

# eNEWS

3600 Kirchoff Road | Rolling Meadows, IL 60008 | 847-394-8500 | [www.cityrm.org](http://www.cityrm.org)

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VOLUME 8 ISSUE 5



Resident veterans and guests enjoy each other's company at the City's 2019 Veterans Dinner.

## NOVEMBER 5TH VETERANS DINNER TO WELCOME HONOR GUARD SENTINEL WHO ONCE PROTECTED NATION'S TOMB OF THE UNKNOWN SOLDIER



David Dieringer

U.S. Army Sergeant (retired) David J. Dieringer, who once served as a member of an elite honor guard responsible for keeping watch over Arlington National Cemetery's Tomb of the Unknown Soldier, will be the keynote speaker at Rolling Meadows' 2021 Veterans Dinner.

This year's gathering will take place Friday, November 5th, 6:00 – 8:00 pm, at Meridian Banquet & Conference Center (1701 West. Algonquin Road). Resident veterans and a guest will enjoy a multi-course meal, live performances by the Northwest Concert Band, pre-dinner appetizers, raffle prizes, and more.

Admission is free. Attending veterans will receive a commemorative lapel pin honoring the Tomb's 100th anniversary.

### Add New Names to Registry

Veterans who have attended these

dinners in the past will automatically receive an invitation to this year's event. Those who have not taken part in previous celebrations, but would like to join this year's gathering, may contact Deb Austerlade at City Hall ([austerladed@cityrm.org](mailto:austerladed@cityrm.org)). Newcomers will be added to a registry of Rolling Meadows veterans curated by the City's Veterans Committee.

### 'Walk My Tour'

Sgt. Dieringer will present his experiences as a member of the Tomb's Honor Guard (1975 – 1977). As one of the Sentinels responsible for standing guard at the Tomb – at all hours and in all elements – he swore an oath to “walk my tour in humble reverence to the best of my ability. It is he who commands the respect that I protect, his bravery that made us so proud.”

The Tomb of the Unknown Soldier has contained the remains of an unidentified American soldier who died in World War I since its dedication in 1921. Remains of unknown soldiers

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## HOMETOWN HOEDOWN PROMISES FALL FUN WITH COUNTRY WESTERN FLAIR

Put on your favorite western wear and “giddy up” to Rolling Meadows' 2021 Hometown Hoedown & Fall Fest, set for Saturday, October 2nd, 12:00 – 5:00 pm, at Kimball Hill Park.



### Exciting New Attractions...

This year's FREE all-ages community festival will include:

- Country DJ – NEW.
- Line dancing – NEW.
- Horse-drawn hayrides (above).
- Pony rides & petting zoo.
- Square dancing lessons.
- Kids' crafts & games.
- Performance by Miss Jamie's Farm.

### ...And a Cowboy Cookout

Guests are welcome to “rustle up some vittles” at the Hoe-down's \$5 Cowboy Cookout (*while supplies last*), which includes a hamburger or hot dog, chips, cookie, and a drink.



## SHOPPING CENTER TO PRESENT OCTOBER 30TH HALLOWEEN FEST

Finding it hard to wait for sweets and scares on October 31st? Start the celebration a day early with a special Halloween Fest at Rolling Meadows Shopping Center. This “new for 2021” event, sponsored by the City and shopping center owner Philips Edison & Company, will take place Saturday, October 30th, 11:00 am – 3:00 pm.



Family-friendly attractions will include:

- Trick-or-treating at local businesses.
- Parking lot trunk-or-treating.
- Pony rides.
- Petting zoo.
- Balloon artist.
- And more.

For more information, contact Business Advocate Martha Corner ([cornerm@cityrm.org](mailto:cornerm@cityrm.org) or 847-870-9004).

## CITY-ISSUED PUMPKIN GRAPHICS TO WELCOME TRICK-OR-TREATERS

This Halloween, let trick-or-treaters know that they are welcome to come to your door for goodies by posting a City-issued pumpkin graphic (pictured below) in your front window.

The graphic was included in Rolling Meadows' October utility billing mailing. Printed copies are available for pickup at City Hall or for download at [www.cityrm.org](http://www.cityrm.org) and on the City's [Facebook page](#).



## \$30,000 GRANT FUNDS SALVATION ARMY ASSISTANCE PROGRAM FOR RESIDENTS

City Council's approval of a \$30,000 grant to the Salvation Army will allow Rolling Meadows residents impacted by COVID-19 and other emergencies to access financial assistance resources directly from that organization, Finance Director Melissa Gallagher reports.



