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## City of Highland Park Business Recovery Grant Program

Thank you to all the business owners who joined Mayor Nancy Rotering, Councilmember Adam Stolberg, and City Manager Ghida Neukirch for a meeting at Michael's Chicago-Style Red Hots earlier today. The City is committed to supporting businesses as they move forward and resume normal operations after the July 4 tragedy.



Businesses that were required to close within the July 4 investigation area were invited to a meeting to discuss how the tragedy has impacted their team

and business, and to learn about opportunities for financial support through the City's grant program, low-interest U.S. Small Business Administration Economic Injury Disaster Loans, and the Business Recovery Fund (an effort spearheaded by leaders from Highland Park Bank & Trust, First Bank of Highland Park, Highland Park Illinois Chamber of Commerce, and the Rotary Club of Highland Park/Highwood.

The City has established a new grant program to assist eligible businesses in recovering costs related to the impact of the Fourth of July Parade shooting and subsequent investigation. To allow the City and law enforcement agencies to complete the field investigation and site repair, businesses located within a designated perimeter were required to close for owner, employee, and customer access from July 4 – July 10, 2022. Businesses that were unable to operate during this time may be eligible to apply for a grant to help offset revenue losses during the closure. **The submission deadline for the City's grant is August 19, 2022.** Learn more and download the application at [cityhpil.com/businessrecoverygrants](http://cityhpil.com/businessrecoverygrants).

## Small Business Administration Economic Injury Disaster Loans

Governor JB Pritzker announced that the State's request for a U.S. Small Business Administration (SBA) disaster declaration was granted for several counties in Northeast Illinois that were affected by the shooting at the Fourth of July parade in Highland Park. The declaration will make low-interest working capital loans from the Economic Injury Disaster Loans (EIDLs) program available to help small businesses, small agricultural cooperatives, small businesses engaged in aquaculture, and most private, non-profit organizations whose ordinary and necessary financial obligations cannot be met as a direct result of the incident. These loans are intended to assist through the disaster recovery period for those in Lake County (Illinois), Cook County (Illinois), McHenry County (Illinois), and the contiguous Kenosha County (Wisconsin).

The SBA Business Recovery Center (BRC) will be located at First Bank of Highland Park, 1835 First Street in Highland Park. Customer service representatives will be available at the BRC to answer questions about the disaster loan program and to help business owners complete their applications. Due to the ongoing COVID-19 pandemic, the SBA has established protocols to help protect the health and safety of the public. All visitors to the BRC are encouraged to wear a face mask.

BRC hours of operation:

Monday – Friday 9:00 a.m. – 6:00 p.m.

Saturday: 10:00 a.m. – 2:00 p.m.

Sunday: Closed

The site will close permanently on Thursday, August 11, 2022 at 4:00 p.m.

Applicants may apply online using the Electronic Loan Application (ELA) via SBA's secure website at [DisasterLoanAssistance.sba.gov/ela/s](https://DisasterLoanAssistance.sba.gov/ela/s) and should apply under SBA declaration #17536, not for the COVID-19 incident.

Disaster loan information and application forms may also be obtained by calling the SBA's Customer Service Center at 800-659-2955 (800-877-8339 for the deaf and hard-of-hearing) or emailing [DisasterCustomerService@sba.gov](mailto:DisasterCustomerService@sba.gov). Loan applications may be downloaded at [sba.gov/disaster](http://sba.gov/disaster).

Completed applications should be returned to the center or mailed to: U.S. Small Business Administration, Processing and Disbursement Center, 14925 Kingsport Road, Fort Worth, TX 76155.

**The filing deadline to return EIDL applications is April 25, 2023.**

Additional information about the state's recovery efforts are available at <https://www2.illinois.gov/ready/Pages/default.aspx>.

## HP Business and Employee Recovery Fund

As part of City-wide recovery and resilience efforts, a Business Recovery Fund has been established with First Bank of Highland Park, Highland Park Bank & Trust, the Highland Park Chamber of Commerce and the Rotary Club of Highland Park/Highwood taking the lead in fundraising and disbursing monetary assistance to aid businesses and employees in recovery from losses sustained. The Highland Park Chamber of Commerce is gathering information in order to assess the extent of the financial need, and accepting applications for financial assistance.

If you are a business owner or employee that has suffered financial loss because of being closed, physical damage, loss of wages, loss of inventory, etc., please click the link below to fill out the application. Your input is essential. All information will be kept confidential and used solely to identify need.

