



# NEWS

Volume 15 Number 2

Election  
Spotlight

# & Views

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

## City Set to Rebuild Deteriorating Segment of New Wilke Road

City planners are moving forward with an estimated \$1.4 million project to completely rebuild a deteriorating segment of New Wilke Road after nearly two years of delays, Public Works Director Fred Vogt reports.

Nearly two years of complications involving land acquisition, and current disputes that revolve around easements, continue to delay planned improvements to the intersection. Unwilling to endure further

delays, City officials are taking action. They plan to pull out of the combined project and will proceed with New Wilke's reconstruction this year.

The state-funded project to reconstruct the area of New Wilke Road, between Golf and Algonquin Roads, was to occur simultaneously with an Illinois Department of Transportation (IDOT) project to rebuild the Golf/New Wilke intersection. This "bundling" of two separate projects was intended to speed construction and reduce overall costs. However, IDOT's plan to rebuild the intersection ran into trouble almost from the start.



The state-funded project to rebuild New Wilke Road, between Golf and Algonquin Roads, will eliminate the growing number of potholes that make the road one of the area's worst.

"New Wilke Road is a vital part of the City's infrastructure because of its proximity to retailers, major employers and two major highways. We simply cannot tolerate any more delays," Vogt explains. "We plan to put the project out for bid later this spring and complete reconstruction by fall."

The stretch of New Wilke between Golf and Algonquin Roads will be limited to one lane of traffic in each direction for the project's duration.

## Residents to Cast Ballots for New Mayor, Aldermen April 5

On Tuesday, April 5, residents will elect a new Mayor of Rolling Meadows and cast ballots for aldermen in Wards 1, 3, 5 and 7. This issue of *News & Views* features brief profiles of each candidate on pages two and three.

Current Mayor Ken Nelson and Ward 5 Alderman Glenn Adams are unable to run for re-election because of term limits. No one filed to run for City Clerk.

Candidates, listed in the order they appear on the ballot, are:

**Mayor:** Jonathan Trapani; Tom Rooney

**Ward 1:** Michael J. Cannon

**Ward 3:** Lawrence W. Buske (incumbent); Rodney A. Blane

**Ward 5:** Jon P. Bisesi; Robert G. Banger, Jr.

**Ward 7:** James Suchecki; Rudolf Balek; James H. Larsen (incumbent)

**Polling places will be open 6 a.m. – 7 p.m., on Election Day.**

For more information on the April 5 Consolidated Election, including polling places, contact Cook County Clerk David Orr's office at 312-603-0906, or visit [www.cookcountyclerk.com](http://www.cookcountyclerk.com).

### Contact City Officials: City Hall Hours: 8 a.m. to 4 p.m. Monday-Friday

Mayor . . . . . Kenneth Nelson  
City Clerk . . . . . Lisa Hinman  
Acting City Manager . . . . . Barry Krumstok

#### ALDERMEN

1st Ward: John Pitzafferro . . . . . 847-655-1390  
2nd Ward: Barb Lusk . . . . . 847-567-2444  
3rd Ward: Lawrence Buske . . . . . 847-255-9126  
4th Ward: Brad Judd . . . . . 847-902-3248  
5th Ward: Glenn Adams . . . . . 847-259-5875  
6th Ward: John D'Astice . . . . . 847-409-9367  
7th Ward: James Larsen . . . . . 630-244-4228

#### SERVICES

Fire & Police Emergency . . . . . 911  
Fire Department non-emergency . . . . . 847-397-3352  
Police non-emergency . . . . . 847-255-2416  
Public Works . . . . . 847-963-0500  
Finance/Utility Billing Questions . . . . . 847-394-8500  
Community Development . . . . . 847-506-6030  
TDD . . . . . 847-506-0490  
Senior Services . . . . . 847-394-8500  
ComEd . . . . . 1-800-EDISON-1  
Curfew . . . . . Sun. – Thurs. 11 p.m.; Fri. & Sat. Midnight

Look Us Up on the Web at: [www.cityrm.org](http://www.cityrm.org)

## City Council Candidate Profiles: Mayor

### Tom Rooney



**Occupation:** High school social studies teacher

**Education:** B.A. in History from Loyola University; Master of Public Administration (MPA)

Degree in Urban Management from

Northern Illinois University

**Rolling Meadows resident for...** 13 years.

**Family:** My wife, Colleen, passed away in 2005. Our two sons are Chris (20) and Brian (17).

**Past/current public offices:** Served as 4th Ward Alderman (2000 – 2009)

**Volunteer service:** Lector at St. Colette Church (current). I have volunteered with the Rolling Meadows Historical Society, the Rolling Meadows Library, and the City's Veterans Monument Committee.

