



Laura (Riding) Jackson Foundation  
1914 14th Avenue  
Vero Beach, FL 32960

Dear Board of County Commissioners,

In 2016, the Indian River County Commission designated Sean Sexton as the county's first Poet Laureate for a term of four years and renewed his nomination in 2020 for another four year term.

The mission of the Poet Laureate is to promote poetry and other literary forms to the County's diverse population. As Poet Laureate, Mr. Sexton has offered public poetry programs, taught poetry workshops to high school students, judged poetry competitions, and arranged for nationally ranked poets to come to Vero Beach. It is now time to name a new Poet Laureate to fill Sean Sexton's shoes.

After conducting the juried process described in the County Resolution dated August 16, 2016, the Laura (Riding) Jackson Foundation is delighted to announce Pat Draper as the Indian River County Poet Laureate for the term 2024-2028.

In her professional non-writing career, Ms. Draper has been a nurse practitioner specializing in cardiac care in Vero Beach for twenty years. As a writer, she has published two volumes of poetry and will earn her MFA from Queens University in 2025. She has been an active participant in local writing groups and currently co-leads a poetry group. We are confident that Ms. Draper will represent Indian River County with distinction and successfully fulfill the mission of promoting the literary arts in our community.

Sincerely,

Sara Wilson  
Executive Director  
Laura (Riding) Jackson Foundation