Please be aware that this is separate from the City's program but can work in conjunction with it. Recovery Funds will be used for supplemental grants to the businesses affected and any residual funds will be used for the betterment of our HP business community.

**Applications are due by Friday, August 5, 2022, at 5 PM.**

[Business Recovery Fund Application](#)

## State Sales Tax Holiday

The state sales tax holiday is a ten-day period during which consumers can purchase certain clothing and school-related items and pay sales tax at a reduced rate. The state's portion of sales tax due throughout the holiday is

reduced by 5 percent (5.00%) from 6.25 percent (6.25%) to 1.25 percent (1.25%). Items include qualifying clothing and footwear with a retail selling price of less than \$125 per item and certain school supplies used by students in the course of study. School supplies are not subject to the \$125 threshold.

More information for retailers is available at [illinois.gov/rev](http://illinois.gov/rev)

## Food Truck Thursdays Extended



Food Truck Thursdays have been extended through September 22, 4:30 PM - dusk in Jens Jensen Park. Check out [the weekly lineup of food trucks](#). Be sure to visit tents from [Abigail's American Bistro](#), [Ravinia Brewing Company](#), and [Sally's Nuts](#), and stop by [Astra Coffee Roasters](#) before heading home.

Jens Jensen Park is located between Dean, Roger Williams and St. Johns Avenues, across from the Ravinia Metra Station.

Visit [enjoyhighlandpark.com](http://enjoyhighlandpark.com) for updates and event information.

## Upcoming Events at The Lot

**Take Out Tuesdays  
continues weekly through  
September 13, from 5-8 PM**

The community is invited to bring takeout meals from Highland Park restaurants, listen to live music, play games, socialize and participate in onsite activities. Each week will feature a special theme and live music.

Community members are encouraged to bring their Mahjong or Canasta set, cards, and board games to



complement the onsite oversize cornhole, bocce, Connect 4, Jenga, checkers, and chess games at The Lot.

Vendors including [Donut Jester](#), [Casa de Isaac](#), [Michael's Grill & Salad Bar](#), [Ravinia Brewing Company](#), and [Lolibus](#) will provide food, beverages, and libations. [The Art Center](#) and [Family Focus](#) will provide kids' activities.

Attendees are invited to make it a no-cooking night and support local restaurants onsite by picking up dinner downtown to enjoy alfresco at The Lot's dining tables, or they can bring their picnic items.

[View the Complete Schedule](#)

### **Vintage Car Show - August 6**

12 - 4 PM

Vintage cars with light bites and background music. Check out the cars, then head to your favorite Highland Park restaurant for dinner.

### **Vegetarian Fest - August 20**

11 AM - 7 PM

Explore veg options from restaurants throughout the Chicago area along with music, meditation/yoga sessions, and cooking demos.

For a complete listing of events at The Lot visit [enjoyhighlandpark.com](http://enjoyhighlandpark.com).

## **Ravinia Farmer's Market - Weekly on Wednesdays**

[The Ravinia Farmers Market](#) continues Wednesdays through October 26, from 7 AM to 1 PM along Dean Avenue and in Jens Jensen Park. Plan your weekly menu shopping around all that's in season this week. You'll also find fresh greens, meats, cheeses, flowers, and more. For a list of 2022 vendors and live musical performers presented by the [Highland Park Community Foundation](#), visit [www.raviniafarmersmarket.com](http://www.raviniafarmersmarket.com).



## **Sidewalk Sale Rescheduled: August 12-13**



The [Highland Park Chamber of Commerce](#) has rescheduled the Summer Sidewalk Sale. This decision was made after thoughtful consideration and in consultation with the City of Highland Park and members of the business community. The new dates are Friday, August 12, and Saturday, August 13.

If your business would like to join us on these new dates, there is still time. [Contact the Chamber](#) today.

## Mayor's Beautification Award Nominations

The City is currently seeking nominations for The Mayor's Beautification Awards. The Award recognizes businesses that have enhanced their storefronts and created a welcoming atmosphere that invites and attracts prospective customers with pleasing aesthetics. Award recipients go above and beyond to improve the visual appeal of their property and serve as an example to all businesses and property owners within Highland Park to remain committed to beautifying our community.



