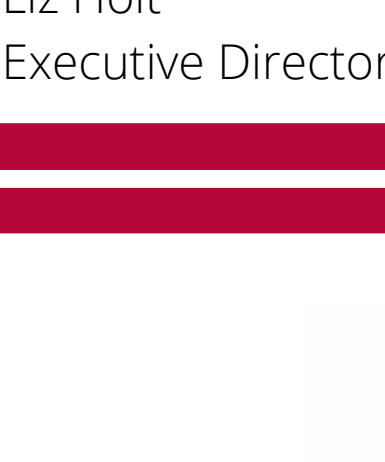




This October, our BAH is getting a serious upgrade and we are celebrating our entire business community at the Spotlight Celebration on October 12! Join us for a few hours of R&R from your work life and let us entertain you with live music and great food on the grounds of Oak Park's Cheney Mansion. And don't forget to keep the night going when you get home with our Spotlight Swag Bag - filled with goodies from our amazing local businesses - you don't want to miss it!

[#chamberLOVE](#)



Liz Holt  
Executive Director



## COMMUNITIES

### Wednesday October 6, 12-12:30pm - Ribbon Cutting at Play It Again Sports

Come celebrate with us at this week's ribbon cutting at **Play It Again Sports**! Welcome this new business, take pictures of the actual ribbon cutting with the staff, and enjoy networking with our amazing business community!

[REGISTER HERE](#)

### Thursday October 7, 1-2pm - Nonprofit Affinity Group Virtual Meetup

Come join the Chamber's nonprofit affinity group for our monthly gathering. This month: Update on the **OPRF Community Foundation's** resources for nonprofits!

**President and CEO Tony Martinez** will share the Foundation's New Vision, Mission, Core Values, and Strategic Planning.

**Program Director Elizabeth Chadri** will present about Community Grants, RRRF Grants, and Impact Excellence

And **Philanthropic Advisor Carrie Summy** will talk about Agency Funds. Bring your questions for the discussion!

[REGISTER HERE](#)

### Thursday October 7, 4:30-5pm - Ribbon Cutting at D.M. Burton

Come celebrate with us at this week's ribbon cutting at **D.M. Burton**! Welcome this new business, take pictures of the actual ribbon cutting with the staff, and enjoy networking with our amazing business community!

[REGISTER HERE](#)

### Friday October 8, 11:30am-12:15pm - Ribbon Cutting at Oak Park Bank

Come celebrate with us at this week's ribbon cutting at **Oak Park Bank**! Welcome this new business, take pictures of the actual ribbon cutting with the staff, and enjoy networking with our amazing business community!

[REGISTER HERE](#)

### Friday October 8, 12:15-12:30pm - Takeout Stakeout at Scratch on Lake

Come join your fellow Chamber members for our next Takeout Stakeout, this time at **Scratch on Lake** in Oak Park! In this event, we convene at a designated restaurant to pick up our takeout lunch choices, and get to see each other for a bit while we're at it in a socially-distanced meetup. Lunch is a flat \$16 including tax and tip.

[REGISTER HERE](#)

### Tuesday October 19, 6-8pm - Young Professionals Games and Dinner at Adam Doe State Farm

Join our Young Professionals for dinner and sidewalk games at **Adam Doe State Farm**! Adam and his crew are having us over for cornhole/bags and other sidewalk games on the back patio, and providing dinner too! (dinner details TBD) Join us for an outdoor evening while the weather is still good - though if weather is bad, we'll just move indoors and maybe play board games?

As always for our Young Professionals gatherings, we're not defining "young" (or "professional") ;) for you - join us if you want to! :)

[REGISTER HERE](#)



**For the first time the state of Illinois will celebrate National Support Latino Business Day on September 14, 2021 and encourages residents to support over 112,000 Latinx and Hispanic businesses throughout the state during Hispanic Heritage Month. DCEO will present an official proclamation supporting this observance and recognizing the newly formed Rockford Hispanic Chamber of Commerce.**

### VIRTUAL EVENTS

#### **Event Type: Webinar**

#### **Apprenticeships: Benefits for Businesses and Job Seekers**

**Tuesday | October 5 | 10:00 AM – 11:00 AM**

**Description:** Join this discussion on apprenticeship programs and how to utilize those programs to assist your business and/or your career journey. Learn about the Apprenticeship Expansion Program and how it was designed to be centered on supporting businesses and individuals. Expanding apprenticeships helps businesses with their current and future workforce needs as well as individuals with a career pathway, which includes work-based learning. This may include projects that serve youth, adults, dislocated workers, and/or incumbent workers that are eligible under the Workforce Innovation and Opportunity Act.

Moderator: Jacqueline Gomez, Hispanic American Construction Industry Association (HACIA)

Panelists:

- Jose Abrego, Advanced Contractors Solutions Inc.
- Fateh Bedouhene, Advanced Contractors Solutions Inc.
- Norman Ruano, Illinois Works, DCEO

Explore and enjoy a variety of Hispanic-owned businesses throughout the cities of Peoria and the Quad Cities along with Rockford and the Chicago Area.

