



**CONTACT CITY
OFFICIALS AND STAFF**

- Mayor:** Kenneth Nelson
- City Clerk:** Lisa Hinman
- City Manager:** Sarah Phillips
- City Hall Hours:** 8 a.m. to 4 p.m.
Monday-Friday
- Curfew:** Sun.-Thurs. 11 p.m.
Fri. & Sat. Midnight
- Aldermen**
- 1st Ward:** John Pitzaferro
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
- New walk-up hours:**
8 a.m.-4 p.m.
- Community Development Dept.:**
847-506-6030
- New walk-up hours:**
8 a.m.-4 p.m.
- TDD:** 847-506-0490
- Senior Services:** 847-394-8500
- ComEd — 1-800-EDISON-1**
- PNRC — 847-506-2059**

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NEWS

Volume 13, Number 8



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

City 'Gets Active' for Community Exercise Program; Team Exceeds Fitness Goal by 20%

Thirty-seven motivated residents representing "Team Rolling Meadows" in the American Cancer Society's "Get Active Challenge" tallied more than 95,000 minutes of exercise during the 10-week online exercise management program, surpassing the team's goal by 20%, Cancer Awareness Committee Chair and Ward 2 Alderman Barb Lusk reports.



Pedaling is a popular way to keep fit in Rolling Meadows.

The program helped participants set personal fitness goals, provided tips and tools on how to achieve those goals, and let individuals monitor their progress.

"Regular physical activity can reduce one's risk of cancer," Lusk, a healthcare professional at Northwest Community Hospi-

tal, explains. "The Get Active Challenge encouraged residents to increase their physical activity and offer unique resources to achieve personal fitness goals in a fun, enjoyable way. We thank the American Cancer Society for its support."

Whether it was getting out for a 30-minute walk or running a marathon, the key for residents was to increase their physical activity.

"Team members have every right to be proud of themselves for what they've accomplished. Their dedication was inspiring," Lusk says. "I hope everyone who participated will continue to set exercise goals and work toward achieving healthier lifestyles."

Wal-Mart/Sam's Club Grant Helps RMFD Purchase Smoke Detectors for 100 Senior Citizen Households

The Rolling Meadows Fire Department received \$2,000 in grant funding from Wal-Mart in support of the Smoke Detectors for Seniors program, Deputy Chief Brian Dempsey reports.

Funding provided through the company's Safe Neighborhoods Heroes Grant program allowed the Fire Department to purchase 100 smoke detectors. The Fire Department established the Smoke Detectors for Seniors Program in 2001.

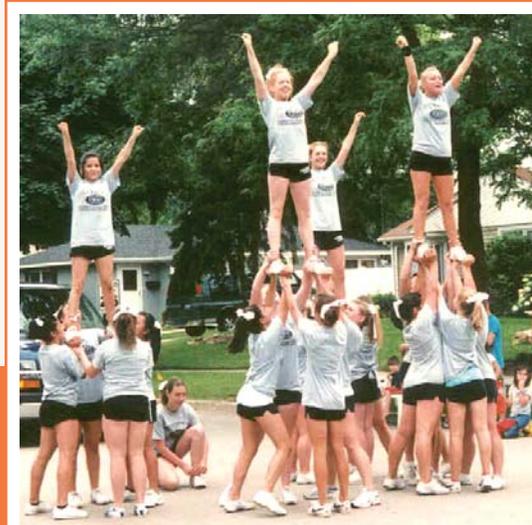
"Each year, Wal-Mart proudly supports organizations

that make a difference in the community through the Safe Neighborhood Heroes Grant program," explains store manager Chris Quinn. The company's goal is to make Rolling Meadows a better place for all who live and work here," he adds.

"The Rolling Meadows Fire Department greatly appreciates Wal-Mart's support of this successful, ongoing Department program that contributes to a safer community,"

Deputy Chief Dempsey explains.

Seniors interested in receiving a free smoke detector – including installation – may contact the Fire Department at 847-397-3352.



More July 4th photos on page 3
The Rolling Meadows High School Mustang cheerleaders fire up the crowd along the July 4th parade route.

