

Signs of the Season  
June 2008



# NEWS & Views

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

## THIS MONTH IN ROLLING MEADOWS

**June 2-6** — Brush setout week, section 3

**June 3** — Economic Development Committee, 6 p.m., Plan Commission, 7:30 p.m., both at City Hall, Library Board, 7 p.m., at the Library

**June 4** — Zoning Board of Appeals, 7:30 p.m., at City Hall

**June 9-13** — Brush collection week, section 3

**June 9** — Board of Fire and Police Commissioners, 9 a.m., City Hall

**June 10** — City Council Meeting, 7:30 p.m., City Hall

**June 12** — Adjudication Hearing, 1 p.m., City Hall

**June 16-20**—Brush setout week, section 4

**June 17** — City Council Committee of the Whole, 7:30 p.m., City Hall

**June 19** — Adjudication Hearing, 1 p.m., City Hall

**June 23-27**—Brush collection week, section 4

**June 24** — City Council Meeting, 7:30 p.m., City Hall

**June 26** — Adjudication Hearing, 1 p.m., City Hall

**June 30** — Deadline to purchase business licenses and City vehicle stickers, which must be displayed by July 1.

## Community Parade, Fireworks Display on Tap For City's Independence Day Celebration, July 4

The City's star spangled celebration of American independence, set for Friday, July 4, includes a fun-filled traditional parade scheduled for late morning, and a thundering fireworks display that evening in Salk Park.

The Rolling Meadows Chamber of Commerce is organizing this year's parade, which begins at 11:30 a.m., at the corner of Jay Lane and Central Road. The convoy of floats, specialty vehicles, bikes, pets, bands and patriotic residents will head north on Jay to Grouse Lane, west to Meadow Drive, then turn north on Meadow Drive to Kirchoff Road.

Retiring State Representative Carolyn H. Krause, of Mount Prospect, will serve as the Independence Day Parade's Grand Marshal.

Local businesses, community groups and residents are invited to participate in this year's parade by designing floats, decorating vehicles and bicycles, or simply exhibiting



patriotic spirit in red, white and blue.

The parade's theme is "A Community with Pride," giving local organizations an opportunity to demonstrate their national — and City — pride. Parade entry forms are available at City Hall, 3600 Kirchoff Road, and the Chamber of Commerce, 2275 Algonquin Road, Suite 310. Submit completed forms by June 4 to reserve a spot in the event.

To ensure a safe environment, the City advises participants and spectators alike to refrain from throwing water balloons or using water guns or super soakers. No

*"A Community with Pride" is the theme of this year's parade. Below, the Rolling Meadows High School Band demonstrates its community spirit at a past event.*



water is permitted in the parade except for drinking.

After an afternoon of barbecues and other family celebrations, residents are invited to Salk Park for the City's fireworks display. At twilight's last gleaming, the sky will erupt in tremendous bursts of color, commemorating our nation's independence.

For more information on the City's Independence Day Parade, contact the Rolling Meadows Chamber of Commerce at 847-398-3730.

## Rolling Meadows, Arlington Heights Discuss Joint Project to Improve Algonquin Road Lighting

Prompted by concern about vehicular and pedestrian accidents on Algonquin Road, City officials and the Village of Arlington Heights have secured federal funding for a \$1.5 million project to improve the area's street lighting between Route 53 and Arlington Heights Road.

Following discussions with Arlington Heights officials, the City proposed an

intergovernmental agreement to conduct preliminary engineering studies for the lighting project in the next year. Illinois Department of Transportation (IDOT) approval of the study would allow both communities to receive the federal assistance when it becomes available in 2010.

Engineering study costs, estimated at \$100,000, would be divided evenly between

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## Improve Lighting on Algonquin Rd.

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Fred Vogt

Rolling Meadows and Arlington Heights.

“Our goal is to have a contract awarded this summer,”

Public Works

Director Fred Vogt says. “Staffs from both communities are currently reviewing project costs, work schedules and other details.”

