



## PROCLAMATION

WHEREAS, the freedom to read is essential to our democracy, and reading is among our greatest freedoms; and

WHEREAS, the City Council is committed to providing open access and for allowing free inquiry at the Banks Public Library; and

WHEREAS, the role of libraries is to collect and make available diverse works and information reflective of many perspectives and lived experiences including materials reflecting the experience of marginalized and underrepresented groups of people.

WHEREAS some individuals, groups, and public authorities work to remove or limit access to reading materials, to label "controversial" views, to distribute lists of "objectionable" books or authors, and to purge libraries of materials reflecting the diversity of society; and

WHEREAS, both governmental intimidation and the fear of censorship cause authors who seek to avoid controversy to practice self-censorship, thus limiting our access to new ideas; and

WHEREAS, Americans still favor free enterprise in ideas and expression, and can be trusted to exercise critical judgment, to recognize propaganda and misinformation, and to make their own decisions about what they read and believe, and to exercise the responsibilities that accompany this freedom; and

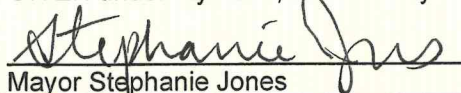
WHEREAS, intellectual freedom is essential to the preservation of a free society and a creative culture; and

WHEREAS, the American Library Association's Banned Books Week: Celebrating the Freedom to Read is observed this year with the theme "Let Freedom Read" and each year as a reminder to Americans not to take their precious freedom for granted; and

WHEREAS, Banned Books Week celebrates the freedom to choose or the freedom to express one's opinion unleashing and liberating the array of voices that need to be heard and the scenes that need to be seen,

NOW, THEREFORE, the City Council of the City of Banks, hereby recognizes *October 1<sup>st</sup> through October 7<sup>th</sup> as Banned Book week in Banks.*

GIVEN under my hand, this 12<sup>th</sup> day of September 2023.

  
Mayor Stephanie Jones

