



Photo: Coquelicot Gallery & Cafe

## LOCAL BUSINESS PROFILE

# Coquelicot Gallery & Café Fills Niche for Fine Art, Gourmet Cuisine

Coquelicot Gallery & Café offers one of Rolling Meadows' most unique shopping experiences: a space



Hisami (left) and Nana Takahashi

where customers are free to indulge both their artistic and culinary tastes.

The Gallery offers a stunning collection of jewelry, fine art, home accents, housewares, and other items created by a global roster of artists.

The Café, meanwhile, provides a revolving seasonal menu of gourmet entrees, salads, wraps, scrumptious desserts, organic coffees and teas, and other beverages.

"We strive to offer a place where people may satisfy their craving for fine art and gourmet food," explained Nana Takahashi, who co-owns the gallery with her mother, Hisami. "We offer artistic cuisine and a boutique shopping experience all under one roof."

### Vibrant, Welcoming Environment

The mother/daughter business partners opened Coquelicot (pronounced Ko-Kli-Ko) Gallery & Café in early 2018

to offer a local destination for people who share their passion for fine art.

"Nana and I have always enjoyed traveling and visiting art galleries around the country," recalled Hisami, a jewelry artist herself. "We looked at each other one day and said, 'We should try this ourselves!'"

"There's something special about visiting a great gallery," Nana added. "It's what we

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## Economic Development Committee Members Establish Preliminary 2022 Goals

Members of Rolling Meadows' Economic Development Committee have established three preliminary goals that will guide their deliberations and actions in 2022, 3rd Ward Alderman and EDC member Kevin O'Brien reports.

The annual goals, which are preliminary in nature, are:

- **Develop strategies to assist existing businesses.**
- **Attract new businesses to the community.**
- **Improve commercial area aesthetics.**

To ensure successful implementation, the Committee

assigned two members to lead each of these efforts.

"Committee members will provide additional ideas and details at upcoming meetings, which will allow the group to further discuss and refine the goals," Alderman O'Brien explained.

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aim to provide: a vibrant, welcoming environment that stands in contrast to the stale world of e-commerce.”

### Support Artistic Endeavors

The Takahashis curate the gallery’s collection themselves and are always on the lookout for “beautiful, unique items that stir emotion,” Nana explained. In fact, Coquelicot’s striking modern interior was designed to “elevate the presentation of our collection. We are always on the lookout for new pieces that will appeal to our customers,” she added.

While committed to providing variety and value to their customers, Nana and Hisami also take tremendous pride in their commitment to support the creative endeavors of the artists whose works they display.

### Coquelicot Gallery & Café

4880 Euclid Avenue

#### Business Hours:

Tuesdays – Saturdays  
(12:00 pm – 7:00 pm)

847-496-5461

[www.coquelicotgallery.com](http://www.coquelicotgallery.com)



Photo: Coquelicot Gallery & Café

Coquelicot Gallery’s collection includes jewelry, fine art, home accents, housewares, and items created by artists from around the world.

“In our experience, creative people tend to undervalue their work,” Nana said. “We believe in providing fair compensation for the pieces we sell on artists’ behalf by empowering them to determine what their creativity should sell for.”

### Host Private Events

Coquelicot offers an ideal venue for catered private events – everything from corporate gatherings and wedding/baby showers to “make-your-own” jewelry sessions.

“We continue to follow all local, state, and national guidelines related to the COVID-19 pandemic, which has allowed us to safely book private events on a limited basis,” Nana explained. “We appreciate customers’ patience and understanding.”

The gallery also hosted live music recitals and local artist exhibitions prior to the onset of COVID-19. Now, as the world slowly emerges from the pandemic, Nana and Hisami hope to one day resume these

types of gatherings full-time.

### All in a Name

Nana and Hisami named Coquelicot Gallery & Café after the French word for “poppy flower,” whose petals are a distinct shade of red, mixed with just a hint of orange.

“It was the perfect match for us,” Hisami said. “As an art gallery, we deal a lot in color. We also thought the word was musical to the ears and so pretty to write.”

## Street Banner Program Offers High-Profile Marketing Opportunity for Rolling Meadows Businesses & Organizations

Rolling Meadows’ annual street banner program offers local businesses and community groups a high-profile opportunity to market themselves to their customers while also offering financial support to the Rolling Meadows Community Events Foundation (CEF).

The 30" x 60" event banners, which hang from streetlights along Kirchoff Road and other high-traffic areas around town, help promote upcoming events such as the 4th of July Parade and Community Block Party. Businesses may purchase 14" x 30" sponsor panels (\$250 each or \$350 for two) that hang beneath the banners and include a company’s logo or name.



Order forms are available online at [www.cityrm.org](http://www.cityrm.org) or [www.rmbusinessbuzz.org](http://www.rmbusinessbuzz.org). For more information, contact Lori Ciezak, Assistant to the City Manager ([ciezakl@cityrm.org](mailto:ciezakl@cityrm.org)) or 847-394-8500).