**My hero is...** my dad. His quiet strength will always inspire me. After him, it's a three-way tie between Ben Franklin, Robert E. Lee and Martin Luther King.

### Jonathan Trapani



**Occupation:** Teacher, Head Track and Field Coach, and Head Cross Country Coach at Proviso West High School

**Education:** B.S. in Kinesiology (the science of human movement), University of Illinois (2004)

**Rolling Meadows resident for...** 28 years.

**Family:** Wife, Christina

**My hero is...** my grandfather, Frank Trapani.

## City Council Candidate Profile: Ward 1

### Michael J. Cannon

**Occupation:** Retired (sales and sales management)

**Education:** B.A., St. Mary's University of Minnesota

**Rolling Meadows resident for...** 19 years.

**Family:** Wife, Sally, three children: Mick (21), Katie (19), Kelly (17).

**Past/current public offices:** None

**Volunteer service:** Current President of

Fremd High School Music Association. I coached 29 youth sports teams in 13 years through the Palatine Park District.

**My heroes are...** my mom, dad, and also my wife, Sally.

## City Council Candidate Profiles: Ward 3

### Lawrence W. Buske



**Occupation:** Entrepreneur/professional landscaper for 46 years

**Education:** High school graduate with college-level continuing education

courses, seminars, business certifications

**Rolling Meadows resident for...** 40 years

**Family:** Married 45 years to my wife, Brenda. We have three children and four granddaughters.

**Past/current public offices:** 3rd Ward Alderman (2003 – present)

**Volunteer service:** Rolling Meadows Auxiliary Police Officer (8 years), Fire

and Police Commissioner (2 years), Economic Development Commission (5 years), Rolling Meadows Vehicle Replacement Committee (6 years), church youth group leader (2 years), Boy Scout leader (2 years)

**My hero is...** my father.

### Rodney Blane



**Occupation:** Retired municipal department head

**Education:** Bachelor of Business Degree, Western Illinois University

**Rolling Meadows resident since...** I

moved here with my parents in 1956. I have owned my own home here for 33 years.

**Family:** Married to Linda for 37 years. We have two grown children and three grandchildren.

**Past/current public offices:** No elected office.

**Volunteer service:** Former youth baseball manager; former member of Rotary Club of Rolling Meadows; co-chairman of fundraiser to benefit wounded Iraq War veteran Bryan Anderson.

**My hero is...** my wife. She's also my best friend.

## City Council Candidate Profiles: Ward 5

### Jon Bisesi



**Occupation:** Supply chain and inventory management

**Education:** Bachelor of Science in Business Administration from Roosevelt University; Associate of Science

Degree from Harper College. Certified in Production & Inventory Control by the Association for Operations Management (APICS). Certified Purchasing Manager by the Institute for Supply Management (ISM).

**Rolling Meadows resident for...** 20 years.

**Family:** Married 22 years with two children.

**Past/current public offices:** Member of the Plan Commission for eight years.

**Volunteer service:** Former President of the Rolling Meadows Jaycees; Former District and Region Director with the Illinois Jaycees; Chairman for multiple City Independence Day parades.

**My hero is...** Walter Payton.

### Rob Banger, Jr.



**Occupation:** Warehousing

**Education:** Bachelor of Science in Management from DePaul University; MBA, Kellstadt

School of Business (DePaul University)

**Rolling Meadows resident for...** 13 years.

**Family:** Married to Laura for 18 years. We are parents to a daughter, Bailey, and son, Jackson.

**Past/current public offices:** None.

**Volunteer service:** Awana leader, First Baptist Church of Arlington Heights (10 years); Rolling Meadows Youth Baseball coach (6 years); 4H leader, Tails-N-Nails (2 years).

