

# NEWS RELEASE

## FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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## Margene May exhibit celebrates Black History Month at the Library

**January 25, 2016 (Canton, Ohio)** – The Smart Store, where everything is free® is celebrating Black History Month with a litany of activities, the highlight being an exhibit featuring the work of local artist Margene May. Her exhibit will be on display for the first two weeks of February at the DeHoff Memorial Branch and will be accompanied by a Meet the Artist event on February 3 at 4:00pm.

Margene May is a celebrated local artist and a supporter of Stark County District Library, particularly the DeHoff Branch where she is active in the Friends of the Library. She is a self-taught artist whose original roots are in New Jersey, although she has been in Ohio since the 1970s. Her work has been displayed in galleries and museums in Canton and beyond.

Those who wish to see May's work can visit the DeHoff Memorial Branch during Library hours beginning on February 1. For a closer look into why and how May creates her work, patrons can attend "Meet the Artist: Margene May" on Wednesday, February 3 from 4:00-4:30pm. In that session May plans to cover how she creates her work, where she finds inspiration, and the power of sharing universal experiences to which all can relate. The Library is located at 216 Hartford Ave SE, Canton, OH 44707.

Ms. May got her start as an artist late in life and she likes to encourage other people to start something new, no matter what their age. "It's never too late to learn something new, especially if you have always had an interest in it. You might even get lucky and find a new passion like I did," said May.

In addition to Margene May's exhibit, several other events are being held at other Library locations. For information on all of the events listed below please call the Library at 330-452-0665 or visit [www.StarkLibrary.org](http://www.StarkLibrary.org).

**African American Patriots** – February 10, 2:00-4:00pm, Madge Youtz Branch. Hear stories of African American patriots from the past, emphasizing the American slave era.

**Heroes from African-American History** – February 13, 11:00am-2:00pm, DeHoff Memorial Branch. Celebrate the achievements of famous African-Americans with living history portrayals.

**Unsung Heroes of Black History Month**– February 10, 2:00-3:00pm, East Canton Branch. Discover the origin of Black History Month as well as the contributors of black inventors, medical pioneers, and civic and community leaders.

**Black History Story Time Extravaganza** – February 13, 2:00-4:00pm, DeHoff Memorial Branch. Learn about important figures in Black History. Create a Black History Month craft to take home.

**Understanding the Negro Leagues: Black Baseball in America** - February 24, 4:30-5:30pm, Madge Youtz Branch. Learn about Satchel Paige, Rube Foster, and Jackie Robinson, and find out how they played a role in the growth of black baseball from the 19th century through the mid-20th century.

**Black History Month Trivia** – Bookmobile Stops throughout February. Test your knowledge of Black History Month and learn something new along the way. Return your program sheet to the Bookmobile for a chance to win a prize.

### **ABOUT THE LIBRARY**

One of the 8 largest library systems in Ohio – and the county’s oldest library -- Stark County District Library serves the community through 10 locations, six mobile libraries, and a 24/7 digital branch.

A 2009 winner of the prestigious National Medal for library service, the Library serves over 100,000 active cardholders, annually circulating 3.5 million items from its 1.2 million item collection and providing access to an additional 66 million items from lending networks throughout Ohio. Each year the library presents nearly 8,000 programs for 170,000 attendees and provides 280,000 computer sessions on the publicly available computers found in each branch.

Today, as it reimagines itself as The Smart Store, where everything is free®, the Library is emerging as a national thought-leader with innovations such as its “no overdue fines” policy, the recently launched BikeSmart bike sharing network, and the Start Smart School Partnership.

For more information, call 330.452.0665 or visit <http://www.starklibrary.org>.

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