

# Choose Community



**At the Chamber we always love to celebrate and what better reason to raise a glass than to celebrate the very community that makes up this organization - our members!**

**Hundreds of businesses have chosen to join this community, to do business here, to "set up shop" here, and to live here. That is why our Vision, that all who live and work in our community have the opportunity to thrive, is so important to us.**

**Join us in October to celebrate all of our member businesses. We will spotlight everyone, from your favorite restaurant or retail shop, to your dentist and dog groomer. And don't forget about those critical bankers, therapists and car repair peeps. These are all businesses that are part of our everyday and comprise the very fabric of our Villages. Our membership is vast and we know that there is something here for everyone.**

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



## Celebrate with us!



### **What is the 2020 Member Spotlight Our Community Program?**

It is an entire month **dedicated to highlighting our Chamber members** - what they do and what makes them unique, while also sharing their love for our community and the Chamber. **This marketing extravaganza will include being published in the Wednesday Journal Small Business Superheroes blog, videos, social media marketing, and much more.**

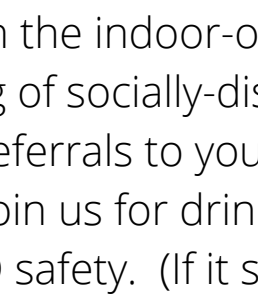
The goal is two-fold: to **connect our members to the community**, and also give them what they need most - **more marketing and exposure.**

This program also represents a COVID-year pivot for our well-loved Spotlight Awards program. We knew our program had to be virtual this year and needed to extend far beyond celebrating only six category winners. By combining it with our annual Membership Month, we created a platform to give a spotlight to many, so that we could help ALL of our hard-working businesses to survive and thrive.

**Please join us as we celebrate our member businesses by reading their stories, visiting their pages, and buying their products or services.** American Express studies show an **average of two-thirds of every dollar spent at a small business stays in the local economy**, which means your support will help your community too.

**[SUBMIT YOUR WEDNESDAY JOURNAL SMALL BUSINESS SUPERHEROES BLOG HERE](#)**

**AND SEND YOUR VIDEOS TO [jyang@oprchamber.org](mailto:jyang@oprchamber.org)**  
**Tell us what you love about the chamber and our community.**



**COMMUNITIES**

#### **Tuesday October 6, 5:30-7pm - Health & Wellness Networking at Albion Oak Park**

Come connect with us! OPRF-area health and wellness businesses are gathering at Albion Oak Park in the indoor-outdoor clubroom of the elegant high-rise, for a friendly evening of socially-distanced networking. Meet professionals who can make referrals to you, and to whom you can refer your patients when needed. Join us for drinks at 5:30 pm with attendance limited to 22 people for COVID safety. (If it sells out, add you name to the waiting list; if you sign up but can't attend, please let us know so someone else can have your space.) We look forward to seeing you there.

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

#### **Thursday October 8, 1-2:30pm - Chamber Virtual Open Office Hours**

Coronavirus UPDATE: 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...?

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](#)**

#### **Thursday October 8, 5:15-6:30pm - Design Construction & Real Estate Group Walking Tour**

This month, join the OPRF Chamber's Design, Construction, and Real Estate group for a walking tour of homes designed by Frank Lloyd Wright and other eminent architects. We'll start at the northeast corner of Forest & Ontario in Austin Gardens to meet our guide. The tour will be led by Heidi Ruehle, co-chair of the Design, Construction & Real Estate group, a trained docent with the Frank Lloyd Wright Home & Studio, and executive director of the Unity Temple Restoration Foundation. Come join us for socially-distanced networking, learning, exercise, fresh air, and perhaps a hangout time afterward if the group is up for it! Connect with other tradespeople and Realtors to build your professional connections, while enjoying a lovely fall evening. We hope to see you there.

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

#### **Tuesday October 13, 5-7pm - Business After Hours at CrossFunction Flexible**

Join us at our monthly networking event! Business After Hours (BAH) occur on the second Tuesday of every month. This is your chance to connect with other members in a more casual setting. All members and non-members are welcomed. (Members are free.) Our October Business After Hours (BAH) will be hosted by CrossFunction Flexible Workspace, the new professional community in the beautiful and historic Boulevard Arcade building.

This being the COVID-19 era, this event will be modified in many ways to be COVID-safe. We'll gather outdoors in the back parking lot and will practice social distancing, with the interior space open for small-group tours and restroom access. We ask participants to keep masked when not eating or drinking, and food will be individually packaged. Hand sanitizer will be available, and we'll use pre-printed name tags so no one need share markers. Registration is capped at 40 guests; RSVPs are required. We'll have a wait list going - if you have registered but are unable to attend, please let us know so we can open the spot to someone on the wait list.

