



THIS MONTH IN ROLLING MEADOWS

December 2 — City Council Meeting, 7:30 p.m., at City Hall, Library Board, 7 p.m., at the Library

December 3 — Zoning Board of Appeals, 7:30 p.m., at City Hall

December 4 — Tree Lighting, 6 p.m., downtown, in front of McDonald's. Adjudication Hearing, 1 p.m., City Hall

December 8 — Board of Fire and Police Commissioners, 9 a.m., City Hall

December 9 — City Council Committee of the Whole, 7:30 p.m., City Hall

December 11 — Adjudication Hearing, 1 p.m., City Hall

December 16 — City Council Meeting, 7:30 p.m., City Hall

December 18 — Adjudication Hearing, 1 p.m., City Hall

December 22 — Hanukkah begins.

December 24 — Christmas Eve, City Hall and Public Works closed, early refuse pickup

December 25 — Christmas Day, City Hall and Public Works Closed. No refuse pickup. Refuse pickup delayed one day.

December 31 — New Year's Eve. Deadline to purchase City business licenses.

City Partners with American Cancer Society to Promote Healthy Lifestyles, Cancer Risk Reduction in 2009

A new committee chaired by 2nd Ward Alderman Barb Lusk will work with the American Cancer Society (ACS) to promote awareness of healthy lifestyle choices and reduce cancer risks among City residents in 2009.

The goal of the newly formed Cancer Awareness Committee is to position Rolling Meadows as a Community of Excellence. The initiative, supported by the ACS, challenges communities to promote cancer education, prevention and early detection on behalf of their residents.

Already, the American Cancer Society has recognized Arlington Heights, Des Plaines and Palatine. Rolling Meadows will become the fourth local community to earn recognition as a Community of Excellence.

"Committee members are developing a series of

educational programs designed to help Rolling Meadows residents live better," Lusk, a healthcare professional at Northwest Community Hospital, explains. "Each month, the

awareness, and smoking cessation.

Updates on Cancer Awareness Committee activities will be featured regularly in



"Each month, the Committee will introduce new topics of awareness designed to help residents lead healthier, happier lifestyles."

—Barbara Lusk, Alderman

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Health and wellness topics to be addressed by the Committee in 2009 include heart health, colorectal cancer awareness, men's and women's health, skin cancer prevention, prostate cancer awareness, breast cancer

future issues of *News & Views*.

For more information about the City of Excellence Health Challenge, visit the American Cancer Society's Website, www.cancer.org/greatamericans.

Volunteers interested in supporting the committee's efforts may contact Alderman Lusk at luskb@cityrm.org or 847-567-2444.

16-Month Plum Grove Road Widening Nears Completion

City officials are cautiously optimistic that a \$4.6 million State of Illinois project to widen Plum Grove Road to four lanes between Emerson and Bryant Avenues will be finished by year's end, Public Works Director Fred Vogt reports.

As the December issue of *News & Views* went to press, construction workers had put down the road's surface asphalt and completed area pavement

striping. Vogt says that the contractor and City are now waiting for the Illinois Department of Transportation (IDOT) to conduct final inspections on two new traffic signals that were installed to improve area traffic flow.

"Since work began in July 2007, this project has encountered numerous delays caused by underground utility relocation,

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Plum Grove Road Widening Nears Completion

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weather, land acquisitions and other setbacks," Vogt explains. "Once IDOT inspects and approves the new traffic signals, we can close the book on this long, difficult project."

As a main arterial route leading north to Palatine and south to Schaumburg on the City's west side, Plum Grove Road is an important part of the City's infrastructure. The wider road will reduce traffic gridlock and enhance the ability of motorists to reach businesses in the area.

Old Plum Grove Road to Re-open For 2-Way Traffic

Area residents and motorists frustrated by months of construction will breathe a sigh of relief when Old Plum Grove Road reopens to two-way traffic in December.

The Cook County Highway Department (CCHD) has been rebuilding Old Plum Grove Road — located between Hartung and Algonquin Roads on the City's southwest side— since the project got underway in July.

