

THE OFFICIAL 1ST ANNUAL
JUNETEENTH CULTURAL CELEBRATION
HOSTED BY AMUN RA INC.

THE SPECTACULAR



June 17-19, 2023
Franklin, Va

OFFICIAL SOUVENIR BOOKLET

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BRONZE
SPONSORSHIP





Virginia African American Cultural Center

Congratulations to Amun Ra Inc. and the City of Franklin, VA on their 2023 Juneteenth Celebration VA Mardi Gras!

**The Virginia African American Cultural Center is pleased to partner with
you for this historic celebration!**



Founded in 2016, the mission of the Virginia African American Cultural Center (VAACC) is to collect, preserve, interpret, inform and celebrate Virginia's African American history, culture and community and to educate the public about African American contributions in all areas of endeavor. The VAACC strives to be the statewide leader in generating historical and cultural content through programs, artistic performances and curated exhibits.

**For more info visit our website: www.vaaccvb.org
Follow us on social media: Facebook, Instagram, LinkedIn**

The Virginia African American Cultural Center, Inc. is a Nonprofit 501 (c) (3) Non-stock Corporation

COMING SOON
within the Nat
Turner Trail



KINGDOM
UNITED CHURCH
in **JESUS CHRIST**

**“Learning to love
like Jesus”**

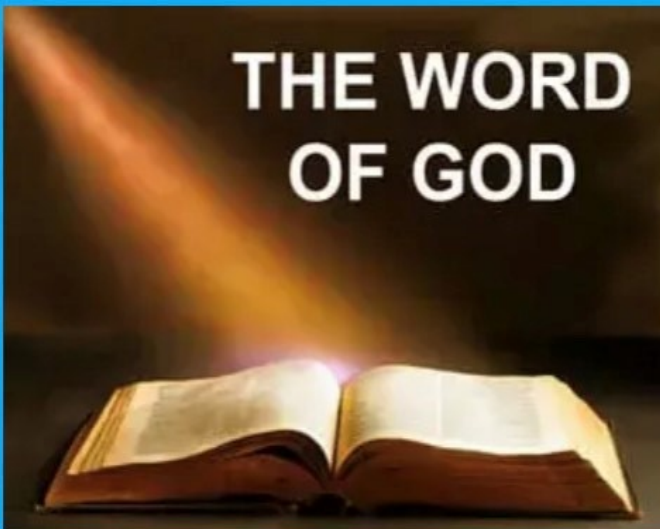
Guiding Principles

- ✓ Multiracial Goal 49:49:2
- ✓ Gospel Based
- ✓ Building Relation with Jesus
- ✓ Learning to love like Jesus
- ✓ Serve like Jesus

Multiracial Church/eradicate racism
and empower racial reconciliation and
to serve as model of love, compassion,
healing, and unity for Southampton
County & VA/NC.

*"A new command I give you: Love one another. As
I have loved you, so you must love one another."
(John 13:34)*

**THE WORD
OF GOD**



Dr. Sidney Faucette
P.O. Box 314
Courtland, VA 23837
(616) 262-9500
kingdomUnitedJC@gmail.com

Organizer's Two Cents

On behalf of Amun Ra Inc. I would like to thank those who gave of their time and energy to bring about this first annual Juneteenth Cultural Celebration / VA. Mardi Gras. We look forward to everyone enjoying themselves as we celebrate this federal holiday honoring emancipation for the enslaved African Americans of these United States. Special thanks to the City of Franklin for committing to the goal of creating a national tourist destination event over the next five years, with each year growing larger and larger. This is an economic development program for both the City of Franklin, Southampton County, and the Hampton Roads region, together we can do great things for the citizens of our state. I can't say enough to thank Dr. Amelia Ross- Hammond and her VAACC for stepping up to award a grant to both Amun Ra Inc. and the City of Franklin. Their contribution was un-matched for an outside non-profit from Virginia Beach. Next is our bronze sponsor UKCJC United Kingdom Church of Jesus Christ, praise God for your generous support. While I have mentioned the largest supporters, this event could not have taken place without the many other supporters and volunteers that joined in to support my vision for the Spectacular Juneteenth Cultural Celebration. We had to scale back for the first year, with less than a year to plan, raise funds, and prepare. However, the things we could not do this first year will just make next year even more spectacular. Thank you to the family and blood descendants of Nat Turner for sharing their family heritage with us on the Nat Turner Story Tour, thank you Senior Services of Southeastern Virginia, and General Mike Pain of the National Black Panther Party for loving your people. All power to all the people. Saving the best for last, I absolutely must thank God for giving me the vision and means to bring to life this opportunity to address changing the narrative of one of our greatest fighters for emancipation, Nat Turner and Dredd Scott born here, who died for what all Americans demand, freedom. Happy Juneteenth!!!!

