

Signs of the Season
September 2008



NEWS
Volume 12, Number 9

& Views



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

THIS MONTH IN ROLLING MEADOWS

September 1 — Labor Day, City Hall and Public Works closed. No refuse pickup. Refuse collection delayed one day.

September 2-5 — Brush setout week, section 3

September 2 — Economic Development Committee, 6 p.m., at City Hall, **Library Board**, 7 p.m., at the Library

September 3 — **Zoning Board of Appeals**, 7:30 p.m., at City Hall

September 8-12 — Brush collection week, section 3

September 9 — **City Council Meeting**, 7:30 p.m., City Hall

September 11 — **Patriot Day. Adjudication Hearing**, 1 p.m., City Hall

September 15-19—Brush setout week, section 4

September 15 — **Sprinkling Ban Ends. Board of Fire and Police Commissioners**, 9 a.m., City Hall

September 16 — **City Council Committee of the Whole**, 7:30 p.m., City Hall

September 18 — **Adjudication Hearing**, 1 p.m., City Hall

September 19 — **POW/MIA Recognition Day**

September 22-26—Brush collection week, section 4

September 23 — **City Council Meeting**, 7:30 p.m., City Hall

September 25 — **Adjudication Hearing**, 1 p.m., City Hall

October 4 — **Public Works Open House**, 3900 Berdnick St., 10 a.m.-2 p.m.

Residents to Explore Upgraded Station 16 at October Open House

Rolling Meadows Fire Department invites residents to explore its fully renovated Plum Grove Fire Station (Station 16) next month in observance of National Fire Prevention Week, October 5 – 11, Fire Chief Ron Stewart reports.

The Open House will take place Saturday, October 11. Further details will be featured in the next issue of *News & Views*.

Community members will enjoy a behind the scenes tour and see the results of the recently completed \$300,000 modernization project. The newly renovated building allows for better use of existing space and enhances the ability of Fire Department personnel to coordinate operations.

"This renovation reflects Plum Grove Fire Station's important role in the Fire Department's comprehensive strategy to effectively prepare for future fire protection needs," Chief Stewart explains. "The Open House will help residents learn more about



New Fire Station 16, located at 2455 Plum Grove Road, will welcome visitors to explore the site inside and out during an open house October 11.



their fire department and how it serves them."

The new Station 16 layout allows the Department to consolidate its Training Division operations under one roof. Other improvements include conference rooms and larger work spaces for Department training seminars, a new entrance/reception area, and modern facilities for the Fire Prevention Bureau.

Golf Outing Raises \$10,000 for PNRG

A golf outing sponsored by the Police Neighborhood Resource Center (PNRC) Foundation raised more than \$10,000 to support social service programs, Deputy Chief of Police Ed Goodman reports.

Seventy-two golfers participated in the fifth annual PNRG event, including many City officials and local

business leaders. Platinum sponsors were Northwest Community Hospital and Arlington Park Racetrack. Silver sponsors were Fifth Third Bank, Harper College, Kiwanis, Fiduciary Management, Northrop Grumman, Christopher Burke Engineers and Bear Construction.

The prize for lowest score went to a foursome led

by Patrol Officer Bob Doucet. Megan Banach, daughter of one of the event's organizers, Police Department Investigations Secretary Deb Banach, won honors for longest drive by a woman golfer.

Goodman predicts next year's event will be even better.

**Look Us Up on the Web
at: www.cityrm.org**

Council Approves Increase in Vending Machine Licensing Fee

Aldermen continued their efforts to bring City fees up to current market standards by approving an increase in the vending machine licensing fee. It had remained unchanged since 1998.

The increase, which will go into effect in January 2009, is designed to offset the cost of regulating the 433 vending machines currently in operation within City limits.

Vending machine licenses will increase from \$12 to \$37, while costs for gumball or other "novelty" machines will rise to \$15.

The ordinance approved by City Council also creates a new fee structure for ice machines. Businesses who operate one of these machines on their premises will pay an annual fee of \$50.

Revenue generated from the vending machine licensing fee goes to the City's General Fund.

