



City of Highland Park Business Development eNews

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Welcome New Business: Open Flow Acupuncture



[Open Flow Acupuncture](#) business owner David Derdiger has dedicated his career to the practices of eastern medicine for over a decade. After graduating in 2014 with a Masters of Acupuncture and Oriental Medicine (MAcOM), David worked in Seattle as a private practitioner and a community-style acupuncturist. David then moved to Taiwan and spent two years learning Mandarin so he could intern with two Chinese Medicine physicians in Beijing.

Since returning from Asia, he has worked in various settings on the North Shore and in Chicago. With 10 years of experience, he decided to establish his own practice in Highland Park to bring balance to the residents of Highland Park with various natural healing services including: acupuncture, cupping & guasha, herbal medicine consults, and private Qigong instruction.

1855 Deerfield Road / 224.833.8033 / openflowacupuncture.com

ComEd Electric Vehicle Rebates for Businesses



Making your
electric vehicle future
more affordable.

[ComEd](#) has launched two EV initiatives aimed at eliminating barriers to EV adoption, improving charging accessibility, and advancing the goal of widespread transportation electrification, as outlined in the state's Climate and Equitable Jobs Act (CEJA). ComEd's programs target businesses and public sector customers. [Electric Vehicle Rebates](#) range from \$5,000 to \$180,000, applicable to the purchase of electric fleet vehicles across light, medium, and heavy-duty categories, as well as transit and school buses. The ["Make-Ready" Electrical Infrastructure Rebates](#) provide up to \$8,000 per port for installing Level 2 EV chargers and up to \$1,000 per kW for Direct Current Fast Chargers (DCFCs).

In addition to [ComEd's](#) incentives, the [Illinois Environmental Protection Agency](#) and the federal government are offering incentives to make electric vehicles an affordable option that can bring long-term cost savings to your business. Look into these incentives to see if you can qualify:

- [Illinois Electric Vehicle Rebate Program](#)
- [Federal Tax Credit for New & Used Electric Vehicles](#)

Reach out to Katherine Flesher, City of Highland Park Sustainability Specialist, at kflesher@cityhpil.com or **847.926.1037** for more information on sustainable and green business initiatives available in Highland Park.

Second Street Sidewalk Construction Commences

The Second Street Improvements Project is now in progress. Construction has started on the east side of the road near the intersection of Second Street and Elm Place with the removal of all infrastructure pertaining to the sidewalk and roadway.

Construction will continue southward through the area towards the intersection of Second Street and Central Avenue. Parking on the east side of the street is not available during this project. One lane of traffic will remain accessible for the duration of the project; traffic flow is southbound only from Elm Place to Central Ave. Starting the week of May 29, on-street parking on the east side of the street will not be available. However, one lane of traffic will remain accessible for the duration of the project.



Access will continue to be available to all businesses located on Second Street for the duration of the project. Please be aware a dedicated pedestrian walkway will be in place by early next week as will additional signage for impacted businesses on the east side of the street. Temporary 15-minute parking spaces are available in the now-open Second Street Parking Lot for patrons to utilize when visiting businesses for short-term pick-ups. The Second Street Parking Lot will be closed next week overnight Wednesday (6/5) into Thursday and Friday (6/6-6/7) for sewer work, related to the infrastructure project, taking place in the right-of-way.

All construction will take place during normal construction hours, Monday thru Friday, 7AM – 7PM, with potential work taking place on Saturdays, 9AM – 5PM, no work on Sunday or holidays. The tentative completion date of this project is scheduled to be in late August 2024.

Improvements include:

- Widening of the sidewalk with the inclusion of brick pavers on the east side of the street
- Creation of bump-outs to allow for more outdoor dining access on the east side of the street
- New LED street/pedestrian lighting
- Storm sewer upgrades
- New asphalt pavement to include pavement markings

The City will continue to provide more updates as the work continues. Please visit the City's [Capital Improvement Program](#) page for more information related to the Second Street Project and other projects taking place in the Central Business District.

If your business has any questions specific to this project, please contact Ashley Palbitska, Assistant to the City Manager at **847.926.1034** or apalbitska@cityhpil.com.

Phase 1 Work Underway in Central Business District Resurfacing Project

The Central Business District Resurfacing Project is currently underway. Phase 1, slated for completion by June 28, 2024, involves concrete cutting, removal, and replacement, along with the pouring of concrete foundations for new pedestrian signals.

Aligned with the City's Capital Improvement Plan, this project aims to enhance the Central Business District by rejuvenating streets and improving pedestrian access. Below is a roster of streets affected by this project:

- Elm Place (Green Bay Road to St Johns Avenue)
- Green Bay Road (Elm Place to Laurel Avenue)
- Central Avenue (Green Bay Road to Linden Avenue)
- Laurel Avenue (Green Bay Road to St Johns Avenue)
- Second Street (Central Avenue to Laurel Avenue)
- First Street (Green Bay Road to Laurel Avenue)
- St Johns (Elm Place to Laurel Avenue)
- Sheridan Road (Elm Place to Central Avenue)



To minimize disruption to local businesses and parking, the majority of the work will be conducted during night hours, from 9 PM (evening) to 6 AM (morning), Monday through Friday (extending into Saturday morning).

