



Hon. Andrew Holness, Prime Minister, Jamaica

Independence Message From Prime Minister

My fellow Jamaicans, as we celebrate our 57th year of independence, we have much to be thankful for:

- The lowest unemployment rate in our history at 7.8% and youth unemployment fell by 6 percent.
- The annual inflation rate is low and stable at 4.2% and the consumer price index is trending downwards.
- Our credit ratings are positive, and our foreign exchange reserves are at historically high levels.
- We have had record-breaking tourist arrivals for the last two years exceeding 4.3 million visitors with an 8.6% increase in earnings for the industry.
- The deposit interest rate is at 3.2%, which is a record low.
- Our Stock Market continues to

perform well, and the consumer and business confidence indices remain high. These are always good indicators of economic health.

Many positive things are happening in Jamaica right now. There is much to celebrate on our 57th birthday. There is no question that at long last Jamaicans can feel proud that we are using our political independence to secure our economic independence.

However, I want you to know that I am under no illusion that all is well. Notwithstanding the great performance of the government, there is no room for complacency; there is still much work to be done and pressing issues to be resolved.

Environmental issues are now of greater concern to all

Jamaicans. And they should be, in the face of more frequent and intense droughts, shifting rainfall patterns and more frequent and intense hurricanes. This government that I lead has taken more decisive actions in favor of our environment than any other government in our recent history.

- We aborted the Goat Island project.
- We rejected coal as an option for powering a bauxite operation in Jamaica.
- We have put in place an enterprise team to oversee the divestment and modernization of Jamaica's solid waste management system; which is at an advance stage.

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Sir Patrick Allen, Governor-General, Jamaica

Independence Message From Governor-General

My fellow Jamaicans, I greet you warmly as we celebrate the 57th Anniversary of our Independence. This is a time when we reflect and give thanks for: love, liberty, freedom, and nationhood.

The theme of our Independence celebrations this year, *"One Nation, One People"* encapsulates the message that in spite of our differences, we must be united in our mission to build a peaceful and prosperous nation.

The world around us is characterized by divisiveness, turmoil, and uncertainties. There are threats to the physical environment, growing intolerance of differences, related to ideology, ethnicity or culture. We are often disturbed and numbed by the fla-

grant disrespect for human life.

However, against these realities, we must remind ourselves that most Jamaicans represent the best of our wholesome traditions and values. Our citizens have benefited from a level of social responsibility without which our achievements would not have been possible. Our development and processes will, therefore, depend on how we build social cohesion and national unity.

Jamaica experienced varying fortunes during the past year. There was cautious optimism about the improvement in the economy, the increasing employment rate, and the construction of the impressive road network.

However, the inability to find a permanent solution to crime and vio-

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Independence Message From Ambassador



Audrey Marks, Ambassador of
Jamaica to the USA

The date, 6th August, holds a special place in the hearts of every Jamaican, regardless of color, creed or religious or political persuasion.

This date has become a part of our national subconsciousness—planted since infancy—as we were exposed to the enormous struggles and tremendous sacrifices made by our forefathers which spawned the birth of independent Jamaica in 1962.

The struggles for emancipation and ultimately independence, have contributed to our rich history and laid the foundation for the myriad

achievements and benefits that we currently enjoy and which have engendered strong feelings of national pride in our people, for more than five decades.

The commemoration of the 57th Anniversary of our country's independence, under the theme *"One Nation, One People"* is a poignant reminder of our diverse ancestry, constituting afro-descendants, Indians, Chinese, Lebanese, and Europeans; formulating a melting pot of cultures, ideas and behaviors which make us uniquely Jamaican.

This is a distinction for which we stand proud; cohesion amidst diversity.

This year's theme is also in keeping with our motto, *"Out of Many, One People"*, which is symbolic of the force behind our nation's *raison d'être*. Despite our differences, we have recorded much progress as a nation.

Our small country, although barely visible on the world map, continues to produce persons of high repute whose meaningful contributions transcend our 144 square miles to the world, in many areas including in the arts,

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West Indian Independence celebration in Bushnell Park, Hartford Photo: Mark Milward

2019 West Indian Independence Week Of Events

Mark D. Milward

The 2019 independence celebrations began Friday August 2 at the West Indian Social Club of Hartford, Inc., and continued up through August 10. The range of activities included a parade through Downtown Hartford, visits from

international artists and performers such as Romain Virgo, who thrilled the crowd on August 6 on Jamaica night at the WISC and a cameo appearance by Maxi Priest at the parade, along with a return of the reggae ambassadors Third World to the Greater Hartford

region.

