

Let's face it, life is hard right now. So many things changing every day, so much information, so many unknowns. Nothing feels stable. But on this day of remembrance, let us take strength in the words of Martin Luther King Jr. - "Darkness cannot drive out darkness, only light can do that." So let's commit to facing every new day together. I have seen the strength in this business community. I have seen how we come together to help our community, how we share with those who need us, and how we support one another to keep us all going. I have seen among you all what Dr. King stood for every day - strength, resilience, resolution, kindness and love. Go where the light is people! You will never go wrong!



Liz Holt
Executive Director

#chamberLOVE



COMMUNITIES

Monday January 17 - Meditation Mondays - POSTPONED

Thursday January 20 , 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 Sassetti, 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](#)

Friday January 21, 12-12:30pm - Takeout Stakeout Lunch

Pickup at Lathrop House Cafe

Come join your fellow Chamber members for our next Takeout Stakeout, this time at **Lathrop House Cafe in Forest 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. Like our Tuesday Tasting lunch series from which this springs, lunch is a flat \$16 including tax and tip.

[REGISTER HERE](#)

Member Benefits Series

Digital and Marketing Advantage Sessions:

Perfect for new members and those who need a refresher.



[REGISTER HERE](#)

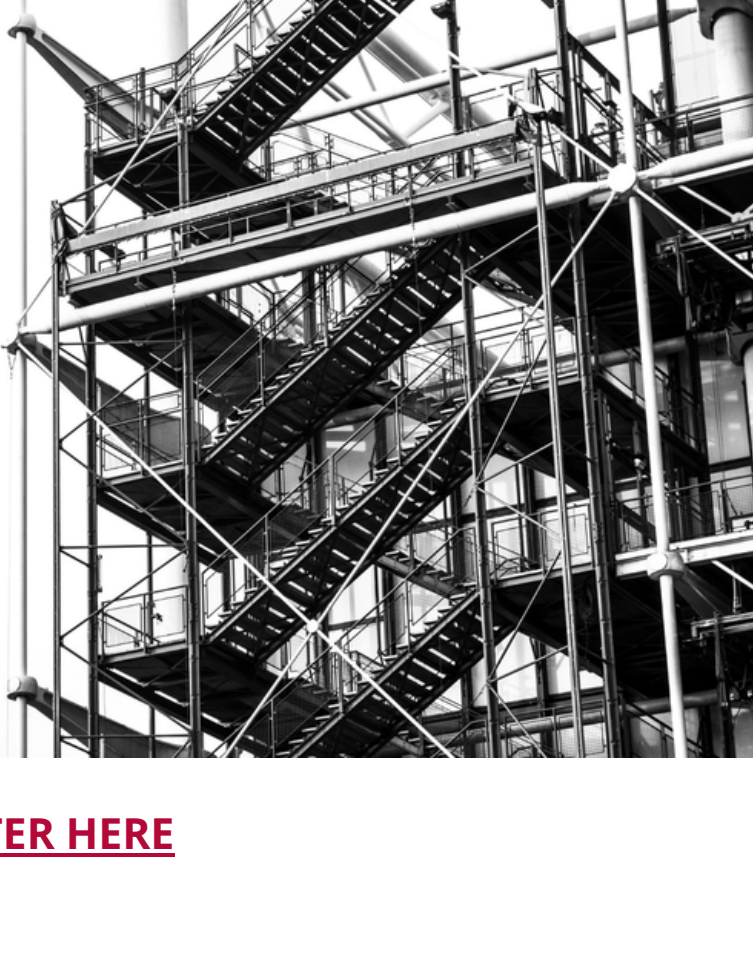
In this seminar we will go over all of your digital benefits that come with your membership, including:

- 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



Construction Industry Legal Seminar:

Intended for Construction Industry CEOs, COOs, CFOs, Accountants, Human Resource Managers, Safety Consultants, Claims Professionals and Risk Managers.



[REGISTER HERE](#)

Topics to be discussed during this seminar include:

- Addressing material shortages, labor shortages and supply chain delays in contracts
- Updates to OSHA regulations in 2022
- Recruiting and retaining employees
- COVID-19 mandates and updates
- Key labor and employment law updates
- Real estate development, zoning and leasing issues



Thank you!

We would like to say Thank You to Riveredge Hospital for their constant commitment to the mental health of our business community. They have Sponsored the Mindful 10 during each of our Women in Business Affinity meetings every month.

To take advantage of these ten minutes of mindfulness each month, join in our Women In Business meetings and carry this into your daily life!

**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**



Village of Oak Park Public Forum Set to Review Finalists for Village Manager

Oak Parkers can learn more about the finalists vying to be **Village Manager** at a virtual public forum set for 7 p.m., Tues., Jan. 25. The candidates will respond to questions curated from input gathered by the Village's professional search consultant, **GovHR USA**. Residents are invited to submit topics and question suggestions to oakpark@govhrusa.com by 5 p.m., Fri., Jan. 14. GovHR will review the submittals and create a bank of questions for the candidates. More information about the selection process is posted at www.oak-park.us/managersearch.

MINIMUM WAGE INCREASE



**COOK COUNTY
GOVERNMENT**

**As of January 1, 2022,
Cook County's
minimum wage for
tipped workers
increased to \$7.20.**



**DID YOU
KNOW?**

Visit CookCountyIL.gov/MWO
for more information.



Recently, Cook County issued a notice to employees regarding the [Minimum Wage Ordinance](#) (MWO).

Effective January 1, 2022, the minimum wage for tipped workers in Cook County increased to \$7.20, in alignment with the Illinois State minimum wage. The minimum wage for non-tipped workers remains \$13.00.

The updated "Notice to Employees" and "Frequently Asked Questions" documents are available [HERE](#).

PROOF OF VACCINATION REQUIREMENT



Cook County DEPT. of
Public Health
Promoting health. Preventing disease. Protecting you.

**In effect Jan. 3 Cook County
Learn more [HERE](#)**



**In effect Jan. 10 Village of Oak Park
Learn more [HERE](#)
[Oak Park Public Health Order 12.20.21](#)**