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P/16

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announces honors, awards, and other news
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offers news of our fine building, designing,
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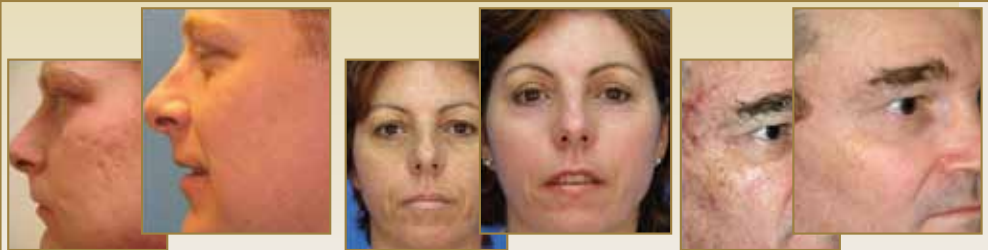
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Highland Park. In spite of being consistently busy with their business over the last two decades, the Eisendraths have devoted countless hours—as well as many free signs—to the Highland Park Chamber of Commerce and to many other civic causes. In fact, almost any sign you see on the North Shore is likely to have come from their shop.

Signs Now in Highland Park is definitely a cutting edge shop that includes a brand-new HP Latex Ink Digital printer that produces flawless images five times faster than the technology it replaced. Images produced by the digital printing system can be incorporated into grand opening signs, point-of-purchase graphics, tradeshow displays, sales event promotions, new products introductions, and store-front graphics.

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Talk about great ideas, CapTel Captioned Telephone is an exciting breakthrough in communications for people with hearing loss. (It could also help those multi-taskers who operate on two or three lines at a time!) CapTel works like any traditional telephone, with callers speaking and listening to each other, but with one significant difference: captions, or texted speech, are provided live for every phone call. Users can listen to their

Photo: Bohringer Creative



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Plus, because there is a local representative servicing our community, installation is provided free of charge. The phone itself costs just \$100. Contact Ron Dreyfus at 224-261-4817, or email him at ron.dreyfus@captel.com.

@properties

One of the shining new faces of business on the north side of Central Avenue, between Second and First Streets, is @properties.

"@properties is the fastest growing real estate brokerage firm on the North Shore, and the #1 broker in the City of Chicago" says @properties co-founder Thaddeus Wong. "We are excited to be a part of Highland Park's thriving business community," he adds. "We have a great opportunity to create local jobs and get more involved with Highland Park and the surrounding communities.



Brokers Janice Goldblatt, Julie Marcus, Joni Meyerowitz, and Robert Casorio

Wes Wenk



Michael Golden, another co-founder, reports that "the response from the community has been great, and we're looking forward to serving Highland Park home buyers and sellers for many years."

@properties' Highland Park real estate office also serves Ft. Sheridan, Highwood, Deerfield, Riverwoods, and Glencoe. For more information, visit the brokerage at 607 Central Avenue, or online at www.atproperties.com, or call 847-432-0700.

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In retail and professional services, where there is a lot of competition, buyers sometimes can see



Photo: Jacob Rosenfeld

Jacob Rosenfeld, 4D President

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Rock, Bach, and Blues:

THE LOCAL

By Donald Liebenson

Highland Park

and neighboring Highwood rock. They also swing and sing. Sometimes, they get the blues (and, if there is an audience for it, bluegrass). For all ages and in a variety of venues, live music gets big play here.

The newest venue comes with superstar pedigree. **Madame ZuZu's Tea House** (582

Roger Williams Avenue), the passion project for Smashing Pumpkins' frontman and Highland Park resident Billy Corgan, opened



Sarah Petty and Tiziana Stuparitz behind the counter at Madame ZuZu's

in September. On opening night, Corgan enthralled a standing room only crowd with an acoustic set of Smashing Pumpkin favorites and the odd Hank Williams classic.

But don't expect Corgan to be the house musician. As this issue went to press, a performance night policy was a work in progress. Corgan, however, has said in interviews that he envisioned the tea house as a haven for performing arts, including live music and poetry readings.

Teen Talent

In downtown Highland Park, the teen club **NOVA-HP** (1770 First Street) offers teens a venue to hear concerts performed by bands comprised of their peers. "We try to match up bands from different high schools so kids from around the area who otherwise wouldn't get to know each other have the chance to meet," said co-executive director Andrew Holzman.

The bands practice at NOVA-HP and then play on weekends. The concerts, held once or twice a month, are part of the not-for-profit facility's mission to empower local youth, Holzman said. "We bring in high school bands to show kids that given the opportunity, they can make something on their own."

One of those bands is October Road, featuring guitarist Ryan Slack, 15, a Deerfield High School student. "It's great to have a place like this to play in front of people," he said. "It's well organized, and they have a great sound system."

Join the Club

If instead of watching live music, you'd like to play it, join the club - **The Shed** (1480 Old Deerfield Road), that is. The Shed is akin to a country club or health club, except



Rockin' out at The Shed

its members are "people with a love of music," among them professionals who put aside their rock star dreams to pursue a career, but now want to play music again.

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MUSIC SCENE

The facility offers members the chance to practice, record, network, or just hang out in a "high-end facility," said general manager Lauren Blumenthal.

Membership has its privileges, but there is also a pay-as-you-go option for local bands that want to practice and record. The public is invited to attend jam sessions held every other Friday from 8 p.m.-11 p.m. The cost is \$15.

The Shed is also available for private events, such as holiday parties.

Plugged/Unplugged

In neighboring Highwood, live music is literally right down its "Alley." Steve Goldstein bought the **The Alley** (210 Green Bay Road) five years ago, fixed it up, and installed a state-of-the-art sound system. Offering live music on weekends, he said, adds a unique aspect to the neighborhood fixture.

Highwood also has restaurants that feature solo acoustic players, duos, or small trios.

