



eNEWS

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& Views



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

Residents' Views Sought on Proposed Fire Station Relocation Plans

The final two community forums to discuss a series of proposals to relocate the City's two fire stations will take place Tuesday, April 8, at City Hall, and Thursday, April 10, at the Thomas Fogarty Fire Station, 3111 Meadow Drive. Both meetings will begin at 6 p.m.

These public meetings, along with two previously held in March, will update residents on the reasons City officials are considering this issue and help them determine the best options for ensuring that the Fire Department is able to continue providing the highest levels of service to the growing community.

The topic will be discussed in-depth by City Council members at the April 15 Committee of the Whole.

"A significant number of our emergency calls are concentrated in the eastern and southern areas of our City. Because of where our fire stations are located, we are increasingly unable to achieve our benchmark response times of four to six minutes," Fire Chief Scott Franzgrote explains. "This is unacceptable in a profession where seconds often determine whether a patient survives or a fire is contained."

The April meetings will review the three options currently being discussed by City officials:



Firefighters conduct vehicle extrication training at the Raymond Neuckranz Fire Station, located at 2455 Plum Grove Road.



Fire Chief Scott Franzgrote provides details on a series of proposals to relocate the City's two fire stations during a March 27 community meeting at the Thomas J. Fogarty Fire Station, 3111 Meadow Drive.

- **Relocate both fire stations** – Moving the Fogarty Fire Station (Station 15) further south and the Neuckranz Fire Station (Station 16, 2455 Plum Grove Road) further east would realign the two fire stations in a manner that is more appropriate to the City's geographical layout, population density, risk profile and service demand levels.
- **Relocate Station 15 only** – Finding a suitable new location for Station 15, while leaving Station 16 in its current spot, would also improve the Fire Department's ability to better meet the needs of the community it serves.
- **Repair/Rebuild Station 15 at its current location** – Rebuilding Station 15 at its existing location would address worsening problems with the building's structural integrity, but would not alleviate concerns over the amount of time it takes to reach the southeastern portions of the City. Completing these repairs will require a substantial financial investment.

For more information on the upcoming meetings, contact the Rolling Meadows Fire Department at 847-397-3352.

See *Rolling Meadows Fire Stations – At a Glance...* page 2

Contact City Officials: City Hall Hours: 8 a.m. to 4 p.m. Monday-Friday

MAYOR and CITY COUNCIL

Mayor: *Tom Rooney* 847-392-2254
 1st Ward Alderman: *Mike Cannon* 847-925-8919
 2nd Ward Alderman: *Len Prejna* 847-776-9442
 3rd Ward Alderman: *Laura Majikes* 847-577-3746
 4th Ward Alderman: *Brad Judd* 847-902-3248
 5th Ward Alderman: *Rob Banger, Jr.* 847-818-1663
 6th Ward Alderman: *John D'Astice* 847-409-9367
 7th Ward Alderman: *James Larsen* 630-244-4228
 City Manager: *Barry Krumstok* 847-394-8500

SERVICES

Fire & Police Emergency 911
 Fire 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 847-506-6030
 TDD 847-506-0490
 ComEd 1-800-EDISON-1
 Curfew . . . Sun. – Thurs. 11 p.m.; Fri. & Sat. Midnight



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www.cityrm.org

Crime Stoppers Have ‘Surprises’ in Store for National Night Out

Rolling Meadows Crime Stoppers are planning several “surprises” for this year’s National Night Out, as the group continues preparations for the August 5 community celebration, Police Sergeant Tom Gadomski reports.

Held at the Rolling Meadows Community Center, 3705 Pheasant Drive, National Night Out will offer an evening of family activities and community spirit. Guests will enjoy games, giveaways, roving entertainers, free snacks (while supplies last) and much more.



The Jesse White Tumblers.

“This family-friendly event is designed to heighten awareness of local crime prevention efforts and strengthen the bond between police officers and the community we serve,” Sgt. Gadomski explains. “It’s a great opportunity to reach out to families and provide valuable safety information in a setting where everyone can enjoy themselves.”

The event will also feature an evening fireworks display and special appearances by the Jesse White Tumblers, Chicago Bears mascot “Staley Da Bear” and Chicago Wolves mascot “Skates.”

In addition, vehicle displays by the Public Works Department and Fire Department will help residents learn more about the important services each provides.