Weather permitting, county contractors will continue with parkway improvements, including installation of storm sewers, sanitary sewers and natural gas mains, throughout winter.

Cook County will transfer jurisdiction of Old Plum Grove Road to Rolling Meadows and Schaumburg next spring, once the project is complete.

PNRC's Expanded Holiday Gift Program Sends 'Message of Hope' to Those in Need

The Police Neighborhood Resource Center (PNRC) has expanded its annual Children's Holiday Gift Program in an effort to "send a message of hope and cheer to persons who are particularly vulnerable in today's economy," PNRC Director Victoria Bran reports.

The program has helped children receive toys and other holiday gifts for the past 17 years through generous donations by local residents, businesses and community groups.

Due to an expected increase in the number of Rolling Meadows families hurt by current economic conditions, the PNRC this year is asking for donations of:

- Gloves, hats and scarves for infants and children through 8th grade;
- Small gifts (toys, word search activity books, ribbons, etc.) for children;
- Coloring books and small boxes of crayons;
- \$20 gift certificates from Meijer, Wal-Mart and Jewel/Osco.



"Gift certificates can be as good as gold for many families. These local stores offer a pharmacy, food and clothing — all items that families in need can use during these difficult times," Bran explains.

Donated items will be distributed to families during a three-day open house at the PNRC, 2272 Algonquin Parkway.

The open house will take place Friday, December 19, 8:30 a.m. – 5 p.m.; Monday, December 22, 8:30 a.m. – 6:30 p.m.; and Tuesday, December 23, 8:30 a.m. – 3:30 p.m.

Residents interested in donating gifts to the program — or helping with games, story times and gift distribution during the open house — may contact the PNRC at 847-506-2060.

Monetary donations are also welcome. Tax-deductible contributions can be mailed to the Rolling Meadows Police Department, 3600 Kirchoff Road, Rolling Meadows, IL 60008 (Attention: Holiday Gift Program). Checks should be made payable to the Neighborhood Resource Center Foundation.

'Keep Wreaths Red' Encourages Fire Safety

For the second straight year, the Rolling Meadows Fire Department will participate in a public awareness program that uses festive décor to encourage residents to stay safe this holiday season.

The centerpieces of the "Keep the Wreaths Red" program are two holiday wreaths on display at the City's fire stations on Plum Grove Road and Meadow Drive. Each wreath is illuminated with red bulbs. The Fire Department will replace a red bulb with a white bulb for each fire in Rolling Meadows that is caused by holiday decorations.

The Illinois Fire Chiefs Association

adopted the "Keep the Wreaths Red" program in 1980.

"Departments across the state who participate in this program have observed that people are very interested in seeing whether their city has had a fire caused by holiday decorations," Deputy Chief Brian Dempsey explains. "It offers a unique approach for reminding Rolling Meadows residents to keep their families safe during the holidays."

To help "Keep the Wreaths Red," the Department recommends that residents:

- Check for fresh needles before purchasing a tree. Trees with brown or brittle needles pose a fire risk. Verify that artificial trees displayed in the home are

flame retardant, and keep all trees away from fireplaces or heating vents;

- Never light candles on trees or evergreens, near draperies or other flammable materials, and never leave candles unattended;

- Avoid using electrical ornaments or light strings on artificial trees with metallic leaves or branch coverings;

- Fireplaces are for burning wood or decorative logs only. Make sure flues are open to prevent carbon monoxide buildup;

- Use lights approved for outdoor use if decorating a home's exterior;

- Never leave a turkey deep fryer unattended, and always use it outdoors;

- Check smoke detectors regularly.

New Police Department Member Has 'Nose' for Drug Investigations

The newest member of the Rolling Meadows Police Department hails from the Netherlands, has a "nose" for drug investigations, and considers a tennis ball to be the ultimate reward for a job well done.

Meet Harley, the first K-9 officer in the RMPD's 53-year history.

A Belgian Malinois and Belgian Tervuren mix who turns two-years-old in December, Harley is a "passive indicating dog," according to his handler, Canine Officer Steve Whetstone. When Harley finds what he's looking for during a narcotic detection investigation, he doesn't bark or growl. Instead, he sits down.