Annual Audit Demonstrates Integrity of City Finances

A report by independent auditors gave Rolling Meadows' financial operations a clean bill of health, demonstrating the integrity and legitimacy of the City's 2008 budget reports.

State law requires municipalities to undergo an annual audit by an independent certified public accountant. The accounting firm of Lauterbach & Amen, LLP, based in Warrenville, IL, determined that the City is in accordance with generally accepted accounting principles.

"We commend the Finance Department for the well-prepared audit package, and we appreciate the courtesy and assistance given to us by the entire City staff," the accounting firm stated in its final report to City Council.

The report offered recommendations in three areas that auditors believed needed to be addressed by City officials.

● Increase Police and Fire pension funding –

Auditors noted that the City is not contributing the actuarially determined dollar amount to the Police Pension Fund (60% funded) and the Firefighters Pension Fund (55% funded).

In response, the City has established a Pension Fund Committee to explore options for increasing contributions to both funds.

● Rebuild fund balance reserves –

The audit noted that 11 of the City's 33 governmental and proprietary funds reported negative balances as of December 31, 2008. Finance Director Jim Egeberg points out that the City's 2009 budget reduced payroll by more than \$1.3 million, and overall spending was held at 2007 levels.

● **Consolidate Funds** – Reducing the number of funds would enhance the City's ability to analyze financial statements and improve cash flow. Options for fund consolidation will be introduced during discussion of the City's 2010 budget.

2010 Budget Process to Begin with Careful, Deliberate Discussion

BY JIM EGERBERG, FINANCE DIRECTOR

Following a detailed review of City finances earlier this summer, August begins a four-month period that will consist of careful, deliberate discussion between City Council and staff on development of the Fiscal Year 2010 budget.

As reported in the July issue of *News & Views*, City Council asked staff to present proposals for a 5% spending reduction for the final half of 2009. Department heads responded with spending reductions totaling \$620,000 to offset a continuing revenue shortfall. In addition, we have implemented a monthly budget forecast that will apprise Council members of ongoing City revenues and expenses, and how these might affect next year's budget.

These are important first steps in a concerted effort to address the continuing challenges we face. While an increasing number of economists predict we'll see the beginnings of economic recovery in 2010, this will not have an immediate impact on revenues. The bottom line: we must continue to budget for services with limited resources.

Difficult decisions will have to be made over the next few months as we craft a balanced budget that maintains high service levels in the face of rising costs. Housing market revenues (i.e. building permits, real estate transfer taxes) have declined, and sales tax revenues have leveled off. Compounding the problem is the continued increase in costs. While not approaching the rapid increase we've weathered over the past few years, they continue to escalate.

Later this month, City Manager Sarah Phillips and I will meet with department heads to review proposed operating budgets. The results of these discussions will help Finance Department staff develop a preliminary budget proposal to be presented to City Council in September. The document will also be posted on the City's Website, www.cityrm.org, for public review.

During a series of October and November budget workshops, Council members will continue to review budget materials and offer direction to staff. Plans call for City Council to adopt the 2010 budget in November.

The overriding challenge we face is to provide proper funding levels for essential City services while simultaneously guaranteeing that taxpayers get the most for their dollar. Painful choices will need to be made in order to keep Rolling Meadows financially sound, provide effective services and, most importantly, control costs.

"While an increasing number of economists predict we'll see the beginnings of economic recovery in 2010, this will not have an immediate impact on revenues. The bottom line: we must continue to budget for services with limited resources."

—Jim Egeberg



Sewer Problems? Call Public Works Before a Contractor

When sewer service problems arise, call the Department of Public Works at 847-963-0500 before the plumber to determine whether the City or homeowner is responsible for repairs.

Signs of potential trouble include:

- Water bubbling from the ground;
- Odor;

- Standing water in an otherwise dry area;
- Water gurgling/bubbling in the toilet or tub while doing laundry;
- Water above ground level at existing cleanout;
- Water/debris in existing cleanout;
- Condensation on windows (if home sits on a crawlspace).

Community Joins in Star Spangled Celebration!