“Current lighting along Algonquin Road is a major cause for concern,” 6<sup>th</sup> Ward Alderman Kathy Kwandras says. “The area has been the site of several accidents – including at least one fatality. From a public safety standpoint, it is imperative that we enhance lighting on this section of Algonquin Road.”



Kathy Kwandras

There are three locations to the proposed Algonquin Road street lighting project:

● **Illinois Route 53 to Weber Drive** (entirely within Rolling Meadows) – This area currently has highway lighting at expressway ramps and east to Magnolia Drive, but no highway lighting further east.

● **Weber Drive to Golf Road** (road’s north side within Arlington Heights; south side within Rolling Meadows) – Features sporadic highway lighting built at different times in the last 20 years.

● **Golf Road to Arlington Heights Road** (entirely within Arlington Heights) – Offers limited lighting only at the Golf Road Meijer Drive and Arlington Heights Road intersections, and at the Double Tree Hotel entrance just west of Arlington Heights Road.

## City Embarks on Aggressive Timetable For Algonquin Road Fire Station Construction

The City plans to begin construction on an Algonquin Road fire station (Fire Station 17) July 1 as part of an aggressive project timetable that calls for the Fire Department to begin operating from the new facility in January 2009.

Fire Chief Ron Stewart, City Manager Tom Melena and Assistant City Manager Barry Krumstok presented an overview of the project during an informational meeting attended by developers and architects in late April. The project’s parameters were clear: review submitted proposals in mid-to late May; award \$1.2 million contract in June; break ground July 1.



Preliminary design rendering of Fire Station 17

“The project’s timetable is very aggressive, but the current economic downturn has created an atmosphere where contractors must be extremely competitive to win business,” City Manager Tom Melena says. “That will help save taxpayers money and set terms that are most favorable to the Fire Department and

the City as a whole.”

Station 17, one of ten official goals approved by City Council last year, will be located on an undeveloped parcel of property on the south side of Algonquin Road, between Meadowbrook Drive and Weber Drive. It will provide effective fire protection and service to the growing southern portions of the City, and reduce response times.

“Adding capacity along Algonquin Road will have a “ripple” effect that will benefit the entire City,” Chief Stewart says. “It will allow us to allocate resources more effectively among three locations and improve response times for the whole community.”



Valerie Dehner

## City Launches Proactive Inspection Program; Permit Applications, Inspections Rise Steadily

Community Development Department professionals in May began a proactive program to inspect all industrial, commercial and residential properties for “obvious” code violations after City leaders identified code enforcement as a priority goal for 2008 —09, Director Valerie Dehner reports.

“Our mission is to protect the character and stability of all areas of the City. Instead of merely responding to complaints, our inspectors are getting out into different neighborhoods and looking at the conditions and maintenance of all properties, buildings and structures,” she says.

The Department’s five inspectors will devote a portion of each week during summer months – including alternate Saturdays – in search of:

- Obvious property maintenance and code violations;
- Construction being done without permits or contractor licenses;
- Businesses operating without licenses.

The program coincides with a report Dehner presented to City Council demonstrating

that requests for building permits and inspections have risen steadily over the past two years, despite a slowing national economy.

“We’re not seeing as many large construction projects along the lines of the Riverwalk development on Kirchoff Road, but the data shows that people are currently making improvements at a level we haven’t seen for the past three or four years,” Dehner says. “The number of issued permits and inspections will continue to increase as the City moves forward on the Woodfield Gardens redevelopment project.”

Following a peak in 2004, the number of permits issued, and inspections performed, by the Department declined by almost 20% the following two years. That number began rising again in 2007 and has continued into 2008 at a brisk pace.

“Whether it’s a \$10,000 home remodeling project or a \$10 million commercial development, our mission is the same - to ensure that these projects meet public safety requirements as outlined in the City’s code,” Dehner explains.

In addition, the Fire Department will check for current business licenses when conducting routine annual fire inspections at commercial and industrial properties in support of Community Development’s code enforcement program.

