



THIS MONTH IN ROLLING MEADOWS

February 2 — Ground Hog Day

February 5 — Election Day, Economic Development Committee, 6 p.m., Plan Commission, 7:30 p.m., both at City Hall, Library Board, 7 p.m., at the Library

February 6 — 9-1-1 Board, 3 p.m., Zoning Board of Appeals, 7:30 p.m., both at City Hall

February 11 — Board of Fire and Police Commissioners, 9 a.m., City Hall

February 12 — Lincoln's Birthday, City Hall and Public Works open, City Council Meeting, 7:30 p.m., City Hall.

February 14 — Adjudication Hearing, 1 p.m., City Hall

February 18 — Presidents' Day, City Hall and Public Works open

February 19 — City Council Committee of the Whole, 7:30 p.m., City Hall

February 21 — Adjudication Hearing, 1 p.m., City Hall

February 26 — Rolling Meadows' 53rd anniversary of incorporation, City Council Meeting, 7:30 p.m., City Hall

February 28 — Adjudication Hearing, 1 p.m., City Hall

'Red Light' Traffic Safety Cameras Now Operating at Key Intersections

An initiative to improve safety at the City's busiest intersections commenced in January with the installation of the first "Red Light" cameras designed to reduce the number of motorists who run red lights.

Intersections where cameras are posted feature road signs informing motorists that the upcoming intersection is monitored by the Red Light camera system. Sensors placed in the white "stop" line record the speed of an approaching vehicle and activate the cameras when the stoplight is red. If a vehicle crosses into the intersection in violation of the law, cameras will record the incident, along with the vehicle's license plate.

This information is compiled and forwarded to the Rolling Meadows Police



Department for evaluation. Motorists are issued tickets if traffic enforcement officers determine that a violation has occurred.

"Motorists who receive a ticket by mail will be given detailed information on how to either pay the fine or protest the citation," Deputy Chief Dave Scanlan explains. "Drivers will be able to review the video online or in adjudication hearings conducted monthly at City Hall."

Citations will be issued to drivers under the following circumstances:

- Proceeding through an intersection

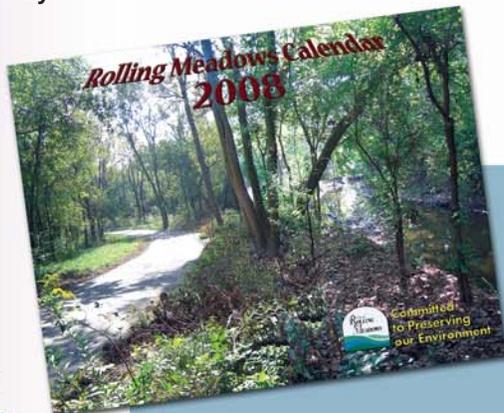
while the traffic signal is red – Vehicles that cross the white "stop" line and proceed into the intersection after the traffic signal has changed from yellow to red are in violation.

● Right turns made at a red light – Motorists must come to a complete stop at the white line before making a right turn at a red light. Vehicles must be stopped long enough for the motorists to check for pedestrians and oncoming vehicles before making the turn.

The City has partnered with Lombard-based RedSpeed Illinois to maintain the system. RedSpeed will forward photos and information to Rolling Meadows Police for follow up investigation, issue citations on the City's behalf and compile monthly reports for review.

The Police Department believes this high-tech traffic enforcement tool could potentially reduce right angle

Continued on page 2



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

2008 City Calendar Delivered

The 2008 Rolling Meadows City calendar, featuring a scenic Salt Creek bike path photo on its cover, was delivered throughout the City in early January. If you did not receive your calendar, please contact Public Works at 847-963-0500 or City Hall at 847-394-8500.

Public Works Citizens Academy Begins March 27... Turn to Page 3

City Receives \$152,000 Grant For Commuter Drive Bike Path Extension

Rolling Meadows has received \$152,000 in grant funding for a bike path extension project along Commuter Drive, the western access road leading from Rohlwing Road to the Arlington Park Metra station.

