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NEWS

& Views



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

Rolling Meadows Receives \$1.1 Million Federal Grant To Build New Algonquin Road Fire Station

Rolling Meadows has accepted more than \$1 million in federal stimulus funding that allows it to move forward with plans to build a third fire station on Algonquin Road in 2010, Fire Chief Ron Stewart reports.

Rolling Meadows is one of only five communities in Illinois – and 96 across the country – to receive this grant funding. The \$787 billion American Recovery & Reinvestment Act, passed by Congress in February, provided \$210 million for fire station construction projects nationwide.

“Our application for stimulus funding was helped by the fact that the City had already done so much preliminary work on developing plans for a third fire station,” Chief Stewart explains. “We are ready to proceed, and will begin talking with architects about the station’s design in January.”

The \$1.157 million in federal funding will be combined with more than \$1 million the City had already set aside in 2008 for future construction of Fire Station 17. Rolling Meadows received an additional \$100,000 in state funding for the project earlier this year. Under the terms of the grant, the City is responsible for 49% of the project’s final cost.



Fire Station 17 will be located on an undeveloped parcel of property on the south side of Algonquin Road, between Meadowbrook and Weber Drives. It will enable the Fire Department to provide effective fire protection and service to the growing southern portions of Rolling Meadows, and reduce response times.

“Adding capacity along Algonquin Road will allow us to allocate resources more effectively among three locations

and improve response times for the entire community,” Chief Stewart says.

A needs analysis presented to City Council in late 2007 showed that the City faces a coverage gap due to continued growth in the City’s southern areas. Chief Stewart says that a third fire station will provide effective support to this growing area. It will also guarantee consistent, high quality service and faster response times to all portions of the City.

Cutting even a few minutes off response times will significantly improve the Fire Department’s ability to provide emergency assistance. Studies show that fires that burn for more than eight minutes most often result in the total destruction of a structure. Statistics also demonstrate that the chances of survival for people requiring emergency medical care decrease by 7 – 10% for every minute that passes without treatment.

“Time is not on firefighters’ side when responding to an emergency. Station 17 will save lives and reduce the potential for catastrophic property damage,” Chief Stewart adds.

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

Mayor: Kenneth Nelson
City Clerk: Lisa Hinman
City Manager: Sarah Phillips
Aldermen
1st Ward: John Pitzaferrro
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
*Curfew: Sun.-Thurs. 11 p.m.
Fri. & Sat. Midnight*

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: 847-394-8500
ComEd — 1-800-EDISON-1
PNRC — 847-506-2059

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

Retiring Chief Steven Williams Sees Police Department As Social Agency with Law Enforcement Responsibility

Retiring Police Chief Steven Williams sees the police department as a social service agency, with an important responsibility for public safety and law enforcement. He came to Rolling Meadows in 1998 as an accomplished police executive and strong proponent of community-oriented policing.

Williams is especially proud of the achievements of the award-winning Police Neighborhood Resource Center (PNRC) and other initiatives that bring police officers closer to residents, like the Bike Patrol, and team police officers with residents, such as the radar patrol and a handicapped parking monitor. Early in his tenure, he was very pleased to report that a resident survey rated Rolling Meadows police service very highly.

Mayor Ken Nelson praised Williams for his service to the City, saying, "Steve did a terrific job for us. He's very thorough and constantly had the community's best interest at heart." He noted that Chief Williams has been a strong advocate of the PNRC and active in several groups seeking to help battered women and alleviate other problems the police encounter every day.

"When we deal with social problems that can lead to criminality, we don't have to do as much law enforcement work," Williams said.

People who have worked closely with Williams are very impressed with the seriousness, thoroughness, compassion, and care he gave to the job. For example, he spent untold hours tending to the details of the long investigation that followed the fatal shooting of a resident by a police officer last year. His primary focus had to

be on maintaining the department's credibility and the public's support, but he never forgot the pain born by the officer and his family and the victim's family, always making time for them.

