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# WAUKEGAN PARK DISTRICT

## PRESS RELEASE

### **Waukegan Park District Reopens Cultural Arts Facilities with Safety Protocols**

**Waukegan, Illinois (February 16, 2021)** – The Waukegan Park District has reopened the Jack Benny Center for the Arts, Waukegan History Museum, and John L. Raymond Research Library with safety protocols to host in-person programs, self-guided tours, and research time.

In accordance with guidelines of Phase Four of the Restore Illinois plan, staff, participants, and visitors will be required to wear a face covering inside the facilities at all times. The capacity at the facilities will be limited to adhere to social distancing guidelines. Hand sanitizer will be available throughout the facilities.

The Jack Benny Center for the Arts has reopened for select in-person programs, including private music lessons. Music instructors and students will have to be buzzed in to enter the facility.

More details about group lessons will be posted on the Jack Benny Center for the Arts Facebook page. Returning and new in-person and virtual music students can be registered at [waukeganparks.org/musiclessons](http://waukeganparks.org/musiclessons) or by calling (847) 360-4740. Questions can be emailed to [jbcfrontdesk@waukeganparks.org](mailto:jbcfrontdesk@waukeganparks.org).

The Waukegan History Museum has reopened by appointment only. To ensure that safe social distancing is practiced, the Waukegan History Museum will require visitors to reserve a time slot online via Eventbrite at [waukeganhistorymuseum.eventbrite.com](http://waukeganhistorymuseum.eventbrite.com). Time slots are listed on Eventbrite and will be limited to one hour with a limit of five individuals per time slot and a maximum of four groups per day. It is recommended that reservations be made at least twenty-four hours in advance. Tickets and admission to the Waukegan History Museum are free.

All visits to the Waukegan History Museum will be self-guided. Information binders in each room have been removed. However, visitors are encouraged to download the Waukegan Park District app to access the Waukegan History Museum Companion which features information about each room and artifact details. The self-guided tour on the app is available in English and Spanish, and as an alternative, there are handouts available for visitors to take with them. Please note the second floor of the Waukegan History Museum is not wheelchair accessible.

The John L. Raymond Research Library has reopened for research time, which can be reserved by emailing [info@waukeganhistorical.org](mailto:info@waukeganhistorical.org) or by filling out a “Contact Us” request at [waukeganhistorical.org](http://waukeganhistorical.org).

## **About the Waukegan Park District**

Established on December 26, 1916, the district has 50 properties and more than 740 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 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 employs 63 full-time and over 230 part-time, seasonal, and temporary employees and is recognized by the IPRA as an Exceptional Workplace. Accreditation is maintained 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). 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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