

The Official 2nd Annual
**JUNETEENTH CULTURAL
CELEBRATION**

The
SPECTACULAR



June 14th, 15th, and 16th 2024
Franklin VA

Hosted by Amun Ra Inc.
Amunra.org

OFFICIAL SOUVENIR BOOKLET

Organizers Two Cents



On behalf of Amun Ra Inc. I would like to thank those who gave of their time and energy to bring about the second annual Juneteenth Cultural Celebration “Ain’t No Stoppin Us Now”. 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 all our sponsors large and small 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 & the County, and when we are successful, the entire Hampton Roads region. Together we can do great things for both our citizens and our state. However, I would like to acknowledge all that goes into putting on four days of an event. This event could not have taken place without the many supporters and volunteers that joined in my vision for the Spectacular Juneteenth Cultural Celebration, in the birth county of four of America’s prominent slaves. As with our first year, this year presented its own list of challenges and obstacles both large and small that we had to navigate to bring us here today. Your presence is evidence that we made it, personifying this year’s theme, “Ain’t no stopping us now”. The theme comes from those challenges and the title of a song by McFadden & Whitehead. The lyrics include, “I know you know someone that has a negative vibe, and if you’re trying to make it they only push you aside. They really don’t have nowhere to go, ask them where their goin, they don’t know. We won’t let nothing hold us back, we gonna get ourselves together, we’re polishing up our act. If you’ve ever been held down before, I know you refuse to be held down anymore. Don’t you let nothing, nothing stand in your way, I want y’all to listen, listen, to every word I say, every word I say!!! Ain’t no stopping us now, we’re on the move. ” 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 to General Mike Pain of the National Black Panther Party for loving your people, all power to all the people, brother. 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 heroes and a fighter for emancipation, Nat Turner, born here and executed here for what all Americans demand, freedom and emancipation.

Happy Juneteenth!!!!

Councilman and brother
Gregory McLemore
President / CEO Amun Ra Inc.

REFLECTIONS FROM THE 1ST ANNUAL JUNETEENTH Cultural Celebration 2023, were you here??

A PICTURES WORTH 1000 WORDS



One of the City's by-products of the 1st Annual Juneteenth Cultural Celebration was the mural given to The City of Franklin by the Virginia African American Cultural Center. Amiia Ross-Hammond President.





What is The Spectacular Juneteenth Cultural Celebration?

Ain't No Stoppin Us Now

Juneteenth celebrates the unique culture of African Americans and all Americans that can embrace emancipation of people enslaved for 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 the arts, including literary, music, fashion, and sports. Juneteenth is not just an African American holiday, it's an American holiday. Celebrating culture, unity, conquest over evil and national pride. Juneteenth is a cultural celebration for all.

The Spectacular Juneteenth Cultural Celebration was crafted by Councilman Gregory McLemore for the City of Franklin, as a part of a five-year plan to create a national tourist destination event in the County. Which played such a significant role in both slavery and the emancipation from slavery that Juneteenth celebrates. The Juneteenth Cultural Celebration is a multi-day event held in June, on or around the weekend of June 19th which is the official holiday for Juneteenth. This year marks the second year of the celebration. By design, it is created to be larger, grander, and longer than any other Juneteenth celebration in Virginia. Pursuing our goal to create a national tourist destination in Franklin/Southampton County dedicated to capitalizing on our rich emancipation history.

The theme for our second annual Juneteenth Cultural Celebration is "Ain't No Stoppin Us Now" for those who would hold us back. In celebrating our Juneteenth Cultural Celebration, we want to present a different narrative for one of Southampton's own, Nat Turner. For over a century, the deeds of Nat Turner who is known worldwide, has been cast in an extremely negative light. When in reality to the population of millions of enslaved people and abolitionist, he was seen as a freedom fighter and hero. Ain't no stopping the truth, or the 2nd Annual Spectacular Juneteenth Cultural Celebration.