Rolling Meadows Soccer Club Gets a 'Kick' Out of Competition Against Swedish Team

A huge crowd at the Rolling Meadows Park District Community Center in July enjoyed an evening of friendly international soccer matches pitting two local girls teams against visiting clubs from Sweden.

The U14 and U16 teams, part of Rolling Meadows Soccer Club, hosted Azalea BK's Team Passion and Team Joy, who were wrapping up their visit to the U.S. after competing in the Schwan's USA Cup in Blaine, MN.

Swedish team members, who had been staying with Chicago Soccer Club families in Naperville, eagerly agreed to take part in the event, which featured two friendly, or scrimmage, matches. The first match ended in a 2-2 tie. The second ended with a 2-0 victory by the visiting team.

The event featured a barbeque and raffle drawings, international camaraderie, representatives from the Illinois Women's Soccer

Mayor Ken Nelson (below) leads the teams onto the field before the first of two scrimmage matches.



League, and a visit by members of the Chicago Red Stars, a new women's

professional soccer team that will begin play in 2009. Mayor Ken Nelson represented the City during the gala.

"It was everything youth soccer should be," explains event organizer Mike Canace, Rolling Meadows Soccer Club Director of Travel Soccer and Communications. "The kids really enjoyed playing against an international team, and the atmosphere was electric. We really appreciate Rolling Meadows Park District for helping create such an eventful evening," he adds.

Early Voting October 13 – 30 For November Election

Rolling Meadows residents who are registered to vote by the October 7 deadline will be able to cast ballots in advance of the November 4 General Election at any of the early voting sites being established by the Cook County Clerk's Office.

'Early' voting will be

available between Monday, October 13, and Thursday, October 30. Hours are 8:30 a.m. – 5 p.m., Monday through Friday. Extended weekend hours will be available one Saturday during the month of October.

If getting to the polls on November 4 is a problem,

consider casting your ballot absentee. Absentee ballot applications are available at City Hall or by contacting the County Clerk's Office.

For more information on early or absentee voting, call the Cook County Clerk's Office at 312-603-0906, or visit www.voterinfonet.com.

Effective Brush Pickup Program Minimizes Need for City Officials to Declare 'Major Storm Events'

Maintaining an effective program to help residents dispose of storm-related brush minimizes the need for City officials to declare a "major storm event" and schedule emergency chipper service, Public Works Director Fred Vogt explains.

"There have only been two instances in the last several years where we scheduled emergency pickups following severe

storms," Vogt explains. "The decision to declare a major storm event is very subjective, and must take into account our limited resources."

Vogt believes residents are much better served by the range of options available for brush pickup throughout the year, including:

● Curbside Brush

Pickup – The City provides curbside brush pickup twice per year. Residents may place branches less than 6 inches in diameter at the curb during

regularly scheduled weeks in May, June, August and September.

● Regular Refuse

Pickup – Homeowners may also cut branches to 4' in length, bundle and tie with string, and place at the curb with yard waste on regularly-scheduled refuse pickup days.

● Special Pickups –

Residents may also contact Public Works to schedule a special pickup for an additional fee.

In cases of extensive, City-wide storm damage, Public Works will schedule an emergency brush pickup, such as in July 2006 and August 2007, when Mother Nature unleashed her fury on the northwest suburbs. Plans include communicating the details of the pickup to residents by contacting local media who cover Rolling Meadows, and posting information on Cable TV Channel 6 and on the City Hall message board.

'Ugly' Economy Sets Stage for 2009 Budget Deliberations

In the midst of an economy Finance Director Jim Egeberg calls "very ugly," City Council will begin discussing ways to close a projected budget gap of nearly \$1 million during the September 16 Committee of the Whole meeting.

"Prevailing economic conditions are requiring businesses across the board to raise prices and/or cut costs in order to maintain profitability. Rolling Meadows is faced with these very dilemmas going into our 2009 budget discussions," Egeberg says.

A Five-Year Financial and Capital Plan presented to City Council last month concluded that Rolling Meadows is not immune to the current economic environment. The City is faced with declining revenues and rapidly escalating costs, which have resulted in a steep reduction in its cash reserves.

