



## Community Development Spearheads Building Code Updates *Revised Standards to Improve Customer Service and Convenience*

Community Development Division (CDD) staff members are developing updates to Rolling Meadows' Building



Codes that, once adopted, will simplify the code interpretation process for customers and contractors, guide the incorporation of newer technologies now more common in both commercial and residential construction, and improve overall public safety.

The updates, which are based on the 2018 International Code Council (ICC) code sets, will supplant current City codes that were last revised in 2010. Plans call for the new

code language to take effect later this year, following City Council review and approval.

"The updated codes are based on current industry practices that are now mandated at both the county and state levels," explained Elizabeth Kwandras, Interim Superintendent. "In particular, they incorporate newer technologies – such as solar panels and wireless smoke detectors – that were not available during the last update."

From a customer service perspective, Kwandras says the revised code standards will make it easier to apply for and receive permits by eliminating scores of redundancies and local amendments that can create confusion and result in project delays.

Simpler, more streamlined codes will also facilitate the ability of City inspectors to review and approve projects more quickly.

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## City/Chamber Networking Luncheon to Highlight Local Economic Development Initiatives, May 18th

Rolling Meadows' partnership with the Chamber of Commerce on an upcoming networking event offers an opportunity for all City businesses – Chamber members and non-members alike – to learn more about local economic development initiatives.

The 17th annual "Taking Care of Business Luncheon" will take place Wednesday, May 18th, 11:00 am – 1:00 pm, at Meridian Banquet & Conference Center (1701 W. Algonquin Rd).



Martha Corner



Joe Gallo



Rob Sabo

The program will feature a keynote presentation by Mayor Joe Gallo, whose "State of the City" address will provide an update on the current

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# Two City-based Companies Approved for Next Level Northwest Business Coaching Program

Next Level Northwest (NLNW), a nonprofit regional business accelerator founded in 2018 to boost economic growth throughout the northwest suburbs, will provide complimentary business coaching services to two Rolling Meadows-based companies who recently completed the organization's application and review process.

Leaders of **Tangerine Mountain Imports and Design** (5420 Newport Drive, #59) and **Safe-Way Tuckpointing Co.**, a home-based operation, will complete a multi-phase program that includes (1) self-assessment, (2) client/coach discovery, (3) tailored action plan, and (4) after-action review.

To date, 16 area companies have completed NLNW's program. Another three are currently enrolled.



## Support

*Gain the support you need from the community and other businesses.*

Other Rolling Meadows-based companies that have successfully completed the NLNW program include **Lakeshore Title Agency** (3501 W. Algonquin Road, #120) and **KNOCKOUT Prints** (4007 W. Algonquin Road).

"Expanded awareness of Next Level Northwest's efforts has led a growing number of business leaders to explore the benefits of NLNW programs and tap into its well of expertise," explained Martha Corner, Rolling Meadows Business Advocate.

## Honored for Excellence

Since its founding by Rolling Meadows and four other suburban communities,\* NLNW has garnered multiple accolades for its effectiveness in helping businesses increase revenue and create new jobs.



## Wisdom

*Get answers and critical feedback from coaches and mentors.*

Honors include:

- **Annual Award for Business Excellence (Category: Not-for-Profit Organization)**, presented by *The Daily Herald Business Ledger*.
- **Chicago Metropolitan Agency for Planning "Onto2050" Partner**, signifying NLNW's role in creating a more robust regional economy.
- **Nonprofit Profile Seal of Transparency (Platinum)**, given by Guidestar by Candid, a trusted provider of data on nonprofit entities.

## How it Works

NLNW matches participants with an approved professional business coach who provides tools, support, and guidance to help:



## Learning

*Continue to learn from each other's challenges and successes.*

- ✓ Break down growth barriers.
- ✓ Solve challenging business issues.
- ✓ Increase productivity.
- ✓ Gain access to a regional mentor network.
- ✓ Build an actionable plan for their business.
- ✓ Update marketing strategy.
- ✓ Define a budget.
- ✓ Assess new risks.
- ✓ Expand supplier and lead networks.

## Take the Next Step

Learn more about how your business can benefit from NLNW support by visiting [www.nextlevelnorthwest.org](http://www.nextlevelnorthwest.org).

*\*Participating municipalities include Rolling Meadows, Elk Grove Village, Hanover Park, Hoffman Estates, and Schaumburg.*

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Updates to the City's Building Code follow a series of major code/policy updates overseen by the Community Development Division over the past three years. They include Rolling Meadows':

- Comprehensive Plan (adopted in April 2019)
- Zoning Code (effective January 2020)
- Building Permit fee schedule (adopted August 2020)
- Business License and Zoning fees (adopted March 2021)

For more information on CDD services, visit [www.cityrm.org/148/Community-Development](http://www.cityrm.org/148/Community-Development) or call 847-506-6030.



## New Communications Group Applies Collaborative Strategies to Expand Dialogue with Rolling Meadows Business Leaders

A newly formed group comprised of staff members from each City department will improve Rolling Meadows' ability to keep local business owners and leaders updated on important news, activities, events, and initiatives, Business Advocate Martha Corner reports.

