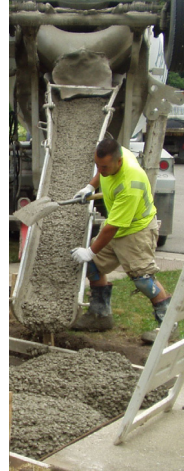


Annual Report

2016



Table of Contents



Meet the Mayor and City Council	3
State of the City by Mayor Roterling	4
Events and Initiatives Overview	5
Year in Review by City Manager Neukirch	6
City of Highland Park Core Priorities	8
Financial Summary	10
Connect With the City	11

City Mission:

The mission of the City of Highland Park municipal government is to provide fiscally responsible, high quality services through effective, transparent and collaborative governance.



Nancy R. Rotering
Mayor
2015-2019

Mayor & City Council



Daniel A. Kaufman
Councilman
2013-2017



Alyssa Knobel
Councilman
2013-2017



Kim Stone
Councilwoman
2013-2017



Anthony E. Blumberg
Councilman
2015-2019



Paul Frank
Former Councilman*
2015-2016



Michelle L. Holleman
Councilman
2015-2019



Alison P. Smith
Councilman
2016-2017**

*Paul Frank was elected to the Lake County Board in November, 2016

**Alison P. Smith is filling a vacancy until May 2017

Looking into 2017 with Confidence

Mayor Nancy R. Rotering

As a new year begins, we reflect on the past and look toward the future with confidence. We are fortunate to live in a strong, passionate, vibrant community. My council colleagues and I work along side City staff, government partners, residents and businesses focusing on issues that matter to all of us. Together, we strive daily to strengthen our community.

In 2016, we focused on maintaining the city's on-going fiscal sustainability, invested in hundreds of infrastructure improvements and kept our community safe. In addition to round-the-clock work on these key municipal matters, we advanced business development, increased communications, supported human services, sustainability initiatives and cultural arts plans to improve our quality of life and best serve our residents.

Recognizing that collaboration and synergies benefit the public and improve efficiencies, we met regularly with government partners, local clergy and multiple citizen advisory task forces and community groups. Conversations resulted in partnerships on a multitude of initiatives that benefited our daily life and provided representative government at its best. Of significant notes, the City partnered with sister governments to take precautionary measures to ensure public drinking fountains are safe. Additionally, sister governments worked together to promote and support human and social services including food security, housing and mental health care.

Recognizing that students are our future leaders, the City works with our school districts and has taken an active role in connecting students of all ages with opportunities for experiential learning that engages them in critical thinking, problem solving and decision-making.

Partnership with our business community continues to support our strong local economy, create new jobs and reduce property tax burdens on residents. Our development process has been streamlined, bringing new market-driven housing in the downtown, and in-fill development throughout neighborhoods.

As elected officials it is our job to keep our finger on the pulse of the community. As we dive into 2017, we remain deeply committed to meeting the needs of our community now and in the future.

Nancy R. Rotering



Events and Initiatives

The City of Highland Park hosted and sponsored various community events and initiatives throughout 2016 including several new initiatives. Community events can be found on the City's website calendar at www.cityhpil.com. Join us next year for all the fun!

Leadership Alliance Program

Mayor Nancy Rotering established the Leadership Alliance to develop regional partnerships and collaboration among regional leaders, focusing on unique opportunities for addressing human services, business development, environmental initiatives and public safety.

City Lead Testing of Public Water Fixtures

The City partnered with the Park District of Highland Park, the Highland Park Public Library, North Shore School District 112 and Township High School District 113 to proactively test all public drinking fountains for lead. Over 660 water samples were collected.

Highland Park Career Exploration

Started in 2016, the program provides opportunities for any Highland Park High School junior or senior to participate in a job shadow experience in a variety of industries throughout the City. The program is a partnership between the City, Township High School District 113 and the Chamber of Commerce.

Martin Luther King Day of Service

Martin Luther King Day of Service, presented by the City's Human Relations Commission and the Park District of Highland Park, provides an opportunity for the community to honor Dr. King's legacy through service and volunteerism.