Cellar Gate Winemarket (524 Sheridan Road), for example, serves up light rock, as well as unique wines and small plates on the weekends. But, Goldstein said, "There needs to be a place where people can see rockin' bands."

The Alley surely fits that bill, as does Highwood's **Bridie McKenna's Irish Pub** (254 Green Bay Road) and Highland Park's **Vibe at 1935** (1935 Sheridan Road). McKenna's features Irish music and dance on the first Tuesday of each month, karaoke on Friday, and live music on Saturday. Vibe offers a Tuesday blues jam as well as live music on weekends that's loud

and lively and brings a big city vibe to the 'burbs.

Year-Round Ravinia

If your tastes run more to Rachmaninoff than to rock, **Ravinia Festival**, world-renowned for its summer concerts, will brighten your winter and



Photo: Ravinia Festival

Classics concert at Ravinia's Bennett Gordon Hall

Zukerman, clarinetist Bharat Chandra, and the Chicago Children's Choir will perform the Chicago premiere of *Annelies: The Choral Setting of the Diary of Anne Frank*. For the complete series program, visit Ravinia.org or call the box office at 847-266-5100.

Donald Liebenson has been published in *The Chicago Tribune*, *The Tribune's Printers' Row*, *The Chicago Sun-Times*, *The Los Angeles Times*, *Pioneer Press*, *Ravinia Magazine*, *Chicago Magazine*, and *Huffington Post*.

Photo: Ravinia Festival



Empire Brass Ensemble

spring evenings with a string of BGH \$10 Classics concerts. The series runs through April in the 450-seat Bennett Gordon Hall in the John D. Harza building on the park grounds (201 St. Johns Avenue).

The Empire Brass ensemble, in its first Ravinia concert in 20 years, will perform a Christmas concert on Dec. 6 at 8 p.m. The program will feature vocals by Elisabeth von Trapp, the granddaughter of Maria and Baron von Trapp, whose life story was immortalized in "The Sound of Music."

On Feb. 24, 2013, the Lincoln Trio with soprano Arianna

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Photo: Bridie McKenna's



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Lend a Hand THROUGH



"Highland Park is a giving community," notes Aimee Krupp, owner of **Principessa Children's Boutique** in Ravinia. "I'm part of the community, so I try to give back."

Principessa (453 Roger Williams Avenue, 847-926-0500, www.principessaboutique.com) is one of the city's upscale resale shops that have made charitable donations an integral part of its

business plan. Clients who offer items for consignment are asked to sign an agreement specifying that anything not sold within a specific period of time will be donated to a charity or charitable cause.

Principessa specializes in boutique labels (no "big box" labels, and nothing over two

years old) for girls and boys ages newborn to tweens. Krupp has nurtured a loyal following that stretches from our community



Aimee Krupp of Principessa Children's Boutique

to as far west as Los Angeles and as far east as Boston. "They know I can sell (their clothes) for them," she said. Another draw

to the store is a selection of new gift items, ideal for children's birthday parties.

Principessa's consignment period is generally 90 days. Recently, Krupp said, of 5,000 items that had come in, she was left with perhaps two or three racks of unsold clothes. These were donated to charity. "We also donate items people drop off that I can't use."

Krupp said, "You have to trust us that we're going to try and sell for you, but I always say that if your clothes mean that much to you, don't consign them," as unsold items are donated to worthwhile causes. These include ORT in Highland Park; the National Council of Jewish Women in Wilmette; and the LYDIA Home Association in Chicago, which as part of its mission, offers a home for abused children. Customers often will suggest the charities to which they want their unsold clothes donated. "My customers feel good that their clothes are going somewhere" that they are needed, Krupp said.

Photo: HP Chamber of Commerce

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SECOND-HANDS

Photo: Loree's Closet



Loree Wasserman of Loree's Closet

Loree Wasserman, owner of **Loree's Closet** (1500 Old Deerfield Road, Units 19 and 20, 847-748-8451, loreescloset.com), a full-service eBay luxury consignment business, also emphasizes the importance

of charitable giving. One of the options Wasserman offers her clients is to donate a portion of their proceeds to any of the thousands of charities represented on the online bidding site. Many clients, she said, want "some or all of the money received (from the sale of an item) to go to a charity that is dear to their heart."

Inspired by her clients' generosity, Wasserman makes a year-end donation to all the charities her clients have chosen in Loree's Closet's name. "We like to support the charities that are important to them," she said.

In its service to clients, Wasserman's company performs all the necessary research, pricing, form submission, and professional photography for eBay-listed items. Loree's Closet also offers pick-up as well as in-home consultation on whether an item is a buried treasure (one recent client, for example, received a \$350 bid for a "Clue" game board she found in the attic and initially planned to discard).

Co-owners Susan Gerber and Gilat Zamost of **My Best Friend's Closet** (1780 Green Bay Road, 847-681-0002, mybestfriendsclosethp.com) also promote charitable donations. The upscale consignment shop supports Chicago-based not-for-profit Bridge to Success, which helps women in need dress to re-enter the workforce. "Everything we sell is two years old or less, however sometimes we get older business suits that we can't use" in the store but that work extremely well for a donation, Zamost said.

In addition, donating to Bridge to Success, My Best Friend's Closet also has made clothing donations to Chicago city charter schools, and the shop has donated prom and bar mitzvah-ready formalwear to students in need at Highland Park High School and Elm Place Middle School, respectively.

My Best Friend's Closet offers consigners a 60-40 split on proceeds. If an item doesn't sell in the store or at the Chamber of

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Commerce's annual sidewalk sale, it is donated. "We don't give anything back anymore," Zamost said. "If you're getting rid of your stuff, you might as well give it to somebody who needs it."

Zamost and Gerber also pride themselves on giving fledgling artisans an outlet to sell their creations. "I love helping people," Zamost said, echoing Highland Park's philanthropic spirit. "We'll do anything for anyone."

