

# Choose Community

JOIN THE CHAMBER  
OCTOBER IS MEMBERSHIP MONTH

[oprchamber.org](http://oprchamber.org)

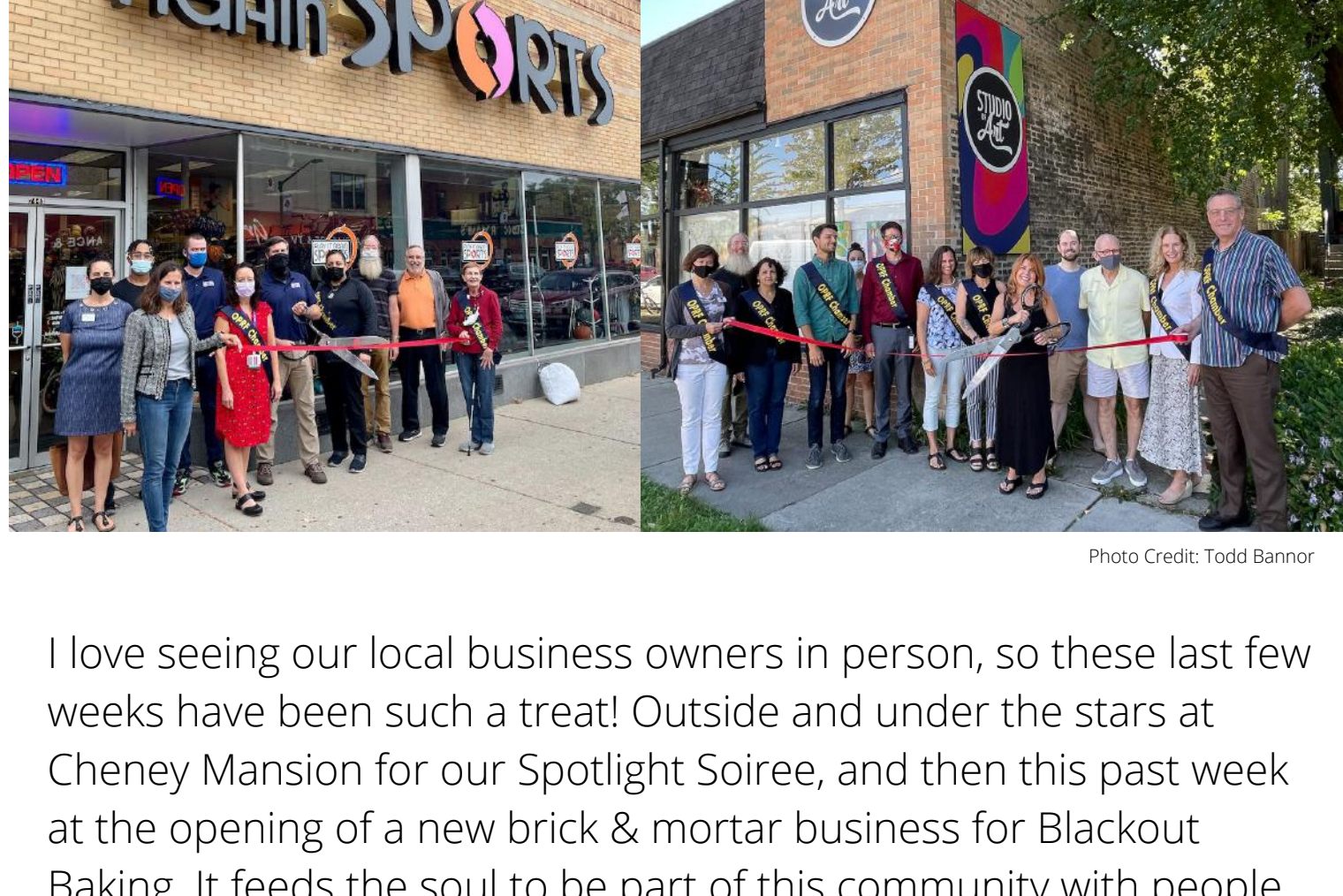
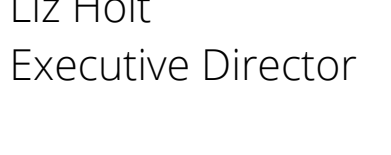


Photo Credit: Todd Bannor

I love seeing our local business owners in person, so these last few weeks have been such a treat! Outside and under the stars at Cheney Mansion for our Spotlight Soiree, and then this past week at the opening of a new brick & mortar business for Blackout Baking. It feeds the soul to be part of this community with people who are so supportive of one another. Thank you to everyone for keeping it real and sharing the love! We all need a little of this good mojo these days!

#chamberLOVE



Liz Holt  
Executive Director



COMMUNITIES

## Wednesday October 27, 12-12:30pm - Ribbon Cutting at Personalization House

Come celebrate with us at this week's ribbon cutting at **Personalization House**! 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 29, 12-12:30pm - Ribbon Cutting at The Oak Avenue Barber

Come celebrate with us at this week's ribbon cutting at **The Oak Avenue Barber**! 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 November 4, 1-2pm - Nonprofit Affinity Group Virtual Meetup

Come join the Chamber's nonprofit affinity group for our monthly gathering.

Guest Speaker - TBD

Bring your questions, ideas, and observations for the discussion!

Come for the content, and enjoy a little networking with local nonprofit peers as well. See you via Zoom!

[REGISTER HERE](#)

## Thursday November 4, 6:30-8pm - Online Trivia for Charity, Hosted by Chamber Young Professionals

Come join the Chamber's Young Professionals for an evening of online trivia, in a fun competition to raise funds for local nonprofits!

