

Hello Members,

As we head into the final days of December, we thought it was important to take time to congratulate, celebrate, and cogitate on the year. 2021 has been quite the year, and we'd be remiss if we didn't take this opportunity to thank everyone who's gone through it with us. Thank you to all of our members, all of our sponsors, and to everyone in our community. We would not have weathered this year without you all! We also want to thank our dedicated and hardworking Board of Directors, and in particular, our retiring board members: Past-President, Robert Stelletello, Lynn Palmgren, and Marc Stopeck. Each of these board members has served for 6 (or more!) years, and we are so happy to have worked with them.

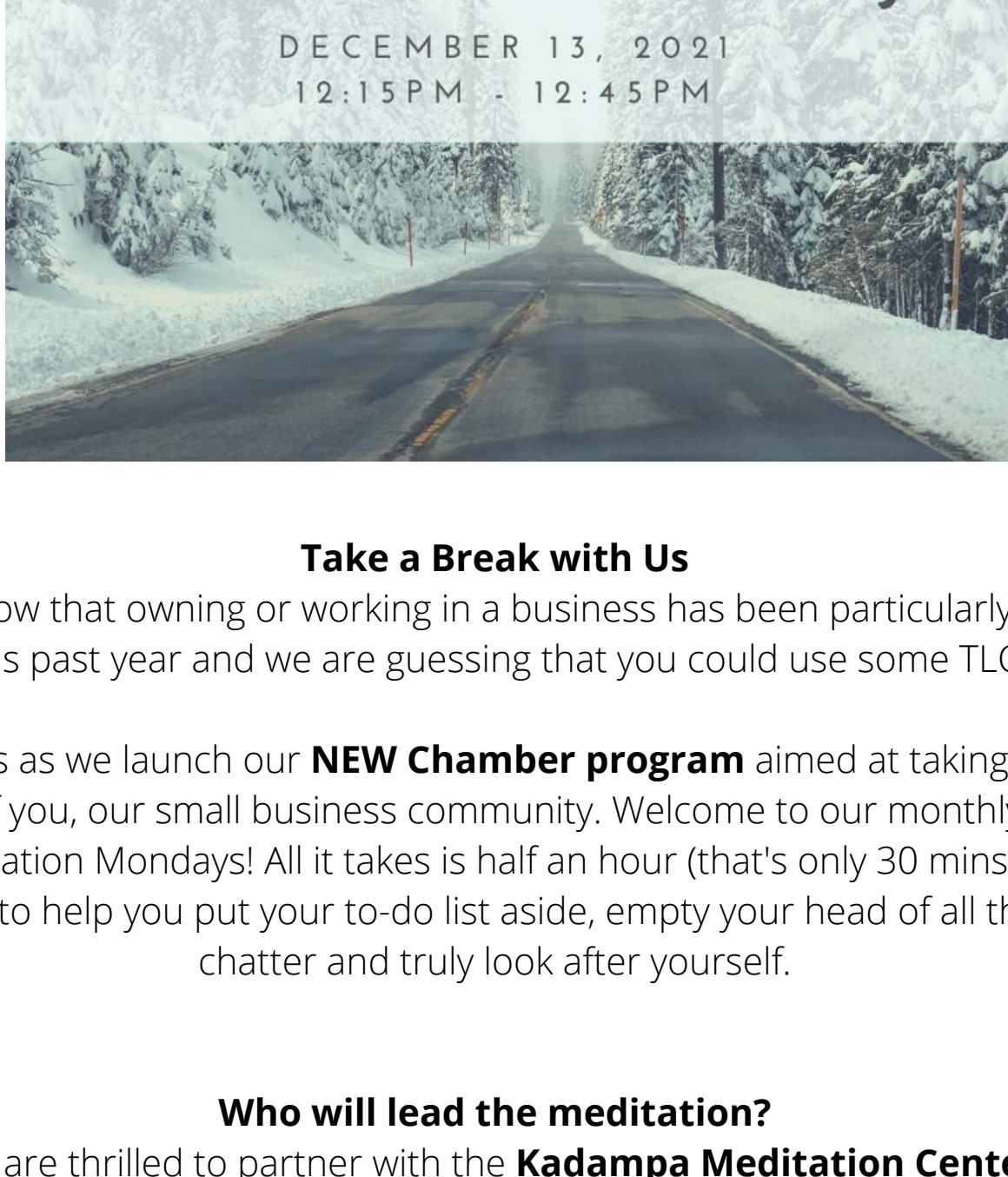
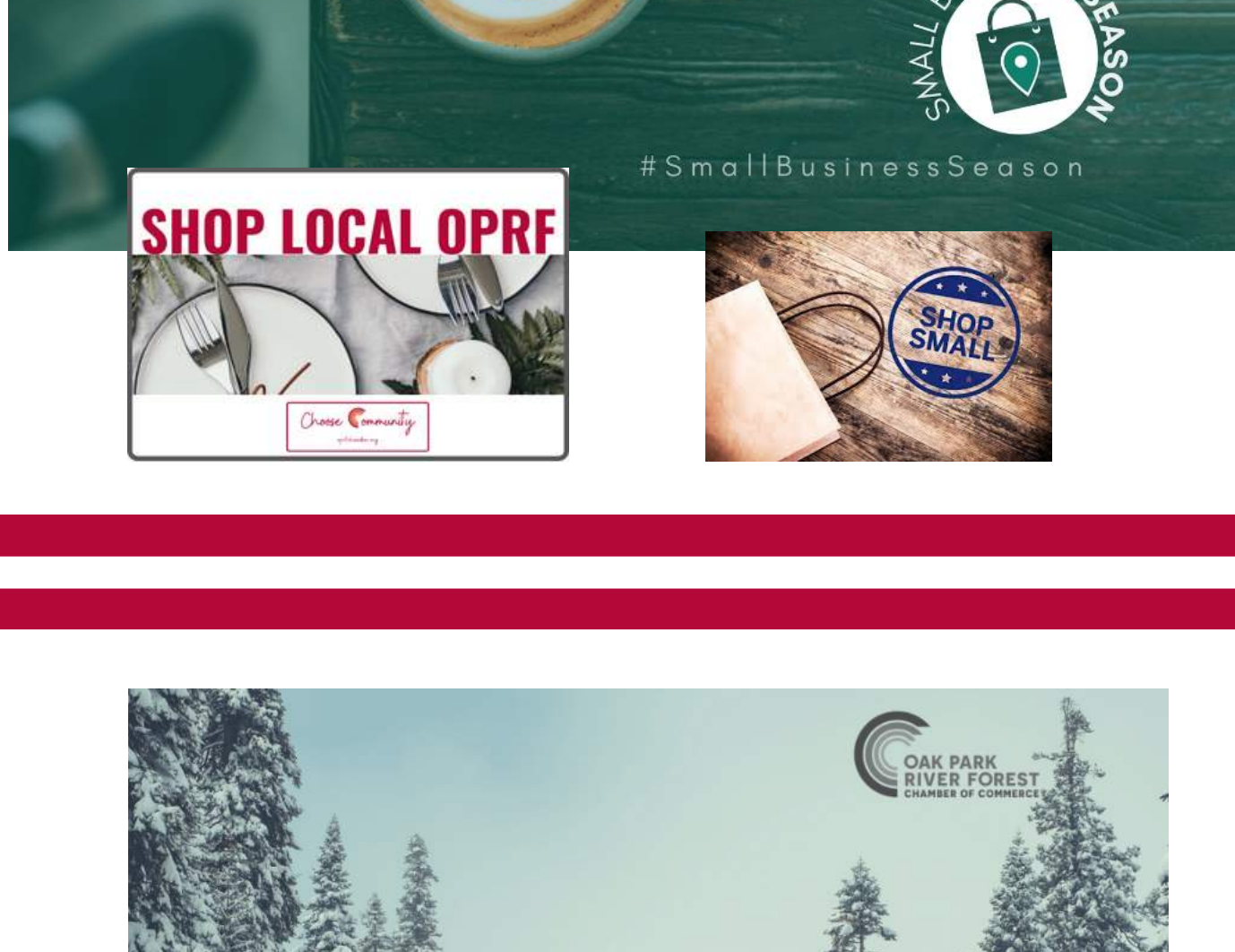
We are both looking forward to seeing you at the Annual Holiday BAH at Byline Bank, and to continuing to work alongside you, our members, in 2022.

Happy Holidays and Happy New Year!

Dr. Mary Ann Bender and Darien Marion-Burton
Board President and 2022 Board President



Small Business Season!



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 as we launch 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](#)

Join us to Celebrate!

It's that time of the year again and we would love to see you at our Holiday Celebration!

