

PROCLAMATION

ARBOR DAY

April 26, 2024

WHEREAS, in 1872, J. Sterling Morton proposed to the Nebraska Board of Agriculture that a special day be set aside for the planting of trees, and this holiday, called Arbor Day, was first observed with the planting of more than a million trees in Nebraska and is now observed throughout the nation and the world and specifically in Illinois since 1887; and

WHEREAS, trees reduce erosion, reduce heating and cooling costs, moderate the temperature, clean the air, produce oxygen and provide habitat for wildlife, and are a renewable resource giving us paper, wood for construction, fuel for our fires and countless other wood products; and

WHEREAS, trees in the Village increase property values, enhance the economic vitality of business areas, beautify our community, and whenever they are planted, provide a source of enjoyment; and

WHEREAS, Oak Park has been recognized as a Tree City USA by the National Arbor Day Foundation for forty years and recognized as a Tree City USA Growth Award designee for seventeen years and desires to emphasize tree-planting by focussing on tree planting and related activities; and

WHEREAS, the Forestry Division will sponsor a commemorative tree celebration in conjunction with the Park District of Oak Park at Mills Park on Friday, April 26, 2024.

NOW, THEREFORE, I, Vicki Scaman, President of the Village of Oak Park and Board of Trustees, do hereby proclaim Friday, April 26, 2024, as **Arbor Day**, commemorated by a celebratory event at Mills Park at 1:00 P.M. and urge all citizens to support efforts to protect our existing trees, assist the Village's Forestry Program, and plant trees to gladden the hearts and promote the well-being of present and future generations.

DATED, this 9th day of April, 2024.

President Vicki Scaman
Village President

ATTEST:

Christina M. Waters
Village Clerk