**This Month's Host CrossFunction** is a unique coworking space featuring private and shared offices, as well as distinctive amenities. It includes everything from a recording studio to a modern twist on the phone booth, as well as lockers, private parking, meeting rooms, a kitchen, snacks, an atrium-style glass ceiling, and more. CrossFunction Flexible Workspace is the latest incarnation of a beautiful historic building, once built out as a mini-mall with a variety of retailers. Come see its new identity!

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

#### **Workspace Friday October 16, 9-10:30am - 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 Topic: 360 degree review of a current woman-owned business - today the Women in Business become consultants to one of our members, The Oak Park Handyhuman (using the collective hive mind)!

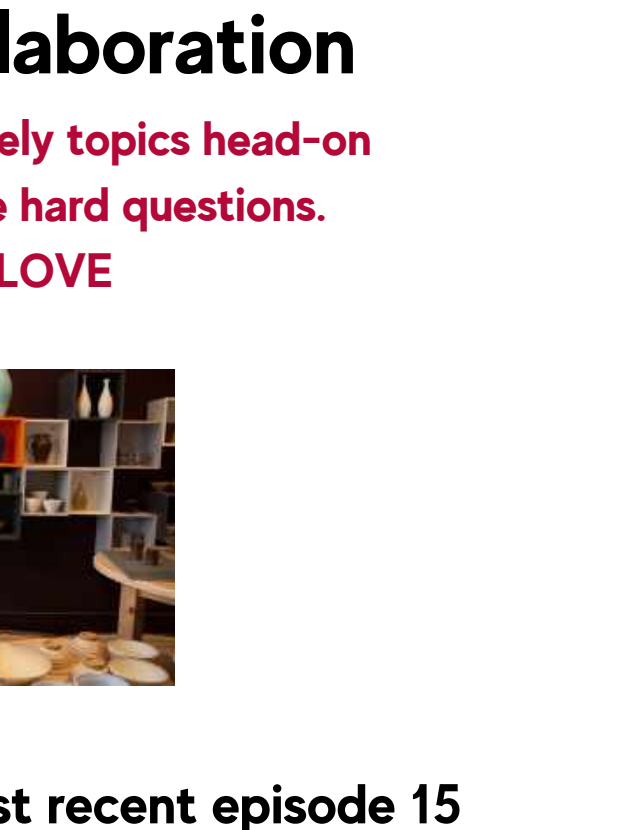
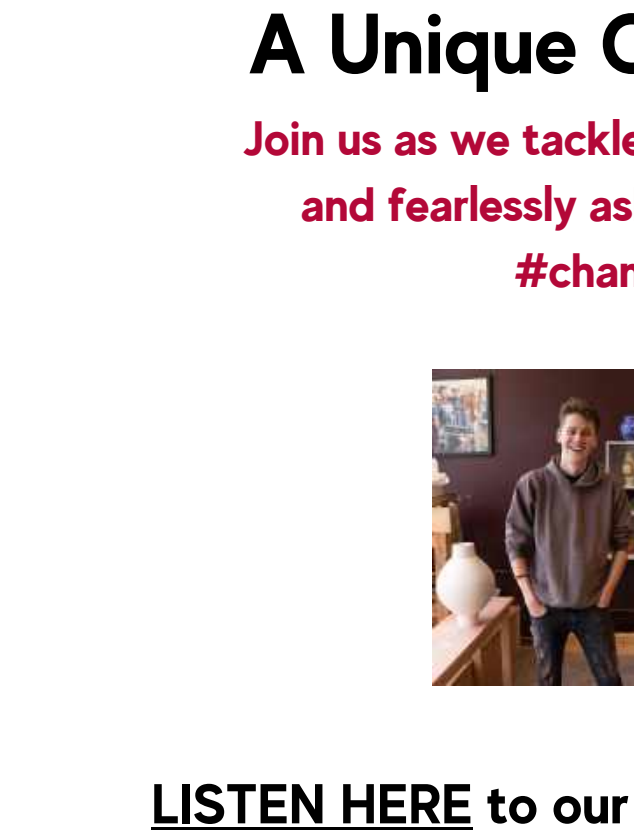
Presenter - The Oak Park Handyhuman

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

#### **Friday October 16, 12-12:30pm - Takeout Stakeout Lunch at Sugar Beet Schoolhouse**

Come join your fellow Chamber members for our next Takeout Stakeout, this time at Sugar Beet Schoolhouse in River Forest! 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. Email us with your menu choice, or include it in your registration form. See choice of meal offerings when you register. If you don't know the Sugar Beet Schoolhouse, it's a fantastic combination of things: a cooking school for kids, and a commercial kitchen which serves as an incubator for local food-producing businesses.