Sharon Nudell, owner of **Sharin' Unlimited** (1510 Old Deerfield Road, 847-579-1500), is similarly civic minded, donating to several charities and personal causes, including The



Susan Gerber and Gilat Zamost of *My Best Friend's Closet*

Lake County Haven, which serves homeless women and children, and the Chicago Lighthouse, which assists people who are blind or visually impaired.

In its nondescript warehouse location, Sharin' Unlimited, (open only Fridays and Saturdays), sells designer resale and deeply discounted new clothing, plus shoes and accessories. To those in the know (Nudell shuns advertising, but loyal customer word of mouth keeps the store "crazy busy"), the store has the friendly, welcoming vibe of "Cheers," the fictional TV series bar where everybody knows your name. "Eighty percent know each other," she said. "You walk in the door, and you feel accepted."

Nudell encourages networking among her customers. "Whether you're looking for a doctor or a hairdresser, someone here probably will have a recommendation for you." In addition, she said, "We have found people jobs."

Nudell considers this too as her way of lending a hand to others. "I've had a lot of trouble in my life, but I also feel very blessed," she said, "so I give back to the community because it has supported me. It's an important part of who I am."

Photo: Bohringer Creative

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The Post Office STAMPS OUT LONG

By Wes Wenk

Photo: Bohringer Creative



Postmaster Vickie Henderson

Instead of delivering via sleigh, Santa might want to consider using the U.S.

Post Office in Highland Park this season, as mailing packages and letters has gotten quite a bit easier. For example, just like supermarkets that open a new register when checkout lines get long, Postmaster Vickie Henderson

and her veteran staff now open another counter if there are more than three people in line. Of course, if a customer wants to avoid a line altogether, he or she can head to the



Automated Postal Center (APC) that's located in the lobby of the Post Office building (833 Central Avenue).

The APC offers a self-service approach to weighing, calculating, and applying exact postage for mailing Priority Mail® items, packages, first-class letters, and Express Mail®. (Note that Express Mail overnight packages are automatically insured to \$100). And there's no need to rush to get a package to the Post Office by closing time, because the APC is available for use at any hour of the day or night.

If you want more convenience than even the APC offers, the Post Office gives you additional options. For about the last 10 years, one of the Post Office's partners, the website "stamps.com" has allowed people to pay for and then print stamps on a home printer. And now by accessing usps.com, people at home can use the Post Office's Click-N-Ship® option to print postage labels for packages and then schedule a carrier pickup. The mail carrier who picks



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up a package will scan the bar code on the label.

You can email Postmaster Henderson at VictoriaHenderson@usps.com, with questions about all Post Office offerings. Or stop in and see her in person to learn about the Automatic Postal Center, or to pick up some new holiday stamps. This year's lineup features a Forever Stamp of the Holy Family and a four-stamp "Santa and Sleigh" series. Also offered this season are the traditional Eid, Hanukkah, Madonna of the Candelabra, and Kwanzaa stamps.

You can also email Henderson or ask her in person about how the Highland Park Post Office works closely with Santa Claus to answer letters addressed to him. Henderson said that for the third consecutive year, the local post office will participate in the U.S. Post Office's "Letters to Santa" annual letter-writing program, a campaign that helps fulfill the holiday wishes of children and their families. Henderson explained that "through the Letters to Santa program, members of the public and charitable organizations respond to letters addressed to Santa Claus, the North Pole, Operation Santa, and other seasonal characters."

The Postal Service expects to deliver more than 17.9 billion cards, letters and packages between Thanksgiving and New Year's Eve during this holiday season.

Henderson said that the busiest mailing day of this year is expected to be December 17, so she suggests people complete their mailings early and use First-Class, Priority, or Express Mail.

So for holiday cards and packages, the message this year isn't just "mail it early!", but also "mail it from home!"

For Christmas cards and packages, here are the Post Office's suggested mailing dates:

Domestic Mail/Class	Cut Off Date
First Class Mail	Dec. 20
Priority Mail	Dec. 21
Express Mail	Dec. 22
Parcel Post	Dec. 14

A self-supporting government enterprise, the U.S. Postal Service is the only delivery service that reaches every address in the nation — 151 million residences, businesses and Post Office™ Boxes. The Postal Service™ receives no tax dollars for operating expenses, and relies on the sale of postage, products and services to fund its operations.



Photo: Bohringer Creative



Inside the Highland Park Post Office

UNLOCK

Your House's History

Rendering: Bohringer Creative

As the saying goes, there's no place like home. But how much do you really know about yours? Was it one of the first houses on the block? Are the wooden front porch and iron railings original to the home? Who were