12/14/21

5-7pm

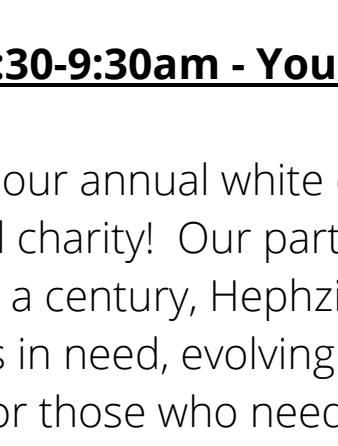


Get your Holiday Gift Bag!

Byline is so committed to having a great time that they have sponsored a Holiday Gift Bag just for you. So jump right in and grab one!

Curated by your very own Chamber staff and tapping into the best that our local members have to offer, this Gift Bag is perfect as a host gift to bring to a holiday party or for those hard-to-buy-for people in your life! Heck, buy it for yourself and embrace self-care!

[REGISTER TO ATTEND & GET YOUR HOLIDAY GIFT BAG HERE](#)



COMMUNITIES

Thursday December 16, 8:30-9:30am - Young Professionals Holiday Meetup

This month - we're adapting our annual white elephant gift exchange, to go online and to support a local charity! Our partner is **Hephzibah Children's Association**. For more than a century, Hephzibah has stay focused on helping children and families in need, evolving into an agency known for providing exceptional care for those who need it most. Through their programs, Hephzibah helps children to thrive and families to flourish, now and in the future. If you'd like to learn more, head over here!

[REGISTER HERE](#)

Friday December 17, 12-12:30pm - Takeout Stakeout at Lou Malnati's

Come join your fellow Chamber members for our next Takeout Stakeout at **Lou Malnati's!** We'll convene at Lou Malnati's 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. Choose your meal at registration. Hope to see you there!

[REGISTER HERE](#)

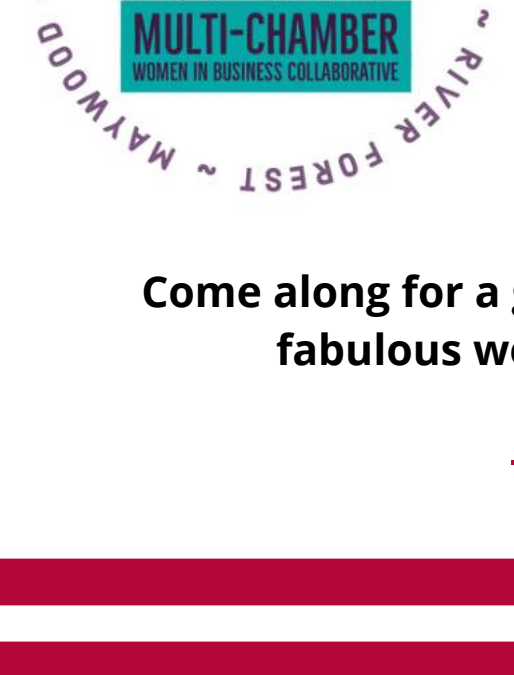
Thursday January 6, 1-2pm- Nonprofit Affinity Group Virtual Meetup

Come join the Chamber's nonprofit affinity group for our monthly gathering. This month: Guest Expert - Jeffrey Schroeder of Sasseti, who is a well-known CPA and nonprofit auditor, addresses: "Can I Do That?"

He'll share stories and guidance about what's legit among potential nonprofit activities with respect to regulations and best practices, to help nonprofit staff and board members know what's a great creative idea and what's going to lead to trouble.

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!

