

PRESS RELEASE

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Burlington Vicinage Celebrates Black History Month with Series of Free Events

The Burlington Vicinage will celebrate Black History Month by hosting a series of free Friday afternoon programs.

The public programs are organized by the vicinage's Minority Concerns and Equal Employment Opportunity/Affirmative Action Advisory committees.

The event schedule is as follows:

Friday, Feb. 10 - Historian Al Corbett will discuss the abolitionist movement with a special focus on the writings of John Woolman, a Quaker and early abolitionist from Mount Holly, New Jersey who wrote essays in opposition to slavery.

Friday, Feb. 17 - Actress and writer Alma Day will portray Harriet Tubman, who escaped slavery and led hundreds to freedom along the Underground Railroad. Judge Gerard Breland will begin the program by singing "Lift Every Voice and Sing."

The Feb. 10 and 17 programs will be held from 12:30 to 1:30 p.m. in the jury assembly room of the Burlington County Courthouse, 49 Rancocas Road, Mount Holly.

Friday, Feb. 24 - Judge Paula Dow, historian Paul Schopp, Assistant Public Defender Kevin Walker, Deputy Public Defender Cedric Edwards and attorney Brenda Maneri will discuss two pivotal fugitive slave cases that were heard in the historic Olde Courthouse in Mount Holly. These cases involved fugitive slaves Alexander Hemsley, Perry Hinson, Noah Hinson and Rachel Pine, who resided in Timbucktoo and surrounding Mount Holly areas. The program will analyze the legal issues confronted in each trial.

This program will be held from 3 to 4:30 p.m. in the Olde Courthouse, 120 High St., Mount Holly.

A Black History Month poster exhibit, "A Place for All People," will be on display in the jury assembly room throughout the month. The display, part of a traveling Smithsonian Institution exhibit, showcases the African-American community's lasting contribution to the American story.

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