



# NEWS

Volume 14 Number 5

# & Views

This Issue:  
**Fire Department**

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

## Fire Department Open House to Offer Glimpse 'Behind-the-Scenes,' October 9

The Fire Department's third annual Open House will let residents of all ages explore state-of-the-art public safety equipment and witness a series of specialized rescue demonstrations, 10 a.m. – 2 p.m., Saturday, October 9, at the Neuckranz Fire Station (2455 Plum Grove Road).

Guided station tours conducted by firefighters and up-close review of the Department's fleet of engines and ambulances will offer a "behind-the-scenes" glimpse of Department operations. Attendees will learn more about the Fire Department's proud tradition of service to Rolling Meadows residents and businesses.

Firefighters will also showcase their extensive skills and equipment during a series of simulated rescue demonstrations held throughout the day.

"The Open House is an opportunity for residents to learn more about the Rolling Meadows Fire Department, and allows us to meet the people we are sworn to protect," Fire Chief Ron

Stewart explains. "Our goal is for people to better understand our approach to fostering a safer community in which we all live and work."



Firefighter skills and equipment will be featured in simulated rescue demonstrations like these during the Fire Department open house, October 9.

The open house is part of the Rolling Meadows Fire Department's observance of National Fire Prevention Week, October 3 – 9. For more information, call 847-397-3352.

## New Technologies, Training Combine To Provide High-Quality Paramedic Services

Advances in technology, training and communications have transformed how Rolling Meadows paramedics administer emergency medical services (EMS).

In Rolling Meadows and across the country, ambulances and fire engines are packed with state-of-the-art, life-saving equipment. This technology, combined with paramedics' knowledge and expertise, has improved the survivability

rate of heart attack patients by 75% over the past five years, according to a study conducted by the American Heart Association.

"The paramedic's approach to treating patients has shifted over the years with the introduction of these new technologies," explains Lt. Colin Finlay, a 20-year Fire Department veteran. "When EMS first began in the 1970s, the goal

was to get patients to the hospital as quickly as possible. Today, we are authorized to stay on-site for as long as it takes to stabilize them."

A key technology used by paramedics in treating heart attack victims is the impedance threshold device (ITD). ITDs are fist-sized, hard plastic devices that attach to oxygen masks used by para-

*Continued on page 2*

### 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  
**Aldermen**  
1st Ward: John Pitzafferro  
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  
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](http://www.cityrm.org)

# Fire Code Enforcement Assures Safety of Community, Firefighters



BY RON STEWART, FIRE CHIEF

One of the most effective ways to prevent fires is to prevent them from starting.

The Fire Prevention Bureau is the division of the Fire Department responsible for code compliance and fire prevention activities. It inspects all businesses, industrial and multi-family buildings in the City.

Fulfilling this mission protects local businesses and the community from potential fire losses in property damage and lost revenues. By performing annual fire inspections, the Fire Prevention Bureau can effectively reduce the potential for a fire occurring in a building.

Annual inspections also keep fire safety at the forefront, assuring that buildings comply with life safety requirements critical to the safety of the citizens that use these facilities and the people employed there.

Performing inspections is also a key component to keeping our firefighters safe. The information obtained during an inspection is passed on to the firefighters and added to the building's preplan. The preplan provides valuable information to responding firefighting personnel such as:

- Knox boxes (keys for FD access to the building),
- Alarm panels,
- Hydrants and sprinkler system valves and connections,
- Chemical storage,

- Flammable liquids,
- Location of utility shutoffs.

Completing annual inspections of the nearly 1,600 business, multi-family, and industrial buildings has become extremely difficult, due to reduced staffing and funding levels. However, the Fire Department has taken a proactive approach to this challenge by introducing a series of programs that have increased the efficiency of the Fire Prevention Bureau, dedicating more time to actual inspections versus administrative functions.

Plan reviews for new buildings and remodeling projects have been outsourced, allowing our inspectors more time to complete actual fire inspections. We have also implemented a self-inspection program for some low-hazard occupancies, allowing the building owners to inspect their own places of business and file the appropriate reports with the Fire Prevention Bureau. We also work cooperatively with the Community Development Department in sharing inspectors, as workloads fluctuate.