Food Drive for Moraine Township Fire Department Blood Drives Memorial Day Observance Independence Day Parade & Fireworks Senior Services 40th Anniversary Taste of Highland Park Martin Luther King, Jr. Day of Service Fire Department Pancake Breakfast and Open House Holiday Lighting Ceremony Business Summit Citizen Fire Academy Veteran's Day Observance Raise the W Cubs Rally Art in City Hall Citizen Police Academy Resident Photo Contest No Shave November National Gun Violence Awareness Day Highland Park Career Exploration Bike Fair Lead Testing of Public Water Fixtures Resident Fair Port Clinton Art Festival Government Partner Meetings Junior Police Academy Harvest & Harmony Ravinia District Artisan Market Senior Services 40th Anniversary Celebration Permit & Plan Review Roundtable Walk Audit Bike Fair Mayor Clergy Meetings Domestic Violence Awareness Day Art Is Alive in Highland Park Leadership Alliance Program

Year In Review

City Manager Ghida S. Neukirch

It is an honor to represent the City of Highland Park and work with a Mayor and Council who set policy based on the best interest of the community, and the dedicated and professional City staff. Our 240 full-time employees and numerous part-time and seasonal employees provided quality service to the public. Our 2016 work plan included more than 150 major projects that are outside of the City's day-to-day operations. Our Police, Fire and Public Works Departments were reaccredited this year - a testament to the high caliber professionals, operations, and commitment to public safety.

The Government Finance Officers' Association awarded the City the Distinguished Budget Presentation Award and the Certificate of Achievement for Excellence in Financial Reporting for the 22nd year and the 32nd year, respectively. These are the highest recognitions in government accounting, financial reporting, and budgeting, and their attainment represent significant accomplishments by a government and its management. The City's budget process began in March and was developed based on Council priorities, staff input and public feedback. The budget is the most significant policy statement a City can make and includes a wealth of information pertaining to the community, organization, and associated costs.

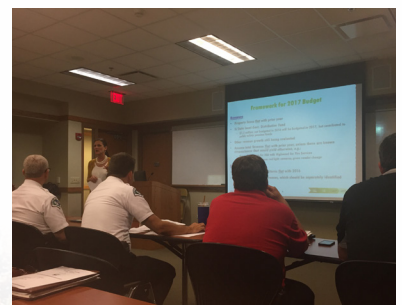
The City has an aggressive Business Development Work Plan that supports our businesses and works with property owners, brokers, and retailers to bring new business to the community. We held a roundtable discussion with key stakeholders and will incorporate their feedback into our permit and plan review process to better serve residents and businesses alike.

I am proud to represent our community on the Board of Directors of the Northwest Municipal Conference and Lake County Partners. I also serve on the Board of several non-profit organizations including the Highland Park Rotary Club and Community – The Anti-Drug Coalition. I am inspired working alongside residents and businesses passionate about the community and driven to improve our quality of life. Our community progress would not be possible without the leadership of our elected officials; the professionalism, integrity and dedication of our staff; collaboration with our public and private partners; and the public whose feedback, recommendations and insights is greatly appreciated. I am blessed and honored to serve as Highland Park's City Manager.

Ghida S. Neukirch
City Manager

Senior Staff

Joel Fontane	Community Development
Ramesh Kanapareddy	Public Works
Julie Logan	Finance
Dan Pease	Fire Department
Rob Sabo	Assistant City Manager
Paul Shafer	Police Department



2016 By The Numbers

293 Adopted
Ordinances and
Resolutions



3,639
Facebook likes

911

Highland Park Businesses

10

Major City
Sponsored Events



178
Press
Releases



1,543 Twitter Followers



4,608
Building Permits Issued

12,503
Inspections Performed

197 Senior Programs



20,000+
Calls for Police or Fire
Service

Three

Nationally Accredited Agencies
(Fire Department, Public Works
Department and Police Department)

139 Volunteers Serving on...

17 Commissions with...

7 Advisory Groups and...

16 Student Representatives.

6,000
Upgraded
Water Meters

One
New
Composting Program



366 third graders met with the
Mayor at City Hall and
participated in a mock City
Council meeting.