The department had many accomplishments during his tenure, but you won't find Williams taking credit for them. "The department has accomplished much in leadership in the law enforcement community, intergovernmental cooperation, delivery of law enforcement services, building a culture that is incredibly professional, and caring, so that what we do emphasizes people as much as it does the law," he says.

His successor, Deputy Chief Dave Scanlan, promises to "build on the traditions of professionalism and commitment to community policing that have been hallmarks of Chief Williams' tenure."

Williams has said the words that best describe him are "conservative, energetic, honest." He says his favorite quotation is, "Truth is not always popular, but it is always right."

Before becoming Rolling Meadows Police Chief, Williams was Chief of Police of the west central Illinois city of Macomb and Deputy Chief of Police of west suburban Lombard, where he started his police career as a patrol officer in 1970. He also served as Interim Site Security Administrator of Commonwealth Edison's Nuclear Power Generating Station at Zion, IL.

In announcing the appointment, former City Manager William Barlow said, "Mr. Williams has a healthy appreciation for the fact that community-oriented policing is not something that permeates an organi-



Retiring Police Chief Steve Williams accepts a plaque honoring his service to the City.

zation overnight. It requires a long-term commitment of the organization."

Williams holds a B.A. degree in criminal justice management from Aurora University, Aurora, IL, and a master of science degree in management of human resources from the Graduate School of Business and Public Administration at National Lewis University, Evanston. He has said the accomplishment he is most proud of is "finishing college as an adult student." He is also a 1992 graduate of the F.B.I. National Academy.

In announcing his plans to retire, Williams at first said he wished to spend more time with his wife, Marge, their daughter, son, and three grandchildren. Then, he decided to accept a position as police chief in the west suburban Village of Gilberts.

EPA 'Quick Tips' Help Businesses Become More Energy Efficient

The Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) offers a series of "Quick Tips" on its Website to help business leaders become more energy efficient, preserve limited natural resources and maximize savings on operational costs.

Log onto www.epa.gov/cleanenergy/energy-and-you/small-business/index.html for some simple, yet effective, ways to save.

The Website also features a guidebook, *Putting Energy Into Profits*, that site visitors may download.

News & Views to go Bi-Monthly in 2010

In its continuing efforts to reduce costs, the City will change the frequency of its residential newsletter, *News & Views*, from a monthly to a bi-monthly publication in 2010.

Residents will receive new editions of the newsletter six times next year. Each issue will cover two months of upcoming City events, keep residents updated on important City initiatives, offer status reports on major redevelopment projects, and provide compelling human interest stories about the people who make Rolling Meadows a "great place to call home."

The first edition of the 2010 newsletter will be sent to residents at the end of December. It will cover the months of January and February.

Fire Department Urges Residents to 'Keep Wreaths Red'

2009 marks the third straight year that the Rolling Meadows Fire Department participates in a public awareness program that uses festive décor as a reminder for residents to stay safe during the holidays.

The centerpieces of the "Keep the Wreaths Red" program are two holiday wreaths on display at the Neuckranz Fire Station on Plum Grove Road and the Fogarty Fire Station on Meadow Drive. Each wreath is illuminated with red bulbs.

The program calls for the Fire Department to replace a red bulb with a white bulb for each fire in Rolling Meadows that is caused by holiday decorations. Department officials hope to continue a two-year success streak.

"Since our program began in 2007, we have had no fires that resulted from holiday decorations. Rolling Meadows

residents have done a tremendous job in helping us keep our wreaths red, and that's a trend we hope to continue this year," Deputy Chief Brian Dempsey says.

The Illinois Fire Chiefs Association adopted the "Keep the Wreaths Red" program in 1980.

"Departments across the state who participate in this program have observed that people are very interested in seeing whether their city has had a fire caused by holiday decorations," Dempsey explains. "It offers a unique approach for reminding Rolling Meadows residents to keep their families safe during the holidays."

