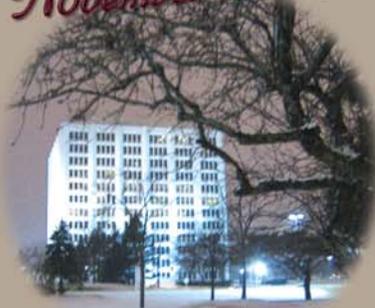


Signs of the Season  
November 2009



## CONTACT CITY OFFICIALS AND STAFF

Mayor: Kenneth Nelson  
City Clerk: Lisa Hinman  
City Manager: Sarah Phillips  
City Hall Hours: 8 a.m. to 4 p.m.  
Monday-Friday  
Curfew: Sun.-Thurs. 11 p.m.  
Fri. & Sat. Midnight

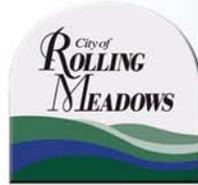
### Aldermen

1st Ward: John Pitzaferrro  
847-655-1390  
2nd Ward: Barb Lusk  
847-567-2444  
3rd Ward: Lawrence Buske  
847-255-9126  
4th Ward: 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

### 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  
Walk-up hours:  
8 a.m.-4 p.m.  
Community Development Dept.:  
847-506-6030  
Walk-up hours:  
8 a.m.-4 p.m.  
TDD: 847-506-0490  
Senior Services: 847-394-8500  
ComEd — 1-800-EDISON-1  
PNRC — 847-506-2059

Look Us Up on the Web  
at: [www.cityrm.org](http://www.cityrm.org)



# NEWS

Volume 12, Number 11

# & Views



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

## City Seeks Stimulus Funding For Algonquin Road Lighting

The City is seeking funding through the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act for a joint project with Arlington Heights to improve street lighting along Algonquin Road, Public Works Director Fred Vogt reports.

The project, already programmed for up to \$2.2 million in funding under the Illinois Department of Transportation's Surface Transportation Program, is scheduled to commence in 2011. If the City receives funding through the federal stimulus program, construction might begin next spring.

"More than \$12 million in federal stimulus funding has been provided to the Northwest Municipal Confer-

ence service area, of which Rolling Meadows is a member," Vogt explains. "If current projects continue to come in under budget, there is a good chance we will be able to secure funding for Algonquin Road street lighting within the next six months."

Prompted by concern about vehicular and pedestrian accidents on Algonquin Road, City and Village of Arlington Heights officials have worked

## Residents Gave 33 units of 'Gift of Life'

Residents gave 33 units of "the gift of life" during an October 12 LifeSource blood drive at the Neuckranz Fire Station.



together more than a year on plans to improve area street lighting.

There are three geographical locations to the proposed Algonquin Road street lighting project:

- **Illinois Route 53 to Weber Drive** (entirely within Rolling Meadows) – This area currently has highway lighting at expressway ramps and east to Magnolia Drive, but no highway lighting further east.

- **Weber Drive to Golf Road** (road's north side within Arlington Heights; south side within Rolling Meadows) – Features sporadic highway lighting built at different times in the last 30 years.

- **Golf Road to Arlington Heights Road** (entirely within

Continued on page 5

## Council to Hold Public Hearing On 2010 Budget, December 1

The City will hold a final public hearing on the proposed budget for Fiscal Year 2010 Tuesday, December 1, during its regularly scheduled City Council meeting. The hearing follows more than two months of extensive discussion by Council members and staff on the crafting of next year's budget.

Residents are encouraged to attend the hearing or watch from home on Cable TV Channel 6. City Council members expect to approve the 2009 budget document following the public hearing.

Discussion on department budgets continues Tuesday, November 3, with first reading of the proposed 2010 tax levy taking place Tuesday, November 10. A draft of the proposed budget is available for review at City Hall, 3600 Kirchoff Road; the Rolling Meadows Library, 3110 Martin Lane; and online at the City's Website.