On-duty fire personnel perform inspections of all multifamily units within the city and first reinspections on other occupancies. This permits our firefighters to see the inside of the buildings and observe special processes or other conditions that may affect firefighting tactics. Additionally, the firefighters are able to interact with the community, and collaboratively work with the respective building owners to maintain a fire-safe environment.

If you have any questions regarding fire prevention or fire code enforcement, please contact us at 847-397-3352.

## New Technologies, Training... *Continued from page 1*

medics during CPR. These devices create a vacuum within the chest cavity that helps draw more blood back into the heart during compressions, thus improving oxygen flow to the patient. An ITD costs around \$100. All Rolling Meadows ambulances have been equipped with ITDs since 2008.

"ITDs enhance circulation, which is critical to stabilizing heart attack patients for transport to the hospital," Lt. Finlay says.

Once a patient has been stabilized, paramedics use wireless communication technologies to notify the hospital of their pending arrival. The paramedic-in-charge communicates with the hospital's emergency communications nurse while en-route, providing details on why paramedics were dispatched, what they found upon arrival at the scene, and how the patient was treated.

Lt. Finlay says that early recognition of symptoms, and the effective transmission of this information to the hospital, is essential to saving lives.

"Using information provided by paramedics allows the hospital to assemble a



*Impedance threshold devices (ITDs), such as the ResQPod™ used by Rolling Meadows paramedics, increase a cardiac arrest patient's chances of survival.*

team of specialists best-suited to treating the arriving patient," he explains. "If we describe a victim who suffered a major heart attack, the hospital can have a cardiologist waiting for us upon arrival, and get the patient to the cardiac catheterization lab as quickly as possible."

In most cases, Rolling Meadows paramedics will transport patients to Northwest Community Hospital, a Level 2 Trauma Center. If a situation involves multiple patients, some may be transported to other area hospitals, such as

Good Shepherd in Barrington or Alexian Brothers Medical Center in Elk Grove Village. In extremely dire circumstances, ambulances proceed directly to Lutheran General in Park Ridge, the area's Level 1 Trauma Center.

Lt. Finlay points out that the latest technology is essentially useless without paramedics having proper EMS training. Rolling Meadows paramedics must complete 10 sessions of continuing education (CE) each year in order to maintain their certification. In addition, Fire Department professionals are always studying reports on new procedures and medications in order to maintain their edge.

"The manual that outlines paramedics' authorized emergency medical procedures is 94 pages long today, compared with just 13 pages in the mid-1980s," Lt. Finlay explains. "Our treatment approaches have changed due to the tremendous amount of knowledge we have gained in the past 20 years. That ongoing stream of accumulating knowledge will help us continue to improve the way we treat our patients in the future," he adds.

## \$70,000 Grant Funds Upgrades to City Emergency Operations Center

Rolling Meadows Fire Department has been awarded \$70,000 in grant funding from the Department of Homeland Security to upgrade the City's Emergency Operations Center (EOC) and improve its ability to coordinate responses to regional emergencies, Deputy Fire Chief Scott Franzgrote reports.

Fire Department officials partnered with the Barrington, Elk Grove Village, Hoffman Estates and Palatine Fire Departments to develop and submit the grant proposal. The proposal emphasized each department's commitment to working together to develop coordinated responses to emergencies that may

affect their respective communities.

"Ever since September 11, federal authorities have emphasized the importance of coordinated regional responses to emergency situations," Deputy Chief Franzgrote explains. "Our partnership with neighboring fire departments in developing the grant proposal underscored our commitment to that approach."

Franzgrote says the grant funding will allow the Fire Department to upgrade its wireless communications system, purchase portable video conferencing units, and acquire specialized cameras that provide the global positioning satellite (GPS) coordinates of every image photographed.

"These technology upgrades to the City's EOC will help streamline operations and allow us to share information with outside agencies at the local, state and federal levels," he explains. "Improving our ability to coordinate with neighboring communities adds flexibility to the City's emergency preparedness plan," he adds.

Deputy Chief Franzgrote expects EOC upgrades to be completed by the end of this year.