"Dogs are well-suited for locating illegal narcotics because of their keen sense of smell," Officer Whetstone explains. "Humans have roughly five million scent follicles in their noses. Dogs have 200 million."

Harley is trained to identify cocaine, heroin, marijuana and methamphetamine, although he doesn't understand that he's searching for drugs. As a result of his training regimen, he thinks he's looking for a tennis ball.

Before reporting for duty August 7 in Rolling Meadows, Harley attended a three-week training academy at Vohne Liche Kennels, Denver, IN, with Officer Whetstone. The intensive training course included odor "imprinting" and obedi-

ence training (for Harley) and dog handling techniques (for Officer Whetstone).

"I'll admit, the training was more for me than Harley," says Officer Whetstone, an eight-year Department veteran who volunteered to become Harley's handler and keeper. "As with any other member of the department, Harley and I train almost daily in order to maximize our effectiveness," he adds.

The partnership between Officer Whetstone and Harley differs from traditional police partnerships in the sense that they're together 24/7. When not



"He's a friendly, gentle dog who follows me everywhere and is great with the kids."

—Canine Officer Steve Whetstone

on duty, Harley lives with Officer Whetstone, his wife and three children.

"I really enjoy having Harley by my side at work and at home," Officer Whetstone says. "He's a friendly, gentle dog who follows me everywhere and is great with the kids."

On duty, Officer Whetstone issues commands to his four-legged partner in

Dutch, due to the fact that Harley was born and raised in the Netherlands. Commands used regularly include *bliven* ("stay"), *phooey* ("no/stop"), *zooken* ("search"), and *los* ("let go").

The Department's K-9 Unit is funded entirely by federal drug seizure money, raised through the seizure of drug offender assets. Federal and state drug

laws are designed to return a portion of these proceeds to local law enforcement agencies for drug enforcement programs, Police Chief Steve Williams explains.

"Harley does not cost City residents a single penny. We expect

Harley will pay for himself by doing what he does best: helping police officers locate and seize illegal narcotics," Chief Williams says.

Harley did just that in August, when he and Officer Whetstone were called in to support a regional Drug Enforcement Agency (DEA) Task Force operation in the western suburb of Melrose Park. Harley helped investigators discover and take possession of 500 pounds of cocaine worth nearly \$25 million.

Fire Department Offers Free CO Detectors To Qualified Rolling Meadows Homeowners

The Fire Department is offering free carbon monoxide detectors to qualified homeowners through a grant from the Rolling Meadows Rotary Club, Deputy Chief Brian Dempsey reports.

Residents who wish to be considered for the free carbon monoxide detector program may contact the Rolling Meadows Fire Department at 847-397-3352. Detectors will be distributed on a first come, first served basis. Recipients must be

City residents, meet minimal income eligibility requirements and own their home.

"We've limited the program to qualified homeowners because state law requires rental property owners to install carbon monoxide detectors in every dwelling unit," Deputy Chief Dempsey explains. "Residents who live in rental apartments or houses should already have a working CO detector in their home."

A combined \$2,500 Rolling Meadows Rotary Club and Rotary International District grant helped the Fire Department purchase detectors that feature electronic digital readouts with battery backup. This guarantees the detectors will work even in situations where homeowners experience power outages.

"Our goal is to assist those who may not have the means to purchase these life-

saving tools themselves. We greatly appreciate Rotary's support in helping us provide carbon monoxide detectors to residents who need them," Deputy Chief Dempsey adds.

Illinois' Carbon Monoxide Detector Act requires that all homes have a carbon monoxide detector within 15 feet of every sleeping room. Both single and multiple family residences that rely on fossil fuel combustion for heat must have a working carbon monoxide detector.

Dominick's Property Shows Importance Of Putting Broader Public Interest First

Success in achieving a city's reasonable goals in economic development often requires the parties involved to put the best interest of the broader public above narrow interests that might have drawn them into the discussion in the first place.

