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RTA Transit Benefit Fare Program



Good news for business owners and their employees who commute! Thanks to a [new law](#), the pre-tax [Transit Benefit Fare Program](#) will be expanded to more workplaces than ever before in Cook, DuPage, Kane, Lake, McHenry, and Will Counties. Starting next year, transit benefit programs will offer both employers and employees savings and will help promote transit as a first

choice for regional travel.

Under the program offered by the Regional Transportation Authority, full-time employees may elect to withhold up to \$300 in pre-tax wages each month to purchase transit fare – broadening their commute horizons to bus, rail, vanpool, and more. Employers who enroll in the RTA Transit Benefit Fare Program can see their first month of fees waived by using promo code **TRANSIT2024**.

[Click to learn more.](#)

Vintage Car Show at The Lot - Saturday, September 9



Get ready for the annual Vintage Car Show, taking place this Saturday, September 9 from 12 - 4 PM at The Lot. From vintage car models to unique classics, muscle cars to hot rods and more, visitors will be able to browse a variety of classic cars at this free, all-ages event - with live music, bites, and beverages at [The Lot](#).

The Lot is located at 525 Central Ave. / Enter at St. Johns & Park.

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](#).

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. This week, September 7, live music begins at 4:30 PM with bluesy Americana from [Pierce Crask](#) followed by Chicago blues powerhouse [Dave Specter](#).

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



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.

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

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](#)

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

[Job Center of Lake County -](#)

[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](#)

[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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