### Firefighters Undergo 'Live Fire' Training

*The heat was on – literally – as eight off-duty Rolling Meadows firefighters volunteered to participate in live fire training exercises at O'Hare International Airport in July.*

*The exercises, held jointly with crews from Chicago, Schiller Park and Bensenville, were conducted in buildings that had been acquired as part of the airport's expansion project. While structures blazed, firefighters practiced engine operations; hose selection, fire attack and ventilation strategies; wall breaching techniques; and water supply operations.*



*"Live fire training scenarios are a valuable training tool because they involve real fire conditions," Chief Ron Stewart explains. "The fact that our firefighters took part in this training while off duty speaks volumes about their commitment to protecting this City."*

### Knox-Box Rapid Entry System Aids Paramedics, Firefighters

The Rolling Meadows Fire Department has initiated a Knox-Box program that is designed to reduce emergency response times and enhance firefighters' ability to provide life-saving assistance. A Knox-Box is a secure emergency access tool that gives first responders immediate entry to a home without using force. The steel box – installed near residents' front entrances – allows paramedics or firefighters to quickly enter a home with a "master key" and administer assistance to those in need.

"Seconds count when responding to a 911 call. The Knox-Box system significantly cuts our response times by allowing paramedics and firefighters to immediately enter a home without resorting to force," Fire Chief Ron Stewart explains.

Reducing response times by even a few minutes significantly improves the Department's ability to provide emergency assistance. Studies indicate that the chances of survival for people requiring emergency medical care decreases by 7 – 10% for every minute that passes without treatment.

"Patients in distress may not be able to unlock the door and let us in. By gaining rapid entry with a Knox-Box, emergency crews are better able to administer life-saving assistance quickly to those who need it," Chief Stewart adds.

For more information on the Knox-Box system, contact the Rolling Meadows Fire Department at 847-397-3352.

### Future of Third Fire Station Uncertain

Plans for a third fire station in Rolling Meadows are on indefinite hold and more than \$1 million in federal stimulus funding awarded for the project has been allocated to another community, after City Council members voted 5-2 against authorizing construction.

In September 2009, the City was awarded a \$1,157,000 fire station construction grant under the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act. This funding was to offset a substantial portion of total construction costs, estimated between \$1.8 million and \$2.2 million. By accepting the funding, the City was obligated to complete the project by September 2012.

After a prolonged period of inactivity on the project, federal officials became concerned that the project was not moving forward quickly enough. Department of Homeland Security representatives met with City Council in June. They requested that the project be authorized by month's end. City officials were told that, in order to retain the funding, construction must begin in 2010.

Later, at its June 22 meeting, Council members voted to reject the grant funding.

The Fire Department will continue to explore all available options to increase response times in the City's southern portions, Fire Chief Ron Stewart says. The Department will look to City Council for direction regarding future options for a third fire station.

# September 2010



**School Days**

			1	2	3	4
5	6 <b>Labor Day</b> City Hall and Public Works closed. Refuse collection delayed one day.	7 <b>Plan Commission</b> , 7:30 p.m., at City Hall	8	9	10	11
12	13	14 <b>City Council Meeting</b> , 7:30 p.m., City Hall	15	16 <b>Adjudication Hearing</b> , 1 p.m., City Hall	17	18
19	20 <b>Water bills due</b>	21 <b>City Council Committee of the Whole</b> , 7:30 p.m., City Hall	22	23 <b>Adjudication Hearing (Red Light)</b> , 2 p.m., City Hall	24	25
26	27	28 <b>City Council Meeting</b> , 7:30 p.m., City Hall	29	30		

# October 2010



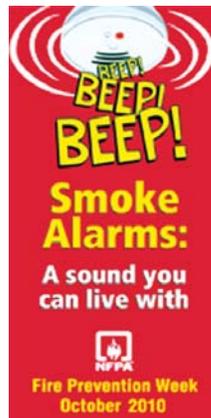
					1	2
3	4	5 <b>Plan Commission</b> , 7:30 p.m., at City Hall	6 <b>Zoning Board of Appeals</b> , 7 p.m., City Hall	7	8	9 <b>Open House</b> , Neuckranz Fire Station, 10 a.m.-2 p.m. <b>Blood Drive</b> , 8 a.m.-2 p.m.
<b>National Fire Prevention Week, October 3 – 9</b>						
10	11	12 <b>City Council Meeting</b> , 7:30 p.m., City Hall	13	14 <b>Adjudication Hearing</b> , 1 p.m., City Hall	15	16
17	18	19 <b>City Council Committee of the Whole</b> , 7:30 p.m., City Hall	20 <b>Water bills due</b>	21 <b>Adjudication Hearing (Red Light)</b> , 2 p.m., City Hall	22	23
24	25	26 <b>City Council Meeting</b> , 7:30 p.m., City Hall	27	28	29	30
<div style="border: 1px solid black; padding: 5px; width: fit-content;"> <b>31 Halloween</b> Trick or Treat hours: 3-8 p.m.         </div>						