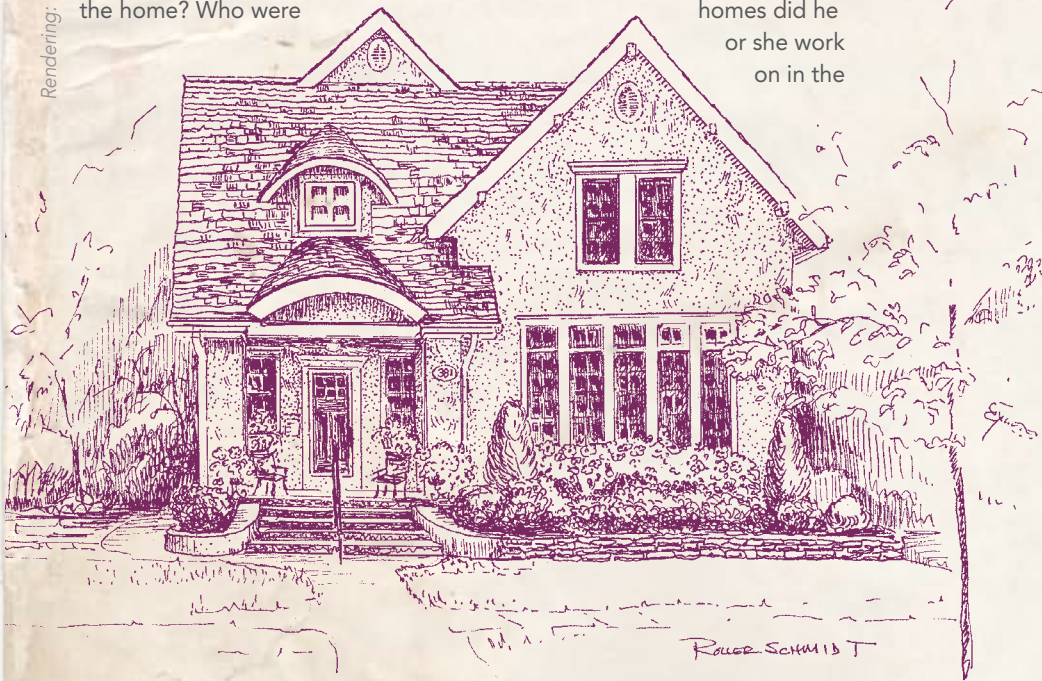
to it over the years; and the other is concerned with the previous occupants. Do you know the age of your house and what style it is? Who was the architect, what other homes did he or she work on in the

and how many other owners have there been since the original one and you?

These are captivating questions for amateur house detectives. To seek out clues to your home's history, you can visit the Highland Park Historical Society, the Highland Park Public Library, and the Highland Park Building Department, all of which offer various resources to help solve mysteries about your house's past.

The Historical Society, for example, holds real estate records that include information on an individual home's buyers and sellers, as well as the realty companies that were used. The Society also has historical photographs of many houses throughout the area, as well as information on house number and street changes that took place in Highland Park between 1950 and 1952.

The Society's Archives and Research Center is where you'll find a collection of blueprints and abstracts of title for different properties. An abstract of title, which lists previous owners of the property from the original owner onward, is useful for those who want to learn about the ownership history of a specific lot of land over time. You are welcome to search the Society's collections at www.highlandparkhistory.org.



the children who long ago wrote "The Spider Club" on a wall in the attic?

Every house has at least two storylines: one is about the home's builder, its design, and any changes or enhancements made

area, and what, if any, alterations were made to the original structure over the years? Who were the home's first occupants, how long did they live there,

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One of the most distinctive things about Highland Park is its rich collection of beautiful homes, many of which were designed in signature styles by well-known architects. If you are interested in learning what architectural style your house is, the Society can help explain the most common styles used in the area. Historic revival styles from the 1920s through the 1940s found in Highland Park include Colonial, Dutch Colonial, Spanish, Cape Cod, Tudor, French Eclectic, and Italian Renaissance. Local homes in styles not based on historic precedent include Craftsman, Prairie, and

International.

Other popular 20th Century house types in our community include Bungalow, Ranch, and Split Level.

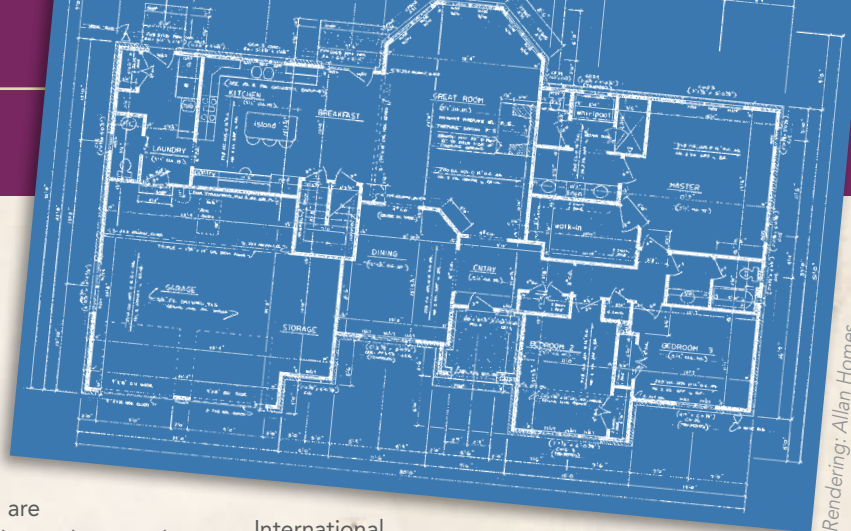
Architectural Resources in Highland Park, Illinois, a publication created for the City of Highland Park, offers information and photos of these various styles. This publication, available online at www.cityhpil.com/documents/21/historic_green_bay_corridor_survey.PDF,

highlights the work of many well-known architects who worked locally. These architects include Ivan Robert Peterson, whose mid-century design styles ranged from historic revivals to contemporary Ranches; pioneers of the modern period Henry Dubin and Philip Anthony Faro; and post-WWII architect Greta Lederer, described

in a June 6, 1957, *Chicago Daily Tribune* article as a "serene looking woman who's far from serene, a demon for work, and a mass of contradictions."

Some of the more famous designers who worked locally include David Adler, John S. Van Bergen, Frank Lloyd Wright, Howard Van Doren Shaw, and Robert E.

(Continued on page 20)



Rendering: Allan Homes

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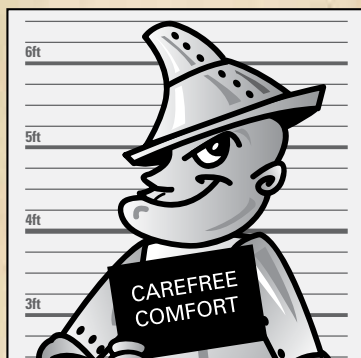
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Rendering: Allan Homes

(Continued from page 19)

Seyfarth. If such a prominent architect designed your house, consider consulting the Art Institute of Chicago's online catalog, www.ryerson.artic.edu/.