## DOING THE MOST GOOD

The grant monies fund a Salvation Army crisis relief program designed specifically to assist City residents. It replaces a COVID-19 aid program first established by City officials in 2020. The new program is administered by the Salvation Army on Rolling Meadows' behalf, thus relieving City staff of those additional responsibilities.

“This partnership will only improve the City's ability to offer aid to residents who need it most,” Gallagher explained. “The Salvation Army is responsible for administering the program and documenting all expenditures. This lifts those additional burdens from Rolling Meadows staff members and lets them

focus their full attention on City operations,” she added.

Under the terms of the agreement, the money is only available to Rolling Meadows residents and families, who may apply for funding that covers expenses such as:

- Monthly rent or mortgage payments (up to two months of assistance).
- Food/groceries.
- Utilities (up to three months of assistance).
- Transportation/auto repairs (up to \$600 per household).
- Medical costs (up to \$600 per household).

Funding for the crisis relief program grant was reallocated from General Fund Reserves (\$25,000) and money that was budgeted for the City's original aid program (\$5,000).

Rolling Meadows residents who would like to apply for financial assistance through the Salvation Army service extension relief program should contact Social Services Outreach Specialist Natalia Nieves, PhD, LCPC, AMFT (847-870-2636 or [nievesn@cityrm.org](mailto:nievesn@cityrm.org)).

## NOV. 5TH VETERANS DINNER ...continued from page one

from World War II and Korea were also laid to rest at the Tomb in 1958.

Soldiers accepted for Tomb Sentinel duty must successfully navigate a strict selection process and then undergo intensive training. Each element of a Tomb Guard's routine has meaning and signifies “that he or she stands between the Tomb and any possible threat,” according to the [Arlington National Cemetery website](#).



**City Tradition Honors Veterans**  
First established in 2003, Rolling Meadows' annual Veterans Dinner was among the first of its kind in Illinois: a City-sponsored event to

honor those who have served in our nation's armed forces and encourage multi-generational camaraderie among brothers and sisters in arms.

In past years, the dinner was held in May, in conjunction with the City's Memorial Day ceremonies. Planners moved the event to November this year to align it more closely with Veterans Day (November 11th).

For more information on this year's Veterans Dinner, contact Lori Ciezak, Staff Liaison to the Rolling Meadows Veterans Committee, at [ciezakl@cityrm.org](mailto:ciezakl@cityrm.org) or 847-394-8500 x 1002.



## CITY & SWANCC TO PARTNER FOR OCTOBER 2ND E-WASTE COLLECTION & DOCUMENT DESTRUCTION EVENT

Rolling Meadows and the Solid Waste Agency of Northern Cook County (SWANCC) are partnering to host

### Recycle Outdated Electronics Equipment, including:

- Cable Receivers
- Cell phones
- Computer monitors
- Computers (Desktops, Notebooks, Tablets)
- Converter Boxes
- Fax machines
- Keyboards
- Mice
- MP3 players
- Portable Digital Assistants (PDAs)
- Printers (multi-function printers)
- Satellite receivers
- Scanners
- Televisions (all types)
- Video Game Consoles
- Video Recorders/Players
- Zip Drives

an electronics recycling/document destruction event Saturday, October 2nd, 9:00 a.m. – 12:00 pm, at the Public Works Department (3900 Berdnick Street).

Residents of Rolling Meadows and other SWANCC-member communities may drop off old computers, TVs, fax machines, cell phones, and other outdated home electronics equipment for recycling (see sidebar for an expanded list). Business waste will not be accepted.

The event will also offer a safe, secure way to dispose of old tax forms, bank statements, medical records, and other sensitive documents. Residents may bring up to six banker-sized boxes of documents for onsite shredding. Please remove metal clips, plastic sleeves, folders, and binders before disposal.

For more information, and a complete listing of accepted items, visit <https://swancc.org>.

## CITY SCHEDULES OCT. 12TH HEARING ON FY2022 BUDGET

Rolling Meadows residents will have the opportunity to participate in the crafting of the City's Fiscal Year (FY) 2022 budget during a public hearing scheduled for City Council's October 12th meeting. The hearing will begin at 7:30 p.m. at City Hall (3600 Kirchoff Road).

A preliminary draft of the 2022 budget was presented to City Council members in September. The latest

version of the draft budget – reflecting recent deliberations by alderman and City staff – is available for public review on the City's [website](#).

The proposed budget is also available for public review at City Hall and the Rolling Meadows Library (3110 Martin Lane).

Plans call for the 2022 budget to be approved in November.