Sgt. Gadomski says that Crime Stoppers members are determined to make this year’s National Night Out the best yet. Planning has been underway since February and includes sponsorship opportuni-



Face painting was a big “draw” at last year’s event. ties available to local businesses.

“Crime Stoppers will make National Night Out a night to remember. We appreciate any support the local business community might provide,” he adds.

Businesses that are interested in supporting this year’s National Night Out may contact Sgt. Gadomski at 847-870-9070 or gadomski@cityrm.org.

Mark Your Calendar!

National Night Out
Tuesday, August 5, 6:00 – 8:30 p.m.
Rolling Meadows Community Center
3705 Pheasant Drive

City Honors Fire Prevention Bureau Volunteers

Fire Chief Scott Franzgrote and Mayor Tom Rooney presented certificates of appreciation to (from left) Shirley Tyson, Joan Chodors, Elizabeth Vargas and Patricia Hobbs for their help maintaining the Fire Department’s emergency contact database for commercial buildings.

The four volunteers’ efforts to keep those records up to date “makes our jobs a lot easier and makes Rolling Meadows safer,” Chief Franzgrote said. “We are very grateful and appreciate it very much.”



The volunteers were recognized during a recent City Council meeting.

Rolling Meadows’ Fire Stations – At a Glance

Fogarty Fire Station – Located at 3111 Meadow Drive, the Thomas Fogarty Station was built in 1958 by the newly-formed Rolling Meadows Fire District. The original building featured two apparatus bays and a kitchen. At the time of its construction, the station was centrally located at the center of the Fire District’s response area. A second floor and additional apparatus bay were added in 1965. The station is named for the City’s first full-time fire chief, who served from 1958 – 1977. The station is commonly referred to as Station 15, which is its designation within the Illinois Fire Services’ Mutual Aid Box Alarm System (MABAS).



Fogarty Fire Station, 3111 Meadow Drive



Neuckranz Fire Station, 2455 Plum Grove Road

Neuckranz Fire Station – Built in 1980 to protect the western portions of Rolling Meadows east of Route 53, the Raymond Neuckranz Fire Station, 2455 Plum Grove Road, serves as the Fire Department’s operational headquarters. It is named for former 1st Ward Alderman and community activist Raymond H. Neuckranz. A station modernization project in 2008 helped make better use of existing space, expanded the number of sleeping quarters for on-duty firefighters, and provided updated facilities for the Fire Prevention Bureau. The Neuckranz Fire Station’s MABAS designation is Station 16.

Annual Chamber Luncheon Proves City is ‘Taking Care of Business’



Photos courtesy of DUBVOY Studio Services.

Mayor Tom Rooney outlines examples of Rolling Meadows' growing economic strength.

Mayor Tom Rooney presented a decidedly upbeat report on the City's overall economic health during the Rolling Meadows Chamber of Commerce's 9th annual Taking Care of Business Luncheon, held March 3 at Meridian Banquets.

Speaking before nearly 90 local business leaders and state officials – including State Senator Matt Murphy (27th District) and State Representative Michelle Mussman (56th District) – in attendance,

Mayor Rooney pointed to the City's new "AA+" rating by Standard & Poor's, significantly lower debt levels and the 82 new businesses that opened in 2013 as examples of Rolling Meadows' growing economic strength.

The Mayor also discussed the newly-completed infrastructure improvements along Golf and New Wilke Roads, and the current Commuter Drive reconstruction project that will wrap up this summer.



Nearly 90 local business leaders and state officials took the opportunity to learn more about the City's improving business climate.

City Renews Membership in Pension Fairness Coalition to Ensure ‘Fair, Sustainable’ System



Rolling Meadows has rejoined a statewide coalition of communities to encourage reforms to the state's public safety pension system,

ensure its long-term sustainability and protect taxpayers from excessive financial burden, City Manager Barry Krumstok reports.

The City was an original member of the Pension Fairness for Illinois Communities Coalition, which advocates on behalf of taxpayers who fund public safety pensions. Its mission is to promote legislative reforms that “create a fair and sustainable public safety pension system for existing employees,” according to a letter sent by the Coalition to City officials.

Following City Council's approval, the City re-joined as an “Advocate” member, partnering with more than 110 communities across Illinois that have joined since the Coalition was formed in 2009.

