



## THIS MONTH IN ROLLING MEADOWS

**February 3 – 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 4 – 9-1-1 Board, 3 p.m., at City Hall**

**February 10 – City Council Meeting, 7:30 p.m., at City Hall**

**February 12 – Adjudication Hearing, 1 p.m., at City Hall**

**February 17 – City Council Committee of the Whole, 7:30 p.m., at City Hall**

**February 19 – Adjudication Hearing, 1 p.m., at City Hall**

**February 24 – City Council Meeting, 7:30 p.m., at City Hall**

**February 26 – Adjudication Hearing, 1 p.m., at City Hall**

## First Month on the Job Has Been A Tremendous Learning Experience

BY SARAH PHILLIPS, CITY MANAGER

My predecessor arrived in this office just before the September 11 attacks. Now I take up these responsibilities as economic calamity and political change make each day an adventure. A new president has just been inaugurated. The governor has been impeached. The economy has not been this bad in my lifetime. It's colder and snowier here than anywhere I've lived before. One might hope to get started in a warmer, quieter time, but we must take what we are given.

That's fine with me. The people have been very friendly, welcoming, and helpful. I have bought a nice home in Rolling Meadows. I'm excited to be here and eager to meet the neighbors. I am not required to live within the City, but I've always thought the city manager should live and work in town to fully understand what's happening

and how people feel about our efforts to improve the quality of life.

The editors of *News & Views* suggested that I might provide an assessment of how the City looks from the manager's office. I have now been on the job for about a



## There's a New Manager in Town

*Mayor Ken Nelson swears in new City Manager Sarah Phillips during City Council's December 16 meeting. Phillips, former Village Manager of*

*Johnstown, Ohio, brings a strong background in economic development to Rolling Meadows.*

month, and it has been a tremendous learning experience. Rolling Meadows is faced with a very difficult budget, which will directly affect the citizens we serve. We continue to evaluate the services we provide and look for ways we may be able to save on our expenses, while providing those services that our citizens expect.

There will be ongoing changes, and some services will not be provided due to the lack of funding. We will use this newsletter to keep the citizens informed of the changes in our services. Looking forward, we anticipate that fiscal years 2010 and 2011 will be financially challenging as well. We anticipate that the economy will slowly recover, but that will still have an effect on our services for the coming years.

We live in challenging times. I look forward to working with everyone to meet these challenges and maintain the unique qualities that attract people to Rolling Meadows and keep them coming back.

## City Adopts New Front Desk Hours

City officials adopted a revised schedule for front desk hours of operation at the Public Works, Police and Fire Departments, following staff reductions due to budgetary constraints.

- **Public Works (Front desk and operator service): 8 a.m. – 4:30 p.m., Monday – Friday;**
- **Fire Department (Front desk and non-emergency operator service): 9:30 a.m. – 3:30 p.m., Monday – Friday;**
- **Police Department (Community Service Officer Operations): 8 a.m. – 6 p.m., Monday – Friday. 8 a.m. – noon, Saturday;**
- **Police Department (Records Division): 8 a.m. – 4:30 p.m., Monday – Friday.**

Hours for the Administration, Community Development and Finance Departments remain unchanged (8 a.m. – 5 p.m., Monday – Friday).

## Fire Department: Residents Kept Wreaths Red

Holiday wreaths that were on display at the City's two fire stations – symbols of a public awareness campaign to encourage residents to stay safe during the holidays – remained red



throughout the 2008 holiday season, indicating that there were no fires caused by holiday decorations, Deputy Fire Chief Brian Dempsey reports.

Each wreath was illuminated with red bulbs. The program called for the Fire Department to replace a red bulb with a white bulb for each fire in Rolling Meadows caused by holiday decorations.

"We are pleased to report that there were no fires caused by decorations in Rolling Meadows this past holiday season," Deputy Fire Chief Brian Dempsey reports. "The Fire Department salutes Rolling Meadows residents for their success in keeping the wreaths red."

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 Dempsey explains. "It offers a unique approach for reminding Rolling Meadows residents to keep their families safe during the holidays."

# Streamlined Snow Removal Operations Meeting the Test of Excellence

Public Works' implementation of a streamlined snow and ice removal program, with the goal of maintaining the City's reputation for excellent service while reducing taxpayer costs and environmental impact, has worked well despite heavy snows that have blanketed Rolling Meadows this winter, Public Works Director Fred Vogt reports.