Each year for the past 57 years the Hartford West Indian community has celebrated the independence of Jamaica on August 6, 1962 and Trinidad & Tobago August 31, 1962. The celebration of Caribbean

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at

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Prime Minister

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■ We instituted a ban on some plastic items.

■ We will shortly launch a deposit refund scheme for plastic bottles.

Early in my term I signed an order prohibiting clearing and slash and burn in watershed areas. We have undertaken several watershed rehabilitation projects, including Yallas/Hope Watershed.

Another area of grave concern is corruption. At the heart of the issue is that corruption deprives resources from the poor and distorts and denies prospects for prosperity.

An important part of the independence mission is to ensure that we build institutions that are transparent; meaning that they are open to scrutiny and accountable for their actions.

This administration has taken decisive steps to create a robust anti-corruption framework and build strong public institutions where corruption cannot flourish:

■ At the governance level we have developed and are about to implement a new system for the nomination, selection and appointment of board members of public bodies. This will ensure that only fit and proper persons with the best skills are allowed to guide our public bodies.

■ At the investigative level, we have just completed the legislative process to give MOCA its administrative and operational independence. The government is providing the resources to build out their capacity to thoroughly investigate and build strong cases for

prosecution. MOCA now has more than 300 cases either before the court or in advance stages.

■ This administration passed the Integrity Commission Act and established the Integrity Commission, which is now in the process of developing its new institutional structures.

■ We have passed the new campaign financing regulations, that gives effect to the law to ensure that our democracy is not captured by special interests and that corrupt interest do not have influence on government decisions.

The anti-corruption framework established is still in its early stages and will definitely require more time and resources to become more effective. However, it is working.

I am confident that with the anti-corruption framework we have created and the institutions we have built to implement it, Jamaica will see appreciable improvement, not only in the perception of corruption, but in the deterrence of corruption and the detection, investigation and prosecution of corrupt acts.

At 57 we are still a young nation. The future is looking bright. We have achieved much, but there is still much more to be done. Hardships there are but the land is green and sun shineth upon us as “One Nation, One People” under God, increasing in beauty, fellowship and prosperity!

Happy Independence Day

Jamaica!

Ambassador

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sciences, culture and sports.

Regarded to be among the best destinations in the Caribbean, and indeed the world, more than four million visitors take time each year to enjoy the spectacular beauty of our shores and the endearing warmth of our people.

The pulsating rhythm of our beloved reggae music which was recently designated by UNESCO as an intangible cultural heritage, continues to thrill the hearts of people across the globe, while our cuisine which has stimulated the palates of many, is widely recognized as among the best gastronomic delights internationally.

In recent years, based on the bi-partisan efforts of the current and previous Administrations, the Jamaican economy has achieved macroeconomic stability which has earned us the respect of multiple international financial institutions.

Unemployment has plummeted to its lowest levels in decades; the economy has been recording modest growth, coupled with an increase in consumer confidence, as we witness a period of unprecedented expansion.

Jamaica, the home of the best performing stock market for 2018, is also being positioned as a

prime destination for investment, booking more than \$500 million on local and foreign direct investment for the 2018/2019 period.

It is clear that there is no limit to what we can achieve when we work together as “one nation, one people.”

As the Prime Minister, the Most Honorable Andrew Holness, indicated at the recently concluded 8th Biennial Jamaica Diaspora Conference, we remain grateful for the “immense contribution that the Diaspora continues to make to national development.”

Your solid support over the years in education, health and other key sectors, has formed the bedrock of our nation’s development.

I am pleased that your distance from the island’s shores has not diminished your love and passion for our beloved homeland and you continue to share our common bond as “one nation, one people.”

I appeal to Jamaicans across the length and breadth of the United States, to continue to support the Government of Jamaica in its efforts to improve the welfare of all Jamaicans in our beloved homeland.

Happy Independence 2019!

Governor-General

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lence, the many road fatalities, and the spectre of human trafficking, have threatened to overshadow the gains we have made.

