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City, Community, Local Business Bring Back Park, Revive Neighborhood

Citizens, leaders and local family-owned businesses join forces for community

HIGHLAND PARK – The City of Highland Park, the community and local businesses today unveiled the new Mark E. Storen Park. The park was revived and rebuilt through a yearlong partnership between the city, community groups and local family businesses such as **Eastown Distributors** and **H.P. Devco**, the partnership between the City of Highland Park and local businesses.

“The new Mark E. Storen Park shows what we can do when citizens, families, the city and local businesses come together, work together and help bring our neighborhoods back together,” Highland Park Mayor **Hubert Yopp** said. “The City of Highland Park is proud to have partners like our citizens, our families and local businesses like Eastown and public-private partnership H.P. Devco. Together, we can strengthen our city, one neighborhood at a time.”

For a year, Highland Park worked closely with community groups and local leaders to bring the park back from years of neglect. Mayor Yopp and the City Council worked closely with local elected officials such as State Sen. Martha Scott, and State Reps. Bert Johnson and Fred Durhal, who provided critical support from Day One. Helping with funds and labor was project sponsor Eastown Distributors, a family business that has been in the community for three generations. The revitalization project was driven by dozens of volunteers and donations of resources and funds from across the community. The park is located on Gerald and Oakland, just down the road from the nation’s first Ford Motor Co. plant, which mass produced some of the first Fords and helped build the American middle-class. Local families also joined in the celebration. Food and refreshments were donated by Red Hots Coney, a local business that dates back to 1921 and, like Eastown, continues to be run by the same family.

“As a family business, Eastown is committed to doing everything to give back to our community, which has given back to us so generously for three generations,” **Eastown President Jim Quasarano** said. “We are honored to be a part of this important project. We firmly believe that strong neighborhoods make strong communities, and a strong community here in Highland Park helps all of us. Highland Park gave us the American middle-class. Working together, local businesses and the community can rebuild the middle class here in Highland Park.”

Mark E. Storen was mayor of Highland Park from 1960 to 1965.

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