



## Land Use Study to Analyze Downtown Corridor, Northwest Industrial District

City officials have engaged The Lakota Group, a Chicago-based urban planning and landscape design firm, to conduct a comprehensive study of Rolling Meadows' Kirchoff Road business corridor and northwest industrial district to review potential land uses and guide future development in those areas.

### Promote Future Growth

When completed later this year, the study will help encourage future growth and development in these two zones by:

- Analyzing current land uses and designations,
- Reviewing zoning regulations,
- Offering recommendations

for streetscape improvements and roadway design,

- Developing concepts for the development of vacant and City-owned properties.

### Flexible Planning

Moreover, the study will allow City leaders to analyze trends and changes in commercial sectors that impact economic development strategies. This

ensures that future plans remain flexible and resilient.

### Seek Public Input

Community engagement is an important part of the process. The Lakota Group is developing a series of engagement initiatives to gather public input and insights from community stakeholders.

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## 'State of the City' Networking Breakfast to Highlight Business & Economic Development Updates, May 16th



Mayor Lara Sanoica will headline a program that details Rolling Meadows' business and economic development initiatives during the 19th annual "State of the City" address on Thursday, May 16th.

The breakfast networking event will take place at Rolling Meadows' new Aloft Hotel (3407 W. Algonquin Road), from 7:30 - 9:00 am. It is presented by Meet Chicago Northwest and Aloft. Members

of the public – from local business professionals to residents – are welcome to attend.

Tickets range from \$25 (Rolling Meadows Chamber members) to \$35 (non-members).

Purchase tickets online by scanning the QR code.



For more information, visit [www.rmchamber.org](http://www.rmchamber.org).

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# More Than A Lender

## Meadows-Based Village Bank & Trust Branch Prioritizes Community Engagement & Support

Vlad Vakher estimates he spends around 30% of his week away from the Village Bank & Trust branch he manages at 1635 West Algonquin Road.

That time is spent serving on the boards of local nonprofit organizations, coordinating sponsorship support for community events such as Rolling Meadows' annual Hometown Hoedown, and visiting local companies to conduct complimentary financial workshops that cover a broad range of topics.

### Committed to Rolling Meadows

The bank's overall service approach is built on the idea that there is a need, and a desire, for a true community bank: where tellers know their customers by name; bankers frequent local businesses; and the bank invests in the neighborhood it calls home.

"Village Bank & Trust is a community bank, and we take that commitment to heart," Mr. Vakher explained. "We encourage all our employees – from teller to senior vice president – to get involved. Those

efforts help us become part of the community we serve. They also help us build stronger relationships with current and future clients.

"We are proud to invest in – and give back to – our community," he added.

### Top SBA Lender

Village Bank & Trust enjoys a unique position in the financial marketplace: its focus on local customers is backed by the resources of the Wintrust Financial network, which has been recognized as one of the top Small Business Association (SBA) lenders in the Chicago area.

"I've heard a lot of great business ideas throughout my career that only needed the right kind of financial backing to become reality," Mr. Vakher added. "Providing the capital to help business owners achieve their goals is where we can really help make a difference in the lives of our customers and in our community."

The bank's large niche lending department helps fund busi-



Branch Manager Vlad Vakher (left) leads a team of financial experts who possess nearly 50 years of business banking experience.

nesses in multiple industries – everything from professional services to franchise operations. In addition, employees at the Rolling Meadows branch possess nearly 50 years of combined business banking experience and a solutions-based mindset.

For example, while providing a loan that allowed a customer to purchase a medical practice from her family, the bank was also able to provide guidance on upgrading equipment and managing business operations.

"We are more than a lender. We see ourselves as a business resource," he explained.

### Expanded FDIC Protection

Another Village Bank & Trust customer benefit is the bank's ability to provide up to \$3.75 million\* in Federal Deposit Insurance Corporation (FDIC) coverage – a level 15-times higher than what is offered at other financial institutions.

*\*Editor's Note: standard FDIC coverage throughout the banking industry is limited to \$250,000 per depositor.*

As a Wintrust Community

Bank, Village Bank & Trust is able to spread the customer's risk across the network's 15 area banks, as necessary.

### Community Involvement

Looking ahead, Mr. Vakher and his team plan to continue their community involvement throughout the remainder of 2024. The bank will be a high-profile participant in the City's 4th of July Parade and a major sponsor of this season's Rolling Meadows High School football team. It will also support a variety of events organized by the Park District.

Meanwhile, Mr. Vakher will continue his involvement with the Rolling Meadows Chamber of Commerce and the Young Entrepreneurs Academy, an after-school program that guides students through the process of starting and running real businesses.

"Hopefully, our community involvement helps take the stigma out of banking. We aren't a monolithic financial institution; we're friendly, approachable, and we care about the community where we serve and do business," he said.

"We look forward to helping local business leaders achieve their dreams."



