



## April 25th Business Showcase to Feature B2B Networking Session

The City's second annual Business & Community Showcase will feature an hour-long private business-to-business (B2B) networking session that will help participating professionals forge new connections and promote their respective companies, Business Advocate Martha Corner reports.



This year's Showcase will be held Thursday, April 25th, 4:00 – 8:00 pm, at Meridian Banquets (1701 W. Algonquin Road). The private B2B networking session will take place from 4:00 – 5:00 pm.

### Expand Professional Networks

"Business leaders who attended last year's inaugural Showcase consistently praised the effectiveness of the event's B2B networking opportunities," Corner explained. "For 2019, we want to build

on that success by making it easier for registered attendees to expand their professional networks."

Corner also believes that several other changes being made to this year's program – especially in regard to scheduling and venue – will foster an atmosphere in which Showcase participants will gain exceptional value. Last year's Showcase took place on a Saturday morning at Rolling Meadows High School.

"Holding this year's Showcase at Meridian Banquets will allow participating businesses to benefit from a facility that specializes in hosting high-end conferences and meetings," she said. "Moreover, we expect to boost attendance by moving the event to Thursday evening – a time that is more accommodating to business professionals with hectic weekend schedules."

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### Sakura Restaurant Owner Introduces Expanded Menu

Giant Sakura – formerly Sakura Restaurant Woodfield – has unveiled a new, expanded menu. The restaurant, purchased by new ownership in late 2018, has served the community for 37 years.

*Giant Sakura*  
 4011 Algonquin Road  
 847-397-2166

### Meijer & Walmart Support RMPD 'Shop' Program

Special thanks to Meijer and Walmart for supporting the Rolling Meadows Police Department's "Shop with a Police Officer" program and brightening the holidays for nearly 100 local families. Participating children received store gift cards and, accompanied by police personnel, embarked on a holiday shopping spree for their loved ones.

## Fratellos2 Named to Vienna Beef's Hot Dog Hall of Fame

*Success Stems from Unyielding Commitment to Quality Ingredients, Excellent Service*

Fratellos2 has long been a staple of Rolling Meadows' downtown area: a destination where generations of residents have enjoyed freshly-sliced Italian Beef sandwiches, juicy burgers, authentic Chicago-style hot dogs, mouth-watering gyros, and countless other delights from its wide-ranging menu.

For owners John Manios and his wife, Connie, who bought the restaurant nearly 21 years ago, Fratellos2 has become so much more: an opportunity to build a better life for themselves and their children; a commitment to providing quality ingredients and quality service with every order; the chance to get involved in the community and support local events...and their ticket to induction into the Vienna Beef Hot Dog Hall of Fame in 2018.

### Hall of Fame Credentials

Several of Vienna Beef's top "dogs" stood in Fratellos2's dining area on December 4th for a brief ceremony that officially welcomed the restaurant as the 128th member of the company's Hot Dog Hall of Fame. The Hall was established in 2006 to honor "hot dog operations that have achieved longevity and developed into neighborhood landmarks," according to a Vienna Beef news release.

Attending dignitaries included Bob Schwartz, Vienna Beef's Senior Vice President, and Vice President of Marketing Tom McGlade. Rolling Meadows City Manager Barry Krumstok and Business Advocate Martha Corner were also in attendance to congratulate the Manios family for their success.

"Consistent great food and service at Fratellos2 have long been daily goals to work and live by," Mr. Schwartz explained while presenting the Manios family with a commemorative plaque and wall banner. He also recognized the restaurant as an "iconic part of the community."

For the Manios family, Hall of Fame accolades are the culmination of a two-decade commitment to delivering exceptional food and exceptional value.



John Manios (center) and his wife Connie (far left) celebrate with their children and grandchildren upon Fratellos2's induction into Vienna Beef's Hot Dog Hall of Fame.

### 'Taking the Next Step'

Mr. Manios was well-prepared to help make Fratellos2 a multi-generational success: before buying the business in 1998, he had already amassed years of experience in the food service and hospitality fields. He learned the intricacies of successful food preparation while employed with Ramada Inn, Embassy Suites, and Marriott Courtyard. He also gained experience behind the bar at the old Skokie Club restaurant.

But it was while working for his wife's uncle, at a hot dog stand in Berwyn, that things really came into focus.

"That was really when Connie and I started to think about taking that next step and going into business for ourselves," Mr. Manios recalled. "Our kids were teenagers by then. We

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Forge new business connections at the Showcase's private networking session.

**Business & Community Showcase...** *continued from page 1*

### Connect with Customers

Rolling Meadows' Business & Community Showcase is open (and free) to the public from 5:00 – 8:00 pm, offering a valuable opportunity for businesses to market products and services to local customers. It has already proven to be a recipe for success: more than 500 community members attended last year's event, and City planners are marketing this year's Showcase directly to residents through an array of online and print materials.

### Showcase Registration

Businesses may register for this year's expo through the "Business Showcase" link on the City's homepage ([www.cityrm.org](http://www.cityrm.org)). Cost is \$25. Registrants will be provided with a display table to showcase marketing materials and be listed in the event's exhibitor guide.

For more information on the 2019 Showcase, contact Martha Corner at [cornerm@cityrm.org](mailto:cornerm@cityrm.org) or 847-870-9004.

