



## THIS MONTH IN ROLLING MEADOWS

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

**March 8** – **Daylight Savings Time Begins**. Clocks spring ahead one hour.

**March 10** – **City Council Meeting**, 7:30 p.m., City Hall

**March 12** – **Adjudication Hearing**, 1 p.m., City Hall

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

**March 19** – **Adjudication Hearing**, 1 p.m. City Hall

**March 24** – **City Council Meeting**, 7:30 p.m., City Hall

**March 26** – **Adjudication Hearing**, 1 p.m., City Hall

**March 26** – **Public Works' Citizens Training Academy begins**.

**March 30** – **Yardwaste collection begins** and early refuse setout ends.

**Early Refuse Setout Ends March 30. Refuse may be placed at the curb no earlier than 6 p.m. the day before collection.**

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# NEWS

Volume 13, Number 3



# & Views

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

## City Considers Joining Regional Dispatch Center; Move Would Save \$1.8 million Over Three Years

City Council this month will debate a plan that would transfer Rolling Meadows' emergency dispatch operations to Northwest Central Dispatch System, an Arlington Heights-based regional dispatch center, and save the City nearly \$1.8 million over the next three years.

Northwest Central Dispatch, established in 1972, serves Arlington Heights, Buffalo Grove, Elk Grove Village, Hoffman Estates, Inverness, Mount Prospect, Palatine, Prospect Heights, Schaumburg and Streamwood.

Transferring dispatch operations would improve the ability of Rolling Meadows firefighters and paramedics to communicate with surrounding fire departments on mutual response calls and improve response times, Fire Chief Ron Stewart says.

"Nearly one-third of all calls we receive involve the support of departments that are Northwest Central Dispatch System members," Chief Stewart explains. "Because the City's current dispatch system does not operate on the same frequency as the regional dispatch center, the Fire Department is forced to



monitor two separate radio frequencies and equip each vehicle with two sets of radios. This technology gap creates a built-in delay that affects communications and, ultimately, response times."

Police and Fire officials explored the possibility of joining Northwest Central Dispatch in prior years, but each time decided to maintain "in-house" operations. Opinions began to change, however, when a cost analysis study conducted last year projected that Rolling Meadows would save almost \$2

million in operational costs.

"Rising costs, new technology upgrades and interoperability requirements are causing a national trend toward regional dispatch services," Police Chief Steve Williams explains. "Independent municipalities increasingly can't pay for these by themselves. Today's economic climate, especially,

requires the City to seize initiatives that will reduce the burden on taxpayers who fund emergency services."

Eight City dispatchers, who would lose their jobs in the transition, will have the opportunity to apply for job openings with Northwest Central Dispatch.

If Council approves the plan in March, the City expects to begin the transfer of fire and emergency medical dispatch calls to Northwest Central Dispatch in April. A complete transfer of all 911 services would be completed by July.

## City to Pursue Stimulus Funding For Key Infrastructure Projects

Rolling Meadows plans to pursue monies made available through the federal government's economic stimulus package to fund a series of key infrastructure improvement projects, City Manager Sarah Phillips reports.

City officials have compiled a list of five "shovel ready" projects – projects for which construction plans have already been approved – that may be eligible for federal funding. The list

continued on page 2

## City to Pursue Stimulus Funding For Key Projects

*Continued from page 1*

also contains 13 additional projects that could be ready for bidding within three months, and 55 that will require more than 90 days.



*A Public Works crew repairs a water main.*

“One goal of the stimulus package is to deliver funding for construction and infrastructure repair projects that can begin almost immediately,” Phillips explains. “The City has several projects that fit this criteria but have been delayed due to financial pressures resulting from the weak economy.”

