



Attracting new enterprise and supporting the growth of current City-based businesses are key elements of the new Business Development Strategic Plan.

Ambitious Strategic Plan for Guiding Local Business Development Heads to City Council for Approval

City leaders have spent the past 10 months engaging with local business representatives and other key constituencies to craft a detailed strategic plan that will guide economic and business development throughout Rolling Meadows over the next three years.

The Business Development Strategic Plan, scheduled to be reviewed by Economic Development Committee members in November and adopted by City Council in December, was developed based on the results of a series of focus groups with business

stakeholders, residents, and real estate professionals.

Feedback from those groups, plus information gleaned from an online community survey, helped create a blueprint for Rolling Meadows to support local business growth.

The effort also involved extensive research into municipal business development “best practices,” an analysis of existing conditions, and a 360-degree review of the City’s current business development policies and programs.

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Year in Review: Local Eats New Restaurants Expand Dining, Entertainment Options for Local Business Professionals



Casa Di Luigi features “classic Italian cuisine” and homemade limoncello.

Whether you’re grabbing a quick lunch on-the-go, enjoying breakfast or dinner with colleagues, or entertaining clients, Rolling Meadows’ restaurants deliver an exemplary culinary experience for practically any situation and any taste.

Best of all, the City continues to welcome new “local eats” that offer an expanding palate for area business professionals to explore and enjoy.

“We’ve been fortunate to welcome several great new restaurants in 2023, which is a reflection of Rolling Meadows’ longstanding reputation as a business-friendly community and our commitment to attracting new enterprise,” explained Martha Corner, the City’s Business Development Manager.

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Cook County's Economic Development Bureau Supports Local Business Growth

From property tax incentives to small business grants, the Cook County Bureau of Economic Development (BED) offers a diverse range of programs designed to support business growth and redevelopment in Rolling Meadows and other communities within the county's borders.



Mohammed Elahi

"Economic development initiatives are essential for building healthy, prosperous communities," explained Mohammed Elahi, Deputy Director of the Bureau's Planning and Development Division. "Our role at the county level is to support

the efforts of local leaders by offering programs that help foster local business growth and provide opportunities for the future."

Some of the programs Mr. Elahi references include:

- **Property tax incentives** that allow company owners to take advantage of savings from property tax reductions to reinvest in their properties.
- **Tax exempt bonds** to help manufacturers finance construction, expansion, and renovation projects.
- **No Cash Bid (NCB) Program** to help local governments acquire tax-delinquent properties for redevelopment.

- **Commercial Property Assessed Clean Energy (CPACE) Program**, which provides low-cost financing for energy efficiency, renewable energy, water conservation, and resiliency projects in commercial buildings.

The County also offers job training/ placement support through the Chicago Cook Workforce Partnership (visit www.chicookworks.org for details).

Bureau programs and services are available to public, private, and non-profit organizations; businesses and business owners; and municipalities.

"BED initiatives are intended to drive sustained economic growth and promote vibrant community development," Mr. Elahi added. "We are a partner to municipalities and a resource for local business."



A complete listing of available programs is posted online at www.cookcountyil.gov/agency/bureau-economic-development.

To learn more about accessing these programs, contact Martha Corner, Rolling Meadows Business Development Manager (cornerm@cityrm.org or 847-870-9004).

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Restaurants that have opened this year include:

bb.q Chicken

Korean fried chicken & sides
2190 Plum Grove Road
847-907-4341
www.bbqchicken.com

Casa Di Luigi

Classic Italian cuisine
5500 New Wilke Road
224-735-2338
www.casadiluigirestaurant.com

Chicago Ramen Lab

Japanese ramen dishes
2222 West Algonquin Road
224-735-2271
www.chicago-ramen.us

Ding Tea

Bubble tea shop
2226 W. Algonquin Road
331-666-8722
facebook.com/dingteaininois

Honey Berry Café

Breakfast & brunch
1480 Golf Road
847-427-1333
www.honeyberrycafe.com

Kong Dog

Handmade Korean corn dogs
1649 W. Algonquin Road
847-258-3017
www.kongdog.us

Phoenix Flame

Latin-Mediterranean fusion
3240 Kirchoff Road
224-735-2351
www.phoenixflame.net

Sorry Mommy

Central Asian cuisine
5153 New Wilke Road
224-248-9947
<https://order.toasttab.com/online/sorry-mommy-llc-5153-new-wilke-rd>



Mayor Lara Sanoica (far left) and City Manager Rob Sabo (far right) take part in a ribbon-cutting ceremony for Sorry Mommy restaurant in October.

Coming Soon

Agit Black

Korean karaoke bar & restaurant
2905 W. Algonquin Road

Café on the Grove

Breakfast & lunch
2160 Plum Grove Road

Jannat

Central Asian cuisine
2997 Kirchoff Road
www.jannatva.com

Raising Cane's

Fried chicken fingers
1420 Golf Road
www.raisingcanes.com

Sayulita

Taco, mariscos, & tequilla bar
1655 W. Algonquin Road

Businesses that sponsor Rolling Meadows' community events enjoy an outstanding (and cost-effective) opportunity to connect with customers and build brand equity at the grassroots level. To learn more, contact Lori Ciezak at ciezakl@cityrm.org or 847-394-8500 x 1002.