The numerous resources offered to house history-detectives by the Highland Park Public Library include *Your Highland Park Home: A Research Guide*. This guide, offered on the Library's website (www.highlandpark.org/homeresearch.html), gives information on title research, assessment rolls, and other aspects of individual house research. The Library also has city directories, biographical indices, historical newspapers, and a local obituary index (www.highlandpark.org/obits/index.html) that can be helpful in researching homes and their past owners. In addition to the resources and staffs at the Historical Society and the Library, you can get help in your house sleuthing from local realtors and the Highland Park Building Department. Highland Park architectural surveys, which cover different areas of the community, are available online at www.cityhpil.com.

The Highland Park Historical Society has two upcoming events that are relevant to people interested in the history of houses. "What Style is it? Residential Architecture of Highland Park" will be the focus of a winter workshop, and in the spring, the Society will offer a program on Historypin, an interactive online site that allows users to share historic content by posting images, stories, and oral histories. For more information, call the Society at 847-432-7090.

The Society always welcomes the opportunity to receive donated materials documenting the people and culture of Highland Park, including homes. Please contact the Society regarding donations at: archives@highlandparkhistory.org. Or, "pin" the material and share a story at www.historypin.com.

Thanks to Eve Mangurten and Jean Sogin for their contributions to this article. Mangurten is an Assistant Project Archivist at the Highland Park Historical Society, and she is working on a two-year grant funded by the National Historical Publications and Records Commission (NHPRC). Sogin is an Historical Society Board Member, and she serves as Chair of the Highland Park Historic Preservation Commission.

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CORNER

If you work in a construction related trade, one statistic that is closely watched is the number of new home starts. Fortunately, residential new construction has been up a bit for the first time in years, which got me thinking that readers might want some tips on how to choose a homebuilder. Many of these same ideas hold true of selecting a home remodeler.

- How much time do I have to invest in the building process?
- How much research am I able to do on the products, appliances, and finishes?
- How much guidance am I prepared to offer during the construction process?
- Do I want to bother with addressing fine details, or will I let the builder handle them?

2. Get a List of Builders

- Visit the Highland Park Chamber of Commerce website at: www.chamberhp.com for names of area builders.
- Check out the National Association of Home Builders (NAHB) website at www.nahb.org or the Home Builders Association of Illinois site at: www.hbai.org.
- Look in the real estate section of the local newspaper for builders and projects. Review the ads to see which builders are constructing the type of home you are looking for and to gauge the prices you can expect to pay.

- Ask friends, relatives, and local real estate agents for recommendations.

3. Proper Research and Investigation

Check the Better Business Bureau's website to make sure your contracting firm doesn't have an excessive amount of complaints. If the firm checks out, the next step is get a list of references and ask the following questions:

- Did the builder stay on budget?
- Did the builder complete the project on time?
- Was the builder helpful with recommending construction materials and finishes?
- Did the builder return calls quickly?
- When problems arose, did the builder

1. Know What You Want

You need to have a clear understanding of what you would like the final project to look like, and how much involvement you want to have along the way.

Assess your needs by asking yourself these questions:



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David Ariano

respond in
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resolve problems satisfactorily?

- What did the builder do well? What could have been done better?

Additional questions to ask the prospective contracting firm:

- Have they won any awards?
- Do they have a portfolio of residences like the one you want to build?
- Are they members of any professional trade associations?
- How long have they been in business? You want someone who has been around for more than five years.
- Does the firm have a permanent business address?
- Ask your builder for a certificate of insurance that lists you as an additional insured, is up to date, and has the coverage for auto, workman's compensation, and liability. The liability amount must cover the cost of your new home.

4. Choose a Builder You Like

Signing a contract to build or remodel a home is a big commitment. If you want to be heavily involved in your project, make sure you and your builder will get along on a business level, because you will be spending a lot of time together. If the relationship does not feel right, move on until you find the right match.

5. Understand the Warranty

Ask your building firm what their warranty covers, for how long, and by whom. The relationship with your builder will last for a while after the construction is complete. Contact the NAHB to find out what the local industry standard is for a home warranty. If your builder does not offer at least the average warranty, find a different contractor.

6. Get It in Writing

Have the builder specify what is included in the price. Ask the builder for the allowance amounts for things like lighting fixtures, flooring, and cabinetry, and then visit local suppliers of such items to see if those allowances are realistic. Some builders will use smaller allowances to make their bid more attractive and then charge for upgrades later.

Read and understand the written contract. Better yet, have it also reviewed by a lawyer. You don't want to be stuck in a one-sided contract. You might consider including such performance goals as job completion dates or guarantees on estimates. Also consider a back-up plan should something happen to the builder personally (this is referred to as a performance bond).

7. Ask for Help

I have been in the construction industry for years, and I don't know it all. Don't think that you have to be the expert on everything. There are hundreds of choices associated with building materials, finishes, and designs. Ask for help from experienced sources.

David Ariano is the owner or Ravinia Plumbing & Heating, DiPietro Plumbing Services, and Romitti Electric Corporation. David can be reached at 847-432-5561 or David@RaviniaPlumbing.com



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FOR THE HOLIDAYS

Looking to shine this holiday season with a brilliant new piece of bling? Hoping to buy something special for a treasured person in your life? Want to purchase a gift of lasting value? Highland Park is fortunate to have fabulous jewelers that can help you find just what you've been seeking. Many of these jewelers have been a part of our business community for generations. Here's what makes them such gems, and also what they recommend for giving yourself and others during this festive season.

"Long tassel necklaces are big for the holidays," said Jill Garfinkle, owner of **Garfinkle's Fine Jewelry** (462 Central Avenue, 847-433-8877, www.garfinklesonline.com). "They come in a variety of finishes and are perfect for today's tunic-length sweaters. Or, go with Heather Moore's personalized charms. These recycled metal creations symbolize life's milestones."

