

THE HIGHLANDER



MAY 19, 2012

PUBLISHED MONTHLY BY THE CITY OF HIGHLAND PARK

City Wants Resident Feedback on Upcoming Citizen Survey

The City of Highland Park, in partnership with the National Research Center, Inc. (NRC), is conducting a citizen survey that will be mailed to randomly selected households this month. The triennial survey will be sent to Highland Park residents who were selected randomly by mailing address. The survey will ask residents to rate satisfaction levels of municipal services from overall appearance of the community to frequency of community participation. Designed to require less than 10 minutes to complete, the survey will be a valuable tool for the City of Highland Park.

The citizen survey is intended to be a method to acquire important information regarding the delivery of municipal services and to evaluate the efficiency and effectiveness of those services. The survey presents an opportunity for residents to anonymously grade Highland Park services and programs.

The results of the survey will be used by City officials and staff to determine the level of resident satisfaction with service delivery. Additionally, the survey will query residents' priorities in important issues affecting the community. The data received from the

survey will be compared to surveys conducted in other communities across the country. In effect, Highland Park will be comparing local responses to national responses.

Each household selected for the survey will receive a postcard that was mailed earlier this month. The introductory postcard from Mayor Rotering will explain that the residence has been selected to participate in the survey and ask the resident to watch for the survey in the mail. On May 18 the survey will be mailed to the resident with a self-addressed, stamped envelope. Completed surveys must be in the mail by June 15 and will be returned directly to the National Research Center. The City will not know who the surveys are mailed to in the community. The NRC will mail the survey to 1,200 households. The survey has previously been conducted in 2002, 2005 and 2008.

The City will have the final results of the survey by the end of the summer. For more information, please contact Emily Palm, Assistant to the City Manager, at (847) 926-1004/epalm@cityhpil.com.

Lower Rates to Appear Soon on Electricity Bills

On March 20, Highland Park voters overwhelmingly approved a referendum authorizing the City to seek lower electricity rates through a process known as electrical aggregation. Accordingly, the City has worked with its community partners in the North Shore Electricity Aggregation Consortium to execute an agreement with MC Squared Energy Services ("mc2") that will substantially lower electricity costs for residents and small businesses through mid-2013.

Correspondence was mailed in April notifying customers of their eligibility to participate, or of their option to continue purchasing electricity from Commonwealth Edison. Eligible customers who did not affirmatively "opt-out" of the aggregation have since been enrolled with mc2, and lower pricing will take effect on the next available billing cycle in late June/early July.

The new electricity rate of 4.836 cents per kilowatt hour should result in a savings of 41% on the supply portion of a customer's bill. Other charges related to distribution, metering and taxes will not be subject to a reduction. Customers will still receive a single bill from ComEd and the utility will remain responsible for operation of the electrical distribution system and responding to emergencies, including outage restoration.

Residents and small businesses that have already switched to an alternative provider can "opt-in" to the municipal aggregation program. Those customers should contact mc2 directly at (888) 808-7731 or email at NorthShore@MC2energyservices.com for more information about registration. Additionally, customers will be provided with the option to purchase renewable energy credits for an added cost. A follow-up postcard with additional information is scheduled for distribution in June to MC Squared Energy customers.

For further details, visit www.northshoreelectricityaggregation.com or contact MC Squared at 1-888-808-7731/northshore@mc2energyservices.com. Or, please contact Emily Palm, Assistant to the City Manager, at (847) 926-1004/epalm@cityhpil.com.

'HIGH' NOTES

Spring Clean Up Concludes on May 19

The City's annual Spring Clean-Up Program concludes on Saturday, May 19, for residents whose primary refuse collection occurs on Friday. For more information, contact Veolia Environmental Services at (847) 272-4145, or Brian Bourdeau in the City Manager's Office at (847) 926-1043/bbourdeau@cityhpil.com.

IDOT Continues Work on Deerfield Road Bridge

Please be aware of construction and lane closures on Deerfield Road over the East Skokie River from April through September. The Illinois Department of Transportation (IDOT) project consists of the removal and replacement of the Deerfield Road Bridge over the East Skokie River. The construction will be completed in two stages with the north half of the bridge being replaced in the first project stage and the south half of the bridge replaced in the second project stage. Two-way traffic will be maintained with only one lane in each direction. There will be detours in place to accommodate lane and ramp closures; please plan your commute accordingly and allow additional time when traveling this route. For more information, please visit IDOT's website at www.dot.state.il.us/road/lake.htm. As information and project progress becomes available, please visit www.cityhpil.com/constructionprojects.

