

Plan your Juneteenth weekend in Savannah

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Savannah Morning News
USA TODAY NETWORK

On June 19, 1865, enslaved African Americans in Galveston, Texas, were the last to learn about Emancipation but the first to celebrate what is known as Juneteenth. Since it became an official federal holiday in 2021, more and more communities have begun to organize to celebrate the day filled with pride and heritage for many Black Americans. Here are some events that you can attend to celebrate:

Savannah Juneteenth Fine Arts Festival

The Savannah Juneteenth Fine Arts Festival is a cultural movement rooted in freedom, education, and preserving the meaning of Juneteenth within the community, according to their website. The festival started five years ago as a way for its founder, Patricia Ferry to learn more about Savannah's history and understand the significance of Juneteenth. Now, it's transformed into one of Savannah's seasonal celebrations, with multiple events, programming and even scholarships.

Freedom Passed Down: Protecting Our Legacy Through Heirs Property - 2026 Lunch & Learn

11:30 a.m., Tuesday, June 10

As part of the Savannah Juneteenth Fine Arts Festival, its first program is this lunch and learn event, that is meant to provide an understanding of heirs' property, family land ownership, wills, probate, protecting homes and land, and preserving Black Family Legacy. Sessions are free and open to the public

Registration: https://docs.google.com/forms/d/e/1FAIpQLSdDvi9TPyI7p_7P5TQ926PO4hmxFtPEZo_FTqS4VQpPmkaQg/formResponse

Jubilee Impact: Black Voices Shaping The Future - 2026 Lunch & Learn

11:30 a.m., Thursday, June 18

The second lunch and learn for the Juneteenth Fine Arts Festival, this even is focused on voting, advocacy, policy, youth leadership, community organization and the continued work of freedom movements within Black communities.

Registration: <https://docs.google.com/forms/d/e/1FAIpQLSfgH3T8neHV3mhvAwMIWaOa9ufNqxZaEC9BS7dyW8QdkNpJMA/viewform>

Jubilee Fireworks Show

5 p.m., Friday, June 19, Daffin Park

The Jubilee Fireworks show, apart of the Savannah Juneteenth Fine Arts Festival, is more than just a firework show, its a living expression of Jubilee, where legacy is honored, freedom is affirmed and the night sky shines as a symbol of renewal, hope and shared joy, according to their website. Each year, TG Live fills the night air with high energy music, and this year, the event will feature a battle of the bands where rising talent can compete for a cash prize. Food and vendors will also be available there.

Jubilee Pour of Liberation

4 p.m. to 7 p.m., June 20

This ticketed event, the last event of the Savannah Juneteenth Fine Arts Festival, and signature experience of the Savannah Juneteenth Festival, features an experience celebrating Black excellence through food, wine and craft beverages. This event is for guests 25 years and older, bringing together chefs, live cooking demonstrations, select wines and spirits and live band entertainment. After the tastings, the evening continues on the lawn with music, fellowship, and sunset views over the marsh.

Registration: <https://www.eventbrite.com/e/jubilee-pour-of-liberation->



Hundreds of Savannahians gathered in Wells Park for the second Juneteenth Walk to the River in Savannah, where people walked down Martin Luther King Jr. Boulevard to Plant Riverside to commemorate the holiday on June 19, 2025.

EVAN LASSETER / SAVANNAH MORNING NEWS

[savannah-juneteenth-fine-arts-festival-tickets-1985515501313?aff=oddt-dt-creator](https://www.cityofsavannah.com/cityofsavannah/posts/join-major-van-r-johnson-ii-for-the-3rd-annual-walk-to-the-river-as-we-com-memora/1313548287621149/)

Other events:

Savannah

Telfair Museum's Juneteenth Family Free Day

10 a.m. to 5 p.m., Saturday, June 13, Telfair Academy and Owens-Thomas House & Slave Quarters

Telfair's observance of Juneteenth is in its 18th year, marking the day with a slew of activities, storytelling and performances celebrating freedom and African American culture. Included in the days events is a libation ceremony by Dr. Jamal Toure, who will once again channel the African Spirit on the Jepson Center

Admission is free to the Jepson Center for residents of Chatham, Bryan, Effingham, Liberty, Jasper and Beaufort counties.

