



NEWS

Volume 15 Number 5

Fire Department
Open House

October 15
Story on Page 5

& Views

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

September/October 2011

\$100,000 Golf Road Study Responds to Employer Concerns; Will Identify Public Transit, Pedestrian Access Upgrades

The City of Rolling Meadows and the Regional Transportation Authority (RTA) have partnered on an effort to improve public transit and accessibility along a section of Golf Road that serves major commercial and retail properties such as Meadows Corporate Center, Continental Towers, and the Marketplace of Rolling Meadows.

The \$100,000 Golf Road Transit and Pedestrian Mobility Study is the City's response to concerns expressed by some of its largest employers about the area's limited accessibility.



Meadows Corporate Center is among the properties that will benefit from the study.

It is funded with the help of an \$80,000 RTA grant and is being conducted by Kimley-Horn and Associates, a Chicago-based consulting group.

When completed in early 2012, the study will produce plans and documentation that will help secure additional funding for area transit and mobility improvements.

"This study is the first step in making needed improvements to the Golf Road corporate corridor and big box retail sector," Community Development Director Valerie Dehner explains. "It will determine ways to expand

public transportation along Golf Road, provide a blueprint for enhancing pedestrian and bicycle access to area businesses, and improve the City's ability to secure additional RTA funding to make these goals reality."

The objectives of the study are to:

- **Examine current levels of transit service** to determine existing and future needs.
- **Create a detailed mobility plan** that specifically targets pedestrians, transit users and bicyclists.
- **Suggest area improvements**, such as crosswalks, bus stop placements, and site amenities for future implementation.

...continued on page 3

Department Reorganization Helps Police Improve Service, Reduce Costs



Dave Scanlan

In response to ongoing budgetary pressures, personnel retirements, and an evolution in the scope of its operations, the Rolling Meadows Police Department has been reorganized to more effectively deliver law enforcement services and reduce taxpayer costs, Police Chief Dave Scanlan reports.

The restructuring shifts many of the department's administrative responsibilities, such as record-keeping and front desk operations, to civilian staff members and volunteer police assistants. That allows its 49 sworn officers – including 38 patrol officers – to more effectively focus on law enforcement operations that protect the community.

"The Rolling Meadows Police Depart-

ment, like all organizations, constantly seeks ways to be more effective and more efficient," Chief Scanlan explains. "By adopting new approaches to administration and operations, we can maintain the number of patrol officers on City streets at a lower cost."

The restructuring achieves a goal Chief Scanlan set nearly two years ago, al-

...continued on page 5

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

MAYOR and CITY COUNCIL

Mayor: Tom Rooney	847-392-2254
1st Ward Alderman: Mike Cannon	847-925-8919
2nd Ward Alderman: Jim Allen	847-202-0822
3rd Ward Alderman: Lawrence Buske	847-255-9126
4th Ward Alderman: Brad Judd	847-902-3248
5th Ward Alderman: Rob Banger, Jr.	847-818-1663
6th Ward Alderman: John D'Astice	847-409-9367
7th Ward Alderman: James Larsen	630-244-4228

Deputy City Clerk	Ginny Cotugno
City Manager	Barry Krumstok

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

\$500 Community Donation Returns Patrol Motorcycles to Active Duty

The Police Department's motorcycle patrol unit, taken out of service last year because of budget cuts, is back on the streets, thanks in part to a \$500 community donation from two self-described "motorcycle enthusiasts."

At its June 14 meeting, City Council approved an ordinance that returned two of the motorcycles to frontline service. That's when Richard and Christine Kimball, of Rolling Meadows-based Allied Home Mortgage Corporation, sent a \$500 check to the RMPD in support of the program.

The accompanying letter to Police Chief Dave Scanlan requested that the funds

"be used toward the re-commission of the...patrol motorcycles. We thoroughly agree that [they] should be back in the community."



Patrol officer Mark Hinds conducts neighborhood speed limit enforcement.

