

CITY OF WARRENVILLE

MEMO

To: Mayor and City Council
From: Christine Avila, IDEC Commissioner and Cristina White, Assistant City Administrator *CW*
Subject: City Observances – April and May 2022
Date: March 29, 2022

The Inclusion, Diversity, Equity, and Awareness Commission (IDEC) is requesting Council consideration of the calendar of events for April and May 2022. The calendar is included as Exhibit A.

City staff requested the commission consider ways to honor events and holidays to increase education and awareness in the community without increasing or changing the current approved City holidays. Several holidays and awareness months were celebrated in the first three month of 2022, including MLK Day, Black History Month, Women’s History Month, and International Women’s Day. The approved observance dates are recognized through increased education and awareness as information is published in the City Newsletter, on the Facebook page, and the City’s website. Additionally, the Library and Historical Society Museum may highlight these months through displays. As the April Newsletter has already been finalized, the April observance will be highlighted on the website and Facebook page only.

The commission will continue to review holidays and observances for the remainder of calendar year 2022 and present recommendations at future meetings. The recommendations from IDEC are not intended to be all-inclusive as there are many dates of importance that are observed across various cultures and religions. Those recommended for calendar year 2022 are intended to be a starting point.

IDEC is also encouraging the community to submit requests for consideration as the commission continues its efforts. Those requests can be sent to idec@warrenville.il.us.

EXHIBIT A

April	April	Arab-American Heritage Month	<p>National Arab American Heritage Month (NAAHM) is a time for celebrating the history, contributions, and culture of the diverse population of Arab Americans. In 2019, Rep. Debbie Dingell (D-MI) and Rep. Rashida Tlaib (D-MI) issued a congressional resolution for NAAHM to be recognized on a national scale. Arab Americans have ancestry in one of the world's 22 Arab nations, which are located from northern Africa through western Asia. The people of these nations are ethnically, politically, and religiously diverse but share a common cultural and linguistic heritage.</p> <p>The world's 22 Arab nations are Algeria, Bahrain, the Comoro Islands, Djibouti, Egypt, Iraq, Jordan, Kuwait, Libya, Morocco, Mauritania, Oman, Palestine, Qatar, Saudi Arabia, Somalia, Sudan, Syria, Tunisia, the United Arab Emirates, Lebanon, and Yemen.</p>
May	May	Haitian Heritage Month	<p>Haitian Heritage Month is a nationally recognized month and an opportunity for individuals including Haitians and lovers of the the Haitian culture to celebrate the rich culture, distinctive art, delicious food and learn the traditions of Haiti and its people. The celebration is an expansion of the Haitian Flag Day on May 18th, a major patriotic day celebration in Haiti and the Diaspora created to encourage patriotism.</p>
May	May	Jewish-American Heritage Month	<p>May is Jewish American Heritage Month – On April 20, 2006, President George W. Bush proclaimed that May would be Jewish American Heritage Month. The president proclaimed the month would recognize the more than 350-year history of Jewish contributions to American culture.</p>
May	May	National Asian American and South Pacific Islander Heritage Month	<p>May is Asian/Pacific American Heritage Month – a celebration of Asians and Pacific Islanders in the United States. A rather broad term, Asian/Pacific encompasses all of the Asian continent and the Pacific islands of Melanesia (New Guinea, New Caledonia, Vanuatu, Fiji and the Solomon Islands), Micronesia (Marianas, Guam, Wake Island, Palau, Marshall Islands, Kiribati, Nauru and the Federated States of Micronesia) and Polynesia (New Zealand, Hawaiian Islands, Rotuma, Midway Islands, Samoa, American Samoa, Tonga, Tuvalu, Cook Islands, French Polynesia and Easter Island). The month of May was chosen to commemorate the immigration of the first Japanese to the United States on May 7, 1843, and to mark the anniversary of the completion of the transcontinental railroad on May 10, 1869. The majority of the workers who laid the tracks were Chinese immigrants.</p>
May	May 5th	Cinco de Mayo	<p>Cinco de Mayo, or the fifth of May, is a holiday that celebrates the date of the Mexican army's May 5, 1862 victory over France at the Battle of Puebla during the Franco-Mexican War. The day, which falls on Thursday, May 5 in 2022, is also known as Battle of Puebla Day. Within Mexico, Cinco de Mayo is primarily observed in the state of Puebla, where Zaragoza's unlikely victory occurred, although other parts of the country also take part in the celebration. While it is a relatively minor holiday in Mexico, in the United States, Cinco de Mayo has evolved into a commemoration of Mexican culture and heritage, particularly in areas with large Mexican-American populations.</p>