To help "Keep the Wreaths Red," the Department recommends that residents:

- Check for fresh needles before purchasing a tree. Trees with brown or

brittle needles pose a fire risk. Verify that artificial trees displayed in the home are flame retardant, and keep all trees away from fireplaces or heating vents;

- Never light candles on trees or evergreens, near draperies or other flammable materials, and never leave candles unattended;

- Avoid using electrical ornaments or light strings on artificial trees with metallic leaves or branch coverings;

- Fireplaces are for burning wood or decorative logs only. Make sure flues are open to prevent carbon monoxide buildup;

- Use lights approved for outdoor use if decorating a home's exterior;

- Never leave a turkey deep fryer unattended, and always use it outdoors;

- Check smoke detectors regularly.



Fire Chief Ron Stewart Honored As Harper College Distinguished Alumnus

Fire Chief Ron Stewart was honored as a Distinguished Alumnus of Harper College during a November 10 awards reception at the school's Palatine campus.

Chief Stewart, one of five honorees presented with the Distinguished Alumni Award, enrolled in Harper's Fire Science Program soon after accepting promotion to Fire Chief in 2005. While juggling family responsibilities and running the Rolling Meadows Fire Department, he completed the program and went on to graduate from DePaul University with a bachelor's degree.

"Going back to school was rewarding. If I hadn't done that, and I'd been put in this position as Fire Chief, I'd be at a distinct disadvantage," he explains. "A college degree gives you the power to do the things you need to do."

Chief Stewart believes that experience in the firefighting field is essential, but firefighters who get college degrees

offer their departments an added value. "The reality is, without higher education, your opportunities are limited," he adds.

Today, the Rolling Meadows Fire Department requires an associate's degree for promotion to lieutenant, and a bachelor's degree for higher rankings. Following Chief Stewart's example, many Department lieutenants have enrolled at Harper to further their career opportunities.

Other 2009 Distinguished Alumni honorees are:

- Shirley Garrison – Harper College Lifelong Learning Institute Instructor;

- Beverly Goodman, Ph.D. – Geo-Archeologist, Hebrew University of Jerusalem;

- Tom Schneke – Vice President of Broadcast Operations and Engineering, WBBM/CBS2 Chicago;

- Robin Turpin, Ph.D. – Senior Director of Global Health Economics, IV Nutrition at Baxter Healthcare.

Young Resident Has Fun 'Playing with the Fire Trucks'

Rolling Meadows may have found one of its future firefighters during a recent open house at the Neuckranz Station on Plum Grove Road.

Two-year-old Finnegan Mason got to "test drive" some of the Fire Department's engines and "had a lot of fun playing with the fire trucks," as he explained in a letter (written with the help of his mother, Heather) thanking the Department for hosting the event. "The fire trucks were a huge hit," Mrs. Mason wrote in a follow up email to



Deputy Fire Chief Brian Dempsey.

"Everyone was wonderful to us and to Finn. He had an amazing time! Thank you for opening your fire house to us and for all that you do for our community."





Loving Care Animal Clinic Celebrates 10th Anniversary

"Cheers to 70 Dog Years" was the theme for Loving Care Animal Clinic's 10th anniversary celebration. Mayor Ken Nelson joined Dr. Joanne Carlson and her staff in a ribbon cutting ceremony with family, customers, and some "patients," who participated in a pet costume contest.



2010 Census to Determine City's Share of Federal Funding

Residents will play an essential role in helping ensure that Rolling Meadows continues to receive its fair share of federal funding next spring, as the U.S. Census Bureau begins the 2010 Census.

Data collected by the census, which is conducted every 10 years and mandated by the United States Constitution, helps guide distribution of more than \$400 billion in federal funds to local and state governments each year. Data also helps determine the number of Illinois seats in the House of Representatives.

"The 2010 questionnaire that will be sent to all households in the country next March consists of just 10 questions – one of the shortest in history," City Manager Sarah Phillips explains. "Prompt, thorough response by all residents will help ensure that Rolling Meadows will continue to receive its rightful share of federal funds."

The Constitution requires that everyone living in the United States – not just citizens – be counted in the census. Federal law protects all data collected through the census.

