



March & April 2010



NEWS

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& Views

This issue:
**Community
Development
Spotlight**

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

Accurate Census Count Essential to Maintaining City's Fair Share of Federal, State Revenues

Residents will play an essential role in helping ensure that Rolling Meadows continues to receive its fair share of federal and state funding when the U.S. Census Bureau begins the 2010 Census in April. Census forms will be mailed to residents in March.

"The Census Bureau takes a national head count every 10 years, and the data it generates has dramatic and widespread impact," Finance Director Jim Egeberg says. "It is important that residents take the time to accurately fill out the questionnaire to make sure everyone is counted."

Future boundaries of electoral districts will be based on the population figures generated by this year's census. Census data also guides the distribution of more than \$400 billion in federal funding to local and state governments each year. The count will affect City revenues by determining the per capita levels of state funding Rolling Meadows receives.

"Based on the results of the 2000 Census, the City receives more than \$2.8 million per year (\$114.60 per resident) in revenues from the state income tax, motor fuel tax and use tax," Egeberg adds. "An accurate count in 2010 will ensure the City continues to receive that funding."

The Constitution requires that everyone living in the United States – not just citizens – be counted in the census. Federal law protects all data collected. Residents who do not mail back the questionnaire may receive a visit from a census taker, who will ask questions from the form.

A link to the U.S. Census Bureau is available on the City's Website, www.cityrm.org.

Committee to Ensure 'Complete Count' in 2010

Underscoring the importance of the 2010 Census to Rolling Meadows, the recently formed Complete Count Committee is developing strategies to ensure that all City residents are included in this year's count.

"The idea behind the Complete Count Committee is to develop targeted outreach plans, specific to our community, that complement U.S. Census Bureau efforts," Mayor Ken Nelson explains. "Committee members are identifying ways to inform residents about the census, make sure they understand its purpose and maximize participation."

"We want the 2010 Census to be the most accurate yet, and we are calling upon

Complete Count Committees to help us achieve that goal," says Dr. Robert Groves, Director of the Census Bureau. "To ensure an accurate count and distribution of funds for schools, roads and senior services, the support of these committees is vital."

Salt Creek Cleanup, Tree Planting, April 24



Rolling Meadows' Environmental Committee is seeking volunteers to join in its annual cleanup of Salt Creek Saturday, April 24, in observance of Earth Day (April 22). The Committee also will conduct a tree planting following the cleanup, in conjunction with the Public Works Department. For more information about Earth Day initiatives, visit www.cityrm.org/Public Works, then click on the "Environmental Committee" icon at the left side of the page.

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

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

Aldermen

1st Ward: John Pitzaferrro
847-655-1390

2nd Ward: Barb Lusk
847-567-2444

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

Curfew: Sun.-Thurs. 11 p.m. Fri.
& Sat. Midnight

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



City Codes Guarantee Quality Construction, Lower Homeowners' Insurance Premiums

BY VALERIE DEHNER

Community Development's enforcement of City codes promotes public safety and contributes to the development of a healthy community. Did you also know that codes help lower residents' insurance premiums? Their importance cannot be underestimated.

Rolling Meadows' building codes are based on standards established by the International Code Council (ICC), a worldwide association of building safety experts, for construction of residential and commercial buildings, including homes and schools. These codes offer a complete set of comprehensive, coordinated building safety and fire prevention standards designed to protect lives and property.

Residents embarking on home

improvement projects have access to a roster of highly trained, highly skilled inspectors. The inspectors' mission is to verify that all projects meet code requirements, thus guaranteeing quality workmanship that protects the homeowner's investment and promotes public safety.

Partnership with Homeowners

Quality control is paramount in everything we do. Our relationship with homeowners and developers is a partnership. Our common goal is to ensure all projects are completed in a professional manner with quality workmanship.

No matter what the project entails – building, electrical, plumbing or other – we are here to serve you. Obtaining the expertise of Community Development professionals may help avoid project delays and costly mistakes.

Codes also play an important role

in holding down residents' insurance rates by affecting the classification assigned to the City by the Insurance Services Organization (ISO). ISO's Public Protection Classification System is the basis by which virtually all insurance companies calculate premiums for home and business property insurance policies. The bottom line: building construction and maintenance standards adopted by Rolling Meadows help residents save money.

