

Juneteenth celebration used to tout health

Tammy D. McMahan
Sentinel-Voice

The Las Vegas Juneteenth Committee did something to celebrate the holiday that commemorates the end of slavery in America. On Saturday, June 19, they held a health fair at Nucleus Business Plaza on 500 West Owens.

The celebration started with a 5K Walk, followed by a health fair. There were medical examinations for breast and prostate cancer, diabetes, high blood pressure and certain other medical conditions prevalent in the black community.

Juneteenth's roots lie in Galveston, Texas where on June 19, 1865, Maj. Gen. Gordon Granger of the Union forces informed the citizens of Galveston that the Civil War was over and the slaves were free.

The news took more than two years after the Emancipation Proclamation became law to reach Texas.

"This is our Fourth of July — our Independence Day," said Billy T., a radio deejay for KCEP Power (88.1).

Gina Fountain, the director of corporate affairs for Nucleus Corporations and a member of the Juneteenth Committee, said, "Once I found out what Juneteenth was about, I thought there was no way I could go another year without actively being involved."

She said the holiday's purpose is to bring "us all together."

"We need to learn more about Juneteenth," Fountain said. "How are we supposed to go forward without knowing our history?"

Though awareness is slow-growing, she said the

community must make it a more significant event.

Larry Gammell, an official with Community Health Centers of Southern Nevada and event organizer, was pleased with the variety of medical screenings that were

available on sliding scale payment arrangements.

This is "nice for the community and the right thing to do," said Damell Ragland, who attended along with his two young sons.

Terry Johnson of the

Urban Chamber of Commerce said the celebration was a "good effort in providing young people with information on where we are and where we've been."

Paul Pradia, a Housing and Urban Development

representative, said HUD "had a responsibility to get information out and found out what the community needs."

Kyle, 5, exclaimed, "I like everything. (The) horses. Dino Jump and Za Za, the Clown."

Third birthday is a great success

John T. Stephens III
Sentinel-Voice

First Friday's of Las Vegas celebrated its third anniversary with a networking bonanza at the Emerald Springs Holiday Inn on 325 E. Flamingo.

"People who are new to Las Vegas have a hard time meeting new people," said Lisa Margerum, who is one of the founders for First Friday's, "People are looking for an outlet to meet others besides work".

First Friday's is a networking organization which meets the first Friday of each month at different locations.

Their mission is to bring people together socially so they can meet, greet, and possibly do business.

"Coming from Detroit, I was looking for young professional black people because I didn't know anybody here," said Alisha Bell, who with Lisa Margerum, and Dereck Hibbler founded the monthly social/business venue, "My philosophy is people who know each other do business with each other."

Over 100 people poured out to network and view the wares of local small businesses.

(See Friday's, Page 14)



Sentinel-Voice photo by Ramon Savoy

First Fridays co-founder Dereck Hibbler enjoys the festivities with member Tanya Flanagan.

MOTOWN CAFE LIVE

SUNDAY JAZZ ALIVE
featuring the smooth sounds of
CAL BENNETT

Presented by Bill "Cat" Lee and 97.1FM, the Point
Sunday, July 4th
10:30 p.m. • Doors open 10:00 p.m.
All tickets \$22.50 general admission

Friday, July 2nd
R&B comes alive with LAKESIDE
11:00 p.m.
Doors open 10:00 p.m.
All tickets \$22.50 general admission

Saturday, July 3rd
Dance the night away with the Motown Cafe DJ!
LADIES FREE. NO COVER UNTIL MIDNIGHT
Doors open 11:00 p.m.

Thursday, July 1st
DJ DANCING AND KARAOKE NIGHT
Dance and sing to Motown favorites, Top 40 and Disco!
Doors open 11:00 p.m.

Motown Cafe Las Vegas
New York New York Hotel Casino
3790 Las Vegas Boulevard South
For tickets, call the Motown Cafe at 702-740-6440.
Visa-MasterCard-American Express accepted.

The night comes alive at
Motown Cafe.

Concerts presented in association with
alan waxler group LLC
More than a destination management company.