

THIS MONTH IN ROLLING MEADOWS

March 4— Economic Development Committee, 6 p.m., Plan Commission, 7:30 p.m., both at City Hall, Library Board, 7 p.m., at the Library

March 5— Zoning Board of Appeals, 7:30 p.m., at City Hall

March 9— Daylight Savings Time Begins. Clocks spring ahead one hour.

March 10— Board of Fire and Police Commissioners, 9 a.m., City Hall

March 11— City Council Meeting, 7:30 p.m., City Hall

March 13— Adjudication Hearing, 1 p.m., City Hall

March 17— St. Patrick's Day, City Hall and Public Works open

March 18— City Council Committee of the Whole, 7:30 p.m., City Hall

March 20— Adjudication Hearing, 1 p.m., City Hall

March 25— City Council Meeting, 7:30 p.m., City Hall

March 27— Adjudication Hearing, 1 p.m., City Hall

March 31— Yardwaste collection begins and early refuse setout ends.

Early Refuse Setout Ends March 31.

Starting April 1, refuse may be placed at the curb no earlier than 6 p.m. the day before collection.

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

Refuse Customers to Receive New Carts As Part of Expanded Recycling Program

City crews will deliver new 65-gallon wheeled recycling carts to all residential refuse customers during the week of March 31 as part of an expanded, more efficient recycling program.

The larger carts will replace the 18-gallon recycling bins currently in use throughout the City, making it easy for residents to help protect the environment by increasing the quantity of recyclable materials. The carts will also lower the City's overall refuse disposal costs, or "tipping" fees, Assistant Public Works Director Reid Bateman says.

"Besides gaining environmental benefits, the larger carts will help the City reduce its costs for disposal of household refuse, as material normally destined for the landfill is instead recycled," Bateman explains.

The wheeled carts will be delivered to refuse customers on their regular collection days, Monday March 31 – Friday, April 4. Pick up dates for recyclable materials, as well as the types of materials accepted for recycling, will remain unchanged.

The City's expanded recycling initiative follows a highly successful "pilot" program that was completed in 2007. More than 600 participating households in select neighborhoods across Rolling Meadows were provided with larger recycling carts in an effort to explore possible advantages of using the 65-gallon containers. Recyclable material collection increased by nearly 20% in neighborhoods where the pilot program was conducted.

"Distributing the 65-gallon carts on a City-wide scale will significantly enhance our ability to conserve limited natural resources and

preserve the environment," Bateman adds.

The new carts will:

- **Increase the volume** of recyclable materials collected in Rolling Meadows;
- **Reduce costs** for disposal of household refuse through increased recycling;
- **Improve service quality** by making recycling more convenient;
- **Reduce litter** by offering recycling containers with attached lids;
- **Increase the value** of recycled materials by protecting them from the elements.

Once the new carts have been delivered, residents may no longer use the 18-gallon bins for collecting recyclable materials. Bins left at the curb on regular collection days will be picked up and recycled.

Although Public Works officials believe the 65-gallon carts will prove beneficial to all refuse customers, residents who determine that the 65-gallon cart is too large for their needs may request a smaller, 35-gallon recycling cart after June 1.

For more information on the expanded recycling program, contact Public Works at 847-963-0500, or visit www.cityrm.org.



Reid Bateman answers resident questions at a recent open house.

For answers to frequently asked questions, turn to page 2.



FAQ Recycling

Q. How does the program work?

A. Residents will continue to recycle the same materials as before. The only change is the container holding them. All items (telephone books; office paper; newspapers and inserts; catalogs and magazines; junk mail; glass bottles and jars; aluminum, tin and steel cans; and most plastic containers) may be mixed together in the new carts. **No sorting is required.** Recyclables will continue to be collected on regularly scheduled pick up days.

Q. What do I do with my old recycling bin?

A. Residents may keep their yellow bins but may no longer use them as part of the City's recycling program. Bins set out with the new carts will be picked up and recycled.

Q. When do I place my cart at the curb?

A. Recycling carts should be placed at the curb no later than 6 a.m. on scheduled collection day. Carts may be set out no earlier than 6 p.m. the day before collection (April – October), or 3 p.m. the day before collection (November – March). Residents should remove carts from the curb by day's end.

