



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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Lee County Black History Society's Juneteenth Celebration

Fort Myers, FL (May 8, 2009) – The Lee County Black History Society is having a Juneteenth Celebration event on Saturday, June 13, 2009. The day-long celebration entitled “*Our Time, Our Community*”, will begin with a breakfast from 9:00am to 11:00am at the historical Sidney and Berne Davis Art Center located at 2301 First Street, Fort Myers, FL. Rev. Isadore Edwards, Jr., the foremost leader of the Civil Rights Movement in Fort Myers will be our keynote speaker. You will also be given the opportunity to witness the unveiling of our newest exhibit entitled “*The Untold Story--From Segregation to Integration in Lee County*”.

Immediately following breakfast, an afternoon of Family Fun will begin at the Roberto Clemente Park, located at 1936 Henderson Ave., Fort Myers, FL. Activities in the park will begin at 11:00am and end at 4:00pm. Highlighting the afternoon festivities will be the grand re-opening of the *Williams Academy Black History Museum* at 1:30pm. This is a must see and historic event!!

The building known as the 1942 Addition to the Williams Academy is the remnant of the 1942 addition to the original 1913 Williams Academy structure. Williams Academy was the first government-funded school for African-American students in Fort Myers. The school was built during the school year of 1912-13. It was named for J. S. Williams, the Superintendent of colored schools in Fort Myers. Students attending the school came from all the surrounding counties.



An invitation is extended to all support of our efforts to preserve the rich legacy and history of a people who begin their life in America as SLAVES. Proceeds from this event will benefit all facets of the Lee County Black History Society. Funds will be allocated to a summer youth program, community outreach initiatives and the enhancement of museum exhibits.

Tickets are \$35 and may be purchased by calling (239) 332-8778. Admission to the exhibit and a one year Society membership are included in the price.

The mission of the Lee County Black History Society is to preserve and commemorate cultural and educational contributions made by both locally and nationally known Black people. The Society strives to promote positive thought about Black people in the minds of citizens in Lee County and surrounding areas, and stimulate their desire to continue to preserve an important segment of America's history.

Additional information is available at our website www.leecountyblackhistory.com or by calling (239) 332-8778.

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