

# NEWS & VIEWS

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

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VOLUME 26 ISSUE 5

## 'Rocking' Bands, 'Racing' Ducks to Headline Sept. 9th Festivities in Kimball Hill Park...Story on page 2



### TWENTY-ONE-YEAR VETERAN PETE SUTTER NAMED NEW ROLLING MEADOWS FIRE CHIEF

Pete Sutter always knew he was going to be a firefighter. Becoming Fire Chief, on the other hand, was a goal that came into focus over the course of a 21-year career with the Rolling Meadows Fire Department.

"My dad was a firefighter in Wood Dale for 30 years. From a very young age, I knew that was what I wanted to do for a living," Chief Sutter recalled.

His enrollment in a high school internship program with the Elk Grove Fire Department only reinforced that decision. He earned a Fire Science degree from Harper College, and then spent four years with the Elk Grove Township Fire Department before coming to RMFD in mid-2001.

It's not a stretch to say that Rolling Meadows was the perfect place for Chief Sutter to continue his career trajectory. He spent 12 years as a "blue shirt" before earning promotion to Lieutenant (2013), Battalion Chief (2018), Deputy Chief (2021), and Fire Chief (August 15th). He has also served as a member of the Department's Apparatus Committee and Technical Rescue Team, and spent a decade as a Fire Investigator.

In between, he earned a bachelor's degree in Public Safety Management from Southern Illinois University.

Those wide-ranging experiences  
...continued on p.3

## CITY TO REINSTATE UTILITY BILL LATE FEES OCT. 1ST

Effective October 1st, utility customers with past due water and sewer account balances will once again face financial penalties and possible service disconnection. The move comes more than two years after the City began temporarily waiving penalties for customers with outstanding balances, in response to the COVID-19 pandemic.

"The City's goal, initially, was to provide relief to those who may have experienced financial hardship due to job loss or reduction of work hours because of mandated government shutdowns," Finance Director Molly Talkington explained. "As the world continues to emerge from the pandemic, Rolling Meadows is resuming standard procedures for collecting service fees that help ensure the continued viability of its water and sewer systems."

### Pay All Balances by September 20th

To avoid potentially costly fees and service disruption, customers should pay any outstanding balances in full by September 20th. Those who are unable to pay the full amount should contact the City's Utility Billing Department to make payment arrangements.

Customers who are experiencing financial hardship and need assistance paying their utility bills may qualify for financial assistance through the CEDA Low Income Household Water Assistance Program. More information is available on the City's website ([www.cityrm.org](http://www.cityrm.org)).

### Ways to Pay

Customers have multiple options for paying their monthly bills,  
...continued on p.2

## SEPTEMBER 13TH SENIOR LUNCHEON TO FEATURE ITALIAN BUFFET, LIVE MUSIC

Residents ages 50 and up will enjoy an Italian-style buffet, a live musical performance by St. Colette Church Choir Director Michael Domingue, square dancing demonstrations, raffles, and more at Rolling Meadows' annual Senior Luncheon.

This year's gathering will take place Tuesday, September 13th, 12:30 – 2:30 pm, at the Community Center (3705 Pheasant Drive).

The event is open to all Rolling Meadows seniors and Senior Center members. Admission is \$5 per person. For reservations, call 847-818-3205.

## MARK YOUR CALENDAR FOR OCTOBER'S 'FALL-TASTIC' EVENTS

Make space in your social calendar for some exciting events on tap for October. For the latest updates, visit the Rolling Meadows website ([www.cityrm.org](http://www.cityrm.org)) and/or follow the City on Facebook and Twitter. Details will also be featured in the October issue of eNews, which will be posted online in late September.

- **Hometown Hoedown Fall Fest**  
Saturday, October 1st  
12:00 – 4:00 pm  
Kimball Hill Park
- **Fire Department Open House**  
Saturday, October 8th  
10:00 am – 2:00 pm  
Station #15 (3201 Algonquin Rd)
- **Halloween Fest**  
Saturday, October 29th  
11:00 am – 2:00 pm  
Community Center

For more information on Rolling Meadows' community events, visit [www.cityrm.org/669/Community-Events](http://www.cityrm.org/669/Community-Events).



