



PROCLAMATION

URBAN AGRICULTURE MONTH

WHEREAS, urban agriculture plays an important role in Arlington, with fresh produce grown in community and school gardens, residential spaces, rooftops, indoor farms, and other settings throughout the County; and

WHEREAS, Arlington County supports urban agriculture and innovation through initiatives including matching grants for controlled-environment agriculture, as well as community gardens and other elements that strengthen Arlington's connection to nature, healthy ecosystems, and the Chesapeake Bay watershed; and

WHEREAS, sustainable and resilient local food systems are an important part of community preparedness and food security, helping strengthen the ability to grow, distribute, and access nutritious food; and

WHEREAS, Arlington is home to 11 farmers markets serving thousands of customers, along with 445 County-supported community garden plots, including accessible gardening space, and programs that expand access to fresh food through SNAP, WIC, Farm Market Fresh benefits, food donations, and pop-up markets; and

WHEREAS, Arlington's libraries and schools support gardeners and young people through education, demonstration gardens, and hands-on learning opportunities, while yard and food waste collection programs support composting and sustainable practices; and

WHEREAS, Virginia Cooperative Extension and its Master Gardener and Master Food Volunteer programs provide education and volunteer training that support the growing, preparation, and enjoyment of nutritious food; and

WHEREAS, Friends of Urban Agriculture and its Plot Against Hunger program strengthen Arlington's urban agriculture network by supporting school and community gardens, local gardeners, farm gleaners, demonstration gardens, and the donation of fresh produce to local food pantries;

NOW THEREFORE, the County Board of Arlington, Virginia, does hereby proclaim **October 2026** as **URBAN AGRICULTURE MONTH** in Arlington County and encourage residents, businesses, schools, and community organizations to learn about, participate in, and support urban agriculture efforts that advance healthy, sustainable, and resilient local food systems.



Matthew de Ferranti

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Chair, Arlington County Board