"The Kimball's donation by itself got one of the bikes back on the road. We greatly appreciate their support and generosity," says Chief Scanlan.

Chief Scanlan says the patrol cycles are "outstanding community relations tools because they improve residents'

accessibility to police officers. They also play important roles in neighborhood speed limit enforcement, and can monitor City bike paths and parks more effectively than patrol cars."

'New' Wilke Takes Shape



A \$1.4 million state-funded project to rebuild a section of New Wilke Road, between Golf and Algonquin Roads, continues.

The road is a vital part of the City's infrastructure due to its proximity to retailers, major employers, and two highways. Current timetables call for the majority of the project to be completed by year's-end.

24-Year Police Veteran Mark Hogan Named Deputy Chief; Department Promotes Officer Mark Mrozek to Sergeant

Mark Hogan, a 24-year police veteran, was promoted to deputy chief of the Rolling Meadows Police Department in August.

Joining him at the swearing-in ceremony was Officer Mark Mrozek, who earned promotion to sergeant, and new patrol officers Christopher Danner and Brian Maschek.



Mark Hogan

Deputy Chief Mark Hogan

Deputy Chief Hogan began his career with the Rolling Meadows Police Department in 1987 as an intern while he completed a degree in Criminal Justice from Illinois State University.

He has served Rolling Meadows as a patrol officer, investigator, sergeant, and represented the Police Department as a member of the Major Case Assistance Team (MCAT). MCAT is a regional support team comprised of detectives and evidence technicians from several northwest suburbs who investigate homicides and other complex cases.

"It is an honor to congratulate Deputy Chief Hogan on his promotion. I am confident he will continue the success that has followed him at every stage of his career," Police Chief Dave Scanlan says. "Mark's professionalism and integrity will have a profound impact on the Rolling Meadows Police Department and the community it serves."



Mark Mrozek

Sgt. Mark Mrozek

Sgt. Mrozek joined the Rolling Meadows Police Department as a mid-night shift patrol officer in 1989, after serving four years as a Community Service Officer (CSO) in Mount Prospect.

He has served as an evidence technician, juvenile officer, bicycle officer, and a member of the Police Department Honor Guard. As a member of the Community Relations Unit, Sgt. Mrozek served as "Officer Friendly" and a DARE Officer.



Christopher Danner

Officer Christopher Danner

Officer Danner comes to Rolling Meadows with three years of experience with the Village of Cary Police Department. A former member of the United States Marine Corps, he studied Criminal Justice at Harper College.



Brian Maschek

Officer Brian Maschek

Officer Maschek began his career with the Waukegan Police Department in 2008, where he worked in the patrol unit and as an evidence technician. He graduated Magna Cum Laude from Illinois State University with a degree in Criminal Justice.

Three Major Storms Batter City in Less Than Five Weeks

Rolling Meadows residents may one day refer to summer 2011 as the “Summer of Storms.” Three major storms that caused widespread power outages, downed trees, and severe flooding raged across the City between June 21 and July 23. For posterity, here’s a brief look back:

Tuesday, June 21

Severe weather and strong winds damaged trees, disrupted power, and triggered tornado warnings across the north and northwest suburbs. About 240,000 residents in the Chicago area were left without power. Among those affected in Rolling Meadows were firefighters at the Fogarty Fire Station on Meadow Drive.

Monday, July 11

Driving rains and 80-mile per hour winds left 840,000 Chicago area residents without power in the worst storm in 13 years. In total, more than 5,800 Rolling Meadows homes and businesses lost power, some for days.

Saturday, July 23

More than 6.5 inches of rain fell on Rolling Meadows between Friday, July 22 and Saturday, July 23, resulting in widespread street flooding and power outages that affected 1,756. Public Works crews conducted sandbagging operations to try and limit

the flooding. Meanwhile, the Rolling Meadows Police Department activated the Everbridge emergency alert system, which informed residents in affected areas of the flooding, encouraged them to check sump pumps and basements for water, and gave them time to move their vehicles out of harm’s way.