Find Village Bank & Trust's Rolling Meadows branch at 1635 W. Algonquin Road.

Upcoming meetings of Rolling Meadows' Economic Development Committee (EDC) will take place at 6:00 pm at City Hall on the first Tuesday of June, August, October, and December. Community members are welcome to attend. View meeting agendas at [www.cityrm.org/354/Economic-Development-Committee](http://www.cityrm.org/354/Economic-Development-Committee).

Local Eats

Welcome Latest Additions to Local Restaurant Scene

Whether you're grabbing a quick lunch on the go, enjoying breakfast or dinner with colleagues, or entertaining clients, Rolling Meadows restaurants offer exemplary culinary experiences for any mood or taste.

Best of all, the available options keep expanding! Here are two more "local eats" that recently opened their doors.

**Raising Cane's**

Fried Chicken Fingers  
1420 Golf Road  
847-227-0170  
[www.raisingcanes.com](http://www.raisingcanes.com)

**Sayulita Taco, Mariscos, & Tequila Bar**

1655 W. Algonquin Road  
847-258-4200  
[www.sayulitatequilabar.com](http://www.sayulitatequilabar.com)

For a complete listing of Rolling Meadows restaurants, please visit [www.cityrm.org/DocumentCenter/View/2586/Dining-Guide](http://www.cityrm.org/DocumentCenter/View/2586/Dining-Guide).



Community leaders celebrate Sayulita's grand opening during the new restaurant's ceremonial ribbon-cutting.

4th of July Parade Presents High-Profile Marketing Opportunity for Local Businesses

Looking for a way to get your brand in front of thousands of potential customers?

Rolling Meadows' annual Independence Day Parade offers an unmatched opportunity to promote your business.

Simply complete the FREE online parade application ([www.cityrm.org](http://www.cityrm.org)) by June 21st to assure your organization's place in this year's event.



Floats and other specially-decorated vehicles are mainstays of Rolling Meadows' annual Independence Day Parade.

Drive (Rolling Meadows Shopping Center parking lot).

Local businesses and community groups are invited to:

- Build eye-catching floats,
- Decorate cars, trucks, bikes, and other vehicles,
- Assemble a walking crew,
- Hand out candy and other small giveaways,
- BE CREATIVE!

To learn more, contact Dave Whitney at 847-528-6542 or [dcwhitney103@gmail.com](mailto:dcwhitney103@gmail.com).

The 2024 parade route begins at Rolling Meadows High

School and travels west on Central Road, north on Owl

Drive, and east on Kirchoff Road, before ending at Plaza

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"Our goal is to help Rolling Meadows create a downtown for everybody," explained Andy Cross, AICP, Senior Associate with The Lakota Group. "We plan to engage with a diverse group of residents, business leaders, and property owners to better understand

what the 'ideal' downtown means for them, and create a compelling vision that makes a strong case for investment within the community," he added.

The Lakota Group is already quite familiar with Rolling

Meadows. The firm prepared the City's 2006 Comprehensive Plan to guide business and economic development. More recently, it provided landscape design services for Arthur J. Gallagher's corporate headquarters on Golf Road.



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## 'Bites & Beats' Events Offer Opportunities for Local Businesses

Consider it networking, Rolling Meadows-style!

The City's new 'Bites & Beats' event series combines tasty food truck fare and live musical entertainment in the warm, inviting setting of the City's downtown business district.

Monthly events will take place from 4:30 pm – dusk at Community Church of Rolling Meadows (2720 Kirchoff Road) on the fourth Wednesday of each month (May – September).

This latest addition to Rolling Meadows' community events



calendar was designed with local businesses in mind: it's an initiative of the City's Economic Development

Committee. Join the fun and bring your team – or your customers – for an evening of exceptional entertainment!

Adult beverages, courtesy of Rep's Place and Phoenix Flame, will be available for purchase (must be 21-years of age). No outside food or beverages are permitted at these events.

More Bites & Beats information, including a roster of scheduled performers, is posted online at [www.cityrm.org](http://www.cityrm.org) and on the City's social media feeds.

Contact Business Development Manager Martha Corner ([cornerm@cityrm.org](mailto:cornerm@cityrm.org) or 847-870-9004) for further details.

## Regional Accelerator Program Helps Companies Reach 'Next Level'



NextLevel Northwest, a regional business "accelerator" program, offers Rolling Meadows companies an

opportunity to partner with professional business coaches, learn how to overcome challenging business issues, and position themselves for sustained growth in a rapidly changing economy.

Download applications at [www.nextlevelnorthwest.org](http://www.nextlevelnorthwest.org).

To-date, seven Rolling Meadows-based companies have completed the NLNW program.

For more information about the application process, contact Business Development Manager Martha Corner ([cornerm@cityrm.org](mailto:cornerm@cityrm.org) or 847-870-9004).