



Choose Community

The words of Martin Luther King have resonated for decades with people not just in the US, but all over the world. They speak to the struggles of people in his own country - yes. But they also speak a universal truth, to the struggle of being human and the struggle of living in compassion, wisdom, respect, love and harmony with one another.

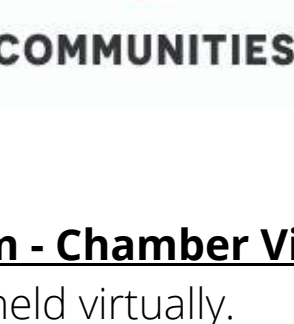
Dr. King's words have never been so poignant, powerful and resonant as they are today. He said that "We cannot walk alone" and indeed I agree - we need to walk in alliance with one another, alongside one another and with love for one another. If we wholeheartedly do this, we can overcome many chasms and many obstacles. Let's do this TOGETHER for the LOVE of our community.

#ChamberLOVE

Liz Holt
Executive Director



Photo Credit: Todd Bannor



COMMUNITIES

Friday, January 22, 9:30-11am - Chamber Virtual Open Office Hours

Our Open Office Hours will be held virtually.

Email mwalden@oprchamber.org to set up a consultation via phone, Facetime, Messenger or...?

Held twice monthly at the Chamber HQ, "Office Hours" is a drop-in help center for all Chamber Members looking to beef up their member ePage, better understand Chamber benefits or just talk business. RSVP to make an appointment with us.

[CLICK HERE TO REGISTER](#)

Friday, January 22, 12-12:30pm - Takeout Stakeout at Q BBQ

Come join your fellow Chamber members for our next Takeout Stakeout, this time at **Q BBQ**! 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 \$15 including tax & tip.

Choose your lunch options when you register.

[CLICK HERE TO REGISTER](#)

Friday, February 5, 12-12:30pm - Takeout Stakeout at Jerusalem Cafe

Come join your fellow Chamber members for our next Takeout Stakeout, this time at **Jerusalem 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 \$15 including tax and tip. If you're ready, come out of hiding for a few minutes and join us at Jerusalem Cafe for our next Takeout Stakeout!

Choose your lunch options when you register or email us.

[CLICK HERE TO REGISTER](#)

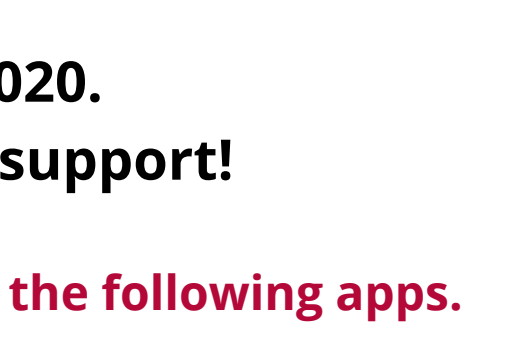
Thursday, February 11, 1-2:30pm - Chamber Virtual Open Office Hours

Our Open Office Hours will be held virtually.

Email mwalden@oprchamber.org to set up a consultation via phone, Facetime, Messenger or...?

Held twice monthly at the Chamber HQ, "Office Hours" is a drop-in help center for all Chamber Members looking to beef up their member ePage, better understand Chamber benefits or just talk business. RSVP to make an appointment with us.

[CLICK HERE TO REGISTER](#)



A Unique Collaboration

Join us as we tackle timely topics head-on

and fearlessly ask the hard questions.

#chamberLOVE

944 Listens in 2020.

Thank you for your support!

Check out our 2020 episodes on the following apps.



