

PROCLAMATION

INTERNATIONAL COMPOST AWARENESS WEEK

May 5 - 11, 2024

WHEREAS, the Compost Research & Education Foundation, along with participating countries around the world, have declared the first full week of May to be the annual International Compost Awareness Week (ICAW), a global publicity and educational initiative focused on showcasing compost production and the associated benefits, and;

WHEREAS, this 2024 ICAW theme is “COMPOST...Nature’s Climate Champion.” This year’s theme aims to highlight the important role that compost plays in fighting climate change, and;

WHEREAS, composting improves resilience in the face of climate change by: improving soil health, conserving water, decreasing erosion and flooding events, mitigating non-point pollution, reducing dependence on chemical fertilizers, extending the useful life of landfills, supporting community waste diversion and reduction goals, and creating regional green jobs, and;

WHEREAS, the Climate Ready Oak Park plan identifies concrete actions, strategies, and opportunities to improve waste diversion and waste reduction efforts through composting and recycling, and;

WHEREAS, the Illinois Food Scrap and Composting Coalition will host an Oak Park Backyard Bin Demo as part of their Adventures in Composting programming on Saturday, May 11, 2024. The event will follow up on the food scrap and fall leaf materials that began the composting at the backyard event in October 2023. Attendees will view a cross-section of the composting material, check for active worms, review the composting process, and conclude with a Q&A session with compost experts, and;

WHEREAS, Public Works will kick off a “Leave Your Leaves” pledge drive and educational campaign to raise awareness of the benefits of allowing fallen leaves to compost naturally over the winter. Residents are encouraged to sign the pledge vowing to reduce the

raking and bagging of their leaves this fall. This initiative will reduce greenhouse gas emissions related to the Fall Leaf Collection Program, return vital nutrients to the soil in Oak Park, and support regional biodiversity. The pledge will remain open throughout the summer with regularly scheduled communications from the Village to drive signups. Participants will receive a custom garden flag to display in their yard and be entered in a raffle to win tickets to a community event this fall, and;

NOW, THEREFORE, I, Vicki Scaman, President of the Village of Oak Park and Board of Trustees, in recognition of the efforts of the Compost Research & Education Foundation, extension agents, soil conservation stewards, householders, landscapers, farmers, recyclers, public workers, composters, gardeners, and plant growers everywhere, do hereby proclaim the week of May 5-11, 2024 as International Compost Awareness Week.

DATED, this 7th day of May 2024.

Vicki Scaman, Village President

ATTEST:

Christina M. Waters, Village Clerk