



Business Messenger

A Publication Produced by the City of Rolling Meadows

Fourth Quarter 2018



Kirchoff Road Resurfacing Scheduled for Spring 2019

Grant Funding to Cover 80% of Construction Costs

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City Seeks Business Leaders' Input for Comprehensive Plan Update

www.plan4rollingmeadows.org Offers Forum to Share Ideas

As City officials proceed with plans to update Rolling Meadows' Comprehensive Plan, business leaders have the chance to share their ideas/expertise and play a defining role in the community's future.

The centerpiece of a recently-launched public outreach and engagement effort is a new website, www.plan4rollingmeadows.org, where visitors may share their own ideas for the City's development. Users may also complete an online survey, receive periodic news updates, review relevant project documents, and more.

"An updated Comprehensive Plan will serve as a guide when considering new

development proposals, strengthen the City's ability to pursue state and federal grant funding, and help market Rolling Meadows' advantages to developers and businesses," explained Fred Vogt,

Director, Community Development Division of Public Works.

"We strongly encourage business owners, managers, and

employees to offer their ideas. Those insights will help shape the new document and ensure the revised plan serves the needs of the community," he added.

Plans call for City Council to approve the updated Comprehensive Plan next spring.



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Business Briefs Holidays Arrive with Dec. 6th Tree Lighting

Business owners, managers, and employees are invited to attend the City's annual Holiday Tree lighting celebration, Thursday, December 6th. Join community members in front of McDonald's on Kirchoff Road at 6 pm, followed by a free spaghetti dinner,* courtesy of Stadium Sports Club, at the Fogarty Fire Station (3111 Meadow Drive) at 6:30 pm.

**While supplies last*

New Location Set for Meadows' 2019 Business Showcase

Rolling Meadows' 2019 Business & Community Showcase will take place Thursday, April 25th, 4-8 pm, at Meridian Banquets (1701 W. Algonquin Rd.). Contact Business Advocate Martha Corner (cornerm@cityrm.org or 847-870-9004) for details.

LOCAL BUSINESS OWNER PROFILE

Recent Restaurant Upgrades, City's 'Pro-Business' Climate Position Entrepreneur Vince Bufalino for Continued Success

Vince Bufalino smiles frequently when discussing the latest renovations and additions to Stadium Sports Club, the neighborhood restaurant and sports bar he's owned and operated for over 30 years.

New furniture, flooring, and the installation of five new video gaming machines that went "live" in early October reflect Mr. Bufalino's long-standing commitment to meeting his customers' needs. But he's also quick to thank Rolling Meadows officials for supporting his ongoing quest for continued success.



Appreciates City's 'Pro-Business' Approach

In particular, Mr. Bufalino cites City Council's approval of a video gaming ordinance earlier this year – along with the assistance provided by the Community Development Division during the interior renovation planning/permitting process – as telling examples of Rolling Meadows' pro-business approach.

"Over the past four or five years, especially, we have seen Rolling Meadows' commitment to supporting local business growth," Mr. Bufalino noted.

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KIRCHOFF ROAD RESURFACING

Kirchoff Road Resurfacing Scheduled for Spring 2019

A 1.75-mile stretch of Kirchoff Road, between Hicks and New Wilke Roads, will be completely resurfaced next spring with the help of grant funding that covers 80% of the project's costs. The anticipated three-month project is slated to begin in March.

Based on initial project estimates, funding provided through the Federal Surface Transportation Program (STP) will cover approximately \$1.5 million in construction costs. Under the

grant terms, the City is responsible for the remaining 20% (currently estimated at \$811,000).

City leaders, however, are cautiously optimistic that the project's actual costs will be lower than originally estimated.* Contractor bids will be opened in early November – a time when vendors are more willing to offer competitive pricing in order to lock in projects for the following season.

In an effort to further drive down costs, City officials expanded the project's scope to include separate infrastructure initiatives that were already in the planning stages. These include (1) reconfiguring the medians located directly under, and on either side of, Route 53; (2) upgrading the bridge spanning Salt Creek in the City's downtown area; and (3) replacing below ground signal loops that regulate traffic flow at intersections.

Kirchoff Road is a critical east/west arterial route for commuters traveling through Rolling Meadows. It is used by more than 12,000 vehicles per day and serves as a gateway to the downtown area. Separate sections of the road were last resurfaced in 1996 and 2001.



City planners expanded the Kirchoff Road project's scope to seize opportunities for additional cost savings.

*Editor's Note: This issue of the Business Messenger went to press before project bids were opened.

Entrepreneur Vince Bufalino... continued from page 2

"I've been part of this community for more than 40 years. This is, by far, the most business-friendly administration I've worked with," he added.

Mr. Bufalino's entrepreneurial spirit is evident in the many different types of businesses he has owned over the course of his career. They include a bike shop, convenience store, landscaping service, and a hot dog/beef stand, among others.

"My father was in the wholesale liquor business. I've always enjoyed working for myself, but he helped start me on my journey," he recalled.

