

To mask or not to mask? This is NOT the question! The real question is if you want to be as fabulous as Elle Woods and be a mask trendsetter. It's not rocket science, and you don't need a law degree to figure it out. Just do it. Save lives. Plus - it's your chance to show off your awesome smize! Thanks Tyra Banks for coining this word long before we really needed it!

**Liz Holt**  
**Executive Director**



**To all who have signed up for our  
SHOP LOCAL OPRF Program!**

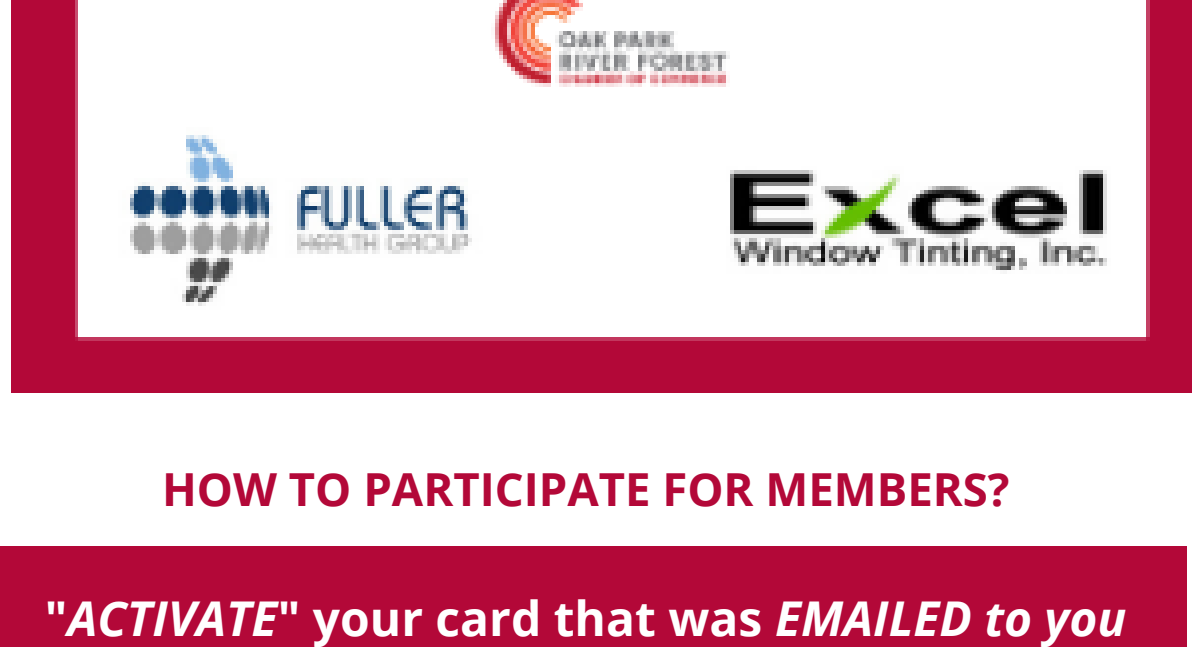
**& then there was well, Al-Mart Furniture and Bedding, Art Studio 928, LLC, Bead in Hand, Biodynamic Health Systems, Blackout Baking Co., Careful Peach Boutique, Consulting Audiology Associates, LLC; The Hearing Place, Family Medical, Inductor of Healing Wellness Center, James Anthony Salon, JAYNE, L'Arche Chicago, Lively Athletics, MaidPro Oak Park, Nando's Peri-Peri, OPRF Museum, One Lake Brewing, Our Planet Automotive Services, Inc, Progressive Health Primary Care, Split Milk, Starship Restaurant & Catering, Ten Thousand Villages**



## SHOP LOCAL OPRF

**A community gift card program for participating *CHAMBER MEMBERS***

Support OPRF Small Business  
Gift cards can be used at ALL participating **MEMBER merchants**  
NO fees for merchants  
Let the community know you are **OPEN** for business



### HOW TO PARTICIPATE FOR MEMBERS?

**"ACTIVATE" your card that was EMAILED to you by Yiftee, our technology partner.**

**EASY TO USE: Merchants run gift card as a Mastercard transaction.**

**Member Merchant Participation Signup - On-going**

**Chamber to market to community early August**



The transaction fees for the launch have been generously **SPONSORED BY:**

Questions and Marketing opportunities contact [jiang@opr chamber.org](mailto:jiang@opr chamber.org)

## TAKE THE COVID-19 SAFETY PLEDGE NOW!

**We're keeping the health and safety of our employees, community members, and visitors at the forefront. Take the Covid-19 Safety Pledge to show that you're doing your part in maintaining the well-being of all who live and work in our community.**

