



In This Issue...

- Step behind the scenes of City Departments: Sign Up for Resident Academy Through September 15
- Oktoberfest at The Lot - September 30
- Artisan Market Sundays at The Lot - Through September 24
- Food Truck Thursdays - Through September 28
- Ravinia Farmers Market - Through October 25
- Hello Alice Small Business Grant Program
- \$5,000 Façade Grants Available to Eligible Small Businesses
- 2023 Illinois Solar Tour, September 30
- SSBCI Funding to Support Small Businesses
- SCORE Mentoring & Webinars
- Contacting the Office of Business Development

Resident Academy: Sign Up Through September 15



Open to Highland Park business owners and residents aged 18 and older, now is your chance to step behind the scenes at City Hall, Public Services, and Public Safety to learn about the major functions of local government in the City's new Resident Academy program! The program will include weekly

sessions on Thursday evenings, 6:30 - 8:00 PM, from October 5 through November 16, 2023.

Participants will experience firsthand what it takes to manage and operate the City. The program will include an overview of City government and an introduction to each City department and its functions, including various City facilities such as City Hall, the Public Services Building, the Police and Fire Departments, and the Water Plant.

To apply, individuals must complete a registration form, which includes a background investigation. Applications will be available from September 1 through September 15, 2023. [Click here to complete the online application form.](#) [Click here to download a PDF version.](#)

For more information, please email Management Analyst Chris O'Neill at chris.oneill@cityhpil.com.

Apply to the 2023 Resident Academy!

Oktoberfest at The Lot - September 30



Get your business ready to join in the fun by celebrating the Oktoberfest theme! The City of Highland Park is pleased to kick off the fall season at [The Lot](#) with the annual Oktoberfest celebration on Saturday, September 30, from 12-10 PM. There will be traditional fun for all with beers, bites, contests, and community, with a focus on family fun with crafts, interactive dance, and sing-alongs from 12-4 PM. This free event will showcase Chicago's renowned authentic seven-piece German band [Die Musikmeisters](#) performing a diverse repertoire of German polkas, waltzes, marches, folk, audience participation songs, as well as favorite American swing and rock classics.

Click to learn more.

Artisan Market Sundays at The Lot, Through Sept. 24



The City of Highland Park, in partnership with Bensidoun USA, presents a weekly Artisan Market featuring fresh fruit and vegetables, baked goods, pet treats, crafts, live music, and more. The Artisan Market runs every Sunday through Sept. 24, from 10 AM - 3 PM at [The Lot](#).

If you are interested in participating in the Artisan Market as a vendor, [Bensidoun USA's application and vendor requirements can be found here](#).

Food Truck Thursdays, Through Sept. 28



[Food Truck Thursdays](#) continues, 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 28, 4:30 PM 'til dusk. Swing into fall this week, September 14, with local swing group **The Desert Birds Trio** (beginning at 4:30 PM) and classic country headliner [DiamondBack!](#)

If you are interested in participating as a food vendor, please contact Leslie Cahill, General Manager of The French Market/Bensidoun at: lcahill90@gmail.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.](#)

Facade Grants Available to Eligible Small Businesses

The City of Highland Park's Small Business Facade Improvement Program (SBFIP) provides assistance and incentive to commercial property owners and local businesses within commercial business districts 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

Ravinia Farmers Market, Through October 25



RAVINIA FARMERS MARKET
Serving the Community Since 1978
raviniafarmersmarket.com

7am-1pm
First Wednesday of June-Last Wednesday of October
Jens Jensen Park • 486 Roger Williams Ave

Quality, sustainable and earth friendly market.
Support & enjoy locally grown and sourced products.

Shop a wide variety of fresh fruits, vegetables, meats, cheeses, and flowers at the [Ravinia Farmers Market](http://raviniafarmersmarket.com) every Wednesday, 7 AM - 1 PM, through October 25, at Jens Jensen Park. Each week, enjoy music and pop-up vendors providing services such as knife and scissor sharpening.

2023 Illinois Solar Tour, September 30



Have you integrated solar technology and other green improvements into your business? Help inspire others to make the leap to solar and invest in green initiatives by participating in the [Illinois Solar Tour](#)! The Solar Tour consists of a series of Solar Open Houses. Homeowners, small businesses, and nonprofits open their doors to the public and tell the story of how and why they decided to go solar. The event will be held **September 30, from 10 AM to 3 PM** and will be available in an in-person and virtual hybrid format. To learn more about the Solar Tour or sign up to showcase your business, contact the City Manager's Office at 847.926.1000 or email cityhp@cityhpil.com.

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](#)

[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. The City reserves the right to edit and/or filter submissions.

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