Photo: Garfinkle's Fine Jewelry



Betty of Garfinkle's Fine Jewelry

What sets her store apart is that Garfinkle handpicks everything. By attending many jewelry shows each year, she stays ahead of the

curve so that her customers can sport the newest looks. "They know they can count on me first to have the next big thing!"

For 36 years — 21 at the current location — Garfinkle's Fine Jewelry has been a go-to-place for holiday gifts and also Bar and Bat Mitzvah presents. The store stocks a full selection of diamond initial necklaces, hamsa charms, and Jewish stars for girls, as well as Swiss Army knives and initial rings for boys. Watches are another specialty; the store carries such brands as Oris, Michael Kors, and Michelle's in a variety of prices.

With beautiful music playing and Dove candies offered for snacking, shopping at **Hoffman Jewelers** (209 Skokie Blvd., 847-579-1400, www.hoffmanjewelers.com) can be a sweet, relaxing experience. Owner Richard Hoffman has been serving the North Shore for 55 years, and his store has been located at Crossroads Shopping Center since 1999.

"I recommend white and black diamonds in rings, earrings, and necklaces for the holidays, and I also suggest diamond and sapphire bracelets," said Hoffman, whose personal touch is one reason that customers keep coming back. Another reason is that the store



Richard Hoffman of Hoffman Jewelers

carries "an extensive selection at every price point, and we give our customers a legitimate discount," said Hoffman. "Customers tell us our selection is outstanding."

Hoffman Jewelers carries such designer jewelry brands as Michael B, Christopher Designs, and Roberto Coin. The store also sells watches from Movado, Concord, Genevieve, and other makers of distinguished timepieces.

Vera Wang, Debra Messing, and Sarah Jessica Parker are among the celebrities who have been spotted wearing baubles from **Jill Alberts Jewelry** (469 Roger Williams, 847-681-1630, www.jillalberts.com).



Jill Alberts Jewelry

Alberts has been designing jewelry for over ten years, and she opened her Ravinia-area store in 2008.

Alberts works with natural stones, sterling silver, and gemstones to create one-of-a-kind earrings, bracelets, necklaces, and rings. "Anything green is going to be hot this holiday," she said, "like green onyx or emeralds." She also suggests layering. "Start with one bangle bracelet, then get a few more. Women love to add to their collections." Alberts said designing jewelry is about making beautiful things. "It's always nice to be a part of someone else's celebration."

Photo: Bohringer Creative

Port Clinton Jewelers (600 Central Avenue, 847-433-8448) can proudly say they were the first tenant in Port Clinton. Opened in 1984 by co-owners Terri and Berchie



Terri Perlman of Port Clinton Jewelers

Perlman, the store recently moved to its new location. Specializing in 14 and 18kt gold, platinum designs, precious gems, and diamonds, Port Clinton Jewelers carries such designers as Meira T, Doves, Norman Covan, and Charles Krypell — names women of the North Shore know and love.

Photo: Bohringer Creative

The Gold Rush!

If you expect to see something akin to Fort Knox when you walk into **Bullion Express** (1831 St. John's Avenue, 847-780-0010, www.bullionexpress.com), you might be surprised. The business looks more like a high-end jeweler. Bullion Express, which opened in 2012, carries new and estate jewelry, watches, diamonds, rare coins, and bullion, all under one roof. "Being part of a nationwide company that buys and sells, we maintain a constantly evolving inventory to meet customer demand," said manager Patrick Mason. "For the holidays, we expect pre-owned Rolex watches, pave hoop earrings, and one-of-a-kind estate pieces to be big."

"Bullion Express pays top dollar for gold and silver jewelry, sterling silver flatware, diamonds, and watches," continued Mason. "When we give you an offer, you'll leave with a full understanding of that offer. Since we have a comprehensive inventory on hand, customers will find a fantastic selection to trade-in for a new piece!"

Note that like Bullion Express, all of the other jewelers featured have a gold buy-back program.

When asked about gift-giving trends, Terri replied, "The new doublet stones are very popular. Slices of different semi-precious stones are set in a variety of pieces, like faceted white topaz jewelry with black and white diamonds." She also suggested giving "anything in turquoise."

"We love being in business here," she continued. "When we opened, we met women who came in with their babies. Now those babies are grown up and coming to us for their own engagement and wedding sets. How great to be multi-generational!"

Photo: Razny Jewelers



Stan and Ingrid Razny of Razny Jewelers

"Buying jewelry is all about celebrating life," said Stan Razny, co-owner of **Razny Jewelers** (1700 Green Bay Road, 847-432-5300, www.razny.com). "Holiday shoppers will find success with designer David Yurman, fashion-forward silver and diamond jewelry, versatile pieces from Penny Preville, and lightweight gold hoop earrings from Lana," said co-owner Ingrid Razny. "For men," she said, "it's all about timepieces." Razny is the source for such luxury watch brands as Patek Philippe, Rolex, and Cartier.

The store also creates custom pieces for corporations (such as a gold hot dog charm for the Portillo Restaurant Group) and for individuals. In addition, Stan Razny said he can take "a family heirloom and refine it into another beautiful treasure for the next generation." Such a valued piece of jewelry would be a very special gift at holiday time, or, indeed, anytime thereafter.

Photo: HP Chamber of Commerce



Henry J. Lipson, Irv Jacobson, Michelle Sneider (l-r)

Owner Irv "Jake" Jacobson of **Allura Fine Jewelers** (1848 First Street, 847-433-2444, www.allurajewelers.com) said that "for the holidays, his customers are going the more traditional route with stud earrings and diamond line bracelets."