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Line-up of events for The 2nd Annual Spectacular *Juneteenth* Cultural *Celebration* Ain't No Stoppin Us Now

The Spectacular *Juneteenth* Cultural *Celebration* is not a token one-day event. Our celebration is a cultural celebration built around pride, respect, history, tradition, reflection, entertainment and most of all, enjoyment and fun for the whole family. The event is always free to the public celebrating our historic location. Whether you're here for one day, two days, or all three days, I hope we can enjoy the experience together of the 2nd Annual

Spectacular *Juneteenth* Cultural *Celebration* 2024

Wreath laying Ceremony	Bon Secours Hospital
Vendors Bonanza	Barrett's Landing
Nat Turner Story Tour	Barrett's Landing
6 live DJs	Barrett's Landing / College Dr. Park
Old Skool Grown Folks Party	Party Barrett's Landing
Live Local Bands	Barrett's Landing
Tribute Band	Barrett's Landing
Open Mike Contest	Barrett's Landing / College Dr. Park
2nd Annual Juneteenth Basketball Tournament	Barrett's Landing / College Dr. Park
Line Dance Competition / Marathon	Marathon Barrett's Landing
Father's Day Tribute	College Dr. Park
African Drummers & Dancers	Barrett's Landing
Family Cookout	College Dr. Park
Cornhole Tournament	College Dr. Park
Bouncy House	College Dr. Park
Black History / Juneteenth Reflections	Barrett's Landing / College Dr. Park
Gospel Music	College Dr. Park
Red Toast	Barrett's Landing



JUNETEENTH

Schedule

June 14-16, 2024



Jun 14	6:30 PM	Wreath Laying Ceremony	Barrett's Landing Park
Jun 14	7:00 PM	Grown Folk Old Skool Party	Barrett's Landing Park
Jun 14	7:30 PM	Vendor Welcome/Sponsor Recognition	Barrett's Landing Park
Jun 14	7:40 PM	Black History Reflections	Barrett's Landing Park
Jun 14	8:00 PM	Open Mic	Barrett's Landing Park
Jun 14	8:30 PM	Line Dance w/Sheena	Barrett's Landing Park
Jun 14	9:30 PM	Grown Folk Old Skool Party	Barrett's Landing Park
Jun 15	1:00 PM	DJ Music & Vendor Bonanza	Barrett's Landing /College Dr Park
Jun 15	3:00 PM	Nat Turner Story Tour	Barrett's Landing /College Dr Park
Jun 15	4:00 PM	Basketball Tournament Playoff	College Dr Park
Jun 15	6:00 PM	Black History Reflections	Barrett's Landing /College Dr Park
Jun 15	7:00 PM	Line Dancing w/Sheena	Barrett's Landing /College Dr Park
Jun 15	8:00 PM	Chester B's Tribute Show	Barrett's Landing /College Dr Park
Jun 15	10:00 PM	DL Old Skool Music	Barrett's Landing /College Dr Park
Jun 16	3:00 PM	Bounce House/Waterslide	College Dr Park
Jun 16	3:00 PM	Gospel Music	Barrett's Landing Park
Jun 16	4:00 PM	Family Cookout	College Dr Park
Jun 16	4:00 PM	Black History Reflections	Barrett's Landing /College Dr Park
Jun 16	4:30 PM	Father's Day Tribute	Barrett's Landing /College Dr Park
Jun 16	5:00 PM	Basketball Tournament Finals	College Dr Park
Jun 16	5:00 PM	African Drummers & Dancers	Barrett's Landing Park
Jun 16	6:00 PM	Final Open Mic	Barrett's Landing Park
Jun 16	7:00 PM	Live DJ	College Dr Park
Jun 16	7:00 PM	Frankie Beverly Tribute	College Dr Park
Jun 16	9:00 PM	Red Toast/Close	Barrett's Landing Park

The Spectacular Juneteenth Cultural Celebration is a 3-Day event for diversity & Inclusion.