“Membership in the Pension Fairness for

Illinois Communities Coalition demonstrates the City's long-term commitment to meet our public safety pension obligations,” City Manager Barry Krumstok explains. “We want to work with other communities to achieve reforms that ensure the continued viability of the pension system and reduce the financial burden on our residents.”

In 2010, the Coalition helped achieve Illinois General Assembly passage of a pension reform bill that created a second tier of benefits for all new employees hired after January 1, 2011. The legislation did not address the costs of benefits for existing employees, which continue to rise exponentially.

City officials have long expressed frustration at the growing expense of covering pension funding levels mandated by state legislators. Without further reforms, leaders across Illinois are increasingly concerned that rapidly-escalating pension costs may jeopardize local communities' ability to provide public safety and other municipal services.

Rental Property Owners Must Complete Crime Free Housing Seminar

City ordinance requires that all rental property owners complete a Crime Free Multi-Housing Program seminar hosted by the Rolling Meadows Police Department in order to renew their rental licenses and avoid possible fines.

Current owners must complete the seminar by December 3 – the anniversary of the ordinance's passage by City Council. New landlords have 90 days to complete the program.

The Crime Free Multi-Housing Program was designed to help prevent illegal activity from occurring at rental properties throughout the City. Program benefits include a stable, more satisfied tenant base, increased demand for rental units, and lower maintenance and repair costs.

For more information or to schedule a seminar, contact Officer Carlos Saez, Crime Free Multi-Housing Coordinator, at 847-870-2449 or saezc@cityrm.org.

Deputy Fire Chief Pete Till to Retire in May After 34 Years of Service



Pete Till

Deputy Fire Chief Pete Till has witnessed tremendous growth in the Rolling Meadows Fire Department's capabilities since he began serving as a firefighter/paramedic in 1980.

Advances in emergency medical care, technology and the creation of special rescue teams have had a profound impact on the Department's operations. However, in his opinion, one thing remains constant.

"Working together as a team to deliver the highest levels of service to the community is something that will never change," Deputy Chief Till says, as he prepares to retire in May after 34 years of

service. "Rolling Meadows firefighters are highly-trained professionals who are committed to providing the highest-quality services. It has been my privilege to be part of that team for so many years."

Deputy Chief Till decided on his future career path while still in high school, after participating in a firefighter cadet program at the Mount Prospect Fire Department. "My father owned a gas station across the street from the fire station, so I got to know the firefighters pretty well," he recalls. "They invited me to join the cadet program, which sounded like an interesting opportunity to learn more about the fire service."

The cadet program served as an internship where graduates were eligible for hire by area fire departments. "I took the

eligibility test and passed, then found myself hired in Rolling Meadows about a year later," he adds.

After serving 34 years as a firefighter/paramedic, lieutenant, battalion chief and deputy chief, Till looks forward to spending more time with his family. He admits he will miss the adrenaline rush that occurs when responding to a call and the camaraderie, but he knows the Department is in good hands.

"I am confident that everyone will continue to pass along their knowledge to the younger firefighters and take pride in the services they deliver," he says. "I want them to stay safe and to continue representing the City – and themselves – honorably. The profession deserves it."

Local Business Spotlight

High-End Oven Producer Rational USA Relocates to Rolling Meadows

Rational USA, manufacturer of advanced technology combi-steamer ovens used by restaurants, schools, hospitals, grocers and other food preparation establishments, found Rolling Meadows to be a "perfect fit" when moving its North American headquarters from Schaumburg to Continental Towers in January.

Matthew Lyons, Rational USA's Sr. Director of Finance and Operations, in particular praised the work of the City's Community Development Department, which worked closely with the company during its build-out and helped ensure a seamless transition in the face of potential catastrophe.

"Just before we began operating from our new facility, we discovered a problem with our phone service," he recalls. "I called (Community Development Director) Valerie Dehner to see if the City might help. She and her team quickly got us in contact with the correct people at the public utility to solve the problem."



Rational USA is a subsidiary of Rational AG, a German manufacturer based outside Munich. The company's combi-steamer ovens use steam and dry heat to prepare food of the highest quality. After foods are placed on separate racks, users are able to program the oven to cook each dish exactly as intended, thanks to Rational's patented Efficient LevelControl® and SelfCooking-Center® technology.

"With its easy-to-use interface, our ovens allow chefs to prepare a wide range of dishes via seven different cooking modes," Lyons adds. "Our objective is to offer maximum customer benefits for commercial foodservice operations."