# Deputy Police Chiefs Proven Leaders In Law Enforcement, Classroom Settings

"Teacher" may not be a term regularly associated with police work, but Rolling Meadows Deputy Police Chiefs Ed Goodman and Dave Scanlan have made a point of giving back to the profession throughout their careers.

Scanlan, Deputy Chief, Operations, spent four years teaching courses in topics ranging from criminal law and corrections to community policing as an adjunct instructor at Harper College in Palatine.

Goodman, Deputy Chief, Administration, is a former instructor at Northwestern University's School of Police Staff and Command, an intensive 10-week law enforcement management course similar in scope to the FBI Academy.

"Dave and Ed understand that teaching and mentoring are critical ingredients to developing future law enforcement professionals," Police Chief Steve Williams says. "They have proven themselves as leaders not only among their fellow Police Department team members, but for those who are either

beginning or considering a career in policing."

Deputy Police Chiefs Goodman and Scanlan bring a wealth of experience to their responsibilities. Both have devoted their careers to serving the residents and businesses of Rolling Meadows.

Deputy Chief Goodman, a 23-year veteran of the

**Deputy Police Chiefs Ed Goodman and Dave Scanlan (left)**



Rolling Meadows Police Department, came to Rolling Meadows in 1984 as a patrol officer. He served as a tactical officer with the Department's Investigations Unit, spent two years as liaison officer to Rolling Meadows High School, and is a former member of the Northern Illinois Police Alarm System (NIPAS) Tactical unit. NIPAS is a joint venture of suburban police departments that provides mutual aid to member communities in

times of natural disasters.

Goodman earned promotion to Patrol Sergeant in 1997 and was named Administrative Services Sergeant a year later, where his responsibilities included community relations and overseeing evidence processing.

He was promoted to Commander, Support Services, in 2003, responsible for managing the Department's accreditation activities, communications, and recruitment and retention policies.

"The professionals I have worked with during my career pride themselves on working together as a team," Goodman says. "I enjoy working side by side with everyone here to maintain and improve

our record of excellence in serving Rolling Meadows' residents and businesses."

Deputy Chief Goodman credits his father, a career Marine, with instilling his management ethic and dedication to teamwork.

"My father said that you should never tell anyone to do anything that you wouldn't do yourself. That wisdom has stayed with me my entire career," he adds.

Deputy Chief Scanlan began his career with the Illinois State's Attorney's Office, then served as a Community Service Officer in Arlington Heights, before joining the Rolling Meadows Police Department in 1982.

He served as a patrol officer, tactical officer, juvenile Officer, field training officer, Detective Sergeant and Detective Commander, before being promoted to Deputy Chief in 2002. As Deputy Chief, Operations, Scanlan oversees the Department's Patrol and Investigations Units. The seven crossing guards who help children to and from school each day also report directly to him.

## Cook County's Reconstruction of Old Plum Grove Road to Begin in June

The long-awaited reconstruction of Old Plum Grove Road by the Cook County Highway Department (CCHD) is slated to begin this month, with work expected to be completed by late November, Public Works Director Fred Vogt reports.

City officials have been working with CCHD since 2003 to approve engineering design standards for the road's reconstruction, complete needed land acquisitions and review preliminary construction plans.

### City to Maintain Rebuilt Road

An agreement between Cook County and the City calls for the county to transfer jurisdiction of Old Plum Grove Road – located between Quentin and

Plum Grove/Meacham Roads – to Rolling Meadows following completion of the project.

"Once completed, the City will take responsibility for maintenance of Old Plum Grove Road. Unfortunately, we do not have much control over the county's construction timetable," Vogt explains.

### Plum Grove/Meacham Widening Nearing Completion

As Old Plum Grove Road's reconstruction gets underway, work is concluding on a \$4.6 million project to widen Plum Grove Road to four lanes between Emerson and Bryant Avenues.

"Despite past and potential future

delays caused by the need for utility companies to relocate underground lines, all traffic lanes are to be open by early July," Vogt adds.

