



Choose Community

"I am so inspired to see how our communities have come together to rally support for our small business community. The social media marketing engine is working overtime and we are seeing real-time results. But let's not forget that gratitude can get you a very long way in keeping this momentum going. So take the extra time to thank your clients and customers and tell the stories of support and appreciation. The world will be a better place if we all just keep that love flowing!"

Liz Holt
Executive Director



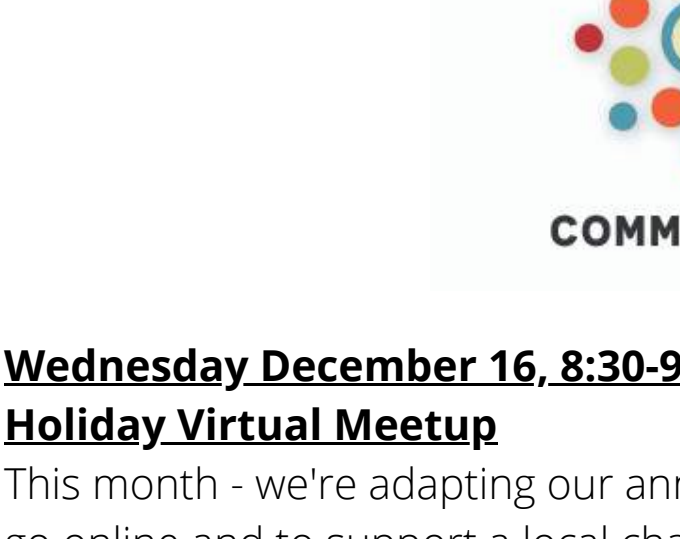
SHOP LOCAL OPRF

A community digital gift card program
Support Small Business

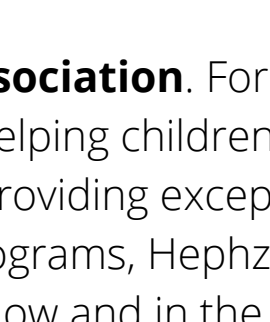
Great gifts for corporate and holidays gifts, & more...



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



The transactions fees at launch
have been generously
SPONSORED BY:



COMMUNITIES

Wednesday December 16, 8:30-9:30am - Young Professionals Holiday Virtual 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!

They write: "We need LOADS of toys for our Hephzibah kids - those children who live at Hephzibah Home in Oak Park, those in foster families, and those who are with their biological families but need extra support. We are partnering locally with Gepetto's Toy Box and they have a Hephzibah kid's wish list online in the store. **Here is Gepetto's Toy Box wish list:** <https://geppettostoybox.com/hephzibah-childrens-association>

[CLICK HERE](#) TO REGISTER

Friday December 18, 9-10am - Women in Business Virtual Meetup

Join Women in Business for a casual presentation and round-table discussion, all relevant to doing business in today's world. Discussion Topics: **PLANNING FOR 2021**. We had a great time launching our Multi-Chamber collaborative in November and now we are coming back to Oak Park and River Forest for December to brainstorm what we want 2021 to look like! What topics would you like to see discussed or presented? Do you have a preferred format? What have you seen on other groups that would be fun to do here? Are there business topics that would really help you grow your business? Bring your expertise to the table and let us know how you could contribute! GOODBYE 2020! Let's all agree that we are thrilled to see the back-end of this year! Come along and share why you are happy to look forward to the new year.

[CLICK HERE](#) TO REGISTER

Friday December 18, 12-12:30pm - Takeout Stakeout at Kettlestrings Tavern

Come join your fellow Chamber members for our next Takeout Stakeout, this time at **Kettlestrings Tavern**! 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. Lunch menu available at registration. We hope to see you there.

