

# NAACP

“Of all the forms of inequality, injustice in healthcare is the most shocking and inhumane.” Martin Luther King jr.

## African American Men and Prostate Cancer

The good news is that African American men are more likely to live following diagnoses and treatment for prostate cancer than other groups of men. The bad news is that fewer African American men are screened and then consequently treated for prostate cancer than other groups. This is likely due to access to care and possibly trust issues. Because fewer African American men are screened, the disease is not detected in early and treatable stages. This story is from [blackhealthmatters.com](http://blackhealthmatters.com)

## Proposition S

On April 2nd, Springfieldians will go to the polls to vote on Proposition S to raise money for building improvements in the Springfield Public School system. The NAACP is supportive of this measure to make sure our children have safe buildings in which to learn.

## Meet Jeaná Walton-Day, PharmD



*Tell us about your background.* I grew up as an only child in St. Louis, North County area. My mom and I lived with my grandmother and my mom took care of her. My mom was protective of me and made sure I was always happy, healthy and balanced. My mom insulated me from the

struggles she had but I was aware of them. My mom was a “city kid” and made many efforts to protect me from trauma. She made sure I had many opportunities to grow and experience education and culture. The Municipal Theatre in St. Louis offers a number of free tickets to their performances. We would go early and basically camp out in order to get tickets. In that way my mom was able to expose me to great theater. We also went to the international festival at Tower Park. When I was 12 or 13 I went to the opera camp at Webster University. My mom was (and is) very creative in her ability to inspire and educate. I looked forward to school because it was something I could control and at which I could excel.

I went to pharmacy school at the St. Louis College of Pharmacy and graduated in 2013. Currently I am working on a Masters of Public Health (MPH) degree through Missouri University. *What is motivating you pursue a MPH?* I am looking for opportunities to help “fix” problems. Public Health focuses on the big picture of health. I would like to be involved at the community health level. I would like to see pharmacies to be places for people to get information about healthcare. Pharmacies tend to be places

## “The Milly Project” wins first place at District Theatre



The story of an enslaved woman who sued for her freedom in 1835 in Greene County was turned into a “Readers Theatre” production by the Willard Thespians. Milly Sawyers was twice denied her freedom in a St. Louis Court but successfully brought suit in Greene County. Following her successful suit she was dragged out of her home by a mob of prominent Springfieldians including John Polk Campbell, Lucius Rountree and Sidney Ingram who beat her in the street. Milly then disappears from history until her story was discovered a year ago by a Greene County archivist. A News Leader reporter did further research and published Milly’s story. The story will be performed at Willard High School on 4/8/19 at 7:30 pm. Come hear Milly’s story. For more information go to [whstheatre.blogspot.com](http://whstheatre.blogspot.com)

where people go more often than doctors offices.

*What brought you to Springfield?* My first pharmacist job brought me here. I started at the K-Mart pharmacy. Since 2016 I have been at Grove Pharmacy where I work as a compounding pharmacist. Being a compounding pharmacist is a nice intersection of the old time apothecary vs. new medicine. I have quite a bit of contact with the patients I am helping. I like the ability to stay in contact with them, answer their questions and follow their progress.

*Have you experienced racism?* Yes, of course. There are levels of racism. I seldom experience overt racism, sometimes older people will call me “colored”. Most racism tends to be subtle, “Oh, you’re the pharmacist.” I feel like I can’t be be my true self professionally or personally and must be careful. I feel like I have to “represent” and then am pigeon-holed.

*Where do you see yourself in 5-10 years?* I’m not sure, we’ll see where my education takes me. *How has it been for you in Springfield?* I am currently involved in the “Connecting Grounds” church. Being here in Springfield has been challenging due to the lack of diversity. There are many situations where I am the only “one” and although people are friendly I do not feel invited “in”. *What else would you like to share about yourself?* I like alternative music groups like “Paramour” and “Fall Out Boy”. I love to be in the sun, I like going to the pool and enjoying parks. I love musicals and musical theater. My favorite Musical is “Lion King”. I have enjoyed medical missions to Haiti and although I felt fortunate to help the Haitian people, the mission work can sometimes feel intrusive . There are small things to do everyday that help people here in our community and may help you decide on your own path.

*What advice or guidance would you have for our youth?* Be open to new positive experiences. You never know what things may pique your interest. Opera camp was one such thing for me. Things won’t always be good, you have to roll with it and make the best of the situation. Even though you may hear “no” for an answer, those “no’s” May open another path for you. “No man is an island”, my boss at K- Mart paid for my certification exams when I needed help. Sometimes help comes from unexpected corners.