



MEDIA RELEASE

OFFICE OF COUNTY MAYOR GLENN JACOBS

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Mayor Jacobs Recognizes Black History Month Throughout February

KNOXVILLE, Tenn. — Knox County Mayor Glenn Jacobs will recognize Black History Month throughout February by highlighting county resources folks can utilize to explore and learn about African Americans' central role in history.

“Black History Month is a time for all Americans to learn about the achievements and contributions of African Americans that helped to shape the nation. Knox County is blessed to have tremendous resources for people to educate themselves year-round about local Black history, including tracing personal family histories,” said Mayor Jacobs.

On Wednesdays throughout February, the Mayor’s Office will release a series of videos on its [YouTube channel](#) and social media accounts highlighting unique resources and stories of Black history in Knox County. Some topics will focus on the ways the public can access historical records [online](#) and in person at the Calvin M. McClung Historical Collection.

The Calvin M. McClung Historical Collection, part of the Knox County Public Library, is located on the third floor of the [East Tennessee History Center](#) in Downtown Knoxville. It features centuries of newspaper archives, photographs, and rare original artwork, including a wealth of material relevant to the Black experience in East Tennessee. This includes student newspapers, yearbooks, catalogs, and portraits from the [archives of Knoxville College](#), the historically Black college that played a central role in educating African Americans and producing local civil rights leaders. The McClung Collection and the [Knox County Archives](#) are also tremendous resources for people to explore genealogy records.

In addition, Knox County Public Library is featuring African American literature and films throughout the month. As part of its Daytime Docs Film Series, the library is hosting a [free screening and discussion of the 2019 documentary *Toni Morrison: The Pieces I Am*](#) on Sunday, Feb. 18, at 1:30 p.m. at the Lawson McGhee Library meeting room. The film features interviews with Morrison, the African American novelist who was awarded the Pulitzer Prize for fiction in 1988 and received the Nobel Prize in 1993.

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