Q. What about large pieces of cardboard, such as boxes, which do not fit into the cart?

A. Break down or flatten large cardboard pieces in order to help them fit into the carts. Oversized pieces that cannot be made smaller should be placed next to the cart for pickup on collection day.

Q. Can I place other refuse materials in the recycling cart?

A. Residents must continue to **completely** separate recyclables from yard waste and household refuse. Recycled material mixed with any other waste will not be picked up.

Q. The collection truck has damaged my cart. What should I do?

A. Contact the Public Works Department to arrange for your cart to be repaired at no cost.

Q. What happens if my cart is lost or stolen?

A. The City will replace your cart at no cost for the first reported incident.

Q. If I move, can I take my recycling cart with me?

A. The carts are the property of the City of Rolling Meadows, and must remain with the house.

Register by March 14 for Public Works' Citizens Training Academy

Strong interest in the Public Works Department's inaugural Citizens Training Academy has left only a small number of remaining slots available for the program, which begins at month's end. The final day to register for the Academy is Friday, March 14.

The four-part Academy begins Thursday, March 27, and is designed to help participants learn more about the vital role the Department plays in maintaining the City's quality of life.

The Academy will consist of three Thursday evening informational presentations (March 27, April 3 and April 10), and culminate with a Saturday, April 12 "field course." Residents will participate in hands-on training activities and educational sessions, and tour City facilities that, combined, offer a "behind-the-scenes" look at Public Works' operations.

Topics to be presented during the four-session Academy include:

- **Underground Utilities Division** – Details the vast underground infrastructure of the City's underground water, sanitary sewer and storm sewer system.
- **Water Division** – Outlines the Department's water quality and monitoring operations. Participants will learn how to perform basic plumbing maintenance to fix leaky water pipes, faucets, and

Employees of the Public Works Department's Water Division perform routine maintenance at one of the City's water pumping stations.



other minor home plumbing problems.

- **Inspection Services** – Provides an introduction to how Public Works

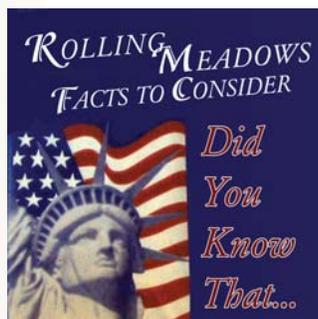
evaluates City infrastructure, such as streets, sidewalks and underground utilities.

- **Facilities Division** – Presents an overview of the number and types of City-owned facilities.

- **Street Maintenance Division** – Provides information on forestry services, refuse collection, snow removal and pavement maintenance.

The Department will host a complimentary lunch for Academy members following the April 12 facilities tour. In addition, Academy graduates will be recognized at an awards presentation Tuesday, April 22, during City Council's regular meeting.

To register for the program, or for more information, contact Bob Hartnett, Assistant Public Works Director, at 847-963-0500, or hartnett@cityrm.org.



The City's refuse collection team makes 5,920 single-family stops each week.

Pine Tree Commercial to Buy 45-acre Site At I-90/Route 53 for Lifestyle Center Redevelopment

Northbrook-based Pine Tree Commercial Realty is under contract to purchase a 45-acre site at the intersection of I-90 and Route 53 for redevelopment into a multi-purpose lifestyle center at a total cost of \$400 million to \$500 million.

In a joint venture with Chicago-based Draper and Kramer Inc., Pine Tree plans redevelopment on the site of the 12 Oaks at Woodfield apartment complex and three adjacent properties next to the new Schaumburg Convention Center. It will include retail, restaurants, hotels, and a significant residential component, according to Pine Tree.

Pine Tree's partners in the project also include Los Angeles-based CB Richard Ellis, the project's exclusive representative for leasing and parcel sales. Draper and Kramer will focus on the residential portion of the development.

"We're very excited about this project," says Mayor

Ken Nelson. "It's an area that we've identified as needing redevelopment, so it will become a tremendous asset to the community. Pine Tree has



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— Mayor Ken Nelson

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The City is creating a 10-year Special Service Area at the location to generate an additional \$678,000 to fund police and fire protection services. Property owners fund a Special Service Area, so the entire community will

not have to pay for the increased costs.

The current schedule calls for Pine Tree to close on the properties during the summer. At about the same time, City Council will con-

sider establishing a tax increment financing district for the area that would enable the City and the developers to recover some costs of infrastructure improvement from abatement of future tax revenues.