Join us for live music, performances, local artist, marketplace, activities for kids, food vendors & more.

It's a family friendly celebration of contemporary African American culture and the birth place of Nat Turner, Dredd Scott, Anthony Gardner, & John Brown.

All events at the Parks are FREE & open to the public with exceptions of Thw Nat Turner Story Tour, which will leave from Barretts Landing.



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The Spectacular Juneteenth Cultural Celebration 2024

Presents Our

Father's Day Tribute

The nuclear family is the foundation for any civilized nation. The African American families have been devastated by the loss of fathers in the home., some with cause and others without. Still, there are millions of African American fathers who have managed to endure the hardships and joys of being a father. Today, June 16th is set aside to recognize, honor, and pay tribute to all fathers.

There would be no life without God. There would be no mighty oak tree without an acorn. There would be no fruit without a seed. There would be no me without you. So today, if no other day, I salute you for being the seed that created my life carried by my beloved mother. I can't speak for anyone else, but you have played a role in my life that exclusively belongs to you. I thank you for all you have given me to help make me into the person I am today.

Hopefully, a person that makes this world a better place. From your DNA to the lectures or lack thereof. From my eyes, nose, ears, temper, or whatever mom knows I got from you, it is part of what makes me, and there is evidence that you made a mark on life on this planet, and you deserve to be recognized and remembered on this day and every day. I can't brag about how great you have been but thank God, I can. On this Father's Day, I pay tribute to you and all fathers across the world with a heartfelt

Happy Father's Day

*Celebrating The Spectacular Juneteenth
Cultural Celebration*

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JUNETEENTH

FREEDOM DAY

The Spectacular
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Kick off with a

Wreath



Laying Ceremony

HONORING OUR DECEASED ENSLAVED ANCESTORS

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

June 14th

6:30pm-7pm



Wreath donated by: Williams Florist

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, Marcellus Mobley and the other blood descendants of the great Nat Turner.



Marcellus Mobley a direct descendant of Nat Turner 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 Marcellus'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.

Spectacular Juneteenth Cultural Celebration

Black History Reflections

Black History Reflections is just another part of the Spectacular Juneteenth cultural celebration that is about reflecting pride in the historical contributions and struggles made by African Americans that we tend to forget as we move on with our lives. A time in the celebration to pay respect and educate one another facts that have been buried with our ancestors. Black History is not a month it is the history of not only the United States but of the world. From the oldest human fossils found in Africa to the baby that was born today. Black History is to never ever be buried or extinguished again so let's reflect on history!!!



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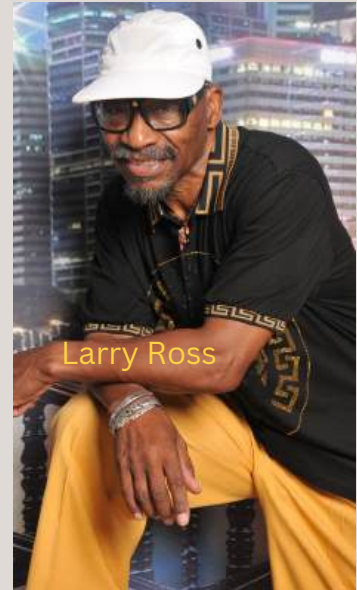
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The 2nd Annual Spectacular Juneteenth Cultural Celebration

Presents

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Friday, Saturday, & Sunday

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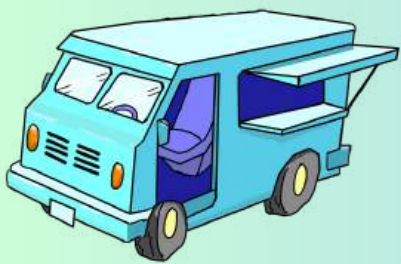
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H1-10



