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Adopt- A-Planter & Sponsor-A-Planter Programs

The City of Highland Park offers two opportunities for businesses to take part in the beautification of our business districts.

The Adopt-A-Planter Program is only open to Highland Park Business and Property Owners in the Central Business District. As an Adopter, you must commit to the summer and fall seasons each year and you are responsible for the provision of plants as well as care and maintenance of the planters. This includes but is not limited to planting, watering and weeding.



[View the Adopt-A-Planter Program Brochure](#)

The Sponsor-A-Planter Program offers community members the opportunity to sponsor an available municipal planter during the summer and fall seasons. An annual fee covers planting, maintenance, and a 5" x 7" commemorative placard in the planter. The placard will recognize the sponsor or an individual or family chosen by the sponsor. Planters are located in the Central Business District and the Ravinia District and are maintained from May to November.

[View The Sponsor-A-Planter Program Brochure](#)

More information is available at cityhpil.com. Please contact the Office of

Sign Up For Business of the Week

Each week a new business is chosen and promoted on [Enjoy Highland Park](#) and on the Enjoy Highland Park [Facebook Page](#), as well as in the *Weekender* eNews, and on the Central Avenue Digital Kiosks, regardless of the business location.

Providing this information is easy. Click [HERE](#) to fill out a brief questionnaire to have your business featured as Business of the Week.

***Don't forget to upload 1-3 high-resolution photos!**

DCEO Office of Minority Economic Empowerment Events

The Illinois Department of Commerce and Economic Opportunity Office of Minority Economic Empowerment is hosting the following events for businesses in Illinois.



Illinois
Department of Commerce
& Economic Opportunity
JB Pritzker, Governor

Online with OMEE - Overview of financial resources for small businesses

Wednesday, February 2

10:00 – 11:00 AM

[Register Here](#)

Is access to capital important to you in your business? The OMEE Business Development Managers invite you to an open online conversation for all OMEE constituents (racial/ethnic minorities, women, persons with disabilities, and veteran-owned businesses as well as all marginalized communities such as Arab, LGBTQIA+, etc.) regarding financial resources. Information will be provided on the latest updates on federal and state programs, as well as Q&A in English and Spanish.

Emergency Declaration Extended

Following robust discussion and public feedback, the majority of the City Council approved the continuation of the City's emergency declaration and the temporary supplemental order requiring [proof of COVID-19 vaccination](#) for individuals dining in establishments offering on-premises dining through the next City Council meeting on February 14, 2022.

Mayor Rotering and City Council discussed the importance of protecting the

public health of the greater community. Mayor Rotering underscored that this is a public health measure intended to minimize the harm caused by COVID-19 to our community. While this temporary measure is in effect, individuals dining in at restaurants and other businesses offering on-premises dining will continue to be asked to show proof of COVID-19 vaccination, with certain exceptions. This is because restaurants are indoor public spaces where masks must be removed, as [masks have been shown to slow the spread of COVID-19](#). Individuals who have been vaccinated against COVID-19 are [far less likely](#) to require hospitalization and intensive care than those who are unvaccinated, and preventing [strain on our healthcare system is a public health priority](#) during the omicron wave. This temporary measure is intended to reduce the opportunity for COVID-19 to spread in a generally unmasked, public indoor setting, thereby protecting individuals who are not vaccinated and working to avoid overwhelming our hospitals and limiting everyone's access to emergency and elective care.

Individuals who are visiting a restaurant for less than ten minutes (for example, to pick up a carryout order) do not need to show proof of vaccination. Individuals who have previously received a medical exemption are exempt from compliance with this requirement, provided they also provide proof of the medical exemption received and a negative COVID-19 test administered by a medical professional within the prior 24 hours. Learn more about this temporary requirement [here](#).

The matter will be reviewed again at the February 14, 2022 City Council meeting.

If you have any questions or concerns about the mandate, please contact the City Manager's Office at cityhp@cityhpil.com, or call 847.926.1000.

[Download a flyer to print and post at the entrance of your business here.](#)

[Download a flyer to print and post for your employees' information here.](#)

Meet With A Small Business Advisor Through SBDC Illinois

[Illinois Small Business Development & International Trade Center](#) offers confidential, no-cost, one-on-one virtual advising sessions.

To schedule a meeting click [HERE](#)



INTERNATIONAL TRADE CENTER

SCORE Mentoring at the Highland Park Public Library & Free Webinars

SCORE offers in-person or virtual sessions using phone, email, or video



All sessions are free and confidential. SCORE mentors are successful business professionals, some retired, some working, from all industries and experiences.

Visit northchicago.score.org and register to “Find a Mentor”. You will be asked to provide the nature of your business interest. Please include whether you prefer in-person or virtual mentoring (phone, email, video) and note, the **Highland Park Public Library** even if you prefer a virtual session.

Increasing Sales Without Adding a Salesperson

Wednesday, February 9

6:30 - 7:30 PM

[More Info and Registration](#)

Upcoming SCORE Webinars

Highland Park Career Exploration Program

Interested in sharing your profession with a high school student exploring their career options? The Highland Park Career Exploration program (HPCE) provides students with the opportunity to gain valuable insights into a potential career path and goals. Students are matched and meet with professionals to discuss career aspirations, work initiatives, and other professional inquiries.

**Learn more about
HPCE**

Get Hired Illinois

The State of Illinois has launched [Get Hired Illinois](#) to connect job seekers with employers and training opportunities as well as employers who are looking to fill open positions with available workers. Visit [GetHired \(illinois.gov\)](#) for more information.



Additional Resources

[Available Commercial Space](#)

[Illinois Department of Commerce &](#)

[Business Directory](#)

[Establishing Your Business](#)

[Chamber Of Commerce](#)

[SCORE](#)

[U.S. Small Business Administration](#)

[Job Center of Lake County -
Business Services](#)

[Economic Opportunity](#)

[Lake County Health Department](#)

[NorthShore University
HealthSystem](#)

[Illinois Department of Public Health](#)

[Centers for Disease Control and
Prevention](#)

For general business inquiries, contact the City's Business Development Manager Carolyn Hersch at chersch@cityhpil.com.

For more information on the City's response to COVID-19, contact the City's Communications Manager Amanda Civitello at acivitello@cityhpil.com.

This newsletter is produced by the City of Highland Park's Office of Business Development. If you have information you would like to include in this weekly mailing, please submit information, photos, and news to Melissa Rosen at mrosen@cityhpil.com. The City reserves the right to edit and/or filter submissions. No pricing information will be published.

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