We, therefore, must renew our efforts to successfully overcome these challenges and maintain our vigilance in seeking success.

I urge all Jamaicans to return to the values we know well, such as: respect, honesty, integrity, and patriotism

So that our country can flourish, and celebrate many and more prosperous years of Independence. At this special time, I urge you to take pleasure in the freedom preserved in our Constitution, and God’s blessings

of freedom in thought and mind. Let us value and respect each other and our country. Let us pledge to give back to society and help those who are less fortunate than we are.

As we approach our fifty-eighth year as a nation, I encourage each one of us to reflect on the maturity of a country which is on the move and resolve to chart our destiny with faith and courage.

As “*Our Freedom Song*” says: “*We are proud Jamaicans And our past we can’t forget For we know the strength Which carried us through Lives deep within us yet.*”

God bless you, and God bless “*Jamaica, land we love.*”

Ending Students’ Low Test Scores

By Vivine Gray

As I read the results of the recent rounds of test scores on the SAT taken by Connecticut high school students, I am “sick to my stomach” to notice the troubling and consistent gaps in achievement between students of color when compared with white and Asian student classmates. When is enough actually enough?

The average math score of the typical high school junior in Connecticut was 501 out of 800 points on a test that measures college and career readiness.

A score of 530 is an indicator that students would score at least a “C” grade in the subject in college. At the same time although the overall score among students show a slight improvement, particularly in English and reading. As for math skill white students are three times more likely to be ready and prepared.

Sadly, among high school juniors, one-third did not reach the level to even consider taking college courses or even to start a career.

One out of every four students is in a chronic state and behind in reading and writing. To fill the gaps in students’ achievement critical strategies have to be implemented and ensure they are carried out.

This includes students’ daily attendance; following instruction; following a structured curriculum plan; ensuring students stay in school and are engaged; mastering the content; students practice taking tests and demonstrating their knowledge.

This demands ensuring that teachers are equipped with essential resources aimed at students’ success. After all, what can take the place of following a well-proven and demonstrated instruction and curriculum aimed at improving students’ mastery of a prescribed material.

This means that there ought not to be any weak links in the focus and the target, engaging students where they are, creativity in making instruction interesting and applicable to students’ experience, enabling them to excel.

That is why this summer school is pivotal for students particularly Hartford students where students’ test scores, including the SAT continually lag in improvement in a city where the poor are poorer.

By virtue of the various needs identified during the school year, at least four weeks of summer school should be dedicated to all Hartford students known as “catch up time,” aimed at strengthening and reinforcing academic skills in preparation for the new school year.

It also must encourage working with parents, their joining in summer enrichment fun activities, enabling better understanding of parents’ dreams for their kids; addressing chronic absenteeism and seeking how parents and teachers can work together.

That which needs to be done is to do that which former Hartford school Superintendent Anthony Amato did. He opened up Hartford schools during the summer and teachers and students were engaged with serious academic work. And it made a difference.

Now as it were, Hartford Public Schools are “on fire.” There is a consistent lag in students’ improvement.

At the same time, Hartford’s taxpayers are paying high amounts of taxes, the highest mill rate in the state at 74.23, teachers and educational leaders are getting “good” pay.

What are the accountability measures; how are the investments paying off? Are all students given the opportunities and under the right conditions that promote all students to excel, entering college or a career of their choice?

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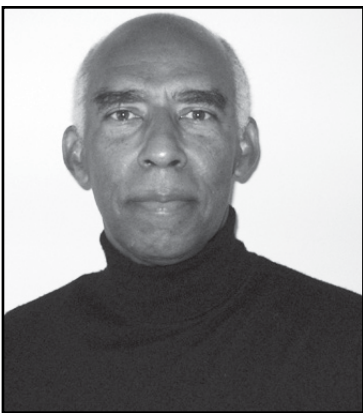
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Sticks And Stones Break Bones, Words Offend And Harm

Conceptually, communication theory attempts to explain how information is produced, how the information is transmitted, what methods are used to convey it, and how meaning is attached to it and even shared.

There is also information theory and it assumes that *noise* is the enemy of information. When these two theories are linked, noise reduces information-carrying capacity. There is also the axiom regarding what is the source of the information and the reason for the noise that influence what we actually hear. What I have stated here has to do with words.