Award recipients will be granted a Mayoral certificate and a digital badge for use on the business website and Facebook. In addition, recipients will receive public recognition at a City Council Meeting, on the Central Avenue digital kiosks, in *The Highlander*, City e-News, and on the City's website and social media platforms.

Nominations may be submitted on the [City's website](#) or with [this form](#).

Contact Melissa Rosen with questions 847.926.1046, [mrosen@cityhpiil.com](mailto:mrosen@cityhpiil.com)

# Staffing & Hiring Resources

The City has received a number of inquiries from business owners looking for assistance in finding employees. We have put together the list below as a resource.

## Government Agencies

- **Get Hired Illinois**

<https://www2.illinois.gov/GetHired>

Helping connect job seekers with employers as well as employers who are looking to fill open positions with available workers.

- **Lake County Job Center**

<https://www.lakecountyil.gov/4621/Hire-Lake-County>

## Staffing Agencies & Websites

- <https://www.talroo.com/>

On-demand staffing platform for restaurant/hospitality. Vendors need to make an account to see pricing. There are three levels of pricing, one starting with 40 hires a year. This platform can help the restaurants with additional staffing during events as well as regular shifts.

- <https://www.instawork.com>

Businesses can register on the site themselves and make an account.

- <https://adia.works>

On-demand staffing platform.

## Not for Profit

- **Goodwill Talent Bridge – Chicago**

Julie Johnson - Branch Manager Talent Bridge 224.257. 8075, 224. 257.8080

[www.goodwilltalentbridge.com](http://www.goodwilltalentbridge.com), [Julie.Johnson@goodwillsew.com](mailto:Julie.Johnson@goodwillsew.com)

The Talent Bridge is a traditional staffing firm that is connected with Goodwill. Vendors are welcome to contact them directly for their pricing and available staff. Part of the proceeds goes back to the Goodwill Mission.

- **The Highland Park Chamber of Commerce**

<https://business.chamberhp.com/jobs>

## Colleges

- **Harper College**

Hire a Hawk – Free Job Postings – [jprc@harpercollege.edu](mailto:jprc@harpercollege.edu)

Job Placement Center 847.925.6400

- **Oakton College** – 847-635-1735 [www.oakton.edu/careers](http://www.oakton.edu/careers)

## Expand Your Reach with *The Weekender* eNews!

Sent out every Thursday, The Weekender is all about things to do, places to shop, restaurants to visit, and more in Highland Park. Email specials and promotions to [Amanda Civitello](#) so that we can help get the word out!

WEEKENDER

explore. experience. enjoy.

ENJOY

*highland park*

**\*Please send pictures along with detailed information about your events and promotions. We are unable to use flyers or pictures that contain text.\***

## Sign Up For Business of the Week

Each week a new business is chosen and promoted on [Enjoy Highland Park](#) and on the Enjoy Highland Park [Facebook Page](#), as well as in the *Weekender* eNews, and on the Central Avenue Digital Kiosks, regardless of the business location.

Click [HERE](#) to fill out a brief questionnaire to have your business featured as Business of the Week.

**\*Don't forget to upload 1-3 high-resolution photos.**

## SBDC Illinois



INTERNATIONAL TRADE CENTER

**Update Your Business Plan to Grow Your Business!**

**Meet With A Small Business Advisor Through SBDC Illinois**

[Illinois Small Business Development & International Trade Center](#) offers confidential, no-cost, one-on-one virtual advising sessions.

To schedule a meeting click [HERE](#)

## 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.



Visit [northchicago.score.org](http://northchicago.score.org) 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

## Additional Resources

[Available Commercial Space](#)

[Business Directory](#)

[Establishing Your Business](#)

[Chamber Of Commerce](#)

[SCORE](#)

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

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

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

[Lake County Health Department](#)

[NorthShore University HealthSystem](#)

[Illinois Department of Public Health](#)

[Centers for Disease Control and Prevention](#)

For general business inquiries, contact the City's Business Development Manager Carolyn Hersch at [chersch@cityhpil.com](mailto:chersch@cityhpil.com).

For more information on the City's response to COVID-19, contact the City's Communications Manager Amanda Civitello at [acivitello@cityhpil.com](mailto:acivitello@cityhpil.com).

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 Melissa Rosen at [mrosen@cityhpil.com](mailto:mrosen@cityhpil.com). The City reserves the right to edit and/or filter submissions. No pricing information will be published.

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