SHOP LOCAL OPRF

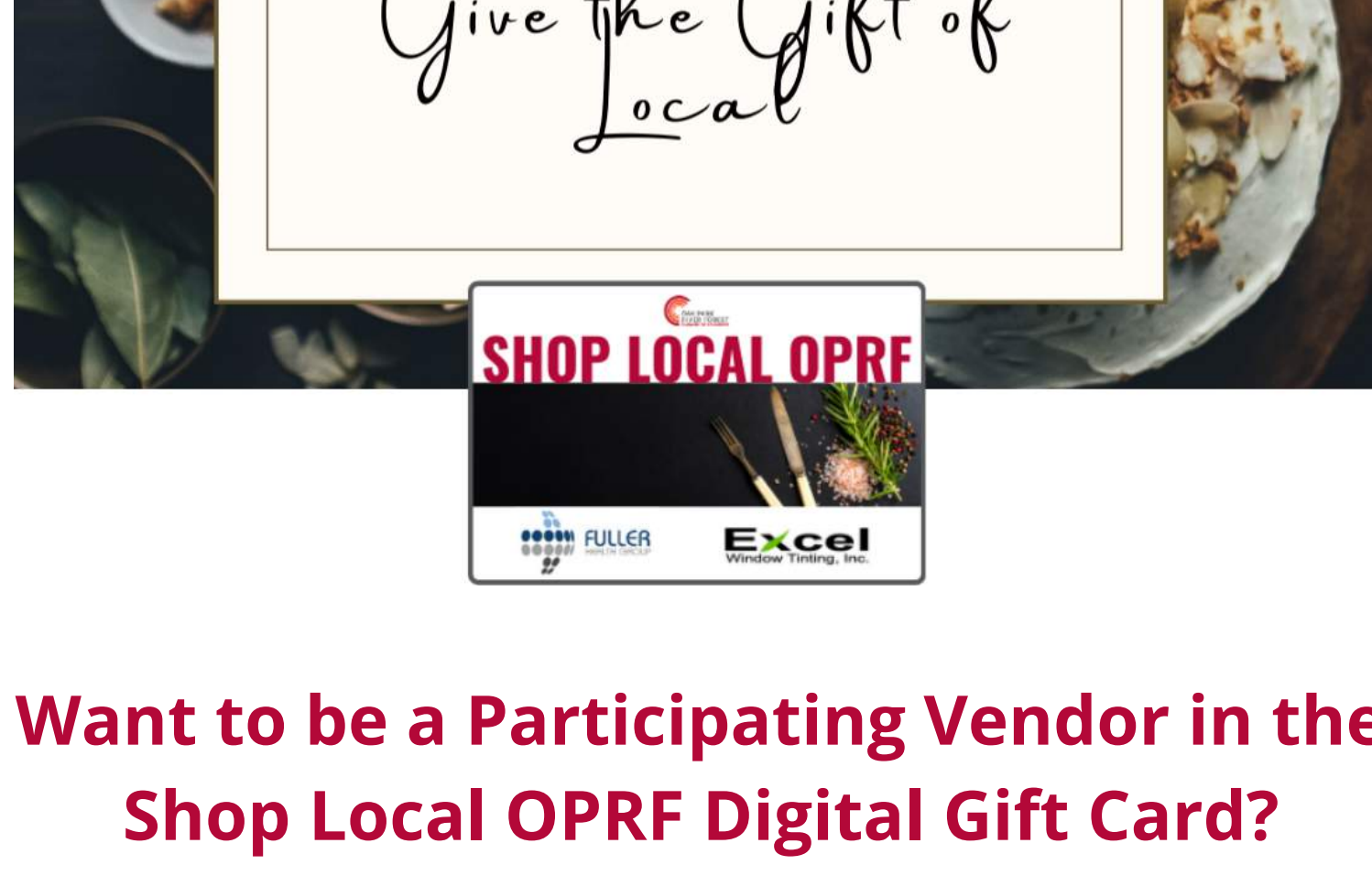
A community digital gift card program

Support Small Business

SUPPORT LOCAL!

Although we will not be able to have Bite Nite this year, let's continue to support our restaurants this month to help them survive.

Purchase a Shop Local digital gift card and use it throughout the community at your favorite participating eateries.



Want to be a Participating Vendor in the Shop Local OPRF Digital Gift Card?

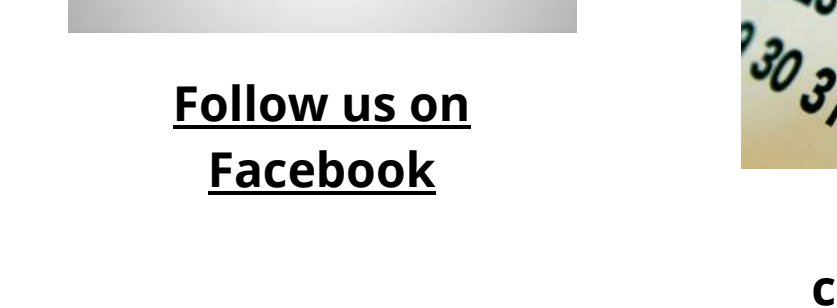
45 vendors, \$5,500+ in sales, and

7,000+ website impressions to date.