The City's 2009 July 4 Parade excited large crowds with a mixture of traditional celebrants (1) and clowns (2) and opportunities for Indian Princesses and their dads to show off their feathers (6). Stars of the show included the Jesse White Tumblers (4) and the York Lions Steel Band (3), who came all the way from Toronto, Ontario, Canada. Managing Director Mike Stacey (foreground, left) and Leader Trevor Blunt (right) said they packed up after their July 1 Canada Day celebration and brought the youth band of more than 30 teenagers to Rolling Meadows as a reward for all their hard work during the year. The York Lions Club sponsors the group, whose performance was impressive. Many residents decked out their homes in Independence Day regalia, as they enjoyed the spectacle, some even taking a rooftop perch (5).



July 4 'Family Walk' Participants Win Front Row Seats to Fireworks Display

Rolling Meadows residents Joshua Koutas and Debbie Volpe enjoyed front row seating at the City's July 4 fireworks display – complete with inflatable couches and refreshments – following a raffle drawing for all who participated in the Cancer Awareness Committee's 3.2 K (1.9 mile) "Family Walk/Bike in the Park" event.

Rolling Meadows' Cancer Awareness Committee provided the couches, snacks and beverages.

"Everyone was really excited to see who would win the couches," Committee Chair and Ward 2 Alderman Barb Lusk explains. "Despite the gloomy weather conditions we faced during the Walk, the chance to win the couches and refreshments seemed to brighten everyone's day."

Raffle winner Joshua Koutas (below, second from left) is pictured with his father, Elias, and brothers, Nikko and Jacob.



Winner Debbie Volpe (above, second from right) enjoyed the City's stunning fireworks display in the lap of luxury, courtesy of the Rolling Meadows Cancer Awareness Committee.

Hundreds Salute Lance Corporal Brandon Lefebvre at July Homecoming



Rolling Meadows welcomed home another of its heroes on July 10, when City officials joined family members, friends and neighbors to celebrate the homecoming of Lance Corporal Brandon Lefebvre.

LCpl Lefebvre completed his four-year enlistment in the United States Marine Corps with a seven-month tour of duty in Iraq as a member of a crash/fire/rescue squad. Escorted home from the

Des Plaines Oasis by members of the Warriors Watch Riders, and members of the Rolling Meadows Police and Fire Departments, LCpl Lefebvre was greeted by more than 200 residents who had gathered to salute his service.

Proud parents Art and Eileen Lefebvre thanked the City for its support of the people serving our country. "It's things like this that make us proud of living in Rolling Meadows for 40+ years."

Motor Scooters, Pocket Bikes Banned on Public Property

Rolling Meadows Police urge compliance with a City ordinance that bans the use of electric or motorized scooters on public property, following a marked increase of complaints from irate callers. The ordinance, passed in 2005, allows police to confiscate the scooters – including Segway personal transporters and pocket bikes – and levy fines up to \$500. Residents who use motorized wheelchairs and other electrical personal mobility devices are not affected.

The ordinance mirrors a Cook County law that prohibits use of gas-powered or electric scooters, motor-driven cycles or other similar non-motor vehicles on public property, including streets, pedestrian walkways, bike paths and parks.

"Many people believe that these types of vehicles are legal for use on City sidewalks and streets because they can be purchased almost anywhere," Sergeant John Freese explains. "From a public safety standpoint, we would be remiss if we did not attempt to ensure the safe use of these scooters and mini-bikes."

Police officers are empowered to confiscate scooters and fine offenders who misuse the machines. Fines range from \$50 for a first offense to \$500 after a third offense.

The ordinance also addresses issues of parental responsibility. It states: "An offense committed by a minor under the direct control or with the consent of a parent or guardian may subject the parent or guardian to...penalties."

Open House, Ribbon Cutting Celebrate Sterling Autobody Expansion

A June 24 open house and ribbon cutting ceremony welcomed Mayor Ken Nelson and City Manager Sarah Phillips to celebrate Sterling Autobody Center's 20,000 sq. ft. expansion of its Rolling Meadows facility.

