

WAUKEGAN PARK DISTRICT

Jack Benny Center for the Arts

PRESS RELEASE

Black History Month Events

Waukegan, IL (February 7, 2019) – The Waukegan Park District and the Waukegan Historical Society celebrate Black History Month throughout February with special events, programs, and exhibits.

Events:

The Waukegan Park District and City of Waukegan present “An Evening of Monologues” on February 8 and 9 at 7 p.m. in the theatre at the Jack Benny Center for the Arts, 39 Jack Benny Drive, Waukegan, in Bowen Park. Community members will present monologues of several African American figures including Harriett Tubman, Jackie Robinson, Thurgood Marshall, Dr. Martin Luther King Jr., Muhammad Ali, Barack Obama, and Serena Williams. Tickets are \$20 and are available for purchase at the Waukegan Township Park Place Senior Center, 412 S. Lewis Avenue. Tickets may be purchased one half hour before the event at the Jack Benny Center for the Arts. There is limited seating for both performances. The event benefits the 2019 Artis Yancey HBCU Tour.

Join Bryan Escobar, Waukegan Park District Arts & History Specialist, on February 15 at 12pm for a free History Lunch & Learn presentation titled “Waukegan and the Underground Railroad.” Known Underground Railroad sites and the people associated with them will be discussed, along with other Lake County abolitionist connections. The presentation is in the theatre of the Jack Benny Center for the Arts, 39 Jack Benny Drive, Waukegan, in Bowen Park. Please bring your own lunch, and no registration is required.

Exhibits:

Two special Community Curator pop-up exhibits from the Waukegan History Museum tell the African American story in Waukegan. One exhibit highlights African Americans from Waukegan in politics. The exhibit is free to view and is on display at the Waukegan History Museum, 1917 N. Sheridan Road, Waukegan, in Bowen Park. The other exhibit highlights African Americans from Waukegan who are or have been in the entertainment world. This exhibit is also free to view and is on display throughout February in the Jack Benny Center for the Art, 39 Jack Benny Drive, Waukegan. Both exhibits were created by Dr. Sylvia England.

The Waukegan Historical Society's pop-up exhibit "Waukegan's African American Past" will be on display from February 11-22 in the lobby of Waukegan City Hall, 100 N. Martin Luther King Jr. Avenue, Waukegan, IL, 60085.

Afrocentric Artwork-Acrylic Painting Class

The Waukegan Park District's Jack Benny Center for the Arts welcomes art instructor Shaunese Teamer for a new class - Afrocentric Artwork-Acrylic Painting. Experience the process of creating abstract Afrocentric artwork on canvas, exploring creative techniques that combine acrylic painting, shapes, cultural images and patterns. This class is appropriate for adult beginners and intermediate students of any age. Painters will complete and keep artwork at the end of the one-day session. There are two separate Saturday afternoon sessions from 2 p.m. until 5 p.m. for the class on February 9 and February 16, in the classroom at the Jack Benny Center for the Arts. Pre-registration is required. Register at the Jack Benny Center for the Arts, 39 Jack Benny Drive in Bowen Park, the Belvidere Recreation Center, 412 S. Lewis Avenue in Corrine J. Rose Park, the Field House Sports, Fitness and Aquatics Center at Hinkston Park, 800 Baldwin Avenue and online at www.waukeganparks.org. Registration fees are \$30 for Waukegan Park District residents and \$40 for non-Park District residents. An \$8.00 material fee is due to the instructor at the beginning of the class.

For additional information, please contact Ty Rohrer at 847-360-4744 or

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About the Waukegan Park District

Established on December 26, 1916, the district has 50 properties and more than 737 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.

10/24/18 Comm. Relations

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