

P R O C L A M A T I O N

SUICIDE PREVENTION AWARENESS MONTH

SEPTEMBER 2025

WHEREAS, suicide is the second leading cause of death among youth ages 10-14, the second leading cause of death among ages 15-24, and the 11th leading cause of death overall in the U.S., with more than 49,000 people across our country dying by suicide annually; and

WHEREAS, September is Suicide Prevention Awareness Month—a time to raise awareness of this stigmatized and often taboo topic. Suicidal thoughts, much like mental health conditions, can affect anyone regardless of age, gender, or background; and

WHEREAS, on average, about 130–135 Americans die by suicide each day. Research indicates that each suicide directly impacts approximately 135 people who knew the person. While that means millions are touched by these tragedies, surveys suggest that between 46% and 51% of U.S. adults report knowing someone who died by suicide—meaning a significant portion of the population has been affected; and

WHEREAS, we recognize this month to shift public perception, spread hope, and share vital information with those affected by suicide. Our goal is to ensure that individuals, friends, and families have access to the resources they need to discuss suicide prevention and to seek help; and

WHEREAS, the Village has partnered with the Community Mental Health Board of Oak Park Township and Thrive Counseling Center on a community campaign to promote 988, the national hotline for people experiencing a mental health crisis or seeking other kinds of support related to suicide, mental health, or substance use. By dialing 988 or texting HELP or AYUDA to 988, callers will be connected to information, support, and compassionate care from trained experts. 988 is confidential, free, and available 24 hours a day; and

WHEREAS, the Village of Oak Park established an Alternative Response to Calls for Service (ARCS) pilot program designed to provide alternative responses to emergency calls for service. Phase 1 of the program focuses on providing an unarmed community service officer and care coordinators to support those experiencing homelessness or traumatic community events, linking community members to services through follow-up care and community education; and

WHEREAS, suicide attempts with firearms are the most lethal, and research shows that removing access to firearms allows time for both the moment of intense suicidal crisis to pass, and for someone to intervene with potentially lifesaving mental health support and resources. Recognizing this, the Village passed an ordinance requiring safe storage of firearms and the Department of Public Health works to increase use of safe firearm storage behaviors; and

WHEREAS, in recognition of the urgent need for education, collaboration, and connection, the Community Mental Health Board, in partnership with the Village of Oak Park, Riveredge Hospital, West 40, Thrive Counseling Center, River Forest Township, and Sustainable Mental Wellness, Inc., has organized the **2025 Suicide Prevention Summit**—a full-day event on **Friday, September 19, 2025, from 8 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. at the Hyatt Lodge Conference Center, 2715 Jorie Blvd. in Oak Brook**. The summit will bring together diverse voices to advance suicide prevention through education, connection, and empowerment. A special invitation-only reception for elected officials, sponsors, and speakers will also take place on **Thursday, September 18, 2025, from 6–8 p.m. at Pleasant Home in Oak Park**; and

WHEREAS, we recognize and place our full support behind those who work in the fields of mental health, education, and law enforcement, including our local mental health partners NAMI Metro Suburban, Thrive Counseling Center, Oak Park Township Senior Services, IWS Children’s Clinic, Housing Forward and so many more; and

WHEREAS, we encourage all Oak Park residents to take the time to understand mental health through education and recognize the need to take care of our personal mental health while we take care of each other.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that I, Vicki Scaman, President of the Village of Oak Park and the Board of Trustees, do hereby proclaim the month of **September 2025 as “Suicide Prevention Awareness Month”** in the Village of Oak Park and encourage community members join in collective efforts to raise awareness and foster hope, including participation in the **2025 Suicide Prevention Summit**—a full-day event on **Friday, September 19, 2025, from 8 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. at the Hyatt Lodge Conference Center in Oak Brook**. This summit will bring together diverse voices to advance suicide prevention through education, connection, and empowerment.

DATED this 9th day of September 2025.

Vicki Scaman, Village President

ATTEST:

Christina M. Waters, Village Clerk