



WHEREAS, The Charter of the Elisha D. Smith Public Library was signed 125 years ago on January 14, 1896; and

WHEREAS, the first Menasha Library and Reading Room opened above a store at the corner of Chute and Milwaukee Streets where on the first day Librarian Lucinda Lee Pleasants checked out 39 books including books in English, German, and Polish; and

WHEREAS, the library was a vision of Elisha D. Smith, owner of Menasha Woodenware who in 1898 donated land and money to build a library on Mill Street with the support of the City of Menasha; and

WHEREAS, a new library was built in 1969 and renovated in 2003 to serve growing demand and provide additional services; and

WHEREAS, the library has been a valuable asset to the community for 125 years, providing patrons with free access to traditional and digital information as well as entertaining educational programs for patrons of all ages; and

WHEREAS, over the years, taxpayers, donors, and library users have supported the library, making it a vital, rich, free public resource; and

WHEREAS, the library serves over 25,000 residents of the City of Menasha and neighboring communities, offering a free library card to anyone in Wisconsin; and

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT PROCLAIMED, that I Donald Merkes, Mayor of the City of Menasha, do hereby proclaim 2021 to be:

The Year of the

Elisha D. Smith Menasha Public Library

in the City of Menasha, celebrating the 125th Anniversary of the library. I call upon all citizens and civic organizations to join in the celebration as the library continues to look forward, embracing technology, inspiring lifelong learning, and connecting members of our community.

Dated this 14th day of January, 2021



Donald Merkes, Mayor

