



September/October 2014

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

City Repays Fire Engine Loan Early, Saves Taxpayers \$11,367

City officials this summer saved Rolling Meadows taxpayers over \$11,000 by repaying a 10-year loan used to purchase a Fire Department rescue pumper in only seven years, Finance Director Melissa Gallagher reports.

The loan was approved in 2007, at a time when the Great Recession had severely limited the Rolling Meadows' financial flexibility and significantly depleted its cash reserves. The City was originally scheduled to repay the loan over a period of 10 years, with annual payments of \$53,292.38 due between 2008 and 2017.

By mid-2014, the City's financial position had improved drastically. The remaining principal and interest over the final three years of the loan called for payments totaling \$159,877.14. Instead, City Council and staff moved ahead with an early pay off option of \$148,510.01, shaving \$11,367.13 off the pumper's total cost.

The final loan payment was made July 9th. The savings have been returned to the City's reserve funds. "The decision to pay off this loan three years early demonstrates a commitment to provide the best value for taxpayers who fund the City's



The American LaFrance-built rescue pumper, now known as Engine 614, entered service in 2007.

operations," Gallagher explains. "It also shows that our ongoing efforts to strengthen Rolling Meadows' financial position continue to reap dividends."

RMPD Community Outreach Programs Reduce Crime, Build Trust

The Rolling Meadows Police Department's newly-expanded sub-station at East Park Apartments demonstrates an effective, results-oriented approach to reducing crime, based on the latest figures compiled by the Department.



Social Services Outreach Coordinator Natalia Mercado arrives at the Police Department's expanded offices at East Park Apartments.

According to police data, the number of reported incidents at East Park and the Apartments at Woodfield Crossing – site of a second sub-station – has dropped more than 20% in

the last two years. That's when the Police Department re-established its neighborhood offices in both locations in response to rising crime rates.

Social Services Outreach Coordinator Natalia Mercado and Crime Free Multi-Housing

Officer Carlos Saez are the Police Department's liaisons to East Park and Woodfield Crossing residents. They spend time each week at both apartment complexes,

working to make a difference in the lives of area residents.

By partnering with organizations such as Boy Scouts of America, Women in Need Growing Stronger (WINGS), and the Salvation Army, they have introduced programs that are improving the quality of life for residents of all ages, including:

- Summer and soccer camps for kids.
- Onsite counseling for domestic violence and sexual abuse victims.
- Couples communication classes.

The goal of the RMPD's Social Services Outreach Program is to coordinate resources, and promote the education and health of City residents. Natalia provides
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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: *Vacant*
 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
 Senior Handyman Program 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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Find Us on the Web:
www.cityrm.org

City Welcomes IT Coordinator Justin Chiappetta



Justin Chiappetta

Justin Chiappetta, a computer services professional with 10 years of experience serving municipal governments, joined Rolling Meadows' customer service

team in July as the City's new Information Technology (IT) Coordinator.

Chiappetta's hiring is the first step forward on a long-term effort to update the City's IT systems and computer network. He will oversee planned upgrades to the City's Website, email and phone systems, which are expected to occur in the next two years.

"Our goal is to improve the City's ability to share information that affects residents and improve their ability to connect with Rolling Meadows' officials," Chiappetta says. "One of the reasons I wanted to work for Rolling Meadows was its reputation for keeping residents, local businesses and other stakeholders informed about City initiatives. By harnessing new technologies and making them work on our behalf, we will make it even easier for residents to know what is happening around town."

Chiappetta holds an MBA from Robert Morris University, where he also earned a degree in computer networking. Before coming to Rolling Meadows, he spent eight years as an IT analyst with the City of Geneva. He began his career as a PC technician with the City of Naperville.

He and his fiancé, Andrea, are getting married in September.

Get Social With Us

There's a lot to "LIKE" about Rolling Meadows. Check us out on Facebook (www.facebook.com/cityofrollingmeadows) or Twitter (@CityofRM1) for real-time delivery of City news, service updates and other important information.



A



B



C

Police-Sponsored Bike Ride, National Night Out Festivities Celebrate Community Spirit

Police Chief Dave Scanlan joined residents of all ages for the Police Department's August 2 Community Bike Ride through town (A), which kicked off a late summer celebration that continued August 5, when Rolling Meadows observed National Night Out. This year's event featured performances by the Jesse White Tumblers (B), a special

appearance by Chicago Bears mascot Staley Da Bear (C), jump houses (D), and a visit by the Air One rescue copter (E). Police Sergeant Tom Gadomski was joined by Congresswoman Tammy Duckworth, Mayor Tom Rooney, 2nd Ward Alderman Len Prejna and Chief Scanlan to welcome a record-setting crowd to this year's event (F).