[CLICK HERE](#) TO REGISTER

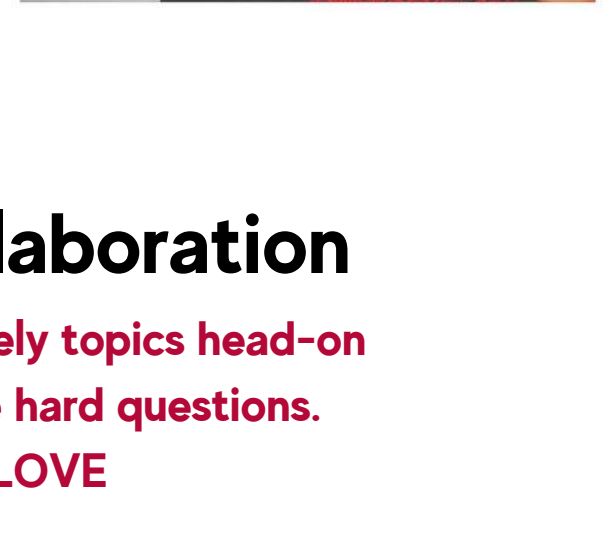
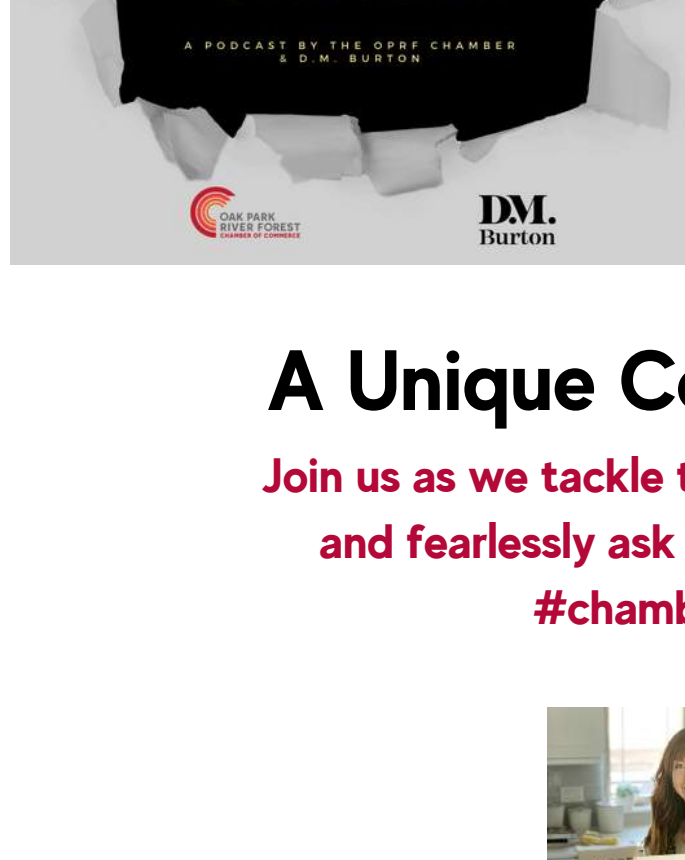
Friday January 8, 12-12:30pm - Ribbon Cutting and Takeout Stakeout at Lathrop House Cafe

Double the fun! **Come join your fellow Chamber members for our a Ribbon Cutting and a Takeout Stakeout at Lathrop House Cafe in River Forest!** Let's welcome our newest addition to the local business community and pick up a delicious lunch!

At the ribbon cutting we will take pictures of the actual ribbon cutting with the staff, photos of their "first dollar", and visit the inner workings of the business. It'll be a great time to network.

At a Takeout Stakeout 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. Choose your lunch options when you register.

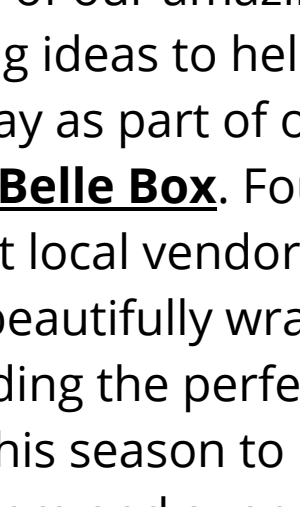
[CLICK HERE](#) TO REGISTER



A Unique Collaboration

**Join us as we tackle timely topics head-on
and fearlessly ask the hard questions.**

#chamberLOVE



Episode 20 - Women-Owned Businesses, Whiskey & The Perfect Gift

Holiday season is synonymous with gifts. And just in time, Darien chats with some of our amazing business mavens to share their take on gifting ideas to help us maneuver through this holiday season. Today as part of our multi-part series, we have **Lisa Munro** of **Elle Belle Box**. Founded during the height of Covid-19 to support local vendors and women owned businesses, she creates beautifully wrapped themed gift boxes for all who need help finding the perfect gift. Listen to some of her great gift ideas for this season to bring a smile to all who receive them and support Local.

**Be sure to listen to all out episodes focused on
supporting LOCAL!**

Gifting

Local Restaurant Panel

& More...

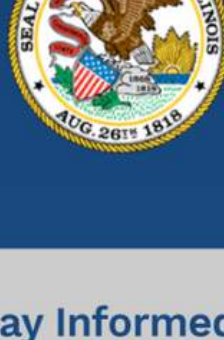


OPEN

PAUSE



Dec. 15, 2020 DEADLINE



Illinois
Department of Commerce
& Economic Opportunity

Stay Informed. Stay Healthy. Stay Connected.

