



PROCLAMATION

WHEREAS, this is the 101st anniversary of Fire Prevention Week, which has been sponsored by the National Fire Protection Association (NFPA) since 1922, made a national observance in 1925, and is the longest running public health observance in the United States; and

WHEREAS, this week commemorates the Great Chicago Fire that began on October 8, 1871, and killed an estimated 300 people, left over 100,000 people homeless, and solidified fire prevention as a vital piece of public safety; and

WHEREAS, between 2014 and 2018, U.S. fire departments responded to an estimated annual average of 172,900 home fires started by cooking. These fires caused an annual average of 550 civilian deaths, 4,820 civilian injuries, and more than \$1.0 billion in property damage; and

WHEREAS, two out of every five home fires start in the kitchen with 31 percent as the result of unattended cooking; and

WHEREAS, locally in 2022, Poudre Fire Authority (PFA) responded to 26 cooking fires and 84 smoke alarms activated by burned food; and

WHEREAS, PFA prioritizes community education and will present to kindergartners, and grades 2, 4, and 6 within the Poudre School District throughout October to demonstrate safe practices, as well as host an open house at Fire Station 3, and poster contest for students; and

WHEREAS, everyone should turn pot handles backward; have a lid nearby; keep a three-foot kid-free zone around cooking appliances, use timers as reminders, and never leave cooking unattended – Stand by Your Pan!

WHEREAS, the 2023 Fire Prevention Week theme, “Cooking safety starts with YOU. Pay attention to fire prevention,” reminds us that cooking fires are dangerous *and* preventable.

NOW, THEREFORE, I, Jeni Arndt, Mayor of the City of Fort Collins, do hereby proclaim the week of October 8-14, 2023, as

FIRE PREVENTION WEEK

IN WITNESS WHEREOF, I have hereunto set my hand and the seal of the City of Fort Collins this 3rd day of October, 2023.

Mayor

ATTEST:

City Clerk