Pine Tree is a full-service real estate development company based in Northbrook with branch offices in Indianapolis, Minneapolis, and Kansas City. Since its founding in 1995 by Principals Barry Herring and Peter Borzak, Pine Tree has acquired and developed more than 56 properties valued at over \$500 million nationwide, mostly in the Midwest.

"This is a high profile property," says Pine Tree President Tim Roe. "It's unusual to find this much prime acreage available for commercial development." Roe says Pine Tree will adopt the lifestyle center concept that has been revitalizing suburban neighborhoods across the U.S. with an open air "Main Street" look and feel. Another developer is planning a similar project for redevelopment of Mount Prospect's Randhurst Mall.

"What we're proposing to do is create an exciting urban environment that will give the community a strong sense of place, a town center they can call their own, while building off the immense traffic generated from the Schaumburg-Woodfield trade area," Roe adds.

Borzak said Pine Tree will focus on the retail portion of the project, assigning the residential development to its joint venture partner, Draper and Kramer. Pine Tree plans to sell land parcels for hotel and other commercial development, with CB Richard Ellis acting as the project's exclusive representative.

The Convention Center's initial success has sparked interest in including a hotel in the redevelopment plan. The site is also only a half mile from a planned Metra STAR line transit station. It currently includes 692 apartments that make up 30 percent of the City's affordable housing stock and 8 percent of total housing.

The city's urban planners, The Lakota Group, have identified the site as "a prime location for a denser, mixed-use, transit-oriented development" due to its "highly visible location and proximity to the convention center and future train station." They say the site offers significant opportunities for new development linking the area to the convention center and train station—taller, more visible buildings, a pedestrian-oriented "town center" setting and improved pedestrian and vehicular circulation.

Improved traffic flow will require enhancements of the site's road network, already approved by City Council.

City Inspector Jim Ooms Commended in Residents' Letter

City inspector Jim Ooms earned the praise of two Rolling Meadows homeowners, who commended his "careful attention and persistence" in a letter sent to Community Development Director Valerie Dehner.

The letter detailed how "a roofing replacement that should have been routine went terribly astray," following Ooms' discovery that the home's new shingles had been improperly installed by the contractor.

After first denying there was a problem, then not returning the homeowners' calls, the contractor was informed by Ooms that the City would move to have the contractor's license revoked if the roof was not replaced immediately.

"Jim came to our rescue. Through his persistence, the replacement was done," the homeowners wrote.

"The new roof looks great now. We were very impressed with how Jim helped us, and thankful that Rolling Meadows has good employees like him protecting homeowners," the letter concluded.

Council Establishes \$900,000 Reserve Fund

A \$900,000 cash reserve fund established by City Council in January will help cover City operations in case a continued nationwide economic slowdown causes a reduction in tax receipts, Finance Director Jim Egeberg reports.

The General Fund Reserve was created with revenue generated through the City's leasing agreements for its five cellular towers, as well as rebates available through the City's employee insurance pool.

"Council members and City staff believe it is important to establish a reserve fund that can be tapped if tax receipts decline," Egeberg explains. "Budget projections indicate lower revenue in 2008. By acting now, we can better prepare for an economic downturn and maintain our ability to fund City obligations."

Egeberg says the reserve also provides the City with an insurance policy to offset any potential delays in receiving its share of property tax revenues. Last year, as the Illinois General Assembly and the governor struggled to compromise on a property tax assessment bill for Cook County, City officials were forced to borrow \$500,000 to cover short-term expenses.

"State officials couldn't reach a compromise, which would have enabled Rolling Meadows to collect its portion of county tax revenues that help fund City operations," Egeberg recalls. "That created a short-term cash flow problem and forced us to borrow funds to cover the gap."

Egeberg says the City will contribute cell tower leasing revenue to the General Fund Reserve on an annual basis, slowly building toward its goal of \$2.5 million (roughly 10% of the General Fund).



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—Jim Egeberg,
Finance Director

Ward 1 Burglary 'Ringleader' Behind Bars; Police Pursuing Additional Suspects

An individual suspected of organizing a series of burglaries in the City's 1st Ward is behind bars, and Rolling Meadows Police continue to aggressively pursue additional suspects in an ongoing investigation, Police Chief Steve Williams reports.

