDOM'S COST *May 29th Parade, Ceremony to Honor Those Who Gave Their Lives*

Rolling Meadows will salute the sacrifices of those who died in defense of the United States Saturday, May 29th, with a short parade through downtown and a solemn observance at the City's Carillon Tower.

Memorial Day Parade (11:00 am)

A moving tribute to fallen heroes, this year's parade along Kirchoff Road will feature members of Operation Wild Horse – a program that pairs wild mustangs with veterans suffering post-traumatic stress disorder (PTSD). OWH's riderless horse will

represent those who made the ultimate sacrifice defending freedom.

Ceremonial Observance (11:30 am)

Following the parade, community members will convene at the Carillon Tower to honor the men and women who "gave their last full measure of devotion." The observance will feature a keynote presentation by U.S. Army Lieutenant Colonel William J. Starr (Ret.) and a wreath-laying ceremony at the City's Veterans Monument by members of the Rolling Meadows Veterans Committee.



Lt. Col. William Starr

To ensure public safety, residents planning to attend this year's events should wear face coverings and practice social distancing.

CITY'S 'KIMBALL HOOT' TO DEBUT MAY 29TH

Kimball Hoot, the Rolling Meadows Community Events Foundation's new mascot, will introduce himself to residents Saturday, May 29th, during the season's first outdoor City Market. Monthly markets take place at Community Church (2720 Kirchoff Road), 10:00 am – 2:00 pm.

Plans call for the oversized owl – named after Rolling Meadows' founder, Kimball Hill – to be a community event mainstay for years to come.

"We have been planning Kimball Hoot's debut for some time and, until now, those plans have been a closely guarded secret," explained Lori Ciezak, Assistant to the City Manager and liaison to the Community Events Foundation. "However, some secrets are too good to be kept. It was time to let the cat – actually, the owl – out of the bag," she added.

In addition to City Markets, residents will be able to meet Kimball Hoot at the Central Road Block Party (June 11th), Fridays ROCK! concert in Kimball Hill Park (June 18th), and the City's Independence Day Parade (July 4th).

For a complete listing of upcoming events, visit www.cityrm.org/669/community-events



Meet Kimball Hoot at upcoming City events.



Operation Wild Horse
#OWHMissionOfHope

Photo: Veterans R&R

MCHALE, VINEZEANO WIN COUNCIL RACES

Rolling Meadows voters on April 6th decided the makeup of City Council for the next two years. The election – for seats representing Wards 1, 2, 4, and 6 – featured two contested races:



Karen McHale

Ward 1: Karen McHale, who was appointed to City Council in January, won her race against Dave Whitney. She will represent 1st Ward residents for the remaining two years of the current term vacated by former Alderman Mike Cannon.



Jenifer Vinezeano

Ward 4: Jenifer Vinezeano, appointed to City Council in 2019, will serve a four-year term after running against Brad Judd, who represented the Ward from 2009-2017.



Nick Budmats

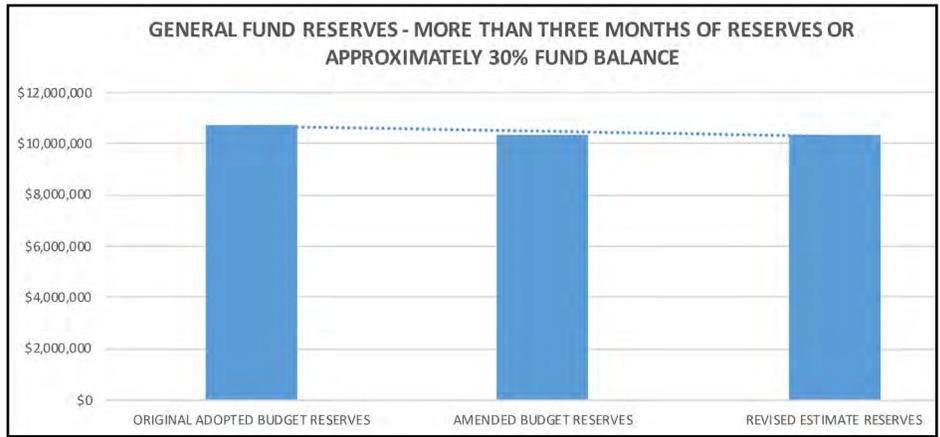
Current Alderman Nick Budmats (Ward 2) and newcomer Mandy Reyetz (Ward 6) ran uncontested. Reyetz will succeed Alderman John D’Astice, who is stepping down due to term limits.



Mandy Reyetz

Newly elected aldermen will be sworn-in at City Council’s May 11th meeting.

NOTE: Results of the April 6th Consolidated Election were officially certified upon review of provisional and absentee ballots – after this issue of News & Views went to press.