Councilman and brother

Gregory McLemore

President / CEO Amun Ra Inc



Growth • Community • Spirit

Recreation Department

Along with

Department of Tourism

Supports The

SPECTACULAR

JUNETEENTH

CULTURAL

CELEBRATION

VA. MARDI GRAS 2023

HOSTED BY AMUN RA INC

VISIT FRANKLIN SOUTHAMPTON WELCOMES YOU TO THE JUNETEENTH CULTURAL CELEBRATION!

IT'S GOOD TO SEE YOU!



EXPLORE OUR WEBSITE AT
VISITFRANKLINSOUTHAMPTONVA.COM
AND FOLLOW OUR FACEBOOK AND
INSTAGRAM, FOR THE LATEST
INFORMATION AND EVENTS HAPPENING
IN FRANKLIN SOUTHAMPTON.

What is the Spectacular Juneteenth Cultural Celebration

The Juneteenth Cultural Celebration supported in part by the City of Franklin is the first of an annual five-year plan to create a national tourist destination event in the location of the County that played such a significant role in both slavery and the emancipation that Juneteenth celebrates. The Juneteenth Cultural Celebration is a three-day event June 17th 18th and concluding on June 19th. By design it is created to be larger, grander, and longer than any other Juneteenth celebration in the nation in pursuing our goal to create a national tourist destination in Southampton County dedicated to capitalizing on our rich emancipation history.

In celebrating Juneteenth with our cultural celebration, we want to present a different narrative to one of Southampton's own Nat Turner. For over a century the deeds of Nat Turner, who was known worldwide, has been cast in an extremely negative light. In a population of millions of enslaved people and abolitionists, he was seen as a hero and a freedom fighter. Comparative to how Andrew Jackson was seen by the native tribes of America.

Juneteenth celebrates the unique culture of African Americans and all Americans that can embrace emancipation of an abused people simply for great profit. African Americans have thrived in creating many of the American traditions that are synonymous to the United States in many ways not the least being music and fashions. Juneteenth is not just an African American holiday, its an American holiday celebrating culture, unity, conquest over evil and national pride. Juneteenth is our cultural celebration and Virginia Mardi Gras.

List of Juneteenth Cultural Celebration Events

Wreath Laying Ceremony	Bon Secure Hospital (SMH)
Black History Program	Hayden Village
Fashion Show	Hayden Village
Motown Beach Music	Barrett's Landing
Nat Turner Story Tour	Barrett's Landing
Free cookout food	College Dr. Park
Open Mic Competition	Barrett's Landing & College Dr. Park
Beginners Cornhole	Armory Field
Remote Control Car Showcase	College Dr. Park
Basketball Tournament (Semi-Finals)	College Dr. Park
Family Sack Race	College Dr. Park
DJ Old Skool Music	Barrett's Landing
DJ Gospel Music	Barrett's Landing
Michael Jackson Tribute	Barrett's Landing
Legacy Band	Barrett's Landing
Ra Jazz Band	Barrett's Landing
Phenomenal Sounds Band	Barrett's Landing
Luther Re-Lives	Barrett's Landing
DJ Line Dancing	Barrett's Landing
Computer Bus	Barrett's Landing
ODU Health Bus	Barrett's Landing & College Dr. Park
Red Toast	Barret's Landing