## Kick the Habit at November 19 'Smokeout'

Rolling Meadows' Cancer Awareness Committee members invite residents to join the 34<sup>th</sup> Great American Smokeout Challenge, Thursday, November 19, 4 – 7 p.m., at City Hall.

The City has partnered with the American Cancer Society and Wellness Place – a Palatine-based cancer support organization – to provide information on smoking cessation programs, tips for quitting, and local support groups for those who want to “kick the habit.”

Attendees may also register to participate in a guided imagery program for smoking cessation, beginning at 5:30 p.m. Contact Cathy Thompson at 847-394-8500 to reserve a spot.

The Great American Smokeout began in 1976 to inspire and encourage smokers to quit for one day. According to the American Cancer Society's Website, [www.cancer.org](http://www.cancer.org), nearly 40% of the 43.4 million Americans who smoke have attempted to quit for at least one day in the past year, and the program “remains a great opportunity to encourage people to commit to making a long-term plan to quit for good.”

## Police Honor Seven Officers With Exceptional Duty Award

Seven Rolling Meadows Police Officers are recipients of the Department's Exceptional Duty Award for their roles in apprehending a man charged with bank robbery and implicated in eight other armed robberies.

Police Chief Steve Williams presented awards to Deputy Chief Dave Scanlan, Commander Bill Arneson, Sergeant Mark Hogan, and Officers Dick Amundsen, Tony Luzin, Scott McCormack and Jaime Rivera in a brief ceremony during City Council's September 21 meeting.

The Award credits the seven for their “exceptional skill, bravery and determination in tracking the offender and bringing this matter to a successful conclusion.”

On August 11, an armed robber stole \$14,000 from a local bank and fled on a bicycle. Sgt. Hogan and Officer Luzin responded to the scene and gathered information that proved crucial to the



*Police Chief Steve Williams (at podium) presented awards to (from left) Sergeant Mark Hogan, Officers Scott McCormack, Jaime Rivera, and Dick Amundsen, as well as Deputy Chief Dave Scanlan, Commander Bill Arneson, and Officer Tony Luzin (not pictured).*

robber's apprehension later that day.

Deputy Chief Scanlan, Commander Arneson and Officers Amundsen, McCormack and Rivera moved to intercept the robber based on updates provided by dispatch, and information indicating that he had moved from a bicycle to a motor vehicle.

Officers spotted a red pickup truck at a gas station in Arlington Heights, with a bicycle in the bed of the truck. The suspect was cornered and arrested after being found hiding near a garbage dumpster behind the gas station.

## Public Works Showcases 'Innovative' Training Academy at IML Conference

Municipal leaders from throughout Illinois learned more about the Public Works Department's annual Citizens' Training Academy during an “Innovations Showcase” at the annual conference of the Illinois Municipal League (IML), September 25 – 26.

The conference, held at the Chicago Hilton and Towers, offered elected officials and administrators throughout the state an opportunity to learn new ways to enhance services, save taxpayers money, and meet local needs.

“Many of the officials we talked with at the conference commented on how they had established Police and Fire Academies, but a citizens' academy for public works was something they had never considered,” explains Assistant Public Works Director Bob Hartnett. “We were very pleased to be invited to the conference, as it allowed us to showcase what the Rolling Meadows Public Works Department was able to accomplish on a limited budget.”

Established in 2007, the Citizens' Training Academy helps residents learn more about the vital role Public Works plays in maintaining the City's quality of life. Attendees participate in hands-on training activities and educational sessions that provide in-depth exploration and understanding of Public Works' operations. The Academy “graduated” 18 residents in 2007, and 28 in 2008.

For more information about the third Citizens' Training Academy, scheduled for spring 2010, contact Assistant Public Works Director Bob Hartnett at 847-963-0500, or [hartnett@cityrm.org](mailto:hartnett@cityrm.org).