The funding, provided through the Chicago Metropolitan Agency for

Planning's Congestion Mitigation and Air Quality (CMAQ) grant, will cover preliminary engineering studies in 2008 that are necessary for the City to extend the Rohlwing Road bike path east-bound to the Metra station.



A stretch of the bike path adjacent to Salt Creek.

The City has agreed to put forward \$38,000 (20%) in local matching funds for the project. These costs are planned to be split 50/50 with the Village of Arlington Heights, where the train station is located.

"The City has long expressed interest in extending the bike path system to allow alternative transportation to and from the Arlington Park Metra station," Public Works Director Fred Vogt explains. "This grant will help prepare for eventual construction of the path in 2009, and mark a giant step forward in achieving our bike path objective of enabling convenient, two-wheeled access to all areas of the community, and reducing traffic congestion and air pollution."

Vogt says this funding may also help the City access federal funds to improve the adjacent Commuter Drive roadway. The road, used by hundreds of vehicles each day, is in extremely poor condition and may need to be closed if improvements are not made.

Frustration Grows Over Funding for Commuter Drive Improvements

BY FRED VOGT, PUBLIC WORKS DIRECTOR

The hundreds of motorists who use Commuter Drive each day to reach the Arlington Park Metra station can vouch for the fact that the road is in extremely poor condition. This western access road to the station – used by residents of Rolling Meadows, Palatine, Buffalo Grove, Arlington Heights and several other neighboring

communities – has been a source of frustration for drivers and City officials for many years.

In the last several years, City staff members have met with officials from the Village of Arlington Heights, Arlington Park, Harvest Bible Chapel and Metra to

seek funding assistance from a variety of sources to repair the road. Those efforts met with no success.

A few years back, federal funding assistance helped rebuild the station's parking lot and enhance access from Wilke Road, but the project did not include the Commuter Drive western access.

Compounding matters was the fact that there was uncertainty as to who owned the property on which Commuter Drive sits. Through a series of title searches, the

efforts of former City Attorney Don Rose and land surveys conducted by Arlington Heights, we discovered that Rolling Meadows, Arlington Heights, the Union Pacific Railroad, Arlington Park and the Illinois Department of Transportation all own portions of the road.

With that knowledge, we continued our efforts to secure funding to rebuild this aging – and increasingly dangerous – road. The results were the same. After Metra turned down the Rolling Meadows' request for assistance, the City was twice denied funding administered by the Chicago Metropolitan Agency for Planning. However, the Agency did approve funding for a bike path extension along Commuter Drive (see adjacent article).

Last November, the City submitted an application for federal Surface Transportation Program funding through the Northwest Municipal Conference Council of Mayors, which administers distribution of federal funds for area roadway projects. We hope to learn if our funding request will be approved by mid- to late-February.

Meanwhile, motorists who use Commuter Drive to access the Arlington Park Metra station must drive with caution and will suffer the same bone-jarring, tooth-rattling rides they have endured daily for the past decade.



'Red Light' Traffic Safety Cameras

Continued from page 1

collisions, also known as T-bone collisions, anywhere from 30 – 50%. The cameras will also change hazardous driving behavior by encouraging motorists to exercise caution when approaching an intersection, Deputy Chief Scanlan adds.

The Red Light camera system has been installed at no expense to taxpayers: RedSpeed receives a fee for every ticket issued. All tickets issued by the system are considered non-moving violations and are not part of a driver's record. The cameras are unable to record who is operating a vehicle.

Besides encouraging motorists to use caution at intersections, the system allows officers to spend more time serving the residents and businesses of Rolling Meadows, and less time monitoring dangerous intersections.

The City will complete installation of 12 cameras across the City in the next few months.

Four-Part Citizens Training Academy Kicks Off March 27 at Public Works

A four-part Citizens Training Academy hosted by the Public Works Department to help residents learn more about the vital role the Department plays in maintaining the City's quality of life begins Thursday, March 27.

