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# WAUKEGAN PARK DISTRICT

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## PRESS RELEASE

### **“CELEBRATING RAY BRADBURY” 17<sup>th</sup> Annual Ray Bradbury’s *Dandelion Wine* Fine Arts Festival**

**WAUKEGAN, IL (May 27, 2016)** . . . The Waukegan Park District 17<sup>th</sup> Annual Ray Bradbury’s *Dandelion Wine* Fine Arts Festival will be held on Saturday, June 4, 2016 from 11am to 6pm at Bowen Park, located at the corner of Sheridan Road and Greenwood Avenue, in Waukegan. This FREE grassroots festival is a family event for all ages presented by the Waukegan Park District’s Cultural Arts Division with sponsorship support from the Waukegan Arts Council, Waukegan Historical Society, Mark Harms of Edward Jones, Cribb Fine Foods, Waukegan Main Street, Uline, and Harry E. Came.

The Festival is an annual event celebrating the start of summer. It 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 as well as family activities including creative art projects.

This year at the festival, over 35 artists and crafters can be found on “Artist’s Lane” displaying their fine art and/or conducting demonstrations, instructing, and selling art. A tradition at the festival is the Community Art Project. This year, attendees will help create a large festival masterpiece titled “Favorite Bug!” Activities at the Children’s Entertainment Area will include fun projects for kids to create and take home. Waukegan High School art students will showcase their talents at a new section of the festival called “Young Artist’s Lane.”

The festival’s outdoor Pavilion Music Stage will feature a variety of musical bands and performers throughout the day, headlined at 4:30pm by Los Perros Cubanos.

The indoor Acoustic Stage at the Schornick Theatre will feature a variety of talented acoustic music performers throughout the day, headlined from 3:30pm to 4:30pm by “Jazzman” Jeff’s Lake County Acoustic Music Jam.

Back by popular demand is the outdoor Bradbury Theatre Stage at the Bowen Park Gazebo. This stage will feature ongoing theatre, improv, storytelling, and poetry performances. A special performance on this stage features Waukegan High School students reading Ray Bradbury’s “The Whole Town’s Sleeping” at 12noon.

The outdoor Children’s Entertainment Stage will feature a variety of performers throughout the day geared toward the younger festival attendee and a community Drum Circle beginning at 3:30pm.

The Drum Circle is an annual favorite that allows attendees to participate in facilitated rhythmic drumming. Participants may bring their own drum, percussion, and rhythm instruments.

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.

### **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 and agility course, outdoor sports fields, picnic areas, playgrounds, and sports courts including basketball, tennis and pickleball. 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, and the Waukegan History Museum. There is something for everyone! The award-winning District employs 61 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 maintains 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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