Faced with massive increases in operational costs in 2008, and workforce reductions caused by budgetary constraints, Public Works officials retooled the 2008-2009 snow removal program in order to "do more with less."

Key aspects of the plan include:

- Reducing the amount of salt used per lane mile;
- Using environmentally friendly de-icing materials to reduce chemical runoff into the City's storm sewer system; and,
- Improving coordination of resources through a joint agreement with the Rolling Meadows Park District.

"We made a conscious decision to cut back on salt usage and, where possible, reduce overtime in order to hold the line on escalating costs," Vogt explains. "However, we will not compromise on safety. It is our commitment to make City streets as safe as possible for motorists after winter storms."

City snow removal operations were put to the test early, as more than a dozen winter storm "events" dropped 22 inches of snow in Rolling Meadows during December.

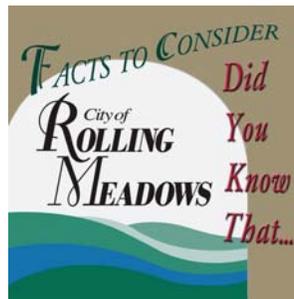
To avoid a potential shortage of salt, which forced

City officials to scramble for additional supplies the prior winter, Public Works ordered an additional 500 tons (3,000 tons total) to have ready in case of another severe winter. By mid-January, the Department had dispersed roughly 1,200 tons onto City streets.

Public Works officials plan to reduce total salt usage this winter through increased reli-

si-um chloride and vegetable by-products tends to stick to the pavement better than untreated road salt," Streets Superintendent Bill Suchecki explains. "It gives the City more bang for the buck by reducing the frequency of salting operations during heavy storms."

The Department's mutual aid plan with the Park District provides additional staff during major snowstorms. Park



- The average annual snowfall in the Chicago area over the past 35 years is 38.2 inches.
- December storms dropped 22.2 inches of snow on Rolling Meadows.
- The Public Works Department's snow removal operations spread 824 tons of salt on City streets, used 2,446 gallons of chloride to pretreat the salt, and required 1,312 hours of employee time in December.

● Snow removal costs for December totaled \$181,985. That's \$1,508 per mile, or \$7.40 per resident. Considering all the overtime, late nights and early mornings, it was a bargain.



ance on salt that has been pretreated with "green" de-icing materials such as corn or beet by-products, in combination with magnesium or calcium chloride. These materials are environmentally friendly alternatives to liquid calcium chloride, which the City has used for many years.

Pretreated salt is normally used in situations where temperatures drop below 25 degrees. The chemical additive improves the salt's melting capacity in extreme cold. It also provides better coverage for longer periods of time.

"Salt treated with calcium chloride or magne-

District employees completed Public Works' training programs, and are available when needed, Suchecki says.

In addition, Public Works now more frequently uses staff members from the Refuse and Administrative Divisions to support storm-related activities.

"Using all available manpower will maintain high service levels, allow flexibility in how we allocate resources, and improve our ability to respond to emergencies," Suchecki adds.

## Three City Officials Serving On Regional Boards

Three Rolling Meadows officials – Health Officer Kerry Abdullah, Assistant City Manager Barry Krumstok, and City Manager Sarah Phillips – have been elected or appointed to a broad range of regional governmental boards and professional associations for 2009.

### Health Officer Abdullah Elected IEHA President

Abdullah was elected President of the Illinois Environmental Health Association (IEHA), an organization of environmental health professionals based in Rochelle, IL. Prior to becoming its president, Abdullah served as the association's President-elect, and vice president and director of IEHA's North Chapter. He has been an association member 14 years.

"I'm looking forward to gaining additional educational and leadership experiences that I can apply to my work as Rolling Meadows' Health Officer," Abdullah explains.

The mission of IEHA is to promote the highest degree of skill, efficiency and



*Kerry Abdullah*

professional competence among environmental health professionals through the mutual exchange of knowledge and experience; to promote the administration of environmental health programs for maximum public benefit; and to foster cooperation between governmental branches and departments at all levels in activities directed toward the improvement of health and comfort to the public.

### Assistant City Manager Krumstok Serves as IRMA Director

Krumstok was elected to the Executive Board of the Intergovernmental Risk Management Agency (IRMA). IRMA is comprised of 75 municipalities and municipal agencies that pool their resources together to offer self-insurance as an alternative to conventional insurance.