The company's new Rolling Meadows location features expanded office space for its employees (*above*), as well as a state-of-the-art Culinary Experience product showroom and training center with fully-functional kitchens (*at left*). Mr. Lyons says it offers far greater operational convenience and versatility than the company had previously.

"This facility features the energy infrastructure we needed to operate the showroom and training center," he says. "Its expansive windows and high ceilings offer an abundance of natural lighting that provides a clean, modern look for our employees and visitors. Continental Towers also offered all the amenities we were looking for."

Commuter Drive Reconstruction Underway

When completed this summer, a \$1.4 million program to rebuild Commuter Drive, a 40-year-old access road connecting Rohlwing Road to the Arlington Park Metra station, will offer welcomed relief for the hundreds of motorists who use it each day.

Federal highway funding is covering the



A motorist navigates around Commuter Drive's gaping potholes, as crews begin excavating the 40-year-old road.

crumbling road's reconstruction costs. The project also will create a bike path that will connect to the City's existing system, Public Works Director Fred Vogt reports.

"The City has long expressed an interest in rebuilding Commuter Drive and simultaneously extending the bike path system to create alternative transportation options to and from the Arlington Park Metra station," he says. "This project will significantly improve the area's accessibility and reduce wear and tear on motorists' vehicles."

During construction, crews will limit traffic to one lane west-bound only. Motorists will be unable to access Commuter Drive from Rohlwing Road.

Police Department Expands 'Street of the Week' Speed Enforcement Program

In an expansion of its successful Street of the Week program, the Rolling Meadows Police Department has assigned patrol officers to oversee speed limit enforcement activities in specific sections of the City and serve as liaisons to area residents, Commander Tom Calcagno reports.

"Assigning officers to specific 'beats' will improve our ability to respond to residents' concerns about speeding in their neighborhoods, and improve coordination between the Department and the community we serve," Cdr. Calcagno explains.

Each officer will supervise speed limit enforcement strategies within his/her particular section and follow up with residents to ensure their concerns are being addressed.

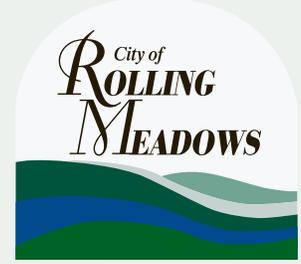
"Excessive speeding is the number one complaint we receive. It's why we created the Street of the Week program," Cdr. Calcagno adds. "Expanding our partnerships with residents will identify additional ways to reduce the number of speeding complaints we receive and give residents a sense of ownership in developing solutions."

Since the Street of the Week program launched in 2012, the Police Department has experienced a significant decrease in



the number of speeding and unsafe driving violations issued in residential areas throughout the City, based in large part on the regular presence of police officers to enforce posted speed limits.

Residents – and drivers – may check the Police Department's Webpage (www.cityrm.org/rmpd) to learn where enforcement operations are taking place each week. To report areas of traffic safety concern, contact the 24-hour Police Department Service Desk at 847-255-2416.



This Month in Rolling Meadows

April 1 – Economic Development Committee, 6 p.m.; Environmental Committee, 7 p.m.; both at City Hall

April 3 – Adjudication Hearing (Parking), 2 p.m., City Hall

April 7 – Board of Fire & Police Commissioners, 9 a.m., City Hall

April 8 – Crime Stoppers, 5:30 p.m.; Community Forum (Fire Station Relocation), 6 p.m.; City Council Meeting, 7:30 p.m. all at City Hall

April 9 – Urban Affairs Committee, 5:45 p.m., City Hall

April 10 – Adjudication Hearing, 1 p.m., City Hall; Community Forum (Fire Station Relocation), 6 p.m., Fogarty Fire Station (3111 Meadow Drive)

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

April 17 – Fire Pension Board, 8:30 a.m., Fogarty Fire Station; Adjudication Hearing (Red Light), 2 p.m., City Hall

April 20 – Easter

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

April 25 – Arbor Day

April 'Street of the Week' Schedule

| WEEK OF | LOCATION |
|----------|---|
| April 7 | Creekside Drive (Crestwood to Woods Chapel) |
| April 14 | Elizabeth Place (Meadowbrook Drive to Lois Drive) |
| April 21 | Central Road (Barker Avenue to Linden Lane) |
| April 28 | Fairfax Avenue (at Benton Street) |

Urban Affairs Committee Partners with Local Businesses for Community Paint Program

The Urban Affairs Committee has launched a community service program to paint the exterior of a Rolling Meadows resident's home this summer and is seeking applicants for consideration. Residents who are interested in having their homes painted may send an email describing their situation to Deb Austerlade (AusterladeD@cityrm.org) by June 30. All applications will be reviewed by members of the Urban Affairs Committee.