## DUCK RACE RAISES \$3,245 FOR ENVIRONMENTAL PRESERVATION EFFORTS

A beautiful September 10th evening in Kimball Hill Park served as the perfect backdrop for Rolling Meadows' 2021 Duck Race. In total, more than 700 plastic ducks "sprinted" down the park's waterfall fountain into Salt Creek and, in the process, raised \$3,245 for local environmental restoration efforts.

### Prizes Galore

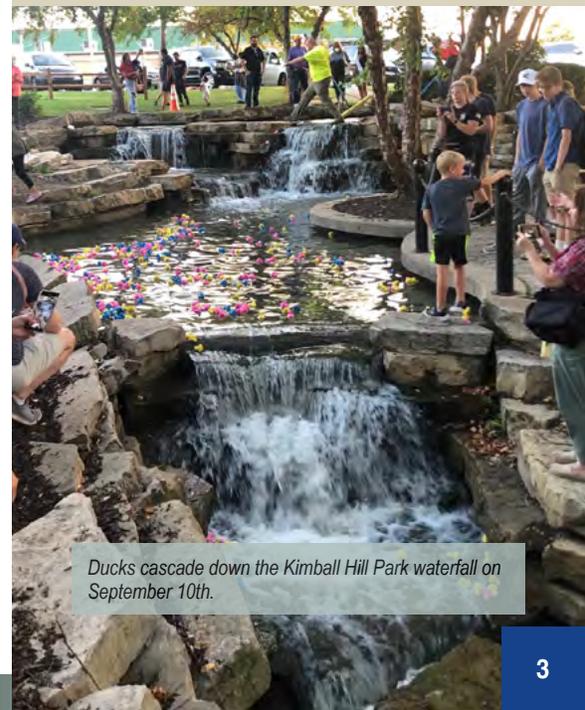
Thirty prizes in total were handed out to participants whose ducks were among the fastest to cross the finish line. Top three places went to:

- Lora Salyers – Grand prize (\$300).
- Marge Loesch – 2nd place (\$200)
- Liz Bolash – 3rd place (\$100).

### Thank Sponsors

Organizers thank the Rolling Meadows Parks Foundation, Rolling Meadows Historical Society, and Rolling Meadows Environmental Committee for sponsoring this year's race.

Special thanks also go to Christopher B. Burke Engineering, Ltd., for its \$600 donation, Rolling Meadows Public Works, and members of the Community Events Foundation for their help staffing the event.



Ducks cascade down the Kimball Hill Park waterfall on September 10th.

All meetings take place at City Hall, unless noted.

10/02: **Electronics Recycling & Document Destruction Event**, 9:00 am – 12:00 pm, Public Works (3900 Berdnick Street); **Hometown Hoedown Fall Fest**, 12:00 – 5:00 pm, Kimball Hill Park

10/04: **Economic Development Committee**, 6:00 pm

10/05: **Environmental Committee**, 6:30 pm; **Planning & Zoning Commission**, 7:00 pm

10/07: **Adjudication Hearing (Parking)**, 2:00 pm

10/11: **Columbus Day. Board of Fire & Police Commissioners**, 9:00 am

10/12: **Crime Stoppers**, 5:30 pm; **City Council Meeting/Public Hearing (FY2022 Budget)**, 7:30 pm

10/14: **Adjudication Hearing**, 1:00 pm

10/19: **Community Events Foundation**, 6:00 pm; **City Council Committee of the Whole**, 7:30 pm

10/20: **Water bills due**

10/21: **Adjudication Hearing (Red Light)**, 2:00 pm

10/21: **Fire Pension Board**, 8:30 am

10/25: **Police Pension Board**, 3:30 pm

10/26: **City Council Meeting**, 7:30 pm

10/30: **Trick or Treat Trail & Halloween Fest**, 11:00 am – 3:00 pm, Rolling Meadows Shopping Center

10/31: **Halloween. Trick-or-treat hours: 2:00 – 7:00 pm**

Meetings and events may be held remotely or postponed for public health purposes, due to ever-changing circumstances related to the COVID-19 pandemic. Find the latest updates on the City's [website](#) and on [Facebook](#).



## PD RAISES \$4,000 FOR SPECIAL OLYMPICS WITH 'COFFEE FOR CHAMPIONS'

Rolling Meadows Police Department's annual fundraiser for Special Olympics raised over \$4,000 in community donations in August, thanks to the generosity of residents and the support of Dunkin' Donuts (3350 Kirchoff Road).

Special Olympics athletes. All guests who donated to the cause – no matter what amount – received a free donut. Those who made larger donations were able to take home t-shirts, hats, mugs, and other prizes.

