

## In This Issue...

- Hello Alice Small Business Grant Program
- Business of the Week: Senseworks
- July 4: Fencing Set-up and Road Closures
- July 4: 2023 Events
- The Lot: Artisan Market, Sundays July 2 - September 24
- Food Truck Thursdays
- Sponsor-A-Planter Program
- Online Payments Temporarily Disabled until July 18
- SSBCI Funding to Support Small Businesses
- SCORE Mentoring & Webinars
- Contacting the Office of Business Development

## Hello Alice Small Business Grant Program



Apply for \$500,000 - \$25,000 for your small business! 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. **Applications close on Friday, July 21 at 6pm ET.**

To be eligible, applicants must be a for-profit business with less than \$1 million in 2022 gross annual revenue and reside in one of the 50 United States, Puerto Rico, or the District of Columbia. For complete program guidelines and application instructions, see the [Hello Alice website](#).

[Link to complete RFP](#)

## Business of the Week: Senseworks



Transform your home with [Senseworks](#), the North Shore's luxury home entertainment and automation architects. Since 2005, Senseworks has provided custom design and installation of integrated systems including whole house music and home theater, high-speed wired and wireless networks, and Smart Home technologies including lighting, climate and home surveillance management. Senseworks is an authorized Sonos and Control4 dealer. Free consultations are available.

1954 First Street, Suite 370 / 773.661.1539 / [Senseworks](#)

## July 4th: Fencing Set-up and Road Closures



Set up for July 4 events will begin in the Central Business District on Monday, July 3 and continue through Tuesday, July 4. Staging of materials including security fencing will begin as early as overnight July 2. Placement of fencing will begin on July 3 close to City Hall and throughout the Community Walk

route on portions of St. Johns and Central, with final assembly in the morning of July 4. When fully set-up on the morning of July 4, fencing will be installed on the sidewalks between storefronts and the garden beds on Central Avenue and on the street at the curb line along St. Johns. Pedestrian access to businesses will not be restricted at any time. While sidewalks will remain open, we are asking those businesses with outdoor materials such as A-frame signs or outdoor dining set-ups along the designated route to bring inside or secure along your building any setups not in use by your business on July 4. Pedestrian access must be maintained along the sidewalk at all times. All security fencing will be removed on the afternoon of July 4.

As a reminder, street closures in the area will begin at 4:00am on the morning of July 4 with an anticipated opening at or around 2:00pm same day. The road closure route includes Central Avenue between St. Johns and Sunset Road and St. Johns between Elm Place and Laurel Avenue. Please refer to the [event maps found online](#) for more information.

The cross streets in this area will also have restricted access; please note closure points on the map.

Opt in to receive day-of notifications in the event of an emergency, such as severe weather, which may have an effect on the July 4th community events by texting **HPJULY4** to **67283**.

Please direct questions to Assistant City Manager, Erin Jason  
[ejason@cityhpil.com](mailto:ejason@cityhpil.com).

## July 4th: Event Lineup

This year's slate of events on July 4, 2023, will provide multiple opportunities for the community to gather.

Visit the [main events page](#) to register in advance for specific events and to view the [special events map](#).

Schedule of events for July 4, 2023:

- [Remembrance Ceremony](#) (10:00 AM, City Hall, [Registration required](#))
- [Community Walk](#) (11:00 AM, City Hall or St. Johns & Elm, [Registration required](#))
- [Independence Day Community Picnic](#) (11:30 AM - 1:30 PM, Sunset Woods Park, [Registration requested](#))
- [Gary Sinise & the Lt. Dan Band Concert & Entertainment](#)(Event at Capacity)
- [We Are Highland Park Drone Show](#) (9:30 PM, Wolters Field, Registration Not Required)

**The Lot: Artisan Market Sundays, July 2 - Sept. 24**





The Artisan Market begins this Sunday, July 2, from 10 AM - 3 PM at The Lot. The City of Highland Park is pleased to announce its partnership with Bensidoun USA to present a new weekly Artisan Market, featuring crafts, flowers, fresh food, live music and more. The Artisan market will take place every Sunday from July 2 - Sept. 24, 10 AM - 3 PM at The Lot.

Interested in becoming a vendor at the Artisan Market? [Review the the vendor requirements and application with Bensidoun USA.](#)

## Food Truck Thursdays



[Food Truck Thursdays](#) is now in full swing, featuring Abigail's and Ravinia Brewing Co., and over a dozen rotating food vendors and food trucks and live music. Food Truck Thursdays takes place in the [Ravinia District](#) weekly through September 21, 4:30 PM til dusk. This week, enjoy Wavy Dave's Music Hour - Children's Entertainers and [Radio Free Honduras](#) – Latin Rock.

If you are interested in participating as a food vendor, please contact Leslie Cahill, General Manager of The French Market/Bensidoun at:

## 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.](#)

## Online Payments Temporarily Disabled Until July 18

The City's online payment system for licensing will be temporarily disabled until July 18, 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.

## 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](#)

[Hello Alice](#)

[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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