As a main arterial route leading north to Palatine and south to Schaumburg on the City's west side, a wider Plum Grove Road will reduce traffic gridlock and enhance the ability of motorists to reach businesses in the area.

The project widens the road to four lanes from north of Euclid Avenue to south of Kirchoff Road and provides additional turn lanes. These improvements will also reduce traffic congestion on Kirchoff and Euclid.

# City Officials Review Detailed Profile Of City Manager to Succeed Tom Melena

City officials are reviewing a detailed profile of the City Manager to succeed Tom Melena, who plans to retire at year-end, after more than seven years on the job.

The City's professional recruiting consultants, The PAR Group, Lake Bluff, created the profile after completing interviews with the Mayor, Aldermen, City department heads, community representatives, and the public.

The profile describes in detail the experience, management style, qualities and traits, and necessary skills the next City Manager should have. It also outlines the City's expected challenges and opportunities within the first year of the new Manager's tenure and longer term.

"The profile describes a person with a strong financial background and experience with economic development," says The PAR Group Vice President Mark Morien.

Once the profile is approved, it will be used in wording announcements of the job opening to be placed at the end of June, according to Morien. Applicants who respond to the job announcement before the August 8 deadline for submitting resumes will receive a copy of the profile.

The PAR Group will carefully review all resumes received and check references before submitting a confidential report during the first

week of September naming 10-12 finalists.

City Council will review information about each of the finalists and select six for interviews scheduled October 3. After interviewing all six, Council will invite up to three candidates back for a second interview on October 4. The objective will be to select a new City Manager by the end of October, with time for a transition before Melena retires.

The Rolling Meadows search process is unusual in several respects, Morien says. Only about 10% of communities conducting such a search include a public forum inviting suggestions from the public, as Rolling Meadows did, and only about half of searches include interviews with community leaders.

Perhaps the most unusual aspect of the Rolling Meadows search is the lead time for conducting it. Usually, it's 90 days from the time a City Manager announces plans to leave to the time a new manager must be on the job, according to The Par Group.

The last time Rolling Meadows conducted a search, former Fire Chief Phil Burns served as interim City Manager for several months before the search reached a conclusion with Melena's hiring. This time, Melena told City Council of his plans to retire last year, leaving plenty of time to complete a search. It's the longest lead time Morien has ever seen.

## Public Works Honors Local Hero Bryan Anderson With Carillon Brick

Rolling Meadows resident and Iraq War veteran Bryan Anderson was "shocked and very surprised" upon learning that members of the Public Works Department had purchased a commemorative brick at the Carillon Plaza in his



Carillon brick honors hero

honor.

"The kindness and honor that Rolling Meadows has shown me is overwhelming, to say the least," Anderson wrote in a letter thanking the Department for its efforts. "The brick itself is AWESOME! You guys rock!"

Anderson lost both legs and his left arm to a roadside bomb in 2005 while serving with the U.S. Army in Iraq.

"Bryan has been through more in his life than the vast majority of us can possibly comprehend. His courage and determination are an inspiration to us all," Public Works Director Fred Vogt says.

## Purchase Vehicle Stickers by June 30 To Avoid Late Fee, Possible Police Citation



The deadline to purchase and display 2008-09 vehicle stickers

without incurring a late fee or possible police citation is Monday, June 30. Stickers purchased after the June 30 deadline will double in price. Police officers will ticket vehicles that do not display the new sticker as of July 1.

All drivers with cars registered or housed in Rolling Meadows — including residents with Palatine mailing addresses — must purchase and display the 2008-09 stickers by June 30.

Vehicle sticker renewal

notices mailed to all residents in early May included a pre-addressed envelope, making it convenient to order stickers from home.

Vehicle sticker prices start at \$22 for passenger vehicles, "B" plate trucks (under 8,000 lbs.), and motorcycles. Senior residents ages 65 and over are eligible for a reduced rate of \$10 per sticker (limit two per address).

