

PRESS RELEASE

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Burlington Vicinage Celebrates Black History Month with Series of Public Events

The Burlington Vicinage will celebrate Black History Month by hosting a series of free Friday afternoon programs that will provide a close look at key events and figures of the civil rights movement as well as issues confronting the African American community today.

The programs, open to the public and sponsored by the vicinage's Equal Employment Opportunity/Affirmative Action Advisory Committee, will be held every Friday in February from 12:30 to 1:30 p.m. in the jury assembly room of the Burlington County Courthouse, 49 Rancocas Rd., Mount Holly.

The event schedule is as follows:

Friday, Feb. 5, Bobby E. Battle will share his personal experiences as one of the men who joined the Woolworth lunch counter sit-ins in Greensboro, North Carolina in 1960. He will also talk about the struggle, strength and determination required by his family during the era of racial segregation.

On Friday, Feb. 12, actress, writer and entrepreneur Alma Day will deliver a performance that pays tribute to the life of famed civil rights and voting rights activist Fannie Lou Hamer, who represented the Mississippi Freedom Democratic Party at the 1964 Democratic National Convention in Atlantic City.

On Friday, Feb. 19, Walter Fortson will speak about the Petey Greene Program, a non-profit organization that provides tutoring and educational programs for individuals who are incarcerated.

On Friday, Feb. 26, the Witherspoon People's Verse Speaking Choir, under the direction of Dr. Cecelia B. Hodges, will deliver readings of poetry and prose in choral speaking and reader's theatre style. The choir's initial mission was to study and disseminate African American literature to the community. It later expanded its mission to include world literature.

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