## 'ROCKING' BANDS & 'RACING' DUCKS TO HEADLINE SEPTEMBER 9TH KIMBALL HILL PARK FESTIVITIES

Join friends, family, and neighbors in Kimball Hill Park on Friday, September 9th, for an epic evening of live music and "duck racing" to raise funds for local environmental/sustainability efforts.

### Friday's ROCK! (5:30 -10:00 pm)

This FREE, all-ages concert will feature TWO great live acts: **Shadow's Edge** and **Anthem** offer hearty slabs of classic rock – Aerosmith, Black Sabbath, Bon Jovi, Boston, Journey, Kansas, Led Zeppelin, REO Speedwagon, Whitesnake, and more!

Bring lawn chairs and/or blankets, pack a picnic dinner or purchase food from onsite vendors, and enjoy an evening of music under the stars.

Legal-age adults with ID may purchase alcoholic beverages, courtesy of Stadium Sports Club.

Residents attending this summer's Friday's ROCK! shows have been treated to a "double-dose" of live music, thanks to a partnership between the City and Rolling Meadows Park District to sponsor two bands for each event.

### CITY TO REINSTATE UTILITY BILL LATE FEES ...continued from p.1

including the City's Customer Service Portal ([www.cityrm.org/146/Online-Payments](http://www.cityrm.org/146/Online-Payments)) or their bank's online bill payment system. Payments may also be sent via U.S. mail, placed in the white drop box in the City Hall parking lot, or made in-person at the Finance

### Duck Race (7:00 pm)

Rolling Meadows' annual Duck Race to raise money for local environmental preservation efforts is a chance to win a variety of great prizes - including a \$300 grand prize.

Purchase plastic ducks at the event or in advance at the Community Center (3705 Pheasant Drive) and City Hall (3600 Kirchoff Road) for just \$5 each. Increase your odds of winning with a "Quack Pack" of five ducks for \$20.

Then, cheer your ducks to victory as they cascade down the park's waterfall towards the finish line in Kimball Hill Pond.

Proceeds from the event will support initiatives of the Rolling Meadows Environmental Committee, Rolling Meadows Historical Society, and Rolling Meadows Park District.

Department. The City cannot accept payments over the phone.

Residents who have questions or would like more information may contact the Finance Department at 847-394-8500 or [fin@cityrm.org](mailto:fin@cityrm.org).

## NATIONAL NIGHT OUT DRAWS 5,000 ATTENDEES

An estimated 5,000 people turned out for an action-packed National Night Out that celebrated the bonds between Rolling Meadows police officers and the community they serve.

Major draws featured at this year's event included live reptile demonstrations, a patriotic fireworks display (rescheduled from July 4th), and an acrobatic basketball team performance by the Blue Paw Dunkers.

Guests also enjoyed public safety equipment displays and demonstrations; free hot dogs, hamburgers, and pizza; music, and assorted giveaways.



Catch video highlights of 2022's National Night Out celebration on the City's website ([www.cityrm.org](http://www.cityrm.org)).

## PETE SUTTER NAMED NEW FIRE CHIEF ...continued from p. 1



*Pete Sutter became Rolling Meadows' Fire Chief on August 15th.*

helped him begin to consider the possibility of, one day, serving as Fire Chief. They also equipped him with the operational knowledge and experience to take on that role with confidence.

"This Department has always had a very close-knit, family feel," he remarked. "I never felt like a badge number. I viewed myself as a member of a forward-looking, highly professional team that was dedicated to serving our residents and businesses."

Over two decades, Chief Sutter witnessed first-hand an ongoing improvement in RMFD operations that have helped the Department provide exceptional levels of fire and emergency medical services. High-profile successes include the construction of two new fire stations that are designed to serve the community for the next 50 years, and a recently granted "Class 2" rating from the Insurance Services Office (ISO). That ranking places the Rolling Meadows Fire Department among the top 5% of fire departments across the country.

"As a department, our past successes help fuel our desire to be even better," Chief Sutter said, adding that one of his immediate goals is to help the RMFD attain an ISO "Class 1" rating. "We will always strive to reach that next level. I'm proud to have the opportunity to lead this group as we continue our quest for excellence in everything we do."

When off duty, Chief Sutter and his wife, Kendra, stay busy raising twin five-year-old daughters. He also enjoys football and hockey ("more watching, less playing these days," he joked), and barbecuing with family and friends.

