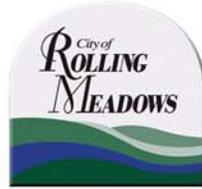


Signs of the Season
April 2008



NEWS

Volume 12, Number 4



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

PNRC to Receive Award for Excellence From Alliance for Innovation

The City's Police Neighborhood Resource Center (PNRC) will receive an award for excellence from Alliance for Innovation, an Arizona-based national network affiliated with the International City/County Management Association to share innovations and best practices.

City staff will make a two-hour presentation on the PNRC at the Alliance's Transforming Local Government Conference, June 4-6 at Greenville, SC.

In an article outlining the PNRC's history, published in the Alliance's newsletter, *Transformations*, Deputy Chief Goodman provides a heartening report: "As the PNRC approaches twenty years of operation, employment [in the area it serves] is high (98%), crime has dropped by over 50%, reports of nuisances and ordinance violations increased (people are now calling the police to report occurrences and events that were previously unreported), children are excelling in school and are not calling in sick, the Biblioteca (Library) circulation since 1996 has increased 150%, volunteers have created a monthly bilingual neighborhood newsletter, and the neighborhood property values have increased dramatically," the article says.

"In addition, since the creation of the Rolling Meadows PNRC model, seven successful municipal-based launches of

The PNRC site features a Fountain in the Commons Area.



PNRC venues and five not-for-profit based initiatives in the Chicago metro area have been established," the article continues. And that's only in this area. Visitors have come from

many other states and from Australia, Great Britain, Germany, and Mexico to study the PNRC model and take it back home.

"This has a positive impact on the reputation of the City of Rolling Meadows and furthers the notion that the community itself is in the best position to solve problems associated with decay and irresponsible or apathetic attitudes," Police Chief Williams says in the article. "Overall, this program has met the needs of a permanent, and yet underserved, population that is here to stay and trying to melt into the American melting pot," he says.



Historical Museum Extends Hours

The Rolling Meadows Historical Museum will begin its summer hours of operation starting Wednesday, April 2. Guests are welcome to take a "trip down memory lane" **Wednesdays, 10 a.m. – 2 p.m., and Sundays, 1 – 4 p.m.**

For more information or to volunteer, contact the Rolling Meadows Historical Society at 847-577-7086.

THIS MONTH IN ROLLING MEADOWS

April 1— Economic Development Committee, 6 p.m., Plan Commission, 7:30 p.m., both at City Hall, **Library Board, 7 p.m.,** at the Library

April 2 — Zoning Board of Appeals, 7:30 p.m., at City Hall

April 7 — Board of Fire and Police Commissioners, 9 a.m., City Hall

April 8 — City Council Meeting, 7:30 p.m., City Hall

April 9 — Urban Affairs Committee, 5 p.m., City Hall

April 10 — Adjudication Hearing, 1 p.m., City Hall

April 15 — City Council Committee of the Whole, 7:30 p.m., City Hall

April 17 – Adjudication Hearing, 1 p.m., City Hall

April 19 – 4th Annual Salt Creek Cleanup, 9 a.m. to noon

April 22 — Earth Day, City Council Meeting, 7:30 p.m., City Hall

April 24— Adjudication Hearing, 1 p.m., City Hall

April 25— Arbor Day

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

‘Close Call’ Demonstrates Importance of Smoke Detectors

A small house fire successfully extinguished by firefighters in December could have been far worse, illustrating the importance of having working smoke detectors on each level of the home, Deputy Chief Brian Dempsey reports.

In response to a 9-1-1 call from a homeowner who smelled smoke and discovered the fire, firefighters arrived on the scene to discover a fire in a lower level bedroom of a raised two-story ranch home.

Although the fire was extinguished quickly and damage was limited to the room of origin, Department personnel learned that there was only one non-functioning smoke detector in the house.

“Fortunately, the homeowner smelled smoke and called 9-1-1. If this had happened a few hours later, when the residents were asleep, it is possible we could have been faced with a dire situation,” Deputy Chief Dempsey explains. “This incident underscores the importance of having working smoke detectors. They save lives.”