Information: <https://www.telfair.org/event/juneteenth-free-family-day-2026/>

The Day of Jubilee: Echoes of Freedom

6 p.m., Thursday, June 18, District Live

This free event honors the spirit of Juneteenth, and the long journey from bondage to liberation. It features stories and songs of faith, fortitude and freedom, led by Master Storyteller Lillian Grant-Baptiste.

More information: <https://www.plantriverside.com/event/the-day-of-jubilee-echoes-of-freedom/>

Juneteenth Walk to the River

8:30 a.m., Friday, June 19, Wells Park

This annual walk from Wells Park to Plant Riverside celebrates freedom, remembrance and resilience.

Information: <https://www.facebook.com/cityofsavannah/posts/join-major-van-r-johnson-ii-for-the-3rd-annual-walk-to-the-river-as-we-com-memora/1313548287621149/>

Juneteenth Freedom Day

2 p.m., Friday, June 19, Second African Baptist Church

This event is a partnership between the Savannah Yamacraw Branch of Association for the Study of African American Life and History and The Learning Center. The church was a gathering place where Union officials met with Black ministers and other African Americans during the closing months of the Civil War. The event is free, while the tours after the program will be \$15. Registration is required by June 10.

Information: <https://reg129.imperisoft.com/SeniorCitizens/ProgramDetail/3539313038/Registration.aspx>

Juneteenth Savannah Festival

10 a.m. to 6 p.m., Saturday, June 20, Wells Park

This event honors Juneteenth will live entertainment, vendors, food and music. Celebrate freedom at Savannah's Juneteenth Festival in Wells Park.

Tybee Island

Tybee MLK Juneteenth Weekend Festival and Wade In

June 19 to June 21, Tybee Island Pier & Pavillion

Tybee MLK's sixth annual celebration of Juneteenth is a three-day recog-

inition of freedom and unity. Starting with a festival with DJ's and vendors on the Tybee Island pavillion on June 19 until June 21. Commemorate Juneteenth with the annual wade-in on June 19 at South Beach on the 16th Street Pier. The wade-in will be at 9 a.m.

Information: <https://www.tybeelands.com/event/juneteenth-weekend-festival/2026-06-21/>

Port Wentworth

Port Wentworth Juneteenth Celebration

5:30 p.m., June 19, Behind City Hall

This event is free and open to the public and will feature a fun-filled evening for the whole family. Emceed by Pat Gunn, this event will feature entertainment, education, food trucks, vendors and historical storytelling. Performances include The Mary Davis Experience, Kimberly Gunn, Kwanzaa 365, and Dadd's Productions' Corporate band with Tameka.

Information: <https://portwentworthga.gov/mediareleases-city-of-port-wentworth-announces-fourth-annual-juneteenth-celebration-june-19-2026/>

Pooler

Pooler's Juneteenth Festival & Run

Run: 7 a.m., June 19, Pooler Stadium

Festival: 1 p.m., June 20, Tanger Outlets

Pooler's fifth annual free Juneteenth festival returns, alongside its annual run on June 19 and 20, at the Pooler Stadium and Tanger Outlets.

Information: <https://poolerjuneteenth.org>

Obituaries

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savannahnow.com/obituaries



TODAY'S DEATH NOTICES

Name	Age Town, State	Passed	Arrangements	Service Time	Service Location	Interment
Akins, Mr. Ronie B.	92 Savannah	Jun 07	Sylvania Funeral Home of Savannah, Inc	--	-	-

*Additional information in display obituaries
Obituaries appear in print and online at savannahnow.com/obituaries