

THIS MONTH IN  
ROLLING MEADOWS

May 4-8 – Brush setout week, Section 1

May 5 – Economic Development Committee, 6 p.m., at City Hall. Library Board, 7 p.m., at the Library

May 6 – 911 Board, 3 p.m., Zoning Board of Appeals, 7 p.m., both at City Hall. Cancer Awareness Forum, 7:30 p.m., at the Library.

May 11-15 – Brush collection week, Section 1

May 12 – City Council Meeting, 7:30 p.m., City Hall

May 14 – Adjudication Hearing, 1 p.m., City Hall

May 16 – Plant Sale & Craft Fair, 9 a.m. – 2 p.m., 3200 Central Road. Sponsored by the Rolling Meadows Garden Club.

May 18-22 – Brush setout week, Section 2

May 19 – City Council Committee of the Whole, 7:30 p.m., City Hall

May 21 – Adjudication Hearing, 1 p.m., City Hall

May 22 – Veterans Dinner, 6:30 p.m., at Meridian Banquets

May 23 – Veterans Day Parade and Observance, 11 a.m. Parade starts at Kirchoff Rd. and Meadow Dr., and ends at the Carillon Tower.

May 26-29 – Brush collection week, Section 2

May 26 – City Council Meeting, 7:30 p.m., City Hall

May 28 – Adjudication Hearing, 1 p.m., City Hall

May 30-31 – Community Weekend at Arlington Park. Details available at [www.arlingtonpark.com](http://www.arlingtonpark.com), or call 847-385-7410.

## Rolling Meadows to Receive \$3.78 Million In Federal Stimulus Funding

The Rolling Meadows economy will receive the boost of \$3.78 million in federal stimulus funding to upgrade the East and West Frontage Roads along Route 53.

Pavement patching and resurfacing of the two roads, located between Kirchoff and Algonquin Roads, is expected to begin in 2010. The City will complete the design and engineering phase of the project by the summer.

“This is a 100% federally-funded project that will make needed improvements to two important

roadways that are 45 years-old,” Public Works Director Fred Vogt explains. “East and West Frontage Roads divert traffic from nearby residential streets, offer alternative routes from the downtown area to the southern end of the City, and serve as access roads to many neighborhoods in the vicinity of Route 53.”

A goal of the federal stimulus package, passed by Congress in February, is to deliver funding for construction and infrastructure projects that can begin quickly.

“Frontage Road

improvements are an integral part of the City’s infrastructure plans,” Vogt adds. “From the federal government’s standpoint, this is a relatively simple project because the City will not have to acquire any property or easements, which often cause delays.”

The \$3.78 million funding package equals about 25% of the \$13 million provided to the Northwest Municipal Conference (NWMC) services area, of which Rolling Meadows is a member.

## City to Honor Veterans with May 23 Memorial Day Parade, Observance

Rolling Meadows will honor those who have served in the nation’s armed forces Saturday, May 23, during its annual Memorial Day Parade and observance.

The parade steps off from the corner of Kirchoff Road and Meadow Drive at 11 a.m. Participants will march west on Kirchoff to the Carillon Tower, site of a solemn ceremony set for 11:30 a.m.

The City encourages local veterans to participate in this year’s parade. Family members of veterans are also welcome to march, carrying photos or other mementos of their loved ones. The City will provide transportation for participants unable to walk the parade route.



Residents remember friends and family who have served in the armed forces during the 2008 Memorial Day Observance.

At the Carillon, Mayor Ken Nelson will lead City officials and invited dignitaries in a wreath laying ceremony at the base of the Veterans Monument.

The Rolling Meadows Veterans Committee maintains a registry of resident veterans who have taken part in previous Memorial Day Parades. Veterans

who wish to participate in this year’s parade, and have not registered for the event in previous years, may contact Barry Krumstok, Assistant City Manager, at 847-394-8500 (ext. 1002).

## April 7 Election Results

● **Ward 2 Alderman Barb Lusk**, running unopposed, was elected to a second term on City Council.

● **Brad Judd**, also running unopposed, was elected to represent the 4<sup>th</sup> Ward. He replaces retiring Alderman Tom Rooney.

● In the 6<sup>th</sup> Ward, former Alderman **John D'Astice** received 61% of the vote to succeed incumbent Alderman Kathy Kwandras.

Winners will be sworn in during the May 12 City Council meeting.