Jacobson counts four decades in the jewelry business. Ten years ago,

veteran jeweler Henry Lipson joined Allura, expanding the expertise of the store, which moved from Deerfield to Highland Park in 2010. Allura is a full-service, diverse jeweler, said Jacobson. "We do custom-designed pieces—rings, bracelets, necklaces—as well as appraisals, repairs, buying, selling, and consignment. We like to think of ourselves as 'advisors' helping families to make smart decisions on their precious estate jewelry."

Mira Temkin is a North Shore freelance writer whose articles have appeared in the *Chicago Tribune*, *What's Happening*, and *Long Island Woman*. She also consults on marketing communication projects and can be reached at miratemkin@gmail.com.



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Every gift you buy locally gives twice – first to the lucky recipient – and second to your local community. Did you realize that for every \$100 spent in locally-owned independent stores, \$68 returns to the community in taxes, payroll, and other expenditures?* Spend it online and nothing comes home. So, yes, shopping in Highland Park does make a difference, and you can, too!

GIVE!

The Highland Park Chamber of Commerce is grateful to represent a community that is so supportive, philanthropic, and giving of time and resources. This holiday season, please consider giving a little extra to organizations in our community that make a difference in the lives of those who need it most. The Chamber's website lists many of these deserving social and support service agencies.

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*Source: The 3/50 Project; Civic Economics

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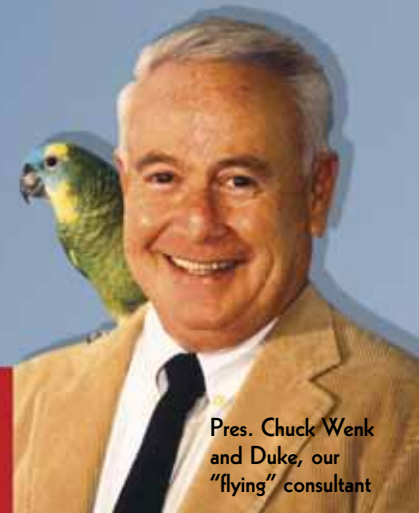
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Visit www.chamberhp.com to Shop, Give, and Go Highland Park! Get details on upcoming community events, **HOT DEALS**, and to connect with our great Chamber member businesses!



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CITY MANAGER DAVID KNAPP

In May, Highland Park welcomed David Knapp as its new City Manager.

Knapp came to Highland Park with 42 years of city management experience spent in such communities as San Diego, Cupertino, Boulder, and Los Gatos. Knapp is also a husband, father, grandfather, and, as was revealed in our conversation, a man with an interesting life story.

Photo: HP Chamber of Commerce



City Manager David Knapp

A city manager's job is unique. Did you wake up one day and say, "Gee I think I'll be a city manager?" Seriously, what was your path to this job?

My dad, an Episcopal priest, died when I was 11 years old and my mom was headmistress at a private nursery school. I went to Texas Military Institute starting in eighth grade, and when it came time to choose a college, I selected Sewanee, the University of the South. At Sewanee (then an all mens' college founded in 1858 by Episcopal bishops), I studied philosophy, and I waited to see if the call (to the priesthood) came. Well if it came, it was so faint, I never heard it. In '62-63, I headed to graduate school at the University of Texas because that was where Kay was (Kay would later become his wife; they have been married 49 years).

I received a Ford Foundation grant to study Learning Theory and Psychology. At the end of my first year, I was drafted, and not looking good in green, I volunteered for the Air Force. The Air Force sent me to a school for electrical engineers who were developing electronic counter-counter measures to unscramble jamming (interference with communications and Radar). Finishing my tour with the Air Force in Europe, North Africa, and the Middle East, I went to the personnel

office, wondering what career field I should pursue. Their assessments indicated that I was best suited to go into public administration. "What's that?" I asked. It was, of course, working for cities.

How did you come to move from California to Highland Park? Was it the glamour or the phenomenal weather?

(laughs) It was to be closer to my grandsons, while continuing the work I love in an outstanding community. It was clearly a good match in that the City Council was seeking an organizational culture change which was compatible with my view of how things should work. Plus, I get to add a dimension to my grandsons' lives.

Highland Park is a spectacular place to live, as it offers all the charm of small town living with the added benefit of being so close to the big city of Chicago. What can be done synergistically to help our community thrive?

The primary purpose of government is to build community. It's about creating opportunities for community interaction and activity, as well as promoting a good school system, a vibrant Chamber of Commerce, a renowned hospital, the Ravinia Festival, and various local organizations and events. Many community interactions take place at the block level. The quality of life depends on having good relationships. I'd like to encourage block parties and make it easier for neighbors to hold them. Neighbors should get to know each other and develop a list of everyone's name, email address, and phone number to keep in touch. There should be a neighborhood watch component – crime prevention is every citizen's responsibility. As human beings, we are responsible for each other. It's your job to make sure your neighbors are okay. Community building begins with your neighbors.

What has surprised you the most about Highland Park?

I was shocked at the extravagant number of local government entities and high property taxes. There seem to be some good opportunities to consolidate operations and share services.

What is the message that you would like to tell our readers?

The message is that a sense of community is invaluable. It builds social capital. We tend to be hard on each other, but we need to remember that we are all in this together. Yes, there are offices in City Hall, but, YOU are the government. Democracy is a do-it-yourself enterprise.



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A photograph of the Ravinia building at night. The building is a modern structure with large glass windows that are illuminated from within, showing interior lights and some furniture. In the foreground, there is an outdoor seating area with several square tables and black chairs. Large red patio umbrellas are open over the tables. The sky is a deep blue, and some trees are visible on the right side of the building.

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Are you building or remodeling? Looking for a perfect piece of furniture? Or do you just need some accessories to turn your "house" into a "home"? Linly Designs, now open in Highland Park, provides a full range of residential interior design services.