**LEARN MORE & TAKE THE PLEDGE HERE**  
**all businesses welcomed to take the pledge.**

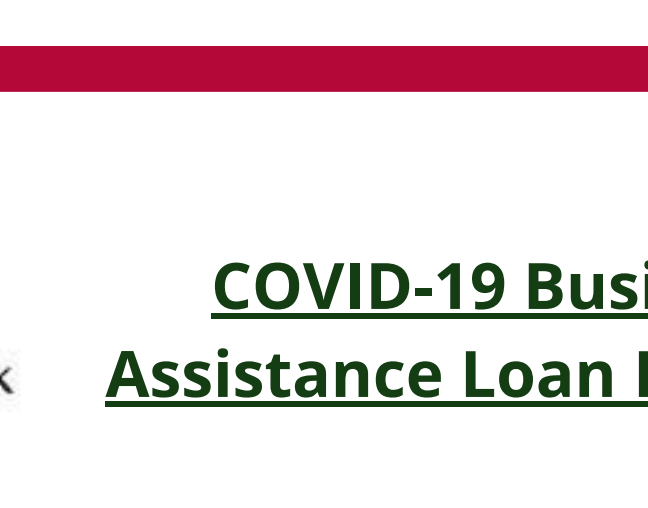


## A Unique Collaboration

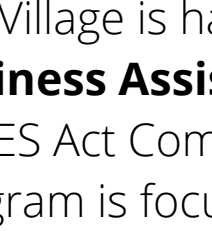
**Join us as we tackle timely topics head-on and fearlessly ask the hard questions.**

**#chamberLOVE**

**Check out episodes! [CLICK HERE](#)**



**Advertising opportunities available in our podcasts.**



## COVID-19 Business Assistance Loan Program

**Dear Oak Park Small Business,**

The Village is happy to announce the creation of an **Oak Park Business Assistance Loan Program** using \$300,000 in federal CARES Act Community Development Block Grant funding. The program is focused on helping small Oak Park businesses that have been negatively impacted by the outbreak of the COVID-19 coronavirus.

**Oak Park Business Assistance Loans up to \$5,000** each will be available to registered local businesses with 10 or fewer employees and average annual gross business receipts of less than \$2,000,000. To be eligible, businesses must have experienced a 30 percent or more loss in revenue due to the COVID-19 outbreak. Funds can be used for operating expenses including payroll and rent. Funds cannot be used for equipment purchases, construction or expansion-related costs. Businesses that are chains or franchises are not eligible.

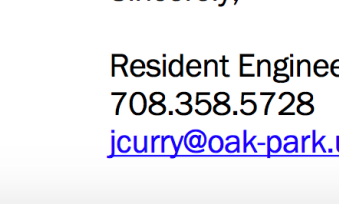
Participation in the Oak Park Business Assistance Loan Program requires the completion of an application form. All applications must be complete with signed and dated documents. Additional, more detailed information about the loan program, including the application form, can be found on the Village's website at [www.oak-park.us/covid19businessloan](http://www.oak-park.us/covid19businessloan).

**Loan applications may be submitted electronically to [Business@oak-park.us](mailto:Business@oak-park.us) beginning at 9 a.m., Tues., July 28.** No program applications will be accepted prior to this time and date. Loan applications submitted before this time and date will not be considered and must be re-submitted. Applications will be considered on a first-come first-served basis for 30 days.

The Village is happy to be able to offer Oak Park businesses the opportunity to apply for this loan opportunity. We encourage every small Oak Park business to review the available grant materials and consider applying for this outstanding program.

Respectfully,  
**VILLAGE OF OAK PARK**

Tammie Grossman  
Director  
Development Customer Services



July 13, 2020

Dear Business Owner,

Major infrastructure improvements on Austin Blvd are scheduled to begin the week of July 28th and continue through much of September. The Village will install a new water main, and upgrade water services to individual properties between Lake St. and Chicago Ave.

On-street parking will be temporarily restricted on the north side of Chicago Avenue for about two weeks beginning the week of July 28th. Only a couple of on-street parking spaces will be impacted on the north side of Chicago Avenue, close to Austin Boulevard.

We apologize for the inconvenience this infrastructure work may cause. Feel free to contact either of us should you have any questions or concerns regarding this upcoming project.

Sincerely,

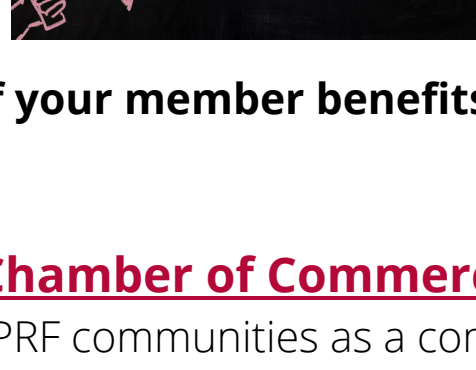
Sincerely,  
Resident Engineer Jameelah Curry  
708.358.5728  
[jcurry@oak-park.us](mailto:jcurry@oak-park.us)

