

Signs of the Season
September 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 Pitzaferra
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

New walk-up hours: 8 a.m.-4 p.m.

Community Development Dept.: 847-506-6030

New 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

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NEWS

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City to Receive \$655,000 in Capital Funding

A bill signed by Gov. Pat Quinn this summer will provide approximately \$655,000 in capital funding to the City of Rolling Meadows for infrastructure, environmental and public safety improvements, City Manager Sarah Phillips reports.

The "Illinois Jobs Now" bill allocates:

- \$255,000 for construction engineering costs,
- \$100,000 for new construction and/or infrastructure improvements;
- \$100,000 for construction of a new fire station;
- \$75,000 to support Salt Creek stabilization;



The bill allows \$75,000 for Salt Creek stabilization.

- \$75,000 for storm water detention system improvements.

"Our plans call for reconstruction of the Golf Road/New Wilke intersection in 2010, so this money will offset the costs of that project,"

Phillips explains. "In addition, the City has put forward the \$75,000 in Salt Creek stabilization funding as part of a matching grant application for \$187,000 from the Illinois Environmental Protection Agency.

Phillips says there are no time frame restrictions on when the money must be used. "Realistically, most of these monies won't be available until next spring," she told the *Rolling Meadows Journal & Topics* newspaper.

Council to Receive Proposed 2010 Budget; Hold September 19 Budget Workshop

City Council will receive a preliminary version of the Fiscal Year (FY) 2010 budget during its regular September 8 meeting, then convene for a Saturday, September 19 workshop to discuss the draft and its potential impact on funding levels.

Staff's delivery of the budget document — which will be available for public review — is the result of two months of intensive planning and discussion between Finance Director Jim Egeberg, City Manager Sarah Phillips, and department heads.

"The overriding challenge we face is to provide proper funding levels for essential City services while simultaneously guaranteeing taxpayers get the most for their dollar," Egeberg explains. "Our top priority is to keep Rolling Meadows financially sound,

provide effective services and, most importantly, control costs."

For 2009, City spending was reduced to 2007 levels. Staff followed up with an additional \$620,000 in cost-containment strategies requested by Council members at a June budget workshop.

"While an increasing number of economists predict we'll see the beginnings of economic recovery in 2010, this will not have an immediate impact on revenues. The bottom line: we must continue to budget for services with limited resources," he adds.

During a series of October and November budget workshops, Council

members will continue to review budget materials and offer direction to staff. Plans call for City Council to adopt the 2010 budget in December.

Following receipt of the proposed 2010 budget, Council will pass a resolution making the document available for public review. A draft of the budget will be available at City Hall, 3600 Kirchoff Road; the Rolling Meadows Library, 3110 Martin Lane; and online at the City's Website, www.cityrm.org.

New on the Web: Pay Parking Tickets Online

A new feature on the City Website will let residents pay parking tickets online, and allow Rolling Meadows-based companies to renew annual business licenses with just a few clicks, Finance Department Senior Accountant Melissa Gallagher reports. Log onto www.cityrm.org, then click the "Online Payments" icon at the bottom left of the homepage to access the service.

Cancer Committee Distributes Information at Corn Fest; Supports Prostate Cancer Awareness Month

Members of the Rolling Meadows Cancer Committee distributed 300 packets containing information on cancer awareness, healthy eating and cancer screening to residents at the 2009 Corn Fest, August 1, at Community Church of Rolling Meadows.

“Committee members braved cold, wet rains and 35 mile-per-hour winds, but we were able to share information on cancer prevention and screening with a large segment of the people who attended Corn Fest,” Ward 2 Alderman and Cancer Awareness Committee Chair Barb Lusk explains. “We thank Community Church for allowing us to participate.”

Looking ahead to September, which is Prostate Cancer Awareness Month, Committee members urge men ages 50 and up to get screened for prostate cancer – the second leading cause of cancer death among men.

The American Cancer Society estimates that 192,280 new cases will be diagnosed this year, resulting in 27,360 deaths.

“A PSA (prostate-specific antigen) test is a simple, non-invasive method for men to be tested for prostate cancer,” Lusk, a healthcare professional at Northwest Community Hospital says. “Talk with your doctor to determine how best to be screened. The survival rate for prostate cancer is very high – if the disease is caught early.”