Goals of the new Rolling Meadows Communications Group include:

- Strengthen lines of communication with audiences (including businesses, residents, and other stakeholders);
- Promote operational transparency;
- Improve community access

to information;

- Foster information-sharing among departments;
- Enhance content delivery on City social media platforms; and
- Support the launch of Rolling Meadows' redesigned website later this year.

"Group members serve as liaisons for their respective departments and play a key role in developing strategies to deliver useful information to, and expand our dialogue with, those we serve," Corner explained. "This collaborative approach encourages each member to view ideas from different perspectives and creates opportunities to share compelling content across multiple platforms."

Outlets that cater specifically to Rolling Meadows businesses include:

**Business Messenger**  
The *Business Messenger* is a quarterly publication



designed specifically for the City's local business community. It focuses on economic development events and initiatives, local business success stories, capital projects that may affect business operations, and more.

The City sends print copies of each new issue to a contact list of business owners and representatives. Past issues are archived on the Rolling Meadows website ([www.cityrm.org/Archive.aspx?AMID=64](http://www.cityrm.org/Archive.aspx?AMID=64)).

**RM Business Buzz**  
The Buzz ([www.rmbusiness-](http://www.rmbusiness-)



[buzz.org](http://buzz.org)) is a City-sponsored economic development initiative that offers all Rolling Meadows businesses the chance to promote their success by sharing valuable content with customers, prospects, and peers – all at no cost (see story on page 4).

**City Website**  
Explore a wide range of information and resources through the "Business" pull-down menu on [www.cityrm.org](http://www.cityrm.org). The website also provides access to the City's "subscriptions" service and social media feeds maintained by specific departments.

### Communications Group Members

Rob Sabo,  
City Manager

Lori Ciezak,  
Administration

Martha Corner,  
Administration

Elizabeth Kwandras,  
Community Development

Sgt. John Manfredi,  
Police Department

Carrie Marckess,  
Finance Department

Lisa Norton,  
Fire Department

Ryan Rivard,  
Public Works Department

Kelly Vlieger,  
Information Technology (IT)

### City/Chamber Networking Luncheon ...continued from page 1

business climate and ongoing economic development plans.

City officials in attendance, including City Manager Rob Sabo and Business Advocate Martha Corner, will also be available to discuss the City's vision for further strengthening its business community.

"Many people do not realize that the Chamber is an independent entity and not part of

City operations," Corner explained. "Rolling Meadows' participation in this event is the latest example of each organization's commitment to work together for the best interests of our entire business community."

Registration starts at \$25 for Chamber members (\$50 for non-members). Fees include networking, lunch, and program. To register, please visit [www.rmchamber.org](http://www.rmchamber.org).



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Public Works Department	847-963-0500

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

## What's the 'Buzz' All About? City-sponsored Website Supports Local Business Community

The RM Business Buzz website ([www.rmbusinessbuzz.org](http://www.rmbusinessbuzz.org)) is a City-sponsored economic development initiative that lists over 760 City-based companies, making it easier than ever for local customers to find their favorite shops and service providers.

Best of all, **these listings are available to all Rolling Meadows businesses at no cost.**

The site's navigation features allow users to search for

companies by name or review listings organized into specific categories, such as Shopping, Dining, Construction, Services, and Health/Well-Being.

### Special Offers & Features

Participating businesses are invited to offer coupons and other customer deals through the website. These are listed on the Buzz's "Special Offers" page.

The Buzz provides additional value for participating busi-

nesses by featuring:

- **Company profiles** that highlight members of Rolling Meadows' business community.
- **Job listings** at local companies.
- **Local business news/accolades** that allow participating companies to share success stories.
- **Community events previews** that provide a listing of upcoming events.



### Join the Buzz!

It's easy for local businesses to be featured on the RM Business Buzz. Contact Business Advocate Martha Corner ([cornerm@cityrm.org](mailto:cornerm@cityrm.org) or 847-870-9004) or visit [www.rmbusinessbuzz.org](http://www.rmbusinessbuzz.org) and click the "Join the Buzz" button.

## FAA Announces Plans to Move Regional Office to Rolling Meadows

The Federal Aviation Administration (FAA) has announced plans to move its regional headquarters to Rolling Meadows, where the agency



**Federal Aviation Administration**

will lease nearly 116,000 square feet at the 483,000 sq. ft. Atrium (3800 Golf Road).

The timeframe for the FAA's move from its current Des Plaines location – where it has operated for the past 25 years – has not been determined,

according to a *Daily Herald* report.

"The FAA was reviewing lease proposals from multiple northwest suburban locations," Business Advocate Martha Corner recalled. "We're proud to welcome the agency to its

new home and look forward to working with Atrium management to help facilitate the move."

The FAA's mission is to "provide the safest, most efficient aerospace system in the world." Learn more at [www.faa.gov](http://www.faa.gov).