
WAUKEGAN PARK DISTRICT

PRESS RELEASE

Waukegan Park District Celebrates Black History Month with Several Virtual and In-Person Events and Programs

Waukegan, Illinois (January 26, 2020) – The Waukegan Park District will celebrate Black History Month with several virtual and in-person programs and events throughout the month of February. The programming will honor African Americans and their contributions.

The following programs and events will be offered during Black History Month:

- Jack Benny Center for the Arts' #ArtsAtDark on Facebook featuring African American composers, performers, and artists in February
- History videos featuring Waukegan and the Underground Railroad and African American stories at Oakwood Cemetery
- Special Recreation Services of Northern Lake County – Waukegan virtual activities highlighting African American authors and influencers throughout February
- African American Historical Sites Tour on the Waukegan History Museum Companion App available on Monday, February 1
- Virtual Soul Food Demonstration by Volunteer Cook Sylvia England available on Monday, February 1
- Virtual Poetry Slam on Friday, February 5 from 6pm to 8pm
- African American Music Appreciation Family Art Workshop on Saturday, February 6 from 10am to 11am
- Virtual Banner Craft on Wednesday, February 10 from 6pm to 7pm
- Virtual Historical Figures Collection Cards on Friday, February 19 from 6pm to 7pm

More details, including registration information and links, planned activities, and locations (if applicable) are available at waukeganparks.org/blackhistorymonth.

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.

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