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## Welcome New Business: Zeke Salon & DryBar



Please welcome [Zeke Salon & DryBar](#) to Highland Park's Briergate Business District, in the Garrity Square Shopping Center. From hair treatments to hair extensions and more, Marten and his team look forward to making you look and feel fabulous.

## 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.

Events at The Lot are presented by the City of Highland Park with the generous support of: [Porsche Audi Exchange](#), [First Bank of Highland Park](#), [Highland Park Bank & Trust](#), [Scott Byron & Co.](#), [Highland Park Community Foundation](#), [Sunset Foods](#), [Walled Lake Planning & Wealth Management](#), [Wayfarer Theaters](#), [Baird & Warner](#), [Gearhead Outfitters](#), [Mariani Landscape](#), and [PromptMed Urgent Care](#).

525 Central Ave. / Enter at St. Johns Ave. & Park Ave.

[Click to learn more.](#)

## Food Truck Thursdays, Through Sept. 28



The 2023 [Food Truck Thursdays](#) season concludes this week in the [Ravinia District](#), on September 28. This Thursday's music lineup kicks off at 4:30 PM with Wavy Dave's Music Hour, followed by McStira, featuring [Derrick Procell](#) and Noah Plotkin headlining. Enjoy one last summer evening with music under the stars and delicious food from more than a dozen food trucks in Jens Jensen Park.

## Ravinia Farmers Market, Through October 25

**RAVINIA FARMERS MARKET**  
Serving the Community Since 1978  
[raviniafarmersmarket.com](http://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](#) 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.

## 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

## Small Business Development Center: No-Cost Business Counseling



**Small Business Development Centers** (SBDC) are located throughout the state and provide information, confidential business guidance, training, and other free resources for start-ups and existing small businesses. If you need help with a business plan, marketing, financial bookkeeping, finding grants, starting and growing a business, click [HERE](#). To find a Center near you, click [HERE](#). Please note that many SBDCs do provide Spanish assistance. If you need help finding an SBDC that provides Spanish assistance, please contact Diana Alfaro at [diana.alfaro@illinois.gov](mailto:diana.alfaro@illinois.gov).

## Community Navigator Business Support Program

[Community Navigators](#) is a support program to assist small businesses, particularly minority, women, rural, and veteran-owned businesses. They provide outreach to raise awareness on federal and state programs, and provide 1:1 technical assistance, etc. For more information, please click [HERE](#).

## 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.](#)

## 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.

## 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](mailto:businessdevelopment@cityhpil.com). The City reserves the right to edit and/or filter submissions.

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

## 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](#)

[Visit Lake County](#)

[Women-in-Business Resources](#)

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