Renew Business Licenses Online; Payments Due by December 31

A convenient new service introduced by the City last month lets Rolling Meadows-based companies renew their annual business licenses online. The deadline to renew business licenses is December 31.

Log onto www.cityrm.org, click the "Online Payments" icon found at the left side of the homepage, then select "Payment for Business or Contractor's License Renewal Online." Renewals may be paid by credit card or E-Check.

The City sent renewal applications to all businesses in Rolling Meadows at the end of October. Companies with revisions to their business license renewal forms must contact Community Development at 847-506-6030 before using the online payment service.

All businesses in Rolling Meadows are required to have a current business license. Annual fees are determined based on a company's square footage and type of business. Payments made

after the December 31 deadline are subject to a 100% late fee.

The "Online Payments" Website feature offers a range of services. Residents may also pay utility bills, purchase vehicle stickers and dog licenses, pay parking tickets, and renew business or contractor licenses with just a few mouse clicks.

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

Historical Museum Recreates 1950s Holiday Decor

Experience the holidays of yesteryear at the Rolling Meadows Historical Museum, where Historical Society members have "decked the halls" with a variety of vintage decorations. Guests may visit the museum, 3100 Central Road, to view the historical house's holiday décor during regular visiting hours: Wednesdays, 10 a.m. – 2 p.m. (through December 10), and Sundays, 1 – 4 p.m. (year-round).



when the Historical Society hosts its annual holiday open house, Sunday, January 10.

For more information on Historical Society activities and events, call 847-577-7086 or visit www.cityrm.org/HTML/historical_museum.htm.

Support the Museum

Tax-deductible donations help support ongoing programs and cover museum expenses. Submit donations to: Rolling Meadows Historical Society, 3100 Central Road, Rolling Meadows, IL 60008.

Residents will have another opportunity to take a stroll down memory lane, recall holidays past and enjoy refreshments

Rolling Meadows Receives \$2.4 Million State Grant To Reconstruct New Wilke Road

The City has received more than \$2.4 million in state grant funding to pay for the reconstruction of New Wilke between Golf Road and Algonquin



Fred Vogt

Road, Public Works Director Fred Vogt reports.

The improvements come in advance of a separate construction project that will rebuild the

Algonquin/New Wilke intersection in the next few years.

The funding, provided through Illinois' Emergency Repair Program (ERP), will help the City rebuild a road that Vogt says is "in extremely poor condition."

"New Wilke Road is a critical part of the City's infrastructure because of its proximity to big box retailers and Interstate 90," Vogt explains. "We recently reduced the speed limit on New Wilke because it is in such bad shape."

At a City Council meeting, Mayor Ken Nelson thanked Illinois legislators for their help in securing the grant funding. State Senator Matt Murphy (R-27th), and Representatives Suzanne Bassi (R-54th), Paul

Froehlich (D-56th) and Mark Walker (D-66th) were essential in securing ERP funds for the New Wilke project.

The City's engineering firm, Christopher B. Burke Engineering, has completed preliminary engineering studies on the road. The project is scheduled for bidding in January 2010, with construction to begin in the spring. Barring delays, new pavement should be in place by December 2010.

New Wilke's reconstruction will take place simultaneously with an Illinois Department of Transportation (IDOT) program to widen and rebuild Golf Road.

City to Honor Cancer Victims With Commemorative Banners

The Rolling Meadows' Cancer Awareness Committee is moving forward with an initiative to honor residents who are battling cancer, or have died from it, through the display of commemorative banners in downtown Rolling Meadows, Ward 2 Alderman and Cancer Awareness Committee Chair Barb Lusk reports.

Committee members believe the banners, which will be mounted on streetlights along Kirchoff Road, will serve as a stunning visual



reminder of those who have bravely fought the disease.

"Purchasing a commemorative banner for downtown display is a great way to support friends and family members who are battling cancer, and pay tribute to those we have lost," Lusk says. "We are very excited to launch this program. It's an approach no other community has taken before."

The vinyl banners sell for \$125. Each will feature a colored ribbon to represent one of 18 different forms of

cancer – everything from lung and prostate to colon, breast and ovarian cancers. Residents may choose from a variety of phrases and include the name of the person they wish to honor. A portion of all proceeds will go to the American Cancer Society.