Check Valves Reduce Basement Flooding Risk

Check valves, which prevent sewage backup into a home or building, are a simple, cost-effective way to reduce the risk of basement flooding during heavy rains, Underground Utilities Division Supervisor Dan Seveska reports.

The t-shaped valves feature a “flapper” that prevents water from backing up through a property’s sewer lateral during heavy rains that exceed the capacity of the City’s storm sewer system.

“No single solution completely eliminates the risk of flooding, but check valves can be very effective tools in preventing sewer water from entering a home,” Seveska says.

For more information, call 847-963-0500.

City Ends Newsletter Mailings to Apartments, Condominiums

Effective November 1, the City will stop mailing copies of its *News & Views* newsletter to apartment residences and condominiums where utility bills are paid by a homeowners association. The move, part of ongoing efforts to lower costs, will save about \$4,000 in postage and production costs per year.

Affected residents will still be able to access an online version of the newsletter by visiting the City’s Website, www.cityrm.org. In addition, printed newsletter copies continue to be available at the Rolling Meadows Li-

brary, City Hall, and the Rolling Meadows Community Center.



Homeowners, except those who have signed up for eBilling, will continue to receive the newsletter with their monthly water bills.

In an era of severe budget constraints – and due to the newsletter’s availability online and at public facilities across Rolling Meadows – City officials believe the cost of a separate newsletter mailing to condominiums and

apartments is difficult to justify.

“These units are sometimes unoccupied, which means that mailings to those addresses are returned to City Hall as ‘undeliverable,’” explains Assistant Finance Director Melissa Gallagher. “The City pays postage for these returns, which further boosts the program’s overall costs.”

The City has noticed an increase in returns over the past 18 months.

Apartment management groups and condominium homeowners associations who are interested in providing printed newsletters for their residents may contact the City Hall cashier at 847-394-8500.

Golf Road Study Responds to Employer Concerns ...continued from page 1



The Golf Road Corporate Corridor is currently over-reliant on motor vehicles for accessibility.

These improvements will become key elements of the City’s ongoing economic development and retention activities.

“Public transportation and pedestrian accessibility are important components of the community’s plan for economic growth,” Dehner adds. “We are exploring ways to improve customer access to local businesses, and help companies attract and retain young employees – many of

whom prefer alternative forms of transportation and currently live in Chicago.”

A steering committee, comprised of representatives from the City, RTA, PACE, and members of the Golf Road business community, will meet regularly to discuss the project’s scope and offer suggestions for consideration.

For more information on the study, visit rollingmeadowsgolfroadmobility.com.

September 2011

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
				1	2	3
4	Labor Day 5 City Hall, Public Works closed. Refuse collection delayed one day.	Economic Development Committee , 6 p.m. Environmental Committee , 7 p.m. Plan Commission , 7:30 p.m., all at City Hall	Zoning Board of Appeals , 7:30 p.m., City Hall	8	9	10
11 Patriot Day	Board of Fire & Police Commissioners , 9 a.m., City Hall	City Council Meeting , 7:30 p.m., City Hall	14	Adjudication Hearing , 1 p.m., City Hall Sprinkling ban ends	16	17
18	19	City Council Committee of the Whole , 7:30 p.m., City Hall Water bills due	21	Adjudication Hearing (Red Light) , 2 p.m., City Hall	23	24
25	26	City Council Meeting , 7:30 p.m., City Hall	28	29	30	