Sign up TODAY!



Continue to look to us as we provide critical information & connect you to business & community events.

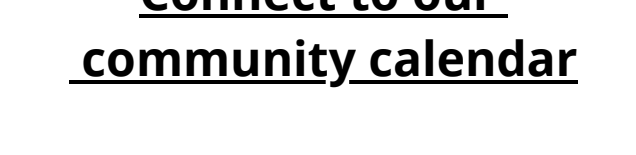


Timely member emails, Sign up for our weekly newsletter & checkout our website



Follow us on

Facebook



Connect to our

community calendar



New Funding Opportunities

Federal Paycheck Protection Program (PPP).

Round #2 has opened!

WHAT IS THIS? Small businesses, independent contractors and nonprofits in need of support due to COVID-19. This time the program is coming in two parts:

- **First Draw PPP Loans** - This is for those who have not previously received a PPP loan.

To promote access for smaller lenders and their customers, SBA will initially only accept First Draw PPP Loan applications from participating community financial institutions (CFIs). The applications opened January 11, 2021 - [CLICK HERE](#) for information.

- **Second Draw PPP Loans** - This is for those businesses who have already received a PPP loan. At least \$25 billion is being set aside for Second Draw PPP Loans to eligible borrowers with a maximum of 10 employees or for loans of \$250,000 or less to eligible borrowers in low or moderate income neighborhoods. - [CLICK HERE](#) for information.

IMPORTANT NOTE - you must apply for all PPP funding through a [certified financial institution](#). Please reach out to me if you need a hand finding someone local who can help you! Our Chamber members are dedicated to supporting our local businesses and specifically Chamber members. The SBA also has a link where borrowers can be matched with qualified PPP lenders using [SBA Lender Match](#).

Economic Injury Disaster Loan (EIDL)

- Applications are still open until Dec 31, 2021

WHAT IS THIS? This loan provides economic relief to small businesses and non-profit organizations that are currently experiencing a temporary loss of revenue

- [CLICK HERE](#) for more information.

- [CLICK HERE](#) for the application.

IMPORTANT NOTE - Funds for the forgivable EIDL advance have been fully allocated and are no longer available.

NEW - Shuttered Venue Operator's Grant

This is a new grant and they are not yet accepting applications.

WHAT IS THIS GRANT? New grant to support venues with a focus on live performance - live venue operators, theatres, live performing arts, relevant museum operators, motion picture theatres. Eligible organizations with a reduction in revenue due to the COVID-19 pandemic will have the opportunity to receive up to a \$10 million grant under the program

- [CLICK HERE](#) for more information.

RE: DCEO Business Interruption Grant (BIG)

- Apply NOW - applications are open and will continue until funds are depleted.

- [CLICK HERE](#) to apply in English. FAQ's can be found on the website in English And Spanish

- WHAT IS THIS GRANT? This is a program developed by Governor Pritzker and the Illinois General Assembly to provide economic relief for small businesses hit hardest by COVID-19. This second round of funding has a particular focus on businesses downstate, in disproportionately impacted areas (DIAs), and for heavily impacted industries.

- [CLICK HERE](#) for more information.

- A Little Note - in order to apply for this you have to be in a Disproportionately Impacted Area.

Fearless Fund

- Apply NOW - applications close January 24, 2021

WHAT IS THIS GRANT? - The Fearless Fund is disbursing 10 business grants to 10 women of color entrepreneurs in the amount of \$10,000 each for covid relief by January 31st, 2021

- [CLICK HERE](#) for more information and to apply.

(NOTE - thank you to Christian Harris of Maid Pro Oak Park for bringing this amazing grant to our attention)

FOR OAK PARK BUSINESSES

RE: Oak Park Loan Program

- Applications are still open and there are still funds left for the taking!