Three Days and Four Location of Juneteenth Cultural Celebration

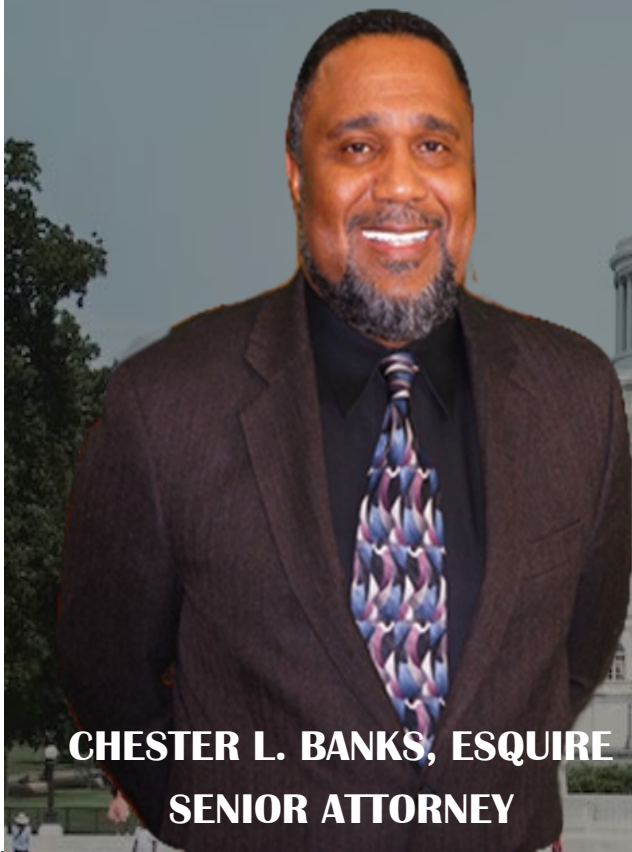
Wreath Laying Ceremony at Southampton Memorial Hospital



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Celebrating Freedom

June 17-19, 2023

Franklin, Va



Juneteenth Cultural Celebration is a 3-day event for diversity & inclusion. Join us for live music and other performances, food vendors, local artist, kids & activities, a marketplace and more. It a family friendly celebration of contemporary African American culture and the birth place of Nat Turner, Dredd Scoot, Anthony Gardner & John Brown.

All event at the Parks are FREE & open to the public with exceptions of The Nat Turner Story Tour., which will leave form Barrett,s Landing.

CITY OF FRANKLIN JUNETEENTH CULTURAL CELEBRATION

Saturday June 17th
Event Schedule

Bon Scour Hospital
KICK OFF
12:00 -12:30pm
Wreath Laying Ceremony

Hayden Village
1:00 - 2:30pm Black History Program
3:00 - 4:30pm Designer Fashion Show

Armory Field
1:00 - 5:00pm Cornhole Beginners
5:00 - 10:00pm Blind Draw Cornhole

Barrett's Landing
1:00 - 4:00pm Motown / Beach Music
2:00 - 5:00pm Nat Turner Tours
4:00 - 7:00pm Open Mic
7:00 - 10:00pm DJ

College Drive Park
1:00 - 4:00pm Free Cookout
1:00 - 2:00pm DJ
2:00 - 2:30pm Remote Contol Cars
2:30 - 4:00pm Basketball Tournament
4:00 - 4:30pm Family Sack Race

CITY OF FRANKLIN JUNETEENTH CULTURAL CELEBRATION

Sunday June 18th
Event Schedule

Armory Field
9:30 - 12:00pm Father & Child Cornhole
12:30 - Until Cornhole Cash Tournament

College Drive Park
2:00 - Utiill
Basketball Tournament Championship
2:00 - 4:00pm DJ
4:00 - 5:30pm Open Mic

Barrett's Landing
1:00 - 2:00pm Gospel DJ
2:00 - 3:00pm African Drummers & Dancers
2:00 - 5:00pm Nat Turner Tours
3:00 - 3:45pm Old School DJ
3:45 - 4:45pm Legacy Band
4:45 - 5:00pm DJ
5:00 - 5:30pm Michael Jackson Tribute
5:30 - 7:00pm Ra Jazz Band
7:00 - 7:30pm DJ Line Dance
7:30 - 9:30pm Luther Vandross Tribute
9:30 - 10:00pm DJ