## Fire Department Opens Its House

*Families from throughout Rolling Meadows turned out for the Fire Department's open house in October, held in conjunction with National Fire Prevention Week activities.*



# School Resource Officers Assure That Students Learn in Safe Environment

Rolling Meadows Detective Sam Mollenhauer went back to high school this fall. He did not return for an education, but to assure that students at Rolling Meadows High School are able to learn in a safe environment.

Detective Mollenhauer and Officer Terry Cappelen, who splits time between Carl Sandburg and Plum Grove Junior High Schools, are the Police Department's School Resource Officers. Serving as liaisons between police and schools, they are a valuable resource for administrators, teachers and parents and, most importantly, kids.



Detective Sam Mollenhauer

The students they interact with may be of different age groups, but their goals are the same: ensuring the safety of nearly 2,500 high school and 1,400 junior high students.

"Ensuring a safe environment for the students and staff is my top priority," Detective Mollenhauer says. "Schools are places where kids should be learning. I feel I owe it to them to do everything in my power to help them feel at ease, so they can focus on their educational goals."

"The most important part of our jobs is to make sure that kids who want to learn are able to do so," Officer Cappelen adds. "Whether that means counseling students or meeting with teachers to understand the needs of the

kids, my door is always open."

Having a cop "on the beat" in local schools gives the Police Department an immediate response capability to address potential security threats, gang activities, bullying, or any other outside influence that may affect a student's ability to learn. The program also gives students exposure to law enforcement officers that they may not get outside school walls.

***"The most important part of our jobs is to make sure that kids who want to learn are able to do so."***

"This program is a great way to let kids know that police officers are here to help them," Officer Cappelen – known as "O.C." by students – explains. "Working in a school setting allows me to get to know these kids on a one-on-one basis, which makes it far easier for them to ask for assistance if they need it."

At Rolling Meadows High School, Detective Mollenhauer also serves as an adjunct member of the school's faculty. He teaches a marriage and family class that focuses on how police officers deal with domestic problems, and supervises dances and sporting events.

"I don't want students to see me as only a police officer. I'm a part of the school," he says. "The more I'm able to make a connection with them, the more they may be willing to talk to me about problems they're facing."

The relationships he builds with

students can lead to opportunities to serve on a special peer jury or to help the Rolling Meadows Police Department enforce ordinances governing the sale of alcohol or tobacco to minors.

The peer jury program includes students from Rolling Meadows, Fremd and St. Viator high schools. Its focus is delinquency prevention. The peer jury is a way to introduce students to an important civic responsibility and to teach first-time offenders charged with relatively minor offenses – like fighting or damage to property – to understand the consequences of their actions.



Officer Terry Cappelen

Instead of sending these cases to court, they go to a peer jury of high school students, convened in Rolling Meadows City Hall. Students may "sentence" their peers to spend some time in bond court learning how expensive it can be to break the law.

Officer Cappelen, a 24-year veteran of the Rolling Meadows Police Department, has served as District 15 School Resource Officer since 1999.

Detective Mollenhauer joined the Department as a Community Service Officer in 2004, spent four years as a patrol officer, and was promoted to the Investigations Unit earlier this year.



## High-Rise Rescue Training Hones Firefighters' Skills

Rolling Meadows firefighter Pete Sutter repels down an elevator shaft at Continental Towers during a training drill for the Fire Department's Technical Rescue Team (TRT).

The regional training scenario included units from surrounding fire departments, and covered procedures for the extrication and rescue of passengers from a stranded elevator.

"TRT drills are intended to hone skills and prepare for situations that, although rare, require immediate professional response," Rolling Meadows Team Leader Lt. Mike Ahlman explains. "In this case, team members practiced the evacuation of passengers trapped in an elevator or elevator shaft."

## Adjudication Unit's Mission: Protect Residents, Enforce City Codes

Shoddy workmanship on a residential roofing project cost a local contractor \$350 in fines, after the case was presented before the City's Adjudication Unit during one of its regular August hearings.

