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## Welcome New Business: GMM Nails



Please give a warm welcome to newly-opened business [GMM Nails](#). With

more than 10 years of experience, GMM Nails offers manicures, pedicures, and natural nails. They use organic, non-toxic products for spa pedicures, ensuring quick-dry service.

614 Laurel Avenue / 847.433.8744 / [GMM Nails](#)

## Online Payments Temporarily Disabled May 24 - June 6

The City's online payment system for licensing will be temporarily disabled starting May 24, 2023 at 4PM through June 6, 2023 at 8AM, as part of the City's implementation of new computer software. During this time, all license online payments will be unavailable. Payments are not accepted over the phone. Payments can be made by mail or drop box, located in the parking lot adjacent to City Hall. Please contact the City Manager's Office at 847.926.1000 or [cityhp@cityhpil.com](mailto:cityhp@cityhpil.com) for more information.

## Business Alert: St. Johns North Parking Lot Closure June 5 - June 8

On Monday, June 5 through Thursday, June 8, the entire [St. Johns North parking lot](#) at 525 Central Avenue will be unavailable for parking due to maintenance. The north end of the parking lot will be open for parking again on Friday, June 9.

Alternative parking may be found at the following locations:

- St. Johns Avenue between Central and Elm Place (2 hour parking limit will not be enforced)
- Lot Six located on St. Johns Avenue between Central & Laurel

[Access the City parking maps](#)

## Food Truck Thursdays



Kick off a fantastic summer at the first [Food Truck Thursday](#) of the season in the [Ravinia District](#). Featuring over a dozen food trucks and live music from folk-pop duo Jay O'Brien and Allison Zabelin and hot house swing band Bowmanville, Food Truck Thursdays begins June 1, and continues weekly through September 21, 4:30 PM til dusk.

## **Business of the Week: Tamales...A Mexican Joint**





[Tamales...A Mexican Joint](#) has been a cornerstone of the Highland Park community for 25+ years. Recognized for their modern interpretation of classic dishes using high-quality fresh ingredients, they are known for serving some of the best Mexican food and margaritas on the North Shore. Whether dining with a date, friends, or the whole family, the atmosphere is relaxed, casual, and welcoming for all.

493 Central Ave. / 847.433.4070 / [Tamales...A Mexican Joint](#)

## 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!

#### Season Lineup:

- **Vintage Market:** June 11, 11 AM - 4 PM
- **Taste of Highland Park:** June 23, 5 - 10 PM & June 24, 12 - 10 PM
- **Bitter Jester Music Fest:** June 25, 12 - 8 PM
- **Artisan Market:** July 2 - September 24, Sundays at 10 AM - 3 PM
- **World Music and Food Fest** July 15, 12 - 10 PM
- **Vintage Car Show:** September 9, 12 - 4 PM
- **Oktoberfest:** September 30, 12 -10 PM
- **Vintage Market:** October 8, 11 AM - 4 PM
- **Stews & Brews and Blues:** October 13 & 14, 5 - 9 PM

[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](mailto: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](mailto: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](http://cityhpil.com). Please contact the Office of Business Development at 847.926.1046 with questions.

View the Sponsor-A-Planter brochure here.

## 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](https://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](mailto:businessdevelopment@cityhpil.com).

For general business inquiries and assistance, contact Business Development Manager Carolyn Hersch at [chersch@cityhpil.com](mailto:chersch@cityhpil.com) or 847.926.1027.

Questions regarding [enjoyhighlandpark.com](https://enjoyhighlandpark.com) should be addressed to Amanda Bennett, Communications Manager, at [abennett@cityhpil.com](mailto: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](mailto:businessdevelopment@cityhpil.com). The City reserves the right to

edit and/or filter submissions.

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