Rodney Langlois Retires After 34 Years of Service

Rodney Langlois retired on April 13 from the City after more than 34 years of service to the Highland Park Community. Rodney is a lifelong resident of Highland Park and has been a Maintenance Worker for the Public Works Department since 1977. Rodney began his career in the Forestry Division and in 1980 he transferred to the Streets Division of Public Works to a position that he held until his retirement. The City would like to thank Rodney for his years of dedicated service to the City of Highland Park and wish him well in retirement.

2012 Thursday Night Summer Concert Series

Don't miss out on a free, family oriented evening of entertainment. The following summer concerts are scheduled during June, July and August:

June 7: The Associates
June 14: The Chauffeurs
June 21: Maxwell Street Klezmer Band
June 28: Los Perros Cubanos
July 12: Chicago Outskirts
July 19: Great Divide
Aug. 2: Tzofim Friendship Caravan
Aug. 9: Local Favorite
Aug. 16: Highland Park Pops
Sat. Aug. 18: Dr. Mark and the Sutures

All concerts begin at 7:00 p.m. in Port Clinton Square, located on Central Avenue between First and Second Streets. Residents and visitors looking for information regarding Highland Park's summer concerts may contact Brian Bourdeau in the City Manager's Office at (847) 926-1043/bbourdeau@cityhpil.com.

Parking Permit Replacement Information

In January 2012, the City of Highland Park replaced cardstock parking permits with static cling window permits. It has recently come to the City's attention that due to a manufacturing issue, some commuters have encountered difficulties in attaching the static cling permits to the rear windshield of their vehicles. To help resolve this issue, the manufacturer has provided the City with ultra-removable permits with a new adhesive. The static cling permits are designed for commuters and employees who frequently change vehicles and must remove and reattach their permits often. The new ultra-removable permit is designed to be applied to a single vehicle and can only be removed one time in a single piece. The City will be retaining stock of both permit types throughout the 2012 calendar year to best serve all parking patrons. Commuters and employees who would like to exchange their static cling permits for the new ultra-removable permits are asked to contact the City of Highland Park Finance Department at (847) 432-0800/finance@cityhpil.com.

SWALCO Hosting Household Chemical Recycling Events

The Solid Waste Agency of Lake County (SWALCO) will host household chemical waste collection events on Tuesday, May 29, and Saturday, June 9, at its facility, 1131 N. Estes Street, Gurnee. For more information and to register for an appointment to drop off materials, please visit www.swalco.org/collectionevents/householdwastecollectionevents.

CPAH Hosts Affordable Housing Information Session

Community Partners for Affordable Housing (CPAH) is a not-for-profit organization that provides affordable housing to low and moderate income households that live or work in the area. The program helps to bridge the gap between the cost of local housing and the incomes of people who live or work in the community. Homes are sold to income qualified households at 40-60% below market value. To qualify, a household of four may not have income exceeding \$60,000. To learn if affordable housing might be right for you, please attend an information session on Tuesday, June 19, at 7:00 p.m. Information sessions are held at 400 Central Avenue, Suite 111. To register or for more information, please contact Amy Kaufman at (847) 681-8746/akaufman@cpahousing.org. More information is also available at www.cpahousing.org.

City Offers Electronic Water Billing

The City is now offering its customers the option to receive water bills via email, also known as an E-bill. With E-billing, bills will be received via email and will no longer be sent by paper copy via regular postal mail. The E-bill enrollment form is available on the City's website at www.cityhpil.com/ebill. Based on the date of enrollment, it may take up to two billing cycles to activate E-billing. Please note that enrollment in the E-billing program does not alter payment options for water bills. For more information, please contact the Finance Department at (847) 432-0800.

COMMUNITY NEWS

Message from the Mayor

WELCOME TO OUR NEW CITY MANAGER

Please join us in welcoming Dave Knapp, our new City Manager as of May 7!