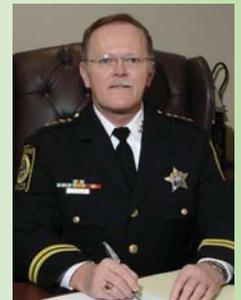
Between November 2007 and January 2008, residents in neighborhoods west of Meacham Road reported more than a dozen instances of stolen items, including cameras, credit cards and purses. Police Department investigators quickly established a possible connection between the burglaries, which included forced and unforced entry of garages, cars and homes, and shared information with local and county law enforcement agencies.

"Police investigators soon had a solid lead on a suspect who we knew was on parole through the Illinois Department of Corrections," Chief Williams explains. "This individual was arrested in Rolling Meadows soon after for assaulting a member of the Cook County Sheriff's Office. The evidence pointed to him as the ringleader of those responsible for these burglaries. We are currently using information we have collected to identify other potential suspects."

As the Department stepped up patrols throughout the Ward in an effort to prevent additional burglaries, police officials partnered with the Cook County and Chicago Police Departments to employ a helicopter for aerial reconnaissance of the neighborhoods under surveillance. The helicopter is equipped with Forward Looking Infrared (FLIR) technology, allowing the pilot to "see" an object – or person – even in the dark.

Police Investigations Unit Commander Joe Waitzman says the Department will continue to rely on aerial patrols as it proceeds with the investigation.

"Although the burglaries seem to have stopped, we will continue to use the tools at our disposal to minimize the potential for this to happen again," he says.



Steve Williams,
Police Chief

Call Police Tip Hotline at 847-506-6024

Residents who have information that may help police officers with the Ward 1 investigation may call the Police Department at 847-870-9077, or the Anonymous Crime Tip Hotline at 847-506-6024. Call 911 if you witness a crime in progress.

Residents can keep their homes safe by "making it look like someone is at home," according to Chief Williams. Effective measures include:

- Programming timers for interior lights;
- Stopping mail and newspaper delivery service (if leaving town);
- Closing blinds at night;
- Keeping doors and windows locked.

Commander Joe Waitzman (seated) discusses case evidence with Officer Robert Douchet.



Third Fire Station to Offer Improved Response Times, Consistent Service Levels

BY BRIAN DEMPSEY, DEPUTY FIRE CHIEF



The Rolling Meadows Fire Department measures itself by our fire prevention efforts and our ability to rapidly respond to calls for assistance. In the past two years, the Department has

completed a series of steps to minimize our response times, including:

- Strengthening existing mutual aid agreements with surrounding communities;

- Initiating a Plum Grove Fire Station (Station 16) modernization

program that expands capacity by 20% and maximizes operational efficiencies;

- Completing a fleet modernization and expansion program that boosts our ability to provide excellent service.

A needs analysis presented to City Council in late 2007 showed that we still face a coverage gap due to continued

growth in the City's southern districts. A third fire station – one of ten official goals approved by City officials in 2007 – will provide effective support to this growing area and reduce the burden on our existing stations by nearly 50%. 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.

In short, time is not on firefighters' side when responding to an emergency. The new Algonquin Road fire station will save lives and reduce the potential for catastrophic property damage.

"The new Algonquin Road fire station will save lives and reduce the potential for catastrophic property damage."

Fire Department to Boost Staffing Levels As Planning Begins for Third Fire Station

The Rolling Meadows Fire Department plans to hire three additional firefighters in 2008 to ensure quality, consistent service coverage to all areas of the City as it proceeds with development of a new Algonquin Road fire station, Fire Chief Ron Stewart reports.

Chief Stewart says the addition of one firefighter to each of the Department's three shifts will ensure its ability to effectively meet the needs of the community when expanding the number of fire stations from two to three. The Fire Department currently has 42 firefighters serving on three shifts.

"Adding capacity in the

form of a third fire station will have a 'ripple effect' that will benefit the entire City," he says. "It will allow us to allocate resources more effectively among three locations and improve response times for the entire community. Boosting our ranks by one firefighter per shift will maximize the benefits of a third station without affecting response times in other areas."

The new firefighters will be recruited from either an existing eligibility list or an accelerated hiring list



Ron Stewart

currently being established by Department officials. Candidates selected from the accelerated list are established professionals who can be integrated into the RMFD with minimal training.