Before leaving the scene, firefighters installed two working smoke detectors – one on each level of the home.

Deputy Chief Dempsey suggests that residents test detectors monthly, and change the batteries twice per year.

‘Town Square’ Development Would Enhance City’s Downtown

BY VALERIE DEHNER, DIRECTOR, COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT

A proposed “Town Square” mixed-use development being explored by City officials would transform the southwest corner of Kirchoff Road and Meadow Drive into a mixed-use facility featuring a medical center, drive-thru bank, and coffee shop that connect to the adjacent fire station.

A gas station, two automotive service businesses and the Meadow Drive Fire Station (Station 15) are currently located on the site.

While still in the initial stages of development, the “Town Square” project fits well with the City’s revised Comprehensive Plan approved in 2006. The document envisions downtown Rolling Meadows as a “lifestyle center” that is open air and pedestrian friendly.

Lifestyle centers seek to re-create the ambiance of a traditional main street. A

mixture of uses typically includes residential, office space, retail stores, hotels, churches, entertainment and municipal facilities such as libraries.

Rolling Meadows’ downtown currently

features many of these uses. The goal now becomes finding the best ways to tie them together. We can’t expect to attract “big box” retailers to our downtown area, but it is ripe for redevelopment as a lifestyle center.

We know

that many shoppers are bored with the traditional mall and are searching for new shopping experiences. They like to feel a sense of community where they shop. The proposed “Town Square” will offer attractive opportunities to draw increased residential and retail density to our downtown.



“Lifestyle centers seek to re-create the ambiance of a traditional main street. A mixture of uses typically includes residential, office space, retail stores, hotels, churches, entertainment and municipal facilities such as libraries.”

Seeking Participants for Memorial Day Parade, Veterans Dinner

The Veterans Committee encourages resident veterans to participate in the City’s annual Memorial Day Parade Saturday, May 24. Veterans and their family members may call City Hall at 847-394-8500 to guarantee their spot in the event.

The parade will begin at 11 a.m. at the corner of Kirchoff Road and Meadow Drive, then march west on Kirchoff to the Carillon Tower. There, Mayor Ken Nelson and City officials will lead a solemn observance honoring those who have served in uniform.



Police Department Honor Guard at last year’s event.

Local veterans are also invited to reconnect with fellow service members at a special Veterans Dinner hosted by Veterans Committee Members Friday, May 25. Space is limited to 200. For reservations, contact Assistant City Manager Barry Krumstock at 847-394-8500.

Save the Date!

Park District to Celebrate 50th Anniversary, August 23

Rolling Meadows Park District will celebrate its 50th Anniversary with a “Party in the Park” Saturday, August 23, at Kimball Hill Park. For more information, contact the Park District at 847-818-3200. Additional information will be presented in future issues of *News & Views*.

Assistant Public Works Directors Deliver Quality, Cost-Effective Services to Customers

Providing high quality, cost-effective services to the residents of Rolling Meadows is the top priority of Reid Bateman and Bob Hartnett, who bring a combined 63 years of municipal experience to their roles as Assistant Directors of the Public Works Department.

Bateman, who joined the Department in 1998, oversees the Public Works Street, Sewer and Water Divisions. Hartnett, who began his career with Public Works in 1977, heads the Facilities, Inspections and Fleet Divisions. Both report directly to Public Works Director Fred Vogt.

"I've worked with Reid and Bob for more than 10 years and have been consistently impressed with their commitment to advancing the Department's mission to provide efficient, effective and responsive services to the Rolling Meadows community," Vogt says. "They treat all customers and employees with dignity and respect and are constantly in search of ways to improve our service."

After earning a degree in Park Administration from the University of Illinois, Bateman began his career in 1975 with the Village of Glen Ellyn. He spent 20 years as Parks Superintendent for the Naperville Park District before joining Rolling Meadows' Public Works Department.