Last year, 29 organizations took part in the Street Banner program, which raised more than \$10,000 for the CEF. The Foundation is a 501(c)3 nonprofit entity whose mission is to provide financial support for Rolling Meadows’ community events. It relies solely on tax-deductible contributions and gifts from donors. Learn more at [www.cityrm.org/679/Community-Events-Foundation](http://www.cityrm.org/679/Community-Events-Foundation).

Company or  
Sponsor Name

## Meadows Adds 50 New Businesses in 2021

Rolling Meadows' reputation as a great place to do business continued to pay dividends in 2021, with 50 new companies putting down roots in the community.

The City has welcomed 230 new businesses in a variety of fields over the past five years, including industry leaders in healthcare, publishing, information technology (IT), automotive repair, technology consulting, and more.

"Rolling Meadows' well-established reputation as a business-friendly community helps attract new companies that expand shopping and service options for residents," Business Advocate Martha Corner explained.

Although annual new business openings are determined by a number of external factors, such as economic conditions and available vacancies, City officials pride themselves on their commitment to working closely with business owners to help them realize their goals.

"Our business development and retention program is designed to promote success," Corner added. "The City offers a variety of resources and information to help business owners and their representatives make sound decisions that support their specific goals."

These resources range from vacant property listings to an updated Comprehensive Plan and Zoning Code to better meet



the needs of businesses in the 21st century. Corner also believes City staff members are well-positioned to provide companies with the information they need to be successful.

From independent merchants to Fortune 500 corporations, Rolling Meadows is home to many of the world's leading companies, including Arthur J. Gallagher (insurance brokerage/risk management), Northrop Grumman (aerospace and defense), Panasonic (technology), Verizon Wireless (cell phones), and Weichai America (diesel engine manufacturing).

Find a complete listing of businesses that have opened in Rolling Meadows over the past several years at [www.cityrm.org/706/New-Businesses](http://www.cityrm.org/706/New-Businesses).

### Economic Development Committee Establishes Preliminary 2022 Goals ...continued from page 1

In addition, the preliminary EDC goals will be vetted at an upcoming City Council Committee of the Whole meeting. This will allow the Committee to collect feedback from aldermen and City staff, determine next steps, and discuss potential

financial support that may be needed to achieve the goals as outlined.

#### About the EDC

The Economic Development Committee serves as an advisory body to City Council. Its primary mission is to facilitate

development of programs and services that promote the long-term well-being of Rolling Meadows' business community.

The nine-member committee is comprised of local busi-

ness owners, City Council members, and a former chamber of commerce executive director. This combined experience helps the committee better understand the needs of local businesses and identify opportunities for their growth and success.

#### Committee Members

Linda Ballantine  
Christine Burbidge  
Craig Carlson  
Heather Larson  
Roberta Marcinkus  
Nick Martinelli  
Janine Molinelli  
Kevin O'Brien  
Jenifer Vinezeano

The EDC meets at 6:00 pm at City Hall on the first Monday of each month. Meetings are open to the public. View upcoming agendas and minutes from past meetings at [www.cityrm.org/354/Economic-Development-Committee](http://www.cityrm.org/354/Economic-Development-Committee).





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Police Department (non-emergency)	847-255-2416
Public Works Department	847-963-0500
Community Development Division	847-506-6030

Connect with us at [www.cityrm.org](http://www.cityrm.org) or through:   

## 'Business Buzz' Website Helps Local Businesses Generate Free Publicity, Connect with Customers

Are you creating some "buzz" in your respective professional field? Let the RM Business Buzz help you share it and, in the process, generate some free publicity on your behalf.

That's right: free!

The Buzz ([www.rmbusiness-buzz.org](http://www.rmbusiness-buzz.org)), a City-sponsored economic development initiative, offers all Rolling Meadows businesses an opportunity to promote their successes – everything from important milestones, anniversaries, awards, or other successes – at no cost.



Submit your success stories to Business Advocate Martha Corner ([cornerm@cityrm.org](mailto:cornerm@cityrm.org)) for consideration and possible posting on the Buzz's "Accolades" page.

It's a great way to share valuable content with customers and other businesses leaders. Information selected for

posting may be edited for clarity and/or length, as necessary.

### Connect with Customers

The Buzz makes it easier than ever for local businesses to get in front of customers, prospects, and even potential employees. The site's many features include:

- Details on, and contact information for, more than 760 Rolling Meadows-based retailers, restaurants, and service providers.
- Coupons and special deals offered by participating businesses.
- Job openings at area companies.
- Local business profiles.

### Join the 'Buzz'

Add your business to the growing 'Buzz:' Simply click "Join the Buzz" on the site's homepage.

## Foundation Donors Drive Success of City's Community Events

Local businesses played an invaluable role in the success of Rolling Meadows' 2021 community events by making tax-deductible donations to the Rolling Meadows Community Events Foundation.

Donations to the 501(c)3 Foundation help offset the



costs of staging City events such as the Independence Day Parade and Fireworks, Wine-Down by the Creek, National Night Out, and many others.

Visit [www.cityrm.org/669/Community-Events](http://www.cityrm.org/669/Community-Events) for a listing of upcoming 2022 events.