D



E



F

Award-Winning JC Restoration Values Family, Employees, Teamwork

JC Restoration (JCR), a multi-generational family business that provides disaster response services to commercial and residential clients, has won many awards for excellence since joining the Rolling Meadows business community in 2008.

Yet few have meant more to JCR President Warner Cruz than when, earlier this year, the company was named one of the “Best Places to Work in Illinois” by the *Daily Herald Business Ledger*. That’s because the *Ledger’s* rankings are largely determined through feedback submitted by company employees.



Lunch and game room at JC Restoration’s 3200 Squibb Drive facility.

“It is incredibly rewarding to realize just how much our employees believe in our company. It validates us as an organization,” Cruz explains. “I am a firm believer in the power of teamwork, and we have a pretty great team here. Our people are

our most valuable asset.”

JCR’s customer service team includes 93 full-time employees and another 52 part-time staff members. The company provides complete 24-hour disaster mitigation, restoration and reconstruction services. It is equipped to handle everything from plumbing backups and roof damage to flooding or fire loss.

“Our job is to dry it, clean it, restore it and rebuild it,” Cruz says. “No matter what challenge our customers may face, our industry knowledge, highly-trained staff and leading-edge equipment help restore order out of chaos.”

Jose and Martha Cruz, Warner’s parents, established JCR in 1982. The business first operated out of the family garage before moving to a series of locations throughout the northwest suburbs. Warner recalls designing company brochures on his Commodore 64 computer as a child, before graduating with an international business degree from Augustana College and moving to Japan.

Years later, Warner returned home to help his parents sell the company and transition to a comfortable retirement. Instead, he happened to join Disaster Kleenup International, an industry networking group, where “I saw tremendous



JC Restoration President Warner Cruz (center) with his parents and company founders, Jose and Martha.

opportunities to help the business succeed beyond my wildest dreams,” he explains. Warner purchased the company outright from his parents in 2002.

“My parents started this business with nothing and ran it successfully for 20 years. I realized that the best way to honor their effort was to keep the company growing and thriving,” Cruz explains.

JCR moved to its 108,000 sq. ft. facility, located at 3200 Squibb Drive, six years ago. Cruz says that, from the start, he knew Rolling Meadows was a special place.

“City staff members have always been there to answer questions or help us find solutions to challenges we faced,” he says. “Their kindness, graciousness and patience are unmatched. They are really a great team to work with,” he adds.

RMPD Community Outreach Programs ...continued from page 1

services such as short-term counseling, crisis intervention, court advocacy, well-being checks, senior citizen assistance, community education/workshops, orders of protection and more.

“Many of the residents we serve came to the U.S. from countries where it is not natural to trust the police,” Natalia explains. “We are working to build trust among the families who live here; to let them know it’s OK to talk to the police because we are here to help.”

“We want to be a friendly face to residents. The main goal is to let them know we are here to serve them,” Officer Saez adds. “By developing those bonds, we can better understand the challenges resi-

dents are facing, and point them to services that will help them.”

The Department’s community outreach efforts complement its Crime Free Multi-Housing program, which is designed to help landlords identify and prevent situations likely to result in criminal activity.

“We are combining traditional law enforcement tactics with social service programs to address the root causes of criminal behavior,” Natalia says. “We are providing information and assistance to those who need it most.”

For more information on Police Department outreach services, contact Natalia Mercado at 847-870-2636 or mercadon@cityrm.org.

Police to Collect Unused Prescription Drugs, September 27



Residents may safely dispose of unused prescription medications Saturday, September 27, when the Rolling Meadows Police Department partners with the Drug Enforcement Administration (DEA) to host a National Prescription Drug Take-Back Day event at the Old Public Works Building (3200 Central Road).