Key Role in Museum

Bateman played a key role in the development of the Rolling Meadows Historical Museum. He also helped secure grant

Reid Bateman, left, and Bob Hartnett bring a combined 63 years of municipal experience to the City.



funding to create the Algonquin Parkway Plaza, and organized a Department-wide quality assurance program designed to lower taxes and fees through improved service efficiency.

Bateman's Passion: Environmental Awareness

Bateman's passion, however, is environmental awareness. In 2007, he coordinated development of a Rain Garden demonstration project at the Department's Berdnick facility to illustrate ways to reduce storm water runoff. He's also worked with the City's Environmental Committee to organize annual cleanups along the banks of Salt Creek.

"My entire career has been devoted to helping people better understand their relationship with nature and

"Providing high quality, cost-effective services to the residents of Rolling Meadows is the top priority of Reid Bateman and Bob Hartnett."

finding ways to protect the environment," Bateman adds. "High quality municipal services can be provided in ways that have a positive impact on the environment."

Bateman's fellow Assistant Director, Bob Hartnett, still remembers telling co-workers that he planned to be with the Public Works Department for only a couple of years.

"During my first week on the job, (Utilities Superintendent) Bob Nixon looked me up and down and told me I'd be a 'lifer,'" Hartnett recalls with a laugh. "Looking back on that day more than 30 years later, I guess he was right."

Hartnett Started in Streets Division

Hartnett began his career with Rolling Meadows as a member of the Streets

Division. Before his promotion to Assistant Public Works Director in 2003, he served in a range of capacities, including Fleet Supervisor and Internal Services Superintendent.

As he rose through the Department's ranks, Hartnett took the opportunity to earn a degree in Public Administration from Roosevelt University.

While technological advances have had a profound impact on how Public Works approaches its responsibilities, Hartnett believes much has stayed the same.

"We still provide the same services – water main replacements, snow removal, refuse pickup – we've been providing for years. These services have a tremendous impact on the daily lives of our residents," Hartnett says.

"Our ability to serve customers is due to the talents and flexibility of our employees. They can be collecting refuse one day and operating a snow plow the next," he adds. "We're all in this together. I take great pride in being part of an organization that helps people."

Salt usage during the City's snow removal efforts this past winter increased 40% over the prior year. In an average winter, snow plowing and salting operations are required between 25 and 30 times. Between December 2007 and February 2008, crews sprang into action nearly 40 times.



Residents Praise City Snow Removal Efforts At Council Meeting, in Local Newspaper

The Public Works Department's snow removal efforts this past winter earned praise from two Rolling Meadows residents who took time to applaud results during a February City Council meeting and with a letter to the *Daily Herald*.

Tom Gray came forward during Council's February 12 meeting to compliment the entire City staff – but specifically Public Works – for their efforts. Mr. Gray said he had traveled through several area suburbs and found City streets to be “the best plowed streets” in the area. He also noted that crews were still “out at mid-night” following the severe winter storm that blanketed the City on February 6 with nearly 12 inches of snow.

Resident Alice Fitzgerald registered her praise for City snow removal crews in a letter to the editor of the *Daily Herald*.

“I must bow down and thank all the men and women who have been working 24/7 to keep our streets and sidewalks in great shape. No matter how much it snows, they are out there doing a fine job,” Ms. Fitzgerald wrote. “So glad I live in Rolling Meadows, the City that really works and cares.”



Rolling Meadows' state-of-the-art salt storage facility is located at the Berdnick Street site.

The City's “bare pavement” policy of clearing every street of ice and snow from curb to curb following a snowstorm is designed with residents' safety and convenience in mind, according to Public Works Director Fred Vogt.

“We are proud of our efforts to make City streets the envy of the northwest suburbs following a winter storm,” he says. “It is extremely gratifying to hear that residents appreciate what we do. Their safety is our top priority.”

7% Water Rate Increase Effective April 1

Beginning April 1, City water bills will increase by 7% to reflect an increase in the amount the City must pay to purchase water consumed in Rolling Meadows.

Customers will pay an additional 32 cents per 1,000 gallons used (up to 15,000 gallons), and 38 cents for every 1,000 gallons consumed in excess of 15,000 gallons. The two-tiered water rate was approved by City Council as part of the 2008 budget.