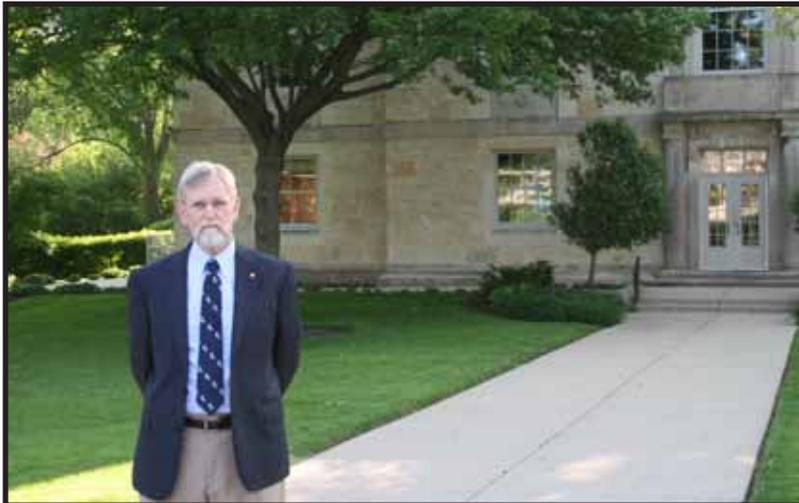
Prior to coming to Highland Park, Dave was the City Manager for Cupertino, California, a position he held since 2000. He previously served as the City Manager for Los Gatos, California, and Boulder, Colorado.

Dave holds a Masters Degree in Systems Management and a second Masters Degree in Education, both from the University of Southern California.

The City Council and I were impressed with David's credentials and experience in cutting-edge city management, community building, and intergovernmental partnerships. He shares the top priorities we all have: efficiently providing high-quality service and fostering constructive two-way communications. His incredible wealth of knowledge and broad experience will serve Highland Park well. His goals as City Manager are straightforward: to execute the policies of the Council well and to build trust and mutual respect between the City Council and the City Staff. We are very excited to welcome him to our community and to our City team.

Outside of work, Dave is a very active member of Rotary, the international service organization. To quote Marion Wright Edelman, Dave strongly believes "Service to others is the price you pay for living on the planet." He also believes that it is also the greatest source of human satisfaction.

Aside from the chance to work in our wonderful community, two other elements were very important to Dave's interest in coming to Highland Park: his grandchildren. If a guy who looks like this walking down the street says "hello," be sure to say "hello" back to our new City Manager.



We are delighted to welcome Dave and Kay Knapp to Highland Park.



Follow the City on Facebook and Twitter!

Residents may get up-to-the-minute information from the City via social networking websites, Facebook and Twitter. Residents may follow the City of Highland Park on Facebook and Twitter by clicking the direct links from the City's home page at www.cityhpil.com. Interested parties may also connect with the City directly from Facebook and Twitter by searching "City of Highland Park, Illinois" on Facebook and "CityHPIL" on Twitter. The City will use these sites to provide residents, businesses and visitors with pertinent Highland Park news and events, including public alerts, press releases and event reminders. For more information, please contact Emily Palm, Assistant to the City Manager, at (847) 926-1004/epalm@cityhpil.com.

COMMUNITY NEWS

Monthly Business Report

The following businesses have opened or relocated in Highland Park. For more details, contact Carolyn Hersch, Economic Development Assistant, at (847) 926-1027/chersch@cityhpil.com. For a complete list of registered businesses, visit www.cityhpil.com/shoppinganddining.

New Businesses

Flywheel Sports

Boutique Fitness and Retail Sales
600 Central Avenue, Suite 123
(847) 780-4320
flywheelsports.com

Cargo4Boys

Boys' Clothing Boutique
479 Central Avenue
(847) 748-8161
cargo4boys.com

Beauty N' Motion

Fitness/Dance Studio
1540 Old Skokie Road
(847) 791-5082
beautynmotionpole.wordpress.com

RealFit

Fitness Coaching
1480 Old Deerfield Road #8
(847) 780-4932
realfit-gym.com

Moderno

Restaurant
1850 Second Street
(847) 433-8600
modernohp.com

New Location

Weight Watchers
Weight Loss Program
1626 Deerfield Road
(800) 651-6000
weightwatchers.com

Northwestern Memorial Physicians Group
Physician Office – Healthcare
600 Central Avenue, Suite #333
(847) 926-0106
nmpg.com

City Officials Invite the Community to Participate in a Human Services Needs Assessment Survey

The City of Highland Park is interested in making sure that the human service needs of the community are fully met and that residents are aware of available services. To this end, the City created a Human Services Task Force to assess service needs, improve availability and increase resident awareness.

