



Our **Spotlight Soiree** is only days away and we can't wait to see everyone there! We still have a few tickets left, so sign up soon. We will be outside and the weather is supposed to be perfect! All the food, drinks and entertainment are from our local businesses so join us in supporting and enjoying local - we have everything for a great party right here in our Villages!

[#chamberLOVE](#)



Liz Holt  
Executive Director



## COMMUNITIES

### **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](#)

### **Friday October 22, 12-12:30pm - Ribbon Cutting at Takeout Stakeout Lunch Pickup at Blackout Baking**

Come celebrate with us at **Blackout Baking** for a ribbon cutting and takeout stakeout lunch. Welcome their new storefront, take pictures of the actual ribbon cutting with the staff, enjoy networking with our amazing business community and get lunch! After the ribbon cutting, 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](#)

### **Friday October 22, 4-4:30pm - Ribbon Cutting Celebration at Oak Park Dental Studio**

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

[REGISTER HERE](#)



**October 12, 2021 | 5-7 PM**

## October 2021 Business After Hours

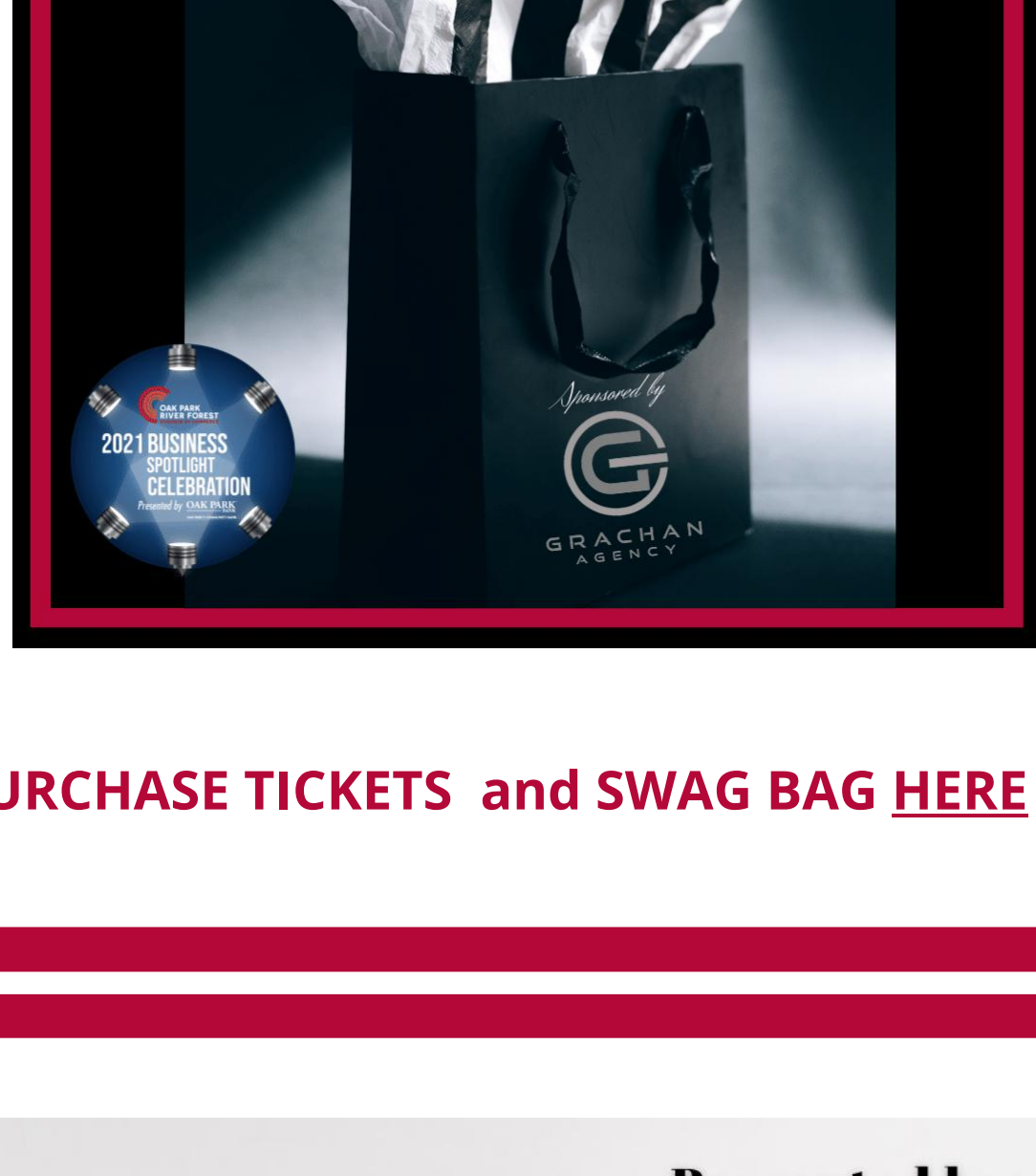
Join us at the historic Cheney Mansion in Oak Park for this year's **Spotlight Soiree**, the culmination of a month-long **Spotlight Celebration** of small business resilience in our community.

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

## Continue celebrating at home!

Curated *Spotlight Celebration Swag Bag* filled with products from our local Chamber Members. The swag in your bag is valued at \$150, so this is the deal of the century! Purchase one now.