## RM BUSINESS BUZZ WEBSITE CONNECTS CUSTOMERS WITH LOCAL BUSINESSES

Find great deals and special offers from a variety of Rolling Meadows businesses at the RM Business Buzz ([www.rmbusinessbuzz.org](http://www.rmbusinessbuzz.org)), a City-sponsored website developed specifically to connect residents with local businesses.

The Buzz offers a platform for residents to learn more about, and benefit from, members of the City's business community. It's navigation features allow users to search for more than 760 businesses by name or review company listings organized into specific categories.

In addition, the Buzz's "Special Offers" section lists coupons and deals offered by many of those same businesses.

"The Buzz offers another way for residents to find goods and services they are seeking from Rolling Meadows businesses and, in many cases, save money in the process," explained Martha Corner, Rolling Meadows' Business Advocate.

Other Buzz features include:

- **Business "spotlight" profiles** that highlight area companies and service providers.
- **Community events & programs** information.
- **Job listings** at local companies.
- **Local business news**, including important milestones, anniversaries, and awards.

### Attention, Business Owners!

Listings on the RM Business Buzz are available to all Rolling Meadows businesses at no cost. Local business owners who are interested creating some "buzz" of their own may visit [www.rmbusinessbuzz.org](http://www.rmbusinessbuzz.org) and click the "Join the Buzz" button.

# SEPTEMBER 2022

All meetings take place at City Hall, unless noted.

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
View upcoming City Council and volunteer committee meeting agendas at <a href="http://www.cityrm.org">www.cityrm.org</a> .				1 Adjudication Hearing (Parking), 2:00 pm	2	3
4	5 <b>LABOR DAY</b> City offices closed. Refuse collection delayed one day all week.	6 Environmental Committee, 6:30 pm Planning & Zoning Commission, 7:00 pm	7	8 Adjudication Hearing, 1:00 pm	9 Friday's ROCK! & Roll in Meadows, 5:30 – 10:00 pm Duck Race, 7:00 pm, both at Kimball Hill Park	10
11	12 Board of Fire & Police Commissioners, 9:00 am Economic Development Committee, 6:00 pm	13 Senior Luncheon, 12:30 pm, Community Center Crime Stoppers, 5:30 pm City Council Meeting, 7:30 pm	14 Rolling Meadows Garden Club program: "Leaf Collecting Made Easy!" 6:00 pm, Community Center	15 Adjudication Hearing (Red Light), 2:00 pm	16	17
18	19	20 Community Events Foundation Volunteer Committee, 6:00 pm City Council Committee of the Whole, 7:30 pm <i>Water bills due</i>	21	22 <b>FIRST DAY OF FALL</b>	23	24
25	26	27 Veterans Committee, 6:00 pm Capital Projects Committee, 6:30 pm City Council Meeting, 7:30 pm	28	29	30	

# OCTOBER 2022

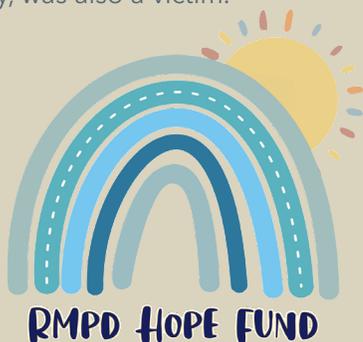
All meetings take place at City Hall, unless noted.

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
<b>WANT MORE NEWS?</b> Access Rolling Meadows' electronic newsletter, <i>eNews</i> , published in February, April, June, August, October and December, and archived at <a href="http://www.cityrm.org">www.cityrm.org</a> .						1 Hometown Hoedown Fall Fest, 12:00 – 4:00 pm, Kimball Hill Park
2	3 Economic Development Committee, 6:00 pm	4 Environmental Committee, 6:30 pm Planning and Zoning Commission, 7:00 pm	5	6 Adjudication Hearing (Parking), 2:00 pm	7	8 Fire Dept. Open House, 10:00 am – 2:00 pm, Station 16
9	10 <b>COLUMBUS DAY</b> Board of Fire & Police Commissioners, 9:00 am	11 Crime Stoppers, 5:30 pm City Council Meeting, 7:30 pm	12 Rolling Meadows Garden Club program: "Fall Color Planning Your Garden," 6:00 pm, Community Center	13 Adjudication Hearing 1:00 pm	14	15
16	17	18 Community Events Foundation Volunteer Committee, 6:00 pm City Council Committee of the Whole, 7:30 pm	19	20 <i>Water bills due</i> Adjudication Hearing (Red Light), 2:00 pm	21	22
23	24 Police Pension Board, 3:30 pm	25 Veterans Committee, 6:00 pm Capital Projects Committee, 6:30 pm City Council Meeting, 7:30 pm	26	27 Fire Pension Board, 8:30 am	28	29 Halloween Fest, 11:00 am – 2:00 pm, Community Center
30	Halloween 31					