The Academy will consist of three Thursday evening informational presentations (March 27, April 3 and April 10), culminating with a Saturday, April 12 "field course." Residents will participate in hands-on training activities and educational sessions and tour City facilities that, combined, offer a "behind-the-scenes" look at Public Works' operations.

"Public Works crews provide a range of services — from snow plowing operations and underground utility repairs to water quality testing and road work — that have a

tremendous impact on our daily lives. Academy graduates will enjoy a greater understanding of these operations and how they affect us all," Assistant Public Works Director Bob Hartnett explains.

Topics to be presented during the four-session Academy include:

● **Underground Utilities Division** — Details the vast underground infrastructure of the City's underground water, sanitary sewer and storm sewer system.

● **Water Division** — Outlines the Department's water quality and monitoring operations. Participants will also learn how to perform basic plumbing maintenance to fix leaky water pipes, faucets, and other minor home plumbing problems.

● **Inspection Services** — Provides an introduction to how Public Works evaluates City infrastructure, such as streets, sidewalks and underground utilities.

● **Facilities Division** — Presents an overview of the number and types of City-owned facilities.

● **Street Maintenance Division** — Provides information on forestry services, refuse collection, snow removal and pavement maintenance.

The Department will host a complimentary lunch for Academy members following the April 12 facilities tour. In addition, Academy graduates will be recognized at an awards presentation



Jeff Stewart of the Water Division makes repairs underground.

Tuesday, April 22, during City Council's regular meeting.

To register for the inaugural Public Works Citizens Training Academy, or for more information, contact Bob Hartnett, Assistant Public Works Director, at 847-963-0500, or hartnett@cityrm.org.

37-Cent Water Rate Increase Reflected in March Utility Bills

Beginning in March, residents' water bills will increase by 37 cents per 1,000 gallons due to an increase in the amount the City must pay to purchase water consumed in Rolling Meadows. The average household consumes 7,000 gallons per month.

The increase results from a higher rate charged by the City of Chicago, the source of the City's water.

Water Conservation Pays Off

Water, like any other resource, is available in a limited supply, and conserving this valuable limited resource makes good sense, as well as cents.

Beyond the obvious environmental benefits, water conservation pays off economically. Residents will realize great financial savings by applying a few household water conservation tips:

● **Check the toilets in your home for "silent leaks"** — Even where there are no visible signs of water leakage, small "silent leaks" may result in water escaping through the toilet, adding to the number of water gallons consumed in the home. A quarter-inch leak will waste over 300,000 gallons of water in one month's time, adding more than \$1,200 to a resident's water bill.

A simple test can determine whether a toilet has a silent leak. Add dye capsules, food coloring, powdered drink mix or instant coffee powder to the tank water and wait until the water turns a deep hue. Wait 30 minutes, making sure no one uses the toilet. The water in the bowl

should remain clear. If dye is seen seeping into the toilet bowl, there is a leak.

Next, draw a pencil mark on the back inside wall of the tank at the water line, turn off the water supply to the tank (either under the tank or at the main water shutoff), then wait 20 – 30 minutes. If the water level remains at the pencil mark, the leak is occurring at the refill valve, the unit on the left-hand side of the tank. If the water level falls below the pencil mark, the leak is in the flush valve, located in the tank's center.

In either case, replacing the problem valve can save significant expense on a homeowner's water bill.

● **Flush toilets only when necessary** — The average family consumes eight times more water flushing the toilet than is used for cooking and drinking. Toss tissues and other bathroom refuse in a wastebasket to avoid unnecessary flushing.

● **Wash dishes in the dishwasher** — Most people don't realize that full dishwashers consume about 50% less water than is used when dishes are washed and rinsed by hand.

Developers Still Seeking Viable Redevelopment Plan Four Years After Dominick's Closed

Four years after Dominick's Finer Foods closed the superstore anchoring a retail center at the southeast end of the City's Kirchoff Road downtown, developers are still struggling to create a viable redevelopment plan for the 11-acre site. The soft economy, especially the decline of the housing market and the mortgage credit crunch, is a big part of the problem.