Hearing Officer Stephanie Posey carefully listened as the City Prosecutor presented evidence describing how the contractor did not hold a valid business license. The contractor also failed to schedule a final inspection, even after receiving written notice from the Community Development Department.



Stephanie Posey

Additional testimony from the affected homeowners detailed how the contractor had failed to remove damaged shingles before re-roofing, which caused further damage to the home.

Other cases among the 29 Posey decided that afternoon included a resident's repeated failure to schedule final inspections for a kitchen-remodeling project (liable), a convenience store's sale of alcohol to a minor (liable), and a property owner's noncompliance with City standards for soil erosion control along Salt Creek (not liable).

Cases such as these are the reason Rolling Meadows established the adjudication process 10 years ago. It provides an efficient method for enforcing building and code violations, protects residents from unscrupulous contractors or property owners who might skirt health regulations or building and zoning codes, and reduces the need for City staff to attend multiple court hearings.

"Adjudication offers residents a more informal, less intimidating atmosphere to contest violations," Posey says. "For most people, it is far more convenient to attend a hearing at City Hall than in court. The City tries to make this process as simple as possible for everyone involved."

Posey was appointed Rolling Meadows' Hearing Officer in 2005. She began her career with Chicago Public

Schools as a hearing officer for student expulsion cases, and has extensive experience overseeing liquor control and building code violations. She earned her law degree from ITT Chicago Kent School of Law, and recently established her own practice.

The adjudication process offers respondents an opportunity to present their side of the story. Posey says she wants those who appear before the Unit to present their version of events, as their perspective may affect how she views the case.

"My discretion is limited, but I always approach everything on a case-by-case basis," she says. "The City wants me to be fair and give people the benefit of the doubt whenever possible."

Those found liable through the adjudication process may be required to pay a fine. Others are given 30 days to correct the problem.

Fines jump 150% if not paid within 30 days, although most violators pay promptly.

Held three times per month, the adjudication program was expanded last year to include red light camera violations. As each red light case is called, Posey asks motorists if they would like to offer any information about why they should not be held liable for the alleged violation. She then reviews video provided by the red light cameras multiple times to determine her ruling.

More than half of the 16 motorists who appeared before the Unit in June to contest red light violations had their cases dismissed after Posey ruled in their favor.

In one situation, the motorist had been cited for two violations within a three-day timeframe. Following review of the videos, Posey found the respondent liable for the first offense but dismissed the second.

## October Starts Snow Season for Public Works

Each October, a time when many residents are cheering their favorite football teams, raking leaves and, perhaps, trying to squeeze in one last outdoor barbecue, the Public Works Department is already gearing up for another snow season.

Never knowing when the first winter storm of the season may cover Rolling Meadows in a blanket of white, crews spend the fall months mounting plows to the front of Department vehicles, testing hydraulics, calibrating salt applicators, and conducting test runs along snow removal routes.

"Our snow plow drivers conduct dry-runs of their routes each fall in order to determine potential hazards, such as pavement settlements, drainage structures, manhole frames, and curb conditions that might damage the vehicles, or residential mailboxes that are leaning forward from the curb and might get

damaged during snow removal operations," Public Works Director Fred Vogt explains.

This detailed preparation is essential for maintaining the effectiveness of the City's snow removal operations, which have long been the envy of the northwest suburbs.

"Day or night, our mission is to

completely clear the streets of snow and make driving easier for our residents," Vogt adds. "The key to achieving that goal is to be prepared."

Once again this year, Public Works plans to reduce total salt usage through increased reliance on salt that has been pre-treated with "green" de-icing materials, such as corn or beet by-products, in combination with magnesium or calcium chloride. These materials are environmentally friendly alternatives to liquid calcium chloride, which the City had used for many years. Pre-treated salt is normally used in situations where temperatures drop below 25 degrees. The chemical additive improves the salt's melting capacity in extreme cold. It also provides better coverage for longer periods of time.