Restaurateur & Shopping Center Owner

That journey began in the mid-1970s, when Mr. Bufalino purchased Worldwide Liquors (now Armanetti Wine & Liquors) on Algonquin Road, just west of Route 53, in the Meadow Square Shopping Center. He soon bought the entire shopping center and is proud to have had only one retail vacancy in the last 20 years.

"Unlike corporate absentee ownership, I have a personal stake in the shopping center's success," he explained. "Attracting – and retaining – other businesses to this area



Recent interior upgrades and new video gaming machines welcome Stadium Sports Club customers.



Vince Bufalino has been a member of the City's business community for over 40 years.

benefits my primary focus, which is the Stadium. I've always tried to keep my tenants happy. We sometimes pool resources for group advertising or marketing strategies that will benefit everyone here."

'A Friendly Neighborhood Destination'

Mr. Bufalino launched Stadium Sports Club in 1986. He's proud of the reputation it has earned over the years as a friendly neighborhood destination amid countless chain restaurants in surrounding communities.

"Our experience indicates that people get tired of always eating at the chain restaurants. Customers want to come back to a place where the managers and employees know them by name and provide courteous, friendly service. We have always tried to provide that here."

Commitment to Community

Mr. Bufalino has also provided extensive support to several of the City's community events, including the Senior Luncheon, Holiday Tree lighting and community dinner, Hometown Hoedown, and Wine-Down by the Creek.

Through the Stadium, Mr. Bufalino has also been a long-time sponsor of Rolling Meadows Youth Baseball. Photos of those teams are among the memorabilia that line the Stadium's walls.

"It's fun to see customers find their team pictures from 15 or 20 years ago," he said. "Those photos are a record of our commitment to this community."

Filing Deadline for 2019 Local Election is December 17th

Friday, December 17th, is the deadline for candidates running for local office next spring to file completed petitions necessary for them to appear on the April 2nd, 2019 ballot.

City offices that will be contested are:

- Mayor (4-year term).
- 1st Ward Alderman (4-year term).

- 2nd Ward Alderman (final two years of the current 4-year term).
- 3rd Ward Alderman (4-year term).
- 5th Ward Alderman (4-year term).
- 7th Ward Alderman (4-year term).
- City Clerk (4-year term).

To qualify, candidates must be Rolling Meadows residents for at least one

year and, if running for City Council, live in the ward they seek to represent.

Candidate packets are available at www.cookcountyclerk.com. Filing will begin Monday, December 10th, at 8 am, and will conclude Monday, December 17th, at 5 pm. For more information, call City Hall at 847-394-8500.



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 Finance Department847-394-8500
 Fire Department (non-emergency)847-397-3352
 Police Department (non-emergency)847-255-2416
 Public Works Department847-963-0500
 Community Development847-506-6030



Grande Jake's Jacob Rodriguez (right) hands out samples at Taste the Town.

City's 'Taste the Town' to Showcase Local Restaurants

For the past two years, Rolling Meadows' "Taste the Town" showcase has drawn hundreds of guests who are *hungry* for an evening out with friends and family...and eager to sample amazing flavors from the City's vast array of local restaurants!

Preparations are now underway for Taste the Town 2019, which will take place Saturday, March 2nd, at the Community Center (3705 Pheasant Drive).

Don't miss this high-profile opportunity to impress local customers! Contact Lori Ciezak at ciezakl@cityrm.org to learn more and to reserve your spot in next year's event!

Community Events Sponsorships Pay Dividends, Expand Brand Awareness for Local Businesses

Organizations that have stepped forward to sponsor local community events play a vital role in the ongoing success of Rolling Meadows' wide-ranging calendar of activities, but that support has also benefited area businesses looking for an edge in marketing their products and services.

'Build Relationships with Customers'

"The City's ever-growing schedule of community events offers an ideal way for businesses to connect with residents, build relationships with customers, and generate positive word-of-mouth among community members," City Manager Barry Krumstok explained.

Local businesses that have sponsored past events include **Ben Franklin Bank** (Wine-Down by the Creek), **Dynegy Energy** (Hometown Hoedown & Fall Festival), **Holiday Inn** (Fridays ROCK! summer concert series), **Northrop Grumman** (National Night Out), and **Christopher B. Burke Engineering** (4th of July/Independence Day).



"Wine-Down by the Creek" has been a popular event since its inception in 2015.

Opportunity Abounds in 2019

There will be plenty of chances for businesses to join the fun in 2019: planners are putting the final touches on a program that will feature nearly 30 community events throughout the year. The complete 2019 events list will be posted at www.cityrm.org/669/Community-Events in November.

Event sponsors are prominently featured in all of the City's promotional and marketing efforts. It's a highly cost-effective way for local businesses to expand awareness of their brands.

To learn more, contact Lori Ciezak, Community Events Foundation liaison and Assistant to the City Manager (ciezakl@cityrm.org or 847-394-8500).