The site was originally planned for retail, but the City's retail center has now moved southeast to the area where Golf and Algonquin Roads intersect. Finding no developers interested in bringing retail businesses to the former Dominick's site, City planners worked to create a mixed use residential/retail redevelopment.

Plans for the property received extensive public discussion for nearly four years, including neighborhood meetings, City Council and Plan Commission meetings, coverage in the *News & Views* newsletter, Economic Development Committee meetings and annual goal setting sessions.

In 2006, City Council approved a \$70 million mixed use development proposed by Schaumburg-based Bristol Moran Development, which included 21,000 square feet of retail space, 32 condominium homes, 233 multi-family units and 42 row homes. That proposal failed when the developer realized the total cost of the project was too high for it to be successful.

One problem is that Dominick's has a lease that requires it to continue

paying rent on the property it vacated until 2009. Until that lease expires, the property owner has little incentive to sell the property. The Bristol Moran proposal offered the owner \$9.6 million, and agreed to cover costs of relocation, environmental cleanup, and prepayment penalties.

The plan included about \$2 million in costs to relocate existing businesses on the site, heavy expenses to clean up three hazardous waste sites, and a \$500,000 penalty for debt repayment. "Eventually, all these additional costs killed the project," says City Manager Tom Melena.

The site is part of an existing tax increment financing district (TIF), but the opportunity to apply that tax abatement to project costs gets smaller every year the site sits vacant and will expire in 2011. City officials have hesitated to seek an extension, even if they could gain approval from the other taxing bodies that would lose revenue if the TIF is extended.

Developers now doubt that a plan including condominiums and row houses will work, because of the collapse of the market for new housing.

Developers are still interested in the site, and City officials have been working feverishly to find a workable plan, but Melena says "it's going slower than molasses in January."

Meanwhile, the City loses tax revenues that could be coming from a redeveloped site, and a large section in the City's downtown appears blighted.

Special Service Area to Fund Police, Fire Coverage at Woodfield Gardens

City officials have established a Special Service Area covering the Woodfield Gardens apartment complex and neighboring Meadow Square Shopping Center in anticipation of a possible agreement to redevelop the 40-acre property at the southwest corner of Algonquin Road and Route 53. Creating the 10-year Special Service Area allows the City to generate an additional \$678,000 in 2008 to fund police and fire protection services for an area City planners see as ripe for redevelopment. Northbrook-based Pine Tree Commercial Realty has developed a preliminary mixed-use redevelopment plan for the site that features more than 500,000 sq. ft. of retail/commercial space and 1,500 residential units.

"The density of the redevelopment proposal will inevitably require the commitment of additional public safety resources to Woodfield Gardens. The Special Service Area will fund three additional fire fighters, two police officers and one public works employee without asking the entire community to cover the costs," City Manager Tom Melena says.

Serving the City: Ward 1 Alderman John Pitzafferro



Birthplace: Chicago, IL

Family: My wife, Stacey, and I will celebrate our 17th wedding anniversary this year. We have 4 children: Sarah (10), Renee (8), Ethan (7), and Nicholas (5).

Occupation: I own a financial services company based in Rolling Meadows, with over 100 employees – many of whom live in Rolling Meadows.

Education: Weber Catholic High School; Triton College (Major: Business)

Resident of Rolling Meadows since: 2000

I ran for public office to...help the voice of the people get to City Hall.

I would like people to most remember me for...listening to their concerns, helping them in times of need, and being a loyal friend.

The accomplishment I'm most proud of is...marrying my wife, Stacey.

My favorite City event is...the Plum Grove Creek Summer Picnic.

The thing I like best about Rolling Meadows is...the people! We are so blessed to live in this community. Our Public Works, Police, Fire, and Community Development Departments are second to none!

My favorite place in Rolling Meadows is...the bike path along Kennedy Pond and Salt Creek.

My idea of a great day is...having a super soaker water fight with my kids on a hot summer day, then a BBQ dinner at home with family and friends.

In my spare time, I like to...spend time with family and friends.

Three words that best describe me are...caring, loyal, and passionate.

