WeRISE NEWSLETTER

Juneteenth Freedom Trail Celebration

Multiple locations - Westerville

Instead of a singular Juneteenth event as we have hosted in years past, we have decided to partner with local businesses to host a weekend of fun events to celebrate Juneteenth. We are accepting sign-ups for our Poetry & Jazz event on Friday night. The sign-up form is here as a Google form. Sign-ups close Wednesday June 17th!

Below is a list of the events where we hope to see you:

Friday, June 19th

- 1pm-4pm: Kids literature talk, games, cotton candy, facepainting, & craft time with J.P. Mitchell @ Westerville Public Library
- 6pm-8pm: Poetry & Jazz @ Birdie Books (sign-up to participate!)

Saturday, June 20th

- 12pm-3pm: Family art & games @ The Family Room Coffee & Bake Shop

Join our Board

We have board member openings and would love to have our community members or volunteers consider joining our team. We specifically have an opening for Treasurer who is passionate about transforming our community through racial justice. If you have interest in joining our board in another capacity, we would also love to hear from you! If you have questions regarding becoming a board member, email us at **weriseforgw@gmail.com** or stop by our booth at Fourth Friday on June 26th between 5-9pm.

Westerville Queer Collective

Westerville Queer Collective (WQC) Website

Farmer's Market – Saturdays in June from 9am-12pm

Queer Quills – looking for a safe space to write and share? Visit The Family Room Café & Bake Shop on Saturday, June 20 from 1pm-3pm. Prompts and other supplies will be available.

Food Pantry – Donate to or use the food pantry organized by WQC located inside Java Central in Uptown Westerville.

Finding Support - Visit the WQC Resource Guide or call the Trevor Project hotline +18887346197 if you need help.

WeREAD

Otterbein Roush 204

Join the Sustainable Westerville monthly meeting on **Monday, June 22 at 6:30pm** for a facilitated session about *Calling In: How to Start Making Change with Those You'd Rather Cancel*. This in-person session, *From Reaction to Reflection: Calling in with Curiosity and Grace*, will give you the opportunity to talk through questions with the community that centers around Chapters 6 and 7.

Head over to the Sustainable Westerville booth at the Westerville Farmer's Market on June 13 or 20 to pick up a free copy of the book (while supplies last).

WeLEARN

Juneteenth

Juneteenth commemorates the day (June 19, 1865) that the last of the enslaved people, located in Galveston, Texas, were informed that slavery was abolished in America by a proclamation made two years prior. The people celebrated the news, and June 19th became known

by many names such as Jubilee Day, Emancipation Day, and Juneteenth.

While Texas recognized Juneteenth as a state holiday in 1980, the Unites States did not recognize Juneteenth as a federal holiday until 2021 largely due to the advocacy and hard work of BLM activists and individuals like Opal Lee.

WeRISE would like to highlight that while Juneteenth is a time of celebration, it is also a time for reflection about the work that still needs done about the current racial injustices happening in America in 2026.

Thought Question: How can you make an impact in your own community by educating yourself about what the Black community has and is enduring? And how will you put that into practice?

Please note a correction in the attribution for last month's Juneteenth section from the City of Westerville that was written by City Manager, Monica Dupee and not Christa Dickey as previously mentioned.

America250 Kickoff – Under-told Local History

Hanby Elementary

WeRISE will have a table at the America250 event that's being held on June 26 between 6pm-9pm. The America250 kickoff event will have music, crafts, games, and free ice cream for the first 750 guests. We encourage you to visit the booths that will be at the event to learn more about groups of oppressed people who have fought for the rights we have today.

There is an event on June 27 between 1pm-4pm at Hanby House to learn more about under-told local stories. The stories will be featured in a mural series, and you can meet with some of the artists at this event. Both events are free and open to the public!