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Welcome New Business: ATELIER by elliestyled



[ATELIER by ellistyled](#) recently opened in Downtown Highland Park. Operating as the design and production space for ellistyled, an event planning and styling company, you can view and shop their rental inventory that's on display and book ATELIER for your own private event starting in June. Stay tuned for workshops, pop ups, and special events at ATELIER in the very near future!

1900 Sheridan Road / 847.664.9370 / [ATELIER by ellistyled](#)

Food Truck Thursdays



Mark your calendars: [Food Truck Thursdays](#) returns to the [Ravinia District](#) this summer June 1 through September 21 at Jens Jensen Park! In just two weeks, we'll be savoring fresh flavors from a variety of food trucks, enjoying warm summer evenings, and dancing to great music every Thursday night, 4:30 PM to dusk in the Ravinia District!

Business of the Week: Koi & More Pond Shop



[Koi & More Pond Shop](#) is your neighborhood pond supply shop that deals with anything pond, fountain, and water garden related. Whether you're a first-time ponder or an avid hobbyist, you'll discover a full line of premium aquatic products to keep your fish healthy and your pond clean. Are you looking to build your first pond? Koi & More Pond Shop has a partnership with The Saer Company to offer you a truly personalized pond experience, from new pond construction and pond repair to maintenance, vacation services, and koi and pond health.

3150 Skokie Valley Road / 847.432.1350 / [Koi & More Pond Shop](#)

The Lot: 2023 Season Lineup



We're thrilled to announce the broad entertainment lineup for featured events at [The Lot](#), the City's alfresco dining and entertainment destination! From national headliners to North Shore favorites, classic rock to yacht rock, DJs to a cappella, there's something for everyone on stage at The Lot this summer!

[View the season
lineup](#)

Pride Month: Business Celebrations and Happenings



Every year during the month of June, the LGBTQ+ community celebrates in a number of different ways. Please let us know if your business is hosting or

participating in any Pride Month promotions so we can share the news. Send your information via email to: businessdevelopment@cityhpil.com.

Highland Park Composts: Program for Businesses and Local Restaurants



Did you know the City of Highland Park has a dedicated composting program for businesses and local restaurants? [Highland Park Composts](#) is a collaboration between The City of Highland Park, the Solid Waste Agency of Lake County (SWALCO), and LRS to support the implementation of food scrap composting at local restaurants and businesses. Local businesses and restaurants who are interested in signing up for this program should email: cityhp@cityhpil.com.

[Learn more about Curbside Composting Services](#)

Sponsor-A-Planter Program



The [Sponsor-A-Planter Program](#) offers residents and businesses 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 may recognize the sponsor or honor an individual or family. Planters are located in the Central Business District and the Ravinia District and are maintained from May to November.

More information is available at cityhpil.com. Please contact the Office of Business Development at 847.926.1046 with questions.

[View the Sponsor-A-Planter brochure here.](#)

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

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 Form](#)

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](#)

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

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

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

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

[Visit Lake County](#)

[SCORE](#)

[Women-in-Business Resources](#)

[SCORE YouTube Channel](#)

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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