Those who prefer to purchase vehicle stickers in person may stop by the Finance Department at City Hall, 3600 Kirchoff Road, Monday through Friday, 8 a.m. – 5 p.m.

All vehicles - cars, trucks, motorcycles/mopeds,

trailers - require a sticker. New residents, and those who acquire a vehicle between July 1, 2008 and May 1, 2009, have 60 days to purchase a sticker without incurring late fees.

### Buy Stickers at City Hall and...

Stickers for passenger vehicles only are also available at the following locations:

- Aldaliz Western Wear Store, 2210 Algonquin Road.
- Ben Franklin Bank, 3148 Kirchoff Road.
- Charter One Bank, 3901 Kirchoff Road.
- Fifth Third Bank, 1801 Algonquin Road.
- MB Financial Bank, 2251 Plum Grove Road.
- Police Neighborhood Resource Center/East Park Apartments, 2272 Algonquin Parkway.
- Rolling Meadows Currency Exchange, 3340 Kirchoff Road, (\$2 service charge).

# First Public Works Training Academy Culminates with Outdoor 'Field Course'

Brisk winds and chilling rains gave eighteen Rolling Meadows residents a taste of the conditions City crews often face during the final session of the Public Works Department's Citizens' Training Academy.



The April 12 "field course" offered participants an opportunity to watch Public Works employees in action, as they worked to fix an underground storm sewer pipe that had ruptured and collapsed in the vicinity of Fremont Street and School Drive.

"The bad weather helped participants get a sense of what our professionals face on a regular basis," Assistant Public Works Director Bob Hartnett recalls. "Our people work outdoors in torrential downpours, below-zero temperatures, and everything in between."

Following a brief stop behind the Rolling Meadows Post Office to check on a water main break that occurred earlier that morning, the



group learned about the City's sidewalk replacement program, street maintenance, and how the Department checks sewer lines via remote camera.

Graduates of the Public Works Academy were recognized during a brief ceremony at City Council's April 22 meeting.

## City Expands Economic Development Outreach With Online 'Community Videos' Website Link

BY BARRY KRUMSTOK, ASSISTANT CITY MANAGER

A new "Community Videos" link on the City's Website, [www.cityrm.org](http://www.cityrm.org), allows Rolling Meadows to expand its economic development outreach activities into the digital realm.

The link offers a series of brief informational Web-based video presentations that offer another opportunity to promote Rolling Meadows to prospective businesses. These online community profiles focus on subjects of vital interest to companies who may be considering a new location for operations:

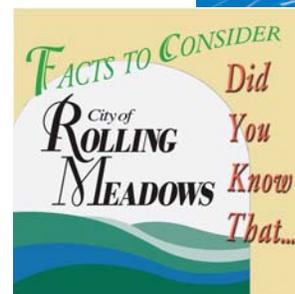
- The City's commitment to economic development in order to create a healthy, diversified mix of businesses that call Rolling Meadows home;
- Quality of local healthcare facilities;
- Excellent schools;
- Safe, well-maintained neighborhoods

where employees of all income levels can raise families;

- Rolling Meadows' close proximity to O'Hare International Airport, I-90 and Route 53.

These videos, which are also aimed at new and prospective residents, have already paid dividends: The City has already received several calls from businesses interested in learning more about the advantages of operating in Rolling Meadows.

The City partnered with CGI Communications, Inc., to develop the videos at no cost to taxpayers. CGI, through its eLocalLink Internet Television affiliate, provides communities across the country with free promotional videos designed to drive business, tourism and population growth.



## Paint-A-Thon Applications Due July 1

July 1 is the deadline to submit applications for the 21st annual Paint-A-Thon. Applications are available at City Hall, the Rolling Meadows Senior Center and the Police Neighborhood Resource Center.

Community Paint-A-Thon is a unique partnership designed to paint the exteriors of homes owned and occupied by persons who are at least 60 years-old or have a permanent disability, have limited financial resources and are unable to perform the work themselves. To qualify, annual household income cannot exceed \$36,000.