Field Engineer Chris Kim  
708.385.5725  
[ckim@oak-park.us](mailto:ckim@oak-park.us)





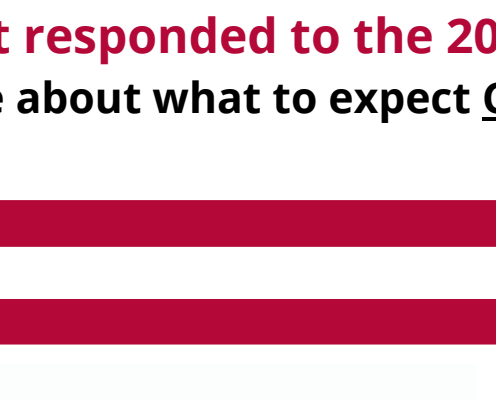
**Helpful ideas from our business network to pivot, re-image, and make opportunities. Check it out on our website!**



**Take advantage of your member benefits! Learn more [here](#)!**

### **[The OPRF Chamber of Commerce website](#)**

lists ALL businesses in OPRF communities as a community resource. We have designated categories of **[women-owned](#)**, **[diversely-owned](#)**, and **[veteran-owned](#)** listed on our website. (Please [click on links above to see](#).) If you would like your business to be part of one or all of those categories, please contact us at [info@oprchamber.org](mailto:info@oprchamber.org).



**Census takers will visit homes that haven't yet responded to the 2020 Census.**

**Learn more about what to expect [CLICK HERE](#).**



## **COMMUNITIES**

### **Thursday August 6, 1-2pm - Nonprofit Affinity Group Virtual Meeting**

Come join the Chamber's new nonprofit affinity group for our monthly gathering, this month for Zoom learning about "Sponsorship Fundraising in the time of COVID"! Our resource people this month are Kristi Braun, former sponsorship coordinator for the Park District of Oak Park and marketing director for Wonder Works Children's Museum; and Kosha Carstens, sponsorship manager for the Oak Park-River Forest Chamber of Commerce . Bring your questions, ideas, and experiences for the discussion!

**[CLICK HERE](#) TO REGISTER**

### **Friday August 7, 12-12:30pm- Chamber Takeout Stakeout lunch pickup at Rustico**

Come join your fellow Chamber members for our next Takeout Stakeout, this time at Rustico! 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. Menu choices will be posted soon!

**[CLICK HERE](#) TO REGISTER**

### **Thursday August 13, 1-2:30pm - Chamber Virtual Office Hours**

A drop-in help center for all Chamber Members looking to beef up their member ePage, better understand Chamber benefits or just talk business.

As our office is temporarily closed, our Open Office Hours will be held virtually. Email [mwalden@oprchamber.org](mailto:mwalden@oprchamber.org) to set up a consultation via phone, Facetime, Messenger or...? Thanks!

**[CLICK HERE](#) TO REGISTER**

### **Thursday August 13, 5:30-7pm - Design & Construction Affinity Group at McAdam Landscaping - IN PERSON**

You are cordially invited to 2020's summer gathering of the Oak Park - River Forest Chamber of Commerce's affinity group for the Design & Construction industry, coming up at McAdam Landscaping!

Please join us for food and beverages courtesy of McAdam, and networking in and around the building trades. We are inviting professionals from the building trades, architecture, real estate, historic preservation, interior design, and related fields to join in this new group to facilitate conversation, learning, business referrals, collaboration, etc. within the design and construction world.

**Please RSVP via the link below. To ensure social distancing we can only admit 15 people to this event, so RSVPs are required.**

And if you do RSVP but then can't make it, please let us know! But don't miss the chance to be part of this professional community.

**[CLICK HERE](#) TO REGISTER**

### **Friday August 21, 9-10:30am - Women in Business Affinity Group**

Join Women in Business for a casual presentation and round-table discussion, all relevant to doing business in today's world. Connecting business to business, and business to community.

Discussion Topic TBD, Presenter - TBD

**[CLICK HERE](#) TO REGISTER**

### **Thursday August 27, 4:30-6PM - Young Professionals Frank Lloyd Wright homes walking tour - IN PERSON**

Join Young Professionals? monthly meet-up to share experiences, meet people facing similar career issues and discuss areas of professional development. This month we're enjoying the outdoors and local architecture with **"Wright in the Neighborhood,"** a walking tour of Frank Lloyd Wright homes. We'll start at the Frank Lloyd Wright Home & Studio to meet our trained guide, then get a narrated outside tour of local Wright-designed homes. And **as a bonus, we'll get a visit from Popify**, our local boutique popsicle artisans, with gourmet popsicles available for purchase as a snack along the way. Come join us for socially-distanced networking, learning, exercise, fresh air, and tasty popsicles! Remember to order your tickets in advance for a discount!

**[CLICK HERE](#) TO REGISTER**

