

PROCLAMATION

- WHEREAS, the City of Falls Church is known for the beauty of its trees and plantings; and
- WHEREAS, trees release oxygen into our atmosphere while reducing carbon dioxide, provide habitats 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 City of Falls Church has been designated a “Tree City, USA” by the National Arbor Day Foundation for 42 consecutive years; 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 citizens to plant and care for trees; and
- WHEREAS, the City of Falls Church will continue the annual Arbor Day Celebration during the current COVID-19 global pandemic while staying safe at home by participating in the Arbor Day Foundation’s “Arbor Day at Home;” and
- WHEREAS, all can participate in “Arbor Day at Home” by posting a picture of a favorite tree on social media tagged with #arbordayathome and @arborday, and for every tagged post the Arbor Day foundation will plant one tree; and
- WHEREAS, the Wafer Ash (*Ptelea trifoliata*) has been selected as the 2020 “Tree of the Year” by the Falls Church Tree Commission for its rarity and pollinator benefits; and
- WHEREAS, Falls Church wishes to continue to manage its urban forest for the current and future environmental, social, and economic benefits it provides;

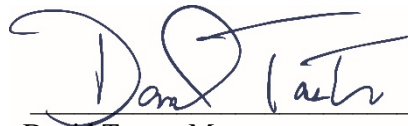
NOW, THEREFORE, I, David Tarter, Mayor of the City of Falls Church, Virginia, in recognition of the value that our community places on trees, do hereby proclaim April 25, 2020, as

ARBOR DAY

in the City of Falls Church and urge all 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 21st day of April, 2020.




David Tarter, Mayor