CITY OF FRANKLIN JUNETEENTH CULTURAL CELEBRATION

Monday June 19th
Event Schedule

Barrett's Landing
Last Events Of The Celebration

3:00 pm
DJ
Kid's Computer Bus

5:00 pm
Open Mic Competition Finals

6:00 pm
Phenomenal Sounds Band

8:00 pm
Closing Speeches
&
Red Toast

JUNETEENTH

FREEDOM DAY

Juneteenth Cultural Celebration

Kick off with a

Wreath



Laying Ceremony

HONORING OUR DECEASED ENSLAVED ANCESTORS

Bon Secours
Southampton Memorial Hospital
100 Fairview Dr, Franklin VA 23851

June 17th

12pm-12:30pm



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Juneteenth



June 19, 2023



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www.franklinva.org



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Re-Elect Josh Wyche



Southampton County
Sheriff
Nov. 7th

Not authorized by Josh Wyche Southampton County Sheriff

Paid for by friends of Josh Wyche for Sheriff

1st Annual Juneteenth Fashion Show

The first annual Juneteenth Fashion show is the efforts of the producer Naomi Dawson of “All in modeling agency. Naomi reigns from New York City by way of Norfolk, Virginia and has been along with her associates in the fashion industry for decades. Naomi also known as “Faith Grace” works with all ages and includes people who have a passion and desire to be in the business of modeling and fashion. Faith will grace the Juneteenth Cultural Celebration with an all-inclusive approach to celebrate her passion with and the passion that African Americans culturally have always embraced. This will possibly be the first fashion show held in the newly renovated Hayden Village, a contribution by the Senior Services of Southeastern Virginia. Hayden was originally built back in the fifties as Hayden High school a segregated school exclusively for African American students who were not allowed to attend school with white children. Closed after a little more than one decade the school ended up abandoned due to integration. But, not before educating African American children that would go on to become doctors, lawyers, judges, and all sorts of professionals. Named after Della Hayden an advocate for the development of African American women, Hayden village is a fitting location for the first annual Juneteenth fashion show. While this is our first year of this annual celebration and fashion show we know you will enjoy the efforts of Miss Naomi Dawkins and the Juneteenth Cultural Celebration to highlight yet another cultural aspect of the emancipation of an enslaved people to grow stronger and better each year. This fashion show concept would not be complete without mentioning Miss Marie Antionette for her much-appreciated input into the concept of adding a fashion show to the Juneteenth Cultural Celebration.



Miss Naomi Dawkins “Faith Grace”

Black History Program

A brief description of the origins of the black history program as a part of the Juneteenth Cultural Celebration. The planning was just about complete for our first annual Juneteenth Cultural Celebration when one of my constituents called me and told me he heard about the line up for the event and asked, “why weren’t we including a black history program as a part of the event”? I informed him that “I thought the entire event being a Juneteenth Cultural Celebration was a black history program, not just another festival”. That’s when he said “he was referring to some sort of black history program with people speaking on local historical events and black history”. So, I said “you’re right, how would you like to present a black history program as a part of the Juneteenth Cultural Celebration”? He agreed and with little assistance Mr. Evans began to orchestrate and coordinate the first black history program as a part of the Juneteenth Cultural Celebration. With the support of senior services of southeastern Virginia, I was able to secure the historically restored Hayden Village, formally an abandoned segregated high school to present the program. It will include speakers that are both historians like Dr. Joyce White-Tasby to modern black history makers like Sheriff Josh Wyche the first African American Sheriff in Southampton Va. the birthplace of Nat Turner and home of the largest insurrection to slavery in American history. Along with more guest both singing and teaching on many black history subjects, including Jessy speaking on Della Hayden. We are proud to present our first black history program as a part of our first annual Juneteenth Cultural Celebration all thanks to Mr. Jessy Evans for his contribution.

