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PROCLAMATION
RECOGNIZING SEPTEMBER, 2016 AS HAYWOOD COUNTY PUBLIC LIBRARY MONTH

WHEREAS, in 1891, Waynesville, North Carolina lawyer W.B. Ferguson called together a group of citizens interested in a lending library, offering a room above his main street office and in 1915, the Canton Women's Club formed a library in Canton, raising needed funds through teas, bazaars, suppers and public subscriptions; and

WHEREAS, in 1954, in memory of W.B. Ferguson, his family gave their former home and grounds at Boyd Avenue and Haywood Street for the Waynesville Library. Reuben B. Robertson provided a building for the Canton Library and in 1972, the county's library services were unified; and

WHEREAS, in 1981, a dedication for the new Haywood County Public Library's main branch in Waynesville was held on October 30th on the former Ferguson family's grounds and in 1989, the new Canton branch opened on the site of the former Pennsylvania Avenue School. In 2001, renovations to the Maggie Valley Library made it a full-service branch and in 2004, the Fines Creek branch opened in the former Fines Creek School; and

WHEREAS, Haywood County Public Library is a community anchor that increases citizens' capability to achieve their full potential by providing free access to information and 21st century technologies, and provides supportive, creative learning spaces for young people after school. Haywood County Public Library provides important lifelines to job-seeking resources, educational opportunities, literacy development, health resources, as well as government and community services. Haywood County Public Library is a trusted and treasured institution, with its four library branches rooted in the neighborhoods that they serve. The Library serves as a gateway for lifelong learning in Haywood County by connecting the community to information, programs and ideas in order to enrich lives and foster growth for county citizens of all ages and all walks of life; and

WHEREAS, the Haywood County Public Library has received extensive recognition for their wide-array of innovative programs, including the 2014 North Carolina Public Library Director Association's Adult Program Award for the Giving Garden program, a 2014 Community Pride Award for the Giving Garden and Seed Library; and a 2016 National Association of Counties Achievement Award for Plug In and Read, a digital story time that prepares preschoolers for school;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Board of County Commissioners of Haywood County, North Carolina does hereby call upon all citizens to observe September, 2016 as "Haywood County Public Library Month," and to honor the Library on its 125th anniversary.

Adopted this the 15th day of August, 2016.

Mark Swanger
Mark S. Swanger, Chairman
Haywood County Board of Commissioners

ATTEST: Ira Dove
Ira, Dove, Clerk to the Board