

CITY OF WHITEWATER

BIG READ

PROCLAMATION

WHEREAS, the **Big Read** is an initiative of the National Endowment for the Arts designed to restore reading to the center of American culture, and which is presented in cooperation with Arts Midwest; and

WHEREAS, this year's **Big Read** will focus on the literary works of American literary icon **Mark Twain**; and

WHEREAS, this is the Rock, Walworth and Jefferson County area's fourth **Big Read** project and is only one of seventy-five communities funded nationwide by **Big Read**; and

WHEREAS, the 2011 local **Big Read** included 18 school partners, 21 libraries, 20 additional non-profit and community partners; 438 adults and 209 K-12 students participating in 32 book discussions with an additional forty events involving a total of 3,013 adults and 2,351 children; and

WHEREAS, FREE copies of *The Adventures of Tom Sawyer* will be distributed to the public at the Irvin L. Young Memorial Library on April 1, 2012;

NOW, THEREFORE, I, Kevin Brunner, City Manager of the City of Whitewater, Wisconsin encourage all residents of our community to read *The Adventures of Tom Sawyer* and other books by Mark Twain and participate in **Big Read** events coming soon to Whitewater and our area.

Kevin M. Brunner, City Manager

Michele R. Smith, City Clerk