## HOPE FUND RAISES \$51,000 FOR FAMILIES OF I-90 CRASH VICTIMS

The Police Department's Hope Fund, established earlier this year to help community members experiencing life-altering crises, raised more than \$51,000 in community donations for the families of seven Rolling Meadows residents who were killed July 31st, in an early morning vehicle crash on Interstate 90.

The victims, Thomas and Lauren Dobosz and their four children, died in a head-on collision with another vehicle near Hampshire, IL, just after 2:00 am. Another child, a friend of the Dobosz family, was also a victim.



The Hope Fund was launched to help the Police Department's Social Services Division provide financial resources to residents in need who are just beginning to rebuild their lives. It is funded entirely by community donations. The Finance Department disperses emergency funds directly to approved recipients.

Residents may make tax-deductible donations by visiting [www.gofundme.com/f/rmpd-hope-fund](http://www.gofundme.com/f/rmpd-hope-fund). Donations made by check (payable to "RMFD Hope Fund") should be delivered in-person at City Hall or mailed to:

City of Rolling Meadows  
3600 Kirchoff Road  
Rolling Meadows, IL 60008

Learn more by visiting [www.cityrm.org/611/Social-Services](http://www.cityrm.org/611/Social-Services).



*Practical Architecture Construction (PAC) students completely renovated a vacant house located at 3500 Bluebird Lane.*

## D214 PROGRAM HELPS COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT INSPIRE NEXT GENERATION OF BUILDERS

Students studying carpentry and other trades through High School District 214's Practical Architecture Construction (PAC) course learned new skills and gained valuable career insights from highly trained City inspectors and building officials working in the Community Development Division.

PAC students spent the 2021-22 school year performing the complete renovation of a single-family home that is owned by the school district and located at 3500 Bluebird Lane in Rolling Meadows. The project provided teens with hands-on experience in exterior framing, insulation and drywall installation, and other home building techniques. All plumbing, electrical, and mechanical work was performed by licensed professionals.

### Community Development Expertise

Community Development was instrumental in the project's success. Division staff members reviewed the application for a special use (which was required before work could commence) and issued all building permits needed for the students to proceed. Building inspectors, meanwhile, conducted onsite review of the students' craftsmanship, which fostered additional educational opportunities for all involved.

"I speak for everyone here at Community Development in saying that it was a pleasure working with the PAC program and its amazing students," said Interim Superintendent Elizabeth Kwandras. "The program also encouraged the kids to explore

potential careers with municipal building departments, which may be an avenue they had not previously considered."

Building Official Dan Streit, who joined Community Development about six months ago, was an ideal example of that specific path.

"I spoke with the kids about my own career trajectory, which began in the trades when I was their age," he recalled. "This type of program does a nice job helping students explore multiple career options. It was very rewarding to be part of the experience."

PAC students also gained valuable insights from City Building Inspectors Russ Milschewski and Art LeFebvre. Milschewski stressed the importance of building codes and how they guide a project to successful completion. LeFebvre, meanwhile, covered basic blueprint reading – an essential skill for ensuring that everything "fits" together as designed.

### Work Continues on New Property

Kwandras says that D214 has purchased another vacant property in Rolling Meadows (2804 Fremont Street) for PAC renovation during the 2022-23 school year. A public hearing on a special use for the property will take place Tuesday, September 6th.

The school district plans to sell the renovated 3500 Bluebird Lane property as a way to continue funding the PAC program.



