



## THIS MONTH IN ROLLING MEADOWS

**January 1 – New Year’s Day,** City Hall, Public Works closed. Refuse collection delayed one day.

**January 6 – Economic Development Committee,** 6 p.m., at City Hall. **Library Board,** 7 p.m., at the Library

**January 7 – Zoning Board of Appeals,** 7 p.m., at City Hall

**January 12 – Board of Fire and Police Commissioners,** 9 a.m., City Hall

**January 13 – City Council Meeting,** 7:30 p.m., at City Hall

**January 15 – Adjudication Hearing,** 1 p.m., at City Hall

**January 19 – Martin Luther King Day.** City Hall, Public Works closed. Normal refuse collection.

**January 20 – City Council Committee of the Whole,** 7:30 p.m., at City Hall

**January 22 – Adjudication Hearing,** 1 p.m., at City Hall

**January 27 – City Council Meeting,** 7:30 p.m., at City Hall

**January 29 – Adjudication Hearing,** 1 p.m., at City Hall

## ‘Prudent’ Budget Reduces Spending, Replenishes Depleted Fund Balances

Rolling Meadows’ budget for Fiscal Year 2009 tightens spending on non-emergency services and allows City officials to begin replenishing severely depleted fund balances, Finance Director Jim Egeberg reports.

“City Council and staff worked extremely hard to develop a fiscally prudent budget that holds the line on spending while ensuring the delivery of essential residential services. The 2009 budget calls for spending \$1.6 million less for services than in 2008,” Egeberg explains. “Current economic circumstances have taken a toll on the City’s ability to fund operations, and the budget reflects this fact.”

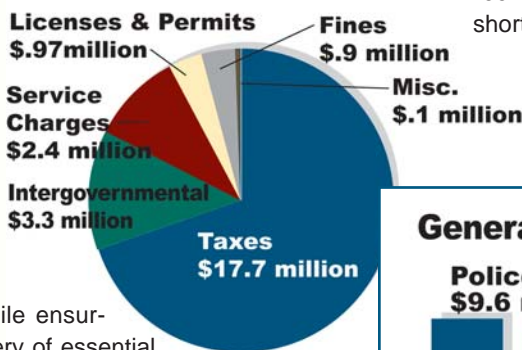
Declining tax revenues and rapidly escalating costs over the past year caused City officials to act on a range of options for spending reductions and generating new revenue.

“Prevailing economic conditions have required businesses across the board to raise prices and/or cut costs in order to maintain profitability. City Council and staff faced these very dilemmas when debating the 2009 annual budget,” he says.

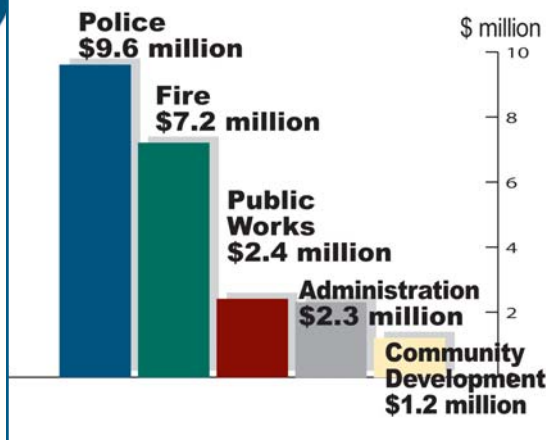
Faced with a \$500,000 debt from 2007 and an estimated \$1 million shortfall for 2008, Council members approved a 5% fee on electricity usage that is expected to generate

*Continued on page 2*

### General Fund Revenues



### General Fund Expenditures



## New City Manager Sarah Phillips Reports for Duty



Sarah Phillips

Phillips reported for duty in Rolling Meadows and immersed herself in a hectic

As the January issue of *News & Views* went to press, new City Manager Sarah

two weeks of meetings with Council members, department heads, staff members and City consultants.

The two-week period allowed for an efficient transfer of the City’s daily management to Phillips from Tom Melena, who retired after more than seven-and-a-half years as Rolling Meadows City Manager.

Before coming to Rolling Meadows, Phillips was Village Manager of Johnstown, Ohio, a bedroom community of 5,000 northeast of Columbus. Previously, she rose to assistant director of public works after holding a series of administrative management positions over 12 years in Paducah, Ken-

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## New City Manager Sarah Phillips Reports for Duty

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tucky, a community of 26,000 with an estimated daytime population of 60,000.

