

# WAUKEGAN PARK DISTRICT

## PRESS RELEASE

### 2019 Day of the Dead/Dia De Los Muertos Activities

**WAUKEGAN, IL (October 31, 2019)** - On Saturday November 2nd, the Waukegan Park District and the Academia Cultural Xilotl will hold their "9th 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 Jack Benny Center for the Arts from 12pm-5pm, 39 Jack Benny Drive, Waukegan, IL. There will be sugar skulls, art, vendors, and bread and cookies. Sugar Skull decorating will be taking place, and is free while supplies last. Performances by folkloric dance group Rebellion Cultural will take place at 12:30pm, and at 3:00pm 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 Europeans to the Americas. 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. Mexico celebrates the wondrous cycle of life by recognizing - but not fearing - death. For more information, please call 847-360-4740.

#### **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, awarded the NRPA National Gold Medal Award for Excellence in Park and Recreation Management in 2013 and most recently named a 2019 Gold Medal Finalist.

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