"Rolling Meadows' participation in this self-insurance pool saves taxpayers considerable sums of money each year," Krumstok says. "Each IRMA member pays premiums to the agency and we all share in the profits, which



*Barry Krumstok*

lowers premium payments in subsequent years. IRMA participation allows us to have greater control over our insurance and risk management programs," he adds.

### City Manager Phillips Appointed to Five Regional Agencies

Phillips, in addition to managing the day-to-day affairs of her new City, was appointed by aldermen in January to serve as:

- Alternate Director to the Solid Waste Agency of North Cook County (SWANCC) Board of Directors;
- Second Alternate Delegate to the Northwest Suburban Municipal Joint Action Water Agency (JAWA);
- Delegate to the Metropolitan Water Reclamation District's (MWRD) Lower Des Plaines Watershed Planning Council;
- Delegate to MWRD's Upper Salt Creek Watershed Planning Council;
- Alternate Delegate to the Northwest Municipal Conference (NWMC).

"Involvement in these organizations gives Rolling Meadows a voice in how regional initiatives and challenges may impact the City," Phillips says. "As stakeholders in a regional dialogue, we can advocate more effectively on behalf of our residents and maintain the City's quality of life."

## Second Citizens Training Academy To Kick Off March 26 at Public Works



*Bob Hartnett*

Back by popular demand, the Public Works Department will launch its second annual Citizens Training

Academy Thursday, March 26, to help residents learn about the vital role the Department plays in maintaining the City's quality of life.

The Academy will consist of four Thursday evening informational presentations (March 26, and April 2, 9 and 16), and a Saturday, April 18 "field

course." Residents will participate in hands-on training activities and educational sessions, and tour City facilities for an in-depth exploration of 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 include:

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

● **Water Division** – Outlines water quality and monitoring operations and 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.

Twenty-three residents have already registered for the program. Only a few openings remain. To register for the Citizens Training Academy, contact Assistant Public Works Director Bob Hartnett at 847-963-0500, or [hartnett@cityrm.org](mailto:hartnett@cityrm.org).

# Unusual Emergency Calls Underscore Need For Working Carbon Monoxide Detectors

Firefighter and paramedic response to a series of unusual emergency calls reporting elevated carbon monoxide (CO) levels during the holidays underscores the importance of having working CO detectors at home, Deputy Fire Chief Brian Dempsey reports.

In late December, Department personnel were called to a four-unit condominium complex where a homeowner had called 9-1-1 after her CO alarm detected elevated levels of the odorless, colorless gas.

"The building layout was such that each home's furnace was housed in the center of the building, separated only by interior walls. Crews determined that the CO was being drawn into the home by a neighboring furnace producing 10-times the normal level," Dempsey explains.

The Department responded to a second unusual CO call at another condominium complex on New Year's Eve. Construction workers had been doing welding work in a large first floor storage room that offered no ventilation. The CO generated by the welders had infiltrated into every home in the complex.

"On-scene personnel detected a CO level of 120 parts-per-million (ppm) in the storage room, and 40 ppm in each of the homes. Levels of 10 ppm can be dangerous," Dempsey says.

A third call, this one in early January, resulted from a faulty furnace that caused CO levels to spike upwards of 350 ppm.

Dempsey believes there is a moral to the

story: working CO detectors can save lives.

"Residents should call 9-1-1 immediately if a home's carbon monoxide detector activates," he says. "Don't disregard the alarm. Firefighters will not leave until we've found the cause of the problem and determined how to fix it."

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.

## Thank You for Holiday Décor

The following letter was sent to Mayor Ken Nelson, commending Public Works employees for illuminating downtown Rolling Meadows in festive holiday décor:

*Dear Mayor Nelson:*

*Gene and I have lived in Rolling Meadows since 1963. We love our town. We wanted to thank you for the beautiful Christmas lights on Kirchoff Road.*

*Since Gene will not drive to Chicago to see the lights, it is nice to have our own MAGNIFICENT MILE here in Rolling Meadows.*

*Thanks also to the city employees who did such a good job putting up all the lights.*

*Thank you,*

*Gloria & Gene Anzalone*

# Historical Society Plans Exhibit on Original Businesses

The Rolling Meadows Historical Society is planning a new exhibit that will recall the original businesses that served residents in the City's early days, Historical Society President Bev Keagle reports.