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

September 2014

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
	City Hall and Public Works closed. Refuse collection delayed one day all week. Labor Day	Environmental Committee , 7 pm Plan Commission , 7:30 pm, both at City Hall	Zoning Board of Appeals , 7:30 pm, City Hall	Adjudication Hearing (Parking), 2 pm, City Hall	Cruise Nights , 6-8:30 pm, 2401 Kirchoff Road	
7	Board of Fire & Police Commissioners , 9 am, City Hall	Crime Stoppers , 5:30 pm City Council Meeting , 7:30 pm, both at City Hall	10	Adjudication Hearing , 11 1 pm, City Hall Patriot Day	Cruise Nights , 6-8:30 pm, 2401 Kirchoff Road	13
14	15	City Council Committee of the Whole , 7:30 pm, City Hall	16	17	Adjudication Hearing (Red Light), 2 pm, City Hall	Cruise Nights , 6-8:30 pm, 2401 Kirchoff Road
Emily's Prairie Garden Dedication , 2 pm, Barker Ave. & Salt Creek First Day of Fall	Water bills due	City Council Meeting , 7:30 pm, City Hall	23	24	25	Cruise Nights , 6-8:30 pm, 2401 Kirchoff Road
21	22	23	24	25	26	Farmers & Food Trucks , 10 am-2 pm, City Hall Prescription Drug Take-Back Event , 10 am-2 pm, 3200 Central Road
28	29	30	Keep updated on City news with Rolling Meadows' electronic newsletter, E-News & Views , published in February, April, June, August, October and December. Each newsletter is archived on the City's Website, www.cityrm.org .			

October 2014

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday	
			Zoning Board of Appeals , 7:30 pm, City Hall	Adjudication Hearing (Parking), 2 pm, City Hall	3	Electronics Recycling & Document Destruction Event , 9 am – noon, Public Works Dept. (3900 Berdnick St.)	
National Fire Prevention Week , October 5 – 11	6	Economic Development Committee , 6 pm Environmental Committee , 7 pm Plan Commission , 7:30 pm, all at City Hall	7	8	9	10	RMFD Open House , 10 am – 2 pm, Neuckranz Fire Station (2455 Plum Grove Rd.)
12	Board of Fire & Police Commissioners , 9 am, City Hall Columbus Day	Crime Stoppers , 5:30 pm City Council Meeting , 7:30 pm, both at City Hall	13	Urban Affairs Committee , 5:45 pm, City Hall	Adjudication Hearing , 16 1 pm, City Hall	17	18
19	Water bills due	City Council Committee of the Whole , 7:30 pm, City Hall	20	21	Adjudication Hearing (Red Light), 2 pm, City Hall	23	24
26	27	City Council Meeting , 7:30 pm, City Hall	28	29	30	Halloween Trick-or-Treat hours : 3 – 8 pm	31
							

Fire Department to Welcome Residents to October 11 Open House

Rolling Meadows firefighter/paramedics will showcase their training, skills and sophisticated life-saving equipment when



Guests of all ages will meet Rolling Meadows firefighters.

tours of the station, conduct a series of safety and rescue demonstrations that

the Fire Department hosts its annual Open House, Saturday, October 11, 10 a.m. – 2 p.m., at the Neuckranz Fire Station (2455 Plum Grove Road).

Firefighters will offer guided

showcase their skills, and provide guests with a glimpse of life in the fire service.

Residents will also be able to climb aboard the Department's fleet of fire engines and emergency vehicles.

"The Fire Department's annual Open House is a very effective way to help residents learn more about our role in assuring the safety and well-being of the entire community," Fire Chief Scott Franzgrote says. "We also enjoy being able to meet the people we serve."

The Open House coincides with the Fire Department's observance of National Fire Prevention Week, October 5 – 11. Additional event details will be featured in the



Residents investigate a rescue demonstration conducted by firefighters at last year's Open House.

October issue of *e-News & Views*.

For more information, contact the Fire Department at 847-397-3352.

E-News & Views Offers Expanded Coverage of What's Happening in Rolling Meadows



Keep updated on City news with Rolling Meadows' electronic newsletter, *E-News & Views*. Published in February, April, June, August, October and December, the e-newsletter supplements the printed version of *News & Views* that is published six times per year.

Each newsletter – printed and electronic – is archived on the City's Website, www.cityrm.org.

Together, the newsletters provide complete, 12-month coverage of what is happening in Rolling Meadows. They keep residents

updated on important City initiatives, offer status reports on major redevelopment projects, highlight the City's growing business community, and share stories of the people who help make Rolling Meadows "a great place to call home."

Handyman Program Improves Quality of Life for Rolling Meadows Seniors

For the last 13 years, Rolling Meadows' Senior Handyman Program has helped senior citizens ages 65 and up hire a fully trained, trustworthy handyman to perform minor household repairs at a market rate of \$35 per hour or less, depending on seniors' income.

Handyman Tom Thompson has been the face of the program since 2001. He takes pride in helping seniors with projects such as fixing leaky faucets, replacing light fixtures, and cleaning and repairing a home's gutters.

"I've enjoyed helping make life a bit easier for senior residents over the years,"

Thompson, a 26-year Rolling Meadows resident, explains. "My customers know that I'm here to help, and that they will be treated fairly. I think it provides them with a level of comfort they may not necessarily get elsewhere."