“Shovel ready” projects for which the City is seeking almost \$3.6 million to fund include:

- Reconstruction of New Wilke Road from Algonquin Road to Golf Road (\$600,000);
- Water Main Replacement along Brookmeade due to soil corrosion (\$300,000);
- Construction of a new fire station on Algonquin Road, near Meadowbrook Drive (\$2 million);
- Sanitary sewer pipe lining at various locations along Central Road (\$610,000);
- Sewer main replacement at Richnee and Tall Oaks Lanes (\$75,000).

Other projects that may qualify for federal funding include Algonquin Road street lighting, Salt Creek streambank stabilization, and street repaving and sidewalk replacement throughout Rolling Meadows.

## Alderman Tom Rooney Won't Seek Re-Election; Residents to Cast Ballots for Council April 7

Fourth Ward Alderman Tom Rooney announced he will not seek another term in the April 7 consolidated election, when residents in Wards 2, 4 and 6 will cast ballots for aldermanic candidates.

Rooney was appointed to City Council in 2000 by then-Mayor Tom Menzel to fill a vacancy, then elected by 4<sup>th</sup> Ward residents in 2001 and 2005. A resident since 1998, he has also served on the Rolling Meadows Library Board (1999 – 2000), as a

member of the ad hoc Veterans Memorial Committee (1998 – 1999), and President of the Rolling Meadows Historical Society (2004 –2005).

“I’m a strong advocate of term limits. In Rolling Meadows’ case, I believe that aldermen should not serve more than two terms,” Rooney explains. “Before the 2005 election, I told Ward 4 residents that this would be my second and final term. I won’t go back on that commitment.”

Former 6<sup>th</sup> Ward Alderman John D’Astice, who

left City Council in 2005 after serving three consecutive terms – the maximum allowed by City ordinance – will seek election to the seat he once held. He will face Alderman Kathy Kwandras in the only contested Council race.

Candidates who will appear on the April 7 ballot are:

**Ward 2: Barb Lusk** (incumbent);

**Ward 4: Brad Judd;**

**Ward 6: John D’Astice, Kathy Kwandras** (incumbent);

## City Environmental Group Teams Up with Rotary, Public Works, Park District on Salt Creek Project

The City’s Environmental Group will team up with the Rolling Meadows Rotary Club, the Public Works Department, and the Rolling Meadows Park District on a major Salt Creek enhancement program this spring. Later in the summer, the same organizations will join in sponsorship of a duck race to raise money for environmental improvement.

A subcommittee of City Council’s Urban Affairs

Committee, the Environmental Group has usually sponsored a Salt Creek cleanup and tree planting around the time of Earth Day (April 22) and Arbor Day (April 24). This year, the Rotary Club has received a \$1,000 grant that it will match for a total of \$2,000 for a Salt Creek stream bank stabilization and water quality improvement pilot project.

“We have picked an area of Salt Creek that runs through Salk Park behind the Park Central building on Central Road. It is Park District property and affords good visibility to help serve the objective of providing education about water quality and creek stewardship,” says Public Works Director Fred Vogt, who is also a Rotary Club member.

The \$2,000 Rotary grant money will be used to purchase trees, bushes, and native plants for planting along the creek. Public Works and Park District personnel will first

clear vegetation and regrade the project area along the creek.

Volunteers from the Environmental Group, Rotary Club, the City and Park District will do the planting and restoration. Vogt expects major work on the project to take place from late April to mid-May.

Plans to hold a jointly sponsored duck race fundraiser during Terry Moran Day (July 18) are underway. The Environmental Group held a similar event in September 2006. This year, the duck race will benefit from joint sponsorship by the Park District Foundation and the Rotary Club, and the crowd drawn to Terry Moran Day events.

Members of the City’s Environmental Group are Sue & Tad Braden, Abigail Darr, John Glow, Bonnie Haferkamp, Lourdes Lota, Barb Mallin, Mike Sidor, Indu Sharma, Subash Sitaraman, and Sue Walton, all Rolling Meadows residents. Walton had served as the group’s chair, but she has stepped down to devote more time to an organization dedicated to prevention of child abuse.