People who knew me in high school would be surprised to know that...I have 4 kids and have been elected alderman.

Few people know...the tremendous time commitment necessary to be an alderman.

I wish I had more time to...be with my family and friends, and do more charity work.

My favorite charity is...The programs of Willow Creek Community Church that feed starving people at the local, national, and international levels.

Fleet Modernization Program Adds Equipment for Future Fire Station

A fleet modernization and expansion program completed by the Rolling Meadows Fire Department in 2007 boosts its ability to maintain excellent fire protection services in the near-term, while helping Department officials allocate resources more effectively once a third fire station is built along the Algonquin Road corridor, according to Fire Chief Ron Stewart.

The latest addition to the fleet, a 2006 American LaFrance Eagle Rescue Pumper, gives the Fire Department a total of three frontline fire engines and two fully-equipped backup vehicles. The new engine can pump 1,750 gallons of water per minute and provides the Department with what Chief Stewart calls a “fast attack approach” to fire suppression, thanks to the vehicle’s on-board hose configuration.

Rather than purchase a new, fully customized engine, the Department saved taxpayers nearly \$120,000 by purchasing a “demonstration” vehicle and modifying it to meet the City’s requirements.

“The Fire Department’s fleet modernization program significantly enhances our ability to maintain excellent service to Rolling Meadows’ residents and businesses,” Chief Stewart explains. “It also sets the stage for being able to immediately relocate equipment to a future third fire station in order to maximize service to all parts of the City.”

A needs analysis reviewed by City Council late last year concluded that a new Fire Station 17 – one of ten official City goals approved in 2007 – would provide effective support to the growing southern portions of the City.

“Fire departments are measured by



Engine 614 is the latest addition to the Fire Department fleet.

their fire prevention efforts and their ability to rapidly respond to calls for assistance. Fire Department officials offered compelling evidence that, due to continued growth in the southern districts, we now face a coverage gap. We are short one fire station,” City Manager Tom Melena explains.

Two sites are currently under consideration for a planned Station 17. One is adjacent to Willow Bend School; the other is along the Algonquin Road corporate corridor. Both offer an excellent location from which to serve the growing commercial/retail area in the vicinity of Golf and Algonquin Roads, and the surrounding residential neighborhoods.

Besides five main engines, the Fire Department’s fleet consists of three ambulances (two frontline vehicles, one reserve); a hazardous materials (HazMat) “squad,” two command vehicles, and an Underwater Rescue and Recovery van used by the Department’s Dive Team.

\$300,000 Renovation to Maximize Efficiencies at Plum Grove Fire Station

City Council’s approval of a \$300,000 renovation project for Plum Grove Fire Station (Station 16) allowed the Fire Department to embark on the next phase of a plan to modernize the facility and maximize operational efficiencies, Deputy Chief Scott Franzgrote reports.

Work commenced in January to create a completely new interior configuration that will make better use of existing space and enhance the ability of Fire Department personnel to coordinate operations. The project will be completed this spring.

The renovation plan reflects Plum Grove Fire Station’s important role in the Fire Department’s comprehensive strategy to effectively prepare for future fire protection needs.

For example, the new layout will create space for the Fire Department to consolidate its Training Division operations under one roof at Station 16.

“Logistically, it is much easier to coordinate Department operations when everyone is in the same building, as opposed to being on opposite sides of the City,” Deputy Chief Franzgrote explains.

The renovations will add conference rooms and larger workspaces for Department training seminars, create a new entrance/reception area, and also move the Fire Prevention Bureau’s offices from the basement to the ground floor.

“The Fire Prevention Bureau is an important aspect of the Department’s proactive fire prevention program,” Deputy Chief Franzgrote adds. “Bureau inspectors verify that buildings across the City meet code requirements, making Rolling Meadows a safer community in which to work and live. Modernized facilities will make the Bureau more effective in carrying out its mission.”

The current remodeling project comes on the heels of last year’s construction of a new dormitory facility, which increased Station 16’s maximum capacity by 20%.



