

PROCLAMATION

FIRE PREVENTION WEEK OCTOBER 5-11, 2025

WHEREAS, the week of **October 5-11, 2025**, has been set aside to mark the 154th anniversary of the Chicago Fire on October 9, 1871; and

WHEREAS, it has long been customary in Oak Park to commemorate this event by proclaiming Fire Prevention Week, recognizing that fire safety remains a critical part of protecting life, health, and property in our Village which consists of 51,878 residents, and is served by three fire stations; and

WHEREAS, locally, the Oak Park Fire Department provides emergency services (fire suppression, life support, hazard mitigation), conducts fire prevention inspections of all commercial and public buildings, including public and private schools, and responds to structure fires throughout the Village; and

WHEREAS, the 2025 Fire Prevention Week campaign theme, “**Charge into Fire Safety: Lithium-Ion Batteries in Your Home**,” focuses on educating the public how to *buy, charge, and recycle* lithium-ion batteries to reduce fire risk, especially with their growing use in electronics, tools, and personal transport; and

WHEREAS, lithium-ion batteries power an ever-growing number of everyday devices — phones, tablets, laptops, rechargeable tools, e-bikes, and more — and misuse, damage, overcharging, use of uncertified batteries, or improper disposal can lead to battery failure, thermal runaway, fires, or even explosions; and

WHEREAS, in Illinois and in the U.S., authorities are seeing sufficient concern that state fire safety agencies, the Fire Safety Research Institute, and the National Fire Protection Association are all issuing warnings, guidelines, and awareness campaigns about purchase standards, charging practices, and disposal of such batteries; and

WHEREAS, preventive measures, combined with local inspection and public education, have the potential to reduce the number of home fires, injuries, property damage, and possible loss of life, especially given increasing prevalence of lithium-ion battery powered devices in every home.

NOW, THEREFORE, I, Vicki Scaman, President of the Village of Oak Park and the Board of Trustees, do hereby proclaim the week of **October 5-11, 2025, as Fire Prevention Week in Oak Park**, and encourage all residents of the Village to participate in the campaign “**Charge into Fire Safety: Lithium-Ion Batteries in Your Home**,” to be educated on safe ways to buy, charge, and recycle lithium-ion batteries, and to take action in their homes to prevent fires.

DATED this 30th day of September 2025.

Vicki Scaman
Village President

ATTEST:

Christina M. Waters
Village Clerk