"We've had to absorb a 43% increase in fuel and vehicle costs, a 15% increase in the cost of purchasing water from Chicago, and a 9% increase in refuse pickup costs due to rising fuel

prices," Egeberg explains.

The burden of rising costs is compounded by major declines in sales tax revenues. Building permit applications and fees have also dropped dramatically, victims of the soft economy.

Already this year, slower revenue streams have created a potential shortfall of

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**—Jim Egeberg,
Finance Director**



\$600,000 to \$1 million dollars. To help close the gap, City officials instituted an immediate hiring freeze expected to save almost \$500,000 this year and more than \$800,000 in 2009.

Proposed elements of the preliminary 2009 budget draft include:

- A 7.4% increase in the property tax levy to fund \$2 million in contributions to the Police and Fire Pension Funds,
- A 5% increase in the City's Stormwater Fund,
- Adjust fees to reflect market rates,
- Cut \$1.1 million from the operating budget of each City department, freezing spending at 2008 levels.

City officials may also consider implementing a revenue surcharge on utilities, such as natural gas or electricity.

"Painful choices will need to be made over the next several months in order to keep Rolling Meadows financially sound, provide effective services and, most importantly, limit costs for those we serve," Egeberg adds.

Police Sponsor Fourth 'National Night Out' To Address Crime Prevention, Drug Awareness

Rolling Meadows' 4th annual National Night Out celebration in August offered an evening of family activities and community spirit, while successfully raising awareness of crime prevention, drug awareness and fire safety, Community Involvement Officer Mark Mrozek reports.



Face painting (above) and carnival games were among the highlights of the City's National Night Out celebration.

heighten crime and drug awareness, generate support for local anti-crime efforts, and strengthen the bonds between public safety professionals and those they serve," Mrozek explains. "We were able to reach out to many families and provide

valuable safety information in a setting where everyone could have a good time. The event also sends a message to criminals that our neighborhoods are organized and ready to fight back."

The National Association of Town Watch (NATW) developed the first National Night Out in 1984. According to the organization's Website, the event has grown to involve 34 million people in more than 10,000 communities.

The free event, held at the Rolling Meadows Park District Community Center, was part of a national effort to heighten crime and drug prevention awareness. Families enjoyed free food, giveaways, carnival games, a raffle and roving entertainers. Guests who stopped by informational tables staffed by Park District, Police and Fire Department representatives received a pass for a free swim at the Park District pool.

"National Night Out is designed to

Police Warn Seniors to Be Aware Of 'Grandparent' Scam

Rolling Meadows police officers warn senior citizens to be wary of a supposed grandchild in trouble who calls for money. It's very likely not your grandchild calling but a scam artist trying to steal from you.

"Many older citizens are fooled by this scam because of bad phone connections, hearing impairment, or other complications," says Commander Tom Calcagno. "It's important that victims of these crimes know that they have done nothing wrong, that the criminals who perpetrate these scams are preying on the good nature of caring, intelligent people."

The scam works like this: A caller, usually male, contacts an elderly person and identifies himself as the victim's teenaged grandchild. The "grandchild" tells the victim he's been arrested in Canada for fishing without a license, or a similar petty offense. He's embarrassed to tell his parents and asks the friendly grandparent to wire money, often to a Wal-Mart in Canada. Sometimes, a second person interjects, acting as a police officer or attorney to lend credibility to the story.

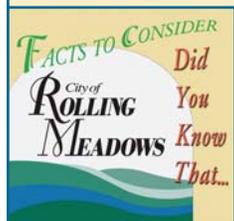
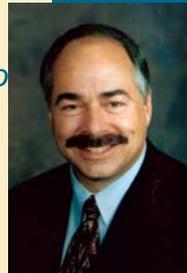
Police warn seniors not to offer any information to such a caller. If the caller says, "This is your favorite grandson," ask which one. If the caller asks you to guess who it is, refuse to answer, saying, "I don't know who this is. Who is it?"

"Wiring money is one of the most common ways people lose money to con artists," Commander Calcagno warns. He and two other Rolling Meadows police officers, Mark Mrozek and Scott McCormack, have received special training as senior services officers.

