

Carver High School historical marker unveiling ceremony slated for Saturday

The Texas Historical Commission has recognized Goose Creek CISD's George Washington Carver High School as a significant part of Texas history by awarding it a Texas Historical Marker.

The designation honors the former all-black high school (in operation from 1948-1967) as an important and educational part of local history.

The Baytown Carver High School Recognition & Preservation Society has planned a historical marker unveiling and dedication ceremony commemorating the

The event will take place on Saturday, April 30 at 1:30 p.m. in the Robert E. Lee High School Auditorium located at 1809 Market Street in Baytown.

The doors will open at noon to allow the general public time to view historic displays related to the school.

Carver alumnus will also have time to visit with each other before the start of the program.

Speakers for the afternoon will include Ray E. Whitlow Jr. (Lee College Chairman of Speech Communication, Language, & Teacher Education), Congressman Gene Green (29th District of Texas), Stephen H. DonCarlos (City of Baytown Mayor), Dr. Toby York (Goose Creek CISD Superintendent), John Britt (Lee College History Professor and Honors Program Coordinator, Gene Washington (former great G. W. Carver athlete) and Kysa Anderson-Daniels (author/motivational speaker and former CNN anchor who will be mistress of ceremony.

Other special guests include Chairman, Janet Wagner and Debra Blacklock-Sloan of the Harris County Historical Commission, Phyllis Earles (Prairie View A & M University Archivist), Robert Brown (Prairie View Interscholastic League Coaches Association Chairman), Tops Ladies of Distinction Inc., Black Educational Access Committee, Hispanic Educational Access Committee, Baytown Heritage Society, Baytown Historical Museum, Baytown Historical Preservation Association and the La Porte Bay Area Heritage Society.

Groups to perform during the ceremony include the combined jazz bands, marching bands and swing choirs of Robert E. Lee, Ross S. Sterling and Goose Creek Memorial High Schools, Ross S. Sterling High School R.O.T.C., groups from G. W. Carver Elementary School, St. Joseph Catholic School, Harlem Elementary School, the Buffalo Soldiers, Gospel Spiritual Light Choir, Mt. Calvary Baptist Church Choir and Spirit of Carver Chorale Choir.



George Washington Carver High School history

George Washington Carver High School was built on a six-acre plot donated by the Humble Oil and Refining Company in Oak addition.

Carver High School was built in the late forties and opened in the spring of 1948 for not only Baytown's Black students, but for students from surrounding communities. Carver High School remained an all-Black high school through 1967.

During this time, Carver High School had many wins in sport activities and produced an All-American, Eugene Washington. As the schools were integrated, former Carver students went to Robert E. Lee or Ross S. Sterling high schools instead.

Carver became an elementary school known as George Washington Carver Elementary the first year; the school then became Carver-Jones Elementary with the closure of Anson Jones Elementary. In 1988, the name was changed back to George W. Carver Elementary. This original school was closed after seeping hydrocarbons bubbled to the surface from an earthen fuel-oil reservoir filled by Humble Oil, which later became Exxon

A new Carver Elementary School, located on the former Horace Mann Junior School site, was built in

The Baytown Carver High School Recognition & Preservation Society and the Harris County Historical Commission welcome the public to share in and witness this exciting historical event honoring the outstanding accomplishments of this former elite high school.

"It is vital that we move forward, we do not forget our past... Not only will this Texas Historical Marker provide awareness in the Baytown community of the fascinating history of this outstanding former all black high school, this state marker will make sure that the Baytown George Washington Carver High School history will never be lost," said J. Warren Singleton.

The Baytown Carver High School Recognition & Preservation Society is extremely happy that ExxonMobil has offered to be the main sponsor of the indoor dedication and outdoor unveiling ceremonies. They are partnering with the Goose Creek CISD, City of Baytown, Harris County Historical Commission and the Baytown Carver High School Recognition & Preservation Society to make this an historical day for the GCCISD, Baytown African American communities and the City of Baytown. When this Texas historical marker is erected, this will be the first state historical maker erected in the City of Baytown representing African American heritage.

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