Take the City's six-year long effort to redevelop the former Dominick's Shopping Center property on Kirchoff Road. Parties to the discussion included Dominick's Finer Foods, which once considered refurbishing its superstore, the property owner from whom Dominick's and other shopping center tenants lease their properties, the other business owners and tenants in the center, the developers who created redevelopment plans for the property, other taxing bodies in the area, and neighborhood residents.

The very difficult task facing City officials was to help these parties see how serving the best interest of the broader public would be good for them, too. Looking back at the failure of three redevelopment plans over six years, one can fault each party at different points along the way.

Dominick's first proposed renovating the store and adding a service station out front on Kirchoff Road. Before proceeding, the super-market company wanted the property owner to agree to repair and upgrade the parking lot. When the property owner first balked at paying for parking lot repairs, the negotiations dragged on.

By the time they reached agreement on parking lot repairs, Chicago-based Dominick's was sold to California-based Safeway. It decided to close unprofitable or marginal stores, and the Rolling Meadows Dominick's fell into the latter category. Missed opportunity number one: if the landowner had agreed to the improvements in early 2003, a newly remodeled Dominick's might be still operating.

Next came developer Bristol-Moran with a proposal to create a luxury apartment complex, with hundreds of units built to condominium specifications for later conversion, granite countertops, 9 foot ceilings, a swimming pool and clubhouse. When neighborhood residents quickly objected to the intrusion of a four or five story apartment building, upscale though it may be, the developer added 42 row homes to provide a buffer and mitigate the height of the apartment buildings.

The property owner put the price at \$10.4 million. Bristol-Moran thought it could work at that price until the property owner insisted the

developer handle the relocation of all shopping center tenants. When some tenants sought top dollar to move elsewhere, relocation costs escalated to \$2 million, which ultimately broke the deal. City officials urged Bristol-Moran to build the retail section planned along Kirchoff Road first, and move tenants there to dramatically reduce relocation costs, but the developer chose not to follow the City's advice.

Discouraged after having signed a contract it now regretted and repeatedly presenting its proposal to the community in open meetings, Bristol-Moran told the City the deal might still work if the tax increment financing (TIF) district set to expire in 2011 (23 years after it started) could be extended for just another five years. City officials tried to persuade other taxing districts, especially the schools, to agree to a TIF extension, but they met a solid wall of opposition. Opportunity number two was history.

Finally, in 2007, Lincoln Properties offered \$9.1 million to build mixed-use apartments and row homes. The owner would only come down to \$9.3 million. A year went by, and by the time the owner reduced the price, the developer could not find a homebuilder willing to build row homes in today's economy.

One of the major stumbling blocks to reaching an agreement was that Dominick's lease required it to keep paying rent until February 2009, or until the property was sold. The owner didn't have much incentive to sell, until now. Lease payments are about to end, and observers say the property may fetch only \$7 million in today's depressed real estate market.

As City officials look back on the failed process, they see many "what ifs":

- What if the property owner had lowered the price, so Bristol-Moran could make the deal work?
- What if the retail tenants had been more reasonable in their relocation requirements?

● What if Bristol-Moran had agreed to build the front retail section first to keep tenants?

● What if everyone involved had stayed focused on the best interest of the broader public involved?

Think Green! Saving Energy Cuts Utility Costs

During these tight economic times, energy conservation pays off in more ways than one. Saving energy is the best way to cut utility costs and reverse the trend of global warming. Consider these energy-saving tips to keep fuel bills low and protect the environment:

- Replace incandescent bulbs with compact fluorescents.
- Unplug chargers and electrical equipment when not in use.
- Use a programmable thermostat to reduce energy use when you're not home and when sleeping.

'Hungry?' Restaurant Celebrates 1st Anniversary

Mayor Ken Nelson (second from right) and 6th Ward Alderman Kathy Kwandras joined Hungry? restaurant owner Sam Syreggelas (center), his brother, George, and father, Tom, in cutting a ceremonial ribbon commemorating the eatery's one-year anniversary in November.

Located at 1673 Algonquin Road, Hungry? offers everything from Shepard's Pie and shish kabobs to pulled barbeque pork sandwiches. It is open seven days a week for breakfast, lunch and dinner.