*Salt Creek*

# Army Staff Sgt. Jed Ganatos Comes Home In Snow to a Welcome He'll Never Forget

The weather was terrible two days before Christmas, when Army Staff Sgt. Jed Ganatos came home to Rolling Meadows after serving for 18 months in Afghanistan. It was an ugly mixture of snow, sleet, and rain, but he was thrilled to be home, and he'll never forget the welcome reception he received.

Sgt. Ganatos' family hadn't told him why they were stopping at the Des Plaines Oasis on the way home from O'Hare International Airport. It soon became clear when a phalanx of motorcycles in patriotic décor, known as the Warriors' Watch Riders, met the family there. The entourage included City Veterans Committee Chair Robert Smith, who is a member of Warriors' Watch Riders.

They provided a high profile escort to the Kirchoff Road exit from Route 53, where a team of Rolling Meadows police and fire vehicles, sirens sounding and lights flashing, guided the welcome party to the Ganatos home on Robin Street. Alderman Glenn Adams, his wife, Carol, and other City officials joined the welcome reception there.

Police and fire officials parked their cars, got out, and welcomed Sgt. Ganatos. A brief ceremony celebrated his service to his country. Earlier,

he served two one-year deployments in Iraq, where he was wounded and received the Purple Heart.

Sgt. Ganatos' grandfather, Rolling Meadows resident Bill Stutzman, was both impressed and grateful. He remembered that no one had paid much

everyone who participated," Stutzman says.

Warriors' Watch Regional Coordinator Jon Dreymann says his group "doesn't want our warriors to come home to anything less than a hero's welcome. You don't have to have a motorcycle to join us.



We encourage people to come out in their cars, trucks, and minivans to show respect for our military."

The founding principle for Warriors' Watch Riders is: "They have our backs over there. We have their backs here at home." They also have a vision statement: "The Warriors' Watch Riders envision a day when every member of the United States Armed Forces, at home and abroad, and their families, feel appreciated, honored, respected and loved by the citizens they risk their lives to protect."

Dreymann encourages anyone who knows of warriors coming home to go to the organization's Website, [www.warriorwatch.org](http://www.warriorwatch.org).



*The welcoming party for Staff Sgt. Jed Ganatos (center and on deployment in Iraq) included his grandparents, Bill and Carol Stutzman, Alderman Glenn Adams and his wife, Carol, and City Veterans Committee Chair Robert Smith.*

attention when he came home from Korea. "The Warriors' Watch Riders are unbelievable. It's so important for kids coming home today to know their service is appreciated. I just want to thank

## Budget Constraints End Refuse Bag Distribution; 'Chipper' Service to be Offered Once Each Year

The Public Works Department will no longer distribute paper refuse bags to residential households due to cost-containment strategies adopted by City Council for fiscal year 2009.

Reductions in staffing levels also required the Department to scale back its brush collection operations from two-times per year to one, Public Works Director Fred Vogt reports. Together, these program cuts will save approximately \$150,000 per year, and reduce a planned 9% increase in refuse collection fees to 5%.

"The current economic environment required Public Works to reduce or eliminate services across the board. There simply was not enough money to support these programs at previous levels," Vogt explains.

Residents may purchase the City's remaining inventory of paper refuse bags at the Public Works Department, 3900 Berdnick Street, while supplies last. Bags are also available for purchase at many local stores.

The City will announce brush collection dates for May and June in an upcoming issue of *News & Views*, the City's Website and on Cable TV Channel 6.



**Public Works Department snow removal operations in January spread 400 tons of salt on City**

**streets, used 1,260 gallons of chloride to pretreat the salt, and required 713 hours of employee time in January, when 21.4 inches of snow fell on Rolling Meadows.**

**Snow removal costs for January totaled \$94,367, or \$3.83 per resident. That is nearly half the total cost incurred in December, when more than a dozen snow events dropped 22.2 inches of snow on City streets.**

## New Plum Grove Road Traffic Signals Activated

A \$4.6 million, 19-month state project to widen Plum Grove Road to four lanes between Bryant and Emerson Avenues came one step closer to completion in February, following activation

of new traffic signals that will improve area traffic flow.