The City is also reducing operational costs by plowing sidewalk and bikepath routes only during regular work hours, when possible, and only after snow storms end.

### Refuse Pickup Unchanged for Veterans Day; Delayed One Day for Thanksgiving

Regular refuse pickup will take place Wednesday, November 11, despite City Hall and Public Works being closed in observance of Veterans Day.

Refuse pickups will be delayed one day for Thanksgiving, Thursday, November 26. Thursday routes will be picked up Friday, November 27. Regular Friday pickups will take place Saturday, November 28.

## Not the Best Time for Economic Development, But Activity Continues in Rolling Meadows

BY VALERIE DEHNER, COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT DIRECTOR

It's not the best of times for economic development. Many of the developers we speak with are interested in pursuing projects in Rolling Meadows, but for the moment, many are holding back, waiting for stronger signs of economic recovery and better access to credit.

That being said, we are pleased to see economic development activity in the City continue at a reasonable pace. We have seen a spurt in the number of new business licenses over the past few months, after the year started slowly.

A number of commercial projects are moving ahead. We have three new restaurants—Red Apple Pancake House & Cafe on Plum Grove Road and two on Algonquin—Chef Ping and La Charanga Mexican Cuisine. A new Marathon service station/convenience store opened recently on Algonquin.

In addition, we just celebrated completion of a rehab/remodel project at Walmart and Sam's Club, and we have an exterior remodel underway at the Rolling Meadows Shopping Center on Kirchoff. Rehab/remodel projects are also underway at Research in Motion and Cricket Communications on Golf Road, and JC Restoration at 3200 Squibb.

While these projects are not large in number, and we don't see multiacre projects going forward right now, this activity clearly shows that new businesses are moving to the City and setting up shop. In addition, we have many residential remodels.

While the number of building permits is down slightly from last year, they were up last year in the midst of the recession. The people in Rolling Meadows are deciding to stay put longer, and they're reinvesting in their properties. Things are not at a standstill on the community development front, as some press reports indicate.

We also continue to meet with people who are making plans for the time when the economy recovers, and the market turns around. We have continuing interest in the Dominick's property on Kirchoff Road. We have two parties interested in the lot at Riverwalk. We have been increasing our efforts to get out into the business community and talk up these opportunities.

Also, we continue to make business retention visits. For the most part, the Rolling Meadows business people we speak with are hanging on and making do. They know things are starting to turn, and better business days are ahead.

The tight credit market continues to restrain economic development. Developers are unable to get money for their projects. We hear about a thawing of credit markets for the big banks, but we don't see this trickling down to local banks.

The sign of a healthy community is that it continues to change and improve itself—that it doesn't remain stagnant. The progress we are seeing on these projects and businesses shows that the City is healthy and moving forward, despite today's difficult economic conditions.

## Go 'Green,' Save Green with City's Automatic Bill Payment Program

More than 20% of Rolling Meadows' residents have enrolled in the City's automatic utility bill payment program, which offers a secure, convenient way to pay utility bills through a direct debit from a bank account or credit or debit card.

Customers may register for the program by visiting the City's Website, [www.cityrm.org](http://www.cityrm.org), and clicking the "Online Forms" icon found on the left side of the homepage to download a form. Residents may submit the form to the Finance Department or register in person at the Finance Department's office in City Hall.

Once registered, residents' monthly bills will be charged automatically to their respective credit cards or bank accounts on the 20<sup>th</sup> of each month.

Another way to go green is for residents and businesses to make payments via "Online Payments" on the City's Website. Through this Website feature, residents may pay their utility bills with a checking or savings account or credit card, purchase vehicle stickers and dog licenses, pay parking tickets, and renew business or contractor licenses, with just a few mouse clicks.

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

## Algonquin Road Lighting

*Continued from page 1*

Arlington Heights) – Offers limited lighting only at the Golf Road, Meijer Drive and Arlington Heights Road intersections, and at the Double Tree Hotel entrance just west of Arlington Heights Road.

