



Hispanic Heritage Month starts in September and what better time to be reminded of not only the cultures of Hispanic and Latino Americans, but also the Latino-owned businesses in our community, and in our neighbouring communities too! Share the LOVE this month, and every month, with our diversely owned businesses throughout out Villages. We are all in this together!

#chamberLOVE



Liz Holt
Executive Director



COMMUNITIES

Wednesday Sept 29, 12-12:30pm - Ribbon Cutting at YogaSix

Come celebrate with us at this week's ribbon cutting at **YogaSix!** 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 1, 4-6pm - Health & Wellness Happy Hour at One Lake Brewing

Fall is here, and it's time to make the most of our good weather with a Health & Wellness affinity group Happy Hour! Come join us on the rooftop deck at **One Lake Brewing** for drinks and food (pay your own way) to chat and network with others in the Oak Park-River Forest area health & wellness industry.

Come to enjoy local brews and to meet those who might be sources of referrals to you; professionals to whom you can make knowledgable referrals; sources of educated knowledge; or just folks to talk shop with. Attendance is limited to 25 people, so please RSVP soon.

[REGISTER HERE](#)

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](#)

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

DCEO and Groupon Present: Tips and Resources for Funding Your Business

Tuesday | September 28 | 10:00 AM – 11:00 AM

Join DCEO and Groupon for a discussion on available financial resources and tips available for your business.

Moderator: Juan Garcia Valencia, Senior Manager, Technical Program Management, Groupon

Panelists:

- Bob Esquivel, Supervisory Lender Relations Specialist, Illinois District, Small Business Administration (SBA)
- Steve Hall, Vice President for Economic Development Lending, Local Initiatives Support Corporation (LISC)
- Vanessa Uribe, Deputy Director, Office of Minority Economic Empowerment (OMEE), DCEO

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.



Wellness Wednesdays are a monthly e-newsletter that focuses on tapping into local expertise to support every-day health and well-being in our community.

Each month there will be one specific topic that is timely and relevant to the community.

To be a participating vendor, [CLICK HERE](#) to learn more & register.

Vendor fees are as follows:

- Wellness Wednesday Platinum Sponsorship: SOLD OUT!
- Vendor fees for each edition of the e-newsletter: \$100.00
- Vendor fees for 6 editions PLUS the October special edition: \$575.00 (savings of \$125)



Check out our past issues [HERE](#)

Upcoming Topics

October 6, 2021 - "Forever Changing: Aging for Every Phase of Life"

October 20, 2021 - SPECIAL EDITION - "Between the Sheets: Sexual Health for all Ages"

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Deadline for vendor participation in both issues is Wed. 9/29/21.



JOIN OUR TEAM

The Chamber is hiring a Membership Director!

Full Job Description [HERE](#)

Please send resume to Liz Holt at lholt@oprchamber.org

Check out other MEMBERS jobs [HERE](#)



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OAK PARK
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**2021 BUSINESS
SPOTLIGHT
CELEBRATION**
Presented by OAK PARK
BANK
A WINTRUST COMMUNITY 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 oprchamber.org
and spread the love for our
business community
#chamberLOVE

[Learn More HERE](#)



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Tickets on Sale NOW

**Spotlight
Soiree**

October 12, 2021 | 5-7 PM

PURCHASE TICKETS [HERE](#)




**2021
ANNUAL
APPEAL**

Choose Community

**We ask you to consider supporting our members in need TODAY
with a gift of a full or partial membership.**

We know first-hand what this support can mean to a business.
Let's continue to keep members connected, to reinforce our business
network and sustain a healthy Village life.

Let's continue to foster strength in our community!

[CLICK HERE](#) to learn more and gift.