DCEO Programs Designed to Uplift, Support Small Businesses

By Joseph P. McKeown III, Northeast Region Manager

Office of Regional Economic Development, Illinois Department of Commerce & Economic Opportunity

The Illinois Department of Commerce and Economic Opportunity (DCEO) works to create economic opportunities across Illinois. By attracting and supporting major job creators, investing in communities, strengthening Illinois' world-class workforce, fostering innovation, and

and soul of the economy. As the state's economic development arm, DCEO has many programs and offices designed to uplift and support small businesses, including:

Small Business Development Centers (SBDCs) & Other Regional Support: Located

Small Business Programs through the State Small Business Credit Initiative (SSBCI):

With the support of \$350 million in federal funding, DCEO has several programs available for small businesses, including:

- [Advantage Illinois](#), which provides low-interest loans for small businesses, and,
- [INVENT](#), which provides direct equity to qualified companies.

Office of Minority Economic Empowerment (OMEE):

Supports historically under-represented businesses and communities with resources, training, and strategic partnerships to create a more inclusive business ecosystem. Learn more at illinois.gov/omee.html.

Federal Matching Grants:

The DCEO currently offers two federal grant match programs that are available to qualified Illinois businesses who have either (1) received federal



[SBIR/STTR grants](#) or (2) are in the process of applying for [federal grant match opportunities](#).

Grants & Grant Support:

DCEO frequently launches new grant programs for localities, businesses, and organizations. Interested parties are encouraged to visit DCEO's [grant opportunities page](#), join a [training or information session](#) or contact DCEO's [grant help desk](#) for more information.

Learn more about DCEO's programs and stay connected to the agency at dceo.illinois.gov and @IllinoisDCEO on social media platforms.



ushering in the new clean energy economy, DCEO works to fortify Illinois' reputation as a global economic powerhouse while ensuring it is the best state in which to live, work, and do business.

At 1.2 million strong, Illinois' small businesses are the heart

across the state, SBDCs, Illinois Procurement Technical Assistance Centers (PTACs), and other regional support centers offer technical assistance, support with access to capital, training and more. Visit dceo.illinois.gov/smallbizassistance/beginhere/sbdc.html for details.

Business License Renewals Due 12/31

Business license renewal applications for calendar year 2024 were sent to all Rolling Meadows-based businesses in October. Please submit completed forms with payment by December 31st.

Applications and payments postmarked after 12/31 will be

considered past due and assessed a late fee that doubles the cost of the annual license. Fees are based on business type and square footage of applicants' premises.

Visit www.cityrm.org/176/Business-Licenses for more information.



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

PRSR STD
 US POSTAGE
 PAID
 PALATINE P&DC
 IL 60095
 PERMIT NO. 2448

CONNECT WITH US

City Manager's Office	847-394-8500
Community Development	847-506-6030
Finance Department	847-394-8500
Fire Department (non-emergency)	847-397-3352
Police Department (non-emergency)	847-255-2416
Public Works Department	847-963-0500

Connect with us at www.cityrm.org or through:  

Northrop Grumman Grant Supports Local Veterans Initiatives

Rolling Meadows salutes Northrop Grumman Corporation for its recent \$4,000 donation in support of local veterans-related initiatives.

This is not the first time Northrop Grumman has supported the City's veterans: previous donations allowed the Rolling Meadows Veterans Committee to purchase a collection box located outside City Hall where residents can deposit their old or worn American flags. Committee members hosted a flag retirement event last summer to ceremonially dispose of the flags that had been collected.



Looking ahead, the Veterans Committee is exploring several ideas for which the new grant funding may prove helpful.

One option being considered is the creation of a structure near the City's Veterans Monument to house the remains of retired American flags.

Thank you, Northrop Grumman, for your continued support.

For information on how to support Veterans Committee and/or other City initiatives, contact Lori Ciezak, Assistant to the City Manager, at ciezakl@cityrm.org or 847-394-8500.

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"The business climate throughout the Chicago metropolitan area has evolved in large part due to the rise of e-commerce and shifting consumer habits," explained Martha Corner, Rolling Meadows' Business Development Manager. "Our goal throughout the strategic planning process has been to evaluate those impacts and

figure out how we, as a city, can support the changing needs of our local business community and the customers they serve."

Corner says the adopted plan will feature an ambitious set of strategies and actions to support the local economy. It will outline specific focus areas, objectives, and strate-

gies for new business attraction while also supporting current business retention/growth throughout the City.

"We are grateful for everyone who participated in the online survey and focus groups. Feedback has been invaluable for developing a plan that meets the needs of our community," Corner added.

Rolling Meadows' Business Development Strategic Plan will be posted online at www.cityrm.org in January 2024. For more information, contact Martha Corner (cornerm@cityrm.org or 847-870-9004).