Economic Development Lessons Have Improved the City’s Process

By SARAH PHILLIPS, CITY MANAGER

Some of you may have read that United Airlines considered Rolling Meadows as a possible location for its Operations Center, currently housed in Elk Grove Village. We were narrowed down to one of their final two choices; unfortunately we did not have the financial means to offer a \$25 million TIF (Tax Increment Financing) package to United, as the City of Chicago did to attract them to the Willis (Sears) Tower. However, staff was able to learn a lot during the process that will help us improve our future economic development efforts.

During the process, United asked for a tremendous amount of information about the City, the potential sites they chose, transportation and attractions in the area, etc. Most of the information we have readily available, but we had not developed a package that could easily be assembled for future inquiries. Additionally, we were told that our information was the most thorough and comprehensive of all the communities that submitted. We will continue to keep our information up to date so that we can quickly provide information to potential new businesses.



“The key to attracting business to the community is promoting our best features, including our citizenry and the confidence we have that Rolling Meadows is a great place to do business.”

—Sarah Phillips
City Manager

Another area where we improved our process was in our search for incentives to offer businesses. While these are typically done on a case by case basis, depending on the company, types of employment, tax generation, etc., we did evaluate some incentives that had not been used in the past and even incentives that had not been available for us to use in the past. This allowed us to explore many more options for attracting businesses and competing with other surrounding communities.

When we have the opportunity to work with a potential new business, we want the owners and managers to feel assured that we have a great community in which to conduct business. We know that our location is an extremely important asset, and we will continue to promote it as an incentive for location in Rolling Meadows.

The key to attracting business to the community is promoting our best features, including our citizenry and the confidence we have that Rolling Meadows is a great place to do business. This process helped us learn that we have those features, and we will continually explore ways to improve our ability to attract new business to the community.

Deputy Fire Chief, Firefighter Recognized for “Invaluable” Role in Student Intern’s Education

Deputy Fire Chief Brian Dempsey and Firefighter Ryan Lettieri were awarded Certificates of Appreciation from Western Illinois University for their “invaluable assistance in supervising” student Brian Sheehan, who completed an internship with the RMFD this summer.

“Your personal guidance, knowledge and professionalism makes it possible for our students to complete internships that are both practical and enlightening,” wrote Western Illinois University Internship Coordinator Kenneth Wayne Durkin. “Please convey our gratitude to each individual responsible for making Brian’s stay with you a success.”

To date, the Fire Department has hosted three interns from Western Illinois through the school’s Law Enforcement and Justice Administration (LEJA) program. Two new interns will “report for duty” this fall.

“The Fire Department and Police Department have established successful relationships with Western Illinois officials, who keep suggesting Rolling Meadows as a good place for students to continue their education with internship training,” Dempsey explains. “This kind of intern program gives the next generation of police officers and firefighters first-hand experience, and contributes to a complete, well-rounded education.”

Harper College, Fire Department Partner to Develop Curriculum for Public Safety Degree Program



Scott Franzgrote

Deputy Fire Chief Scott Franzgrote participated in an intensive one-day planning session with Harper College officials this summer to develop curriculum for a Bachelor's of Applied Science (BAS)

Degree in Public Safety Administration. The college soon plans to offer the new program.

Franzgrote, joined by police and fire officials, and emergency management professionals from local communities, tapped their combined knowledge and expertise to help establish a framework for the four-year program.

"This type of program is designed to benefit public safety professionals and help them further their education," Franzgrote says. "Our discussion focused on the topics that would be most beneficial to police and fire departments throughout the northwest suburbs. We worked very hard, and when it was over, I believe we had created a rough outline for a good curriculum," he adds.

As currently envisioned, Harper's BAS in Public Safety Administration/Homeland Security would consist of courses in:

- Public safety administration foundations;
- Public personnel management;
- Public policy;
- Program planning and evaluation;
- Community relations theory and practice;
- Public finance;
- Administrative/public safety law;
- Contemporary issues;
- Organizational communication;
- Leadership and management practices;
- Facilities and property management;
- Grant administration and resource development;
- Disaster preparedness.

Harper has also distributed a survey to chiefs of area

fire and police departments for additional opinions on program options and delivery methods (classroom instruction and/or online/video conferencing).

July Blood Drive Gives 'Gift of Life'

Residents, City officials and staff teamed up to give the gift of life during a July 29 blood drive to benefit Glenview-based LifeSource Blood Center.

The blood drive marked the first time in several years that City Hall served as a donation site. Based on the drive's success, City leaders are considering plans to hold an annual drive.