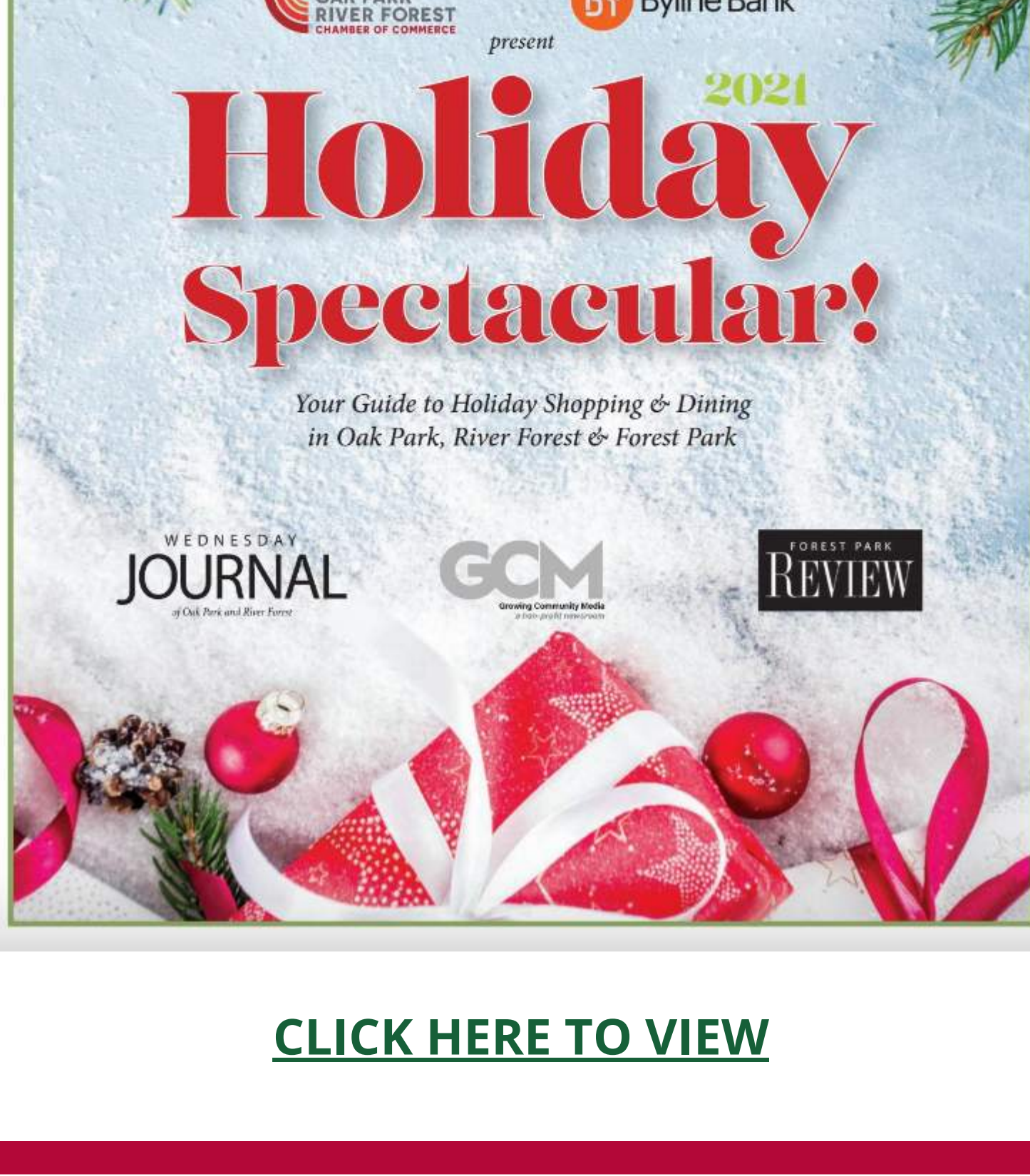
[REGISTER HERE](#)



As always we will start our gathering with our regular guests from Riveredge Hospital with their *Mindful Ten* segment - nourish your soul and feel the **LOVE** of the group before we dive into the heart of the discussion.

Come along for a great meal and meet up with other fabulous women from our communities.

[REGISTER HERE](#)



[CLICK HERE TO VIEW](#)

Member Benefits

Support Local & Increase your SEO rankings

sign up to be a participating vendor today!

Great gifts for corporate, teacher, & holidays gifts, & more...

\$10,000 giftcards purchased to date!



Be a Participating Vendor in the Shop Local OPRF Digital Gift Card Program.



NETWORK & CONNECT

WANT TO MAKE THIS MAN HAPPY?

Cliff Osborn
Volunteer Extraordinaire!

HOST A BUSINESS AFTER HOURS!

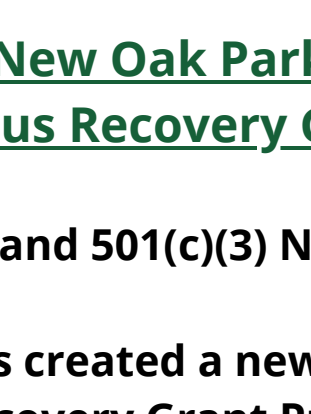


Tell use why you would be a great host!

Contact [Mark Walden](#)
mwalden@oprchamber.org



Still Available!



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. 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. 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.

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