**My hero is...** my dad.

## City Council Candidate Profiles: Ward 7

### James H. Larsen



**Occupation:** IT Analyst

**Education:** B.A., Augustana College; additional studies at the University of Iowa

**Rolling Meadows resident for...** 20 years.

**Family:** Wife, Debby; four children: Erin (26), Cassie & Maggie (24), Nolan (22)

**Past/current public offices:** 7th Ward Alderman since 2007

**Volunteer service:** I've served on the Fire

& Police Pension Ad Hoc Committee, and currently serve on the City's Vehicle Review Committee. I am City Council liaison to the Rolling Meadows Library.

**My hero is...** my pastor, Bill Hybels, who committed his life to "turning irreligious people into fully devoted followers of Jesus."

### Rudolf Balek



**Occupation:** Retired

**Education:** Attended DePaul University

**Rolling Meadows resident for...** over 50 years

**Family:** My wife, Viola, and I have four children (Debbie, Jeff, Kathy and Joyce) and seven grandchildren.

**Past/current public offices:** Served as alderman for 18 years

**Volunteer service:** Past Chairman, Board of Fire and Police Commissioners; City

Welfare Officer; member of the Zoning Board of Appeals, Economic Development, Code Ordinance and Vehicle Replacement Committees; past liaison for Rolling Meadows Library. Member of American Legion Post 69 and Past President of Little League Baseball.

**My hero is...** President Harry S. Truman.

### James Suchecki *Editor's Note: 7th Ward Alderman candidate James Suchecki did not submit a candidate profile.*

## Frontage Road Bridge Rehab Scheduled March – June

The final phase of \$3.6 million in federally-funded projects to renovate the Frontage Roads along Route 53 will focus on two bridges that span a section of Salt Creek.

West Frontage Road will be closed to all traffic at the Salt Creek Bridge in March and April. Through traffic will be

detoured to East Frontage Road.

East Frontage Road will be closed at the Salt Creek Bridge during May and June. Through traffic will be rerouted to West Frontage Road.

# March 2011

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
		<b>Environmental Committee</b> , 7 p.m., City Hall 1	2	3	4	5
6	7	<b>City Council Meeting</b> , 7:30 p.m., City Hall 8	9	<b>Adjudication Hearing</b> , 1 p.m., City Hall 10	11	12
<b>Daylight Savings Time begins...</b> move clocks ahead one hour. 13	<b>Board of Fire &amp; Police Commissioners</b> , 9 a.m., City Hall 14	<b>City Council Committee of the Whole</b> , 7:30 p.m., City Hall 15	16	<b>Adjudication Hearing (Red Light)</b> , 2 p.m., City Hall 17  St. Patrick's Day	18	19
20	<b>Water bills due</b> 21	<b>City Council Meeting</b> , 7:30 p.m., City Hall 22	23	24	25	26
First Day of Spring						
27	<b>Yard waste collection begins</b> 28	29	30	31		

# April 2011

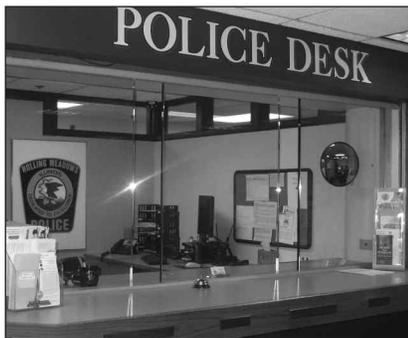
Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
					<b>Early refuse setout ends.</b> Place refuse at the curb no earlier than 6 p.m. the day prior to pickup. 1	2
3	4	<b>Election Day.</b> Polls open 6 a.m. – 7 p.m. 5  <b>Environmental Committee</b> , 7 p.m.; <b>Plan Commission</b> , 7:30 p.m., City Hall	<b>Zoning Board of Appeals</b> , 7:30 p.m., City Hall 6	7	8	9
10	<b>Board of Fire &amp; Police Commissioners</b> , 9 a.m., City Hall 11	<b>City Council Meeting</b> , 7:30 p.m., City Hall 12	13	<b>Adjudication Hearing</b> , 1 p.m., City Hall 14	15	16
17	18	<b>City Council Committee of the Whole</b> , 7:30 p.m., City Hall 19	<b>Water bills due</b> 20	<b>Adjudication Hearing (Red Light)</b> , 2 p.m., City Hall 21	22	23
24	25	<b>City Council Meeting</b> , 7:30 p.m., City Hall 26	27	28	Earth Day 29	30
Easter					Arbor Day	