Code Update Underway

Community Development staff members are conducting a comprehensive review and update of Rolling Meadows' building codes. The project, scheduled for completion later this year, will incorporate standards adopted by the ICC in 2009.

For more information on how City codes protect residents, please contact Community Development at 847-506-6030.

Department's Permit, Inspection Program Praised

Community Development's permit and inspection program, which ensures the quality of home and business improvement projects, has earned praise from customers and contractors alike, Department Director Valerie Dehner reports.

Recent customer satisfaction "success stories" underscore the benefits of the City's permit and inspection program.

Home Roofing Project Goes Awry

Two homeowners wrote to commend inspectors' "careful attention and persistence," after they discovered 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 inspector Jim 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," the homeowners wrote. "Through his persistence, the replacement was done. We were very impressed with how Jim helped us, and thankful that Rolling Meadows has good employees protecting homeowners."

Restaurant Cement Work Held to High Standards

Repeated inspections to guarantee the quality of cement work being done at a restaurant on Algonquin Road ensured that the job was "done correctly and professionally," restaurant

supervisor James Poznecki wrote.

"Although it took longer than expected, we realize we will be better off in the long run than if inferior work would have been allowed. Great job!"



Contractor Commends Inspections

Rolling Meadows residents should take pride in City's "well-run system" of permit processing and inspection scheduling, according to a letter to the Community Development Department from a local contractor.

Bradley J. Schneider, President of Rolling Meadows-based B.J.S. Builders, praised the Community Development Department's professionalism in "providing us the information and knowledge to proceed in a quick and timely manner, with minimal disruption" on a recent project.

"I would also like to take a minute to commend Rolling Meadows on its inspection scheduling," he wrote. "Rolling Meadows is the only community that provides a specific time for scheduled inspections. It is very frustrating and costly for contractors when other municipalities cannot put together an inspection schedule. Other villages should follow your lead."

Do I Need a Permit?

If plans involve structural changes, electrical or plumbing work, contact the Community Development Department at 847-506-6030 to check on permit requirements. More information on the permit and inspection process – including a list of improvement projects that require a permit – is available at www.cityrm.org/rmcd.

City's Senior Handyman Tom Thompson Responded to 96 Service Requests in 2009

The City's official Senior Handyman, Tom Thompson, responded to 96 service requests last year from 63 senior residents.

Many senior residents may not be aware that services of a Senior Handyman are available at a current rate of \$35 per hour. Senior residents who qualify by income for discounts may receive services for as little as \$7 per hour. Rates of \$14, \$21, and \$28 per hour are also available at different income levels. To schedule a service call, contact Community Development at 847-506-6030.

Twenty-two senior residents called Thompson for service more than once. One resident had seven requests for service.

Mrs. Frances Carlson on Meadow Drive had a toilet fixed last year, and she called recently about a leaky faucet.

Rental Dwelling License Renewals Due May 31

Owners of rental dwellings located in Rolling Meadows must return their license renewal applications to the Community Development Department no later than Wednesday, May 31. All rental housing in Rolling Meadows, including single-family homes, must be licensed.

In April, all rental property owners currently registered with the City's rental dwelling licensing program will receive renewal applications. The program ensures that all rental homes meet building maintenance and health codes.

Owners of rental condominiums, townhouses or single-family dwellings that are not registered with the City may contact Community Development at 847-506-6030 to obtain an application.



Senior Handyman Tom Thompson repairs a faucet for Mrs. Frances Carlson. He also recommended that she cut back the hot water heater's temperature setting.

Pleased with his service, she and her late husband independently hired Thompson to install replacement doors (a job not covered by the Senior Handyman program).

Repairing leaky faucets or balky toilets and cleaning or repairing gutters top the list of the handyman's most common jobs, but he does many things. Last year, his list of accomplishments included many miscellaneous repairs and repair of ceilings, curtain rods, disposals, doors and door locks, fans, lamps, light fixtures and switches, screens, and sump pumps.

Rolling Meadows resident Thompson, 50, especially enjoys working with seniors. "When we get the job done right, it makes them feel good," he says. And there's satisfaction in making life a little easier for seniors.

