



PROCLAMATION

WHEREAS, February 12 is the anniversary of the birth of Charles Darwin in 1809; and

WHEREAS, Charles Darwin is recognized for the discovery of natural selection as the mechanism by which biological evolution occurs; and

WHEREAS, Darwin's discovery of natural selection continues to serve as the foundation for ongoing advances in science, health, philosophy, art, education, and many other areas of modern life, informing our responses to climate change and the biodiversity crisis, shaping research on new cancer treatments and space probes, guiding urban planning and the development of AI systems; and

WHEREAS, Darwin's strength of character is evident in the great courage, wisdom, and honesty required to explore and publish the findings supporting natural selection as the mechanism by which biological evolution occurs and the relatedness of all life on Earth; and

WHEREAS, the anniversary of Darwin's birthday is an appropriate period on which to celebrate, reflect, and act on the principles of intellectual bravery, perpetual curiosity, and hunger for truth, which contribute to the well-being of all people and to promote the use of the best available science to address the challenges facing our society; and

WHEREAS, Charles Darwin wrote that "there is a grandeur in this view of life, with its several powers, having been originally breathed into a few forms or into one; and that, whilst this planet has gone cycling on according to the fixed law of gravity, from so simple a beginning endless forms most beautiful and most wonderful have been, and are being, evolved"; and

WHEREAS, the City of Lake Forest Park is rightfully proud of its commitment to biodiversity, ecology, human ingenuity, and scientific integrity, of the benefits that science has brought to our community, and of the many contributions our community members have made to the Darwinian sciences and our understanding of the natural world.

NOW, THEREFORE, the Mayor and City Council of the City of Lake Forest Park do hereby proclaim Thursday, February 12, 2026 to be

INTERNATIONAL DARWIN DAY

in the City of Lake Forest Park and urge all residents to join in this special observance.

Signed this 12th day of February 2026

Tom French, Mayor