



Photo: Aloft Chicago Schaumburg

A ceremonial ribbon-cutting officially opens the Aloft Chicago Schaumburg – Rolling Meadows’ newest hotel – on January 12th.

## City’s New Aloft Hotel Elevates the Guest Experience

From the urban loft-inspired design of its rooms to the ambiance of its common areas, Rolling Meadows’ newest hotel boldly showcases itself as a one-of-a-kind destination for business and leisure travelers visiting the northwest suburban area.

The 119-room Aloft® Chicago Schaumburg, located at 3407 W. Algonquin Road in Rolling Meadows, opened in January on the site of a former Holiday Inn. The redesigned and revitalized property – one of only five

Aloft hotels in Illinois – strives to be something different in a segment of the hospitality industry that, for many, has grown stagnant.

“This is a unique space that offers a completely different experience than other hotels in this market,” explained Jay Fishman, CEO of Rolling Meadows-based Griffin

Hotel Management, which oversees Aloft’s day-to-day operations. “Whether you’re here for business or pleasure, the facility offers incredible

amenities and a vibe you can’t find anywhere else in the area.”

### ‘Sassy, Savvy, Trendy’

Owner Sam Patel believes the Aloft concept (sassy, savvy, & trendy) fills a niche that was missing in Rolling Meadows and other neighboring communities that comprise the bustling northwest suburban/I-90 corridor.

“The hotel’s vibrant exterior design is quite striking and highlights its inviting lifestyle nature,” Mr. Patel said. “During the final phases of construction, motorists would often pull over and ask what we were building here.”

The vibrancy Mr. Patel speaks of extends to the interior as well. Guests are welcome to enjoy signature craft cocktails at the hotel’s W XYZ® Bar,

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**Aloft**  
**Chicago Schaumburg**  
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[www.marriott.com/en-us/hotels/chias-aloft-chicago-schaumburg](http://www.marriott.com/en-us/hotels/chias-aloft-chicago-schaumburg)

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# New Director Glen Cole Looks Forward to Leading 'High-Performance' Community Development Department



Glen Cole

Glen Cole has worn many professional "hats" throughout his career in municipal government,

which are reflected in the broad range of experience he brings to Rolling Meadows as its new Assistant City Manager & Community Development Director.

Originally from Southern California, Cole holds a Master

of Public Administration (MPA) degree from the University of Kansas. He began his career in the suburbs of Kansas City before relocating to the Chicago area.

While working as Lake Bluff's Assistant to the Village Administrator for the past six years, Cole helped oversee planning and zoning efforts, human resources, village communications, and more.

"Lake Bluff was the perfect place for me to gain experi-

ence in many different facets of municipal operations," he recalled. "Now, I'm grateful to continue my career here in Rolling Meadows."

Cole was drawn to the City's vibrant business community, engaged staff, and supportive leadership. His primary responsibility will be to direct a "high-performance" Community Development Department that helps local business owners maximize their opportunities and contribute to the City's growth.

He will also work closely with City Manager Rob Sabo and other department leaders to guide City-wide economic development initiatives – including those related to a potential Chicago Bears stadium at the former Arlington Park racetrack.

"There is a lot going on here now and especially in the years ahead. I want to be part of it," Cole explained. "I'm ready to roll up my sleeves and get to work."

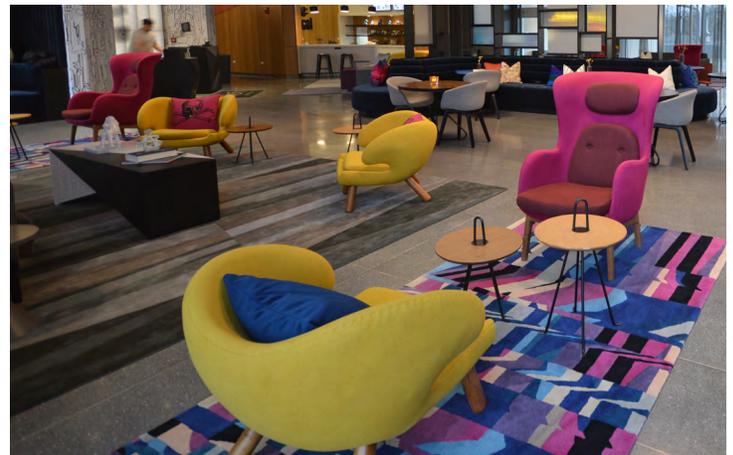
## City's New Aloft Hotel Elevates the Guest Experience ...continued from page 1

socialize over a game of pool in the Re:mix Lounge, enjoy a swim in the indoor pool, grab a bite to eat at Re:fuel, or enjoy live music (performance schedules vary).

The hotel also features an inviting outdoor patio with a fire pit, bag toss, and more – expanding available leisure options for guests as the dreary winter weather gives way to spring and summer.