"From Crawford's and



Grant's to the Red Onion restaurant and more, we want this exhibit to help people remember where Rolling Meadows residents used to shop," she explains.

Society members encourage residents to contribute to the exhibit, planned for late spring, by providing personal photos, souvenirs or memorabilia that may help chronicle the early days of Rolling Meadows' business community.

To donate items for the exhibit, or for more information on upcoming events, contact the Rolling Meadows Historical Society at 847-577-7086.

Visit the Rolling Meadows Historical Museum, 3100 Central Road – a replica of an original Kimball Hill home – Sundays, 1 – 4 p.m.

## Support the Museum

Tax-deductible donations help support ongoing programs and cover museum expenses. Submit donations to:

**Rolling Meadows Historical Society**  
3100 Central Road  
Rolling Meadows, IL 60008.

## Department Offers Free CO Detectors

The Rolling Meadows Fire Department is offering free carbon monoxide detectors to qualified homeowners through a grant from the Rolling Meadows Rotary Club.

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.

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.

"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 Brian Dempsey adds.

## Crossing Guard Bob Greenough Gives Jay & Grouse a Unique Personality

For more than 10 years, Bob Greenough has given a personality to the corner of Jay and Grouse. Every weekday morning and afternoon, he makes sure the kids from Rolling Meadows High School, St. Colette, and Kimball Hill get safely to school and back home at night. What he does as one of seven crossing guards the Police Department employs part-time is important. How he does it gives the corner its unique personality.

He pays close attention to the kids and their needs. Many return the favor by proudly showing him their report cards. He keeps dog biscuits for more than a dozen dogs whose owners bring them by the intersection regularly.

The van Greenough parks close by is equipped with a police radio. "I know most of the people around here. I know when something doesn't look right," he says. The police have an additional set of eyes and ears helping to keep the City safe.

The crossing guard's job is not glamorous. Former City Clerk Patti Sutherland Weicker recently wrote Mayor Ken Nelson to commend Greenough, whom she's known since her children attended preschool nearby many years ago. Now she passes the intersection daily on her way to work. She calls Greenough "one of the unsung heroes of Rolling Meadows."

Weicker wrote: "Several weeks back, I saw Bob with a bag standing on the corner talking to a child with a bike. I believe he was offering the young boy a pair of gloves. It was starting to get cold, and he wanted to help this child stay warm. This definitely warmed my heart, and I wanted to thank you (Mayor Nelson), the Police Department, and the City for your continued good works.

"To me, it is the small things that make Rolling Meadows a great place to call home."

Greenough confirms that he noticed one of the boys who crosses there didn't have

gloves. "I had a pair of gloves at home, so I brought them and gave them to him." Simple as that, as though it were part of the crossing guard's job description.

The job does have its exciting moments. "I've seen some bad accidents here. Some drivers speed like crazy. They fly down the street. They often don't listen. I told one woman to wait until it's OK to proceed, but she missed me by 'that much'," he says, holding his fingers apart by about an inch.

There are lonely moments, but also times of gratification that help to make it all worthwhile for Greenough, a retired meat factory worker and meter reader who's lived



in Rolling Meadows for 32 years. "One day, a big guy in uniform pulls up and gets out of his car. I looked at him and said, 'Wow, you're Sean.' He smiled and said, 'Just thought I'd stop and see you. I did what you said and joined the Army.'"

Police Department Community Service Officer Dale Reif supervises the crossing guards. She says Greenough is representative of the people who hold the part-time jobs. "They're all very child conscious. We have one who will wait 15 minutes, knowing a child hasn't crossed yet. They're all retired, except one woman who also works a nighttime job."

## Police Commander Tom Calcagno Attends Secret Service Training Seminar

Police Department Commander Thomas Calcagno recently took part in an "extremely interesting" educational seminar hosted by the United States Secret Service on dignitary and VIP protection.

The one-day program offered insights into the operational capabilities and practices of the Secret Service, which was founded in 1865 to halt the spread of counterfeit currency. Secret Service agents began full-time protection of the president in 1902, following the assassination of President William McKinley.

"Instructors offered an historical overview of the Secret Service, and details on its activities during the last several presidential elections," explains Calcagno, who is prevented by law from divulging particular Secret Service practices and tactics. "This type of refresher course is an important component to the Police Department's training regimen. Local law enforcement agencies are often required to coordinate with the Secret Service in situations where the president or other dignitary is visiting the area."