The Task Force will be responsible for:

- Assessing our community's human service needs;
- Creating an inventory of the services available from our government bodies, not-for-profits and private agencies;
- Developing a comprehensive plan for human services in the City of Highland Park that builds on our strengths, fills the gaps and incorporates coordinated services; and
- Assisting in the communication of services available to our community members.

The assessment process began in late April and it is anticipated that the Task Force will complete the project within a year. As part of the assessment process, the Task Force is asking for community input regarding those human services currently available in the City. The survey will assist the Task Force in determining where gaps in service may exist and in developing a comprehensive plan for human services in Highland Park.

Please take a moment to complete the survey, which is available at www.cityhpil.com/hsnasurvey. Specifically, the Task Force will be focusing on the needs of seniors, youth, Latino and immigrant populations, the economically disadvantaged and those with disabilities, physical and/or developmental.

For more information about the Needs Assessment Survey or the Human Services Task Force, please contact Don Miner, Manager of Youth and Senior Services, at (847) 432-4110/dminer@cityhpil.com.



Use this QR code to access the Human Services Needs Assessment Survey!

COMMUNITY NEWS

Spring and Summer Public Safety Reminders

With the arrival of spring and summer months, certain activities such as pedestrian, bicycle and vehicle traffic and outdoor grilling increase in the City. The Police and Fire Departments would like to remind residents of rules and tips that can increase public safety and the quality of life in Highland Park.

Hand-held Cell Phone Restriction. The use of hand-held cellular devices while driving is prohibited in the City. Violations qualify as a moving violation with fines ranging from \$50 to \$500.

Share the Road. Motorists and bicyclists are encouraged to share the road. Bicyclists must adhere to all traffic laws and may be cited for traffic violations. Additionally, bicyclists may not ride more than two abreast. Motorists are urged to obey posted speed limits and provide a safe distance of at least three feet when passing a bicyclist.

Start Seeing Motorcycles. Spring and summer months see increased motorcycle and motorized scooter activity on City roadways. Motorists are encouraged to maintain awareness and exercise caution while operating a vehicle near motorcycles and motorized scooters. Motorcyclists and motorized scooter operators are encouraged to exercise caution, and wear high-visibility protective clothing to increase their visibility to motorists and helmets to reduce risk of serious injury or death.

Bicycle Safety and Helmet Requirements. Persons under the age of 16 are required to wear a helmet while riding a bicycle, skateboard, or in-line skates on any road, sidewalk, bike path or public right-of-way. Persons over the age of 16 are encouraged to wear appropriate safety equipment/helmets to reduce the risk of death or serious injury.

Teen Driver Safety and Curfew Rules. A nighttime drive curfew is in place Sunday - Thursday from 10:00 p.m. to 6:00 a.m. and Friday - Saturday from 11:00 p.m. to 7:00 a.m. for drivers ages 15 to 17. A teen driving after the driving curfew has an invalid drivers license. For further information regarding teen driver safety, including passenger limitations, residents are encouraged to visit www.cyberdriveillinois.com.

General Curfew Rules. Residents are reminded that it is unlawful for a person age 17 and under to be out at any public place, building or street between the hours of 11:00 p.m. and 6:00 a.m. Sunday - Thursday and 12:01 a.m. and 6:00 a.m. Friday and Saturday. Violators are subject to arrest and a fine of \$25.

Seat Safety Belt Laws Save Lives. Effective January 1, 2012, the driver and all passengers of a vehicle must wear a properly fastened and adjusted safety belt. Previously only the driver and front seat passengers were required to wear a safety belt. A seat safety belt violation qualifies for primary enforcement and bond is set at \$60.

During the month of May 2012 the Highland Park Police will conduct random enforcement patrols targeting seat safety belt violations through an Illinois Department of Transportation "Click it or Ticket" grant.