There is no other device or medium that's available to *homo sapiens* other than words. Without words there is no imagination and without words there is no understanding. We live or die on words; we *know* because of words. It is with words that we



Jim Daniels

love; that we war; that we reconcile and that we hate.

Anyone who discounts word's impact is engaged in a duplicitous game. World War I started because of an *ultimatum* the Austro-Hungarian ambassador to Serbia delivered to the Serbian government demanding that they take steps to wipe out terrorist organizations within its

borders, among other demands, after the assignation of the Austrian Archduke Franz Ferdinand or face military action.

President Eisenhower sent the military into Little Rock, Arkansas to integrate the schools after Governor Orval Fabus ordered the state's national guard to prevent the integration of the schools. It was Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr., who said: "The ultimate measure of a man is not where he stands in moments of comfort and convenience, but where he stands at times of challenge and controversy."

One of the numerous challenges we have faced as a nation is that of being resolute in times of threat. President John F. Kennedy's words were evocative. "Let every nation know, whether it wishes us well or ill, that we shall pay any price, bear any burden, meet any hardship, support any friend,

oppose any foe, in order to assure the survival and the success of liberty." Robert Frost was President Kennedy's favorite poet and who can forget his words: "Two roads diverged in a wood, and I took the one less traveled by. And that has made all the difference."

The words of President Obama at his first inaugural in 2009 ring true today as we confront the challenge of what words mean. "Today I say to you that the challenges we face are real. They are serious and they are many. They will not be met easily or in a short span of time. But know this, America—they will be met."

It's now nearly three years since Donald Trump was sworn in as the 45th president of the USA. Let's look at his inaugural speech – the words spoken in 2017.

"We must protect our borders from the ravages of other countries making our products, stealing our companies and destroying our jobs. Protection will lead to great prosperity and strength. I will fight for you with every breath in my body, and I will never, ever let you down. America will start winning again, winning like never before. We will bring back our jobs We will bring back our wealth, and we will bring back our dreams. We will build new roads and highways and bridges and airports and tunnels, and railways, all across our wonderful nation. We will get our people

off of welfare and back to work, rebuilding our country with American hands and American labor."

Words intended to convey action by the spokesperson must bear some semblance to the individual's capacity or desire to reflect real attachment to their meaning. But if the actions preceding the pronouncement are mendacious, a character flaw is inherently exposed.

President Trump charted a deliberate course to use words to discredit an honorable man. A man with a sound and uncritical moral character and he used a reprehensible lie. "He is not an American." Words attached to a menacing purpose.

He made himself very small and very early displayed a willingness towards intemperateness and meanness. What has this nation riled up? Is it not the words that have achieved this ignoble objective?

Mr. Trump who believes in his own giftedness, the ability to make up and shuffle around the truth, displays persistent behavior unworthy of the highest position in the land. By presuming that he is, "the only one to fix" the problems, displays his lack of comprehension regarding what it means to be designated the protector of all.

Sticks and stones can break my and your bones, but words will offend and indeed harm me and harm us.

An Independence Message Love In The Midst Of Hate

By Edgar Johnson

As Greater Hartford Caribbean and the larger community celebrate the 57th West Indian Independence, we affirm with pride the journey and accomplishments of our leaders and people over the years.

There is no doubt that even though we immigrate to every part of the globe, people who have immigrated from across the Caribbean are a hard working and accomplished bunch, wherever they may have landed.

We can never forget the pull and push factors that brought us to these United States. Like all immigrants, we came seeking opportunities and with a willingness to work hard and provide for our children.

We risked our lives while performing some of the most dangerous menial jobs for little pay. Many had low skills; some could not read or write.

As immigrants, we all built and continue to build America, making it as it were, the shining city on a hill. Everyone was welcome—we were not hammered away to "go back to your country."

They were not caught up with mass shootings and gun violence, mass murderers preying upon innocent people; their kids were not placed in cages and underwent some of the most inhumane conditions.

Now immigrants are experience ongoing slaughter of the innocents; fear and worry going to houses of worship, malls, schools, and large gathering places.

But immigrants find strength by virtue of their Judeo Christian faith. They thrive on the value of "love for one another"—exercising civility and respect toward everyone.

There ought to be no venom of hate within them. Love ought to be the natural outflow of the hears—confronting the growing white supremacist, white racism, the culture of hate by going "high and not low."

