



Business Messenger

A Publication Produced by the City of Rolling Meadows

Third Quarter 2018



BEAR Construction is leading a \$500 million renovation of the vacant Chicago Post Office facility, which will include a new rooftop plaza (rendering pictured).

BEAR Construction: Built for the Long Haul

Local HQ Serves as Epicenter for Company's Continued Growth

LOCAL BUSINESS PROFILE... page 2

Video Gaming Ordinance Offers Opportunities for Businesses

City Council's approval of an ordinance allowing video gaming devices at local business establishments places the City on more competitive footing with nearby communities, providing opportunities for businesses to diversify their revenue streams and complete remodeling/renovation projects.

The video gaming ordinance, in accordance with state law, allows businesses to install up to five video game machines – games such as video poker and blackjack – on their premises. The state of Illinois collects 30% of revenue generated from the machines (allocating 5% to Rolling Meadows), while businesses split the remaining 70% with machine operators.

Business owners who are in good standing with the City and interested in offering video gaming to their customers must apply for a G-1 Liquor License – available to establishments that already possess a Class A1, A2, A3 or Class D license – and pay annual licensing fees for each machine.



In This Issue

- City Maintains Emergency Contact Database 2
- Planning Begins for 2019 Business Showcase 3
- Business 'Accelerator' Prepares for Fall Launch 4

Business Briefs

City Prepares Zoning Code, Comprehensive Plan Updates

City leaders are working with urban planning firm Teska Associates to update Rolling Meadows' Comprehensive Plan and Zoning Codes. Aldermen expect to approve the updated documents next spring, following a thorough review by Rolling Meadows' Planning & Zoning Commission and extensive community engagement efforts.

Incentive Offered for New Restaurants

Restaurateurs looking to join Rolling Meadows' business community may apply for tax rebates and reduced permit fees through the City's Restaurant Incentive Program. Contact Business Advocate Martha Corner (cornerm@cityrm.org or 847-870-9004) for program details.

LOCAL BUSINESS PROFILE

BEAR Construction: Built for the Long Haul

When Rolling Meadows-based BEAR Construction was chosen as the primary contractor for a \$500 million renovation project to transform the long-vacant Chicago Post Office building into a 2.75 million square-foot mix of premier downtown office space, it was another significant milestone in the company's transformation from a one-room home-based business to an industry leader.

The multi-year project has already produced results: BEAR Construction's expertise in interior renovation proved essential for successfully restoring the property's nine-story-high grand lobby to its original 1930s configuration. Meanwhile, work proceeds on new mechanical, electrical, and plumbing systems; stairwells and elevators; exterior façade updates; and creation of an expansive rooftop plaza.



The BEAR Construction Executive Team: James, Nicholas, and George Wienold (seated left to right); Scott Kurinsky and Dennis Hill (back row)

Customer Service and Value

"The scope of our projects has grown considerably, but our commitment to hard work, integrity, and professionalism remain unchanged from when BEAR was founded," explained Robert S. Callaghan, Director of Business Development.

BEAR Construction was established in 1984 by brothers Nicholas, George, and James Wienold – all of whom possessed extensive carpentry and commercial construction experience. BEAR's initial focus on tenant and retail projects were key to helping the company develop a reputation for outstanding workmanship, customer service, and value.

That, in turn, drove the growth of its client base and enabled the brothers to expand their operational scope. Today, BEAR employs more than 225 people and provides a full range of construction services in multiple industry sectors such as healthcare, technology, new construction, industrial, pharmaceutical, and building specialties.

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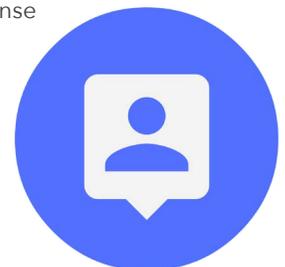
Business License Program Helps City Maintain Emergency Contact Database

Rolling Meadows' business licensing program does more than raise revenue to offset costs of providing infrastructure and public safety services to local companies: it also ensures that City departments have accurate, up-to-date emergency contact information for those businesses.

Effective communication is critical in cases of property damage, regional emergencies such as severe weather, or other situations that require coordination with local businesses. The ability of City department to access this information ensures that officials can reach designated business emergency contacts when needed.

Renewal notices for 2019 business licenses will be sent to all Rolling Meadows-based businesses in October. Please complete and return the forms by the year-end deadline. A 100% late fee will apply to all license renewal forms postmarked after December 31st.