Parental Responsibility. Parents are reminded that:

- It is illegal for parents or teens to host or allow teen drinking parties in their home.
- It is illegal to provide alcohol to your teen's friends under the age of 21 under any circumstances, even with the parental permission.
- It is illegal to knowingly allow a person under the age of 21 to remain in your home or on your property while consuming or possessing alcohol.
- Parents and teens can be prosecuted under the law for violations and are subject to civil action.

Outdoor Grilling Safety. The onset of warm weather signals the beginning of barbecue season and the City encourages all residents to enjoy this season safely by keeping the following safety tips in mind while grilling:

- Never leave a grill unattended while cooking.
- Position grill away from siding, deck railings and out from under eaves and overhanging branches.
- Keep children and pets away from grills.
- For charcoal grills, use only starter fluids designed for charcoal grills, do not add fluid after coals have been lit, and never use gasoline or other combustible fluids.
- For gas grills, ensure that hose connections are tight and check hoses carefully for leaks by applying soapy water to the hoses.
- Ensure propane cylinders have an overflow protection device that is easily identified by a triangle-shaped hand wheel.
- Remove grease or fat buildup on grill trays to prevent grease fires.
- Only use propane and charcoal grills outdoors.
- If your grill catches fire due to excessive grease or mechanical malfunction, move to a safe location away from the grill and call 911.

For more information regarding grill and fire safety, please contact Fire Department Public Education Officers Joe Schrage or John Brens at (847) 433-3110 or via email at jschrage@cityhpil.com and jbrens@cityhpil.com.

For more information regarding hand-held cellular device use while driving, traffic laws, curfew, seat safety belt laws, or alcohol consumption restrictions, please contact Sergeant Chris O'Neill at (847) 432-7730/coneill@cityhpil.com.

COMMUNITY CALENDAR

CITY MEETINGS

The public is invited to attend City meetings, which take place at City Hall, 1707 St. Johns Avenue, unless otherwise noted. Dates and times are subject to change. Call (847) 432-0800 for further details.

Thurs., May 17	Zoning Board of Appeals	7:30 p.m.
Mon., May 21	Design Review Commission	7:00 p.m.
Tues., May 22	Business and Economic Dev.	6:00 p.m.
Wed., May 23	Transportation Commission	6:30 p.m.
Tues., May 29	Committee of the Whole	4:30 p.m.
	City Council	7:30 p.m.
Mon., June 4	Design Review Commission	7:00 p.m.
Tues., June 5	Plan Commission	7:30 p.m.
Wed., June 5	Housing Commission	6:30 p.m.
Thurs., June 7	Zoning Board of Appeals	7:30 p.m.
Mon., June 11	Committee of the Whole	4:30 p.m.
	City Council	7:30 p.m.
Tues., June 12	Library Board of Trustees (494 Laurel Avenue)	7:30 p.m.
Wed., June 13	Natural Resources Commission	6:30 p.m.
Thurs., June 14	Historic Preservation	7:30 p.m.

LIBRARY PROGRAMS

The Highland Park Public Library presents free literacy and cultural programs. Registration for certain programs may be required as noted. The Library is located at 494 Laurel Avenue. For more information, call (847) 432-0216 or visit www.hplibrary.org. The library will be closed on Monday, May 28. The library will open at 11 a.m. on Wednesday, June 6.

Got Photos? Get Organized, Tuesday, May 22, 7:00 p.m. Professional photo organizer Bonnie Hillman Shay will help you learn techniques for sorting and digitizing photos, home movies, slides, and other memorabilia as well as managing digital photo files. Attendees will receive a special coupon for use at Wolf Camera (Northbrook location) and can enter a drawing to win photo organizing products.

Career Counseling, Wednesday, June 13, 1:00 p.m. - 4:00 p.m. Meet with a career counselor from College of Lake County for a free half-hour session. Learn job search strategies, find assistance writing or updating a resume, and prepare for a job interview. Register at the Reference Desk or call (847) 681-7031.

Reading is Delicious Summer Reading Program, June 4-July 28. For newborns-students entering 9th grade. Read books and win prizes in the library's summer reading program. Registration required. Register at hplibrary.org/kids.

Summer Storytime. Summer storytime sessions, with activities designed to foster pre-reading skills for newborns to six-year-olds, begin in June and July. Registration is required and begins May 29. Visit www.kid-sevents.org for storytime dates and times and to register.