But from our Judeo Christian beliefs, what is love? It is to answer this question Paul wrote

1 Corinthians 13. This chapter is the greatest that Paul ever wrote. Love is the blood of life. Without it we have wars and anarchy. The Greeks had several words for love. The word that was used rarely was *agape*. Among the Greeks, one loves that which is attractive and beautiful but in 1 Corinthian 13 we have the opposite. *Agape* is the new reality of love revealed in Jesus' ministry, God's activity in love.

Agape is thus in relationship to the cross. It is love for the utterly unworthy, a love which proceeds from a God who is love. It is a love lavished upon others without a thought of whether they are worthy to receive it or not. This love proceeds rather from the nature of the lover, than from any merit in the beloved.

The Christian who has experienced God's love for him while he or she was yet a sinner has been transformed by the experience. Now believers see humankind in a measure as God sees them. They see them as the objects of God's love, as those for whom Christ died. Accordingly, their attitude toward others is one love, of self-giving *agape*.

They now begin to practice the love and participate in God's activity, which seeks nothing for itself, but only the good of the loved one. It is this love, which Paul unfolds in 1 Corinthians 13.

In 1 Corinthians 13 Paul is not depicting the ideal hero. In fact, 1 Corinthians 13 is to be understood not merely as a chapter of ethics, but as a description of all God's activity.

The presupposition of this chapter is that one has received something in reality, Jesus Christ. He is the love, the force, which holds the Christian community together and builds it up.

Love is not inflated with its own importance. When we have true love, we become ourselves. We are full up with others. Love does not behave gracelessly. Love does not seek its own.

The problem we face is that we focus so much on ourselves. Love will not provoke—will never get into a fight. Love thinks no evil—love does not go around keeping a baseball score card, never an archeological base to dig up the neg-

atives of others' past—love forgets all—love bears all things—love is optimistic—love believes that it can gain victory over hatred and hostility. Love is the most abiding thing in all creation.

It is the nature and being of God Himself and it is an essential manifestation in human relations of what God is. Love is the presence of Christ Himself in the heart and the church.

Faith and hope are what humans exercise but love is the characteristic of the Divine—when we love we are becoming like God—there is nothing greater than love.

The Church of today is far removed from ancient Corinth, yet we cannot but feel that the searching light of the Apostle's teaching penetrating us. We have many problems. There are endless discussions as to the faults and needs of the church.

Today the need for revival is keenly felt, and there are many prayers for an exceptional outpouring of religious emotion and excitement, comparable to "speaking with tongues." Certainly, a Christianity that is sleepy and conventional is no Christianity at all.

But let us bear in mind that love is the sign of the abiding presence of God with His people. Here is a simple and at the same time an exacting test of the reality of our Christian life, in the individual and in the church and community.

Is there God-like love among us as we are crowded in an atmosphere of hate? No spiritual gift can take its place. By the test of love, and as we celebrate our 57th, let us continue to be the shining city on a hill. Let's exhibit the *agape* love.

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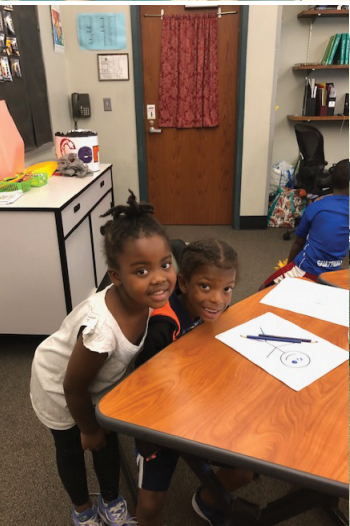
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The CURET 2019 Summer Program



Young students love when a grandmother visits/reads a happy story



Why Is Summer School Important?

Have you ever been to summer school and thought about how much influence it can be on you? I believe that summer school is important because of many benefits for students at all grade levels, Pre-K through grade 12.

In my view, younger students enjoy summer school much more than teenagers because they have more energy. Teens may not enjoy summer school due to their lack of energy and inactivity, the prone to sluggishness, lack of interest, and perhaps laziness. The negative side to



Indiana Stone
11th Grader and a Participant in CURET's Summer Program

the lack of involvement in summer school is real.