"Hospitals are using blood at a much faster rate, as medical technology and surgical procedures become more advanced," Assistant City Manager Barry Krumstok explains. "As our population ages, the need for blood and blood products continues to increase."

In total, LifeSource conducted six blood drives on July 29. All blood collected during these events were distributed to area blood banks and hospitals.

Residents who would like to donate blood at local blood drives, or community groups and organizations interested in hosting blood drives, may find more information at www.lifesource.org, or by calling 877-543-3768.

Duck Race Raises \$2,288 For Salt Creek Restoration

A very successful duck race event, developed by the City's Environmental Committee, Rolling Meadows Rotary Club and the Park District Foundation, raised \$2,288 for Salt Creek restoration efforts, Parks and Recreation Director Amy Charlesworth reports.

The July 18 race featured 619 plastic ducks purchased by residents to support efforts to develop a Native Plant restoration area, located along Salt Creek near Park Central, 3000 Central Road. Charlesworth says the project will help curb soil erosion along the creek and create a natural habitat of native grasses and shrubs that will beautify the area.

The City's engineering firm, Christopher B. Burke Engineering, served as event sponsor. AMF Bowling, Holiday Inn, Rolling Meadows Historical Society and McDonald's also supported the event, donating a variety of prizes.

The owner of the winning duck, Carl Carruthers, received a \$500 cash prize. A \$500 gift certificate from AMF Bowling went to second place winner John Schegnee, and Ward 3 Alderman Larry Buske took home \$250 for a third place finish.



"We had overwhelming support for this environmental initiative that will benefit the entire community," says Amy

Charlesworth, seated at right with Lourdes Lota and Reid Bateman, Assistant Director of Public Works. Standing, from left are Abbey Darr, Sue Walton, Mayor Ken Nelson, Subash Sitaraman, Don Wenzel, Larry Scattaglia, Indu Sharma, Rotary President Mark Purcell and Jim Turi.



City Volunteer Gordon Gullicksen Never Stops Participating

For 39-year Rolling Meadows resident Gordon Gullicksen, the City's motto, "Progress through Participation," has been a call to action. He never stops participating.

Go to the City's fire stations, City Hall, the Public Works Department, the Police Department—just about anywhere the City operates—and you'll find people who know Gordon Gullicksen. Most recently, you can find him volunteering in the Finance Department.

Gullicksen was a member of the 911 Board when it disbanded earlier this year, after the City switched its emergency dispatch service to the regional Northwest Central Dispatch. A widower with a strong desire to keep busy, he needed something else to do.

Public Works Director Fred Vogt, also a member of the 911 Board, found a job for the retired businessman with a degree in accounting. First, he traveled much of the City with paper and pen in hand and noted which street signs may need replacement. He made a similar street-by-street survey of "no parking" signs. He reorganized the parts inventory for the motor pool and performed an audit, then tracked the department's inventory of street signs.

Another member of the 911 Board, Finance Director Jim Egeberg, put Gullicksen to work on the vehicle stickers program. Now he's verifying checks in the accounts payable department. He's looking forward to continuing opportunities to help the City stretch its manpower, now reduced because of the tight economy.

Gullicksen is a member of the City's Community Emergency Response Team

(CERT). When the Police Department organized the Citizens Police Academy, he became one of the first graduates. He went on to earn diplomas from the Citizens Fire Academy and the Citizens Training Academy in the Public Works Department.

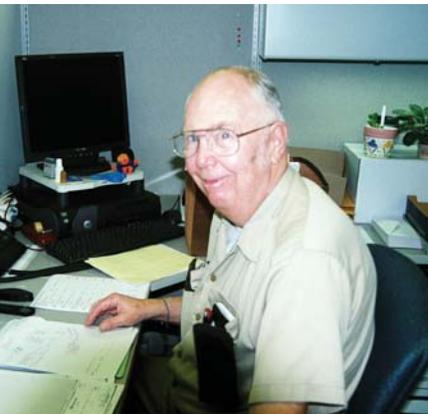
"The academies have been real eye-openers for me," Gullicksen says. "I thought I knew a lot about what police officers, firefighters, and public works people do, but that was an understatement. I think all citizens should go to the academies."

Mayor Ken Nelson says the participation of residents like Gullicksen and many others who serve in voluntary capacities on City boards and commissions make the City's slogan more meaningful. "Gordon's a great volunteer and a great help to the community. We're looking for another way for him to participate. Any resident who's interested in doing something should contact us. We'd like to see if we can find a place to get them involved," Nelson says.

