

Contact Information:  
Jessica Didow  
610.655.6234  
media@readingpa.org



**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

### **First Annual Citizenship Week to be Celebrated in the City of Reading**

September 11, 2015 – The City of Reading and the Reading Public Library announce their participation in the first annual National Citizenship Week - September 14 through 18, 2015.

“Citizenship is the common thread that connects all Americans. Citizenship Week is about acknowledging, and providing support, to those who walk the long, hard road to becoming citizens and demonstrate their commitment to this country and our form of government,” commented Mayor Spencer.

To commemorate Citizenship Week, the Reading Public Library invites all Reading residents to visit the newly established Citizenship Resource Center at their Main Branch located at 100 S. Fifth Street.

The outreach center taps into the expertise of the many local direct service organizations that work primarily on a grassroots level with those seeking citizenship. Materials available include naturalization resource guide brochures, citizenship tool kits, and information about local ESL and high school equivalency classes as well as local legal assistance for citizenship and naturalization issues.

"This effort makes the library a key resource for our immigrant community. We will be able to connect them to all the other services the library offers," commented Reading Public Library Director, Frank Kasprowicz.

Additionally, the Reading Public Library is announcing a series of Latino cultural programs called Chévere! These free events range from a poetry contest to Latino art nights to viewings of Latino cinema. To register and to get more information on events currently scheduled from September through November, call Tatiana Torres at 610.468.6350.

In April 2015, the Reading Public Library trustees voted to partner with the City of Reading and join Cities for Citizenship, a non-profit established to enable cities to expand naturalization and financial capability programs, as well as access to legal assistance, microloans and financial counseling, boosting economic opportunity for immigrants and communities nationwide.

Citizenship Week was created by Cities for Citizenship and includes Constitution Day, which commemorates the formation and signing of the Constitution of the United States on September 17, 1787. It also recognizes all who, by coming of age or by naturalization, have become US citizens.

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