The event, scheduled for Saturday, September 6, relies on the support of volunteers and community organizations. Paint-A-Thon volunteers must be at least 14 years old. To volunteer, contact the Volunteer Center at 847-228-1320.

For more information on Community Paint-A-Thon, call Senior Services at 847-506-2061.

**Rolling Meadows' "highly explosive" July 4 fireworks display in Salk Park will feature 5,800 shots, including 2,000 for the grand finale. Bring a blanket and enjoy one of the best fireworks displays in the northwest suburbs.**

# Time for Our Voices To Be Heard in Springfield

BY MAYOR KEN NELSON

We in Rolling Meadows are fortunate to be represented in the state legislature by six very able individuals: State Senators Dan Kotowski, John Millner and Matt Murphy, and State Representatives Suzie Bassi, Paul Froehlich and Carolyn Krause. While they work hard to serve all of us, they currently have a high sense of frustration, which they should.

For several years, the legislature has been unable to figure out how to get things done. The budget is in disarray, there hasn't been a capital budget for years, state pension funds have reached

the crisis mode and legislative sessions have run months longer than they're supposed to. Who's to blame?

At the top, it's the leadership in the Illinois House and Senate, and the Governor's office. Nothing's going to get done until they quit posturing and playing

politics with our lives and our money. Highway projects are unfunded; an auditor's report found that many bridges are "structurally deficient;" medical programs are not being paid.

One of my recent visits to Springfield left me with a feeling of despair. It's truly time that the legislative leadership gets off dead center and solves our problems. You can help by contacting our area representatives and letting them know you've had enough. If they hear from enough of you, they'll put more pressure on the leadership. It's a real opportunity for a grass roots movement to get our legislature moving.

## Contact State Legislators

- Dan Kotowski (D-33): 847-797-1192**  
dan@senatorkotowski.com
- John Millner (R-28): 630-351-9340**  
Johnjmillner@aol.com
- Matt Murphy (R-27): 847-776-1490**  
senatormattmurphy@sbcglobal.net
- Suzie Bassi (R-54): 847-776-1880**  
repbassi@aol.com
- Paul Froehlich (D-56): 847-985-9210**  
statereppaul@hotmail.com
- Carolyn Krause (R-66): 847-255-3100**  
repkrause@aol.com

## City Of Rolling Meadows

**Mayor:** Kenneth Nelson

**City Clerk:** Lisa Hinman

**City Manager:**  
Thomas M. Melena

**City Hall Hours:**  
8 a.m. to 5 p.m.  
Monday-Friday

**Curfew:** Sun.-Thurs. 11 p.m./Fri. & Sat. Midnight

### Aldermen

**1st Ward:** John Pitzafferro  
847-655-1390

**2nd Ward:** Barb Lusk  
847-567-2444

**3rd Ward:** Lawrence Buske  
847-255-9126

**4th Ward:** Tom Rooney  
847-392-2254

**5th Ward:** Glenn Adams  
847-259-5875

**6th Ward:** Kathy Kwandras  
847-398-7113

**7th Ward:** James Larsen  
630-244-4228

**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 Dept. —** 847-506-6030

**TDD:** 847-506-0490

**Senior Services**  
847-506-2061

**ComEd —** 1-800-EDISON-1

**PNRC —** 847-506-2059

*City Council, Committee of the Whole, Zoning Board of Appeals, and Plan Commission Meetings are televised on Cable TV Channel 6*

## Residents Clean Up Salt Creek

Carol Nelson (top left), wife of Mayor Ken Nelson, collects debris with her daughter, Emma, while the other Nelson daughter, LoriAnne (bottom left), gets wet clearing a blockage in Salt Creek. At right, PNRC Director Victoria Bran, who brought a group of students, risks a tumble down a steep embankment while removing debris. At bottom right are Bob Freer and his son, Jason, one of the cleanup's many parent-child teams. The City's Environmental Committee organized the annual Earth Day Cleanup.