Junior Page Volunteer. Session I: Monday, June 4-Saturday, June 30. Session II: Tuesday, July 2-Saturday, July 28. For all students entering 6th, 7th, 8th or 9th grades. Help out in the Youth Services Department. Shelve books, assist with summer reading and gain work experience. Volunteers can work one hour per day. Orientation Session I: Thursday, May 31, 7:00 p.m. or Saturday, June 2, 10:30 a.m. Orientation Session II: Thursday, June 28, 7:00 p.m. or Saturday June 30, 10:30 a.m. Registration required and is limited to Highland Park residents or residents of the North Shore School District 112 service area. Register in the Youth Services Department or by calling (847) 681-7030.

CULTURAL ARTS EVENTS

Infinity Foundation Gala May 18 Call for Information	HP Country Club 1201 Park Avenue (847) 831-8828	Bloom: Exhibit Opening June 8, Free 6:30 p.m.	The Art Center 1957 Sheridan Road (847) 432-1888
<i>At the Movies: Ice Show</i> May 18 - 20 Call for Information	Centennial Ice Arena 3100 Trail Way (847) 432-4790	<i>Kathy Weaver: The Robot's World</i> June 8, Free 6:30 p.m.	The Art Center 1957 Sheridan Road (847) 432-1888
Family Network Spring Benefit May 19, \$80 7:30 p.m.	The Art Center 1957 Sheridan Road (847) 433-5846	Inspired by Nature June 9, Free 1:00 p.m.	Heller Nature Center 2821 Ridge Road (847) 831-5584
HP Players: Tap Dance Classes May 19 and 21, \$15/class Call to Register	West Ridge Center 636 Ridge Road (847) 926-3025	Highland Park Art Walk June 16 2:00 p.m. - 4:00 p.m.	Downtown HP Various Sites (847) 440-6542
HP Legends: Plaque Unveiling May 26 1:00 p.m.	Downtown HP 650 Central Avenue (847) 432-7090	Nnenna Freelon June 22, \$10-\$75 8:00 p.m.	Martin Theatre 200 Ravinia Park Road (847) 266-5100

YOUTH & SENIOR SERVICES

Youth Services

Serving youth in grades 6-8
1830 Green Bay Road (847) 433-3090

The Firehouse School Year Hours:
Monday - Friday, 3:00 p.m. - 6:00 p.m.

The last quarter of the school year is upon us! Many families find the Firehouse Youth Center an important part of finishing the year. Many students participate in fall and winter sports, and parents find the Firehouse to be a great way for kids to finish the year in a fun, supervised environment. Learning healthy, constructive ways to deal with downtime, is a vital part in a child's journey to becoming a happy, healthy adult. In addition to the structured After 3 program,



students may opt to utilize the Firehouse on a drop-in basis, be it five days a week, once a week, or once in a while. Whatever way you and your child decide to utilize the Firehouse,

the City welcomes the opportunity for your child to participate in fun activities while supervised by professional staff.

If you find your middle-school student struggling with getting homework done, time management or organization skills, it is not too late to enroll in the After 3 homework program. After 3 at The Firehouse was designed to serve the growing needs of working families with children in middle school. After 3 at The Firehouse provides professional staff who offers your child enriching activities that can develop their potential, build their confidence and help them with their schoolwork. Make the most out of your child's after-school time. Transportation is also available from all three middle schools to The Firehouse in a 14-passenger bus and 7-passenger van. Register to fit the needs of your family, whether it be one day a week or five. Once registered, your child will have a seat reserved for the days you wish.

Days per week	Fee w/out Transportation	Fee w/ Transportation
1 Day	\$40	\$80
2 Days	\$80	\$160
3 Days	\$120	\$240
4 Days	\$160	\$320
5 Days	\$200	\$400

Senior Services

Serving adults over 50
54 Laurel Avenue (847) 432-4110
Monday - Friday, 8:00 a.m. - 5:00 p.m.

Lunch and Learn Nature Workshops

Heller Nature Center
Fridays, Noon - 2:00 p.m.
Fee: \$10/Non-Members: \$15
Sponsored by Freedom Home Care

This exciting series features a delicious lunch, followed by unique and interesting lectures/workshops led by area naturalists. Advanced registration is required; please call (847) 432-4110.

