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Welcome New Business: In Home Caregivers



[In Home Caregivers](#) is an independent home health care agency helping to improve the quality of life for those who need special assistance at home. Special services include nursing care, concierge services, and retrofitting services for seniors and physically challenged individuals.

Business of the Week: Mizrahi Grill



Since 2009, [Mizrahi Grill](#) has been serving authentic Mediterranean family recipes passed down through generations. Known for its delicious shawarma sandwiches, all meat is raised in a hormone-free environment and certified Kosher after a thorough inspection. All recipes are made using the freshest of ingredients and spices such as cardamom, coriander, cumin, and turmeric – which also contain incredible health benefits. Dine in, take your food to go, or have Mizrahi Grill cater your next special event. Gluten-free menu options are also available.

215 Skokie Valley Road / 847.831.1400 / [Mizrahi Grill](#)

Solo Cup Property Update

The City has been made aware that ownership of the former Solo Cup property (1700 Old Deerfield Rd) is pursuing participation in a tax program under the Illinois Forestry Development Act (35 ILCS 200/10-150). This is a temporary action while ownership evaluates options for the future and pursues any required entitlements for ultimate development. **Please note that no development plans are currently approved, in possession, or under review by the City.** As part of the terms of the program, ownership is required to restrict all unauthorized use of the property during the length of their participation. This includes prohibiting all neighbor use and access of the property. As early as next week, access restrictions will be going into effect, with fencing being placed around the property. The length of the property's

participation in this program and related access restrictions is unknown at this time. **Please be aware that this program is administered by the State, along with the County, and the City has no role or approval authority in the program.** We are aware that this may affect some of the daily routines of the residents and businesses in this area and will continue to share updates when they are made available to the City.

Phishing Scam: ComEd

The City received a report about a recent phishing phone scam related to ComEd. A business owner in our community reported a phone call from an individual stating that their electricity would be shut off at a specific time and date due to nonpayment. After being instructed to call 1-800-287-1735, the business owner reached a supposed customer service representative and was asked to provide personal information and place a check in one of many drop boxes located throughout Highland Park. To help protect customers from scams ComEd provides many resources to assist in identifying if a call, email, or letter is legitimate or not. [Here is a link to the resource page](#) which is also available by visiting the [ComEd website](#) and typing “scam” in the search section.

\$175 Million Available in Back to Business (B2B) Grants for Creative Arts, Hotels, & Restaurants



Governor JB Pritzker and the Illinois Department of Commerce and Economic Opportunity (DCEO) announced \$175 million in available [grant funding](#) through the Back to Business (B2B) program for restaurants, hotels, and creative arts businesses. Applications will be accepted from April 5 through May 10 and take approximately two hours to complete. Awards are expected to be made several weeks after the deadline date. All eligible applicants will receive a grant as long as the business meets eligibility requirements and submits proper documentation and attestations. [Program information available here](#). Upcoming webinars are listed below.

Statewide DCEO English-Language Webinars:

- [Thursday, March 30, 2023, 10:00 - 11:00 AM](#)
- [Thursday, April 6, 2023, 2:00 - 3:00 PM](#)

Spanish-Language Webinar:

Subvenciones Back to Business (B2B por sus siglas en inglés) para restaurantes, hoteles, y empresas de artes creativas

- **Jueves, 30 de marzo de 11am - [Regístrese aquí](#)**

For more information and questions, please contact:

Mitch Bienvenue, Director, Illinois Small Business Development & International Trade Center College of Lake County
847.543.2750 / mbienvenue@clcollinois.edu

Agnes Masnik, Northeast Regional Manager, Office of Regional Economic Development Illinois Department of Commerce & Economic Opportunity University Center of Lake County
312.882.6840 / Agnes.Masnik@illinois.gov / www.illinois.gov/dceo

SSBCI Funding to Support Small Businesses



Illinois Department of Commerce & Economic Opportunity

JB Pritzker, Governor

The U.S. Department of the Treasury announced that Illinois will receive up to \$354.6 million to administer programs as part of the State Small Business Credit Initiative (SSBCI). The expanded program offering through SSBCI will enable Illinois to support small businesses across the state - helping them attract more capital investment and expand or launch business operations, while supporting key sectors. All of the new programs will launch in the coming months.

- **Advantage Illinois (AI) Loan Guarantee Program (New Program)**
Advantage Illinois' new Loan Guarantee Program will support business applicants who are having difficulty gaining access to capital by using funds to guarantee a percentage of loans provided by partner lenders.
- **IN-VENT Venture Capital Program (VCP) (New Program)**
Innovation Venture Fund (IN-VENT) will operate as a direct equity program with a focus on investing in businesses in key industries such as agriculture, ag tech, information technology, life sciences, manufacturing, quantum, and more.
- **Climate Bank Finance Loan Participation Program (New Program)**
This new program will be overseen by DCEO and administered by the Illinois Finance Authority (IFA), which will partner with local lenders to issue the loans. Climate Bank funds will be available to small businesses in the clean energy sector.

To receive program updates, please fill out the following form.

[Link to Program Interest](#)

Facade Grants Available to Eligible Small Businesses

The City of Highland Park's Small Business Facade Improvement Program (SBFIP) provides assistance and incentive to property owners and local businesses 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

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.

Upcoming SCORE Webinars

Contacting the 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.

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

Questions regarding enjoyhighlandpark.com should be addressed to Amanda Bennett, Communications Manager, at abennett@cityhpil.com.

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](#)

[SCORE](#)

[SCORE YouTube Channel](#)

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

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

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

[Visit Lake County](#)

[Women-in-Business Resources](#)

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 businessdevelopment@cityhpil.com. The City reserves the right to

edit and/or filter submissions.

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