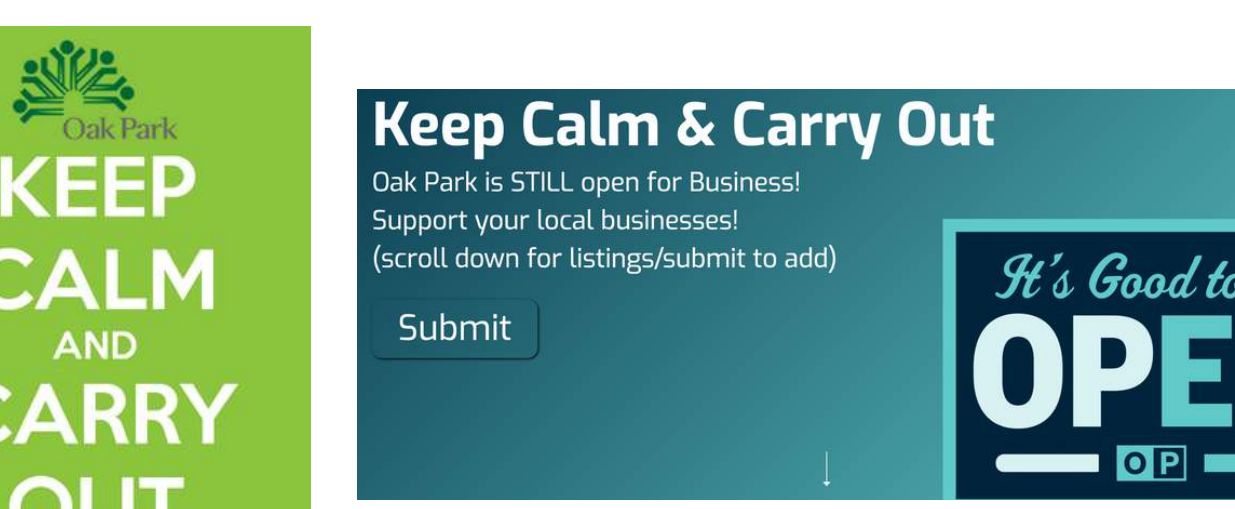
BIG Application Deadline Upcoming December 15, 2020
Don't Wait to Apply!

Learn more [CLICK HERE](#)

Support our Restaurants

TAKE OUT 25 OAK PARK

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



WELCOME

TAKE THE PLEDGE!

By spending just \$25 dollars a week on takeout with locally owned Oak Park food establishments, we can save jobs!

TAKE THE PLEDGE ON [CHANGE.ORG](#)

Oak Park

KEEP
CALM
AND
CARRY
OUT

Keep Calm & Carry Out

Oak Park is STILL open for Business!
Support your local businesses!
(scroll down for listings/submit to add)

Submit

It's Good to Be

OPEN

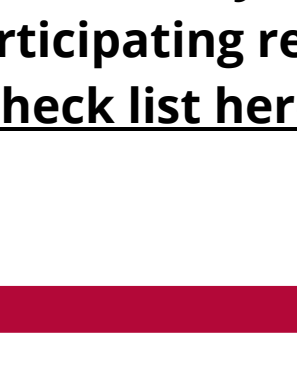


HAMBER TAKE OUT STAKE OUTS

12-12:30pm \$15 lunch options

Friday Dec. 18

Friday Jan. 8



Use our community digital gift card at participating restaurants.
[Check list here.](#)



Financial Assistance Options

NEW BILL ASSISTANCE AVAILABLE for ComEd Small-Business Customers

We understand this is a challenging time for many of our valued small-business customers struggling in the face of COVID-19. To proactively support our communities, we now offer to all eligible small-business customers, for a limited time, a one-time grant through the Small Business Assistance Program.

For Small-Business Customers Who Received a Disconnect Notice

These customers may be eligible to apply for a one-time grant and special payment arrangement.

- One-time grant equal to 30 percent of their ComEd balance – up to \$1,000 – applied to the account
- Payment plan option to spread remaining balance over as long as 6 months

For Small-Business Customers Recently Disconnected

These customers may be eligible to apply for a one-time grant which could help service be reconnected.

- One-time grant equal to 30 percent of their ComEd balance – up to \$1,000 – applied to the account
- Customer must make a payment for the remaining balance due

ComEd urges all eligible small-business customers to take advantage of this new financial assistance program now. Grants are available for a limited time and until funds run out.

CUSTOMERS SHOULD ACT QUICKLY.

For eligibility, visit or call

[ComEd.com/SmallBizAssistance](#)

1-877-4-COMED-1 (1-877-426-6331)



SAVE ENERGY, SAVE MONEY.

The ComEd® Energy Efficiency Program provides customers with tips and offerings to help them save on their future energy bills.

[ComEd.com/BizIncentives](#)

ComEd

An Exelon Company

powering lives