Mayor Nelson, Chamber Find Bright Spots in Local Economy

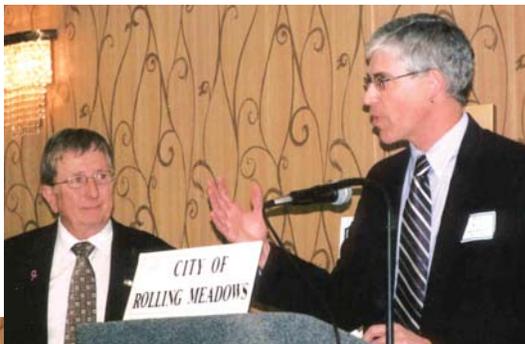
Mayor Ken Nelson had a hard time finding good news to report for his annual economic development update. One of the Mayor's slides showed that Rolling Meadows Public Library usage is up sharply, as often happens during economic downturns. At least people are learning to cope.

Hardly noticed amid the gloom is the arrival or expansion of eight businesses: Gus' Diner, Absolute Chinese, Northwest Community Bank, J.C. Restoration, Panasonic, ReMax, Subway, and Red Apple Pancake House/Café.

The Rolling Meadows Chamber of Commerce, co-sponsor of the well-attended economic development update breakfast, announced that the City's largest employer, Northrop Grumman Corp., increased its employment here in 2008 to more than 2,300 and plans to add more jobs in 2009.

After Northrop Grumman, the City's top 10 employers, as of November 2008, are:

- Harris Bank—Regional Processing Center, 365 employees
- Riverside Publishing Co., 335



Mark Koch (right), Division Head and WildStang Robotics Team Leader at Rolling Meadows High School, told Mayor Ken Nelson (left) and the economic development update audience about the school's Illinois Innovation Talent Project. As one of 23 Illinois high schools chosen to promote innovating thinking, RMHS students will present the Illinois Department of Transportation with suggestions for using robotics to perform bridge inspections.



- A.H. Management Group, 315
- Komatsu, 310
- Panasonic—Regional Headquarters, 300
- Meijer, 295
- City of Rolling Meadows, 233
- Wal-Mart, 220
- RTC, 200.

Residents to Play Key Role In Snow Removal

As Public Works gears up for another season of snow removal, department personnel want to remind homeowners and businesses they play an important role in helping the City's snow plowing efforts, according to Public Works Director Fred Vogt.

Residents should refrain from shoveling or blowing snow from driveways and sidewalks into the street. It creates more work for themselves and inadvertently causes hazardous conditions for motorists.

"We recommend that residents shovel snow to the right side of the driveway when facing the street and into yard areas whenever possible," Vogt explains. "Otherwise, passing plows will push the

snow right back onto the property. Snow that is pushed onto a recently plowed street can be dangerous for drivers," he added.

Residents with snow blowers and/or a little extra stamina may want to carve out an extra pocket to the left side of the driveway, since curbside snow will most likely be pushed onto a driveway by passing plows. Other reminders to help Public Works' snow removal efforts include:

- **Observe winter parking bans** – Parking on City streets is prohibited for eight hours following a snowfall of at least one inch. This allows plows to access streets without having to avoid parked cars.
- **Keep fire hydrants**

clear of snow – Shoveling snow around fire hydrants may save lives. In emergency situations where seconds count, firefighters depend on their ability to easily reach nearby hydrants.

● **Check mailboxes for needed repairs** – Snow and ice plowed from streets can be heavy and cause damage to weakly supported mailboxes. The City will only pay for repairs to mailboxes hit by plows during snow removal operations.

"Our policy of completely clearing the City's roads after winter storms strike is a team effort," Vogt said. "We see residents as natural partners in ensuring that City streets are the envy of the area after blustery Chicago storms."

Historical Society Seeks Vintage Ornaments for Museum Tree

Residents with vintage – or simply old – ornaments that they no longer use are invited to donate them to the Rolling Meadows Historical Society, which is seeking help in decorating its holiday tree on display in the Historical Museum's Education Center.