Contact the Community Development Division (*CD@cityrm.org* or 847-506-6030) for more information.



BEAR Construction... continued from page 2

"This is the most exciting period in BEAR's 34 years in business," co-founder and CEO George Wienold recently told real estate trade publication *Bisnow Chicago*.

It has also been a very busy period. Executive Vice President Scott Kurinsky says that BEAR Construction, at any given time, is in the midst of 200-300 interior/infrastructure projects for Chicago-based commercial properties. The company is also embarking on several new construction projects in Illinois, Wisconsin, and Indiana. These include senior living facilities, seven-story multi-family complexes, corporate/industrial properties, and college/university campuses.

Calls Rolling Meadows Home

To successfully manage growth and reinforce its commitment to developing "local" relationships with clients, BEAR Construction has opened satellite offices in downtown Chicago, Champaign and Bradley, IL, and Milwaukee, WI. However, the epicenter for the company's expansive growth over the past 16 years has been its Rolling Meadows headquarters, located at 1501 Rohlwing Road.

The 36,000 square-foot facility is home to most of the company's executive team, and provides a base of operations for accounting, estimating, marketing, management, and business development personnel. The site also features a combined warehouse/distribution center where specialized components can be finished and shipped to project sites.

Businesses looking to experience BEAR Construction's quality craftsmanship up close and in-person need look no further than City Hall. In 2006, the City's "hometown" construction firm completed an extensive renovation that brought what had been a 1970s-era building into the 21st Century.

The result: a brighter, more open, and more user-friendly space that helps City officials deliver more efficient services to residents.

City 'Promotes Business Excellence'

Mr. Wienold, BEAR's CEO, credits Rolling Meadows' "hassle-free, supportive environment for business growth" as a key reason the company has called the City home since 2002.

"Rolling Meadows is a great town that offers outstanding food and entertainment sectors; convenient access to highways, mass transit, and airports; and a culture that promotes business development excellence," he said. "It has been a pleasure working with City officials on multiple expansions of our own corporate headquarters, as well as completing a multitude of projects on behalf of the City and other local businesses around town. We are proud to call Rolling Meadows home."

BEAR Construction's renovation of the Chicago Post Office facility's lobby restored the space to its 1930s grandeur.



Planning Ahead

Preparations for 2019 Business 'Showcase' Underway

As successful business owners and operators in a highly-competitive economic arena, *Business Messenger* readers understand the importance of long-term planning to achieve optimal outcomes.

Here in Rolling Meadows, we're taking a page from that playbook: planning is already underway for the City's second annual "Business & Community Showcase," which will take place next Spring.

The inaugural "Showcase," held this past April, featured more than 40 local businesses who were able to meet directly with Rolling Meadows residents and share information about their products and services. The event also provided ample B2B networking opportunities.

Combined, the "Showcase" helped business leaders connect with peers, develop new relationships, and promote business good and services to the entire community.

So, let's do it again, shall we? Stay tuned for further updates. The event date will be confirmed in early 2019.



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- Finance Department847-394-8500
- Fire Department (non-emergency).847-397-3352
- Police Department (non-emergency).847-255-2416
- Public Works Department.847-963-0500

Regional Business Collaborative to Launch This Fall; Program Aims to Help Companies Reach 'Next Level'

A regional business "accelerator" program being launched later this year offers Rolling Meadows companies a chance to partner with professional business coaches, learn how to overcome challenging business issues, and position themselves for sustained growth in a rapidly-changing economy.

Next Level Northwest (NLNW) was established in 2017 by Rolling Meadows and four other local municipalities as a non-profit collaborative partnership. The organization's goals are to:

1. Promote innovative ideas that help second-stage businesses grow.
2. Help companies adapt to changing business trends.
3. Create a regional network for business development and excellence.
4. Establish collaborative support with regional stakeholders.

5. Achieve national prominence for business accelerations and performance excellence.



The program will commence this Fall.

"NLNW was established to grow the regional economy, drive business development, and facilitate continuing education and innovation in northwest Cook and northern DuPage Counties," Rolling Meadows' Business Advocate Martha Corner explained.

Other founding NLNW communities are Elk Grove Village, Hanover Park, Hoffman Estates, and Schaumburg.

Download applications at nextlevelnorthwest.org. For more information, contact Martha Corner at cornerm@cityrm.org or 847-870-9004.

How It Works



Support

Gain the support you need from the community and other local businesses



Wisdom

Get answers and critical feedback from coaches and mentors



Learning

Continue to learn from each other's challenges and successes