



defiance public library system
Defiance • Sherwood • Hicksville

PRESS RELEASE

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Contact: Taryn Lawson, communications coordinator

tmlawson@defiancelibrary.org

419-782-1456 ext. 1106

Defiance Public Library

320 Fort St.

Defiance, OH 43512

ph. 419-782-1456

fax. 419-782-6235

Johnson Memorial Library

116 W High St.

Hicksville, OH 43526

ph. 419-542-6200

fax. 419-542-1015

Sherwood Branch Library

117 N Harrison

Sherwood, OH 43556

ph. 419-899-4343

fax. 419-899-3479

www.defiancelibrary.org

Dedication Ceremony Planned for Worthington Historic Marker

[DEFIANCE] – All are invited to join Defiance Public Library at a special dedication ceremony for the Ohio Historic Marker installed late last year at Worthington Cemetery, Defiance County's only known historic Black cemetery.

The ceremony will take place May 15 beginning at 10 a.m. at the site of the cemetery and marker, located on Bowman Road in Highland Township, about ¼ mile east of Ohio 15.

During the program, multiple speakers will share their experiences and discuss what the marker means to them. After, all are invited back to Defiance Public Library, 320 Fort St., for a reception in the Nellie Gary Reading Room. Cupcakes, fruit, coffee and water will be available, and attendees can also browse several displays related to the project.

Many community members and groups (plus some skilled canines) played a role in securing the marker, including Defiance Public Library System's (DPLS) Local History Specialist Sarah Marshall; DPLS Reference and Technical Services Manager Renee Hopper; Berne Heilshorn; Kentucky-based KYK9 (Jennifer Jordan Hall, Taylor Bryan, Pocket and Wick); Eric Hubbard and Chris LaMack of the University of Pennsylvania (GPR surveying); the Defiance Area Foundation (grant funding), the Friends of Defiance Public Library (DPL); Jay Budde; Terry Howarth; Defiance Citizens in Action; the Defiance County Commissioners; and Ohio History Connection.

Also assisting were Defiance College affiliates Steven Bare, Ph.D., assistant professor of history; Angela Sosebee; Alexandra Bevins; Caia Bevins; and Tyler Taylor. Many community volunteers aided in the effort, from researching and sharing information, to probing the ground at the site to release scent for the K9s.

A complete history of the project can be found online at defiancelibrary.org/blog.

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