COVID-19 mitigation efforts ensured that the City’s reserve fund balances remained within established parameters.

CITY LEVERAGES STRONG FINANCIAL POSITION TO WEATHER COVID-19 BUDGET IMPACT

Rolling Meadows’ long-term commitment to fiscal discipline and prudent stewardship of City finances have been integral to ensuring delivery of high-quality services to more than 24,000 residents and hundreds of businesses amid the COVID-19 pandemic, Finance Director Melissa Gallagher reports.

The City’s financial resiliency was on full display throughout 2020, as leaders successfully offset a severe projected revenue decline. Actions included the transfer of reserves to the General Fund (the City’s main operational fund); not filling vacant positions and delaying new staff hires; rescheduling certain capital projects originally planned for the year; and applying for/receiving more than \$325,000 in county, state, and federal COVID-19 relief grants.

“Rolling Meadows’ long-term approach to financial planning helped City officials respond to potential COVID-19-related revenue shortfalls from a position of strength,” Gallagher recalled. “Council and staff acted quickly to ensure that essential City services – everything from public safety to refuse collection – continued without interruption.”

Maintain Credit Rating

Despite these emergency actions, Rolling Meadows has maintained its investment-grade credit rating and fund balances remain within established parameters.

“City finances are also a bit stronger than originally expected, thanks to sustained increases in certain sectors, such as online sales and so-called ‘Big Box’ retail,” Gallagher explained.

As 2021 approached, City Council adopted a fiscal year budget that:

- Freezes the City’s property tax levy at 2020 levels.
- Establishes flexible capital project plans that allow City officials to direct resources to critical needs.
- Expands revenue stream diversity (including recreational marijuana).
- Evaluates proposed expenditures by determining “needs” vs. “wants.”
- Provides expanded emergency assistance funding for residents and businesses.

Greater Service Demand

As private sector organizations reduced the scope of their operations and, in many cases, furloughed employees during the pandemic, municipalities and other local entities saw demand for their services increase. That being the case, Rolling Meadows’ leaders continue to monitor COVID-19’s ongoing impact on City finances and operations.

“City Council and staff are ready to act, as necessary, to ensure the continued delivery of essential services to residents and businesses,” Gallagher added.

RESPONDING TO NEW CHALLENGES & CHANGING COMMUNITY NEEDS DURING A GLOBAL PANDEMIC

By John Nowacki, Rolling Meadows Police Chief

Over the course of a nearly 35-year law enforcement career, I have never experienced a year like 2020.



John Nowacki

The novel coronavirus has brought myriad challenges and much uncertainty over the past year. It also highlighted the character, dedication, and commitment of the men and women employed by the Rolling Meadows Police Department. I'm especially proud of the fact that the agency never once reduced our service levels or halted/suspended operations during this pandemic.

Call Volumes Increased

Due in large part to COVID-19, we experienced an *increase* in call volume over prior years. This was caused by multiple factors, including:

- Increased activity at larger retailers that remained open throughout quarantine.
- Addressing complaints and resolving issues related to the governor's lockdown order.
- More people staying/working from home, leading to an increase in domestic-related disputes and family issues.
- Mutual aid deployments of RMPD personnel to other communities.
- Preparation/mobilization of resources in light of potential civil unrest in Chicago and surrounding areas.

Most of the calls related to the governor's executive orders regarding the pandemic occurred in the early stages of the lockdown. In the vast majority of situations, officers were able to use persuasion and education to gain voluntary compliance.

Expanded Community Support

Ironically, the pandemic's scope

allowed us to identify and implement alternative approaches to serving the community:

- Police officers staffed the Illinois Emergency Management Agency's COVID-19 testing site at Rolling Meadows High School. We saw it as a way to help fight the virus' spread.
- Weekly mobile food pantries at our Police Neighborhood Resource Center (PNRC) and our Holiday Food Drive at Jewel/Osco offered opportunities to help family members who lost jobs and faced increased economic stress.

The Holiday Food Drive is an annual event, but its success in 2020 far exceeded prior years. We owe a debt of gratitude to our residents, local businesses, and community groups who responded so generously to our call.

Looking Ahead...with Gratitude

Throughout the past year, in a time of economic upheaval and social unrest, we also witnessed a community outpouring of compassion and thoughtfulness for our officers.

Every day, it seemed, the Department would receive words of thanks and acts of kindness to show appreciation for the work we do. Those actions have helped us navigate a very difficult year.

In many ways, 2021 has been no different than 2020, but the light at the end of the tunnel may be approaching. Public vaccinations are under way and we are witnessing initial signs of an economic turnaround.

Regardless of what happens next, the Rolling Meadows Police Department remains prepared to protect the residents and businesses we serve.

Thank you for your continued support.