# Fire Department, NFPA to Promote Importance of Smoke Alarms, October 3 - 9

The Rolling Meadows Fire Department has partnered with the National Fire Protection Association (NFPA) to promote the use of home smoke alarms during National Fire Prevention Week, October 3 - 9.

The official theme for this year's observance, "Smoke Alarms: A Sound You Can Live With," underscores just how important these tools are for protecting life and property, Fire Chief Ron Stewart explains.

"Home fires were responsible for the deaths of 2,755 people in the United States in 2008, and injured another 13,160," he says. "This year's National Fire Prevention Week campaign is designed to educate people about the importance of smoke alarms and encourage everyone to take the necessary steps to update and maintain their home smoke alarm protection."



According to the NFPA, smoke alarms reduce one's risk of dying in a fire by 50%. Between 2003 and 2006, roughly two-thirds of home fire

deaths resulted in homes with no working smoke alarms.

"It is critically important that residents test the smoke alarms in their homes once a month, following the manufacturer's instructions, and replace the batteries once a year," Chief Stewart explains. "A good rule of thumb is to replace batteries the same day you change your clocks from daylight savings time to standard time each fall. In addition, alarms should be replaced every 10 years," he adds.

Chief Stewart also recommends that residents develop a home fire escape plan and practice it at least twice per year. On average, people have less than four minutes to get out of a house before a fire turns deadly.

For more information on National Fire Prevention Week activities, visit [www.firepreventionweek.org](http://www.firepreventionweek.org).

## Fire Department Provides Free Smoke Detectors to Seniors

The Rolling Meadows Fire Department provides senior citizen homeowners with a free smoke detector - including installation - as part of its Smoke Detectors for Seniors Program.

A \$2,000 grant from Wal-Mart earlier this year helped the Department purchase 100 smoke detectors for the program, which was established in 2001.

"This successful, ongoing program contributes to a safer community," Deputy Fire Chief Scott Franzgrote says. "Smoke detectors save lives, and we want to make sure that Rolling Meadows senior citizens have access to these life-saving systems."

To receive a free smoke detector, seniors may contact the Fire Department at 847-397-3352.

## Department Focuses on Improving Non-Emergency Contact with Police

Transfer of the City's 911 dispatch operations to a regional dispatch center one year ago has improved service by enhancing the Police Department's ability to communicate with neighboring communities during regional emergencies, but work continues on ways to ensure that residents are able to contact the police with non-emergency requests at all hours of the day, Police Chief Dave Scanlan reports.

Before joining Arlington Heights-based Northwest Central Dispatch System (NWCDS), Rolling Meadows maintained its own dispatch center that was staffed by Police Department dispatchers. Since the dispatch center operated 24/7, dispatchers could transfer calls from residents to the appropriate officers on duty regardless of the hour. The Police Department lost that ability following the move to NWCDS.

Residents may call the Department's non-emergency number, 847-255-2416, weekdays between 8 a.m. - 4 p.m. to speak with an officer, but Chief Scanlan is concerned about residents who need to call between 4 p.m. and 8 a.m. Residents who need to speak with a police officer after hours should call 911.

"The question we face is how to guarantee that residents can contact police with non-emergency requests at all hours of the day," Chief Scanlan explains. "With limited resources due to

the current economic and budgetary climate, we aren't able to simply hire additional staff."

Police officials are exploring a range of options, including having volunteers staff the phones after-hours. "We understand the importance of getting this taken care of," Chief Scanlan adds. "If residents are in doubt as to whether their call constitutes an emergency, always err on the side of caution and call 911."