May 18 All About Owls - Live!

Wildlife Rehabilitator Linda Breuer will introduce you to some of the most amazing winged predator - owls. Linda will have several live owls to show, while discussing their habitat and behavioral characteristics, as well as some of the challenges they face in the wild.

June 22 Container Gardening

Explore container gardening basics including plant selection, soil types and use of innovative containers. Learn about flowers and plants that do well in pots, as well as container garden design principles. Each participant will design, create, and take home their own container garden. Please bring a decorative container/basket to work with.

Spring Fling Cocktail Party

Whitehall of Deerfield, 300 Waukegan Road, Deerfield
Wednesday, May 30, 4:00 p.m. - 6:00 p.m.
Fee: \$5/Non-Members: \$8

Sponsored by Whitehall of Deerfield Healthcare Center
Enjoy a lovely evening celebrating spring! This special event features gourmet appetizers, open bar with beer, wine, and soft drinks, live musical entertainment, and free raffle drawings for wonderful prizes.

Breakfast at the Beach

North Shore Yacht Club, Friday, June 8, 9:30 a.m. - 11 a.m.
Fee: \$5/Non-Members: \$8
Sponsored by Freedom Home Care

Enjoy a hidden jewel in Highland Park at the Park Avenue Beach. This special day features a simple breakfast on the porch of the North Shore Yacht Club, overlooking the sandy shores of Lake Michigan. A light breakfast with bagels and cream cheese, breakfast sweets, fresh fruit, and juice and coffee will be enhanced by musical entertainment which will complement the peacefulness of Lake Michigan.

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THE CITY OF HIGHLAND PARK

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PERMIT NO. 10

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City Manager: David Knapp
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ComEd to Provide System Upgrades to Enhance Reliability

Highland Park residents may have seen Commonwealth Edison or contractor trucks and service personnel in the area over the past several weeks. ComEd has announced electric system upgrade projects in the area that began March 1 in Highland Park. Work on these projects is expected to continue through May. The upgrades are designed to provide better reliability for Highland Park residents and businesses.

Work already completed this year includes enhanced tree trimming to reduce vegetation related contacts that can cause power outages and replacement or injection of approximately 700 feet of underground residential distribution cable (URD) on Deerfield Road that serves Highland Park residents. Injected cable fills voids in the insulation; when that is not possible, cable is replaced where necessary to reduce the number of customer service interruptions due to cable failures.

ComEd has planned several storm “hardening” projects that reduce the susceptibility of circuits and fuses to storm-related damage caused by high winds and thunderstorms. Toward that end, ComEd will be installing automatic fuse devices near Highmoor Road and Route 22, Ryders Lane and Holley Road, Ridge Road and Castlewood Road, and behind Half Day Road near Arlington Avenue. The automatic fuse devices are used in place of traditional fuses to minimize the number of permanent outages caused by tree branch movement, lightning and other weather related factors.

Another storm hardening project planned to be completed by May is the installation of approximately 4,400 feet of overhead Hendrix spacer cable on five circuits. Hendrix spacer cable helps reduce the number of customer service interruptions by reinforcing overhead electrical wires to prevent damage caused by falling tree limbs. The Hendrix spacer cable installation is targeted for Cloverdale Avenue, Lynn Terrace, Marion Avenue, Stonegate Drive, Croftridge Lane, Sheridan Road near Lakeside Place, and Bob-O-Link Road near Croftridge Lane.

ComEd continues to identify work that will improve reliability performance and reduce customer outages throughout its service territory as part of the Illinois Energy Infrastructure Modernization Act that was enacted in October 2011 by the Illinois General Assembly. Over the 10-year program, ComEd will invest \$2.6 billion to strengthen and modernize its electric system. About half will be spent in reliability-related programs to strengthen the existing power grid serving northern Illinois. This includes replacing underground cable, inspecting, treating and, where necessary, replacing wood poles, and performing storm hardening tasks to further reduce the susceptibility of circuits to storm-related damage.

Residents with questions about the ComEd infrastructure improvements should call (800) Edison-1 (800-334-7661). For more information, please contact Brian Bourdeau in the City Manager’s Office at (847) 926-1043/bbourdeau@cityhpil.com.