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Gadsden museum tells story of city's black history

by Jasmina Alston

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Gadsden native Chari Bostick stands in a room surrounded by the powerful stories of her city's black history.

"A sense of what it was to be black in this city," she said.

Pictures, memorabilia and books highlight just that.

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"They had actual jobs they went to everyday, they had families that still exist today , they were people, not just property," Bostick said.

These items inside the East Gadsden Community Center allow Bostick to show what Gadsden's black community has done and is doing.

Though at times, not by choice.

"We have the Southside community here that was moved as an eminent domain with the City of Gadsden and the Gadsden Housing Authority," Bostick said.

It was known as the Slum Clearance and sent hundreds of families out of their homes in the 1950's.

"When you think of a slum you would think houses that are dilapidated and falling apart when that was not the case for all the homes," Bostick said.

Her discovery of these stories started through her efforts to restore a black cemetery.

"It is history, but make sure that you tell an accurate history if you're going to tell it," she said.

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