- [CLICK HERE](#) to apply.- WHAT IS THIS? The Village of Oak Park will offer Oak Park businesses that have been negatively affected by the outbreak of the COVID-19 virus low- interest forgivable financing through Oak Park's CARES Act Business Assistance Loan program. Max \$5,000.00.

- [CLICK HERE](#) for more information.

- Have you got questions? We have the perfect person for you to talk to! The fabulous Cam Davis from Development Customer Service would love to hear from you and has been shepherding our local businesses through this process for months. Please feel free to reach out to him at cdavis@oak-park.us.

Suburban Unity Alliance Small Business Relief Fund

- First round of funding is closed, but the wait list for the second round is OPEN!

WHAT IS THIS? Suburban Unity Alliance's small business and service/essential workers relief fund will provide micro-grants to each Oak Park small business & employee that have been negatively impacted by the Covid-19 pandemic. The micro-grant process will be 100% transparent to the community as the fund provides financial assistance to our local small businesses and employees.

- [CLICK HERE](#) for more information.- Want to be put on the waitlist for the next round of funding? Contact SUA directly at anthony@suburbanunity.org

INFORMATION RE: FINDING A LENDER

- Quick reminder that the OPEDC has a great blog on [Tips for Approaching a Lender](#)

- The SBA also has a link where borrowers can be matched with qualified PPP lenders using [SBA Lender Match](#).

SOME OTHER GOOD NEWS

- Looks like Starbucks will be coming to the table with some small business relief - we will keep our eyes open for more information.

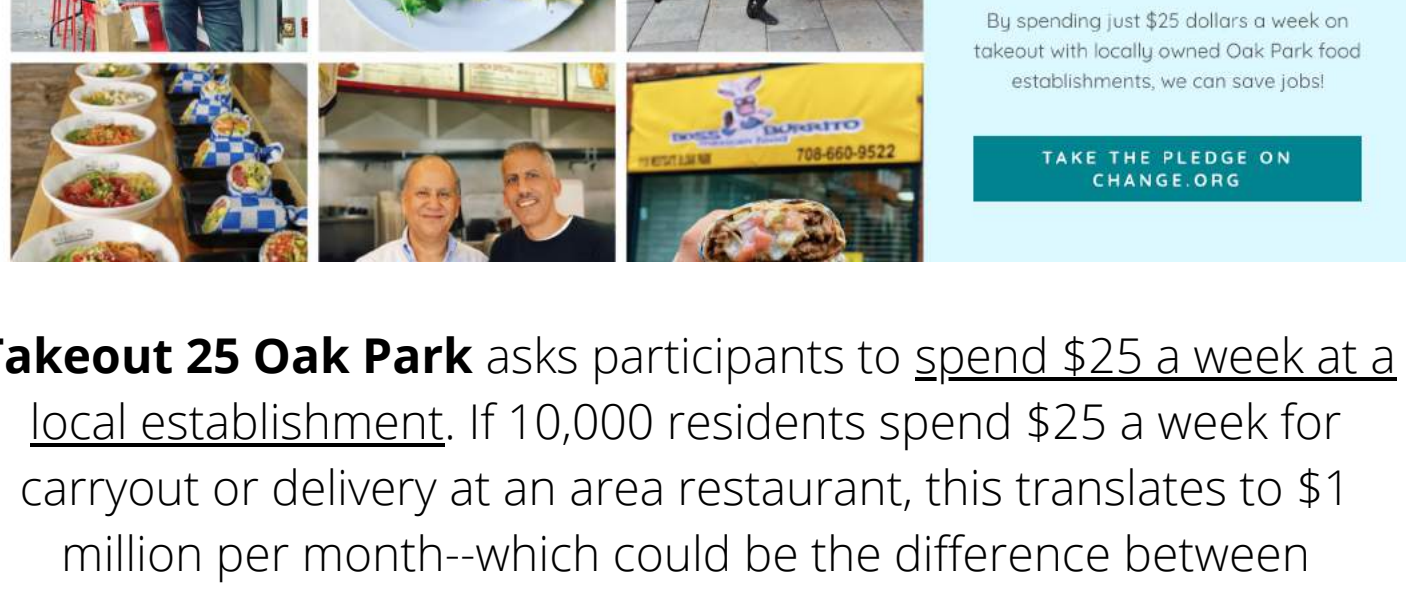
[CLICK HERE](#) for more information.