Calcagno was invited to the Secret Service seminar due to his 2007 participation in the National Academy of the Federal Bureau of Investigation (FBI). Graduates of the 10-week course, held in Quantico, VA, earn the right to attend Bureau-sponsored monthly meetings that offer continuing education in law enforcement policies, procedures and tactics.

"These monthly seminars are a great way to network with peers and brush up on tactics," Calcagno explains. "Attendees benefit by learning from instructors and from each other."



Tom Calcagno

## 2009 Shaping Up as Year of Change

BY MAYOR KEN NELSON

January

was sure an interesting month! President Obama hit the ground running, a new Illinois senator was finally sworn in, and the cloud continues to hang over our governor. All in the midst of some of the coldest weather we've had in years. But here we are in February, and spring isn't too far away. I heard of several instances where folks checked on neighbors. That comes as no surprise. That's the kind of community we are!

Within the past week, several candidates have filed petitions to seek one of the three council seats that will be up for election in April. Every two years, about half the council seats are up for election. This year, those of you in Wards 2, 4 and 6 will be voting. At least one, Ward 4, will have a new alderman, as Tom Rooney has decided not to seek re-election. I encourage all of you to learn about the candidates and get out and vote in April.

I also encourage you to see the article below concerning our yearlong cancer awareness efforts. This is a disease that has probably touched each of you to one degree or another. During 2009, we'll have nearly a dozen events to heighten awareness of health, treatment and prevention steps you can take for yourself and your family. It's an important challenge we've taken on, and I encourage you to take part.

## Committee Promotes Heart Health Awareness Month

BY BARB LUSK, WARD 2 ALDERMAN, CANCER AWARENESS COMMITTEE CHAIR

February is Heart Health Awareness Month, and Rolling Meadows' Cancer Awareness Committee is taking its initial step towards becoming a "Community of Excellence."

Committee members remind residents that living "heart healthy" is critical to overall health. A balanced diet, regular exercise and stress management are essential components of a healthy lifestyle.

Heart Health Month offers an opportunity to raise awareness about the signs and symptoms of heart disease, its treatment and prevention. Are you overweight or obese? Get little or no exercise? Do you smoke; have high blood pressure, high cholesterol or diabetes? Residents who answered "yes" to any of these questions may be at greater risk for heart

attack, stroke or other health conditions.

Throughout 2009, Committee members will introduce new topics of awareness to help residents lead happier, healthier lives. Our goal is to position Rolling Meadows as a "Community of Excellence." The initiative, supported by the American Cancer Society, challenges communities to promote cancer education, prevention and early detection on behalf of their residents.

Updates on the Committee's activities will be featured in 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](http://www.cancer.org/greatamericans).

## Cancer Awareness Committee Members

**Susan Arnat**

**Karen Baker**

**Linda Liles Ballantine**  
(Chamber of Commerce  
Executive Director)

**Victoria Bran** (PNRC  
Director)

**Brenda Buske**

(Wife of Ward 3 Alderman  
Larry Buske)

**Amy Charlesworth** (Park  
District Director)

**Dr. Arvid Goyal** (Chair,  
Tobacco Information and  
Prevention Program)

**Tom Hellsheim**

**Mike Hutchins**

**Dr. Charles Johns**

(Rolling Meadows High  
School Principal)

**Barry Krumstok** (Assistant  
City Manager)

**Alderman Kathy  
Kwandras** (Ward 6)

**Lourdes Lota**

**Alderman Barb Lusk**  
(Ward 2)

**Ken Nelson** (Mayor)

**Maggie Osborne**

(American Cancer  
Society)

**Sarah Phillips** (City  
Manager)

**David Ruff**

(Rolling Meadows Library  
Director)

**Diane Ryzner**

**Mary Ann Werling**

Volunteers interested in supporting the Committee's efforts may contact Alderman Lusk at [luskb@cityrm.org](mailto:luskb@cityrm.org), or 847-567-2444.

## City Of Rolling Meadows

**Mayor: Kenneth Nelson**

**City Clerk: Lisa Hinman**

**City Manager: Sarah Phillips**

**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 Pitzaferro**  
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 Commis-  
sion Meetings are televised  
on Cable TV Channel 6*