"Current lighting along Algonquin Road is a major cause for concern," Vogt says. "The area has been the site of several accidents – including at least one fatality. From a public safety standpoint, it is imperative that we enhance lighting on this section of Algonquin Road."

## Walmart Celebrates Store Renovation



*celebration of the store's renovation (Mayor Ken Nelson presiding). The new store features wider aisles, enhanced lighting, and easy-to-read signs.*

*Rolling Meadows Chamber Executive Director Linda Liles Ballantine accepts a \$1,000 grant for educational workshops from Walmart Store Manager Chris Quinn during a ribbon-cutting*





## Time to Sign Up for Senior Snow Plowing Service

By MAYOR KEN NELSON

Attention Seniors! It's not too late to get signed up for our Senior Snow Plowing program. The program begins November 16<sup>th</sup> and continues through Mid-April.

Anytime there's a snowfall of 3 inches or more, a City-contracted plowing service will clear your driveway, and, if you have a detached garage, clear a path to the door nearest the garage.

This service is offered to the first 90 seniors who sign up for it. The cost is a **maximum** of \$35 per plowing event. But there is a discount for lower income residents, which could reduce the price to either \$23.45 per plowing (for a household of 2 people with an income of under \$40,000 per year) or even down to \$11.55 (for a household of 2 people with an income of less than \$20,000 per year.)

The service has proven quite popular over the years, so I encourage you to contact the Public Works Department as soon as possible.

If you're not a senior but have a family member or neighbor who might qualify, please have them get in touch with our Public Works Department. You can stop by in person at 3900 Berndick Street or call them at 847/963-0500.

I don't know about you, but I hope you don't need this service very many times during the coming winter.

## Where do the Fogarty and Neuckranz Fire Station Names come from?

Station 15, located at 3110 Meadow Drive, is named for the City's first full-time fire Chief, Thomas Fogarty. Fogarty became chief of the then-all-volunteer department in 1958, and served until he retired in 1977. He was named full-time chief in 1967, and RMFD became an official City department in 1973.

Station 16, 2455 Plum Grove Road, is named for former Ward 1 Alderman and community activist Raymond H. Neuckranz. In the 1970s, Neuckranz was a vocal supporter of a second fire station to serve the City's growing areas west of Route 53. The "new" station was dedicated and named after Neuckranz in 1980.



### 1 Daylight Savings Time Ends...

Clocks fall back one hour. Change the batteries in your smoke and carbon monoxide detectors, too!

# November 2009

	<b>2</b> Early Refuse Setout Begins.	<b>3</b> City Council Meeting/Budget Hearing, 7:30 p.m., City Hall	<b>4</b>	<b>5</b>	<b>6</b>	<b>7</b>
<b>8</b>	<b>9</b>	<b>10</b> City Council Meeting/Budget Hearing, 7:30 p.m., City Hall	<b>11</b> <b>Veterans Day.</b> City Hall closed. Regular refuse pickup.	<b>12</b> <b>Adjudication Hearing,</b> 1 p.m., City Hall	<b>13</b>	<b>14</b>
<b>15</b>	<b>16</b>	<b>17</b> City Council Committee of the Whole, 7:30 p.m., City Hall	<b>18</b>	<b>19</b> <b>Adjudication Hearing,</b> 1 p.m., City Hall	<b>20</b> Water bills due	<b>21</b>
<b>22</b>	<b>23</b>	<b>24</b>	<b>25</b>	<b>26</b> Thanksgiving Day	<b>27</b> City Hall closed	<b>28</b>
<b>29</b>	<b>30</b>	<b>Early Refuse Setout Begins November 2</b> Place refuse at the curb no earlier than 3 p.m. the day prior to pickup.		 <b>Thanksgiving Holiday.</b> City Hall closed. Refuse collection delayed. Thursday routes will be collected Friday; Friday routes collected Saturday.		