

PROCLAMATION

ALCOHOLISM AWARENESS MONTH APRIL 2023

WHEREAS, the CDC has found that excessive drinking is responsible for more than 3,900 deaths and 225,000 years of potential life lost among people under age 21 each year, and

WHEREAS, the overall prevalence of younger adult drinking in the U.S. decreased after the COVID-19 pandemic began in 2020, the amount of alcohol consumed by those who do drink has increased since then; and

WHEREAS, the Illinois Department of Public Health has identified mental health and substance use as public health priorities; and

WHEREAS, 135,000 Illinois youth aged 12-20 have had at least one binge drinking occasion in the past 30 days; and

WHEREAS, in 2022, 14% of Oak Park & River Forest 12th graders reported binge drinking in the past 30 days; and

WHEREAS, recent rates of underage drinking among teen girls in the U.S. have risen alarmingly, so they are now higher than those of their male peers at 27% compared to 19%; and

WHEREAS, youth mental health is a high priority to the U.S. Surgeon General in 2023; and

WHEREAS, promoting alcohol policy safeguards, limiting access by minors, and providing prevention education, can contribute to lower excessive drinking rates; and

WHEREAS, Oak Park and River Forest have experienced a decrease since 2020 in both past 30 day use and past year use of alcohol by 8th, 10th, and 12th graders, and this is the mission and work of the local community coalition The Workgroup for Positive Youth Development (+PYD); and

WHEREAS, +PYD's Addiction Recovery Team (ART) aims to support those in recovery and reduce stigma for those impacted by substance abuse. Living in recovery from addiction does not mean defeat and linking prevention to recovery supports building healthy communities. ART hosts and participates in community programs that support the health and well-being of all Oak Park residents; and

NOW, THEREFORE, I, Vicki Scaman, President of the Village of Oak Park Board of Trustees, do hereby proclaim the month of April 2023, as **ALCOHOL AWARENESS MONTH** and call this observance to the attention of all our citizens.

APOPTED AND APPROVED this 24th day of April, 2023.

Vicki Scaman, Village President

ATTEST:

Christina M. Waters, Village Clerk