Some residents are confused about why something isn't working right, and Thompson has found it's important not to embarrass them. One customer called to find out why an electrical outlet wasn't working. He found the switch had been turned off.

"Most of the requests we receive are

for common sense stuff. I could do many of these repairs with the Swiss Army knife I carry with me everywhere I go," he says.

Thompson is proud the Better Business Bureau gives his service an A+ rating (no complaints). "I try to be as honest as I possibly can," he says. When parts are needed to complete a repair, he provides them at cost.

Thompson, his wife, Sarah, a co-lab manager at a vision center, and their son and daughter have lived in Rolling Meadows for 22 years. He's an active community volunteer, serving as mentor to the Rolling Meadows High School robotics team, an assistant scoutmaster with a Boy Scout troop, and participant in a Rebuilding Together program with Home Depot.

Recycling Program Collects 1,321 Lbs. of Lights, Cords

Rolling Meadows residents recycled an impressive 1,321 pounds of holiday lights, electrical cords and wire during a program conducted through the Solid Waste Agency of Northern Cook County (SWANCC).

"Residents should be very proud of the fact that they helped divert more than half a ton of recyclable material from the landfill," says Assistant City Manager Barry Krumstok.

Website Provides Help for Homeowners Struggling Amid Foreclosure Crisis

A new Website created by a network of organizations committed to stemming the impact of the foreclosure crisis offers help to homeowners and renters who are struggling to keep their homes.

The Regional Home Ownership Preservation Initiative Website, www.regionalhopi.org, offers informational articles, research and data about initiatives to limit foreclosures in northeastern Illinois. The site also lists area events and outreach programs that may be of benefit to residents concerned about their ability to remain in their homes.

The screenshot shows the website interface with a navigation bar at the top: Financial Products, Housing Counseling, Tenant Issues, Vacant Properties. The main content area includes several sections:

- Chicago Regional Challenges:**
 - Foreclosure Filings in Fourth Quarter 2009: 24,053
 - Multifamily Residential Building Foreclosure Filings in Fourth Quarter 2009: 2,536
 - Chicago Regional Solutions:
 - NSP & R2 Funds: \$332.7
 - Permanent HAMP Modifications (as of Dec 2009): 3,036
- Research Spotlight:**
 - Despite government interventions, foreclosures continue to climb in Chicago region.
 - Chicago Region Change in Properties with New Foreclosure Filings, 2005 to 2009: +329%, 24,053
- Regional Response:**
 - Chicago Wins \$98 Million in Second Round of NSP Funding to Acquire Foreclosed Properties
 - South, West Cook County housing collaboratives issued for innovation, but face new challenges
 - DuPage County NSP partnership moves swiftly
 - Housing collaboratives meet, exchange ideas in December
 - Federal Reserve highlights Regional HOPI efforts
- Upcoming Events:**
 - National Call: New Study Shows Foreclosures Rattle Latino Family Bedrock: February 16, 2010 - 2:00pm
 - NHS Foreclosure Prevention Workshop: February 16, 2010 - 6:00pm
 - CRAP Housing Committee Meeting: February 18, 2010 - 9:00am
 - NHS Foreclosure Prevention Workshop: February 18, 2010 - 6:00pm
 - NHS Foreclosure Prevention Workshop: February 20, 2010 - 10:00am

March 2010

	1	2 Environmental Committee, 7 p.m., at City Hall	3 Zoning Board of Appeals, 7 p.m., City Hall	4	5	6
7 St. Colette Blood Drive, 8:30 a.m. – 1:30 p.m., 3900 Meadow Drive	8	9 City Council Meeting, 7:30 p.m., City Hall	10	11 Adjudication Hearing, 1 p.m., City Hall	12	13
14 Daylight Saving Time Begins ...Move clocks ahead one hour.	15	16 City Council Committee of the Whole, 7:30 p.m., City Hall	17 St. Patrick's Day	18 Adjudication Hearing (Red Light), 2 p.m., City Hall	19	20
21	22 Water bills due	23 City Council Meeting, 7:30 p.m., City Hall	24	25	26 Early Refuse Setout Ends.	27
28	29 Yard Waste Collection Begins.	30	31	Early Refuse Setout Ends March 26 Place refuse at the curb no earlier than 6 p.m. the day prior to pickup.		