The increase is the result of a higher rate charged by the City of Chicago, which supplies water to Rolling Meadows.

The February issue of *News & Views* reported that the increase would be effective March 1. City Council members, wanting more time to discuss the increase, tabled an ordinance to approve the higher rates in February. This action pushed the implementation of the increase back to April 1.

Dispatcher Guides Parents in Delivery of Baby Girl

Lake Zurich residents Layne and TC Morsch were in a race against time as they sped to Northwest Community Hospital one night in late February. TC was in labor, and



Layne and TC Morsch thank City Dispatcher James Cole (right) for his help delivering their baby daughter Meegan.

while still two miles from the hospital, the baby was being born. Layne pulled over to the side of Algonquin Road at Route 53 and called 911.

Rolling Meadows Emergency Dispatcher James Kohl fielded the call that night and, after immediately dispatching police and fire personnel to the scene, used his emergency medical

dispatch training to provide Layne with instructions for delivering the baby.

“He said his wife was giving birth and the baby was halfway out,” Kohl told the *Chicago Tribune*. He later told colleagues that he was “surprised by how calm Layne was on the phone.”

As Kohl guided Layne through the process, he could hear police and fire sirens approaching the vehicle through his headset. By the time emergency crews arrived, Meegan Morsch had entered the world.

Paramedics assisted Layne in cutting the umbilical cord and transported the family to the hospital.

The following day, after Layne and TC asked if they could meet the dispatcher who successfully helped them deliver their new daughter, Kohl paid a visit to the hospital. He was able to meet the baby girl who was born in the front seat of a car in Rolling Meadows.

Congratulations to Layne and TC on the birth of their new baby, and congratulations to James Kohl for a job well done.



Firefighters Dive into Training

While many residents spent the last weeks of February wishing the snow away, Fire Department officials took advantage of the elements to stage an intensive three-day ice rescue training session at Barker Lake. More than 30 engine and ambulance companies from Rolling Meadows, Arlington Heights, Palatine and the Palatine Rural Fire Protection District took part in the training scenario, which helped to hone ice rescue skills.



Three-Day Rescue Training Held at Barker Lake.

New Program Promotes Safe Disposal of Old Prescriptions, Needles

The Solid Waste Agency of Northern Cook County (SWANCC) offers a program to help residents safely dispose of unused or expired prescriptions, over-the-counter drugs and needles known as "sharps."

The Prescription Drug and Sharps Disposal Program ensures environmentally-safe disposal of these medical products at several nearby locations, including:

- Arlington Heights Senior Center, 1801 Central Road, 847-253-5532 (First Thursday of each month, 11 a.m. – 1 p.m.)
- Elk Grove Village Municipal Complex, 901 Wellington, 847-357-4202.
- Glenview Inspectional Services Annex, 1215 Waukegan Road, 847-904-4340 (First Friday of each month, 9 a.m. – noon).
- Palatine Village Hall, 200 E. Wood Street, 847-359-9090.
- Wheeling Fire Station 24 (Village Hall Complex), 255 W. Dundee Road, 847-459-2600 (First Saturday each month, 10 a.m.-noon).

SWANCC will also provide a one-quart sharps container to residential customers who administer home injections. Containers are available at designated drop-off locations.

For more information, call SWANCC at 847-724-9205 or visit www.swancc.org.

Four Senior Housing Applications Approved; City Anticipates First Closing This Spring

City officials have approved four applications for senior housing units at the new Riverwalk Condominiums on Kirchoff Road, and anticipate that the first closing will take place in the next few months.

The Senior Housing Program, established by the City and administered by Housing Opportunity Development Corporation (HODC), provides a \$30,000 subsidy to qualified senior buyers who purchase one of 30 designated senior housing

units in the new Riverwalk development.

"The Senior Housing Program at Riverwalk Condominiums provides opportunities for senior residents to simplify their lifestyles without having to leave the City," City Manager Tom Melena explains.