"Sarah has a very impressive record in economic development, especially retaining businesses and persuading them to expand, and coordinating downtown redevelopment," says Mayor Ken Nelson.

Phillips' reputation for leadership in economic development attracted the attention of Ohio Gov. Ted Strickland, who appointed her to the Governor's Task Force for Retention and Expansion of Manufacturing Jobs in Ohio. She also served on a task force for retention and expansion of manufacturing jobs in Licking County, where Johnstown is located.

When Johnstown's second largest manufacturing employer, Atrium Manufacturing, announced plans to consider a move away from the community to expand, Phillips met with the company's leadership and worked out a package that involved annexing 250 acres into an industrial park. Instead of leaving, Atrium decided to expand in Johnstown and will double its local employment.

She created a comprehensive downtown revitalization and redevelopment plan for Johnstown's central business district. It included utility relocation, streetscape plans, parking plans, signage, façade improvements, and business retention and expansion efforts.

# City Explores Building Code Revisions To Promote 'Green' Development



Valerie Dehner

Community Development Director Valerie Dehner's attendance at a series of educational seminars on "green" building marks the first step in Rolling Meadows' efforts to facilitate sustainable developments.

The seminars – presented by the Northwest Building Officials and Code Administrators, and the Chicago Chapter of the U.S. Green Building Council – emphasized the benefits of green development on a global scale, and urged attending professionals to act locally, Dehner explains.

"Incorporating sustainable, or 'green' construction into Rolling Meadows' future development will promote energy efficiency, reduce pollution and waste, minimize impact on the environment, and enhance Rolling Meadows' quality of life," she says.

Information gleaned from the seminars will serve as the starting point for establishing building codes that promote sustainable

development. Dehner is the first to admit this will be a long-term process

"Supplementing City codes to promote green development in the commercial and residential sectors will not happen overnight. We will make every effort to educate the public and the construction industry on what, exactly, Rolling Meadows' vision of sustainability will be," Dehner says. "The benefits – reduced energy consumption, healthier facilities, more efficient land use – will position Rolling Meadows on the leading edge of sustainable development," she adds.

Green building has gone mainstream. Over the course of recent meetings between City officials and local business owners, Dehner learned that an increasing number of companies have made "going green" official corporate policy.

Green construction has never been more popular in the commercial building sector, as owners and managers strive to provide healthier, more efficient facilities.

In addition, a growing number of homeowners are embracing more efficient sources of energy. Examples include replacing traditional light bulbs with newer, more efficient compact fluorescent light bulbs (CFLs) and installing energy efficient windows, doors and appliances.

"Encouraging energy efficiency, renewable energy sources and sustainable building practices will promote economic growth, create jobs, reduce consumer costs, increase comfort and protect the environment," she says.

One statistic shocked Dehner: the construction and operation of buildings is responsible for 42% of the energy generated by the U.S. each year. Most of that energy is created through use of non-renewable fossil fuels. By contrast, energy-efficient "green" buildings typically save 30-40% on energy costs.

## 'Prudent' Budget Reduces Spending

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\$1.3 million in new revenue. Increases in water, sewer and storm sewer fees reflect what Rolling Meadows must pay to service providers.

Efforts to reduce costs and help offset the impact of new fees include scaling back City support for the PNRG and other programs such as Fire Department inspections and refuse bag distribution to residential households.

The budget also calls for maintaining 13 current staff vacancies and eliminating 8 full-time employees.

"The General Fund consists primarily of employee salaries and benefits," Egeberg explains. "Simply cutting expenditures for supplies and contractual services is not a viable option in crafting a sustainable budget."

While no one was pleased with what had to be done, Egeberg says the 2009 budget is a "prudent" financial document that addresses current economic reality.

"Reduced staffing levels and implementing cost containment strategies will have an effect on non-emergency City services, but these were the tough decisions that had to be made to guarantee the City's financial integrity," he adds.



Ed Goodman

# Budget Crunch Puts Spotlight On PNRC Foundation

The budget crunch put the spotlight on the Police Neighborhood Resource Center

(PNRC) Foundation when City Council voted to remove \$23,000 in rent for PNRC facilities and \$41,500 for a part-time outreach social worker. The Foundation agreed to make up for these cuts and others totaling \$164,000.

When Rolling Meadows started the PNRC in 1991, then-Police Chief Gerald Aponte's idea was that its work would eventually be supported outside the City budget by grants and private contributions.