Proceeds from this event will go to cover Chamber 2022 memberships for our beneficiary nonprofits. Our trivia night will ease the cash flow for each of these nonprofits, while allowing them to benefit for another year from the marketing, networking, professional development, and other advantages of being part of the OPRF Chamber of Commerce. And if we raise enough money, we can cover membership for additional nonprofits!

We've booked an evening with TriviaHub, who provide all the setup for a team trivia competition. Your team members can Zoom in from anywhere to compete for prizes and the glory of victory! We'll have an online auction of gift certificates for Oak Park-River Forest area businesses as well, so plan to bid to support our local nonprofits.

Pull your team together and sign up now for some fall fun for a cause!

Or you can sign up as an individual, and we'll add you to a team.

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## Friday November 5, 12-12:30pm - Takeout Stakeout Lunch Pickup at La Borra Cafe

Come join your fellow Chamber members for our Takeout Stakeout, this time at **La Borra Cafe**! 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. Like our Tuesday Tasting lunch series from which this springs, lunch is a flat \$16 including tax and tip. Choose your lunch when register.

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## Tuesday November 9, 5-7pm - Business After Hours at Oak Park Bank

Join us at our regular monthly networking event, Business After Hours (BAH), on the second Tuesday of every month. All members and non-members are welcomed. (Members are free.)

Our November Business After Hours (BAH) will be hosted by **Oak Park Bank**. Join us for a night of networking and hors d'oeuvres, and check out the repurposing of this space, while making connections for your business or organization!

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# Member Benefits Series

## Digital and Marketing Advantage Sessions:

Perfect for new members and those who need a refresher.

[REGISTER HERE](#)

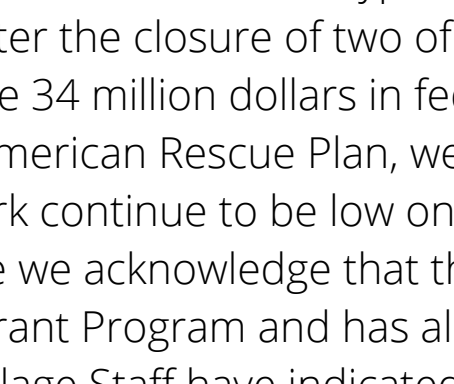
In this seminar we will go over all of your digital benefits that come with your membership, including:

- how to significantly increase your SEO
- how to leverage your Member Profile to boost traffic to your own website
- how to track your Member Profile statistics
- how to be sure that your website is linked to your membership

[REGISTER HERE](#)

In this seminar we will go over all of your marketing benefits that come with your membership, including:

- how to maximize your e-blast benefits.
- the role of your Member Profile in your marketing advantage and how to track digital traffic.
- how to generate marketing collateral that can be shared in your social media.
- how to tap into our Affinity Groups to grow your network and feature your business.



## Supporting Our Small Business Community

President Scaman and Village of Oak Park Trustees-

I am writing on behalf of the OPRF Chamber of Commerce Board of Directors to inquire about what your plans are to engage the small business community in our Village and find out what type of support they need at this point in the pandemic. After the closure of two of our anchor breweries in the last few weeks and the 34 million dollars in federal funds that the Village has received under the American Rescue Plan, we are very concerned that the businesses in Oak Park continue to be low on the priority list of our Village government. While we acknowledge that the Village has already launched the Recovery Grant Program and has allocated \$550,000 to this program, reports from Village Staff have indicated that this program is on track to be fully allocated within the next few months. We must have a plan for the support and recovery for our business community that extends beyond this grant program. Supporting the retention of our existing businesses must be a priority for this Village.

Currently, the Village is actively soliciting feedback on a myriad of other important issues such as the new Village Manager and the future of sustainability initiatives in the Village, to name a few. The Village of River Forest, with marketing and organizational assistance from the OPRF Chamber of Commerce, held listening sessions with their business sectors several months ago to gain valuable information on how to direct their federal funds appropriately to immediately assist local businesses. We would like to hear directly from all of you about what your planned strategies are for engaging the existing local businesses, soliciting feedback and supporting the needs of all business sectors in the Village. Reliance on the recommendations of the BAC only does not address the needs of our broader business community, including border businesses (Austin, Harlem, North, and Roosevelt), minority owned businesses, and business sectors and districts that do not have adequate representation in this very small group. We are asking for a response from each of you by the close of the day on Tuesday, October 26, 2021 with comments, ideas, and details on your plans for engaging our business community and how you plan to allocate the federal funds in areas that businesses need NOW.

Kindest Regards,  
Dr. Mary Ann Bender  
President, OPRF Chamber of Commerce Board





Oak Park business stakeholders are invited to help determine how federal dollars intended to address the continued impact of COVID-19 should be used locally. A virtual public listening session is scheduled for 8:30 a.m., Wed., Oct 27, in place of the BAC meeting.

To participate, follow this Zoom link: **<https://oak-park-us.zoom.us/j/85658318510>** (details are also below).

An online survey also is underway and comments, suggestions and questions can be sent via email to **[ARPAComments@oak-park.us](mailto:ARPAComments@oak-park.us)**.

Use of the federal dollars allocated under the American Rescue Plan Act must fall within **general guidelines set by the U.S. Department of the Treasury**.

The Village Board will evaluate all available information, including community input, and determine priorities for allocating the funds within the Board Goals adopted on June 14, 2021.

A first review of the public input is planned for November. For more information on the local effort, visit **[www.oak-park.us/arpa](http://www.oak-park.us/arpa)**.

**Topic: American Rescue Act Listening Session for Oak Park Businesses**

**Time: Oct 27, 2021 08:30 AM Central Time (US and Canada)**

**Join Zoom Meeting**

**<https://oak-park-us.zoom.us/j/85658318510>**

**[REGISTER HERE](#)**