## Committee to Host Dinner for City Veterans, May 22

Local veterans are invited to reconnect with fellow service members at a special Veterans Dinner hosted by the City's Veterans Committee Friday, May 22. This year's event begins at 6:30 p.m. and will take place at Meridian Banquets, 1701 Algonquin Road. Resident veterans and a guest will enjoy a multi-course meal complete with appetizers, soup, salad, main course and dessert.

**Space is limited to 200.** For reservations, contact Barry Krumstok at 847-394-8500 (ext. 1002).

## July 4 Parade Forms Available

With preparations for the City's 2009 Independence Day celebration underway, the Rolling Meadows Chamber of Commerce invites residents, businesses, community organizations and school groups to enter floats or other specialty vehicles in this year's parade.

Entry forms are available at City Hall. Complete and return applications to the Chamber by Thursday, June 4, to secure a spot in this year's parade. For more information, contact the Chamber of Commerce at 847-398-3730 or e-mail [office@rmchamber.org](mailto:office@rmchamber.org).

## May Food Drive to Benefit Greater Chicago Food Depository

Rolling Meadows has partnered with Veolia Environmental Services in support of a May food drive to benefit The Greater Chicago Food Depository. Throughout the month, residents are invited to bring non-perishable food items to:

- City Hall, 3600 Kirchoff Road;
- Rolling Meadows Library, 3100 Martin Lane;
- Public Works Department, 3900 Berdnick Street; or
- Veolia ES Solid Waste Midwest, LLC, 3851 Berdnick Street.

To make a monetary donation, log onto [www.veoliafooddrive.com](http://www.veoliafooddrive.com).

## City Interns

### Amanda Lessner

Amanda Lessner, of Hoffman Estates, decided she wants a job where she works outside with people, not sitting behind a desk. "I need to be out there moving," she says. A cousin who is now a San Francisco police officer helped her choose law enforcement, and her parents have been very supportive. She is one of only two or three women in her Western Illinois University classes in law enforcement and justice administration.



Lessner's experience with the Rolling Meadows Police Department has made her feel even stronger about her career choice. "I've learned a lot in one-on-one conversation with the officers. I understand there isn't action all the time, but I really like not knowing what I'm going to be doing all day," she says. Like other police interns, she's had exposure to virtually every aspect of the department's work. She graduates from Western Illinois in May and hopes to find a law enforcement job this summer.

Another Western Illinois senior, Spencer Cornell, of Schaumburg, has been interning at the fire department, where Firefighter Dave Bacino, left in to, serves as his mentor. Cornell first thought he wanted to be an arson investigator, and then was drawn to the fire service. His grandfather was a Park Ridge firefighter.

Some people may imagine that firefighters spend much of their time waiting for something to happen, but Cornell has learned that's definitely not the case. Detailed equipment checks can take hours. He has a lot of homework, and training is a continuous process. About 70 percent of fire department calls are for emergency medical service—many of those for elderly assistance or diabetic issues. Calls are frequent. In fact, our interview with Cornell and Bacino was cut short when an emergency call came in. The sirens began to sound, and off they went.

### Spencer Cornell



As mentor, Bacino helps bring Cornell, who's only a few years younger than he is, "into the mix" in the firehouse and make him feel comfortable. Cornell already has a job lined up with Superior Ambulance Company, and while working there he plans to complete a 9-10 month Northwest Community Hospital program for paramedic certification.

# Five City Interns Receive Practical Experience, College Credit, while Learning on the Job

Five bright young people with definite career plans are pleasing supervisors across the City and proving that young people don't necessarily graduate from college without practical on-the-job experience. The five are interns receiving college credit for their work: two in the police department, one in the fire department, and two at the Police Neighborhood Resource Center.

"Some colleges require students completing a criminal justice major to serve as interns with a law enforcement agency," says Officer Mark Mrozek. "The expectation is that the student will get practical law enforcement experience that cannot be learned in the classroom."

Before students can be accepted as Rolling Meadows interns, City officials interview them. "During the interview, we try to determine the character of the student. It is important that we select students who are responsible and mature enough to participate in police activities," Mrozek says. The screening process also includes a background check.

News & Views visited the current class of five interns on the job and found them all busily engaged in learning their chosen fields, while giving the City the benefit of extra hands (at no cost). Let us introduce the City's 2009 class of interns:

At the Police Neighborhood Resource Center (PNRC), intern Erin Scott, of Lake Zurich, is helping Executive Director Victoria Bran with client assessments, counseling, student homework programs, and general administration. Scott, an Illinois State University graduate, is completing a master's degree in social work at Dominican University, from the Grayslake extension campus.