To that end, the PNRC Foundation was founded in 1994 and became a tax-exempt 501 (c) 3 non-profit organization three years later. The Foundation has regularly supplemented PNRC's programs and operating expenses. In 2008, for example, it allocated \$109,448 to various PNRC programs and activities.

PNRC's innovative programs combine the resources of the police department, Northwest Community Healthcare, Harper College, School Districts 15 and 214, the Park District, Public Library, St. Colette Church and many other public and private partners. Its success in achieving objectives of reducing crime, enhancing residents' quality of life through empowerment, promoting health and education attracted widespread attention and became a model for many similar programs in other communities.

PNRC brought the City awards and recognition. Until the budget crunch hit this year, few seemed to remember that the original idea was to gradually move funding for these programs, once established, from the City budget to the Foundation.

"I am confident we will keep the Center open and running in 2009," says Deputy Police Chief Ed Goodman, who

also serves as PNRC Foundation President. He's not yet sure about 2010. "We used to do three-year plans. Now we do one-year plans," he adds.

The Foundation faces other challenges, as it budgets for 2009. The Salvation Army and United Way both cut funding to the Foundation, and a Cook County grant was cut drastically.



The Police Neighborhood Resource Center has earned national acclaim since its founding in 1991.

Goodman hopes to raise additional funds from other benefactors.

"The City is having budget problems. It's our turn to step up. They don't have the money. We do. We are also seeking grants and contributions," Goodman says.

The Foundation is also talking with East Park Apartments owner Vladimir Novakovic about rent concessions. "East Park has been an excellent partner," says Goodman. He estimates the current owners have invested almost \$1 million in improvements.

Northwest Community Healthcare plans to close the clinic it has been operating in the PNRC, because it recently opened a new clinic just down the street, where services will be offered to residents. The U.S. Department of Agriculture's Special Supplemental Nutritional Program for Women, Infants, and Children, better known as WIC, may move from PNRC's second floor to the clinic's vacated first floor space.

Goodman wants to counter a perception that PNRC's services are available only to people with Hispanic

heritage or only residents of East Park Apartments. PNRC services, including domestic violence counseling, are offered to any City resident.

Goodman has seen PNRC from the inside since it opened its doors 17 years ago. It's brought the community a huge change for the better, he believes, although it can be difficult to measure social progress in crime statistics. The number of calls the police receive from the East Park Apartments area remains about the same, but the nature of these calls changed dramatically as residents learned to trust the police.

Before the PNRC, the majority of crimes reported in Rolling Meadows occurred in this small area, especially violent crimes—most notably, gang and domestic violence—narcotics, and prostitution. "The social services provided by PNRC helped the community become a true community, rather than just a series of addresses," he says.

Violent crimes, including domestic and gang violence, dropped sharply, and there hasn't been a prostitution arrest in the area for a long time. "It's impossible to measure crimes prevented or kids kept in school, but I can say with 100 percent certainty that PNRC has made a positive impact on the community. Just look at how clean the area is now. You don't see graffiti, broken bottles or broken down cars," Goodman says.

Now, the responsibility for continuing that remarkable record of social progress rests with the PNRC Foundation and its 13-member Board of Directors. In addition to Goodman, Foundation Board members include Police Chief Steve Williams, Alderperson Kathy Kwandras, residents, business owners, and representatives of many of the Center's partners, including Harper College, Northwest Community Hospital, the Rolling Meadows Public Library, the Salvation Army, and St. Colette Church.

The Foundation seeks grants and contributions. Tax-deductible contributions may be made to the PNRC Foundation, 2272 Algonquin Parkway, Rolling Meadows 60008.

# Two Downtown Properties Draw New Interest from Developers

Two downtown properties where recent attempts at redevelopment were stalled by the weak economy — a vacant parcel of City-owned property adjacent to Riverwalk Condominiums on Kirchoff Road and the former Dominick's shopping center — have drawn new interest from prospective developers, Community Development Director Valerie Dehner reports.

The City has held preliminary discussions with one developer who wants to build a mixed-use structure that would essentially "complete" the Riverwalk Condominiums project. Originally intended as a mixed-use development with four buildings, the builder was forced to postpone the project following completion of the third building.

Earlier this year, the City cleaned up the site and transformed the vacant parcel into an open green space.