City's 'Buzz' Website Offers Local Business Coupons

A growing number of Rolling Meadows businesses are offering great deals and special offers at the RM Business Buzz (<https://rmbusinessbuzz.org>), a City-sponsored website designed to promote area companies and encourage residents to "shop local." Simply click on the site's 'Special Offers' link to view and download coupons.

The site's navigation features allow users to search for nearly 800 businesses by name or review company listings organized into specific categories. Other site features include local business profiles and listings of job openings at area companies.

Garden Club's Plant & Craft Sale Returns May 15th at New Location

Find premium hanging baskets, flowering annuals, and more at Rolling Meadows Garden Club's Plant & Craft Sale.

This year's event will take place (rain or shine) Saturday, May 15th, 9:00 am – 2:00 pm at Park Central (3000 Central Road). Learn more by visiting www.RollingMeadowsGardenClub.org.

Rolling Meadows Senior Center Memberships Start at \$15

The Rolling Meadows Senior Center offers residents ages 50 and up access to a wide variety of programs, events, and excursions. Annual memberships are \$30 for residents (\$35 non-resident; \$15 ages 95 and older). The Senior Center is located at 3705 Pheasant Drive. Call 847-818-3200 or visit <https://rmparks.org/adults-seniors>.

Submit Nominations to 'Rolling Meadows Proud' Program

The City's "Making Rolling Meadows Proud" initiative highlights individuals or efforts that exemplify community service and good deeds. Selected honorees receive a certificate of appreciation, are recognized at City Council meetings, and will be featured in upcoming issues of *News & Views*. Please submit nominations to admin@cityrm.org.

MAY 2021

All meetings take place at City Hall, unless noted.

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
	City offices will be closed on Monday, May 31st, in observance of Memorial Day. Refuse collection will be delayed one day all week.	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 .				1
2	3 Economic Development Committee, 6 pm	4 Environmental Committee, 6:30 pm Planning & Zoning Commission, 7 pm	5	6 Adjudication Hearing (Parking), 2 pm	7	8
9 <i>MOTHER'S DAY</i>	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	15 RM Garden Club Plant & Craft Sale, 9 am–2 pm, NEW LOCATION: Park Central (3000 Central Road)
16	17 <i>Tax Day (individual filers)</i>	18 Community Events Foundation, 6 pm City Council Committee of the Whole, 7:30 pm	19	20 Adjudication Hearing (Red Light), 2 pm <i>Water bills due</i>	21	22
23	24	25 Capital Projects Committee, 6:30 pm City Council Meeting, 7:30 pm	26	27	28	29 City Market, 10 am–2 pm, Community Church (2720 Kirchoff Rd.) Memorial Day Parade, 11 am; Observance, 11:30 am
30		MEMORIAL DAY 31				

JUNE 2021

All meetings take place at City Hall, unless noted.

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
		1 Environmental Committee, 6:30 pm Planning & Zoning Commission, 7 pm	2	3 Adjudication Hearing (Parking), 2 pm	4	5
6	7 Economic Development Committee, 6 pm	8 Crime Stoppers, 5:30 pm City Council Meeting, 7:30 pm	9	10 Adjudication Hearing, 1 pm	11 Community Block Party, 4:30–8:30 pm, Central Road (Barker Ave. & Jay Ln.)	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 Fridays ROCK!, 7–10 pm, Kimball Hill Park	19
20	21 <i>Water bills due</i>	22 Capital Projects Committee, 6:30 pm City Council Meeting, 7:30 pm	23	24	25	26 City Market, 10 am–2 pm, Community Church (2720 Kirchoff Rd.)
27	28	29	30	Due to ever-changing circumstances related to the COVID-19 pandemic, 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.		

COUNCIL APPROVES STREET RESURFACING, SIDEWALK REPLACEMENT PROGRAMS

Rolling Meadows will resurface 13 residential streets, and replace approximately 18,000 square feet of sidewalk and 2,500 square feet of curb/gutter in 2021, through infrastructure improvement programs approved by City Council.

Street Resurfacing Program

Aldermen approved an \$864,000 project bid at the City Council's April 13th meeting to resurface the following roads:

- California Avenue (between Dawngate and Tall Oaks)
- California Court
- Chas Drive
- Crestwood Lane
- Hoover Court
- Hoover Street
- Keystone Court
- Lisa Court
- Mallory Court
- McKone Court
- Stork Court
- Woodcliff Court
- Woodland Court



Sidewalk & Curb Replacement

A \$180,000 contract for sidewalk and curb/gutter replacement approved in March will focus primarily on neighborhoods in the vicinity of Salk Park, residential areas west of Meacham, and along school and business routes throughout town. Work is scheduled to be completed later this summer.

For updates on projects taking place throughout the City, visit www.cityrm.org and select "Construction Projects" from the left side of the page.

