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# WAUKEGAN PARK DISTRICT

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## PRESS RELEASE

### **Waukegan's Civil War Sites Free Historic Guided Walking Tour**

**WAUKEGAN, IL** (April 13, 2015) The Waukegan History Museum of the Waukegan Park District and the Waukegan Historical Society commemorate the 150<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the Civil War's end with a free guided walking tour titled "Waukegan's Civil War Sites" on Saturday, April 18, 2015 (ID #4527). To register for this guided walking tour, please call the Waukegan Park District Jack Benny Center for the Arts at 847-360-4740. The Center is located at 39 Jack Benny Drive in Bowen Park. Register online at [www.waukeganparks.org](http://www.waukeganparks.org). Pre-registration is required.

On the walking tour, led by Museum Supervisor Ty Rohrer, participants will learn the history of Waukegan related to the time of the Civil War (1861-1865). The reactions to the start of the war, local war efforts, famous local soldiers, as well as events leading up to the war including the Underground Railroad and Abraham Lincoln's visit to Waukegan will be highlighted throughout the tour. This guided walking tour starts promptly at 10am at the Waukegan Park District's Veterans Memorial Plaza located on the southwest corner of Washington Street and West Street in Washington Park. The tour lasts about 90 minutes. Please dress according to weather with comfortable walking shoes and bring something to drink; tours will be cancelled if there is rain or other inclement weather.

The Waukegan History Museum has two special exhibits to commemorate the 150<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the end of the Civil War and the assassination of President Abraham Lincoln.

- **THE CIVIL WAR: The War Efforts in Waukegan** tells the story of the Civil War and how it impacted the people of Waukegan. Showcased in the exhibit is the story of Orion Howe, Waukegan's Civil War drummer boy.
- **THE LINCOLN ASSASSINATION: 150 Years Ago** explores the reaction from Waukegan when news spread of Lincoln's death. Unique connections between Lincoln and Waukegan are featured, and on special showcase in the exhibit is a

model of the Lincoln family home in Springfield, Illinois decorated as it was following the president's death.

The Waukegan History Museum is located at 1917 N. Sheridan Road in Bowen Park. The museum is free and open to the public on Tuesdays and Thursdays from 10am-4pm and Saturday afternoons from 1-4pm.

### **About the Waukegan Park District**

Established on December 26, 1916, the district has 48 sites and more than 735 acres of land, including the 18-hole Bonnie Brook and 9-hole Greenshire Golf Courses. Properties are managed to the highest environmental and conservation standards. Facilities operated by the district include the Field House Sports and Fitness Center, the Jack Benny Center for the Arts, the Waukegan SportsPark, the Waukegan Skate Park, the Waukegan BMX Track, recreational centers, an outdoor swimming pool, disc golf course, dog exercise area, outdoor sports fields, picnic areas, playgrounds, and sports courts including basketball and tennis. A full range of programs and services are offered year round for all ages, from infants to seniors as well as special needs populations. Healthy lifestyles, wellness initiatives, and a connection with the outdoors and nature are integrated throughout programs, services, and special events. Cultural events are provided by the Waukegan Symphony Orchestra and Concert Chorus, the Bowen Park Theatre Company, and the Waukegan History Museum. There is something for everyone! The award-winning District employs 59 full-time and over 250 part-time, year round, seasonal, and temporary employees. The District is a member of the National Recreation and Park Association (NRPA), Illinois Association of Park Districts (IAPD), and Illinois Park and Recreation Association (IPRA). The district maintains national accreditation from the NRPA Commission for Accreditation of Park and Recreation Agencies (CAPRA), the Illinois Association of Park District (IAPD) Distinguished Agency accreditation and the Park District Risk Management Agency (PDRMA) accreditation and sustains a Level A Loss Control Program. The district was a NRPA Gold Medal Finalist in 2012 and 2013, and awarded the NRPA National Gold Medal Award for Excellence in Park and Recreation Management in 2013.

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