Fiscal Stability

Public Safety

Infrastructure
Investment

Community
Vibrancy

Core Priorities

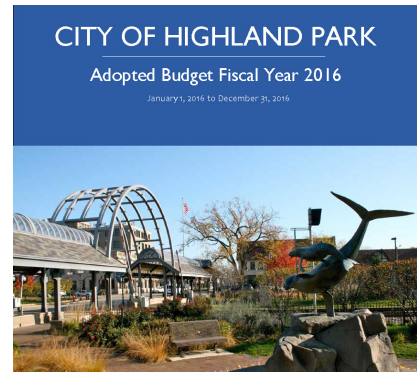
Four major priorities and organizational objectives guide the City of Highland Park's policy and direction - Fiscal Stability, Public Safety, Infrastructure Investment and Community Vibrancy. In 2016, the City completed more than 150 major projects and initiatives outside of the City's day-to-day operations that are based on the foundation of the four priorities.

Fiscal Stability

Fiscal stability is a critical component of effective City Management. The City reviews its operations, seizes opportunities to improve its financial health, and encourages development and cost-sharing opportunities to better serve the community.



The City executed an agreement with the City of Highwood to provide fire, EMS and inspection service to Highwood residents and businesses, leading to efficiencies for both communities.



The City's 2016 budget received the Government Finance Officers Association's (GFOA) Distinguished Budget Presentation Award reflecting the City's commitment to meeting the highest principles of governmental budgeting.

Public Safety

The City's nationally-accredited Police and Fire Departments are known for expedited response times and high-quality service during emergencies. Both departments continue to strengthen community relations, enforce laws and provide on-going education to residents.



The Citizen Police and Fire Academies and the Junior Police Academy offer residents the opportunity to participate in hands-on training that police officers and fire fighters perform on a daily basis.



The City provides Public Safety Alerts via email to residents to enhance public safety. Please sign up at www.cityhpil.com/signup.



Public Works staff worked in 12-hour shifts 24/7 to keep City streets and sidewalks plowed during long continuous snow fall events of 2016.



The City spent over \$2 million in asphalt and concrete road repairs in 2016.

Infrastructure Investment

Infrastructure investment is a key component in ensuring a community's economic growth and vitality. The City prioritized addressing aging infrastructure, including streets, sidewalks, water mains, sewers and bridges. Environmentally sustainable strategies are actively considered in all projects.

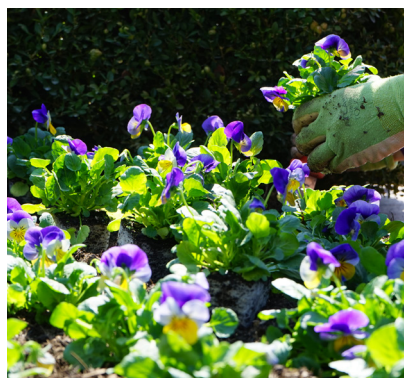


The City inspected and maintained 22 vehicular and pedestrian bridges including total reconstruction of the Cary Avenue pedestrian historic bridge in 2016.

Residents can learn about 2017 capital improvement plan progress at www.cityhpil.com/construction.



The City's Branding efforts continued as brand elements were incorporated throughout the City to add value to the community.



The City introduced a new commercial and residential composting program through Lakeshore Recycling Systems.