Located at 2785 Algonquin Road, Sterling Autobody now offers a newly remodeled office and customer waiting area, an employee training facility, indoor parking and a larger rental car operation.

The daylong event featured facility tours, breakfast and lunch, and a workshop offering free removal of minor dings on attendee vehicles through a paintless dent repair process. Sterling also distributed free tire gauges, with certified technicians offering tips for customers on the advantages of maintaining proper tire pressure.

Following lunch, Mayor Nelson joined Sterling Autobody officials for a ceremonial ribbon cutting, officially opening the remodeled facility to the public.

The Rolling Meadows location is the first to offer Sterling's 24-Hour Express Repair Process (ERP), which "creates an efficient, linear repair by separating less complicated repairs from more complex heavy body repairs," according to a company news release.

The ERP line is staffed with dedicated technicians. Vehicles undergoing minor repairs are returned to customers within 24 hours.

"The ERP process is a highly choreographed team effort designed with the customer in mind," Sterling Autobody Presi-

dent Nick Notte explained. "Consumers whose vehicles have minor damage are assured high quality repairs with minimal disruption to their lives."



Mayor Ken Nelson (fourth from right) and City Manager Sarah Phillips (Second from right) took part in a ribbon-cutting celebrating Sterling's 20,000 sq. ft. expansion. Sterling representatives, pictured, from left, are Amanda Shaffer, Alex Feliciano, Bob Benjamin, Jimmy Pederson, President Nick Notte, Bob Conrad and Holly Klaus.

Workshop Offers Residents Tips for Maintaining Salt Creek Stream Banks

Property owners along Salt Creek attended a July public information workshop that outlined recent stream bank stabilization projects and offered tips for maintaining landscaping along the creek to minimize the potential for erosion.

During the presentation, representatives of Christopher B. Burke Engineering, the City's engineering firm, and Wills Burke Kelsey Engineering presented



an overview of the three phases of completed stabilization work. Since 2001, the Salt Creek Stabilization program has repaired roughly 5,000 feet of eroded stream banks and helped reintroduce native plant species.

The program also offered tips on how residents can help maintain stream banks along the creek.

"With proper maintenance, the engineering and structural stabilization work that has been completed along Salt Creek should last at least 100 years," reported Patrick Kelsey. "There are things we can do to keep these systems in place."

Native vegetation is an essential component of stream bank stabilization, residents learned. The City has planted species such as Little Bluestem, Purple Coneflower, Brown-Eyed Susan and Spiderwort along the creek bed. These native plants have deeper root systems that help hold the bank together and reduce the water's corrosive effect.

Residents were encouraged to plant a "native garden" that serves as a buffer between their yards and the creek bank. Other tips for protecting residential property that were discussed at the workshop included:

- Recycle grass clippings, as opposed to dumping them along the creek;
- Avoid digging, building or placing mulch on the banked slope leading to the creek;
- Do not attract/feed geese, who are known to eat native plants that help stabilize stream banks.

Residents should contact the City's Public Works Department (847-963-0500) if they see signs of erosion. In addition, the City will periodically post new informational tips for stream bank stabilization on its Website, www.cityrm.org.

City Explores Options to Reimburse Yard Maintenance on Foreclosed Homes

Community Development Department officials are exploring modifications to Rolling Meadows' code that would reimburse the City for costs associated with maintaining yards of homes that have entered foreclosure, Director Valerie Dehner reports.

City code requires that property owners keep their lawns mowed and trimmed to avoid overgrowth of grass or weeds, and the vast majority of residents keep their lawns in good shape. The challenge is in identifying titleholders – often banks – of homes currently in foreclosure in Rolling Meadows.

"We often lack accurate contact information for the entities that own these foreclosed homes," Dehner explains. "It significantly reduces our ability to address code violations on the properties."

To keep these properties code compliant, the City must hire landscaping crews. Beyond aesthetics, lawn neglect attracts insects, creates an ideal habitat for wildlife, and may spur a dramatic rise in pollen count, all of which affect neighbors.