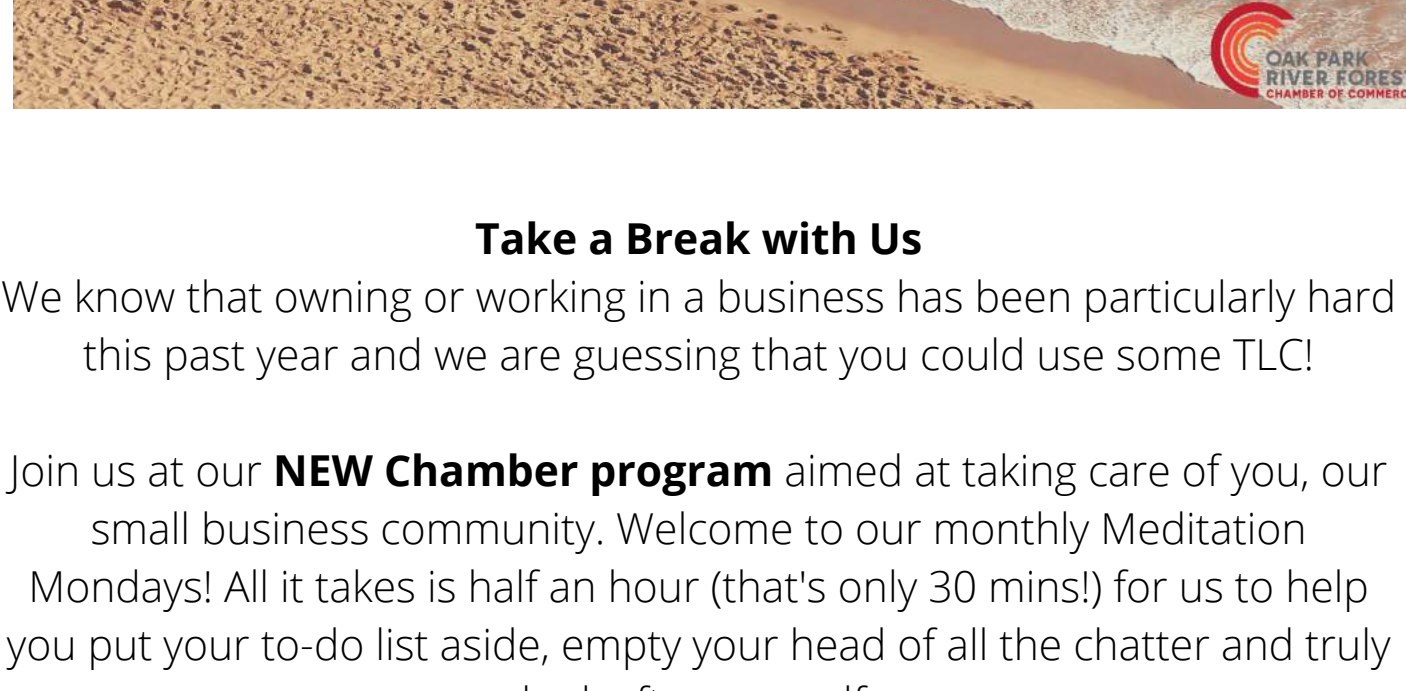


### **October 2021 Business After Hours**

**Join us at the historic Cheney Mansion in Oak Park for this year's Spotlight Soiree, the culmination of a month-long Spotlight Celebration of small business resilience in our community.**

**Let the OPRF Chamber of Commerce and our dedicated partners at Oak Park Bank entertain you for a fabulous evening outside under the stars!**

**[PURCHASE TICKETS HERE](#)**



### **Take a Break with Us**

We know that owning or working in a business has been particularly hard this past year and we are guessing that you could use some TLC!

Join us at our **NEW Chamber program** aimed at taking care of you, our small business community. Welcome to our monthly Meditation Mondays! All it takes is half an hour (that's only 30 mins!) for us to help you put your to-do list aside, empty your head of all the chatter and truly look after yourself.

### **Who will lead the meditation?**

We are thrilled to partner with the **Kadampa Meditation Center in Oak Park** to bring you this monthly meditation. The fabulous **Kelsang Chogo** will lead the meditation and talk you through every step. You don't need to do anything but show up and breath!

[REGISTER HERE](#)





## Village of Oak Park's New Oak Park Business and Non-Profit Coronavirus Recovery Grant Program

Dear Oak Park Businesses and 501(c)(3) Non-Profit Organizations:

The Village of Oak Park has created a new Business and 501(c)(3) Non-Profit Coronavirus Recovery Grant Program funded by \$550,000 in federal American Rescue Plan Act funds. The program is focused on helping Oak Park businesses and Oak Park 501(c)(3) non-profit organizations that have been negatively impacted by the COVID-19 emergency. Information about the new grant program, and the applications required to apply for funding, can be found at [www.oak-park.us/covid19grant](http://www.oak-park.us/covid19grant). The Village will begin accepting completed applications for this new grant program on Monday, September 27, 2021. Funds under the Village's new grant program will be distributed as outlined below.

