



Proclamation Recognizing Covesville African American History Day 2026

- WHEREAS,** the historic community of Covesville, Virginia, listed on the National Register of Historic Places, represents an important chapter in the history of Albemarle County and stands as a testament to the generations of families whose perseverance, labor, faith, and commitment helped shape the County's agricultural, industrial, and cultural heritage; and
- WHEREAS,** for generations, the African American community of Covesville played an essential role in Albemarle County's growth by cultivating and supporting the Region's internationally recognized award-winning apple orchards, constructing countless miles of railroad, working in local mines, harvesting timber, and contributing to the industries that fueled the County's economy and development; and
- WHEREAS,** the community's enduring spirit is reflected in institutions such as First Baptist Church Covesville, which this year celebrates its 142nd Anniversary as a pillar of faith, fellowship, leadership, and service for generations of Covesville families and the broader Albemarle County community; and
- WHEREAS,** Covesville has produced individuals whose lives and achievements have strengthened Albemarle County, including Cornelia Johnson, a proud daughter of Covesville who became the first African American woman to serve as a police officer in Charlottesville and later, the first elected female Sheriff in the City of Charlottesville, breaking barriers and paving the way for future generations of public servants; and
- WHEREAS,** Covesville History Day, hosted by the William H. and Virginia A. Williams Family Foundation and The Country House Project, in partnership with First Baptist Church Covesville, brings together descendants, residents, historians, preservationists, and visitors to celebrate the community's rich heritage through genealogy, oral histories, historic preservation, educational programming, and cultural activities, while ensuring that the stories and contributions of Covesville continue to inspire future generations.
- NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT PROCLAIMED,** that we, the Albemarle County Board of Supervisors, do hereby proclaim the 4th Saturday of August as Covesville African American History Day in Albemarle County, Virginia; and recognize the remarkable history, enduring legacy, and continuing contributions of the Covesville community, while honoring the generations whose stories have enriched the character of Albemarle County.

Signed this 19th day of August 2026.

Ned L. Gallaway, Chair
Albemarle Board of County Supervisors