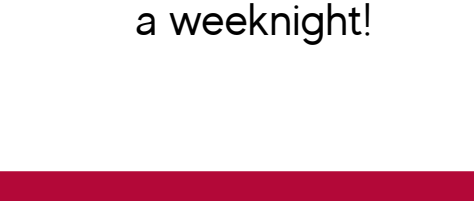
**[CLICK HERE TO REGISTER](#)**



## A Unique Collaboration

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

**#chamberLOVE**



**LISTEN HERE to our most recent episode 15 with Gabe Tetrev - Ping Pong, Pottery, & Pretty Things.**

Did you know that your local village potter can school you on juggling ping pong balls, Nigerian jazz and the entrepreneurship of craft? We speak the truth and we captured it right here on the Chamber airwaves. Listen-in as two of our youngest Chamber members ruminate on the joys of hiring staff and bringing pretty things to the masses. And yes, they will also convince you that successfully adulting does include bespoke dishware on a weeknight!





### **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.

### **Cook County Covid-19 Recovery Grant**

**Apply NOW!** Applications are being accepted **Sept 16 - October 6, 2020.**

[CLICK HERE](#) to apply in English.

[CLICK HERE](#) to apply in Spanish

**WHAT IS THIS GRANT?** For businesses located in municipalities within suburban Cook County with 20 or fewer employees and sales reduced (>20%) by COVID-19 in any month from March-July vs. February 2020). This is intended for businesses who have not received federal funding in the past, or businesses that have received federal funding and intend to use the Cook County Recovery Grant for expenses different than what federal funding was used for.

[CLICK HERE](#) for more information.

**NEED HELP APPLYING?** We have partnered with two fabulous organizations who will help you with your application (YES! They will actually really make this process easier!)

- [If you are a black-owned business](#), contact our partners at the Illinois Black Chamber of Commerce - Siri Hibler -

siri.hibbler@illinoisblackchamberofcommerce.com

- [All other business owners](#) should feel free to contact our partner at the Berwyn Development Corporation - Erika Coron-Owens

erikao@berwyn.net or cell: 708-268-6157

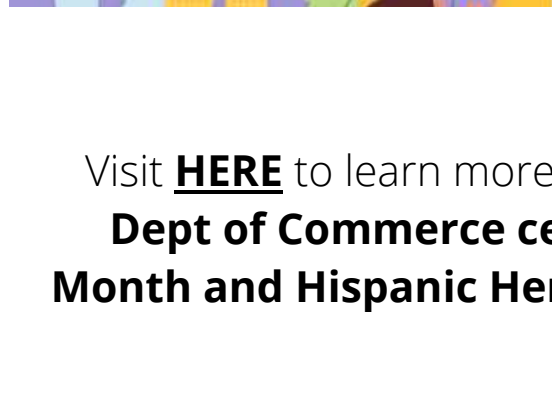
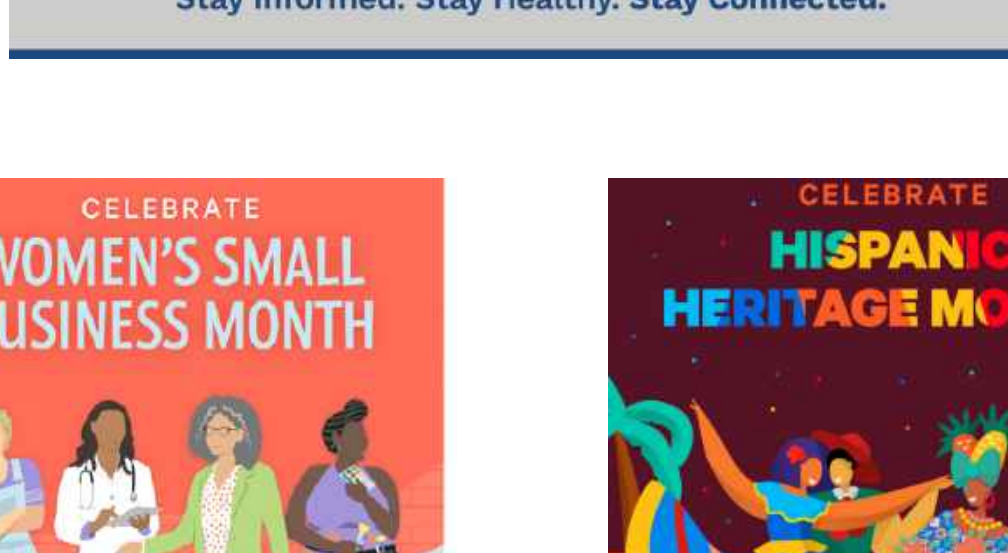
### **Oak Park Loan Program**

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.



Visit [HERE](#) to learn more about **programs at the Illinois Dept of Commerce celebrating Women's Business Month and Hispanic Heritage Month this October 2020.**