

# PROCLAMATION

## Arab American Heritage Month MARCH 24, 2026

**WHEREAS**, the United States of America is strengthened by the diversity of cultures, traditions, and perspectives that shape our shared civic life; and

**WHEREAS**, Arab Americans represent a vibrant and diverse community whose heritage, faiths, cultures, and identities span numerous countries, languages, and lived experiences, reflecting both long-standing histories and more recent journeys to the United States; and

**WHEREAS**, Arab Americans have made profound and lasting contributions to our nation and local communities through leadership in public service, education, medicine, business, entrepreneurship, science, technology, military service, law, arts and culture, philanthropy, and civic engagement; and

**WHEREAS**, throughout Illinois and within the Village of Oak Park, Arab American residents, families, educators, business owners, faith leaders, and community advocates have strengthened our neighborhoods, fostered economic vitality, enriched the social and cultural fabric of our community, and contributed to Oak Park's tradition of civic engagement, participatory governance, and community-led cultural expression; and

**WHEREAS**, Arab American Heritage Month provides an opportunity to celebrate the traditions, languages, artistic expressions, cuisine, scholarship, and innovations that reflect the depth and diversity of Arab American heritage while honoring the generations who have contributed to the growth and prosperity of our nation; an

**WHEREAS**, recognizing and celebrating Arab American Heritage Month promotes greater cultural understanding, encourages dialogue across communities, and reaffirms our shared commitment to dignity, inclusion, mutual respect, and equal opportunity for all residents, particularly at a time when fostering cross-cultural understanding and addressing bias is essential to building and sustaining inclusive and resilient communities; and

**WHEREAS**, it is fitting and proper that we acknowledge and celebrate the achievements, resilience, and enduring contributions of Arab Americans, while also reaffirming our commitment to ensuring that Arab American residents feel safe, seen, and experience a true sense of belonging in our community;

**NOW, THEREFORE**, I, Vicki Scaman, President of the Village of Oak Park and the Board of Trustees do hereby proclaim the month of April as Arab American Heritage Month and encourage all residents, community organizations, schools, and businesses to recognize and celebrate the many contributions of Arab Americans and to participate in activities that promote cultural awareness, education, unity, and community pride, and to uplift the voices and experiences of Arab Americans in meaningful and lasting ways..

**DATED** this 24<sup>th</sup> day of March 2026.

---

Vicki Scaman  
Village President

**ATTEST**

---

Christina M. Waters  
Village Clerk