During the summer break many students who stay home without an adult monitoring them, they tend to get into unnecessary trouble. This happens because a parent or guardian is not present to supervise their teens' energy level and the choices they make.

On the positive side of things, there are many reasons why summer school is important for every student. One benefit is the energy and discipline that planned class time and other activities demand. It is a well-

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Teacher Ms. Grace Wright gets young students moving first thing in morning to the spirited tune, "I'm so Happy" I'm at summer school.



Lareyhanna Davis, 10th grader, in a Show & Tell session, demonstrating the beautiful flowers she learned to make from tissue in the CURET's Arts & Crafts Class this summer.



Student Jershaney Thompson (MJ) developing and implementing leadership skills



Summer School Arts & Crafts. Ms. Dorett Jarrett-Irving in CURET's Summer School Program, teaches student a new skill and draws out creative talents.



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Why Summer School?

Continued from Page 4
known fact that students love to play outside and inside with toys, and playing involves energy. The question is: what's the quality of the energy that is devoted to play.
Educational engagements can be fun and at the same time allows students to learn many things related to what they do in school. A well-



Abbey's artwork of herself



Zavier touches a rabbit at Auer Farm

planned summer school program is important because it helps with revision of what students learned previously during the school year.
It is said that whenever students spend their summer vacation only on things not pertaining to school subjects, they're likely to forget what they were taught during the school year.
This, in my opinion, happens to teens because they are using the majority of their time on electronic gadgets, social media, watching TV, and hanging out with friends. I, for example, have had this happen to me and I was behind on my reading skills and other schoolwork.
Here's another fact: summer school is important because it enables students to enhance their social skills. It is



Field trip at Talcott Mountain Science Center (TMSC) with John Pellino and Jonathan Craig sharing interesting facts about trees in the forest.

normal for students to speak and interact with only those that they know and not with others. I have been doing this for as long as I can remember.
I am a shy, introverted person. This cannot be the case when it comes to the real world. It is required of everyone to work with those they know and those they do not know.
Attending summer school might just be the type of social interaction that students need to not only enhance their academic skills but also make new friends.
In concluding, I believe that summer school is important based on what I stated above. Summer school is the best way to use energy, reinforce schoolwork, and enhance social skills. These are my views about summer school.



The CURET summer program is funded partially by Hartford Foundation for Public Giving, Knox Foundation, Asylum Hill Congregational Church, City of Hartford Community Block Grant, and other supporters.



Blowing big bubbles--a competition at CT Science Center



Field trip at Auer Farm; students made ice cream, which these boys are enjoying as their after-lunch treat

2019 West Indian Independence

Continued from Page 1
independence also includes Haiti, Grenada, Dominican Republic, St. Lucia, Guyana, The Bahamas, St. Kitts & Nevis, Belize, St. Vincent & The Grenadines, Antigua & Barbuda, Dominica, Suriname, and Barbados—all are recognized during independence week.
This year's celebration culminated with festivities in Bushnell Park and a featured performance by the legendary band Third World, international reggae artists. The day also included on stage performances by Trinidad-born soca artist Denise "Saucy Woe" Belfon, Ricky Nevado, Pretty Bwoy Floyd, Jay Bankz, Marissa, Billy D. Williams, and Junior Holt.
The independence event is the premier cultural event of the year where all islands of the Caribbean including Puerto Rico are celebrated during independence week. Donovan Longmore, DJ and local radio talk show host emceed much of the activities and a range of activities at the West Indian Social Club, the Miss Little Caribbean American pageant, and a portion of the day's activity at Bushnell Park including the Dance competition at the parade.

Story on Page 8

Albany Avenue (Route 44) Safety Improvement, Long-Overdue Makeover



Route 44 (Albany Ave.) Improvement



New Sidewalks between Sigourney St. and Albany Ave.

By Leon Fraser
Whenever social changes occur in a neighborhood or a country, the residents and the citizens that experience the changes will always exhibit a distinct exuberance, or a lack thereof, a feeling of anticipation.
The anticipation of a good feeling as it relates to the improvement of Albany Avenue ('The Avenue') is becoming a reality in the city of Hartford—the section of Route 44 that stretches from Main Street to the Homestead Avenue/Westbourne Parkway intersection.
The portion that is right now undergoing the long-overdue refurbish extends from Homestead Avenue down to Vine Street.



