



October 2026 Edition

Celebrating Our City Team

Service Milestones

Name	Department	Title	Years
Jeff Musselman	Sr. Network/Systems Eng.	IT	28
Matt Stanley	Lieutenant	Fire	26
Joe Schrage	Fire Chief	Fire	23
Andrew Seibel	Lieutenant	Fire	20
Tony Ferrari	Facilities Supervisor	PW	14
Alexander Nelson	Police Officer	Police	14
Kevin Roberts	Police Commander	Police	14
Kevin Lavazza	Firefighter	Fire	13
Ron Bannon	Director of PW	PW	12
Francisco Cervantes	Bus Driver PT	PW	12
Robin Berns	Building/Housing Insp.	CD	8
Sharon Brown	Bus Driver PT	PW	8
Rosemarie Haage	Secretary PT	PW	8
Bianca Ramirez	Contract Specialist	PW	7
Scott Praner	Maintenance Worker	PW	6
Daniel Derouin	Maintenance Worker	PW	4
Cecilia Gonzalez	Clerical Support PT	CD	4
Alex Ramirez	Firefighter	Fire	3
Gabriel Bahena	Police Officer	Police	1

Farewell

Name	Department	Title
Mario Cano	PW	Seasonal Ravinia Bus Driver
Alyssa Galati	Administration	Seasonal HR Clerical Support
Joann Kristan	PW	Seasonal Ravinia Bus Driver
Tan Le	PW	Seasonal Ravinia Bus Driver
Harold Ohrwall	PW	Seasonal Ravinia Bus Driver
Melissa Ohrwall	PW	Seasonal Ravinia Bus Driver
Matt Stanley	Fire	Lieutenant
Nicole Sutton	CD	Fire Inspector
Carlos Velasquez Jr.	PW	Seasonal PW Worker
Tracy Vigan	Administration	HR Generalist



OCTOBER 31 END OF WIN YEAR NOTICE: We are quickly approaching the end of the 2025–26 WIN Program year. All requirements must be completed by the deadline in order to lock in your 2027 insurance premium discount. If you are unsure of your current status, please email hr@cityhpil.com. Take this opportunity to log in to your CHC Wellbeing app to check the following items. A reminder: spouse and employee profiles do not sync up for points. We will add the totals together at the conclusion of the month.

- o Points (100 single / 150 single + spouse)
- o Coaching Calls (if applicable)
- o Health Risk Assessment (HRA) Survey Status

 **North Shore Turkey Trot Registration:** The North Shore Turkey Trot 5K / 10K in Highland Park is right around the corner! As part of our ongoing effort to support health and wellness, the City will once again sponsor employees and spouses in the WIN program who would like to participate. Those who complete the race will earn 25 WIN points per participant toward your 2026–27 WIN goal (the next WIN year).

o Race Details

Date: Thursday, November 26, 2026 (Thanksgiving morning)
 Start Line Location: St. Johns Ave and Central Ave, Highland Park, IL
 Time: 5K / 10K start at 8:00 AM.

- o Registration Information will be sent out later in October

New to WIN? Let's Get Started! Enroll today by visiting: <https://app.chcw.com/#newparticipants>. Use Program Code: 7092Cit189. You'll be guided through registration and prompted to schedule your initial health screening. Your premium discount kicks in once the screening results are received.

Important Links:

- o [CHC Wellbeing App](#)
- o [WIN Forms](#)

Healthy Highland Park

Have Questions About Your 2027 Health Coverage?

HR is hosting two more optional drop-in Zoom sessions to help you understand the 2027 health insurance changes, the BCO network, and your plan options before Open Enrollment. Join at any time during either session; no appointment or registration is needed.

Wednesday, October 14 (2:00–4:00pm) [Join the October 14 session](#)
Saturday, October 24 (9:00–11:00 am) [Join the October 24 session](#)

Bring your questions, we're happy to help!

Finance Department Reminders

For IMRF employees only, be on the lookout for information regarding the supplemental life insurance program sponsored by the Illinois Municipal Retirement Fund (IMRF).



IMRF employees may elect to participate in a Voluntary Group Life Insurance Plan with the National Conference on Employee Retirement Systems (NCPERS).

All full-time employees information on Accrued Benefit Usage will be included with the October 16, 2026 paycheck.

For questions, please contact Justin Eiskamp, ext.1015.

From the Fairway to the Patio



The brisk weather didn't stop the fun at this year's Employee Golf Outing and Patio Party! Thanks to everyone who came out to golf, gather on the patio, and enjoy the evening together.

Congratulations to our winners:

- 1st place: Alec Turkowski and Lucas Gonzalez
- 2nd place: Massimo Barigazzi and Joe Bellefeuille
- Closest to the pin: Chris O'Neill
- Longest drive: Lucas Gonzalez

A special thank-you to Nick Barnes for always organizing such a successful event!