"It's good for seniors, because it offers options that can enhance their lives. It also helps revitalize the community when new families move into older homes previously occupied by seniors."

Applicants must be at

least 55 years of age and be able to qualify for a mortgage. Gross household income must be at or below that of the Chicago area median income (one person: \$52,800, two persons: \$60,300, three-persons: \$67,900).

Preference will be given to current residents who have lived in the City for at least five years, and to those with very low or low household income.

Widespread interest in the program has prompted City officials to encourage residents to submit applications as soon as possible,

according to Community Development Director Valerie Dehner.

"A series of informational workshops held in late 2007 and early 2008 indicated strong demand for these new units," Dehner explains. "We encourage seniors who have not yet applied for the program do so quickly. We believe that demand will far exceed supply."

For more information, contact Community Development at 847-506-6030.

Construction Season Looms

By Mayor Ken Nelson



With spring now upon us, can road construction be far behind? A few major projects loom before us in 2008.

Work is resuming on the rebuilding of Plum Grove Road. This project began last year, and will probably run until June or July. When completed, you'll see additional turn lanes where both Euclid Avenue and Kirchoff Road intersect with Plum Grove Road. In addition, some utilities work has been going on simultaneously with the road construction.

About the time that project is finished, Cook County will begin rebuilding Old Plum Grove Road, between Plum Grove and

Algonquin Roads. About half of that project is within the City of Rolling Meadows and is scheduled for completion in spring 2009. We've worked with the county engineers, staff and contractors to insure the road is open to traffic throughout the construction, but there may be some delays.

And finally, the Illinois Department of Transportation (IDOT) has scheduled more work on the Rt. 53 overpass at I-290. We all know what the work in the local lanes did last year. This year, they'll be working on the Express Lanes. The best advice is to be aware of the projects and look for alternate routes whenever possible. And most of all, be patient!

Committee to Host Annual Earth Day Cleanup, Athletic Shoe Recycling Collection, April 19

Members of the Urban Affairs Committee's Environmental Sub-Committee are seeking volunteers to participate in its fourth annual Earth Day Cleanup along Salt Creek Saturday, April 19.

Volunteers will meet at the Old Public Works facility, 3200 Central Road, at 9 a.m. to receive their assignments, according to Committee member Sue Walton.

"Volunteers are encouraged to bring boots, gloves, buckets and saws. We have a variety of age groups participating, and want to make sure we assign individuals to specific tasks suitable for their age," she says. Children must be at least 10 years old and accompanied by an adult.

The Committee has partnered with the Rolling Meadows High School Ecology Club and the Solid Waste Agency of Northern Cook County (SWANCC) to

collect athletic shoes in cooperation with Nike's Reuse-A-Shoe program. Shoes collected through the program are recycled to create material for use in

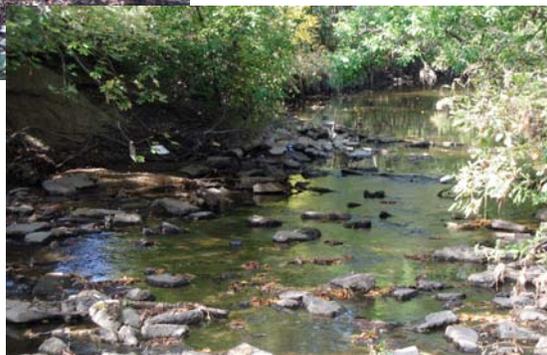
creating running tracks and other athletic court surfaces. Residents may bring used athletic shoes to the Old Public Works facility between 9 a.m. and noon, April 19.

Prior to the cleanup, Committee members will join City Forester Jim McFeggan for a ceremonial tree planting along the creek's banks as part of Rolling Meadows' commemoration of Arbor Day.

To participate in or support the Earth Day/Arbor Day cleanup, contact Walton at swalt811@aol.com, or 847-397-6181.



Salt Creek cleanup protects an important City resource.



City Of Rolling Meadows

Mayor: Kenneth Nelson

City Clerk: Lisa Hinman

City Manager: Thomas M. Melena

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

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 847-506-2061

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