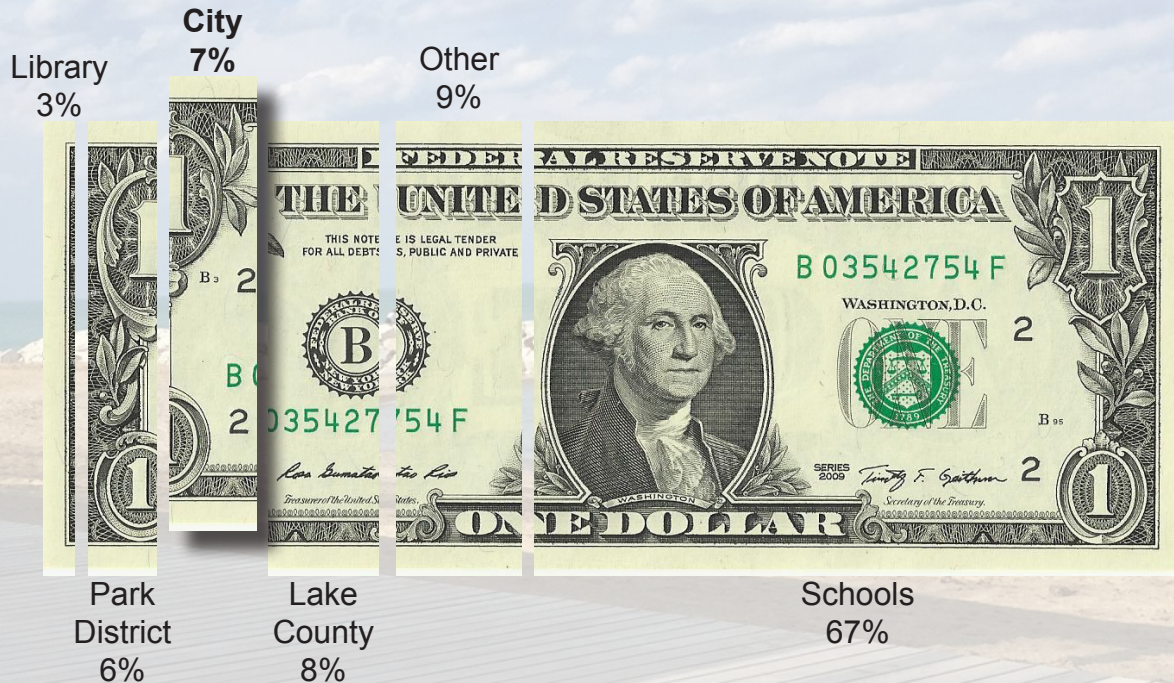
Community Vibrancy

The City continued to support human services, cultural arts and sustainability efforts within the community. Business development efforts continue to foster a thriving business community by providing business retention, support and attraction efforts.

Financial Summary

Did you know?

Property taxes are levied by a number of separate taxing bodies. The City receives less than \$7 for every \$100 of your property tax bill. The City has a diversified revenue portfolio in an effort to keep property taxes low.



Revenues

In 2016, the City budgeted 15% of its total revenue from property taxes. In 2016, the City's total revenues were budgeted at \$83,818,000.

- 20% Other Revenues
- 15% Enterprise Revenues
- 17% Sales Tax
- 15% Property Tax
- 14% Other Taxes
- 12% Bond Proceeds
- 7% Transfers

Expenditures

The City is a service-oriented organization, which is why the majority of the 2016 budgeted expenditures went toward personnel costs and contractual services.

- 33% Personnel Costs
- 23% Capital Outlay
- 23% Contractual Services
- 11% Transfers
- 6% Debt Services
- 3% Materials and Supplies
- 1% Reserves

Awards and Recognitions

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Connect with the City

Highlander

The City newsletter is mailed to all Highland Park residents and businesses each month. Additional copies are available at all City facilities and on the City website.



eNews

The City has three different email groups, which residents can sign up for on the City website:

- **City eNews** -sent weekly, comprised of major stories or updates and upcoming events.
- **Business Development eNews** -sent biweekly, features events and information from the business
- **Public Safety Alerts** -sent in critical emergency situations when the community may be at risk

Residents can also sign up for the City's **Emergency Voice Notification System** at cityhpil.com/signup

Website

The website continues to be the primary source for the City's most up-to-date information for residents, business owners, visitors and all other stakeholders. Updates are made daily in order to provide the most up-to-date information to the public and provide transparent communication at all times.



Social Media



The City engages the community through Facebook and Twitter (@CityHPIL). The City Facebook pages includes the City page (facebook.com/HighlandParkIL) and a Business and Economic Development Page (facebook.com/HPBEDC).

City Council Meetings

City Council Meetings are held every other week at City Hall. All meetings are open to the public. Meetings may be viewed live on Comcast Channel 10 or on the City website. Meetings are also archived on the website.

Get Involved

Residents are encouraged to get involved. Residents can:

- Apply to join a City Commission, Board, Advisory Group
- Apply for an Educational Program (i.e. Citizen Fire or Police Academy)
- Attend City Events
- Volunteer



Questions?

City Manager's Office

847.926.1000

Finance Department

847.432.0800

After Hours Assistance

If you need to contact the City outside of business hours, call 847.432.7730 for a non-emergency situation. Always dial 911 for an emergency.

Public Works

847.432.0807

Community Development

847.432.0808 - Building

847.432.0867 - Planning

Police Department

847.432.7730

Fire Department

847.433.3110