The program is open to qualified homeowners who are unable to perform the work themselves, due to physical limitations or limited financial resources.

Committee members and volunteers from Northrop Grumman will perform the work. Paint and materials will be donated by J.C. Licht/Epco Painting and Decorating Center, 3230 Kirchoff Road.



All Lanes Open at Rebuilt Golf, New Wilke Intersection

Traffic is again flowing smoothly at the rebuilt Golf/New Wilke Road intersection, as the \$5.3 million Illinois Department of Transportation (IDOT) project nears completion.

The project – funded by federal and state grants – rebuilt and widened nearly 2,000 feet of Golf Road to create an additional lane in each direction, as well as an extra turn lane for eastbound vehicles turning left onto New Wilke. A new traffic signal helps improve traffic flow through the intersection.

Final details, such as area landscaping, and additional traffic signal activation and pavement improvements, will be completed later this spring.

Motorists Must Give School Buses a 'Brake'

Illinois law prohibits drivers on two-lane roads from passing a stopped school bus when its lights are flashing and its stop signal arm is extended. Motorists found guilty of illegally passing a stopped school bus will have their drivers licenses suspended for three months and face fines starting at \$150. "Drivers must remain stopped until the bus' stop signal arm is no longer extended and the flashing lights are turned off, or if the bus driver signals you to pass," Police Chief

Dave Scanlan explains.

Drivers on roads with four or more lanes are not required to stop when approaching a bus that is *stopped on the opposite side of the street*, but should always use caution. However, motorists who are behind a stopped bus on a four-lane street are not allowed to pass.

For more information, contact the Police Department at 847-255-2416, or visit www.cyberdriveillinois.com.

City Briefs

Police Department, DEA to Host April 26 Rx Take-Back Program

Residents may safely dispose of unused prescription drugs Saturday, April 26, when the Rolling Meadows Police Department partners with the Drug Enforcement Administration (DEA) to host a National Prescription Drug Take-Back Day event at City Hall, 3600 Kirchoff Road.

Drop off medications any time between 10 a.m. and 2 p.m. For more information, call the 24-hour Police Department Help Desk at 847-255-2416.

Cruise Nights Resume May 23

Rolling Meadows Cruise Nights return Fridays, May 23 – September 26, 6-9 p.m., at 2401 Kirchoff Road. More information will be available in the May/June print edition of *News & Views*.

Farmers & Food Trucks Kicks Off Sophomore Season, May 24

The City's Farmers & Food Trucks program will begin its second season Satur-

day, May 24, 10 a.m. – 2 p.m., in the City Hall Parking lot. Choose from an array of savory menu items prepared by onsite food trucks, hand-made crafts, locally-grown produce, and more.

Additional programs will take place June 28, July 26, August 23 and September 27. Residents interested in volunteering to help organize this year's program series may contact Deb Austerlade at 847-394-8500 or AusterladeD@cityrm.org.

Chamber of Commerce, Rotary Club Planning Community Carnival

The Rolling Meadows Chamber of Commerce and Rotary Club of Rolling Meadows are planning to co-sponsor a downtown community carnival during the first two weekends in May at the corner of Kirchoff Road and Meadow Drive.

The event is tentatively scheduled for May 1 – 4 and May 8 – 11. More information will be available in the May/June print edition of *News & Views*.

Volunteers Sought for Salt Creek Cleanup

The Rolling Meadows Environmental Committee is seeking volunteers for this year's Salt Creek cleanup event, Saturday, May 31.

Residents who wish to participate are invited to attend an organizational meeting scheduled for Tuesday, May 6, 7:00 p.m., at City Hall.

For more information, contact Environmental Committee members Tyson Lagoni (tylag@cdwg.com) or Sue Walton (swalt811@gmail.com).

The annual Salt Creek cleanup was established in 2005 as a way for Rolling Meadows to observe Earth Day (April 22) and help residents preserve the environment.