Please keep your eyes on FB page as we will be posting more information there as fast as we can get it!

Support our Restaurants

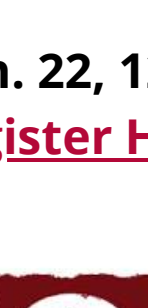
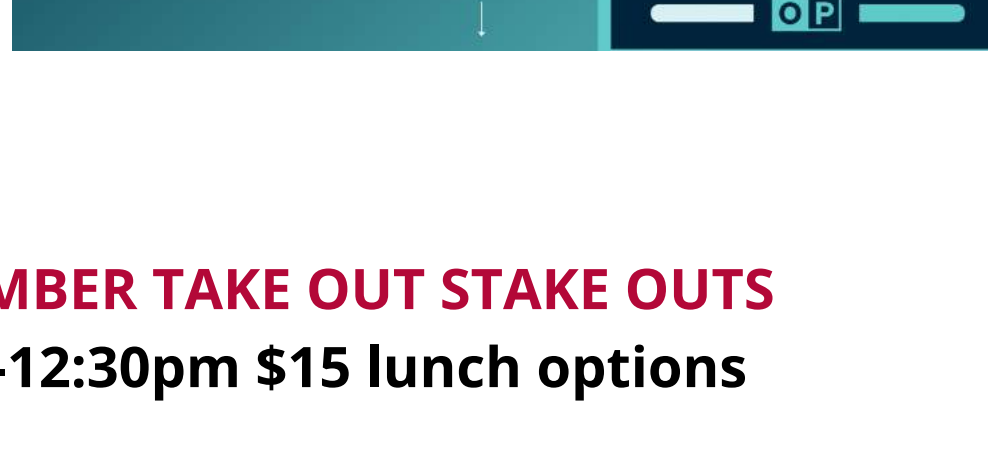
TAKE OUT 25 OAK PARK

[HOME](#) [WHAT IS THE PLEDGE?](#) [JOIN OUR FB GROUP!](#) [RESOURCES FOR RESTAURANTS](#)



Takeout 25 Oak Park asks participants to spend \$25 a week at a local establishment. If 10,000 residents spend \$25 a week for carryout or delivery at an area restaurant, this translates to \$1 million per month--which could be the difference between economic survival or extinction. Check out how it works on the [Takeout 25 Oak Park Facebook page](#). Participation in programs like this help create a more vibrant, thriving Village that offers a wide array of choices for visitors and residents.

Please support Takeout 25 Oak Park and help sustain our beloved Oak Park businesses and those in the surrounding areas.



HAMBER TAKE OUT STAKE OUTS

12-12:30pm \$15 lunch options

Friday Jan. 22, 12-12:30pm

[Register HERE](#)

Friday Feb. 5, 12-12:30pm

[Register HERE](#)



Use our community digital gift card at participating restaurants.

Check list here.



Pick Oak Park

Now is the time to support Oak Park businesses.

Pick Oak Park: The Facts

We all choose to live here. Why? Because Oak Park is creative, innovative, diverse and committed to community.

The Pick Oak Park campaign aims to highlight the people and places that make Oak Park special and create excitement about supporting business owners who are friends, neighbors and community members.

The campaign launched on Tuesday, December 15 and will continue into 2021.

How can you participate?

1. Follow Pick Oak Park on Facebook and Instagram

2. Share Pick Oak Park on your organization/business page and personal page

3. Create your own post with the hashtag: #IPickOakParkFor and share where you are choosing to support (i.e. "#IPickOakParkFor the perfect birthday cake")

4. Send the Pick Oak Park email to your email subscriber list

5. Hang the Pick Oak Park poster in your window

6. Add the logo and link to pickoakpark.com to your website

Together, Pick Oak Park creates awareness, cultivates loyalty and builds a groundswell of support for local businesses.

Pick your community, Pick your Village. Pick Oak Park.

How can you learn more?

pickoakpark.com

facebook.com/pickoakpark

Instagram.com/pickoakpark