City officials are concerned about mounting costs associated with maintaining the properties of these vacant homes. A possible solution under discussion is to add the cost of staff maintenance to the City's real estate transfer tax. This would reimburse the City for expenses incurred, once a vacant property is sold to a new owner.

"Taxpayers should not have to subsidize property maintenance on homes that have been repossessed," Dehner says. "Our goal is to implement a fair system that allows the City to recoup its expenses."

Online Vehicle Sticker Sales Surpass City's Expectations

Online sales of 2009-10 vehicle stickers and dog licenses in June surpassed Finance Department expectations, with more than 20% of residents opting to use a new purchasing option available through the City's Website, Finance Director Jim Egeberg reports.

The new service allowed residents to use their credit or debit card to purchase vehicle stickers

and dog licenses at www.cityrm.org. By purchasing stickers and dog licenses online, customers avoided having to mail in their applications or visit City Hall to complete their purchases.

"We saw online sales as a way to improve customer service and convenience. Having a response rate of more than 20% in the first year shows us that many people agreed with our assessment," Egeberg says.

The Finance Department reports that 50% of all customers purchased stickers at City Hall, 25% mailed in their applications, and 5% bought stickers at participating retail locations.

Later this month, the City will mail overdue notices to residents who failed to purchase stickers by the June 30 deadline. Motorists who have not bought and displayed a current vehicle sticker will pay double the

price, and are subject to a \$100 police citation.

City ordinance requires all drivers with cars registered or housed in Rolling Meadows – including residents with Palatine mailing addresses – to purchase and display the 2009-10 vehicle stickers.

Funds generated from vehicle sticker sales support Rolling Meadows' ongoing street maintenance activities.



City's Handyman Program Continues Tradition of Serving Senior Residents

BY MAYOR KEN NELSON

This year marks the 25th anniversary of the Rolling Meadows Senior Center. We marked this anniversary by having several long time residents serve as Grand Marshall at this year's 4th of July parade.

Our City has a long tradition of caring for our senior citizens, many of whom are founding residents. For example, we began a Senior Handyman program several years ago to assist folks who need some minor household repairs. This program covers such things as minor plumbing repair or replacement, installation of safety handrails in bathtubs and showers, cleaning gutters or installing smoke and carbon monoxide detectors.

The program is available to any of our seniors and is subsidized by the City. Our handyman charges from \$7 to \$35 dollars per hour, with the exact rate determined by household income.

If you are a senior citizen, or know of a senior citizen who's in need of some of these services, please call our Community Development Department at 847-506-6030. They'll be happy to explain the details of the program and get you set up to handle those pesky chores that need to be done.

During the winter, the City also provides seniors with a special rate for plowing driveways. Many of our residents don't know this service is available. Call Public Works at 847-963-0500 for more information on the snow removal program.

City Announces New Front Desk Hours

As part of the City's cost-containment strategies for the remainder of 2009, new "walk-up" hours for the Community Development, Finance and Police Department front desks will be Monday through Friday, 8 a.m. – 4 p.m. Residents will still be able to contact department staff by phone until 5 p.m. daily.



August 2009

Members of the City's Cancer Awareness Committee will be on hand to distribute information on cancer awareness and prevention at this year's Corn Fest, August 1, 11 a.m. – 7 p.m., at Community Church (corner of Kirchoff Road and Meadow Drive).

1 Corn Fest

2	3	4	5	6	7	8
			Zoning Board of Appeals, 7 p.m., City Hall			
9	10	11	12	13	14	15
		City Council Meeting, 7:30 p.m., City Hall		Adjudication Hearing, 1 p.m., City Hall		
16	17	18	19	20	21	22
		City Council Committee of the Whole, 7:30 p.m., City Hall		Water bills due Adjudication Hearing, 1 p.m., City Hall	Ice Cream Social & Game Night, 6:30 - 8:30 p.m., Rolling Meadows Senior Center.	
23	24	25	26	27	28	29
		City Council Meeting, 7:30 p.m., City Hall		Adjudication Hearing, 1 p.m., City Hall	Cabaret singer Diane Noe, 7 - 8:30 p.m., Rolling Meadows Senior Center.	
30	31					