KAPLAN **Paul**



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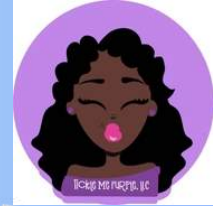
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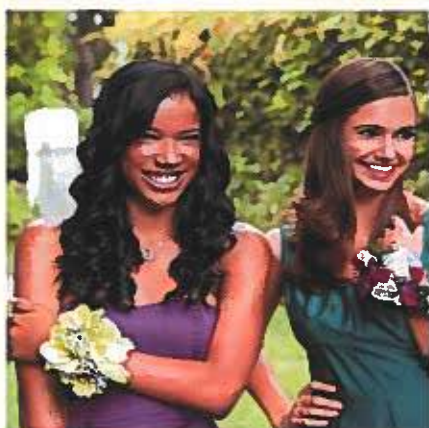
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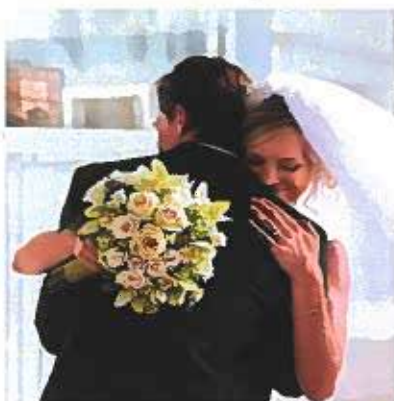
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Southampton County Sheriff's

Office Official Website

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Josh Wyche





Virginia African American Cultural Center

Congratulations to Amin Ra Inc and the City of Franklin VA on their 2024 Juneteenth Cultural Celebration

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

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Juneteenth,

A Celebration of Freedom!



Vote for

Paul Kaplan

For Mayor

City of Franklin

**I would love your Vote
November 5, 2024**

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**Congratulations on your 2nd Annual
Spectacular Juneteenth Cultural
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JUNETEENTH

Celebrate Freedom

June 14th-June 16th



The Spectacular
Juneteenth Cultural Celebration

Red Toast

Join us on Sunday
June 16th
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.



My Gratitude

My humblest gratitude to Amun Ra and all those who went out of their way and gave of their time, commitment and ideas. There are always going to be some that really helped me make this years Spectacular Juneteenth Cultural Celebration 2024 become reality, despite all the haters. Gratitude gives birth to love and forgiveness and to those haters who failed to see the vision for the 2nd annual Juneteenth Cultural Celebration and failed to support our cause and effort, I love and forgive you anyway. Now, there are the STARS that deserve special loving recognition. First, there is my board of directors of Amun Ra Inc. who inspired me to drive on even though the obstacles were many. Each contributed to my inspiration from traveling across country to be with us. Reminding me of the story of Gideon from the bible and how God's grace is sufficient. To my rock, mentor, and greatest supporter Mr. Micheal Smith Sr. who for the second year in a row has done more than any other single board member exemplifying how to support our community and people, thanks' Mike. A very special thanks to our former Senator and current Virginia Senate Pro Tem Senator Louise Lucas for her contribution, Ms. Chaquita Kindred, Ms. Telease Nixon my rocks, Miss Kurtishia Wilson, Mrs. Sammara Green, Franklin Recreation Dept., Mr. Reginald Dillard, Mr. George Perry, Miss Sheena Graham, Mr. Ricky & Shiona Sykes, Ms. Rita Walden, Mr. Tim Grant, Ms. Shelly Wood, Mr. Marcellus Mobley, Mr. Ray Patel, General Mike Pain, Mr. Persons, Miss Pam Lee and all our vendors, sponsors especially Franklin Walmart Supercenter . The problem with thanking people is you're sure to forget someone. Well, if I didn't include you, please charge it to my memory or old age and not my heart, thank you.

My sincerest gratitude goes to God.

Be grateful and Thank God in all things

Have an Attitude of Gratitude

**Congratulations to
Amun Ra**

on your

**2nd Annual Juneteenth
Cultural Celebration**

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