Phase 2 activities are slated to commence on July 8, 2024, strategically avoiding overlap with the City's Independence Day events. This phase will encompass all asphalt-related tasks, including the grinding down of current asphalt and the installation of new asphalt. Phase 2 is projected to conclude tentatively at the beginning of September.

For updates on this project and other capital improvement projects visit the [City's Capital Improvements Program dashboard](#).

If your business has any questions specific to the project, please contact Ashley Palbitska, Assistant to the City Manager, at **847.926.1034** or apalbitska@cityhpil.com.

Food Truck Thursdays Return



Mark your calendars: [Food Truck Thursdays](#) return to the Ravinia District on June 6 at Jens Jensen Park! Enjoy live music from Despina Pafalides, a Bluegrass duo, and La Tosca Italian Mambo Ensemble, a jazz and folk collective while you sample delicious offerings from a variety of food trucks and libations available in the park from [Abigail's](#) and [Ravinia Brewing Company](#).

Featuring over a dozen rotating food trucks and live music, [Food Truck Thursdays](#) continue weekly through September 26, 4:30 PM til dusk in the Ravinia District.

If you are interested in participating as a food truck vendor, please contact [Besnidoun USA](#) at: bensidounmarkets@gmail.com.

Expand Your Customer Reach at the French Market

Are you looking for opportunities to expand your business's reach?

Participate in the [French Market](#) this summer! Every Sunday from June 9 to September 29 at 525 Central Avenue (enter at St. Johns Avenue and Park), local businesses, non-profits, and community organizations can showcase their products and wares.

Here is how a local business or organization can participate:

Promote your business. While you won't be able to sell at the market, you can attend for free up to three times per season, directing visitors to your brick-and-mortar location. Bring your own table and chairs for setup.

Sell as a [vendor](#). Showcase your products or services to your target audience while enjoying a 50% discount on your first day. Learn more on more becoming a vendor [here](#).

Local chambers, non-profit organizations, and business associations are encouraged to attend to promote downtown businesses and events. Open air space is provided, with the option to bring a canopy.

Don't miss out on this opportunity to engage with your community and expand your reach. Apply now as a vendor [here](#).

Highland Park Chamber Seeks Vendors for Sidewalk Sale



The Highland Park Chamber has announced the dates for the the largest shopping event of the year: [Highland Park Summer Sidewalk Sale](#).

On Friday, July 26 and Saturday, July 27 from 10:00 AM to 5:00 PM, businesses will line the sidewalks of the Central Business District with unique

and beautiful finds! The event sheds a spotlight on many of the Highland Park's local shops, vendors, and artists alongside outside vendors.

To learn more about the event including costs, sponsorship information, and to sign up as a vendor, [click here](#).

- The deadline for vendor registrations is July 1, 2024.
- Businesses in Highland Park, outside of Highland Park, not-for-profits, and students are welcome.

Participate in the Independence Day Parade



The City of Highland Park and the Park District of Highland Park invite all community members and businesses to participate in the [2024 Independence Day Parade](#). **Applications have been extended through Friday, June 7!**

The parade begins at 1 PM on July 4 with a new parade route. This year's parade theme, ["Sweet Home Highland Park,"](#) invites residents and business owners to showcase their love for Highland Park with festive decor.

To participate:

- Complete the [parade application form](#) and submit the appropriate fee
 - No applications will be accepted after Friday, June 7, 2024
 - Applications will be accepted on a first-come, first-served basis.
- The parade is open to Highland Park residents, Highland Park businesses, or non-profit organizations serving Highland Park residents
- No refunds of entry fees will be granted after June 7, or due to inclement weather on the day of the parade

For more information, visit the City's [website](#).

Exterior Improvement Grant Program

The City's [Exterior Improvement Grant Program](#) is designed to provide both assistance and encouragement to commercial property owners and sales-tax-generating local businesses citywide to improve their storefronts' appearance and functionality. The program has the following key features:

- The cost of eligible improvements is shared equally between the applicant and the City.
- The maximum grant is 50% of the project cost up to \$20,000 per year for up to five consecutive years or a total of \$100,000; however, a grant for the same improvement would not be considered within the same five-year period.
- The eligible improvements must be visible from the right-of-way.

The annual program budget is \$100,000 and is available on a first-come, first-served basis.

The program is an excellent opportunity for local businesses and property owners to revamp their storefronts, enhance their appeal, and lessen the financial burden. Please visit [Exterior Improvement Grant Program](#) to learn more and download the [application](#).

If you have questions about the program, please contact Business Development Specialist Angela Shaffer at **847.926.1008** or ashaffer@cityhpil.com.

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](#).

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 the Business Development Team:

- Manager, Carolyn Hersch at chersch@cityhpil.com or 847.926.1027
- Specialist, Corey Cohn at ccohn@cityhpil.com or 847.926.1046
- Specialist, Angela Shaffer at ashaffer@cityhpil.com or 847.926.1008

To learn more about the [Business Development Economic Advisory Group \(BEDAG\)](#), which supports community programs that promote City business and economic development, visit the City's [website](#).

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](#)

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