Gullicksen grew up in the northwest suburbs, graduating from Arlington High School in 1955. After completing a degree in accounting with a minor in industrial psychology at Michigan State University, he went to work in manufacturing, spending 34 years with companies that eventually became part of J.I. Case (now CNH Global). He retired in 2001.

He completed several certificate programs at Harper College. He presently is working on certificates in Paralegal Studies and Criminal Justice.

Gullicksen's late wife, Patricia, taught in District 214 schools, beginning with Arlington High and finishing at John Hersey High. He has two daughters, six grandchildren, and four great-grandchildren.



Gordon Gullicksen verifies checks.

Serving the City:



Ward 6 Alderman John D'Astice

Birthplace: Chicago, IL

Family: My wife of 28 years, Mary Lou; four children — Nicole, Michelle, Dominic & Angela

Occupation: Director of Sales for a major hotel corporation

Education: Graduate of DePaul University (Marketing), 1977

Resident of Rolling Meadows since: My wife and I have lived in our current home since 1988.

I ran for public office to...represent residents' concerns, serve my community and give back to a city that has been a great place to call home.

I would like people to most remember me for...my tenacity to strive to provide residents a better place to live, to maintain exceptional services without paying exorbitant taxes, and my willingness to propose new ideas while not being afraid to ask hard, common sense questions.

The accomplishment I'm most proud of is...raising four wonderful children with my wife.

My favorite City events are...the 4th of July fireworks, Friday Night Cruise Nights and the Christmas Tree lighting ceremony! These are three wonderful events that bring the entire community together to share time with neighbors and friends.

The thing I like best about Rolling Meadows is...the friends and neighbors throughout the community that we have grown to know and love.

My favorite place in Rolling Meadows is...our home! It has served as a gathering place for family and friends for many celebrations over the years, and a place where our children and their friends feel comfortable.

My idea of a great day is...fishing in the morning, relaxing with my wife on a sandy beach in the afternoon and barbecuing a great meal for dinner.

In my spare time, I like to...hunt, fish and spend time with my wife. Now, if I could only get her interested in hunting and fishing...

Three words that best describe me are...husband, father, friend.

People who knew me in high school would be surprised to know...that I am still in the hotel business, I have four children and am an alderman in Rolling Meadows.

Few people know...I really enjoy cooking, particularly making breakfast for my family on the weekends.

I wish I had more time to...work on my Corvette.

Historical Society Welcomes First Corporate Supporters

The Rolling Meadows Historical Society has welcomed Meadows Funeral Home, 3615 Kirchoff Road, and Platinum Community Bank, 2915 Kirchoff Road, as its first "Corporate Supporters," Historical Society President Bev Keagle reports.

"We are very pleased to have Meadows Funeral Home and Platinum Community Bank as our Society's newest members," Keagle says. "With their support, we will continue our efforts to preserve Rolling Meadows' storied past for future generations."

The announcement of the Historical Society's first two corporate supporters is fitting, considering that Society members have been "all business" of late. The latest exhibit at the Rolling Meadows Historical Museum recalls the original businesses that served residents in the City's early days.

"From Crawford's and Grant's to the Red Onion restaurant and more, the exhibit is designed to help people remember where Rolling Meadows residents used to shop," Keagle explains.

Plans call for the exhibit to run through September. Historical Society members are exploring opportunities to develop a new exhibit that commemorates City schools in the 1950s and 1960s.

Visit the Rolling Meadows Historical Museum, a replica of an original Kimball Hill home, Wednesdays, 10 a.m.-2 p.m., and Sundays, 1-4 p.m. For more information, visit www.cityrm.org/HTML/historical_museum.htm or call 847-577-7086.

Police Arrest Rate Increases 14% in 2008

Rolling Meadows police officers made 129 arrests in 2008, an increase of 14.2% over the prior year, according to the latest crime statistics report compiled by the state of Illinois and received by the Police Department in August.

The data also shows a slight increase (5.9%) in Rolling Meadows' crime rate compared to 2007. However, long-term trends indicate a continued decline in crime, averaging about 2% per year since 2002.

"While the crime rate may fluctuate each year, the long-term crime rate in Rolling Meadows mirrors the national trend toward healthier and safer communities," Police Chief Steve Williams explains.

Williams says a department's arrest rate is a good barometer for measuring the success of its approach to law enforcement and public safety.

