

**PROCLAMATION**

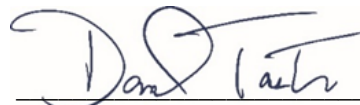
- WHEREAS, the City of Falls Church is known for the beauty of its trees and plantings; and
- WHEREAS, in 1892, the first observance of Arbor Day in the Commonwealth of Virginia took place in Falls Church at the old Jefferson School, organized by the Village Improvement Society (predecessor of the present Village Preservation and Improvement Society); and
- WHEREAS, each April since 1974 Falls Church has held a city-wide celebration of Arbor Day, encouraging all community members to plant and care for trees; and
- WHEREAS, the City of Falls Church has been designated a “Tree City, USA” by the National Arbor Day Foundation for 44 consecutive years; and
- WHEREAS, trees release oxygen into our atmosphere while reducing carbon dioxide, provide habitat for wildlife, reduce the erosion of soil by wind and water, filter pollutants before they reach our waterways and reduce heating and cooling costs by moderating temperatures; and
- WHEREAS, the American Yellowwood Tree (*Cladrastis kentukea*) has been selected as the 2022 “Tree of the Year” by the Falls Church Urban Forestry Commission; and
- WHEREAS, Falls Church wishes to continue to manage its urban forest for the current and future environmental, social and economic benefits it can provide;

NOW, THEREFORE, I, David Tarter, Mayor of the City of Falls Church, Virginia, in recognition of the value that our community places on trees, do hereby proclaim April 23, 2022, as

**ARBOR DAY**

in the City of Falls Church and urge all citizens to join in the celebration of that day.

IN WITNESS WHEREOF, I have hereunto set my hand and cause the Seal of the City to be affixed this 11<sup>th</sup> day of April, 2022.

  
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David Tarter, Mayor