University of Hartford's Handel Performing Arts Albany Avenue-Westbourne Pkwy. entrance and to Backstage Cafe

Continued on Page 6

Albany Avenue

Continued from Page 5

Yes, right now it is a journey to travel the short distance from Sigourney Street to Blue Hills Avenue or Kent Street, but I know and so do many others, how attractive that stretch of roadway will be when the pavements are completed and the traffic lights become functional.

Multiple traffic lights at short distances are not only the result of feeder roads into and off Albany Avenue at those points, but also to improve and cater for the pedestrian traffic.

This pedestrian traffic has increased and there are times when individuals will navigate traffic by standing on the yellow lines in the middle of the street, which is considered scary for many, but is considered as they say it in the local vernacular, a “a regula ting.”

This is observed mainly from Homestead down to Brook Street. The inclusion of these lights will alleviate the anxieties of drivers, and also reduce the incidences of speeding.

The view of The Avenue looking towards downtown, from the Homestead Avenue/ Westbourne Pkwy intersection, while standing at the entrance to the Backstage Café of the University of Hartford’s Handel

Performing Arts Center, gives a splendid picture of the illustrated streetscape and projected traffic flow and patterns.

There’s also a delightful spectacle when travelling towards the Homestead Ave/Westbourne Pkwy, especially in the early morning when traffic is minimal. A night-time view is just as bright as daytime with the reflection from the golden-toned tops of the lampposts.

Now with the anticipated good feelings of exuberance owners of businesses and residences have caught on and they have begun to carry out their own property improvements so as to update their property.

Some property owners can be seen doing carpentry, demolition, masonry, and other improvement actions for commercial and residential spaces. Also, painting and landscaping are being done; new spaces and places being opened and a sense of to-do with the improvements are ongoing.

Much respect and credit must be given to the Senator, Doug McCrory for his unfailing efforts in ensuring that the funding remained intact for this improvement, as well as the potential installation of flood lights for the playfield at Hartford Public High school. Also, much credit must be given to the Upper

Albany Main Street team, carrying out its mission: “To preserve, revitalize, and support the commercial district of Upper Albany Main Street to create a neighborhood of choice.”

The work being done on the sidewalks is a joy to behold, especially for the parts that are already completed. There is now a large uniformed paved area that goes right up to the entrances of the businesses.

This gives a big enough space between the roadway and the walkways, allowing for smoother movements of wheelchairs and pedestrians. For those that know, walking from Woodland Street down to Deerfield Street, especially in that it will be a lot easier and comfortable to traverse; more so when it rains and there are no dirt spots between that will create a

muddy walk. The wheelchair individuals will definitely have an easier pattern of movements as well as particular individuals who are visually impaired, but can be seen walking briskly along The Avenue with their signature cane swiveling from side to side as they make their way up or down The Avenue.

For the industrious, that chose to walk The Avenue they will be more at ease in doing so as they will experience less uneven surfaces.

Albany Avenue is a major thoroughfare (Route 44) to the heart of the capitol city, and it is also a prominent area for meeting and greeting of Caribbean nationals, primarily Jamaicans, and it is with that in mind why many politicians see the need to traverse The Avenue and press the flesh.

The beauty of the area is easier seen very early in the morning or very late at nights, but it is nevertheless better as well during the mid-day.

It is now the job of individual businesses to assist in keeping the environs trash-free and worthy of being called, again expressing it in the vernacular, ‘a fi wi sinting.’ Also, with the imminent development upgrade of the housing complex, on the border with West Hartford, there is a real possibility that the ambiance of the area will be improved, a possible inching up of the quality of life for the lucky tenants/owners of this potentially

upscale neighborhood, much in keeping with the stature of its neighbor of higher learning. I have also been fortunate to view pictures of the area at the turn of the century, and I am pleased to be occupying this space as the transition occurs.

People, be wise and bend with the winds of change as the bam-boo bends with the trade winds, and accommodate the existing changes as well as you can without too much compromise.

There are many well-thinking persons of African descent that have been shown a peculiar style of existence and they, without seeing the parallel distinctions, choose to embrace that which was foisted on them rather than doing the tedious task of separating truth from distortions.

This will continue until an emancipated psychosocial comparison of introspective analysis.

