
WAUKEGAN PARK DISTRICT

PRESS RELEASE

"CELEBRATING RAY BRADBURY"

15th Annual Ray Bradbury's *Dandelion Wine* Fine Arts Festival

WAUKEGAN, IL (May 29, 2014) Waukegan Park District's 15th Annual Ray Bradbury's *Dandelion Wine* Fine Arts Festival is Saturday, June 7, 2014. The festival is held at Bowen Park, Waukegan, Illinois, located on the corner of Sheridan Road and Greenwood Avenue and runs from 10:00am to 4:00pm. This FREE grassroots festival is an all ages event presented by the Waukegan Park District's Cultural Arts Division with sponsorship support by Waukegan Main Street, Family Video, Marcos Pizza, the Waukegan Historical Society, Chiro One Chiropractic Wellness Centers, and AAA Tent Masters.

The Ray Bradbury's *Dandelion Wine* Fine Arts Festival is a free annual event that celebrates the start of summer. The festival is dedicated to showcasing local and regional artists and venues, championing the arts, remaining free to the public, and remembering one of Waukegan's favorite sons, author and visionary, Ray Bradbury. The festival features multiple music and entertainment stages, and all performance events are free to view. Family activities including a creative art project are free.

This year at the festival, over 30 artists and crafters can be found on "Artist Lane" displaying their fine art and/or conducting demonstrations, instructions, and selling art. A tradition at the festival is the Community Art Project. This year, attendees can participate by making their own paper dandelions to add to the meadow. Festival attendees will also be able to help complete a futuristic cityscape of Waukegan.

The festival's outdoor Pavilion Music Stage will feature a variety of musical bands and performers throughout the day headlined at 3:00pm by, Almost Joe. Plus, at 2:00pm, Helen Bond will facilitate a community Drum Circle at the Pavilion Music Stage for festival attendees to actively participate in. Participants may bring their own drum, percussion, and rhythm instruments.

The indoor Acoustic Stage in the Schornick Theatre will feature a variety of talented acoustic music performers throughout the day. This year marks the beginning of the festival having the Bradbury Stage at the Bowen Park Gazebo. This stage will feature on-going theatre, improv, storytelling, and poetry performances. The outdoor Children's Entertainment Stage will feature a variety of performers throughout the day geared toward the younger festival attendee.

Programs and events sponsored by the Waukegan Park District-Cultural Arts Division are provided in part by a grant from the Illinois Arts Council, a State of Illinois agency. For more information please call the Waukegan Park District- Jack Benny Center for the Arts at 847-360-4740. The Jack Benny Center is located at 39 Jack Benny Drive in Bowen Park.

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ATTACHED: Photos of the 2013 Ray Bradbury's *Dandelion Wine* Fine Arts Festival.





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About the Waukegan Park District

Established on December 26, 1916, the district has 47 properties and 720 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 57 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 Districts' (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.