October 2011

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
			Early refuse setout begins Monday, October 31. Place refuse at the curb no earlier than 3 p.m. the day prior to pickup.			Electronics Recycling/ Document Destruction Event , 9 a.m. to noon Public Works 3900 Berdnick St.
2	3	Economic Development Committee , 6 p.m. Environmental Committee , 7 p.m. Plan Commission , 7:30 p.m., all at City Hall	Zoning Board of Appeals , 7:30 p.m., City Hall	6	7	8
9	Board of Fire & Police Commissioners , 9 a.m., City Hall	City Council Meeting , 7:30 p.m., City Hall	12	Adjudication Hearing , 1 p.m., City Hall	13	14
National Fire Prevention Week, October 9 – 15						
16	17	City Council Committee of the Whole , 7:30 p.m., City Hall	19	Adjudication Hearing (Red Light) , 2 p.m., City Hall Water bills due	21	22
23	24	City Council Meeting , 7:30 p.m., City Hall	26	27	28	29
30	Halloween Trick or Treat Hours 3 – 8 p.m.	31				

National Fire Prevention Week Promotes Family Safety

by Fire Chief Ron Stewart



Ron Stewart

Home fires in 2009 resulted in the deaths of 2,565 people – an average of seven fire-related deaths per day – and caused \$7.6 billion in direct damage.

To reduce the potential for deadly fires in our community, the Rolling Meadows Fire Department has teamed up with the National Fire Protection Association (NFPA) to observe this year's National Fire Prevention Week (October 9 – 15). This year's theme is "Protect Your Family from Fire."

Cook with Care

Unattended cooking equipment is the leading cause of home fires and associated injuries. Stay in the kitchen when frying, grilling or broiling food. Turn off the stove if you leave the kitchen – even

for a short period of time. Other precautions include:

- Keep anything that can catch fire away from the stovetop.
- If a small stovetop fire starts, put on an oven mitt and smother the flames by carefully sliding a lid over the pan. Turn off the burner.

Test, Maintain Smoke Detectors

Two-thirds of home fire deaths happen in homes with no working smoke detectors. That's why it is essential for residents to test smoke and carbon monoxide detectors in their homes once per month and replace bat-

teries once per year. A good rule of thumb is to replace detector batteries when changing clocks from daylight savings time to standard time each fall.

Develop Home Escape Plans

Develop a home fire escape plan and

practice it with your family twice per year. Studies prove that fire can consume a home in less than two minutes, so rapid escape is essential for increasing a family's odds of survival.



For more information on fire safety, visit the Fire Department's Web page (www.cityrm.org/rmfd) or the NFPA Website, www.firepreventionweek.org.

Fire Department Open House to Offer 'Unique Perspective,' Oct. 15

Residents will view fire safety from a unique perspective and learn more about the Rolling Meadows Fire Department's proud tradition of service during its fourth annual Open House, Saturday, October 15, 10 a.m. – 2 p.m., at the Neuckranz Fire Station (2455 Plum Grove Road).

Guests will experience a "behind-the-scenes" glimpse of department operations, including specialized rescue demonstrations, guided fire station tours, and an up-close review of state-of-the-art public safety equipment.



Open House guests will experience a behind-the-scenes glimpse of Fire Department operations.

"The Open House is a very effective way to help people understand our role in assuring the safety of Rolling Meadows residents and businesses." Fire Chief Ron Stewart explains. "It also lets us meet the people we are sworn to protect in a casual, friendly setting."

The Open House is part of the Fire Department's observance of National Fire Prevention Week, October 9 – 15. For more information, call the RMFD at 847-397-3352.

Police Department Reorganization Improves Service ...continued from page 1

though a number of unanticipated factors over the last 24 months played key roles in shaping the result. These included a large number of retirements, limited budgets, and the closing of the Police Neighborhood Resource Center (PNRC). Another major change was the transfer of the City's emergency dispatch services to Northwest Central Dispatch System, a regional center based in Arlington Heights.

"This restructuring of department resources makes us more effective in what we do and more affordable to the community we serve," Chief Scanlan ex-

plains. "In-house dispatch services and police involvement with the PNRC required a much larger force in terms of resources and manpower. As the department's operational scope changed, we could not afford – and did not need – to maintain that size."