The Coffee for Champions fundraiser helps raise awareness and funds for

Thanks to everyone who turned out to support a great cause!

## COMMUNITY SERVICE OFFICER HONORED WITH POLICE DEPARTMENT'S 'EXCEPTIONAL DUTY AWARD'



Robert Wunnicke, Jr.

Community Service Officer Robert Wunnicke, Jr., was honored with Rolling Meadows Police Department's Exceptional Duty Award for his role in assisting a despondent resident who had called the Department's 24-hour non-emergency line and was contemplating suicide.

All Rolling Meadows police officers undergo training to help people experiencing mental health issues. As a civilian (non-sworn) Department member, CSO Wunnicke did not possess that training experience. For Chief Nowacki, that made the results of his actions even more impressive.

CSO Wunnicke, who was staffing the phone line that day, "remained calm and immediately established a dialogue with the caller," Police Chief John Nowacki recalled.

"Bob's efforts illustrate the value of having dedicated, empathetic professionals in our organization. We celebrate his success in helping to save a resident's life. There is no higher calling than that," he added.

"It was an honor watching and listening to Bob talk to that individual," he continued. "It was almost as if he was talking with an old friend. Most importantly, Bob's professionalism and dedication gave us the time to identify the subject's location, find them, and get them the help they so desperately needed."

CSO Wunnicke has served Rolling Meadows for 16 years. His responsibilities include responding to animal control calls, working the Police Information Desk, traffic control duties, and performing other tasks in support of police officers and operations.

His father, Robert Wunnicke, Sr., also served with the Rolling Meadows Police Department and retired as Police Commander in 2002.

# Learn the Sounds of Fire Safety™



firepreventionweek.org

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## FIRE PREVENTION WEEK 2021 TO FOCUS ON 'SOUNDS OF FIRE SAFETY'

By Jeff Moxley, Rolling Meadows Fire Chief

Do you know what to do when your home's smoke or carbon monoxide detector beeps? How about when the unit makes a chirping sound? Whenever these life-saving devices emit a sound, it's important that you act.

Knowledge leads to action. That's why Rolling Meadows Fire Department is partnering with the National Fire Protection Association (NFPA) to focus public attention on fire safety during National Fire Prevention Week (October 3rd - 9th). This year's theme is, "Learn the Sounds of Fire Safety™."



Make sure you and your family members are aware of these specific sounds:

### Smoke Detectors

- A continued set of three loud beeps – BEEP, BEEP, BEEP – means smoke or fire. Get out of the house immediately and call 911.
- A single "chirp" every 30 – 60 seconds means that the battery is low and must be changed.
- Chirping that continues after the bat-

tery has been replaced means the unit is at the end of its operational life and must be replaced.

### Carbon Monoxide (CO) Detectors

- A continuous set of four loud beeps – BEEP, BEEP, BEEP, BEEP – means that CO is present in your home. Get out of the house and call 911 immediately.
- A single chirp" every 30 – 60 seconds means that the battery is low and must be replaced.
- Chirping that continues after the battery has been replaced means the unit is at the end of its operational life and must be replaced.
- CO detectors also emit "end of life" sounds that can vary by manufacturer.

I encourage residents to visit the NFPA's [Fire Prevention Week website](#) to access fire safety tip sheets; videos, games, and apps promoting fire safety; Fire Prevention Week background and history; and much more.

For fire safety information that hits closer to home, visit the [Rolling Meadows Fire Department webpage](#), follow the Department on [Facebook](#), or call 847-397-3352.

*Editor's note: many newer-model smoke and carbon monoxide detectors contain 10-year batteries designed to power the unit for the life of the device. They do not need replacing.*

## ORDER UP!

### NEW RESTAURANTS EXPAND IN-TOWN DINING OPTIONS

Rolling Meadows' restaurants offer an ever-expanding choice of tasty options to satisfy practically any craving. City officials are proud to welcome these latest additions to our community:

#### Gorditas El Terre

Gorditas & burritos  
3600 Berdnick Street  
224-228-3147

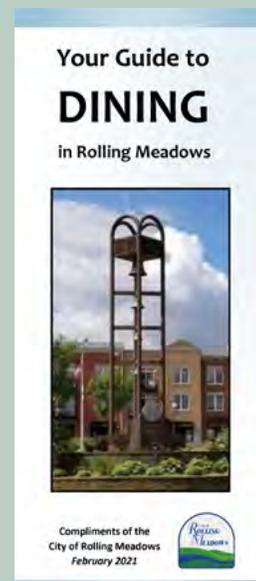


#### Rosati's Pizza

Chicago style pizza, pasta, and sandwiches  
2631 Kirchoff Road  
847-786-9900  
[rosatisrollingmeadows.com](http://rosatisrollingmeadows.com)  
\*Carry out & delivery only

#### Shop! Dine! Visit!

Learn more about new restaurants, shops, and service companies joining the Rolling Meadows business community by visiting <https://cityrm.org/706/New-Businesses>.



