

CITY OF LAKE WORTH BEACH

PROCLAMATION

- WHEREAS,** Public libraries are among a community’s most enduring civic institutions, opening doors to knowledge, imagination, language, discovery, and the possibility of a larger life with librarians as the human guides of those institutions, connecting people not only with books, but with information, confidence, opportunity, and one another; and
- WHEREAS,** the Lake Worth public library began in 1912, before the town was incorporated, when John and Lucille McKissock opened their living room to donated books, and today continues to welcome the community from its stately 1941 building, the oldest municipal public library in Palm Beach County still operating in its original home; and
- WHEREAS,** Cynthia “Cindy” Ansell’s own story with the library began as a child in its summer reading program and grew into a lifetime of study, advocacy, service, and leadership; for 34 years Cindy has served the Lake Worth library — as a volunteer, staff member, children’s librarian, and, since 2019, library manager — becoming the ninth librarian to lead the downtown library since its 1941 opening; and
- WHEREAS,** Cindy has carried the library beyond its walls to meet people where they are, bringing Storytimes and literacy programs to schools, laundromats, community events, families, and neighborhoods, and creating new ways for people to read, learn, gather, and belong; and
- WHEREAS,** through programs including Books and Bubbles, Table Talk, BiblioArte, expanded school partnerships, virtual Storytimes and neighborhood videos during the pandemic, Cindy used books and literacy to bridge generations, languages, and cultures; and
- WHEREAS,** guided by her self-described “Tedhead” spirit and the conviction that one should say, “Certainly I can!” and then learn how, Cindy has devoted herself to what Theodore Roosevelt called “work worth doing,” bringing to that work deep literary knowledge, sparkling humor, and abiding affection for the people of Lake Worth Beach; and
- WHEREAS,** Cindy’s service has touched thousands of lives and helped prove her own conviction that Lake Worth Beach may be a small town, but it has never been small-minded; and
- WHEREAS,** on August 31, 2026, Cindy retired from her position as library manager, turning a page in her own remarkable story while leaving behind a library enriched by her care, a city strengthened by her service, and generations of readers enlightened by her knowledge and example.

NOW, THEREFORE, I, BETTY RESCH, by virtue of the authority vested in me as Mayor of the City of Lake Worth Beach and on behalf of the City Commission, do hereby proclaim that we honor and thank **Cindy Ruth Ansell** for 34 years of dedicated service to all things literary; recognize her extraordinary contributions to the Lake Worth Beach Library and the people it serves; and extend our warmest wishes for a joyful, adventurous, and well-earned retirement.

IN WITNESS WHEREOF, I have set my hand and caused the seal of the City of Lake Worth Beach, Florida, to be affixed hereto this 1st day of September 2026.

Betty Resch, Mayor

ATTEST:

Melissa Ann Coyne, MMC, City Clerk