Inspection and approval of the new signals, conducted by Illinois Department of Transportation (IDOT)

officials, was the last major hurdle to completing the project. All that remains are final landscaping improvements, which will be completed this spring.

The state will transfer jurisdiction of the

road to Rolling Meadows upon the project's completion.

The project created two lanes in each direction north of Euclid Avenue and south of Kirchoff Road and provided additional turn lanes at the Euclid and Kirchoff intersections.

"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," Public Works Director Fred Vogt explains.



## Police Track Origin of Suspicious Calls To Suburban Telemarketing Company

Police investigators identified a Lombard-based telemarketing firm that sells water purification systems as the source of recent suspicious calls to Rolling Meadows homeowners.

The police department had taken reports from multiple residents describing how callers, who identified themselves as water department employees, asked homeowners a series of questions before attempting to schedule an inspection of their home's water quality.

Concerned that these calls were related to a series of thefts and attempted residential burglaries that took place last November, when an unknown offender attempted to enter a residence by claiming to be a utility or water department employee, the police department warned the community to be alert for a potential scam.

"These deceptive calls were not part of a

criminal scam targeting Rolling Meadows homeowners," Investigations Unit Commander Joseph Waitzman explained. "They were part of a high-pressure telemarketing effort designed to increase company sales."

Waitzman added that investigators visited the company's headquarters and secured cooperation from the owner to prevent these types of misleading calls from being placed to City residents in the future.

Although no crime was committed, Police urge residents who receive suspicious calls or visits from strangers claiming to be City employees to call 911 immediately.

Residents who receive these types of deceptive calls may also contact the Federal Trade Commission (FTC) at 877-382-4357 to file a consumer complaint. The FTC is pursuing a consumer protection investigation of the deceptive calls.

## City to Begin 2010 Budget Discussions after Election

In the midst of a national recession, City officials and staff will begin preliminary discussions on the fiscal year 2010 budget soon after the April 7 election – about two months earlier than usual, Finance Director Jim Egeberg reports.

The Finance Department will present two reports to Council members: a three-

year financial forecast, and a proposed list of capital improvement plans for the next five years. These will serve as starting points for crafting the 2010 budget.

"We feel it is best to get an early start on the budget process by analyzing the economic climate and its effect on the City's financial health," he says. "It will also

help staff establish a dialogue with a 'new' City Council."

The election will result in at least one new Council member representing Ward 4, as Alderman Tom Rooney declined to seek re-election.

Updates on the 2010 budget process will be published in upcoming issues of *News & Views*.

## City Hires Marketing Firm To Promote Cancer Awareness

The City has contracted with Vigilante Marketing, Libertyville, to support activities of the Cancer Awareness Committee, headed by 2<sup>nd</sup> Ward Alderman Barb Lusk.

The contract involves no expenditure of City funds. Vigilante will seek corporate sponsorships for Cancer Awareness activities and receive a commission on promotional dollars committed. For example, the Cancer Awareness Committee expects to sanction a 5K run during the City's annual Independence Day celebration. Vigilante Marketing will seek sponsors for it.

Mayor Ken Nelson, owner of a Libertyville Midas Muffler shop, became aware of Vigilante Marketing when it worked with Midas last year on a cooperative cookout to raise money for the Make-a-Wish Foundation.

Vigilante owner Mike Calvin, a former radio station sales executive, saw a niche for a firm that would work with municipalities, now hard pressed to keep budget commitments, to continue popular community events that could otherwise become a drain on tax dollars. Vigilante has similar contracts with Addison, Carol Stream, and Elmwood Park.

