

PROCLAMATION

WHEREAS, the residents of this City have acted upon this principle to create and support a system of library and information services through the Alexandria Library, Library Media Centers of the Alexandria City Public Schools, a number of special libraries, as well as libraries in private and parochial schools, and institutions of higher education; and

WHEREAS, these libraries serve as the gateway to information and technology that support the preservation of our democratic traditions and cultural heritage; and

WHEREAS, libraries have long served as trusted institutions for all members of the community regardless of race, ethnicity, creed, ability, sexual orientation, gender identity, or socio-economic status; and

WHEREAS, libraries of today function as much more than repositories of knowledge, helping residents keep up with changing technology, offering audiobooks, e-reader materials, free computer classes, hotspots and laptops, community meeting spaces, access to free online resources, passport services, English language classes, adult programs, story hours; and

WHEREAS, the nation and the City of Alexandria celebrate America’s 250th anniversary, libraries are ensuring that all the nation’s history is told. As prominent Virginian James Madison stated, “Knowledge will forever govern ignorance, and a people who mean to be their own governors, must arm themselves with the power knowledge gives.”; and

WHEREAS, libraries, library workers, and library supporters across the United States will celebrate National Library Workers Day on Tuesday, April 21, 2026.

NOW, THEREFORE, I, ALYIA GASKINS, Mayor of the City of Alexandria, Virginia, and on behalf of the Alexandria City Council, do hereby recognize and proclaim the week of April 19 through April 25, 2026, as:

“NATIONAL LIBRARY WEEK”

In the City of Alexandria. This year’s theme is “Find Your Joy” an invitation for people of all backgrounds to explore and discover what brings them joy in their library. I encourage all residents to support the library’s mission to be a bastion of intellectual freedom where all views are represented and everyone is welcomed.

FURTHER, THIS CITY COUNCIL EXPRESSES ITS APPRECIATION to the dedicated staff of the Alexandria Library and urges residents to reach out via the library's website, Facebook, Instagram, and other social media platforms to thank library workers for the essential services they provide.

IN WITNESS WHEREOF, I have hereunto set my hand and caused the Seal of the City of Alexandria, Virginia to be affixed this 18th day of April 2026.

MAYOR ALYIA GASKINS
On behalf of the City Council
of Alexandria, Virginia

ATTEST: _____

Gloria Sitton, CMC City Clerk