Meanwhile, the hotel's guest rooms cater to today's tech-savvy clientele: all feature plenty of plug-in spaces (also found in social/common areas), Bluetooth® speakers, state-of-the-art entertainment platform, as well as luxury signature beds and walk-in showers.

"The entire hotel is designed and operated to let guests know it's okay to do things



Photos: Aloft Chicago Schaumburg

Aloft Chicago Schaumburg's striking interior design and amenities deliver an ambiance not commonly found at other area hotels.

a bit differently," explained General Manager Carmie Antongiovanni. "It's okay to bring your laptop to the lounge and enjoy a cocktail while catching up on emails, or discuss ideas with colleagues over a game of pool or while listening to music. This is a social space. This is fun."

Ambiance, vibrancy, and fun are important, but Ms. Antongiovanni affirms that customer service and facility cleanliness

remain the management staff's top priorities.

### A Marriott Brand

Aloft is one of the brands operated by Marriott® Hotels, which has already made the property more appealing to larger companies and business professionals enrolled in the Marriott Bonvoy rewards program.

"We are excited for the opportunity to build those long-term relationships," Mr. Patel added.



The Re:mix Lounge offers ample space to work or play.

## New Grant Program Helps Local Businesses Enhance 'Curb Appeal'

A new grant program approved by City Council members in December will partially reimburse business and property owners for the costs they incur when adding/expanding outdoor seating capacity or upgrading a property's exterior landscaping.

The Curb Appeal Grant Program is designed to help local businesses improve the overall appearance of their properties and make non-residential neighborhoods throughout the City more inviting, Rolling Meadows Business Development Manager Martha Corner reports.

"The goal of this program is to improve the 'feel' of the City's commercial areas by providing financial assistance for businesses to enhance



Curb appeal grants are part of long-term efforts to make the City's commercial areas more inviting.

the curb appeal of properties that are visible from the public right-of-way," she explained.

Approved applicants may receive financial reimbursement of up to 50% (\$25,000 maximum) of a project's total cost.

Eligible expenses include:

- Structural demolition,
- Labor and materials,
- Special equipment required

to install outdoor seating areas or make landscaping improvements.

Other project outlays – including furniture, architectural/consultant fees, and permit costs – will not be reimbursed.

All Curb Appeal Grant Program applications will be reviewed by City staff and members of the Economic

Development Committee (EDC). Approvals are determined by City Council, based on recommendations provided by the EDC.

Applications and instructions are available at [www.cityrm.org/35/Business](http://www.cityrm.org/35/Business). For more information, contact Martha Corner at [cornerm@cityrm.org](mailto:cornerm@cityrm.org) or 847-870-9004.

## City to Embark on Ambitious Strategic Business Development Planning Initiative

Among the action items on City officials' 2023 "To-Do" list is the creation of a **Strategic Business Development Plan** to ensure the continued growth and vitality of Rolling Meadows' business community.

Upon its expected completion in late 2023, the Strategic Plan will detail an "ambitious set of strategies and actions to support the local economy," Business Development Manager Martha Corner explained.

"The business climate

throughout the Chicago metropolitan area is evolving with the rise of e-commerce and shifting consumer habits – and both have been exacerbated by the

**"Our goal will be to determine how best to support the changing needs of local businesses and the customers they serve."**

*– Business Development Manager Martha Corner*

pandemic," she added. "Our goal, through the strategic planning process, will be to evaluate these impacts and determine how best to support the changing needs

of local businesses and the customers they serve."

Purposely grand in scope, the effort will involve a series of focus group discussions

among City staff members, elected leaders, Economic Development Committee members, local business and real estate representatives, and other key constituencies.

City officials will also conduct extensive research into municipal business development "best practices," conduct an analysis of existing conditions, and complete a full review of Rolling Meadows' current business development policies, activities, and programs.

Follow updates on the plan's development on social media ([www.facebook.com/cityofrollingmeadows](http://www.facebook.com/cityofrollingmeadows)), online ([www.cityrm.org](http://www.cityrm.org)), and in future issues of the *Business Messenger*.



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## 'A Great Place to Do Business' City Welcomes 51 New Businesses in 2022

Fifty-one new businesses put down roots in Rolling Meadows last year, further reinforcing Rolling Meadows' reputation as a great place to do business.

The City has welcomed more than 225 new businesses in a variety of fields over the past five years, including industry leaders in healthcare, publishing, educational services, information technology (IT), automotive repair, technology consulting, and more.

"The numbers speak for themselves and underscore Rolling Meadows' well-established reputation as a business-friendly community," Business Development Manager Martha Corner explained.

Although annual new business openings are determined by a number of external factors,



Mayor Joe Gallo and City Manager Rob Sabo join Linda Antonietti for the grand opening of her State Farm Insurance Agency office at 3475 Kirchoff Road.

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 and support specific business

goals," Corner added. "We offer a variety of resources and information to help business owners and their representatives make sound decisions and achieve intended results."

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).