April 2010

				1	2	3
4 Easter	5	6 Environmental Committee, 7 p.m., Plan Commission 7:30 p.m., both at City Hall	7 Zoning Board of Appeals, 7 p.m., City Hall	8	9	10
11	12	13 City Council Meeting, 7:30 p.m., City Hall	14	15 Adjudication Hearing, 1 p.m., City Hall	16	17
18	19	20 City Council Committee of the Whole, 7:30 p.m., City Hall Water bills due	21	22 Earth Day Adjudication (Red Light), 2 p.m., City Hall	23	24 Salt Creek Cleanup and Tree Planting
25	26	27 City Council Meeting, 7:30 p.m., City Hall	28	29	30	

Goal: Maintain Strong, Healthy Community

When describing the responsibilities and objectives of the Community Development Department, Director Valerie Dehner finds it easier to explain services it does not provide.

"I like to tell people that if it's not law enforcement, firefighting, street maintenance or managing City finances, it's us," she says with a laugh.

All hyperbole aside, Dehner's comment is not far off the mark. Community Development takes an active role in the City's economic development initiatives, oversees zoning and construction activities, and coordinates health inspections, rental inspections and delivery of senior services, such as the Senior Handyman program.

"Department professionals wear many 'hats,' but these seemingly divergent responsibilities are geared toward the continued development of a strong, prosperous community," she adds.

Community Development is organized to oversee marketing aspects of attracting businesses to the community, land use and availability, construction issues and the permit process.

Public Works to Launch Expanded Citizens Training Academy, March 25

Public Works will launch its expanded 2010 Citizens Training Academy Thursday, March 25, to help residents learn more about the vital roles the Department plays in maintaining the City's quality of life.

Thursday evening informational presentations (March 25, April 1, 8, 15 & 22), and "field course" sessions held on April 22 & 24, will allow registrants to participate in hands-on training activities and educational sessions, tour City facilities, and observe crews in action.

"We have added an evening outdoor training session in order to provide greater opportunities for residents to learn about the services Public Works provides and how they affect us all," Assistant Director Bob Hartnett explains.

Topics to be presented during the 2010 Academy include:

- **Underground Utilities Division** – Details the vast underground infrastructure of the City's water, sanitary sewer and storm sewer system.
- **Water Division** – Outlines the Department's water quality and monitoring



Developers and homeowners benefit from a "one-stop shopping" approach that, by design, increases staff efficiency and streamlines access to services.

"Combining economic development planning with more traditional building and zoning services gives us an edge in attracting new businesses," Dehner adds. "Whether it is property availability, demographics, information on schools and services or potential land use options, we can provide relevant data that these companies need quickly."

For residents planning a home improvement project, new businesses just setting up shop, or an established firm in the midst of expansion, the Department's five inspectors help customers with the permit and inspection process.

Finally, the Department's Health Division coordinates health inspections for local businesses, such as restaurants, grocery stores, public swimming pools, nursing homes and child care centers. Staff members also conduct regular inspections of all rental units within Rolling Meadows to ensure they comply with City code.

operations. Participants will also learn how to perform basic plumbing maintenance to fix leaky water pipes, faucets, and 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.

● **Fleet Services Division** – Learn how department mechanics maintain and repair the vast array of City vehicles.

Register for the Citizens Training Academy online at the City's Website, www.cityrm.org, or by contacting Assistant Public Works Director Bob Hartnett at hartnett@cityrm.org or 847-963-0500.

Household Occupants	Maximum Gross Income
1	\$42,200
2	\$48,250
3	\$54,250
4	\$60,300
5	\$65,100
6	\$69,950
7	\$74,750
8+	\$79,600

0% Interest Loans Available For Home Repair Projects

Income-qualified homeowners may be eligible for 0% interest deferred loans of up to \$25,000 with no monthly payments as long as the homeowner lives in and retains title to the home.

These loans are part of the Community Development Block Grant Program, funded by the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD) and administered by the North West Housing Partnership (NWHP).

Since 1994, the program has provided more than \$1.8 million to Rolling Meadows residents for home repair projects. Eligibility is based on the income table.