Scott's college major was Spanish. She's currently working at Northwest Community Hospital's Buffalo Grove clinic, while completing the MSW degree. Scott says she loves working at PNRC, especially leading the girls and tween groups, and it has helped her learn why she decided on social work after first considering a career in business.



*Erin Scott*



*Chris Skalon*

On the police department's midnight shift, Western Illinois senior Chris Skalon, of Schaumburg, says his internship has been a lot better than he expected. "I didn't think it would be such an awesome experience," he says. "It's shown me that law enforcement is exactly what I want to do. I like everything about it."

Skalon has worked all shifts and done "just about everything—investigations, records, front desk, patrol." His interest in law enforcement dates to high school, when he participated in an Explorers Group that met weekly with police officers. Skalon's impression is that Rolling Meadows officers are "much happier with their jobs" than many policemen he's known. "They have a passion for it," he says.

Leslie Flores, of Schaumburg, has many of the same duties at the PNRC that Erin Scott does on different weekdays. She's also helping clients with employment applications and handling paperwork. A graduate of Rolling Meadows High School, Flores is completing a degree at Northeastern Illinois University, Chicago, with a major in justice and a minor in political science. She hopes to enter law school in the fall.

The Flores family came to the U.S. from Mexico when Leslie was a young girl. She is fluent in Spanish and believes she's learned a great deal from the PNRC experience. "There have been moments when it's been an eye-opener," she says.

"We are happy and proud that when a student completes an intern program in Rolling Meadows, they are ready to meet the challenges of the job with a better understanding of what's to come," Mrozek says.



*Leslie Flores*

## Ordinance Lets City Recoup Expenses For Major Public Safety Operations

City Council's approval of a "Specialized Rescue Services" ordinance allows the City to recoup expenses incurred during major public safety operations caused by negligence or failure to adhere to established safety protocols, such as a hazardous materials spill.

Following Illinois General Assembly approval of a bill authorizing municipalities to charge for special rescue services, City Council passed an ordinance that outlines specific services – and associated personnel and equipment costs – that are eligible for reimbursement. It also sets clear guidelines for determining liability.

"This ordinance is designed to reduce the burden on taxpayers by requiring those who cause major public safety incidents to cover the

costs of the City's response," Rolling Meadows Fire Chief Ron Stewart explains. "Over the past three years, we have responded to just four situations that would qualify for reimbursement under the specialized rescue services ordinance. They do not happen very often, although they can be costly."

The ordinance defines specialized rescue services as technical response for hazardous materials incidents, building collapse, high angle, trench, confined space and dive rescue responses, or other non-routine rescues that require one or more participants to have specialized training, abilities or certifications.

## Brush Pickup Begins May 11

The City's annual brush pickup begins in May. The program provides pickup of brush and branches up to six inches in diameter once per year. Public Works will conduct pickups in Sections 1 and 2 in May. Sections 3 and 4 will be served in June.



## Police Praise Public's Help In Arrest of Stabbing Suspect

Rolling Meadows Police are grateful for the public's help in thwarting a retail theft incident at the Meijer Superstore on Algonquin Road that resulted in the stabbing of a store security guard.

On March 16, a man entered Meijer and tried to steal three bottles of champagne. One of the store's loss prevention officers witnessed the theft and chased the suspect outside to the parking lot. There, dozens of people watched as the suspect pulled a knife and stabbed the security guard in the chest.

Despite suffering a punctured lung and bleeding from a critical wound, the security guard called 911 from his cell phone. It was the first of many emergency calls received about the incident, according to Police Sgt. Thomas Gadomski.

"Dispatchers received a flood of calls from shoppers and store employees who witnessed the attack," he says. "The community really came out in force to provide

*"The community really came out in force to provide eyewitness details of what happened."*

—Sgt. Thomas Gadomski

eyewitness details of what happened."

This "real-time" information feed allowed responding officers to quickly determine the location of the suspect.

"Patrol officers arriving on the scene were greeted by a large group of people pointing to a van parked nearby," Gadomski explains. "Eyewitnesses had seen the suspect flee to the van, which was to serve as the 'getaway' vehicle."

Surrounded by Rolling Meadows police officers, the suspect surrendered and was

placed under arrest. He has since been indicted on charges of attempted murder, aggravated battery and retail theft.

