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Halloween Happenings During Spooky Season



Halloween is right around the corner, and there's a lot of fun to be had in Highland Park this spooky season. If your business is planning a Halloween event, it's not too late to get in on the fun. Please [let us know](#) what you're planning. [Visit Enjoy Highland Park](#) to view the current schedule of events.

Holiday Tree Light Installation - Ravinia District

The City's holiday tree lighting contractor will be working in the Ravinia Business District over the next week. This work is done on behalf of the City and will be completed at night to minimize disruption to businesses and traffic in the work area. Please contact Ben Miller, City Forester, at 847.926.1179 or bmiller@cityhpil.com with any questions.

The Lot 2.0 Design Concept Feedback



Last chance to participate in the virtual open house for The Lot!

Visit DesignTheLot.com to explore five distinct concept designs for the potential permanent buildout of a park-like event space in Downtown Highland Park. These designs were crafted based on valuable feedback gathered from stakeholder conversations and previous pop-up events, some of which you might have participated in. Each concept includes a short video introduction explaining the features of the design, followed by a short series of questions. [Your input](#) on these five design concepts is crucial.

Don't miss this chance to shape the future of Highland Park's downtown. Design The Lot by sharing your feedback on the design concepts!

Design The Lot by sharing your feedback on the design concepts!

November 3: Stews & Brews at The Lot



We can't wait for Stews & Brews (and Blues) at [The Lot](#) on Friday, November 3, from 5-9 PM. Wrapping up the 2023 season, come join us for this perfect fall-weather event. Fun for all ages, this free event is not your ordinary chili fest or craft beer fest. Attendees will enjoy an array of cold-weather comfort foods while cozying up around warm fire pits and heaters. Think chili, pozole, lamb stew, beef stroganoff, Hungarian goulash, potpies, soups and brews including creative coffees and cocoas, craft beers, spiced wine, hot toddies, mulled ciders and more!

The following Chicago Blues Bands will be performing, [Win Noll & The Rockin' Souls](#) (5-6:40 PM) and [The Ivy Ford Band](#) (7-9 PM).

Participating Highland Park restaurants include: [BWB Shakes](#), [Cafe Dacha](#), [Kabul Kabob](#), [Max's Deli](#), [Michael's Grill & Salad Bar](#), [Pixca](#), [Ravinia Brewing Company](#), and [Tamales](#).

Events at The Lot are presented by the City of Highland Park with the generous support of: [Porsche Audi Exchange](#), [First Bank of Highland Park](#), [Highland Park Bank & Trust](#), [Scott Byron & Co.](#), [Highland Park Community Foundation](#), [Sunset Foods](#), [Walled Lake Planning & Wealth Management](#), [Wayfarer Theaters](#), [Baird & Warner](#), [Gearhead Outfitters](#), [Mariani Landscape](#), and [PromptMed Urgent Care](#).

525 Central Ave. / Enter at St. Johns Ave. & Park Ave.

Facade Grants Available to Eligible Small Businesses

The City of Highland Park's Small Business Facade Improvement Program (SBFIP) provides assistance and

incentive to commercial property owners and local businesses within commercial business districts to improve the appearance and functionality of their property and place of business. The SBFIP is available for small business operators and commercial property owners citywide. Eligible owners of commercial/retail buildings and small business owners operating



within a commercial/retail building may apply for a City grant that may reimburse up to 50% of the approved eligible improvement(s) to a maximum of \$5,000 per project. A small business is defined as having a net worth of less than two million dollars, and as showing less than an average of two hundred thousand dollars in profit per year for two years after taxes. The following are a few examples of eligible expenses:

- Installing new awnings/signage
- Replacing, repainting, or restoring exterior doors
- Repairing or upgrading exterior lighting
- Painting building exterior

Small Business Facade Improvement Grant Program

Women's Business Month Resources



The Illinois Department of Commerce & Economic Opportunity (DCEO) is honored to continue celebrating, connecting, and advancing women-owned businesses and future women entrepreneurs. Throughout October during National Women's Business Month, DCEO is hosting events, uplifting businesses, and elevating business resources to strengthen women-owned businesses throughout the state.



Link to Resources for Women in Business

Illinois EPA : Electric Vehicle Rebate Program Funding



Illinois EPA Electric Vehicle Rebate Program Funding

[The Illinois Environmental Protection Agency](#) (Illinois EPA) is announcing that the next funding round for Illinois' Electric Vehicle (EV) Rebate Program will open Wednesday, November 1, 2023, and run through Wednesday, January 31, 2024. Individuals who purchase a new or used all-electric vehicle from an Illinois licensed dealer, meet all other eligibility requirements, and apply during the rebate cycle will be eligible for a rebate as long as funds are available. Form and submission instructions for rebate application will be available on the Electric Vehicle Rebate Program webpage on October 18, 2023. Questions about the EV Rebate Program may be submitted to EPA.EV@Illinois.gov.

Small Business Development Center: No-Cost Business Counseling



[Small Business Development Centers](#) (SBDC) are located throughout the state and provide information, confidential business guidance, training, and other free resources for start-ups and existing small businesses. If you need help with a business plan, marketing, financial bookkeeping, finding grants, starting and growing a business, click [HERE](#). To find a Center near you, click [HERE](#). Please note that many SBDCs do provide Spanish assistance. If you need help finding an SBDC that provides Spanish assistance, please contact Diana Alfaro at diana.alfaro@illinois.gov.

Community Navigator Business Support Program

[Community Navigators](#) is a support program to assist small businesses, particularly minority, women, rural, and veteran-owned businesses. They provide outreach to raise awareness on federal and state programs, and provide 1:1 technical assistance, etc. For more information, please click [HERE](#).

Hello Alice Small Business Grant Program



Discover small business grants for every stage of your small business adventure. Grant opportunities are recommended based on your unique profile and delivered to your inbox weekly. The search for free money doesn't get any easier! In partnership with the Global Entrepreneurship Network (GEN) and with funding from Etsy and Progressive, [Hello Alice](#) is a free online platform that helps businesses launch and grow through every step of their entrepreneurial journey. The Small Business Growth Fund provides small business owners with knowledge, funding, networking opportunities, and peer-to-peer connections with more than one million small business owners.

[Learn about Hello Alice funding opportunities.](#)

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.



SCORE recently added a new [YouTube channel](#) where all previously recorded webinars can be accessed.

To schedule an in-person or virtual session, visit score.org/northchicago 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.

Contacting the Office of Business Development

This newsletter is produced by the City of Highland Park's Office of Business Development. The City encourages business owners and managers to share information regarding upcoming events, promotions or news for possible inclusion in the City's marketing modalities, including [The Weekender](#), [Enjoy Highland Park](#), and [social media](#). Please send these items to the City via email to: businessdevelopment@cityhpil.com. The City reserves the right to edit and/or filter submissions.

For general business inquiries and assistance, contact Business Development Manager Carolyn Hersch at chersch@cityhpil.com or 847.926.1027.

Additional Resources

[Available Commercial Space](#)

[Business Directory](#)

[City of Highland Park Business Development Strategic Plan](#)

[Chamber Of Commerce](#)

[College of Lake County Small Business Development Center](#)

[Hello Alice](#)

[SCORE](#)

[SCORE YouTube Channel](#)

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

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

[Illinois Department of Commerce & Economic Opportunity:](#)

- [Small Business Development Centers of Illinois](#)
- [Community Navigator Business Support Program](#)
- [Grant Opportunities](#)

[Visit Lake County](#)

[Women-in-Business Resources](#)

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