

WAUKEGAN PARK DISTRICT

PRESS RELEASE

Waukegan History Museum Celebrating Ray Bradbury's Centennial with Bradbury's WaukWay Self-Guided Tour Featuring "Pieces of the Past" Scavenger Hunt

Waukegan, Illinois (August 21, 2020) – The Waukegan Historical Society's Waukegan History Museum Companion App will feature a new self-guided tour in celebration of the 100th birthday of Waukegan born author Ray Bradbury, named "Bradbury's WaukWay Self-Guided Tour." The tour is an adaptation of the Ray Bradbury Literary Walk from 2002.

Bradbury's WaukWay Self-Guided Tour will be available on Saturday, August 22, 2020 on the 100th anniversary of Bradbury's birth. Participants will visit 20 public places around the downtown Waukegan area on the tour. Many of the sites featured played prominent roles in Bradbury's childhood, helping prepare him for writing fantasy and science fiction. Other sites included are places that still pay tribute to Bradbury today. Participants will step back in time to Waukegan in the 1920s and 30s to experience Bradbury's childhood and many of these locations became part of Bradbury's novels and short stories.

A special feature of the tour is the incorporation of the Waukegan Historical Society's award-winning initiative, the "Pieces of the Past" scavenger hunt. When visiting the public sites on the tour, participants will search for the Ray Bradbury Centennial 100 logo, which will contain a "Pieces of the Past" code to enter in the app. One time for each location, the successful code entered in the app will result in a raffle ticket. The "Pieces of the Past" scavenger hunt will run from August 22, 2020 through November 1, 2020, followed by a raffle with gift certificates for use at local businesses as prizes.

Participants may choose to complete the walk in one day or spread it out over multiple days. It is recommended that participants start the self-guided tour at the Waukegan Park District's Historic Waukegan Carnegie Library at 1 N. Sheridan Road in downtown Waukegan.

The Waukegan History Museum Companion App can be found on the Waukegan Park District App, which can be downloaded on the Apple App Store and Google Play Store. The app can also be found and used through the Waukegan Historical Society website at waukeganhistorical.org. The app is free and family-friendly. Other tours currently featured on the app include the Waukegan Harbor and Downtown Art & Sculptures. Some content is available on the app in both English and Spanish.

For questions, contact Bryan Escobar at bescobar@waukeganparks.org.

About the Waukegan Historical Society

The Society is a 501(c)3 not-for-profit that was established in 1968. For the past 50 years the Society has promoted Waukegan's history through education programs, scholarship, exhibits, and events. The Society operates, in partnership with the Waukegan Park District, the Waukegan History Museum and the Raymond Research Library and Archives. School outreach is a priority of the Society. In the past five years, over 700 free programs on Waukegan's history have been presented in the schools to over 22,000 students. The Society supports student scholarship in history. Over 1,600 high school students from Waukegan and the surrounding communities have utilized the Society's Library and Archives for the Chicago Metro History Fair, with several projects advancing to the National History Day competition. For the past two years, the Society has received awards from the Illinois State Historical Society for its innovative exhibits.

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, splash pads, 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 63 full-time and over 230 part-time, 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 has received Government Finance Officer Association awards for Distinguished Budget Presentation and Certificate for Excellence in Financial Reporting for eight consecutive years. The district was awarded the NRPA National Gold Medal Award for Excellence in Park and Recreation Management in 2013 and named a NRPA Gold Medal Finalist in 2012, 2013, and 2019.

TJA/5/13/20

Bryan Escobar
Arts & History Specialist
Waukegan Park District
(847) 360-4749
bescobar@waukeganparks.org
waukeganparks.org