Fire Department paramedics stabilized the wounded security guard and transported him to Northwest Community Hospital. He survived and is expected to make a full recovery.

Police later learned that the stab wound had missed the victim's heart by one-sixteenth of an inch.

"This case is a perfect example of how there is no such thing as a simple crime," Police Chief Steve Williams says. "We are extremely grateful to the public for their help in identifying the suspect. It is a striking example of how citizens play a vital role in helping the Police Department achieve its mission of protecting Rolling Meadows," he adds.

The incident brings new meaning to the term, "community policing."

Place brush and branches in a neat pile at curbside during the week indicated for each chipper section. Public Works crews will remove the debris the following week.

**Section 1** (south of Euclid, west of Wilke, north of Kirchoff and east of Salt Creek):

● Set out: Monday, May 4 – Friday, May 8

● Pickup: Monday, May 11 – Friday, May 15

**Section 2** (south of Kirchoff, west of New Wilke, and east of Salt Creek):

● Set out: Monday, May 18 – Friday, May 22

● Pickup: Tuesday, May 26 – Friday, May 29

Residents who miss their pickup may cut branches to four feet in length, bundle and tie with string, and place at the curb with yard waste on their regular refuse collection day, or call Public Works at 847-963-0500 for a special pickup at an additional fee.

A map of chipper routes is available through the "City Calendar" link on Rolling Meadows' Website, [www.cityrm.org](http://www.cityrm.org).

## Local Defense Contractor Earns Prestigious OSHA Safety Award

Northrop Grumman Corporation's Electronic Systems facility in Rolling Meadows has been awarded the prestigious STAR Award by the Occupational Safety and Health Administration (OSHA).

The award, part of OSHA's Voluntary Protection Program (VPP), recognized the company's "exemplary occupational safety and health program," according to a Northrop Grumman news release. The STAR designation recognizes exemplary worksites with comprehensive, successful safety and health management systems that provide effective employee protection beyond OSHA standards.

"This is an exciting day for the City of Rolling Meadows and for Northrop Grumman Corporation," Mayor Ken Nelson said during an April ceremony. "VPP certification is truly an



*OSHA's presentation to Northrop Grumman featured (l to r) Mayor Ken Nelson; Robert Del Boca, Sector Vice President and General Manager, Defensive Systems Division; Diane Turek, Director, OSHA Chicago North Office; Ed Glod, Manager, Environmental Health and Safety; Nancy Hauter, OSHA Compliance Assistance Specialist; and John Buckley, Vice President, Engineering and Manufacturing.*

honor reserved for the best of the best. I'm proud that one of our nation's top defense contractors, and our 2008 Rolling Meadows top employer, is also a safe company."

## Vehicle Stickers, Dog Licenses on Sale June 1; City to Offer Online Purchase Option

A new service offered by the Finance Department will allow residents to purchase vehicle stickers and dog licenses online through the City of Rolling Meadows Website, [www.cityrm.org](http://www.cityrm.org).

The sale of 2009-10 vehicle stickers and dog licenses will run June 1 – June 30. Vehicle stickers start at \$22, while dog tags cost \$5 (\$3 for neutered/spayed animals). All dogs must be licensed and have rabies shots.

The Finance Department will mail vehicle sticker renewal notices to all residents in early June. To order online, log onto the City's Website, click the "Finance Department" icon, then follow the screen prompts.

For residents without Internet access, the mailing will include a pre-addressed envelope, making it convenient to order stickers from home. Drivers may also use the white drop box located in

front of City Hall, 3600 Kirchoff Road, in order to avoid potentially long lines when purchasing stickers in person.

All drivers with cars registered or housed in Rolling Meadows – including residents with Palatine mailing addresses – must purchase and display the 2009-10 stickers by June 30. Stickers purchased after the June 30 deadline will double in price. Beginning July 1, motorists who fail to display the new sticker will be subject to a \$100 police citation.

Funds generated from vehicle sticker sales support Rolling Meadows' ongoing street maintenance activities, which keep City streets in good condition and prevent excessive wear and tear on residents' cars and trucks.

## Hide Valuables to Reduce Risk of Vehicle Break-Ins

The best way for residents to reduce the risk of their vehicle being broken into by thieves is to avoid leaving anything of value in a parked car, Rolling Meadows Police advise.

In the first three months of 2009, motorists called police to report more than 50 vehicle break-ins. The majority of the incidents involved the theft of global positioning system (GPS) units. In several cases, offenders have broken into more than one vehicle in the same area, such as parking lots.

