

# WAUKEGAN PARK DISTRICT

## PRESS RELEASE

### **New Craft Classes Announced at the Waukegan Park District**

**Waukegan, IL (August 17, 2016) WAUKEGAN PARK DISTRICT CULTURAL ARTS DIVISION-** The Waukegan Park District Cultural Arts Division will be offering a variety of fall craft programs. Classes in Basket Making, Hat Making, Sewing, Soap Making, and Weaving for youth and adults begin in September and all craft classes are held at Lilac Cottage located at 1911 N. Sheridan Road in Bowen Park.

Three different basket making classes taught by instructor Sandy Bulgrin will be offered between September and November. Each class will have a two session format on Tuesdays. On September 20 and September 27, students will learn how to create a basket that can be used for Halloween treats or as a perfect fall centerpiece. In October, come create the towering Gretchen tote. This class will be held on October 18 and October 25 from 6-8pm. The final basket making class for the fall, Star Basket, will be on Mondays, November 14 and November 21, from 6-8:30pm. This basket features a woven tree pattern which would be great for holding holiday cards.

Come join professional milliner Linda Crawford on two separate weekends to create a felt hat. Ms. Crawford has been recognized for her millinery skills and crafted hats for the Kentucky Derby. Her two-day workshop will provide both beginners and advanced students with professional techniques on making a derby inspired hat. Each student will take home one hat. The first session runs the weekend of September 17, and the second session the weekend of October 15. The hours are Saturday 10am-5pm, and Sunday 2-6pm.

The newest craft classes are Intro to Sewing (age 8+) and Intermediate Sewing (age 14+) with instructor Lydia Florez-Clemmons. These classes run back to back on Monday nights beginning September 12, from 5:30-6:30pm, and then 6:45-7:45pm. The introductory class will expose students to the basics of sewing and how to craft small hand sewn projects, while the intermediate class will allow students to refine their sewing skills.

We are very pleased to bring back Soap Making this fall. The new program is taught by instructor Katherine Hughes, who has taught soap making and fiber classes at Lilac Cottage and at a number of gaming and comic conventions. Two sessions will be offered this fall, the first is Thursday September 29 and the second, Thursday October 27, both from 6-8pm. Students will be introduced to making cold process soap with fats, lye, and optional fragrance. The class will cover how the process works and safety. Students will leave with two pounds of their own hand-made soap.

For more information, 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. You can register in person at the Jack Benny Center, Field House, Belvidere Recreation Center, or online at [www.waukeganparks.org](http://www.waukeganparks.org).

### **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 Districts (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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