#### Dining Guide

Discover all that Rolling Meadows' restaurants have to offer. Access the City's Dining Guide [online](#).



## INCENTIVE PROGRAM OFFERS TOOLS TO ATTRACT RESTAURANTS & RETAILERS

City leaders have established a series of incentives aimed at drawing new restaurants and retail shops to Rolling Meadows, with particular emphasis on welcoming businesses to its downtown corridor along Kirchoff Road.

“These economic development tools expand our options for attracting new restaurants and businesses to the City,” Business Advocate Martha Corner explained. “We view it as an opportunity to grow our business community, improve residents’ local shopping and dining experience, and further diversify Rolling Meadows’ tax base.”

The program includes a blend of annual tax rebates, fee reimbursements, and grants for facade or interior work. These incentives are designed to support non-corporate, independent



business operations. National chains and franchise owners, in most cases, are not eligible.

Program details and applications are available online at <https://cityrm.org/858/Restaurant-Retail-Incentives>.

For more information, contact Martha Corner, Rolling Meadows Business Advocate (847-870-9004 or [cornerm@cityrm.org](mailto:cornerm@cityrm.org)).

## SUPPORT COMMUNITY EVENTS FOUNDATION

Rolling Meadows’ Community Events Foundation (CEF) offers multiple ways for residents to support the success of future City events:

### Donate Your Time

Join forces with the dedicated volunteers who help organize and run Rolling Meadows’ community events. Contact Lori Ciezak, Assistant to the City Manager, at [ciezakl@cityrm.org](mailto:ciezakl@cityrm.org)



Join CEF volunteers.

or 847-394-8500 to learn more.

### Make a Financial Contribution

The CEF is a 501 (c) 3 nonprofit organization that relies on tax-deductible donations from residents and local businesses. To contribute, please visit <https://cityrm.org/679/Community-Events-Foundation>.

Supporters may also make checks payable to Rolling Meadows Community Events Foundation and send them to:

City of Rolling Meadows  
Community Events Foundation  
3600 Kirchoff Road  
Rolling Meadows, IL 60008

**CONTACT  
CITY OFFICIALS**  
City Hall Hours  
8 am to 4 pm  
Monday – Friday



### MAYOR and CITY COUNCIL

|  |              |
|--|--------------|
| Mayor Joe Gallo . . . . .                        | 847-814-9271 |
| 1st Ward Alderman<br>Karen McHale . . . . .      | 773-517-3873 |
| 2nd Ward Alderman<br>Nick Budmats . . . . .      | 847-202-0855 |
| 3rd Ward Alderman<br>Kevin O’Brien . . . . .     | 847-212-2587 |
| 4th Ward Alderman<br>Jenifer Vinezeano . . . . . | 630-546-8133 |
| 5th Ward Alderman<br>Jon Bisesi . . . . .        | 847-772-8428 |
| 6th Ward Alderman<br>Mandy Reyetz . . . . .      | 847-209-5435 |
| 7th Ward Alderman<br>Lara Sanoica . . . . .      | 847-770-3097 |

### SERVICES

|   |                |
|---|----------------|
| Fire & Police Emergency . . . . .                     | 911            |
| Fire Non-emergency . . . . .                          | 847-397-3352   |
| Police Non-emergency . . . . .                        | 847-255-2416   |
| Temporary City Manager<br>Melissa Gallagher . . . . . | 847-394-8500   |
| Finance/Utility Billing . . . . .                     | 847-394-8500   |
| Public Works . . . . .                                | 847-963-0500   |
| Community Dev. Division . . . . .                     | 847-506-6030   |
| Senior Handyman Program . . . . .                     | 847-506-6030   |
| Crime Stoppers . . . . .                              | 847-590-7867   |
| ComEd . . . . .                                       | 1-800-EDISON-1 |

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

## RECYCLE OLD BATTERIES & CFLS AT PUBLIC WORKS



Rolling Meadows offers a convenient way for residents to safely dispose of spent compact fluorescent light bulbs (CFLs) and household batteries: simply bring them to the Public Works Department (3900 Berdnick Street) for recycling. Drop-off hours are Monday – Friday, 8:00 am – 3:00 pm.

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