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| A picture containing text, clipart  Description automatically generated  **CELEBRATE JUNETEENTH: SATURDAY JUNE 19TH, 2021** |
| **June 18, 2021** |
| **JUNETEENTH**  is the oldest nationally celebrated commemoration of the ending of slavery in the United States. On June 19, 1865, Major General Gordon Granger arrived in Galveston, TX and announced the end of the Civil War and the end of slavery.  Although the Emancipation Proclamation came two and half years earlier on January 1, 1863, many enslavers continued to hold enslaved people captive after the announcement, so Juneteenth became a symbolic date representing African American Freedom.    Today Juneteenth, commemorates African American freedom and emphasizes education and achievement. It is a day, a week, and in some areas a month marked with celebrations, guest speakers, and family gatherings. It is a time for reflection and rejoicing. It is a time for assessment, self-improvement and for planning the future. Its growing popularity signifies a level of maturity and dignity in America long overdue. In cities across the country, people of all races, nationalities and religions are joining hands to truthfully acknowledge a period in our history that shaped and continues to influence our society today.    On June 16th 2021, Congress passed a bill to make Juneteenth a federal holiday.  It is expected that President Joe Biden will sign the Juneteenth bill into law at the White House the afternoon of June 17th 2021, and he and Vice President Kamala Harris will deliver remarks about the historic legislation. Once President Biden signs the bill, Juneteenth will officially become the 12th federal holiday in the US, marking the first time a new federal holiday has been created since Martin Luther King Jr Day was first recognized in 1983.    The Juneteenth Flag represents a star of Texas bursting with new freedom throughout the land, over a new horizon. The Juneteenth Flag represents a new freedom, a new people, and a new star. The Juneteenth Flag is created with American red, white, and blue colors.  ***Juneteenth Celebrations Across the State***  **Bridgeport:** Juneteenth Festival 2021-Freedom Day 40 Logan Street, Bridgeport. Saturday June 19, 2021 at 12:00 p.m. to 6:00 p.m. hosted by DJ Tony Crush. A celebration with music, food, history, community, and fun. Price is $8.50-$12.75. Kids under 10 years old are free. DJ's and speakers entertain with history lessons and music to enjoy. Special guest speaker: Keven Mohammed.  **Hartford:** 2021 Juneteenth Celebration, Saturday, June 19, 2021 at 6:00 p.m. Join the Amistad Center for Art & Culture for their 30th Annual Juneteenth celebration hosted by Leslie Mayes, NBC CT. A spectacular night of music, song, art, and celebration with DJ's Ronn P and Dane. This is a virtual event. Visit the Amistad Center for Art & Culture website to register.  Connecticut Daybreak Season 7 Launch: Juneteenth Block Party, Saturday June 19, 2021 at 1:00 p.m. to 6:00 p.m. Russian Lady, 191 Ann Uccello Street, Hartford, Tickets are $20-$300. Live band, 5 DJ's, Hookah, Vendors and more! Early bird tickets will sell out quickly!  [City of Hartford Juneteenth Celebration](https://happeningnext.com/event/city-of-hartford-juneteenth-celebration-eid3a07t72qv2)- Trinity Street Hartford 3 p.m. to 5 p.m.  **West Hartford:** West Hartford Juneteenth CommUNITY Celebration:   * + Saturday, June 19th at the Old Center Cemetery for the Installment Ceremony of the Witness Stones Project. 12PM the fun begins with music, games, performances and more! The event begins with a community picnic held outside at West Hartford Town Hall.   + June 20th at 10:00AM, First Church of Christ Congregational   **New Britain:** Juneteenth Celebration, Walnut Hill Park, 184 W. Main Street, New Britain, Saturday June 19, 2021 at 11:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. The day will begin with a flag-raising and the Black National Anthem, to be performed by Aleecya Foreman. There will be drumming, dance, and poetry performances. There will also be local food vendors and activities for children and families. Community organizations and vendors will be present to share about their mission and how you can get involved in the community. Wearing your heritage and cultural clothing is encouraged. Limited space is available, so please register ahead of time. Registration is free. Masks must be worn. Hosted by the New Britain Museum of American Art  **New Haven:** Juneteenth Elm City Freddy Fixer Parade Clean-up Campaign. Saturday, June 19, 2021, 10:00 a.m. – until completion. ECFFPC Parade Route – Dixwell Avenue from Bassett Street to Lake Place.  Juneteenth Freedom Day, vicinity of New Haven Union Station, Saturday June 19, 2021 at 10:45 a.m. Five Boro Bike Club, New York's Friendliest Bike Club. Helmets required for all rides and electronic bikes are not allowed. RSVP and questions to [allan5bbc@gmail.com](mailto:allan5bbc@gmail.com)    International Festival of Arts & Ideas: [Juneteenth 2021 | International Festival of Arts and Ideas (artidea.org)](https://www.artidea.org/Juneteenth) |