## MAYOR'S CORNER BY MAYOR JOE GALLO

### SUMMER'S END WELCOMES A NEW SEASON

I hope everyone enjoyed their summer! It has been wonderful to see so many people out in the community. Our police, firefighters, City staff and volunteers have done an amazing job producing the many events we've been able to enjoy. I sincerely thank every person who helped make these events possible.

As summer settled in, so did a few of our newest team members. Molly Talkington continued acclimating in her role as Finance Director and City Manager Rob Sabo has been diligently noting operational gaps and identifying resource needs to improve the City's workforce.

Fire Chief Jeff Moxley recently retired and Deputy Chief Sutter became his successor. In addition, we welcomed Public Works Director Aaron Grosskopf, and we've set out to secure an Assistant City Manager/Director of

Community Development. As these changes in executive leadership occur, the City will continue to evolve, as well.

In 2016 when I decided to campaign as an Alderman with a promise to bring change and progress while moving our City forward, I did so knowing it would require time, attention and patience. I eagerly await the future knowing what lies ahead for the City.

By now you're experiencing the evolution of our refuse collection with automated pickup. This was a conversation I began three years ago and demonstrates a concerted effort on the City's behalf, continuously striving to bring greater value, efficiency and progress to you. As I wrap up my final year in this first term as Mayor, and five years serving you, I'm confident in the success we'll see going forward.

### THREE WAYS TO SUPPORT COMMUNITY EVENTS

Join the fun and show your support for Rolling Meadows' community events! Here are three easy ways:

#### Attend

From summer block parties to year-end celebrations that welcome the holidays, Rolling Meadows packs a ton of excitement into every calendar year. View a complete listing of this year's community events at [www.cityrm.org/669/Community-Events](http://www.cityrm.org/669/Community-Events).

#### Volunteer

Resident volunteers are the ones who make these events successful, and

we're always looking for more people to join the ranks. Learn more by contacting Lori Ciezak (847-394-8500 or [ciezakl@cityrm.org](mailto:ciezakl@cityrm.org)).

#### Contribute

The Rolling Meadows Community Events Foundation is a 501(c)3 non-profit organization that relies on tax-deductible donations from residents and businesses to provide financial support for City events.

To contribute, please visit [www.cityrm.org/679/Community-Events-Foundation](http://www.cityrm.org/679/Community-Events-Foundation).

**CONTACT  
CITY OFFICIALS**  
City Hall Hours  
8:00 am to 4:00 pm  
Monday - Friday



#### MAYOR and CITY COUNCIL

- Mayor Joe Gallo . . . . . 847-814-9271
- 1st Ward Alderman
- Karen McHale. . . . . 773-517-3873
- 2nd Ward Alderman
- Nick Budmats. . . . . 847-202-0855
- 3rd Ward Alderman
- Kevin O'Brien. . . . . 847-212-2587
- 4th Ward Alderman
- Jenifer Vinezeano . . . . . 630-546-8133
- 5th Ward Alderman
- Jon Bisesi . . . . . 847-772-8428
- 6th Ward Alderman
- Mandy Reyez . . . . . 847-209-5435
- 7th Ward Alderman
- Lara Sanoica. . . . . 847-770-3097
- City Manager
- Rob Sabo . . . . . 847-394-8500

#### SERVICES

- Fire & Police Emergency . . . . . 911
- Fire Non-emergency. . . . . 847-397-3352
- Police Non-emergency. . . . . 847-255-2416
- Community Development. . . . . 847-506-6030
- Finance/Utility Billing . . . . . 847-394-8500
- Public Works. . . . . 847-963-0500
- Senior Handyman Program 847-506-6030
- Crime Stoppers . . . . . 847-590-7867
- ComEd . . . . . 1-800-EDISON-1

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 [@cityofrm1](http://www.twitter.com/@cityofrm1)

### PUBLIC WORKS TO HOST OCT. 1ST E-WASTE AND DOC SHRED EVENT

Rolling Meadows and the Solid Waste Agency of Northern Cook County (SWANCC) will host an eWaste and document destruction event Saturday, October 1st, 9:00 am – 12:00 pm, at the Public Works Department (3900 Berdnick Street).

Residents may drop off old electronics equipment for recycling (business equipment will not be accepted) and safely dispose of sensitive documents such as old tax forms, bank statements, and medical records.

Visit [www.swancc.org](http://www.swancc.org) for details.