



# City of Framingham

## Proclamation

### December 16, 2025

## Celebrating 170 Years of the Framingham Public Library

WHEREAS, on April 9, 1855, the Town of Framingham opened its first public library, marking a historic commitment to learning, literacy, and equitable access to information; and

WHEREAS, the original "Social Library," located in the former Wight-Esty Block, offered 500 books and periodicals to residents, made possible by civic-minded community members dedicated to education and opportunity; and

WHEREAS, in 1872, Framingham reaffirmed its dedication to public knowledge and civic honor by constructing the Edgell Memorial Library in tribute to the 530 residents who served in the Civil War, a building that remains a cultural resource under the care of the Framingham History Center; and

WHEREAS, the modern Framingham Public Library has grown into a vital, accessible, and innovative system, including the main library on Lexington Street, the Christa McAuliffe Branch Library on Water Street, and a community bookmobile introduced six years ago; and

WHEREAS, over the past year, the Library welcomed more than 25,000 unique visitors, nearly one-third of the City's population, served 605,146 circulations across print, non-print, e-books, e-serials, downloadable audio, and video items, and maintains 223,822 total holdings, including its Library of Things; and

WHEREAS, the Library engaged the community through 289,399 visits, 32,944 program attendees, 19,584 reference transactions, 14,914 Wi-Fi sessions, and 15,392 public computer uses, while remaining fine-free and providing equitable access to resources for all residents; and

WHEREAS, the Library continues to innovate and grow, with the main library celebrating its 45th anniversary in December 2024 and the Christa McAuliffe Branch Library preparing to celebrate its 10th anniversary in 2026;

NOW, THEREFORE, we, Mayor Charlie Sisitsky and the Framingham City Council, do hereby recognize and celebrate the Framingham Public Library on its 170th anniversary, honoring its staff and the elected Board of Library Trustees for their unwavering commitment to learning, literacy, equity, and public service.

In witness thereof, we have hereunto set our hands and caused the Seal of the City of Framingham to be affixed on this sixteenth day of December, two thousand twenty-five.

Charlie Sisitsky, Mayor

Philip R. Ottaviani, Jr.  
District 6 Councilor & Chair

Janet Leombruno  
Councilor-at-Large

Adam C. Steiner  
District 3 Councilor

Leora Mallach  
District 7 Councilor

Tracey Bryant  
District 9 Councilor & Vice-Chair

Christine A. Long  
District 1 Councilor

Michael P. Cannon  
District 4 Councilor

Leslie White Harvey  
District 8 Councilor

George P. King, Jr.  
Councilor-at-Large

Brandon Ward  
District 2 Councilor

Nova Alexander  
District 5 Councilor

Attested to by:

  
Lisa Antonio Ferguson, City Clerk  
Emily L. Butler, Assistant City Clerk