

PROCLAMATION

Asian American, Pacific Islander, Desi-American (APIDA) Heritage Month
May 2026

WHEREAS, the United States of America is strengthened by the rich diversity of its people, and Asian, Pacific Islander, and Desi Americans represent a vibrant tapestry of rich histories, cultures, languages, faith traditions, and histories that have profoundly shaped the nation's civic, cultural, and economic landscape, spanning East Asia, Southeast Asia, South Asia, the Pacific Islands, and the Hawaiian archipelago; and

WHEREAS, Asian Pacific Islander Desi American (APIDA) Heritage Month is observed each May to honor the generations whose courage, perseverance, and vision have contributed immeasurably to the advancement of democracy, opportunity, and shared prosperity throughout the United States and in communities such as Oak Park; and

WHEREAS, the observance commemorates historic milestones including the arrival of the first Japanese immigrants to the United States in May 1843 and the completion of the Transcontinental Railroad in May 1869, built in significant part through the labor, sacrifice, and resilience of Chinese immigrant workers whose contributions helped unite the nation; and

WHEREAS, the Village of Oak Park is committed to advancing equity, inclusion, and belonging, and to recognizing and uplifting the diverse cultures, identities, and contributions that strengthen our community, despite the persistence of anti-Asian hate and discrimination, and reaffirms its commitment to confronting racism and bias in all forms; and

WHEREAS, Asian Pacific Islander Desi American Heritage Month provides an opportunity for residents to deepen understanding, celebrate cultural traditions, and engage in meaningful dialogue that promotes cross-cultural connection, equity, and mutual respect; and

NOW, THEREFORE, I, Vicki Scaman, President of the Village of Oak Park, and the Board of Trustees do hereby proclaim May 2026 as Asian Pacific Islander Desi American (APIDA) Heritage Month in the Village of Oak Park, IL, and encourage all residents to join in celebrating the remarkable contributions, enduring legacy, and cultural heritage of our Asian Pacific Islander Desi American (APIDA) communities through education, reflection, service, and community engagement.

DATED this ____ day of May 2026.

Vicki Scaman
Village President

ATTEST

Christina M. Waters
Village Clerk