In addition to selling sponsorships, Vigilante's responsibilities with the City include helping to create ideas for events to increase attendance and participation.

# City's Office Space Occupancy Exceeds Regional Average

BY RAND HAAS, BUSINESS DEVELOPMENT CONSULTANT

The next time you use or see a Blackberry personal device, think of Rolling Meadows.

Research In Motion, Ltd. (RIM), the Canadian manufacturer of Blackberry, recently moved its Midwest corporate office to Rolling Meadows. RIM joins an impressive list of prominent, blue chip companies that have recently moved here as a result of the City's proactive economic development program.

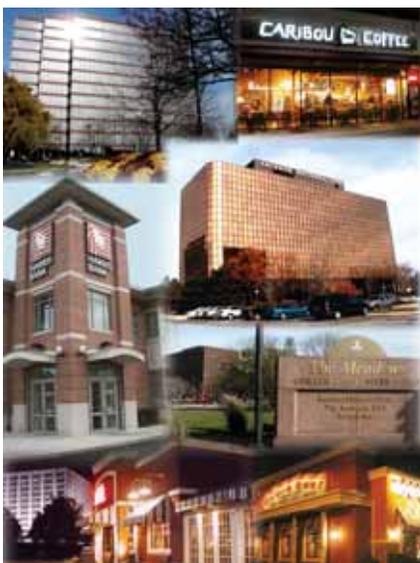
Rolling Meadows has become a major business center in suburban Chicago with more than 3.5 million square feet of Class A commercial office space — the second-largest area in the northwest suburbs.

## Pro-business Reputation

Much of this success is due to two factors: a pro-business reputation, built on the City's economic development program of establishing strong relationships with commercial real estate brokers and property managers, and convenient location at the intersection of I-90 and Route 53 in the northwest suburbs.

These two factors will continue to play an important role in the coming years. As the economy recovers and many firms in the Chicago area and across the Midwest look for office space to meet their needs, Rolling Meadows will strive to accentuate our close proximity to expressways and our strong commitment to business.

When companies look to relocate, one of the factors



that comes into play is how receptive the community is. For example, when Komatsu Corporation was looking for a new headquarters location in the suburbs, we arranged to have Mayor Ken Nelson meet with their CEO, and personally invite them to call Rolling Meadows home.

Another unique asset is the International Business Center, created by the City to help local businesses take advantage of global business opportunities and attract international businesses to the area.

## Program Is Working

A recent survey of commercial office space in Rolling Meadows shows the program is working. The City overall has fared better than most in the northwest suburban corridor with an overall vacancy rate of 22.8%. This is 3 percent better than the 25.8% vacancy average for the NW suburban area. Major gains over the past year include the Panasonic Building, which had been vacant, and the 5005 Newport

Building (up 40%). The Meadows Corporate Center increased its occupancy of the East Tower from 25% to 75% in 2008.

Nevertheless, Rolling Meadows has not escaped losing business due to the economic downturn. Three prominent office buildings stand empty. The Kimball Hill Building was going to be the builder's new corporate home when the housing market slump forced the company to file for bankruptcy just weeks before moving.

## Attract New Business

The Unilever Building, located next to the Kimball Hill building on Golf Road, was left empty when Unilever consolidated its research and development program to the East Coast. The third empty building is the former Pepsi Building located at Algonquin Road and Route 53. The city is working with the owners and brokers of all three buildings to develop a strategic plan to attract new users of these buildings.

City Manager Sarah Phillips points out that a strong commercial office occupancy rate is important to attract business to the City. An enhanced daytime population is important for attracting restaurants, stores and other retail that rely on both the day- and night-time population.

The coming year will be challenging, but the City is committed to leveraging its economic development resources to keep Rolling Meadows an attractive location for business.