"If crime rates go up, as they did in Rolling Meadows last year, arrest rates should follow that same trend," he explains. "If arrest rates go down or remain unchanged, it means we're not doing our jobs. The 2008 crime report indicates that we are doing what the public expects of us."



Support the Museum

Tax-deductible donations help support ongoing programs and cover museum expenses. Submit donations to:
Rolling Meadows Historical Society
3600 Kirchoff Road
Rolling Meadows, IL 60008

Frontage Road Upgrade Project Goes to Bid In Late September

The Illinois Department of Transportation (IDOT) will review contractor bids on a \$3.78 million upgrade of the East and West Frontage Roads along Route 53 in late September, with construction scheduled to begin next spring, Public Works Director Fred Vogt reports.

Design and engineering phases for the project, funded by the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act passed by Congress in February, were completed over the summer. That clears the way for construction to commence in early 2010.

"This is a 100% federally-funded project that will make needed improvements to two important roadways that are 45 years old," 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."

The project will completely replace roughly 20% of existing pavement, pave the shoulders of each road, and includes curb, sidewalk, road patching and drainage improvement.

A goal of the federal stimulus package 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 favorable project because the City does not have to acquire any property or easements, which often causes delays."

Local Businesses Tee it Up At Chamber Golf Outing

Northrop Grumman's Ed Groves, Roger Nowicke, Tony Viverito and Ken Weihe prepare to tee off at the Chamber of Commerce's Annual Golf Outing, August 5. Eighty golfers participated in this year's event, held at Rolling Knolls Country Club in Elgin. Participating businesses ranged from Northwest Community Hospital to Research in Motion, maker of the Blackberry.

Following the round, which challenged golfers with tight fairways, mature trees, a lake with swans and a serene rustic atmosphere, participants enjoyed an outdoor barbecue luncheon.





Improving Economy Lessening Budgetary Pressures

BY MAYOR KEN NELSON

We've been reading a lot of headlines recently that the recession has bottomed out and the economy is improving. I'm sure each of us hopes that the economic forecasters are right. From the City's perspective, we're seeing signs that things are getting better.

At this time last year, when we began our budget discussions, the forecast was quite bleak. As you may recall, we had to eliminate jobs, freeze positions and cut services for the 2009 budget. As we head for 2010, the picture is not quite as dark. We expect this budget to be at more of a "maintenance" level.

Staff's preliminary plan indicates we won't have to consider the drastic cuts in personnel and services that were implemented a year ago. However, we still want to plan conservatively in case the recovery is longer or slower than the economic gurus are predicting.

We are a service industry. Budget tightening inevitably requires personnel cuts and service reductions. We'll begin our budget workshops later this month, and will continue a series of budget discussions well into November. It's a long, sometimes difficult process. But by December we'll have created a balanced budget for 2010. I hope you'll monitor the process, either in person or on Channel 6.



Red Apple Pancake Opens On Plum Grove Road

Snip goes the ribbon at the click of Mayor Ken Nelson's scissors, marking the grand opening of Red Apple Pancake House & Café, 2121 Plum Grove Road. To the Mayor's right, next to Sixth Ward Alderman John D'Astice, is Sam Symeonides, co-owner. From the left are John Brales, manager, John Vlahos, co-owner, and Sam Vlahos, manager. Holding one end of the ribbon at the far right is Third Ward Alderman Lawrence Buske.

September 2009

		1 Plan Commission, 7:30 p.m., City Hall	2 Zoning Board of Appeals, 7 p.m., City Hall	3	4	5
6	7 Labor Day City Hall, Public Works closed. Refuse collection delayed one day.	8 City Council Meeting, 7:30 p.m., City Hall	9 Senior Center Fundraiser at Culver's, 10 a.m. – 10 p.m., 1410 E. Algonquin Rd., Schaumburg.	10 Adjudication Hearing, 1 p.m., City Hall Urban Affairs, 5:30 p.m., City Hall	11	12 Rolling Meadows High School Music Boosters Garage Sale, 9 a.m.-noon, high school parking lot
13	14	15 Sprinkling ban ends. City Council Committee of the Whole, 7:30 p.m., City Hall	16	17 Adjudication Hearing, 1 p.m., City Hall	18	19 Budget Workshop, 8:30 a.m.-12:30 p.m., City Hall
20	21 Water bills due	22 City Council Meeting, 7:30 p.m., City Hall	23	24 Adjudication Hearing, 1 p.m., City Hall	25	26
27	28	29	30			