

PROCLAMATION

BLACK HISTORY MONTH

FEBRUARY 2024

WHEREAS, the story of Black History Month began in 1915, half a century after the Thirteenth Amendment abolished chattel slavery in the United States, when Harvard-historian Dr. Carter G. Woodson, known as the “Father of Black History,” and the prominent minister Jesse E. Moorland founded the Association for the Study of African American Life and History (ASALH) as an organization dedicated to researching and promoting achievements of Black Americans; and

WHEREAS, Black history is revered as U.S. history, and essential to understanding the story of our country and the global impact on the Black diaspora. May we all embrace the complexities, challenges, and more importantly the crucial lessons of perseverance that is woven within Black history. Which continue to inspire all marginalized communities in their fight for liberation.

WHEREAS, the ASALH continues to organize with the mission to promote, research, preserve, interpret and disseminate information about Black life, history and culture to the global community. The theme for 2024 is African American and the Arts. The Black expression through the various mediums of art demonstrates a vivid creative freedom that will never be stopped, no matter the condition of the Black community. Furthermore, as stated by the ASALH, African American art is infused with African, Caribbean, and the Black American lived experiences. In the fields of visual and performing arts, literature, fashion, folklore, language, film, music, architecture, culinary and other forms of cultural expression, the African American influence has been paramount. African American artists have used art to preserve history and community memory as well as for empowerment. Artistic and cultural movements such as the New Negro, Black Arts, Black Renaissance, hip-hop, and Afrofuturism, have been led by people of African descent and set the standard for popular trends around the world.

WHEREAS, Oak Park is honored by the various Black artists that exist and have existed throughout our community. May we all learn the names and how their work has enriched our community. The Village of Oak Park will celebrate Black History Month on February 17th at the Nineteenth Century Charitable Association starting at 11:00 A.M. This family-friendly event will highlight a variety of local Black artists and a main performance by an all-Black band.

NOW, THEREFORE, I, Vicki Scaman, President of the Village of Oak Park and Board of Trustees, do hereby proclaim the month of February 2024 to be Black History Month in the Village of Oak Park, and urge all community members to be cognizant of and participate in events arranged for this time, and work fearlessly for our Village to embody anti-racist systems and principles, throughout the year and years to come.

DATED this 6th day of February 2024.

Vicki Scaman
Village President

ATTEST

Christina M. Waters
Village Clerk