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Welcome New Business: Cansino's Pizzeria & Restaurant



[Cansino's Pizzeria & Restaurant](#) is a family-owned restaurant with more than 25 years of experience. Open seven days a week for breakfast, lunch, and dinner, their menu includes breakfast specials, salads, fajitas, pizza, sandwiches, and more. With a promise to use only the freshest ingredients in their kitchen, Cansino's also offers catering services for your next special

event.

496 Old Elm Road / 847.430.4530 / [Cansino's Pizzeria & Restaurant](#)

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 five 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: New Balance



Established in 1995 and under new ownership as of 2022, [New Balance Athletics](#) sells athletic shoes, apparel and accessories. With more than 10,000 pairs of shoes in their inventory, and a full range of widths from extra-narrow to extra-wide, their experienced fit technicians can accurately fit all types and sizes of feet.

610 Central Avenue #169 / 847.266.8323 / [New Balance Athletics](#)

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 commemorate 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](#)

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



Illinois Department of Commerce & Economic Opportunity

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.](#)

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 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](#)

[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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