The Chamber welcomes Linly Designs

Linly Designs has been located in the western suburbs since 2007. "We felt that Highland Park would be the perfect location for our second showroom," said Showroom Manager Jennifer Sterna, adding "We would like to say 'thank you' to residents and businesses in Highland Park for being so welcoming to our company."

"The products and the type of service that we offer are a good fit for the clientele base on the North Shore," Sterna continued. "Our average client has an appreciation for the high-quality manufacturers that we carry."

Linly Designs has an exceptional crew of designers, architects, cabinetmakers, painters, electricians, and other skilled workers. Although the company was established to work in any style, they specialize in a Tuscan, Old-World aesthetic. "Our design team tends to focus on timeless, traditional elements when working on a project," Sterna said.

Certainly Linly Designs is skilled at handling the big jobs, but the company doesn't overlook the little stuff, namely, the accessories. The design firm offers a unique service known as an "Accessory Call" that consists of two in-home visits to personalize a home with accessories, artwork, florals, and other enhancements. "You would be surprised at how difficult it can be to successfully tie a room together with accessories and artwork," Sterna said. "Lots of times clients purchase items on their own and confess to us that they end up making a few mistakes. Our Accessory Call is so successful because we can bring the client entire rooms of accessories, complete their space in just

a couple hours, and end up saving them time and money in the long run."

Linly Designs is open Monday through Saturday at 10 a.m.

**1766 Second Street
847-266-5099
www.linlydesigns.com**

Teacher Peach!

The goal of the new store Teacher Peach! is to support teachers with products that are affordable, educator-reviewed, and in line with the educational guidelines of Core State Standards.

A sign in Teacher Peach! reads, "Why grapple with an apple, when you can reach for a peach?" It's a favorite saying of owner Randi Brill, explained the store's manager of client services and "Principal Peach" Molly Cinnamon. She had just retired as principal of Glencoe's South School last spring when Brill tapped her to work at her new store.

Long known in the educational and publishing arenas for one of her other successful ventures, Quarasan (an educational product development firm), Brill always had a passion for creating materials for teachers, and she enjoyed strong relationships with educators. On her basement wall in February, 2012, she sketched her ideas for a



Cutting the ribbon at Teacher Peach!

teachers' resource store, and an online version was up and running in May. Three months after that, the brick-and-mortar shop opened in Highland Park.

Why was HP selected? "It was meant to be," said Cinnamon. "Highland Park is a lovely community, and all the businesses help one another. For example, if (neighboring store) Baby Dreams needs a sign laminated, we'll do that. When we want a snack, we go to Highland Park Pop. And I like to have lunch at least twice a week at Country Kitchen!"

YOU

Everything sold in Teacher Peach! is priced between \$2 and \$25. Items offered include books, supplies, and educational games. Teacher Peach! is open Monday through Friday from 10 a.m. to 6 p.m, and on Saturday from 10 a.m. to 5 p.m.

458 Central Avenue
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www.teacherpeach.com

Weight Watchers

Weight Watchers members are very familiar with setting goals. Recently the Highland Park branch of the weight-loss company set a new goal for itself: being more accessible to its members. To that end, the branch is now in a new location and larger facility.

"We're closer to the center of town now, making us much more convenient for our members," said Mickie Gabl, Territory Manager for Northeastern Illinois.

The new larger space also allows for "privacy pods" in which members can weigh in and speak one-on-one to Weight Watchers personnel, said WW Service Provider Ellen Doppelt. This opportunity for privacy allows for more personal relationships with the company's weight-loss professionals.

Photo: HP Chamber of Commerce



A team of Weight Watchers lifetime members

"Everyone who works at Weight Watchers has achieved his or her weight-loss goal and is a Weight Watchers lifetime member," said Doppelt. "I really love that not only am I working in a place that keeps me careful

about what I'm eating, but also working here allows me to help other people. When they are successful, it is a very gratifying experience."

The reasons why people join the program are as varied as the people themselves. But one commonality, Doppelt said, is that all of the members "want to lose weight. Of course some are deadline people—for example, they might have a wedding coming up, but the best reason to join the program is to be healthy."

In working toward their goal, attendees benefit from Weight Watchers cookbooks and magazine, which promote healthy eating and offer great recipes and meal ideas, Doppelt said. And, of course, the Weight Watchers snack bars are popular with meeting goers. All these items and more—including a new, cutting edge activity monitor called ActiveLink—are for sale at the store, which has increased hours at the new location. The facility is open seven days a week, and until 7p.m. Monday through Thursday.

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MACnician's Brian Sugarman offers these tips for Mac Users



BACKUP YOUR DATA

Hard drive failure is the most common component to go bad on any computer, be it Mac or PC. The hard drive stores all your information, from applications and documents to music, movies, and photos. As a general rule, always keep a safe copy of your data on an external hard drive. Apple makes backing up easy with Time Machine, which is software that's now built into every Mac, and which talks and works with the external hard drive.

DON'T IGNORE SOFTWARE UPDATES

Apple pushes updates for your Mac frequently, and you shouldn't ignore them.

There are very few viruses that can hurt your Mac, but if Apple becomes aware of one, they will send out a software update. Software updates also correct bugs with both applications and features that are built into Mac OS X.

WHEN YOU HAVE A PROBLEM, FORCE QUIT OR REBOOT

Mac OS X is a rock solid platform, but on occasion, you will have a problem with an application hanging, and you may see the rainbow ball spinning around. The first thing to try is a force quit. Move your mouse to the upper left and click on the Apple icon, and then select Force Quit. A box will pop

up allowing you to quit the unresponsive application. If you still experience problems or strange behavior, click the Apple icon again and restart your Mac. Restarting weekly is a good practice, and it will keep your Mac running smoothly.

Brian Sugarman is the owner of MACnician, 651 Roger Williams 224-770-0070



Photo: Bohringer Creative

Brian Sugarman working on a MacBook Pro

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