Banners will hang in downtown Rolling Meadows from April – October in 2010 and 2011. The City will then present the banners to the families that purchased them.

Order forms are available at City Hall. Orders must be placed by March 1, 2010. For more information, contact Alderman Lusk at luskb@cityrm.org.

Tree Planting Celebrates Panasonic's 50th Anniversary

Employees of Rolling Meadows' Panasonic office celebrated the company's 50th anniversary in the United States with a community improvement project that planted several trees on the west side of New Wilke Road, just south of Kirchoff Road.

Working with City Forester Jim McFeggan, Panasonic team members planned the types of trees to be planted, determined the location, then rolled up their sleeves and got their hands dirty. In total, they planted five maple, two honey locust and three spruce trees.

"We congratulate Panasonic on its 50th anniversary celebration, and thank its employees for their hard work planting the trees, McFeggan says. "The public area's appearance has been greatly enhanced."





City Seeks Volunteers To Serve On Ad Hoc Census Committee

BY MAYOR KEN NELSON

Next year is going to be an important one for all of us in Illinois and in Rolling Meadows. Every ten years, the federal government takes a census, which determines how hundreds of millions of dollars are distributed to states and communities.

Federal fund distributions are often based on population. The state distributes income taxes and motor fuel taxes to communities based on population. The census also determines boundary lines for everything from Congressional districts to the seven wards that make up Rolling Meadows. Many other programs are also population-based, so it's important that Rolling Meadows has a full and accurate count.

To that end, I'm forming an Ad Hoc Complete Count Committee. This group will work with staff and U.S. Census Bureau workers to develop ways to insure every citizen in our community is properly counted. This committee will work for about four months, but the work it does will last for years. We'll be determining an exact schedule once the committee is formed.

If you'd like to serve on The Complete Count Committee, please call my office at 847/394-8500 and leave your name, address and phone number or send me an email at Mayor@cityrm.org.

Fire Department Provides Free Smoke Detectors to Seniors

The Rolling Meadows Fire Department provides senior citizen homeowners with a free smoke detector – including installation – as part of its Smoke Detectors for Seniors Program. A \$2,000 grant from Wal-Mart earlier this year helped the Department purchase 100 smoke detectors for the program, which was established in 2001.

"This successful, ongoing program contributes to a safer community," Deputy Fire Chief Brian Dempsey says. "Smoke detectors save lives, and we want to make sure that Rolling Meadows senior citizens have access to these life-saving systems."

To receive a free smoke detector, seniors may contact the Fire Department at 847-397-3352.

City Partners with Marines In Toys for Tots Campaign

Rolling Meadows has partnered with the United States Marine Corps Reserve to collect toys for less fortunate children through the Marines' Toys for Tots program.

Residents may drop off new, unwrapped toys at City Hall, 3600 Kirchoff Road; Public Works, 3900 Berdnick Street; the Neuckranz Fire Station, 2455 Plum Grove Road; and the Fogarty Fire Station, 3110 Meadow Drive, through Friday, December 4.

To find other drop off locations, or to make a monetary donation in support of the program, visit www.toysfortots.org.



December 2009

		1 City Council Meeting/Budget Hearing, 7:30 p.m., City Hall	2 Zoning Board of Appeals, 7 p.m., City Hall	3 Adjudication Hearing, 1 p.m., City Hall	4 Yard waste collection ends.	5
6	7	8 Plan Commission, 7:30 p.m., City Hall	9	10 Adjudication Hearing, 1 p.m., City Hall	11	12
13	14	15 City Council Meeting, 7:30 p.m., City Hall	16	17 Adjudication Hearing, 1 p.m., City Hall	18	19
20	21 Water bills due	22	23	24 Christmas Eve, City Hall closed. Early Refuse pickup	25 Christmas Day, City Hall closed. Refuse pickup delayed until Saturday.	26
27	28	29	30	31 New Year's Eve		