"The concepts we've discussed involve creating a multi-unit structure that fits with the project's original mixed-use intent. The developer does not want to compete with what's already there," Dehner explains. "Ground level retail and upper level housing units would offer attractive opportunities for shopping and housing in the heart of Rolling Meadows," she adds.

City staff members are hoping to present a concep-



*Vacant land parcel adjacent to Riverwalk Condominiums on Kirchoff Road.*

tual plan to City Council in early 2009.

Meanwhile, developers continue to express interest in redeveloping the former Dominick's shopping center at the corner of Kirchoff and Meadow Drive.

"The discussions currently taking place are in the preliminary stages, but it's nice to know that developers are intrigued by Rolling Meadows as a place to do business despite a weak national market," Dehner says.

## Converter Box For Digital TV Signals Needed by Feb. 17

Residents with televisions that rely on "rabbit ears" or rooftop antennas to receive broadcast signals will need to purchase a specialized converter box by February 17 in order to continue watching their favorite programs.

Title III of the federal government's Deficit Reduction Act of 2005 requires the nation's television stations to convert from analog to an all-digital signal on that date. Without a converter box, older televisions will no longer be able to receive broadcast signals.

The U.S. Department of Commerce has launched a program that offers every household in the country two \$40 coupons that may be used to offset the cost of purchasing a converter box. Boxes are available at most electronics retailers and cost anywhere from \$40 - \$70.

Residents with newer televisions that contain a digital tuner, or those with subscriptions to cable, satellite or other pay television services do not require a converter box.

According to the Commerce Department, the digital transition is occurring, in part, to provide additional air waves to

firefighters and police so they can better communicate during emergencies.

For more information on the transition to digital, visit [www.dtv.gov](http://www.dtv.gov), or call 888-DTV-2009.

## City to Rebuild Golf, New Wilke Intersection

Rolling Meadows will spend \$2.1 million in 2009 and 2010 to rebuild a 1,000 ft. section of New Wilke and add additional turn lanes where the street intersects with Golf Road.

The newly constructed roadway is the only project included in the City's 2009 Streets Program, Public Works Director Fred Vogt says.

City officials saw an opportunity to improve the road when it was announced that the Illinois Department of Transportation (IDOT) will spend more than \$5 million

this year to rebuild a 2,500 ft. span of Golf Road that includes the New Wilke intersection.

"The area where New Wilke and Golf Road intersect is in extremely poor condition. It needs to be completely replaced after several years of minor fixes that just don't do the job anymore," Vogt explains. "Due to the availability of federal and state grant money and the road's poor condition, it made sense to scale back on other road work and concentrate on this project."

## Thieves Posing as Utility Workers Attempt to Access Residential Homes

Following a series of thefts and attempted residential burglaries in early November where offenders gained entry to homes by posing as public utility workers, Rolling Meadows Police remind residents to call 9-1-1 if they witness or experience any suspicious activities.

The incidents involved an unknown offender who attempts to enter a residence by claiming to be a utility or water department employee. Once inside, this person tries to create a diversion that distracts the resident while other offenders enter the home and steal homeowner property.

"Homeowners should always ask for proper identification from uniformed employees when approached by someone claiming to work either for

the City or a utility company," Sgt. Thomas Gadomski says. "We also suggest that residents keep their screen or storm doors closed and locked while speaking with strangers."

Residents who feel that something is not right should call 9-1-1 immediately.

# Fire Department Receives \$449,327 Federal Grant to Upgrade Communications Systems



Brian Dempsey

The Department of Homeland Security has awarded a \$449,327 grant to the Rolling Meadows Fire Department as part of the federal government's Assistance to Firefighters (AFG) program, Deputy Fire Chief Brian Dempsey

reports.

The grant will allow for the upgrade of department radio equipment that enhances communications "interoperability" – the ability of firefighters to effectively communicate with surrounding fire departments and emergency dispatch centers on mutual response calls.

The AFG grant will also cover the installation of vehicle exhaust removal systems at both City fire stations.

Since nearly one-third of all calls the Fire Department receives involve the support of departments and dispatch centers in neighboring communities, grant funding will be used to purchase 39 portable radios and 19 vehicle-mounted systems.

The new system will offer firefighters clear channels of communication among emergency responders from different jurisdictions and improve the effectiveness of coordinated responses.

"Since 9/11, the federal government has stressed the importance of having a system in

place where emergency responders from multiple agencies can talk to each other," Dempsey explains. "Upgrading our communications equipment will improve coordination with surrounding departments and dispatch centers during emergencies that require mutual response."