To benefit from the Senior Handyman Program, contact Community Development at 847-506-6030 to determine income-based hourly rates. Seniors may then contact Thompson directly at 847-870-7751 or tomthehandyman@att.net to schedule appointments.



Rolling Meadows, SWANCC to Host October 4 Electronics Recycling & Document Destruction Event

Rolling Meadows and the Solid Waste Agency of Northern Cook County (SWANCC) will co-host an electronics recycling and document destruction event at the Public Works Department (3900 Berdnick Street) Saturday, October 4, 9 a.m. – noon.

Rolling Meadows residents – and residents of other SWANCC member communities – may drop off computer equipment, televisions, fax machines, and other electronic equipment for recycling.

The event will also offer a safe, tamper-resistant way to dispose of sensitive documents such as old tax forms, bank statements and medical records.

For more information, contact the Public Works Department at 847-963-0500 or visit www.swancc.org.

Growing Need for Lobbyists in Springfield Reflects Sad State of Affairs

by Mayor Tom Rooney

During a recent City Council discussion, Alderman Mike Cannon made an excellent observation that is worth repeating. In a nutshell, his point was that it's pretty sad when a city – a unit of local government – finds it necessary to hire lobbyists to make its voice heard in Springfield.

The subject, at the time, was the City joining a coalition specifically designed to get Springfield's attention on the subject of pension reform. As part of this coalition, all the municipalities were asked to contribute \$1,000 to the cause. We did, along with our coalition partners. It's not much, but it's something.

It's also not the only money we spend to protect our interests in Springfield. The City doesn't spend any funds directly on lobbying, but we do pay dues to the Northwest Municipal

Conference (NWMC). The NWMC is a Council of Governments – known in Springfield lingo as a "COG." It's meant to be a sort of trade association for cities that provides opportunities for information sharing, networking, and so on.

For years now, the Conference has found the need to retain the services of a lobbying firm. So, through paying our NWMC dues, we're paying some more money for lobbying. The Conference's efforts aim to (1) keep state officials from passing more unfunded mandates where we must foot the bill for their choices, (2) highlight the seriousness of pension issues communities face, and (3) stop the state from dipping into local government money in an effort to balance its own budget.

Amazing, isn't it? Local governments have to lobby the state government – just like any corporation or special interest. That's pretty sad, indeed.

Early Voting for November Election Begins October 20 at Courthouse, Palatine Village Hall

The General Election to determine the next governor of Illinois and other national, state and regional offices will take place Tuesday, November 4th, but Rolling Meadows residents may vote early between October 20th and November 2nd.

All registered voters are eligible for early voting. Those who choose to vote early need only fill out an application at their selected early voting site and display valid photo identification.

Early voting sites near Rolling Meadows

include the Cook County Courthouse (2121 Euclid Avenue) and Palatine Village Hall (200 E. Wood Street). A complete listing of early voting sites is available on the Cook County Clerk's Website, www.cookcountyclerk.com.

For more information on the November 4th election, contact Rolling Meadows' Deputy Clerk Ginny Cotugno at 847-870-9007, or cotugnog@cityrm.org. Additional details will also be featured in the October 2014 edition of *e-News & Views*.

Mayors Past & Present Gather to Dedicate Rebuilt Commuter Drive, Bike Path Extension



Mayor Tom Rooney (with scissors) and former Mayor Ken Nelson (right) joined Tom Hayes and Arlene Mulder, their respective counterparts from the village of Arlington Heights, for a long-awaited rib-

bon-cutting event to officially open the newly-built Commuter Drive.

The \$1.4 million reconstruction project was covered almost entirely by federal highway funding. The rebuilt road, connecting Rohlwing Road to the Arlington Park Metra Station, also features a new bike path extension that links to the City's existing bike path system.

City officials believe the bike path extension will encourage Metra commuters to use alternative transportation both to and from the station.

Ribbon-Cutting & Dedication Ceremony to Honor Former Rolling Meadows High School Student

Members of Rolling Meadows' Environmental Committee will participate in a September ribbon-cutting ceremony to officially dedicate Emily's Prairie Garden, an area of restored land near Rolling Meadows High School that features an array of native Illinois tall prairie grass species.

The dedication will take place Sunday, September 21, 2 p.m., on a parcel of public land located just southwest of the high school (2901 Central Road), adjacent to Salt Creek and the City's bike path. Participants may access the area from Barker Avenue.

The garden is named in memory of Emily Jackson, a graduate of Rolling Meadows High School. Emily's parents, Pete and Ellen, will also be at the ceremony.

For more information, contact the Public Works Department at 847-963-0500.