Approved applicants may use these loans to cover basic structural repairs, roofing, doors and windows, electrical work, plumbing, heating and home weatherizing. Funding cannot be used for interior or exterior decorating.

To apply, contact NWHP at 847-969-0561, visit www.nwhp.net, or pick up a pre-application at City Hall, 3600 Kirchoff Road.

2010 Begins with 'Mixed Bag' of Economic Activity

BY MAYOR KEN NELSON

2010 has started with a mixed bag of economic events for our city. Just a few days into the year, we were hit with the news that Sam's Club was closing. Despite efforts to work with them in the hope we could keep the store open and protect jobs, Sam's shut its doors near the end of January. That closing left 140 people out of work and cost the City about \$600,000 in tax revenues.

The store's closing forced your City Council to make more severe budget cuts, which included eliminating two full-time employees, removing four part-time positions from the staffing plan and making other operational cuts. Altogether, we've accounted for about \$375,000 of the lost tax revenue. We're also negotiating with a company to lease a portion of City property, which would bring in about \$225,000, thus filling the hole created by Sam's closing.

Now for the Positive

But there is some positive news. Within the past six months, three long-vacant buildings have been sold and new businesses are moving into Rolling Meadows, bringing with them new jobs and employees who will visit our restaurants and stores. The old Sears Hardware building in our downtown area has a new tenant that will bring more traffic to our downtown businesses. Let's hope these positive signs portend a turnaround in the coming months.



Mayor Ken Nelson listed millions of dollars in federal and state grants that will help improve roads, update infrastructure, and enhance the quality of life in Rolling Meadows.



Smartphones such as Research in Motion's Blackberry™ put the world at your fingertips, says Patrick Marry, who detailed his company's plans for "prudent growth" in Rolling Meadows.

Chamber Honors Top Employers, As Mayor Nelson, RIM Exec Speak

Mayor Ken Nelson found many bright spots in a down economy in an economic development update presented to a February luncheon meeting of more than 100 local officials and business leaders, hosted by the Rolling Meadows Chamber of Commerce.

A representative of one of the companies honored among the City's top 10 employers, Patrick Marry of Research in Motion (RIM), said his company now employs more than 200 people in its Golf Road office and has room for 500. RIM, maker of the Blackberry™ smartphone, is based in Waterloo, Ontario, Canada. *Fortune* Magazine last year named it the fastest growing company in the world, reported Marry, Rolling Meadows-based Vice President of Product Development.

The City's largest employer is still Northrop Grumman Corp, with more than 2,400 employees here. Other large employers include Harris Bank (regional processing center), Riverside Publishing Co., Komatsu, A.H. Management Group, Meijer, Panasonic (regional headquarters), Walmart, RIM, and RTC, Chamber Executive Director Linda Liles Ballantine reported.

While the economy's direction may be uncertain, Nelson says the City sees many positive signs, including a large influx of federal stimulus dollars, increasing interest in development opportunities, many new restaurants, notable remodelings and business expansions. Northrop added jobs in 2009 and plans to add more this year, he reported.

'Going Green'

Energy Conservation, Savings Begin at Home

Looking for ways to conserve natural resources, reduce energy usage and lower costs? Residents need look no further than their own homes.

"Efforts to 'go green' do not need to be elaborate or expensive," Community Development Director Valerie Dehner says. "Doing the small things, such as changing the heating and air conditioning filter regularly, are excellent ways to reduce energy usage and save money on energy costs."

Other simple ways to save include:

- **Turn off appliances and lights when not in use** – utility costs often include paying for energy that is completely wasted.

- **Replace incandescent light bulbs with compact fluorescent light bulbs (CFL's)** – CFL's cost about 75% less to operate, and last about 10-times longer.

- **Purchase ENERGY STAR™-labeled appliances** – Choosing energy-efficient products can save an average family \$400 per year, while reducing greenhouse gas emissions.

- **Use the microwave to cook small meals** – Microwaves use less power than conventional ovens.

- **Install a programmable thermostat** – Programmable thermostats can save residents up to \$180 a year in home heating costs.

- **Flush toilets only when necessary** – The average family consumes eight times more water flushing the toilet than is used for cooking and drinking.