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# WAUKEGAN PARK DISTRICT

## PRESS RELEASE

### 2018 DAY OF THE DEAD/DIA DE LOS MUERTOS

**WAUKEGAN, IL (October 11, 2018)** - On Saturday October 20<sup>th</sup>, the Waukegan Park District and the Academia Cultural Xilotl will hold their "8th Annual Dia de los Muertos Ofrenda and Altar Exhibit" a commemoration of loved ones on Dia de Los Muertos (Day of the Dead) at the Belvidere Recreation Center from 12pm-5pm, 412 S. Lewis Ave, Waukegan, IL. There will be sugar skulls, art, vendors, and refreshments. At 1:00pm, the Cooke Elementary Mariachi Estrellas will be performing.

Dia de Muertos is a tradition that has existed in Mexico, Latin America and parts of the United States for over 3000 years. It was a tradition celebrated by the indigenous people of Mexico and Central America that has been preserved (with some modifications) even after the arrival of Europe to America. In Mexico, people visit their loved ones in the cemetery and decorate gravesites with Cempaxúchitl or Marigold flowers, candles, toys, bottles of favorite drinks and food as offerings. Families often build altars in their homes surrounding them with 2nd, Mexico celebrates the wondrous cycle of life by recognizing - but not fearing - death. For more information, please call 847-360-4740.

Sabido 20 de Octubre el Distrito de Parques en Waukegan y la Academia Cultural Xilotl llevará a cabo su "8º Exhibición Anual de Día de los Muertos Ofrenda y Altar"-una conmemoración a los seres queridos en el Belvidere Recreation Center de 12pm-5pm, 412 S. Lewis Ave, Waukegan, IL. Va a ver calaveritas de azucar, aresanos, vendedores, galletas y café. A las 1:00pm los Cooke Elementary Mariachi Estrallas van a performar.

Día de Muertos es una tradición que ha existido en México, América Latina y partes de los Estados Unidos por más de 3000 años. Era una tradición que fue celebrada por los pueblos indígenas de México y América Central, y que se ha conservado (con algunas modificaciones!), incluso después de la llegada de Europa a América. En México, la gente visita a sus seres queridos en el cementerio y decoran las tumbas con flores de Cempaxúchitl, velas, juguetes, botellas de bebidas favoritas y alimentos como ofrendas. A menudo las familias construyen altares en sus casas rodeadas de Cempaxúchitl, fotos de sus seres queridos y decoran como lo hacen la tumba. Cada 1ro y 2do de Noviembre, México celebra el ciclo maravilloso de la vida reconocimiento –sin temor - la muerte. Para mas información llame al 847-360-4740.

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

Established on December 26, 1916, the district has 50 properties and more than 736 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, Fitness and Aquatics Center, the Jack Benny Center for the Arts, the Waukegan's Greg Petry SportsPark, the Waukegan Skate Park, the Waukegan BMX Track, recreational centers, 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 62 full-time and over 230 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), Illinois Association of Park Districts (IAPD) Distinguished Agency accreditation and 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.

4/10/18 Comm. Relations

### **Contact:**

Bryan Escobar  
Arts and History Specialist  
Waukegan Park District  
39 Jack Benny Drive-Bowen Park

Waukegan, IL 60087  
847-360-4749 (o)  
847-662-0592 (f)  
[bescobar@waukeganparks.org](mailto:bescobar@waukeganparks.org)  
[www.waukeganparks.org](http://www.waukeganparks.org)