"The training has helped to make us more aware of crimes affecting seniors. We recognize that seniors are often targeted because they generally have more access to disposable income than others. In addition, they're generally more willing to answer the door or respond to telephone calls," Officer Mrozek says.

"No one should be ashamed if they have been the victim of a crime. We want Rolling Meadows' seniors to know they have advocates in the police department. We encourage them to call the police department so we can prevent others from being victimized, too. We're not going to tell family members or do anything to embarrass them. Our intent is to help and protect the seniors in our city," Officer Mrozek adds.

Of the eight municipal professionals who have served as City Manager of Rolling Meadows, Tom Melena, who will retire in January, holds the second-longest tenure, at seven years, five months. Historically, the average tenure of a Rolling Meadows City Manager is just under five years.



Seniors who want assistance are encouraged to call Commander Calcagno (847-870-9042) and Officers Mrozek (847-870-9078) or McCormack (847-870-2661) on their direct telephone lines.

43 Applications Received for City Manager

Forty-three applications for Rolling Meadows City Manager were received before the August 8 deadline, The PAR Group, Lake Bluff, the City's professional recruiting consultants, reports.

Applications came from Illinois and many states around the country, including Arizona, New Hampshire, New York, Rhode Island, and Texas, and one foreign country, Taiwan, according to PAR Group Vice President Mark Morien.

Morien says response to the City's position announcement

exceeded expectations. Other similar searches conducted recently have drawn 35-38 applicants. "This speaks well for Rolling Meadows and for interest in the community," he adds.

PAR Group officials are now reviewing applications and checking references before submitting a confidential report to City Council during the first week of September that will name 10-12 finalists. By mid-August, they had narrowed the field to 18 applicants. PAR Group will meet with City Council September 10 to review their report, discuss impressions gained during telephone interviews and information gleaned from reference checks.

City Council will review information about each of the finalists and select six for interviews scheduled October 3 and 4. After interviewing all six on October 3, 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 City Manager Tom Melena retires at yearend, after more than seven years on the job.

Completion of Major Road Construction Projects Brings Relief to Residents, Businesses, Motorists

BY FRED VOGT, DIRECTOR OF PUBLIC WORKS

Residents, local businesses and motorists on the City's southwest side have surely felt frustrated over the seemingly endless road construction projects to improve Plum Grove and Old Plum Grove Roads.

While it's been a long, difficult time for many, the project to widen Plum Grove Road

signals complete the project, which got under way in July 2007.

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.



Old Plum Grove Reconstruction Under Way

Following several recent delays, the Cook County Highway Department (CCHD)

commenced work in July on the reconstruction of Old Plum Grove Road, located between Quentin and Plum Grove/Meacham Roads.

“A wider Plum Grove Road will reduce traffic gridlock and enhance the ability of motorists to reach businesses in the area.”

— Fred Vogt, Director of Public Works

is essentially complete. Meanwhile, Cook County engineers believe Old Plum Grove Road will be finished in December.

Plum Grove Road Widening

As the September issue of *News & Views* went to press, the project to widen Plum Grove Road was in its final stages. In spite of numerous delays caused by underground utility line relocation, weather, and necessary land acquisitions, the project is only a couple of weeks behind schedule.

With all four lanes open to traffic by early August, work turned to parkway grading and landscaping, completion of sidewalks and permanent driveways to adjacent properties, and electrical work. Installation of surface asphalt, pavement stripping and new traffic

The project includes construction of new storm sewers, sanitary sewers and natural gas mains, which began earlier this summer. Traffic flow will be restricted to one lane, westbound, for the duration of the project.

CCHD anticipates all work will be completed by year's end. Unfortunately, we do not have much control over the county's construction timetable. Following the project's completion, the county will transfer jurisdiction of Old Plum Grove Road to Rolling Meadows.

In other words, we're almost there. I appreciate the patience of all the residents, businesses and motorists who have dealt with the burden of construction over the past year. The resulting road enhancements are an important improvement to the City's overall infrastructure.

Annual Audit Gives City 'Clean Bill of Health'

A report by independent auditors gave Rolling Meadows' financial operations a clean bill of health, demonstrating the integrity and legitimacy of the City's 2007 budget reports.