Can You Beat the Clock? 🗝️



Join EEWC for an employee escape room outing at Sixty to Escape at Woodfield Mall in Schaumburg on Sunday, November 22! Team up with coworkers, solve clues, and compete for a winning prize. Time will be confirmed based on availability.

- RSVP by Monday, October 19, in <Q:\Events\HP Escape Room 2026 RSVP.xlsx>
- Payment: Bring \$42 cash to Christine Icasiano or Nate Cristea in Finance. A \$6.30 refund brings your final cost to \$35.70.
- Teams of 4–6 will be assigned in early November. Optional dinner afterward will be at your own expense.

Questions? Contact Vic Walter at vwalter@cityhpil.com or ext. 1751.

A League of Our Own! ⚾️



A major league thank-you to the departments that participated and shared their team gear photos! Your team spirit has us warmed up, out of the bullpen, and ready to kick off the MLB playoffs!

Megan Cherry Makes her Mark!

Congratulations to our very own Megan Cherry, Management Analyst, on being featured in IAMMA's October Rising Public Leader Spotlight!

Way to go, Megan!

Read more about her journey [here](#).



iamma Rising Public Leader
SPOTLIGHT

Show Your Highland Park Pride!

A reminder that the 2026 CHP Employee Store is open until November 29! Choose your item and logo colors, with optional name or department embroidery available for an added cost.



Allow about three weeks for orders, with pickup at City Hall. Purchases are optional, and dress code and uniform requirements still apply.

[Shop the Employee Store](#)

The store is for Highland Park employees and Council only; please don't share the link. Happy shopping!

Employee Spotlight:

Erica Heavrin

Finance and Customer Service Specialist



Where did you grow up, and what's one fun/quirky fact about your hometown that people might not expect? *I grew up in Grayslake, Illinois, which is one of the oldest towns in Lake County and where the Lake County Fair is hosted!*

As a kid, what did you imagine you'd be doing as an adult—and does any part of that dream still live on today? *When I was a child, I wanted to be a police officer, but only because I had a dream to drive a police car. This dream does not live on today, but I would love to give a shout out to our Police Department for doing an amazing job every day!*

If your personality were a season, which one would it be and why? *If my personality were a season, it would be spring because I always enjoy making new experiences and growth in my life.*

What show, podcast, or book are you completely hooked on right now? *A show I have been hooked on is One Tree Hill.*

If you could wake up tomorrow having instantly mastered one skill, what would it be—and how would it change your daily life? *If I could instantly master one skill, it would be the ability to fall asleep as soon as my head hits the pillow. I know that's probably not a skill, but it would definitely change my daily life.*

What's your go-to workday snack or drink that keeps you going? *My go to work drink would be bloom energy, and my go to work snack is my protein bars or peanut butter pretzels.*

It's karaoke night! What's your go-to song to bring the crowd to life? *Wheel in the Sky by Journey.*

You get three seats at your dream dinner table—anyone from any time. Who's on the guest list? *I would love to have one more dinner with my grandmother, who passed away, and invite the singer Cher. My grandmother loved Cher and is actually the one who got me into her music. It definitely would be an interesting/fun dinner.*

Hollywood is making a movie about your life—who plays you, and what's the title? *Jennifer Lawrence would be the actor, and the movie would be called "Controlled Chaos (sometimes)".*

FIRE PREVENTION; PROTECTING OUR WORKPLACE, OUR COWORKERS & OUR COMMUNITY

Most workplace fires can be reduced through awareness, proper housekeeping, and following established safety procedures. Take a moment to review these important fire prevention tips.

1. Keep Work Areas Clean & Clear

Keep combustible materials, paper, cardboard, and trash away from heat sources.

2. Practice Electrical Safety

Inspect cords and plugs for damage before use.
Do not overload outlets or power strips.

3. Know Your Fire Extinguishers

Know the location of fire extinguishers in your work area.
Keep extinguishers accessible and free from obstruction.



4. Keep Emergency Exits Accessible

Never block exit doors, stairwells, or evacuation routes.
Know at least two ways out of your work area, when available.

5. Handle Flammable Materials Safely

Store flammable liquids and combustible materials in approved locations and containers.

Keep ignition sources away from flammable materials.



We are excited to offer staff the opportunity to participate in a hands-on fire extinguisher training!

Training Sessions – October 12

We will be offering four sessions throughout the day.

Please reach out to Samantha Vrtis-Bentz to sign up today!!

We'd love to hear from you!

Have feedback on this issue
or an idea for a future feature?

Email us at hr@cityhpil.com

Keep in Touch!





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