Holiday Inn Express Open for Business

Mayor Ken Nelson (second from right), 6th Ward Alderman Kathy Kwandras (right) and City Manager Tom Melena (left, center) help cut a ceremonial ribbon to officially open the new Holiday Inn Express on Algonquin Road. The 135-room facility began operation in December 2007.

Riverwalk Senior Housing Units Ready for Occupancy

BY MAYOR KEN NELSON

I'd like to remind you of a unique program being offered in Rolling Meadows. Our Senior Housing Project is now fully underway, with a few improvements over the original concept.

You've no doubt noticed the Riverwalk Condominium development going up on the south side of Kirchoff between Owl Drive and Salt Creek. As part of our development agreement on that project, 30 units in the complex have been reserved for senior citizens. The original plan called for all those units to be in the soon-to-be-built fourth building of the complex. But we've expanded the program to include units in the third building, which is ready for occupancy.

The City will partner with the buyer with up to \$30,000 of the purchase price of the unit. There are 1, 2 and 3 bedroom units available. Because this is a City program and does not have state or federal involvement, we're able to give priority to Rolling Meadows residents or the families of Rolling Meadows residents.

You have to be 55 or older to qualify, and there are a few other requirements, but generally speaking, this is the perfect opportunity for some of our empty nesters to get away from the hassles of home maintenance. If you or someone you know might be interested in more information on this project, please contact our Community Development Department at 847-506-6030.

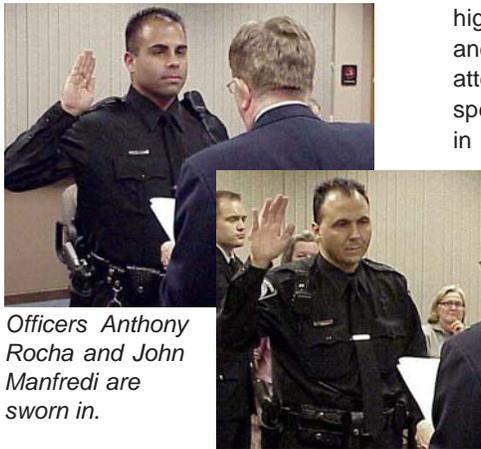
Police Veteran, Marine Sergeant Join Rolling Meadows Police Department

Rolling Meadows Police have recruited an award-winning veteran of the Bartlett Police Department and a former United States Marine to serve as the Department's newest patrol officers, Police Chief Steve Williams reports.

"Officers Manfredi and Rocha bring distinctive records of accomplishment to Rolling Meadows. Their abilities, experience and professionalism are a great addition to our Department," Chief Williams says. "I am happy to have them join our team as we continue to maintain and improve our record of excellence in serving Rolling Meadows' residents and businesses."

Officer Manfredi comes to Rolling Meadows with 12 years of experience with the Bartlett Police Department, where he was named "Officer of the Year" in just his second year. As a detective, he worked as an undercover officer with

Cook County's High Intensity Drug Trafficking Areas (HIDTA).



Officers Anthony Rocha and John Manfredi are sworn in.

Officer Manfredi was Case Management Commander for the Major Case Assistance Team (MCAT). MCAT members call on the law enforcement resources of 18 communities to investigate high profile crimes. He was named MCAT Investigator of the Year in 2005.

Officer Manfredi is a certified Juvenile Specialist, Gang Enforcement Specialist, Bicycle Officer and Field Training Officer.

Officer Rocha grew up in Chicago Heights, and enrolled in the U.S. Marine Corps after graduating from high school. Following basic and infantry training, he attended several military specialty schools and served in many posts around the world. These include a year at the White House – where he received the "Yankee White" security clearance designation given to those who work with the president – and three years as a security guard assigned to the American Embassies in Prague, Czech Republic, and Niamey, Niger.

Following a combat tour in Afghanistan, two tours in Iraq, and completion of a Criminal Justice degree from National University, Officer Rocha was honorably discharged from the Corps at the rank of Sergeant.

He served with the Romeoville Police Department before coming to Rolling Meadows.

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

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