**Fratellos2... continued from page 2**

were increasingly focused on how best to provide for them, pay for college, and all the other things most people think about.”

He contacted an acquaintance who worked as a realtor and asked him to keep any eye out for any local restaurants that might be on the market. As fate would have it, the realtor was a long-time customer of Rolling Meadows’ own Fratellos2, which had opened in 1978. While stopping in for lunch one day, he happened to ask the original owner, Lou Caravelli, if he knew of any restaurants in the area that were up for sale.

“Yes. This one,” Mr. Caravelli replied.

The Manios’ officially took ownership of Fratellos2 on May 4th, 1998.

**Recipe for Success: Quality & Value**

Mr. and Mrs. Manios had purchased a proven entity with a loyal customer base. For some, this would be seen as an advantage, but the new owners felt immediate pressure to meet long-standing expectations while simultaneously working to expand their menu offerings. These days, Fratellos2 customers may choose from a variety of casual American cuisine, along with a mix of Greek and Italian specialty dishes.

“We’ve never cut corners. Our goals from the beginning were to always offer quality food made from the freshest ingredients, and provide outstanding customer service and value,” Mr. Manios explained. “We knew things were going to work out when we saw how many of our guests kept coming back.”

Like the customers he serves, Mr. Manios also has earned loyalty from his employees – many of whom have been with him for years. Indeed, when asked to sum up his business approach in one word, he immediately chose “consistency.”

“We are always looking for ways to improve customers’ experience, but our approach has always been to live up to the standards we set on the day we first opened for business,” he added.

**Building Relationships by Supporting Community Events**

Another key to the Manios’ success is their commitment to the community they serve. They have been strong supporters of several of Rolling Meadows’ annual community events. For example, the restaurant had provided free ice cream to residents taking part in past community bike rides organized by the Police Department. Fratellos2 is also a “regular” participant in the City’s annual “Taste the Town” extravaganza (see adjacent story).

“We carved our niche with friendly customer service and great food. Supporting the City’s community events is an extension of that approach. It helps strengthen our relationships with residents and other members of the community,” Mr. Manios explained.

**New Website Features Full Menu, Online Delivery Options**

Fratellos2 recently unveiled an updated website ([www.fratellos2.com](http://www.fratellos2.com)) where customers may view the restaurant’s entire menu and catering packages. Customers may place orders online for pick-up or delivery through DoorDash, Grubhub, and Uber Eats.



## Third Annual ‘Taste’ to Satisfy Local Appetites

*Hundreds Expected at March 2nd Event*

There’s only one spot in town in March where hundreds of residents will gather with friends and family to sample tasty fare from some of Rolling Meadows’ finest restaurants: The City’s 3rd annual “Taste the Town.” This year’s culinary showcase will be held Saturday, March 2nd, 6:00 – 9:00 pm, at the Community Center (3705 Pheasant Drive).

And there’s only one question for local restaurant owners to ponder: “Will I be there, too?”

Don’t miss this high-profile opportunity to impress local customers! Contact Lori Ciezak ([ciezakl@cityrm.org](mailto:ciezakl@cityrm.org) or 847-870-9005) to secure your spot in this year’s event!

However, Mr. Manios is always happy to greet customers in-person with a friendly smile and hot, delicious food.

“I love what I do and the customers we serve. In that sense, I haven’t worked a single day in the past 20 years,” he said with a grin.



*Fratellos2, at 3301 Kirchoff Road, has been a downtown staple for generations of hungry customers.*

**Fratellos2**  
3301 Kirchoff Road  
847-253-3401  
[www.fratellos2.com](http://www.fratellos2.com)



3600 Kirchoff Road  
 Rolling Meadows, IL 60008  
 (847) 394-8500

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**Looking Ahead**

**Kirchoff Road Upgrades Set to Begin Late March**

Kirchoff Road's long-anticipated resurfacing will begin in late March or early April (weather permitting), with federal grants covering 80% of the \$2 million upgrade. Current timetables anticipate the project's completion by mid-summer.

Crews will completely resurface 1.75 miles of road between Hicks and New Wilke Roads, reconfigure the medians located near Route 53, upgrade the bridge that spans Salt Creek in the City's downtown area, and replace below-ground signal loops that regulate traffic flows at intersections.

**City Moving Forward with Zoning Code, Comprehensive Plan Updates**

City officials are proceeding with efforts to modernize Rolling Meadows' Zoning Codes with the help of Teska Associates, a consulting firm that is currently working with City leaders to develop an updated Comprehensive Plan. Once approved,



*Cars travel along Kirchoff Road, portions of which were last resurfaced in 1996 and 2001.*

the Comprehensive Plan will guide future development and land use in Rolling Meadows for the next 8 – 10 years.

Zoning Code updates will be completed later this year. City Council members will vote on the revised Comprehensive Plan this spring.

**Send Us Your News & Celebrate Your Success**

Has your company recently celebrated an important milestone, anniversary, award, or success story? If so, we'd like to help you share it with the community!

Send news for consideration and possible publication in upcoming issues of the *Business Messenger* to Martha



Corner, Business Advocate, at [cornerm@cityrm.org](mailto:cornerm@cityrm.org). Our goal is to make "Local Business News" a regular feature of this newsletter, but we can't do it alone. Submit your news today!

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