"Ornaments from the 1950s are certainly welcome, but we will happily accept ornaments from any era," Society President Bev Keagle says.

Guests may visit the Rolling Meadows Historical Museum, 3100 Central Road, to view the historical house's holiday décor during regular visiting hours: Wednesdays, 10 a.m. – 2 p.m. (through December 10), and Sundays, 1 – 4 p.m. (year-round).

Residents will also have a chance to tour the Museum and enjoy refreshments when Historical Society members host a holiday open house, Sunday, January 4, 1 – 4 p.m.

For more information on Historical Society activities and events, call 847-577-7086.





Looking Forward, and Ahead, to 2009

BY MAYOR KEN NELSON

Here we are about to wrap up another year. Like a lot of people I talk with, I won't be sorry to see 2008 go.

Certainly some good things happened this past year, but overall – with the economy crunch the prime culprit – it's not been a great year. So now we look forward to 2009.

There are so many exciting things on the horizon for our City and I'd like to hope a good many of them will come to fruition in the coming months. Particularly as we approach this holiday season, I hope this finds you in good health and surrounded by those you love.

I look forward to seeing you at our Christmas Tree Lighting ceremony on Thursday, December 4th. That's always a good way to get into the holiday mood. May you and yours have a joyous holiday season.

HELP WANTED:

We currently have some openings on various boards and commissions. If you're

interested in learning more about what's available and what responsibilities there might be, please contact me.



The City's annual Tree Lighting Celebration will be held Thursday, December 4, 6 p.m., downtown in front of the McDonald's on Kirchoff Road.

You can do so by email at Mayor@cityrm.org, by leaving a voice mail message at 847/394-8500 or by sending a letter to 3600 Kirchoff Road, Rolling Meadows, 6008.

I look forward to hearing from you. Our city motto is Progress through Participation. Here's a chance for you to participate.

Thank You, Rolling Meadows

The following letter was sent to the Rolling Meadows Fire Department praising its paramedics for "quick action" in helping a resident in need of emergency medical assistance.

Dear Fire Chief Stewart:

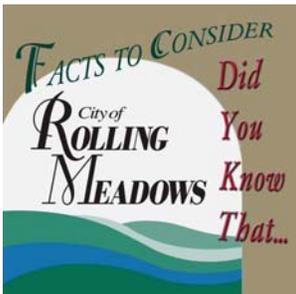
I wish to express my deep appreciation to your department for its wonderful and rapid response to our 9-1-1 call for help. We called about 10 p.m., because my

husband was not feeling well and wasn't able to tell me what was wrong.

When the paramedics arrived, they quickly determined that my husband was suffering a heart attack. They quickly stabilized him and took him to the emergency room. I came with them but was dazed by the diagnosis! Thanks to paramedics' quick action, they saved my husband's life.

Although our letter is a little late in going out, we owe you our heartfelt thanks and gratitude.

*Sincerely yours,
Bea and Hilton Lewis*



In the past four years alone, the generosity of Rolling Meadows businesses, residents, and community organizations

has helped the PNRC distribute nearly 3,000 gifts to children through its Holiday Gift Program.

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 Pitzaferrro 847-655-1390

2nd Ward: Barb Lusk 847-567-2444

3rd Ward: Lawrence Buske 847-255-9126

4th Ward: Tom Rooney 847-392-2254

5th Ward: Glenn Adams 847-259-5875

6th Ward: Kathy Kwandras 847-398-7113

7th Ward: James Larsen 630-244-4228

Services

Fire & Police Emergency: 911

Fire Department non-emergency: 847-397-3352

Police non-emergency: 847-255-2416

Public Works 847-963-0500

Finance/Utility Billing Questions — 847-394-8500

Community Development Dept. — 847-506-6030

TDD: 847-506-0490

Senior Services 847-394-8500

ComEd — 1-800-EDISON-1
PNRC — 847-506-2059

City Council, Committee of the Whole, Zoning Board of Appeals, and Plan Commission Meetings are televised on Cable TV Channel 6