Jessy Evans



Dr. Joyce White-Tasby



Sheriff Josh Wyche



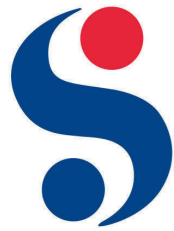
Rev. Pearly Banks



Rev. Herb Robinson



Cheryl Edmonds



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The Spectacular
Juneteenth Cultural Celebration
VA Mardi Gras

An Evening
with Luther Relives

Featuring
William "SMOOTH" Wardlaw



a tribute to

Luther Vandross

Special Guest

Michael Jackson Tribute

Legacy Band

Ra Jazz Band

African Drummers & Dancers
(Atumpan Edutainment)

FATHER'S DAY
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SUNDAY, JUNE 18TH AT 1PM | SHUTTLE PARKING

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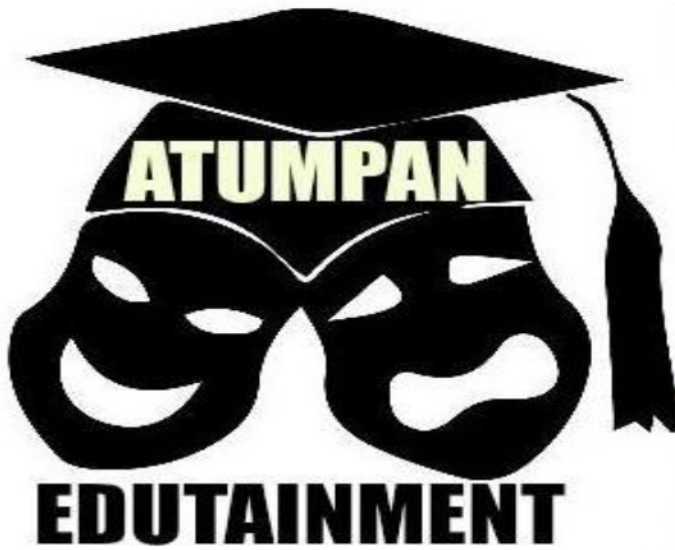
A Tribute to the Late, Great Luther Vandross!

We know you see many tribute bands that say they are the best; however, let me introduce you to one that can back up the claim. Luther Vandross' official website states that "His distinctive brand of satin-smooth, vocal-magic moved international audiences and continues to touch people to this day." These words couldn't be truer.

Everyone has a favorite Luther song: what's yours? Few artists capture not only the audience but also their hearts; Luther Vandross was one of those who did both. Therefore, it is out of love, respect, and honor that we designed this tribute to Luther.

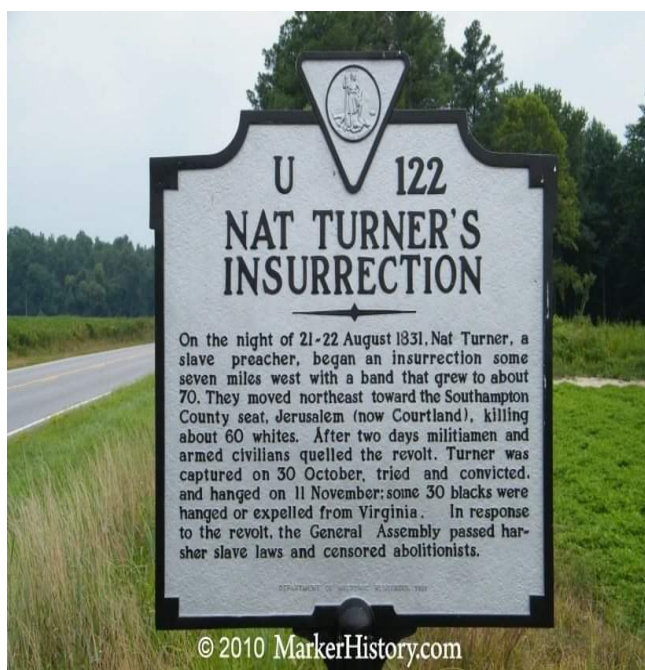
William "Smooth" Wardlaw embodies the sound and style of Luther and wraps it up with his own distinctive flavor. So, close your eyes for a moment and listen. Do you hear Luther? Smooth is a great singer and fantastic entertainer; with his "Feisty Divas" & "The Sensation Band" they are burning up the country to sold-out audiences. He has a striking resemblance to the late, great Luther; he looks like, talks like, laughs like, has mannerisms like and YES.....SINGS LIKE LUTHER!

