

PROCLAMATION

TRANSGENDER DAY OF VISIBILITY

March 24, 2026

WHEREAS, Transgender Day of Visibility is observed each year on March 31 as a time to celebrate the lives, achievements, and contributions of transgender and gender expansive individuals, while uplifting their visibility, dignity, and humanity within our communities; and

WHEREAS, this day also serves as a call to action—acknowledging the progress made toward equality while recognizing the ongoing challenges, discrimination, and barriers that continue to impact transgender individuals across the nation, particularly for individuals who may not be able to safely live openly; and

WHEREAS, this day recognizes the courage of transgender individuals who live authentically and openly, often in the face of adversity, and affirms their right to safety, respect, and full participation in civic, social, and economic life; and

WHEREAS, we also recognize the courage it takes for people who navigate their identities privately for reasons of safety, circumstance, or personal readiness, affirming their inherent dignity, worth, and right to live authentically in their own time and in their own way; and

WHEREAS, local advocacy organizations, including PFLAG and OPALGA+/Out With Purpose, play a vital role in supporting transgender individuals and their families, particularly families and individuals navigating visibility, identity, and belonging, by fostering community, providing education, and advancing equity and inclusion within Oak Park and beyond; and

WHEREAS, transgender residents, families, advocates, and allies contribute profoundly to the strength and vibrancy of our municipality as leaders, educators, artists, entrepreneurs, public servants, and neighbors whose talents and perspectives enrich every aspect of community life; and

WHEREAS, the Village of Oak Park has a responsibility to foster inclusive, safe, and welcoming environments where all people, inclusive of gender identity or

expression, are treated with dignity, fairness, and respect—and where systems and policies do not require visibility to access safety or opportunity; and

WHEREAS, uplifting transgender voices and affirming their lived experiences strengthens our shared commitment to justice, equity, and the fundamental belief that every individual deserves to be seen, heard, and valued; and

WHEREAS, recognizing Transgender Day of Visibility reflects our collective dedication to building a community grounded in compassion, understanding, and unity, where diversity is embraced as a source of strength and resilience;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that I, Vicki Scaman, President of the Village of Oak Park, and the Board of Trustees, do hereby proclaim March 31, 2026 as TRANSGENDER DAY OF VISIBILITY within this community, and encourage all residents to join in recognizing and celebrating the contributions and resilience of transgender and gender expansive individuals; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the Village of Oak Park reaffirms its unwavering commitment to protecting the rights, safety, and dignity of transgender residents and to advancing policies, practices, and partnerships that promote inclusion and equity for all; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that through this proclamation, we honor the visibility, strength, and contributions of transgender individuals today and recommit ourselves to the ongoing pursuit of justice, equality, and belonging for generations to come.

DATED this 24th day of March 2026.

Vicki Scaman
Village President

ATTEST

Christina M. Waters
Village Clerk