State law requires municipalities to undergo an Annual Audit by an independent certified public accountant. The Oak Brook-based accounting firm of Selden Fox, Ltd., determined that the City is in conformity with regularly accepted accounting principles.

Meeting high financial accountability standards is nothing new for Rolling Meadows. For the last 21 years, the Government Finance Officers Association of the United States and Canada (GFOA) has presented the City with the Certificate in Achievement for Excellence in Financial Reporting. City officials plan to make it 22 years.

“We believe our current comprehensive annual financial report continues to meet the Certificate of Achievement Program's requirements, and we are submitting it to the GFOA to determine its eligibility for another certificate,” Finance Director Jim Egeberg says.

Twelve On Board as Public Works Plans 2009 Citizens Training Academy

The Department of Public Works will host a second Citizens Training Academy in March 2009, and twelve Rolling Meadows residents have already registered for the program, Assistant Director Bob Hartnett reports.

Public Works launched its first Training Academy earlier this year,

which was designed to help residents learn more about the vital role the Department plays in maintaining the City's quality of life. More than 20 residents participated, far surpassing initial expectations.

“Public Works crews provide a range of services – from snow plowing operations and underground utility

repairs to water quality testing and road work – that have a tremendous impact on our daily lives. Academy graduates will enjoy a greater understanding of these operations and how they affect us all,” Hartnett explains.

Academy members will participate in hands-on training activities, educational

sessions, and tours of City facilities that, combined, will offer a comprehensive “behind the scenes” look at Public Works' operations.

To register for the 2009 Citizens Training Academy, contact Bob Hartnett, Assistant Public Works Director, at 847-963-0500, or hartnett@cityrm.org.

City Pays Tribute to David Hill

By Mayor Ken Nelson

Rolling Meadows recently lost a

good friend. David Hill succumbed to the ravages of cancer. David, of course, was the son of Kimball Hill, the founder of Rolling Meadows.

So often, he would point to houses that he worked on as a youth. He loved to tell stories of those early days of our community. He was always excited to meet someone who lived in one of the original Kimball Hill homes. His father began Rolling Meadows as a place for young couples – particularly families of veterans – to own their first home. David never forgot that legacy.

Throughout his career, David was a strong advocate for affordable and workplace housing. He had a hand in many developments that offered a chance for home owner-

Hill (left) joins Mayor Menzel and former City Manager Bill Barlow in cutting the ribbon at Kimball Square Condominiums, the City's first mixed-use downtown redevelopment project, which was completed in 1998.



At the opening of the Rolling Meadows Historical Museum in 2002, David Hill (left) presents a check for \$25,000 to then Mayor Tom Menzel and gets a hug from young family members below).

ship to all economic and social levels.

David was a tremendous benefactor to Rolling Meadows and many other communities.

Without David's help, we probably could not have built the Historical Museum, an exact replica of those original Rolling Meadows homes. He gave generously to WINGS so that they could build their safe house. He believed in education and served on the Harper College and Roosevelt University boards.

It can truly be said that he was a citizen of many communities. David, I will miss you. Please join me in keeping Diane and young David in your prayers.



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 Pitzafarro
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

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 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

Support Community Food Drive, Week of September 22

The City of Rolling Meadows will participate in a community food drive the week of September 22.

Residents are invited to bring unopened and non-expired cans and boxes of rice, peanut butter, canned or dry beans, canned meats and stews, macaroni and cheese, cereal, canned fruits and vegetables, soups, powdered or evaporated milk, infant

supplies (baby food, formula, diapers), hygiene items (shampoo, soap, toothpaste, etc.) and paper goods to boxes at City Hall, the Police Neighborhood Resource Center, or the Public Works Department headquarters, 3900 Berdick St.

"Food pantry shelves in the Northwest suburbs are extremely low. The slowing economy, cuts in government aid and increasing fuel, food

and utility costs have created a critical need," says Assistant City Manager Barry Krumstok.

"With the holiday season just a few months away, here's an opportunity to make a difference in the lives of people in need in our community," Krumstok says.

Food donated in Rolling Meadows will be deposited in the Palatine Township food pantry.