You don't want to miss this ensemble with awesome chemistry; including a full 8-piece band



Nat Turner Story Tour

The Nat Turner Story tour is designed to take a shot at changing the traditional American narrative of a brutal killer to the reality of a man who gave his life trying to bring an end to the worst form of human slavery that civilization has ever known. Nat Turner born right here in Southampton County and is known throughout the entire world by most civilized and educated people for his 1831 insurrection and rebellion to emancipate and bring an end to the slavery of African American born slaves in the United States. The brutality and brutal acts he was accused of committing pales in comparison to the horrific acts of inhumanity and violence that was legalized against an entire race of people, whose sole existence was to serve and literally take care of. The most ironic portion of the American Nat Turner narrative is that he himself never actually killed anyone, his men and comrades did the killing under his command. If we refuse to correct the distorted inaccurate history now while we can the truth will remain untold and distorted. Another lie the American history narrative tells is the inaccurate description that he is portrayed as a dark skinned animalistic looking individual. In fact, he was what was referred to as a mulatto of mixed black and white race. The main thing that makes our Nat Turner Story Tour so unique and special is that there are 5 stops on the tour that are all hosted by direct descendants of Nat Turner's bloodline. All but one stop on the tour is on the exact land where Nat Turner was born, lived, hid out and traveled. A special event that makes our Juneteenth truly a cultural event and celebration unlike any other in the country. This event would not have been possible without the help and support of Ms. Shelly Lucas Wood and the other blood descendants of the Nat Turner.



Shelly Wood closer resembles the complexion and facial structure of Nathaniel "Nat" Turner, there are no pictures or body to be exhumed for identification or DNA because of the inhumane and heinous method the white citizens decapitated and dilapidated his remains. Only his skull remains in the care of the Smithsonian Institute who confirmed Shelly's family DNA. Great appreciation and thanks go out to the entire family of blood descendants of the great Nathaniel Turner family for their cooperation to allow the public onto these sacred family grounds that have never opened to the public.

JUNETEENTH CULTURAL CELEBRATION

1ST ANNUAL JUNETEENTH
BASKETBALL
TOURNAMENT

JUNE 17TH & 18TH

Elementary

Middle School

High School

Boys & Girls

COLEGE DRIVE PARK

301 S College Dr. Franklin VA 23851

TROPHIES AWARDED

RITA WALDEN ORGANIZER

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Cornhole Tournament

Not quite an Olympic sport yet. One of the newest and fastest growing sports to take hold across America is the game of cornhole. You have probably seen it played in the back yards, at a family gathering, or at any number of venues in your area. What makes cornhole so popular is the fact that almost anyone can play. Cornhole is a game in which players or teams take turns throwing fabric beanbags at a raised, angled board with a hole in its far end. The boards are 27 feet apart from front to front. The goal of the game is to score points by either landing a bag on the board (one point) or putting a bag through the hole (three points). Sounds simple enough but it takes skill and teamwork to win. The reason cornhole has been selected to be a part of The Spectacular Juneteenth Cultural Celebration is the ease of play, and the fact that it can bring all kinds of people together to have a great time together.

ALL AGES EVENT AND IS OPEN TO THE PUBLIC SO COME OUT AT LET'S GROW THE GAME



GET TO KNOW THE GAME OF CORNHOLE

THIS EVENT WILL BE GEARED TOWARDS PEOPLE THAT WANT TO LEARN THE GAME OR THOSE THAT ARE ON THE FENCE ABOUT POSSIBLY PLAYING COMPETITIVLY.