## Police Dept. Expands Front Desk Service

The Rolling Meadows Police Department has implemented a series of operational efficiencies that makes it possible for residents to contact a police officer for non-emergency requests – such as overnight parking – 24 hours a day.

Call the Department's non-emergency number, 847-255-2416, to speak with an officer. In cases of emergency, call 911.

An upgrade of the Department's Records Management System late last year created opportunities to reassign Records Division employees, community service officers and part-time assistants to the front desk, Police Chief Dave Scanlan explains.



*The Police Department's front desk is once again staffed 24 hours per day.*

"The system upgrade and digitization of police files opened up opportunities to re-allocate staff resources to the front desk and improve customer service," he explains. "Due to the current economic and budgetary climate, the Police Department cannot simply hire additional staff to address the issue."

Rolling Meadows maintained its own dispatch center until 2009, which allowed City dispatchers to transfer calls to on-duty police officers, regardless of the hour. The Police Department lost that ability when Rolling Meadows joined Arlington Heights-based Northwest Central Dispatch System (NWCDS).

## Support Group Helps Military Families

Alexian Brothers Vet Center and Children's Home + Aid have partnered to establish a local support group to help families with parents or caregivers serving in the United States Armed Forces.

The Parents Care + Share Support Group for Military Families meets Tuesdays, 6 – 7:30 p.m., at Alexian Brothers' Med/Roncoli Center, 600 Alexian Way, Elk Grove Village. Group meetings include complimentary dinner, free support group discussions and free children's programs that feature child care specialists.

For more information, contact Carolyn Dixon at 312-513-9650 or [cdixon@childrenshomeandaid.org](mailto:cdixon@childrenshomeandaid.org).

## Sixteen Employees to Voluntarily Leave City Service

Sixteen Rolling Meadows employees – about 10% of the City's workforce – have accepted a City offer to leave their jobs this year in exchange for a one-time payment of \$20,000, Acting City Manager Barry Krumstok reports.

The City offered the voluntary separation incentive (VSI) program to 110 full-time employees late last year as part of continuing efforts to reduce expenditures in the wake of a sluggish economy. Employee salaries and benefits comprise more than 80% of Rolling Meadows' General Fund.

"The VSI program will provide an opportunity to hire new employees at lower pay scales to replace staff members who have decided to leave City service," Krumstok explains. "We will also revisit staffing plans and adjust them as necessary to take advantage of new technologies and other operational efficiencies."

Nine Police Department employees accepted the offer, as well as staff members from Public Works (3), The Fire Department (3) and City Administration (1).

## Nearly 600 Customers Receive Utility Bills by Email

Nearly 600 homeowners have signed up for the City's eBilling program, which sends customers a monthly email with a link to their utility billing statement.

This "electronic" utility bill replaces printed bills mailed by the City each month. The

system also lets residents access a two-year billing history for their account.

"Electronic utility billing enhances customer convenience and helps save taxpayers thousands of dollars per year in printing and mailing costs," explains

Senior Accountant Diana Schoeneck.

To register for eBilling, visit the city's Website, [www.cityrm.org](http://www.cityrm.org), and click the "Sign Up for eBilling" icon. Contact the Finance Department at 847-394-8500 for more information.

## Printed or Electronic Newsletter? Survey Lets Residents Choose



A brief survey enclosed with this newsletter asks residents if they want to continue receiving a printed version of the City's newsletter, *News & Views*, or if they would prefer to access an electronic version of the newsletter through the City's Website. City leaders urge residents to complete the survey and return it to City Hall by April 13.