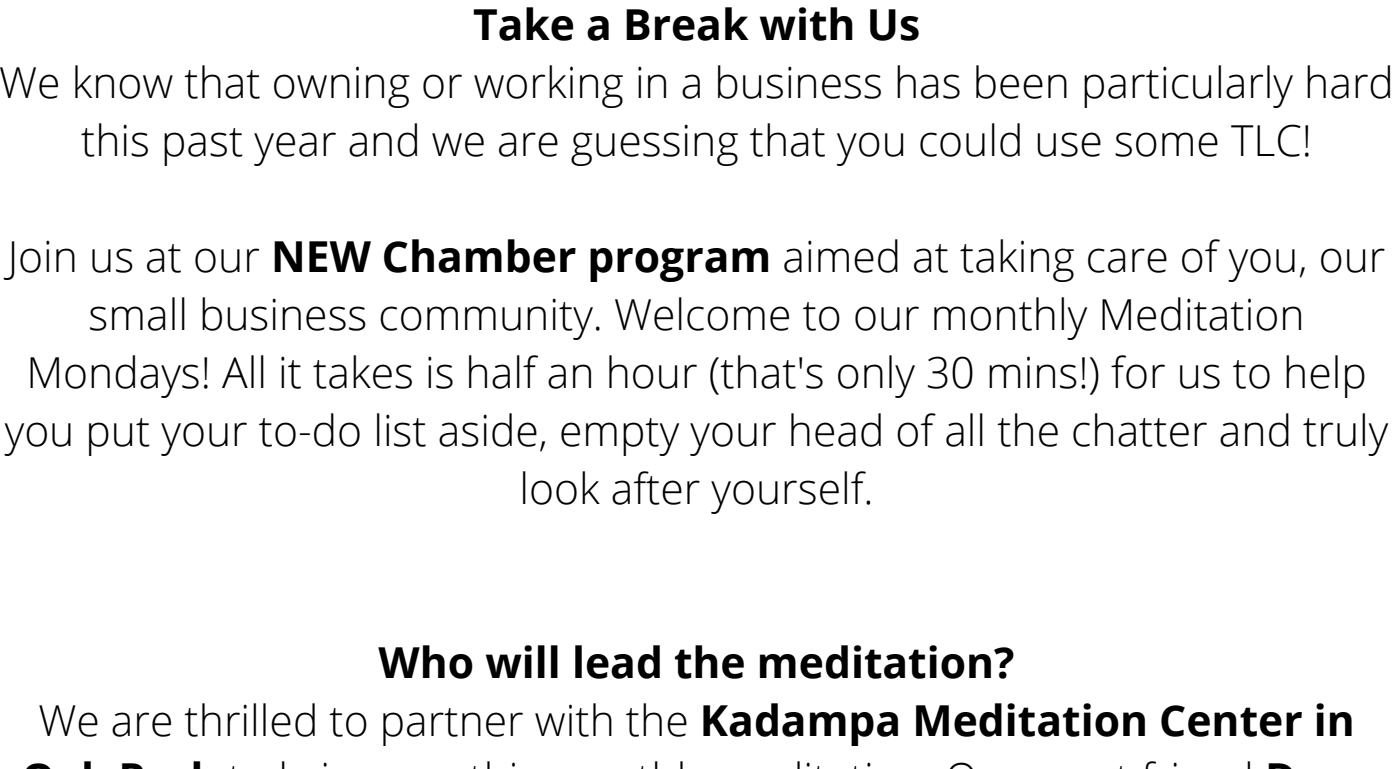
*Almost Sold-Out*



**PURCHASE TICKETS and SWAG BAG [HERE](#)**



**[Learn More 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. Our great friend **Dave Murphy** 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**

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## **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).**



## **Message from Liz Holt, Executive Director of the OPRF Chamber of Commerce**

As per our By-Laws, as a 501(c)6 membership-based organization, please accept this as notification of the official slate for the 2022 Board of Directors and Offices.

Instructions for presenting alternate candidates are described below following the slate for each.

The slates as presented to the Board of Directors at our regular monthly meeting on October 5, 2021 are as follows:

**1. The Nominating Committee Presented the following slate of Officers for 2022:**

President - Darien Marion-Burton (D.M.Burton)  
Vice President - Sam Yousif (Fuller Health Group)  
Secretary - Heidi Ruehle (Unity Temple Restoration Foundation)  
Treasurer - Pamela Dass (Forest Park National Bank)

The slate above was presented by the Nominating Committee to the Board of Directors at its regularly scheduled October Board Meeting, as per the By-Laws of the organization. At the November Board Meeting, the President will call for additional nominations from sitting Board members present at the meeting. If there are none, those so nominated will become the new officers for 2022. If additional names are offered, a secret, written ballot by the current Directors will determine the new officers.

**2. The Nominating Committee has presented the following slate of candidates to fill three-year terms:**

Amanda Gosnell (The Sheridan at River Forest)  
Keana Tucker (RUSH Oak Park Hospital)  
Kelsang Chogo (Kadampa Meditation Centre Chicago)  
Melissa Cleveland (Oak Park Bank)

If you wish to submit an alternative nominee for one of these four open positions, you may do so by submitting the name of your candidate along with the genuine signatures of representatives from 25 members in good standing to the Executive Director at the Chamber Office no later than October 22, 2021. If no additional candidates are presented, the nominating process will be declared closed and the slate as presented will be declared elected at the Chamber's regular monthly Board meeting on November 2, 2021. However, if a valid petition shall present additional candidates, an Election Committee will be appointed at the November 2, 2021 Board Meeting to oversee an election process in November, which will present ballots to all members in good standing via email.

If you have any questions please do not hesitate to call or email me directly.

Thank you for continuing to support your Chamber and all that we do for the community!

**Kind regards,**

**Liz Holt  
Pronouns: she/her/hers  
Executive Director  
OPRF Chamber of Commerce  
[www.oprfchamber.org](http://www.oprfchamber.org)  
708.613.0550 (o)  
630-747-4422 (c)**