Chief Stewart says the goal is to have the three new firefighters on board by mid-year.

A needs analysis reviewed by City Council late last year concluded that a new Fire Station 17 – an official City goal approved in 2007 – would provide effective support to the growing southern portions of the City.

New Fire Station To be Built on Algonquin Road

A third fire station that will dramatically improve the ability of the Rolling Meadows Fire Department to serve residents and businesses in the City's growing southern district will be built on Algonquin Road, following approval of a resolution passed by City Council.

The resolution declared an undeveloped parcel of property on the south side of Algonquin Road, between Meadowbrook Industrial Court and Wilke Road, as the preferred location for Station 17.

The land parcel is one of two sites the Fire Department had been considering for the new station; the other is adjacent to Willow Bend School.

"The Algonquin Road site clearly offers an advantage in terms of ensuring the most rapid response to emergency calls for service," Fire Chief Ron Stewart says. "Our review of both sites also sought to address the safety of pedestrians and motorists in the vicinity of the station, which is of paramount concern. The corresponding increase in school zone traffic, as children are dropped off and picked up every day, would affect those response times and increase the possibility of injuries," he adds.

The resolution also authorized City staff to begin preliminary station design work. The Fire Department's Station Design Committee, made up of firefighters and Department leaders, will present initial design concepts at City Council's March 18 Committee of the Whole Meeting.

Rolling Meadows Marching Toward Spring

BY MAYOR KEN NELSON

Here we are in March and the calendar says spring is not far away. What a winter we've had! I want to take a moment to thank our entire City staff for the work it's done these past several months. We've had many more snowstorms than usual, and our Public Works crews have done a great job of keeping the streets clear while going about their normal duties of trash pickup, sewer and water main repair, and other important work that maintains our quality of life.

Our police and fire personnel have had to battle the elements, as well. And even our "inside" staff has been kept busy answering citizen calls and working to resolve issues caused by the storms. They all deserve a huge "Attaboy."

Benefiting the Environment

Spring is a great time to think about what you can do to help protect our environment. You



amounts of mercury. Our Public Works Department now has a disposal facility (pictured) where residents can bring spent CFLs.

Relay for Life Takes Place in June

Last, but not least, this is a great time to form a team and participate in the American Cancer Society's Relay for Life. It will be held on June 13th & 14th. For more information, go to www.relayforlifepmi.com.

might look at putting in a rain garden. Our Public Works Department has examples and a lot of helpful information about them.

You've probably also heard a lot about the Compact Fluorescent Light Bulbs (CFLs). They last 10 times longer and use 2/3 less energy than a standard bulb, resulting in real dollar savings for users. However, they do contain trace

City Officials Report Progress on Priority Goals

City officials report progress on two new priorities established at last year's goal-setting:

● Adopt an environmental mission statement.

Develop policy and an action plan to incorporate "green design" in city planning.

● Establish a "gateway" identity for the City.

Council has not yet acted on a formal environmental mission statement, but "green" consciousness has been much more prominent in City planning. After hearing a presentation on clean air and global warming, the Environmental Sub-Committee of the City's Urban Affairs Committee recently recommended that Mayor Ken Nelson sign the

U.S. Mayor Climate Protection Agreement for green house gas reduction. It was signed in February.

Establishing a "gateway" identity is an important feature of the City's comprehensive plan and has already been implemented at many places where people first come into town. The plan recommends additional and improved community gateways in areas of high visibility (along the major expressways, for example) and for business districts that now lack recognizable gateways, edges, and distinct identities.

The area known as Corporate Park North (the strip between Algonquin Road and the Northwest Tollway) is a good example. "The area

lacks a consistent look or identity and would benefit from a streetscape and signage program that created a corporate district identity," according to the comprehensive plan. "Unifying elements such as lighting, landscaping, and signage should be considered as part of the new corporate identity."

The Northwest Industrial Park east of Hicks Road and north of Euclid, Corporate Park South (the strip between Golf Road and the Tollway) and the redevelopment planned in the section northwest of the Tollway and Route 53 have similar needs, according to John LaMotte, of the City's urban planning consultants, The Lakota Group. Lakota is developing proposals to meet these needs.

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 Pitzaferrro
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 Commis-
sion Meetings are televised
on Cable TV Channel 6*