JUNE 17TH 1PM – 8PM

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FATHERS DAY TOURNAMENT

JUNE 18TH

BAGS FLY AT 9:30AM

ARMORY FIELD

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Salisbury Steak (Thursday)

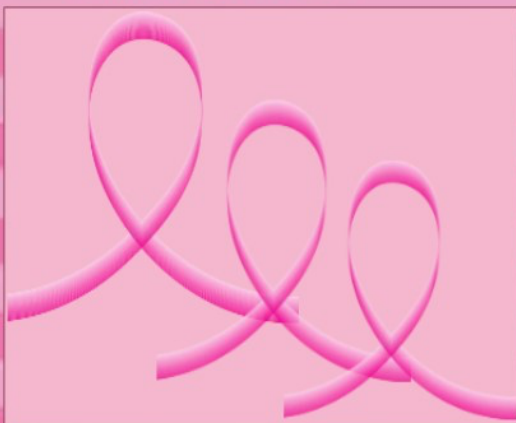
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SPEAK

If you know you've got talent
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To bring out the talent in the
community and showcase it.

Saturday, Barrett's Landing

Sunday College Dr. Park

Monday June 19th Barrett's Landing
for the grand cash prize.

You must compete Saturday and Sunday to win cash prize on Monday Juneteenth

Your Host M.C.s

The Juneteenth Cultural Celebration is fortunate to call on several professional host. Returning to Franklin from hosting the 2017 Original old school D.J. Awards Presentation where he did a fine job so he was asked to return to grace us with his unique experience hosting and playing Motown/ Beach Music is Captain 85. Capt. 85 is also a seasoned veteran radio broadcaster with his own internet radio program WVDM. Then I will once again step up to the mike to help co-host this three-day spectacular event bringing my decades of experience as both a club and radio Disc Jockey, enough about me.

I saved the best for last. The most beautiful talented female host to ever grace the city of Franklin. Miss Tamar Smithers is a professional actress, vocalist, arts leader, and educator. She is an avid arts advocate with over fifteen years of experience in the not-for-profit sector with a special focus on museums, higher education, and cultural institutions. As Executive Director for The Virginia African American Cultural Center (VAACC), she is responsible for overseeing the administration, fundraising, programming development and implementation, and overall strategic plan of the organization. In this role, she is dedicated to community relationship building and audience development/engagement.

Prior to joining the VAACC, Tamar served as the founding Senior Director of Education for the National Museum of African American Music (NMAAM) in Nashville, TN where she was instrumental in creating culturally specific programs and curricula for students of all ages. Tamar has served as Secretary for the Eastern Great Lakes chapter of the National Guild for Community Arts Education, and currently serves on the Association of African American Museums (AAAM) Membership Committee. She is a proud member of Alpha Kappa Alpha Sorority, Inc., and a member of Lambda Kappa Mu Sorority, Inc., a business and professional organization.

Tamar holds a BFA in Acting from Syracuse University, a M.S. in Arts Administration and a C.A.S. in Higher Education Leadership from Le Moyne College. She is also a current EMBA Candidate in the Kellogg School of Management at Northwestern University. A community minded person with a true passion for mentoring and being a positive role model for our youth, Tamar encourages young people to believe that no matter what their circumstances may be, if they continue to pursue their dreams, anything is possible!



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JUNETEENTH

Celebrate Freedom

JUNE 19th

Juneteenth Cultural Celebration

Red Toast

Join us on Monday
June 19th
7:30pm-8:30pm

Barrett's Landing Park
100 Barrett Street
Franklin VA 23851



Red, in many West African cultures, is a symbol of strength, spirituality, life and death.

Also in remembrance of the blood shed by our enslaved ancestors.

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Affordable Small Business Solutions LLC
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EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

1617 DORCHESTER ST

FRANKLIN, VA

757-562-9999

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JUSTICE WITH COMPASSION
JIMMY ELLENSON

NOV 7TH
VOTE FOR
CHANGE

ELECT
JAMES ELLENSON
COMMONWEALTH ATTORNEY
SOUTHAMPTON COUNTY

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Paid & Authorized by James Ellenson for Commonwealth Attorney