In addition, new vehicle exhaust removal systems will enhance the safety of on-duty personnel. The systems feature hoses that run from each emergency vehicle's tailpipe to a filtering mechanism that prevents potentially dangerous fumes from being inhaled by firefighters over the course of a 24-hour shift.

The federal government will fund 90% of Rolling Meadows' AFG grant request, or \$449,327. The City's share comes to \$49,925, or 10%.

Since 2001, the AFG program has helped public safety organizations across the country purchase equipment, protective gear, emergency vehicles, training and other resources to protect the public and emergency personnel from fire and related hazards. The Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA), in cooperation with the U.S. Fire Administration, administers the grants.

# Rotary Dedicates Park Bench In Honor of Matt Hill

Members of the Rolling Meadows Rotary Club turned out on a bitterly cold late November morning to dedicate a memorial bench at Rotary Plaza at John Woods Park honoring the life of fellow Rotarian Matt Hill.

Public Works Director Fred Vogt led a brief ceremony that highlighted



Family members read the inscription on a new bench honoring the life of Rolling Meadows resident and Rotary leader Matt Hill.

Hill's dedication to the Rolling Meadows community. Vogt then presented Hill's widow, Sharon, with a plaque honoring her husband as a Rolling Meadows Community Leader.

Hill, a popular banking executive, Rotary leader and longtime Rolling Meadows resident, died in November 2007 at the age of 50.

# City to Delay Construction Of New Fire Station until 2010

Current economic conditions and a tight budget will push back construction of a new fire station on Algonquin Road until 2010.

The City has set aside \$1.1 million in funding that was originally planned for use in 2008-09, but short-term budgetary constraints caused City officials to delay the project.

Fire Station 17 will be located on an undeveloped parcel of property on the south side of

Algonquin Road, between Meadowbrook and Weber Drives. It will enable the Fire Department to provide effective fire protection and service to the growing southern portions of Rolling Meadows, and reduce response times.

"Adding capacity along Algonquin Road will allow us to allocate resources more effectively among three locations and improve response times for the entire community," Fire Chief Ron Stewart says.



Artist's rendering of the proposed fire station.



# 2009 Good Time to Get Back on Track

BY MAYOR KEN NELSON

Happy New Year and welcome to 2009. I hope you were able to share the holidays with your family and loved ones. We begin the New Year with a new face in our administration. Tom Melena has ended his seven-and-a-half years of service to the City, and Sarah Phillips has begun her tenure as City Manager.

We welcome her to what should be a very challenging and interesting year. The tight economy forced us to cut personnel and services in several areas. Residents will notice some impact. The only major road project scheduled for this year is on New Wilke between Golf and Algonquin. That should begin in the spring. We're still looking forward to some new developments, particularly in our downtown area, where several potential projects are on the table. I'm optimistic that one or two of them will take shape this year.

Maybe I'm looking through rose-colored glasses, but I'm optimistic that things will

improve as the year moves along. I believe that 12 months from now, we'll look at 2009 as the year we got back on track. I hope it's a good year for each of you.



## City to Pick Up Holiday Trees On Regular Refuse Days

Public Works crews will pick up discarded holiday trees for disposal during regularly scheduled refuse

days in January. Residents should strip trees of lights, tinsel and ornaments, and place them with the cut end toward the curb.

## 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 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*

## Cancer Awareness Committee Begins 'Year of Excellence'

Rolling Meadows' Cancer Awareness Committee will promote awareness of healthy lifestyles and reduce cancer risks among residents through a series of educational programs held in 2009, Committee Chair and 2<sup>nd</sup> Ward Alderman Barb Lusk reports.

"Committee members are developing a series of educational programs to help Rolling Meadows residents live better," Lusk, a healthcare professional at Northwest Community Hospital, explains. "Throughout 2009, the Committee will introduce new topics of awareness to help residents lead healthier, happier lifestyles."

The Committee's 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.

Committee members are planning a range of programs, including:

● **City-wide smoking cessation initiative;**

● **Cancer "survivor" event** to enable those who have battled cancer to share their inspirational stories;

● **Men's health/cancer awareness forums;**

● **100,000 mile challenge** will challenge residents to walk a combined 100,000 miles over the course of six weeks;

● **Cancer awareness video contest**, where high school students can channel their creativity into developing short videos focusing on cancer prevention;

● **3K family walk** that may tie in with the City's Independence Day festivities.

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).

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