## July Blood Drive Collects 45 Units

*Police Sergeant Mark Hogan donates blood during a July 28 blood drive at City Hall. In total, the LifeSource-sponsored drive collected 45 units of "the gift of life."*

*The City and LifeSource hold another blood drive Saturday, October 9, 8 a.m. - 2 p.m., at the Neuckranz Fire Station (2455 Plum Grove Road).*



## Be Part of the Solution!

By Mayor Ken Nelson

This month, I'd like to spend a moment getting you excited about an upcoming election. No, not the one in November, although I hope each of you will study the candidates and the issues and take time to cast your vote in that one. The one I'm speaking about comes up in April ... and offers you the unique opportunity to get actively involved in our community.

On the April 5, 2011 ballot, you'll be asked to vote for several city offices: Mayor, City Clerk and Aldermen for Wards 1, 3, 5 and 7. Better yet, you could run for one of those offices. I'm mentioning this now because a new law has gone into effect making the filing period for the April consolidated election much earlier than it used to be. Now, you can get petitions and election information beginning September 21. And you'll have to file your petitions between December 13 and December 20.

So now's the time to think about and then decide that you want to serve on the city council. Often races are uncontested. In some cases, no one has run for an office. I hope this doesn't happen with this election. The citizens and the City are much better served when the voter's choice is from multiple points of view. So plan on picking up your petitions and running for one of the city offices.

Get involved! Be part of the solution!

## Residents Embracing Convenience Of City's New E-Billing Service

A Web-based utility billing service now offered by the City proved very popular with residents from the moment it launched in July: more than 300 customers signed up for the service in the first month alone.

The e-billing system offers greater convenience for customers, streamlines the City's billing operations and will save thousands of dollars per year in printing, processing and mailing costs, Senior Accountant Diana Schoeneck reports.

Customers may sign up for the program by clicking "Sign Up for e-Billing" on the home page of the City's Website, [www.cityrm.org](http://www.cityrm.org). Once registered, they will receive an email each month that contains a link to their utility billing statement. The program also lets customers review a two-year billing history for their utility account.

"The new system continues the Finance Department's efforts to "go green" by reducing the number of printed utility bills mailed out each month. It will also reduce postage and payment processing costs while making it simple for residents to review and pay their bills," Schoeneck explains.

The new e-billing feature is fully compatible with the City's current online payment options. Customers may also print bills out and pay by mail or in person at City Hall. Those who register for the e-billing program will no longer receive a printed utility bill by mail. All e-bills will include a link to the online version of the City newsletter, *News & Views*.

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

## Hospital Establishes Outpatient Clinic In Downtown Rolling Meadows

Northwest Community Hospital has opened a new outpatient rehabilitation clinic in the former Sears Hardware building in downtown Rolling Meadows.

Located at 3300 Kirchoff Road, the new Outpatient Physical Medicine and Rehabilitation (PM&R) clinic will offer physical, occupational and speech therapy services to a wide range of patients needing outpatient orthopedic or neurological rehabilitation.

The facility will also temporarily house the Pediatric Development Follow-up Clinic until spring 2011, the hospital announced in a news release.

"I am very excited about the amount of space at this new site," said Karen McCauley, Northwest Community's Director of PM&R. "It enables our staff to provide enhanced services in a convenient location, allowing us to better meet

all of our patients' needs."

Facility hours are 7 a.m. – 7:30 p.m. (Mondays – Thursdays); 7 a.m. – 6:30

p.m. (Fridays); and 8 a.m. – noon (Saturdays). Call 847-618-3880 to schedule appointments.

## Duck Race Raises \$3,500 For Creek Restoration Efforts

Community groups raised more than \$3,500 for Salt Creek restoration efforts during a July 17 duck race that featured over 700 plastic ducks purchased by residents.

The City's Environmental Committee, the Rotary Club of Rolling Meadows and the Rolling Meadows Park District Foundation partnered to organize the event. Prizes ranged from a \$500 grand prize to gift certificates to area restaurants.



Christopher B. Burke Engineering, Harris Bank, Red Apple Restaurant, Meadows Funeral Home and Ken Bobbe State Farm Insurance served as the event's sponsors. Other local businesses also contributed a variety of prizes.