"Car burglaries are nothing new," Officer Mark Mrozek explains. "We have responded to an average of 11 break-ins a month over the past two years. The key to reducing one's risk is to avoid leaving anything of value in a parked vehicle, especially if those items are visible to passers-by."

Motorists are encouraged to store GPS cords and mounting brackets, or other accessories that might tempt burglars, where they cannot be seen through the windshield or windows. Drivers should consider carrying GPS units, cell phones or other portable electronic items with them when leaving their vehicles.

Residents who are victims of a vehicle break-in should call 911 immediately. Do not get into the car. Broken glass may cause injury, and doing so may affect police efforts to gather evidence.

## Sneaker Recycling Program Runs Through May 12

Residents may donate athletic shoes in support of the "Reuse-A-Shoe" program, sponsored by the Solid Waste Agency of Northern Cook County (SWANCC) and Nike, through May 12. Shoes collected through the program are recycled to create material for use in creating running tracks and other athletic court surfaces. Bring used athletic shoes to the Public Works Department, 3900 Berdnick Street; City Hall, 3600 Kirchoff Road; or the Rolling Meadows Park District Community Center, 3705 Pheasant Drive.



## Take Time to Honor Volunteers

BY MAYOR KEN NELSON

I recently had the opportunity to attend a ceremony where a number of folks throughout Cook

County were honored for their volunteer work. Among them was our own Sue Walton, a former alderman and for many years the chair of the City's Environmental Committee.

That ceremony made me realize we don't do enough to thank those who take their time and, often, money, to help our community. Think of the volunteers who serve on City boards and commissions, who work with our police, fire and public works departments, who maintain the flowerbeds at our entry signs, who clean up along the roadways. And

that just scratches the surface. Add to that list those who volunteer for the park district, our senior center, hospitals, churches, schools, scouts... the list goes on and on.

The program from the ceremony featured a quote from Erma Bombeck: "Volunteers are the only human beings on the face of the earth who reflect this nation's compassion, unselfish caring, patience, and just plain loving one another." I couldn't agree more.

To the hundreds of you who volunteer your time, I offer the thanks of our entire community. Believe me, you do make a difference. And I encourage each of you to take a moment and thank a friend or a neighbor you know who spends time on volunteer projects.

## Jewel Shopping Center Renovations Scheduled to Begin this Summer

Extensive remodeling of the Rolling Meadows Shopping Center on Kirchoff Road is scheduled to begin this summer, Community Development Director Valerie Dehner reports.

Exterior renovations will create a neo-traditional façade for the shopping center's tenants, including Jewel-Osco, improve area signage, and add a drive-through pharmacy on Jewel's east side. Interior improvements at the Jewel-Osco are also part of the plan, following City Council's approval last month.

"In the midst of the recession, we are excited to work with Jewel and the shopping center's owners to redevelop a pivotal property in the heart of downtown," Dehner says. "It is gratifying to know that, despite current economic conditions, businesses continue to view Rolling Meadows as a good investment."

Dehner says the remodeling project should be completed by early 2010.

The shopping center's updated look will complement downtown's newer mixed-use developments, such as the Riverwalk and Kimball Square

Condominium projects. It furthers City efforts to refashion downtown Rolling Meadows as a "lifestyle center."

Lifestyle centers seek to recreate the ambiance of a traditional main street. A mixture of uses typically includes residential, office space, retail stores, churches, entertainment and municipal facilities such as libraries. Rolling Meadows' downtown currently features all these uses.



Valerie Dehner

## Library to Host May 6 Cancer Awareness Forum

A City-sponsored series of programs devoted to raising cancer awareness continues in May with a community cancer aware-

ness forum, Wednesday, May 6, 7:30 p.m., at the Rolling Meadows Library.

The program will feature a speakers' panel consisting of a cancer survivor, a medical practitioner, and representatives from the American Cancer Society and Wellness Place, a Palatine-based organization offering support and education to those living with cancer and their loved ones.

Admission is free. To register, contact the Rolling Meadows Library at 847-259-6050.

## May 17 Craft Fair to Benefit American Cancer Society

A "Crafting for a Cure" craft fair will take place Sunday, May 17, 11 a.m. - 3 p.m., at the Indigo Hotel, 920 E. Northwest Highway, in Palatine. All proceeds will benefit the American Cancer Society. For more information, call 847-670-1280.

## 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**