### 1. Business Past-Due Rent/Mortgage Assistance -

The Village is making \$300,000 available to assist small, licensed Oak Park businesses to pay off past-due rent or mortgage payments. The Village will provide up-to \$5,000 to a licensed, Oak Park business, with less than \$3,000,000 in annual average gross business receipts, for utilization to pay past-due rent to a landlord or mortgage payments to their mortgage holder.

### 2. Business PPE Purchases or Safety Equipment Installation

Reimbursement Assistance - The Village is making \$150,000 available to assist small, licensed Oak Park businesses by providing reimbursement for costs related to personal protective equipment (PPE) purchases and safety equipment installation expenses that have been incurred since March 1, 2020. The Village will provide up to \$2,500 per licensed, Oak Park business who has less than \$3,000,000 in annual average gross business receipts, for said costs and expenses.

### 3. Non-Profit PPE Purchases or Safety Equipment Installation

Reimbursement Assistance - The Village is making \$100,000 available to assist 501(c)(3) non-profit organizations located in Oak Park. The Village will provide up to \$3,000 per Oak Park 501(c)(3) non-profit for reimbursement of costs already incurred to purchase PPE and install safety equipment related to the COVID-19 public health emergency since March 1, 2020.

To become eligible, businesses or non-profit organizations will be required to fill-out an application. **Grant applications may be submitted to the Village electronically, beginning on Monday, September 27, 2021 to [business@oak-park.us](mailto:business@oak-park.us). Completed applications will be considered on a first-come, first-served basis.** Please make sure the application form you complete and submit corresponds with the grant you are seeking. Again, more information about the new grant program, along with application forms, can be found at [www.oak-park.us/covid19grant](http://www.oak-park.us/covid19grant).

Respectfully,  
**VILLAGE OF OAK PARK**  
**Tammie Grossman**  
**Director**  
**Development Customer Services**

## Public invited to weigh in on search for new village manager

Public input is being sought as part of the process to hire a new Village Manager, who serves as the **top administrator of municipal services**. A professional executive search firm has been hired to recruit a diverse pool of highly-qualified candidates, but public input is an essential part of the process. A **dedicated web page** has been created to be the repository for information and links to engagement information and other items as needed. An **online survey** also has been created and meetings set for businesses and other stakeholders, as well as for residents. For more information, visit [www.oak-park.us/managersearch](http://www.oak-park.us/managersearch).

Hello Friends and Neighbors,

As a **member of our Social Services and Non-Profit Community**, the Village of Oak Park is seeking your input regarding the future Village Manager. As a valued partner and community advocate we **invite you to join us on Thursday, October 7th at 9:00 AM** to share your thoughts regarding important competencies, qualifications and other considerations that you believe are most important for Oak Park's next Village Manager. The Village Manager plays a crucial role in bringing to life the policies of the Village Board of Trustees and running the day-to-day operations of our municipal government. This is a special meeting focused on Oak Park's social services and non-profit community. **Dele Lowman** and/or **Katy Rush** of GovHR, the Board's chosen executive search firm, will be on hand to lead the discussion and gather feedback from all participants.

There will be additional opportunities within the community to provide feedback, but this is the only scheduled social services and non-profit-specific forum, so if you have thoughts regarding our future Village Manager, you are strongly encouraged to attend. Please share widely within the Oak Park Non-Profit & Social Services community. Your feedback will be used to help guide the Village's recruitment process.

**Zoom details are below.**

<https://us06web.zoom.us/j/83257804326>

Please don't hesitate to reach out with any questions!

Best,

Kira

**Kira Tchang**  
**Assistant Village Manager/HR Director**  
**Village of Oak Park**  
**123 Madison Street, Oak Park, IL 60302**

**Direct:**

[www.oak-park.us](http://www.oak-park.us)



**Presented by:**  
**OAK PARK**  
BANK  
AWINTRUST COMMUNITY BANK



**2021 BUSINESS SPOTLIGHT CELEBRATION**  
Presented by OAK PARK BANK

**Tell us your stories of resilience.**

**We want to know which businesses**

- courageously opened during a pandemic
- had amazing curb-side service
- supported first responders
- tirelessly worked for social justice
- have closed and why we will miss them!

**Submit your stories at [oprfchamber.org](http://oprfchamber.org)**  
and spread the love for our business community  
**#chamberLOVE**

**[Learn More HERE](#)**



**JOIN OUR TEAM**

**The Chamber is hiring a Membership Director!**

**Full Job Description [HERE](#)**

Please send resume to Liz Holt at [lholt@oprfchamber.org](mailto:lholt@oprfchamber.org)

**Check out other MEMBERS jobs [HERE](#)**