"This restructuring of department resources makes us more effective in what we do and more affordable to the community we serve."

– Police Chief Dave Scanlan

commanders, and nine sergeants. The new structure consists of one deputy chief, two commanders, and seven sergeants.

Chief Scanlan believes the department's streamlined command structure will improve communication at all levels. In years past, the department had two deputy chiefs, three

Mayor's CORNER

Red Light Camera Benefits Outweigh Problems

by Mayor Tom Rooney

I have a confession to make: I don't mind red light cameras.

I've received two red light tickets from neighboring municipalities. In both cases, I reviewed the camera video, grumbled at the fact that I was at fault, and paid the fine. I was sloppy the first time. The second time I was impatient. Am I less likely to get sloppy or impatient when I drive now? Absolutely. That's the point of having the cameras.

Some of my fellow residents complain that the cameras are nothing more than revenue-raisers. There is no denying that violations provide revenue to the City. However, the more money we receive in fines from people who break the law, the less we must collect from taxpayers who obey it. What's the

downside there?

Despite people's insistence on studies that "prove" red light cameras are dangerous – there are flawed studies all over the place – let's take a look at one done by the National Highway Administration in 2005. The results mirror what a great many other credible studies have proven more recently: red light cameras tend to increase the number of rear-end fender benders at an intersection, but they greatly reduce the frequency of right angle (T-bone) crashes.

It's the right angle accidents that are far more likely to involve death, severe injury, and serious damage. We get fewer serious accidents at the expense of some more minor "bumper bumps." On balance, I think that's a good trade-off.

Growing Number of Customers Turn to City's eBilling Service



More than 700 customers have signed up to receive their utility bills by email through Rolling Meadows' Web-based utility billing service.

Register for the eBilling program on the City's Website, www.cityrm.org.

Customers receive an email each month with a link to their utility billing statement and are able to review a two-year billing history for their account.

A Web link to an online version of the City's newsletter, *News & Views*, is also included.

For more information, contact the Finance Department at 847-394-8500.

City to Unveil 2012 Budget During September 13 Council Meeting

Following months of careful planning and discussion between City administrators, department heads and staff, City Council will receive the Fiscal Year (FY) 2012 budget during its September 13 meeting.

Aldermen and staff members will work together over the coming months to finalize the budget, which is scheduled for adoption in December.

"Our challenge in preparing next year's

budget is to properly fund essential City services in a weakened economy while simultaneously ensuring that taxpayers get the most for their money," City Manager Barry Krumstok explains.

Krumstok expects FY 2012 to continue goals set for 2011: budget conservatively and work to rebuild fund balance reserves that have been depleted over the past several years.

During a series of October and November

budget workshops, Council members will continue to review budget materials and offer direction to staff. Public hearings scheduled for November and December offer residents an opportunity to voice their views about the proposed budget.

Following its delivery to City Council, residents may review a copy of the budget at City Hall, 3600 Kirchoff Road; the Rolling Meadows Library, 3110 Martin Lane; and online at the City's Website, www.cityrm.org.

Public Works to Host Electronics Recycling Event, October 1

Rolling Meadows will host an electronics recycling and document destruction event Saturday, October 1, 9 a.m. – noon, at the Public Works Dept., 3900 Berdnick Street.

Computers, monitors, printers, fax machines, televisions, and other electronic equipment will be collected for recycling by Supply-Chain Services. Materials from businesses, institutions, and schools are not accepted.

The free event, sponsored by the Solid Waste Agency of Northern Cook County



Computers and other electronics will be collected for recycling.

(SWANCC), also offers a safe, tamper-resistant way for Rolling Meadows residents – and those who live in other SWANCC member communities – to dispose of sensitive documents.

Bring old tax forms, bank statements, medical records and other personal files for on-site shredding by Elk Grove Village-based Accurate Document Destruction.

For more information, contact the Public Works Department at 847-963-0500.