# Screening for Colorectal Cancer Saves Lives

BY ALDERMAN BARB LUSK, CANCER AWARENESS COMMITTEE CHAIR

March is Colorectal Cancer Awareness Month, and the Rolling Meadows Cancer Awareness Committee urges residents to learn more about colon cancer — one of the leading causes of cancer deaths in this country.

The rate of colorectal cancer deaths has been decreasing for most of the last two decades due to an emphasis on early detection. If found early, the chances of surviving this disease is roughly 90%. Unfortunately, early detection rates remain at around 39%.

Residents age 50 and over should be screened for colorectal cancer. Talk to your doctor about getting tested. If a parent, sibling or child has battled colon cancer, it is vitally important that you get screened, possibly even earlier than age 50.

To reduce the risks of developing colon cancer, residents should:

- Avoid tobacco use;
- Eat a healthy, balanced diet;
- Maintain a healthy body weight;
- Limit alcohol consumption;
- Reduce intake of high-fat foods;
- Stay physically active.

Don't wait for signs and symptoms of colon cancer to get tested. Remember, screening and early detection is your best defense!

For more information about colon cancer, contact the American Cancer Society at 800-227-2345, or visit [www.cancer.org](http://www.cancer.org).



## Working to Ensure Rolling Meadows' Economic Health

BY MAYOR KEN NELSON

Like each of you, the City has been keeping a close

eye on the economy and the federal government's economic stimulus efforts. It's important that we position ourselves to take advantage of whatever is available in the way of grants – and be ready to act when the economy does finally turn around.

To those ends, we've been working closely with our Congressional representatives, our State legislators and with the various agencies that will oversee the dispersal of those funds. We have submitted a list of several "shovel ready" projects that could be activated within the next 60 to

150 days, plus a list of longer-term projects that would be six months away.

We're also working with the business community on several different fronts. First, we want to make sure that the businesses already in Rolling Meadows are getting whatever assistance is available to ensure their viability. Next, we're actively working with several retail organizations in the hope that a rebounding economy might encourage expansion of those retail businesses, and that we're at the head of their list of potential expansion sites.

These efforts may not bear fruit in the next few months, but they're vital to maintaining the long-term health of our community.

## City Manager: Public Works' Professionalism, Dedication Delivers Service Excellence

Major weather events over the past six months have demonstrated the professionalism and dedication of Public Works employees who, after battling punishing September storms that left many parts of the City flooded, turned their attention to heavy snow removal as the calendar turned to winter.

In December, crews mobilized in response to 13 winter storm events that dropped 22.2 inches of snow on Rolling Meadows. These included an 8-inch snowfall over a 24-hour period, freezing rain, and sometimes only a dusting of snow.

2009 began with little difference. Six snow events occurred in the first two weeks of January, bringing another 21.4 inches of snowfall. In Chicago, a "normal" winter season sees 40 – 45 inches of snowfall.

Adding to the challenge are higher costs for road salt

and staffing reductions due to tight budgets. Public Works Department has been required to keep a very close eye on its snow removal operations costs. This sometimes means sending fewer trucks out

months, Public Works has repeatedly delivered excellence in situations that called for nothing less," City Manager Sarah Phillips says. "From emergency flood control efforts and snow

*"Over the past several months, Public Works has repeatedly delivered excellence in situations that called for nothing less...from emergency flood control efforts and snow removal to daily tasks such as refuse pickup."*

—Sarah Phillips, City Manager

during the middle of the night, limiting salt use if conditions allow, and clearing sidewalk routes during daytime hours only after the storms subside.

Public Works' commitment to making the streets as safe as possible for motorists after winter storms remains unchanged.

"Over the past several

removal to daily tasks such as refuse pickup, Department employees are on the front line of Rolling Meadows' commitment to delivering quality service to those we serve. I hope all Rolling Meadows residents will join me in commending Public Works professionals for a job well-done."

## City Of Rolling Meadows

Mayor: Kenneth Nelson

City Clerk: Lisa Hinman

City Manager: Sarah Phillips

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 847-394-8500

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