

PROCLAMATION

WOMEN'S HISTORY MONTH

MARCH 2026

WHEREAS, the theme for the 2026 National Women's History Month, "Leading the Change: Women Shaping a Sustainable Future," honors women who have reimagined and strengthened systems that sustain our communities to ensure long-term environmental stewardship, economic stability, educational opportunity, civic participation and intergenerational equity; and

WHEREAS, International Women's Day on March 8th is a global observance recognizing the social, economic, cultural, and political achievements of women, and the essential role of women's leadership in advancing justice, resilience, and inclusive growth worldwide; and

WHEREAS, women have long shaped Oak Park civic, educational, and cultural institutions through leadership and service in government, education, healthcare, business, science, public safety, the arts, military service, community advocacy, and civic engagement, strengthening the foundations upon which future generations depend; and

WHEREAS, women serving as Presidents of Oak Park's foundational civic institutions, including **President Vicki Scaman** of the Village Board; **President Virginia D. Bloom** of the Public Library Board; **President Kassie Porreca** of the Park District Board; **President Cheree Moore and Vice President Jung Kim** of the Elementary School District 97 Board of Education; **President Audrey Williams-Lee** of the High School District 200 Board of Education, and **Vice Chairwoman Diane Viverito** of Triton College District 504 Board of Education, embody the 2026 theme by shaping sustainable systems of governance education, recreation, and civic life that advance environmental responsibility, fiscal stewardship, educational excellence, and long-term community resilience; and

WHEREAS, these accomplished women, including **Trustee Jenna Leving Jacobson** of the Village Board; **Trustees Susanne Fairfax, Kristina Rogers, Megan Butman, Annie Wilkinson and Mika Yamamoto** of the Public Library Board; **Board Member & Secretary Sandy Lentz** of the Park District Board; Board Members **Nancy Ross Dribin, Venus Hurd Johnson, and Becky Pérez** of the Elementary School District 97 Board of Education; Board Member **Dr. Kathleen Odell** of the High School District 200 Board of Education; Trustees **DaToya Burtin-Cox and Dr. Margaret Trybus** of the Township Board; and Trustee **Elizabeth Potter** of the Triton College District 504 Board of Education, exercise fiduciary responsibility, collaborative leadership, and independent judgement in service to the public, modeling the same system-level thinking and equity-centered governance that drive sustainable communities worldwide; and

WHEREAS, throughout history, women have confronted exclusion and systemic barriers and, through resilience and leadership, have expanded opportunities, strengthened democratic institutions, and advanced equality for future generations; and

WHEREAS, the contributions of women from diverse backgrounds, cultures, and experiences continue to enrich our community and strengthen our collective commitment to innovation, collaboration, and inclusive growth; and

WHEREAS, the Village of Oak Park recognizes that cultural and heritage observances, including National Women’s History Month, are not symbolic gestures but essential expressions of community identity that strengthen belonging, deepen understanding, and affirm the dignity of all residents; and

WHEREAS, the Village of Oak Park remains committed to fostering equity, promoting opportunity, and ensuring environments in which women of every background and lived experience are empowered to contribute fully to the social, economic, and civic life of our community; and

WHEREAS, the Village of Oak Park will commemorate 2026 National Women’s History Month under the theme “*Women Who Shape Our World*” on **March 21, 2026, from 11:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m. at Art Studio 928**, bringing community members together to recognize the influence, leadership, and lasting contributions of women, featuring **Dr. Sekile Nzinga** as keynote speaker, whose scholarship and leadership advance dialogue on equity, education, and transformative change, followed by a community discussion to further engage residents in reflection and shared learning; and

NOW, THEREFORE, be it resolved by the President and the Board of Trustees of the Village of Oak Park that March 2026 is hereby proclaimed “**National Women’s History Month**” in Oak Park, and all residents are encouraged to reflect on the leadership, achievements, and contributions of women in our community and our country, to participate in local observances, and to continue advancing equity and opportunity for all.

DATED this ___ day of March 2026.

Vicki Scaman
Village President

ATTEST

Christina M. Waters
Village Clerk