FIRE DEPARTMENT HOSTS CPR CLASSES

Become a certified Cardiopulmonary Resuscitation (CPR) provider through classes offered by the Rolling Meadows Fire Department.

Classes take place at Station 16 (2340 Hicks Road), 6:00 – 9:00 pm, on the third Wednesday of each month (except December). Courses are led by Rolling Meadows firefighters who hold CPR Instructor accreditation from the American Heart Association.

Registration is \$40 per person. Classes are limited to eight participants. To register, visit www.cityrm.org/699/sign-up-for-cpr-class.

2021 CPR Course Dates

Classes take place the third Wednesday of each month, 6:00 – 9:00 pm

- May 19th
- June 16th
- July 21st
- August 18th
- September 15th
- October 20th
- November 17th

'A GREAT PLACE TO DO BUSINESS' ROLLING MEADOWS WELCOMES NEW RESTAURANTS, SERVICE PROVIDERS

Whether you're in the market for Big Box retail, smaller/independent merchants, specialized service providers, or "tasteful" cuisine, Rolling Meadows-based businesses offer something for everyone. City officials welcome these latest additions to the local business community:



Knockout Prints

Personalized apparel & promotional products
4007 West Algonquin Rd.
847-496-7173
knockoutprints.com



Kung Fu Tea

Bubble tea specialists, hot/cold beverages
1643 West Algonquin Rd.
847-962-2188
www.kungfutea.com



Teriyaki Madness

Asian grill
1319 West Golf Rd.
847-258-5761
teriyakimadness.com

Shop! Dine! Visit!

Learn more about new restaurants, shops, and service companies joining the Rolling Meadows business community by visiting www.cityrm.org/706/new-businesses.



CITY MEETS EPA WATER STANDARDS

Rolling Meadows drinking water in 2020 met all standards established by the Environmental Protection Agency, according to the City's new Consumer Confidence Report (CCR) that details the source and quality of the water used by residents and businesses.

The full 2020 report will be posted on the City's website by June 30th. Customers who would like to receive a printed version of the report by mail, once it is complete, may contact Public Works at 847-963-0500.



GUEST COLUMN BY KAREN MCHALE, 1ST WARD ALDERMAN

TAKING STEPS TO EXPAND COMMUNICATION AND ENGAGEMENT WITH THOSE WE SERVE

I have learned so much in my short time as a member of the City Council and am thrilled at the opportunity to serve my community. Each ward in Rolling Meadows has different needs, and my fellow aldermen each bring unique experiences to the table. By working together and collaborating as a team, we can begin to accomplish the goals that we all have to make our City great.

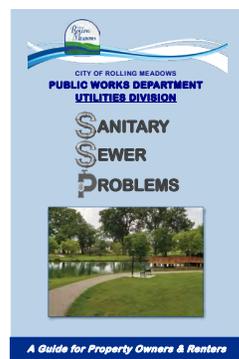
As alderman, one of my goals is to improve communication/engagement between residents, Council members, and staff. Strong, honest, and effective communication in local government creates trust between all parties, helps residents realize their ideas and concerns matter, and leads to more robust

community engagement. I feel that this is my most important job as a community representative and I look forward to communicating with all of you.

Like many of my colleagues, I recently created a Facebook page for Ward 1 residents so that I may engage more personally with residents and provide useful information.

On top of that, I encourage all our residents to check out the City's website, read its monthly newsletters, and follow City departments on social media. And, of course, reach out to your alderman if you have thoughts or concerns. We always appreciate feedback and welcome constructive conversation.

WEBSITE DEBUTS DAILY WATER USAGE, SANITARY SEWER PROBLEM TIP SHEETS



Electronic "tip sheets" posted on the City's website offer water conservation strategies that may help reduce homeowners' monthly utility bills and highlight steps to

take when addressing potential sanitary sewer backups.

The Public Works Department's **Sanitary Sewer Problems** guidebook offers a comprehensive review of potential causes of sewer backups and how to remedy the situation. Access the guidebook at www.cityrm.org/348/sanitary-sewer-backups.

The Finance Department's **Daily Water Usage** infographic provides strategies for identifying potential plumbing leaks and reducing water consumption. To learn more, visit www.cityrm.org/587/experiencing-high-water-consumption.



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
 Karen McHale773-517-3873
- 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

 www.facebook.com/cityofrollingmeadows

 www.twitter.com/@cityofrm1

SNOW REMOVAL TALLY (JANUARY – MARCH)

Between January 1st and March 31st, Public Works' snow removal crews responded to 21 winter weather events that dropped a combined 48.8 inches of snow on Rolling Meadows.

Key Stats

- Miles traveled by snow removal crews/equipment: **17,601**
- On-duty personnel hours: **2,135**
- Tons of salt/de-icer used: **2,075**