

Volusia Remembers Coalition

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Greetings:

The Volusia Remembers Steering Committee sends summer greetings to all. We sincerely hope that you, your family, and your friends have remained healthy and happy throughout these past few months.

Stay Blessed...Stay Safe

SAVE THE DATES

The planning for the Lee Bailey lynching Ceremony is well under way. We will be honoring the life and humanity of Lee Bailey. One hundred years ago on September 26, 1891, Mr. Bailey was lynched near the old jail in downtown Deland.

Friday, September 24, 2021

Hard Conversation

Location: TBD

Time: TBD

Saturday, September 25, 2021

Soil Collection

Location: Rich Ave., between Florida and Clara Avenue

Time: TBD (Morning)

Silent Walk or Drive (Four blocks down Clara Avenue)



Mission

To remember, acknowledge and reflect upon our history of racial terror by partnering with the **Equal Justice Initiative** to install monuments to victims of lynching in Volusia County, Florida.

GOALS

Honor: Remember lynching and celebrate civil rights victories.

Educate: Explore our divide past and chart a united future.

Reconcile: Cultivate healing

The lynching of African Americans was a widely supported campaign to enforce racial subordination and segregation during the period between Reconstruction and World War II. "Lynching in America," a report by the Equal Justice Initiative, documents more than 4400 racial terror lynchings in the United States during this period. More recently, EJI has documented more than 6000 racial terror lynchings. These events did not occur solely "somewhere else." The EJI has identified and documented four cases of lynching in Volusia County, Florida.

Saturday, September 25, 2021

Lee Bailey Ceremony

Location: African American Museum of the Arts

"Thin Man" Watts Amphitheater

322/325 South Clara Avenue · DeLand, FL

Time: TBD

Join Us

We are planning a virtual coalition meeting, **Wednesday, August 18, 2021 at 6:00 p.m.** The zoom link will be forwarded soon. If you would like to help with planning the ceremony, developing a story about Mr. Lee Bailey or any Black lives in Volusia County during the 1890s, join us. If you are interested in publicizing or speaking about the reasons for honoring the victims of racial terror lynching in our county, or raising funds to support our mission, join us. Please contact any Steering Committee member for additional information.

Important News

At the **West Volusia Historical Society** monthly meeting, coalition members; Felicia Benzo, Jody Williams and Sidney Johnston, presented an overview of our work with EJI. All three were awesome. Historian Sidney Johnston spoke about his approach to researching these lynching events. Mr. Johnston's research has already been shared with EJI and is reflected in their latest draft of their presentation of Lee Bailey's life and violent death.

Stetson University's **Community Engagement** Office named VRC as a 2021 New Partner of the Year Awardee. This award recognizes a partnership with Stetson administrators, faculty, staff, and students. We're honored and eager to build our collaboration.

The **African American Museum of the Arts** in DeLand has a powerful display of story quilts from the **Hannibal Square Quilters** in Orlando. The exhibit will be on display until **October 8, 2021**. One of the quilts honors our collaboration with EJI in collecting soil at sites of document racial terror lynchings. (*We hope to use an image of it in our Lee Bailey program booklet.*) The Museum is open Wednesdays and Fridays from 10 until 4. **MASKS ARE REQUIRED.**

We eagerly await the arrival of the newly commissioned statue of Mary McLeod Bethune, which will be displayed in Daytona Beach at the News-Journal Center before heading to Statuary Hall in the US Congress. This fall, one of our Lee Snell Soil Collection Jars will be on display at the BCU

Steering Committee Members

Sharon Stafford, Co-Chair

Grady Ballenger, Co-Chair

Judy Thompson, Secretary / CIVITAS Liaison

Daisy Grimes, Soil Collection Chair

Felicia Benzo, Education Chair

Evan Keller, Public Relations / Publicity Chair

Tom Robertson, Finance

Reginald Williams, Finance

Rina Tovar Arroyo, Fundraising Chair

Sam Houston, Social Media Chair

Mary Allen, Community Historian

Rick Buckelew, Professional Historian

Andy Eisen, Professional Historian

Bobbi Baugh, Web Master

archives, alongside a display of Mrs. Bethune's letters calling for justice for him. BCU is also preparing a video on Mrs. Bethune that will highlight the story of Lee Snell.

We remind you to visit the EJI webpages. They continue to research and enrich the narrative of the history we all need to know. Like VRC, they are also urging us to examine how White supremacy, developed to support Black slavery, has led to forms of injustice and inequality even in our own time. Every American should understand the connections from slavery to Jim Crow and segregation and today's mass incarceration.

Volusia Remembers Coalition, our community and the County of Volusia has lost a dear friend and great supporter, Dr. Wayne Bailey. In one of his last emails, Dr. Bailey wrote of how much he valued the mission of VRC and how hopeful he was that our work would begin to address longstanding injustice. Dr. Bailey also served on the board of our 501c3 sheltering organization, CIVITAS. Let's continue to pray for the Bailey family.

Thank you all for your thoughts and prayers and for offering gifts of your energy, time, and resources to our mission.

Best Regards,

Sharon Stafford, Co-Chair

Grady Ballenger, Co-Chair