

PROCLAMATION

LESBIAN, GAY, BISEXUAL, TRANSGENDER, QUEER, PLUS (LGBTQ+) PRIDE MONTH

JUNE 2023

WHEREAS, the Village of Oak Park supports the rights of every citizen to experience equality and freedom from discrimination; and

WHEREAS, all people regardless sexual orientation, gender identity or expression have the right to be treated on the basis of their intrinsic value as human beings; and

WHEREAS, the Village of Oak Park has a diverse LGBTQ+ community and is committed to supporting visibility, dignity, and equity for all people in the community;

WHEREAS, the LGBTQ+ community contributes to the cultural, civic, and economic successes of the Village of Oak Park.

WHEREAS, in honor of the 1969 Stonewall Uprising led by Marsha P. Johnson, Sylvia Rivera, and Miss Major Griffin-Gracy, whom were all transwomen of color. Their efforts with many more led to the subsequent first Pride march in New York City in 1970, Americans come together each June to celebrate the LGBTQ+ community; and

WHEREAS, the Oak Park Area Lesbian and Gay Association, one of the largest LGBTQ+ membership organizations in Illinois, helped make the Village of Oak Park a statewide and national leader in LGBTQ+ civil rights for the past 34 years; and

WHEREAS, our society is slowly embracing new understandings of sexuality and gender, we must also acknowledge that the need for education and awareness remains vital to end discrimination and prejudice; and

WHEREAS, the Village this year has also embraced the evolution of the Pride flag to the 'Progress Pride Flag' that includes new colors and a new design that are meant to represent people of color, as well as people who are transgender, intersex, or non-binary. The Progress flags will be reflected here in Chamber Council and proudly flown outside Village Hall.

WHEREAS, the Village will have two events this year to celebrate Pride Month. The Oak Park Pride Party, this family-friendly event featuring ice cream, snow cones, face painting, a DJ, a magician and more from 11 a.m. to 2 p.m. on Saturday, June 24 on the south lawn at Village Hall, 123 Madison St. Come dressed to impress in your best rainbow-themed outfit! The second Pride event will have a panel discussion on the transgender experience in Oak Park from 6 to 8 p.m. on Wednesday, June 28 at the Madison Street Theater. In addition to these events, stop by Village Hall to see a special PRIDE installment located on the pathway to the courtyard.

NOW, THEREFORE, I, Vicki Scaman, President of the Village of Oak Park and Board of Trustees, do hereby proudly proclaim June as ***LESBIAN, GAY, BISEXUAL, TRANSGENDER, QUEER, PLUS (LGBTQ+) PRIDE MONTH*** in the Village of Oak Park, Illinois, to inspire equity, create alliances, celebrate diversity, and encourage our residents to reflect on the ongoing struggle for equality for the LGBTQ+ community and celebrate the contributions that enhance our Village.

DATED this 5th day of June, 2023.

Vicki Scaman
Village President

ATTEST:

Christina M. Waters
Village Clerk