Residents who choose "YES" will continue to receive *News & Views* in its current format. Those who choose "NO" will be removed from the City's mailing list and may access each issue of the newsletter as a portable document format (PDF) file at [www.cityrm.org](http://www.cityrm.org).

A proposal to stop printing the newsletter was among cost reduction strategies considered by City Council and staff during last year's budget deliberations.

## Residents, City Employees Prove Mettle During February Blizzard

by Mayor Ken Nelson

Hooray! March has finally arrived and spring is right behind (arriving officially on March 20.) And we all survived the blizzard of 2011! I'm so very proud of our City employees and all they did in early February, when those near-record snows descended on us.

Employees from every department joined with our Public Works staff to make sure streets were cleared, emergency equipment could respond, and people were safe. They worked through the night in white-out conditions to keep up with the blizzard. I've received literally dozens of emails and comments from folks who were amazed at the City's response.

And kudos, too, to hundreds of residents who helped each other dig out and who, not long after the storm had

finally abated, had fire hydrants cleared and sidewalks passable. We truly saw a community at work during that time...and it worked well.

Oh, sure, there were a few glitches. Our Senior Driveway Plowing Program was delayed nearly a day because of contractor equipment problems. But overall, we can be very proud of how our community reacted and responded.

Incidentally, if you haven't already, please sign up for our citizen alert program. Go to the City website, [www.cityrm.org](http://www.cityrm.org), and click on the "Citizen Alert" icon. February's storm was a perfect example of how we can provide important updates and notify residents of such things as changes in garbage pickup. Now let's sit back and wait for spring to arrive!

## Public Works Department Collects Household Batteries for Recycling

Public Works will collect household batteries for recycling as part of a program recently launched by the Solid Waste Agency of Northern Cook County (SWANCC) and Skokie-based Interstate Batteries.

Drop off old batteries at the Public Works Department, 3900 Berdnick Street, weekdays between 9 a.m. – 4 p.m. Batteries accepted for recycling include alkaline batteries (AA, AAA, C, D, 9-Volt), and rechargeable batteries (NiCad, NiMh, lithium ion, lithium polymer).

For more information on battery recycling – including specific instructions for preparing rechargeable batteries for recycling – visit the Public Works Department's Webpage, [www.cityrm.org/PublicWorks/HTML/Recyclables.htm](http://www.cityrm.org/PublicWorks/HTML/Recyclables.htm), or call 847-963-0500.

## Public Works Seeks New Recruits for Citizens Training Academy

Public Works seeks a new class of resident recruits for its 2011 Citizens Training Academy, which begins Wednesday evening, May 4.

Wednesday evening informational sessions (May 4, 11, 18, 25 and June 1), and an outdoor "field course" scheduled for Saturday, June 4, will allow registrants to learn more about Public Works operations and the services they provide through hands-on training activities and classroom instruction.

"Academy graduates enjoy a better understanding of Public Works services and how they affect our daily lives," Assistant Public Works Director Bob Hartnett explains.

Topics to be presented during the 2011 Citizens Training Academy include:

- **Street Maintenance Division** – Provides information on forestry services, refuse collection, snow removal and pavement maintenance.
- **Water Division** – Outlines the Department's water quality and

monitoring operations. Participants will also learn how to perform basic plumbing maintenance to fix leaky water pipes, faucets, and other minor home plumbing problems.

- **Underground Utilities Division** – Details the vast underground infrastructure of the City's water, sanitary sewer and storm sewer system.
- **Inspection Services** – Provides an introduction to how Public Works evaluates City infrastructure, such as streets, sidewalks and underground utilities.
- **Fleet Services Division** – Learn how department mechanics maintain and repair the vast array of City vehicles.
- **Facilities Division** – Presents an overview of the number and types of City-owned facilities.



Hands-on training activities and informational sessions helped last year's Academy participants learn all about the range of services Public Works provides.

Register for the Citizens Training Academy online at [www.cityrm.org](http://www.cityrm.org), or by contacting Assistant Public Works Director Bob Hartnett (847-963-0500 or [hartnett@cityrm.org](mailto:hartnett@cityrm.org)).