Kinship, Grants Available To Help Guardians With School Expenses



Judge David Baram

With adults already thinking back-to-school, Probate Judge David Baram reminds court-appointed guardians to apply for grants for school supplies. Probate Courts have been awarding grants from the state Kinship Fund and Respite Fund to court-appointed guardians for more than a decade.

As of last October, eligibility for the grants was expanded beyond relatives serving as guardians to all those appointed by the Probate Courts who meet low-

income guidelines. A guardianship case typically arises in the Tobacco Valley Probate Court (Bloomfield, Windsor Locks, East Granby, Suffield) when parents are unable to care for their children due to mental illness, substance abuse or incarceration. In most cases, Probate Courts appoint a grandparent or other relative to care for the children.

In some cases, courts appoint a close family friend who has a long-standing relationship with the child. While foster parents receive funds from the state, court-appointed guardians do not; guardians who meet eligibility requirements can receive some assistance through the Kinship and Respite Fund grants.

“Grandparents, aunts and uncles, and neighbors who keep children in their familiar environments instead of going to foster care save the state tens of millions of dollars. In many cases, the guardians don’t really have extra money to spend on a child’s basic needs,” said Judge David Baram. “Kinship and Respite Grants are there to help bridge the gap and make a huge difference to the households who apply for, and receive them. I hope that court appointed guardians living in Bloomfield, Windsor Locks, East Granby and Suffield will take advantage of this program.”

The Kinship Fund assists guardians in paying for necessities such as school supplies, clothing, eyeglasses, school trips and sports fees. Often such expenses are paid directly to the providers. Kinship grants are capped at \$500 per child or \$2000 per family per year.

The Respite Fund helps guardians with the cost of child care, housing, transportation and food. These grants are capped at \$2000 per year.

Guardians who meet income requirements can apply to both funds. Previous recipients must reapply to receive funds each year. Applications are posted at ctprobate.gov under the Children’s Matters tab.

Judge David Baram presides over the Tobacco Valley Probate Court located in the Windsor Locks Town Hall with jurisdiction for the towns of Bloomfield, Windsor Locks, East Granby and Suffield.

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West Indians Started Cricket In Hartford

By Stan Walker

At one time boasting two of the best cricket fields in the Northeast region of the U.S., if not throughout the entire country, the city of Hartford has remained one of the mainstays of the game which began to be played in this country more than 200 years ago.

During those days, however, the game was not played in these parts, but with the arrival of a group of enterprising West Indians, it did not take long for the game to raise its head.

On May 23-24, 2010, an historic two-match series was staged between New Zealand and Sri Lanka in Lauderhill, Florida. It was cited in a report in the **Cricinfo** website as a part of a big dream by U.S. cricket authorities to try to get Americans interested in the game.

The playing of the game in the U.S. date back to the 18th century, but since this happens to be a country where baseball is the game of the people, initiating the masses into the sport was going to be a massive task, the article said.

The American interest in the game died out at the time of the Civil War. Today with the large number of expatriates from former British territories now living in the U.S., the game, the second most popular in the world, seems to be catching on again.

The playing of the game in Hartford, Connecticut, was started in the 1940s by the first West Indians who made it to the Greater Hartford area. These men did not come here as sports ambassadors.

They came to work on the various farms that were flourishing in this region. Very ambitious and hard-working, the men brought not only their energies to sweat and toil on the farms but also their love of the game which was very popular in their homelands.

Boredom set in when they found themselves with nothing to do with their spare time. Not familiar with the local sports, some of them began playing the game of cricket on makeshift plots at the camps where they resided.

At first, gears were hard to come by, but they improvised by making their own bats and balls and engaged in a popular version of the game known in the islands as “catchy shooby.”

Shortly after the word got out that they had started to play the game on the farms, with the help of one of the managers they were able to secure some gears and began to play matches between the various camps. Most of the matches at this time were played at the Bradley Field camp in Windsor, Connecticut.

In 1947, two pioneers of the game in Hartford, Jamaicans Reginald Leslie and Noel Elliott,

decided that the time had come to get the game started in the city, and began to recruit players from the camps in the area. They donated many hours and funds to get the game off on the right track, but because they had very little gears, no real playing fields and very few spectators, they found it somewhat difficult.

However, Lloyd Walford, a Jamaican living in Massachusetts, invited them to play in Boston, which at the time had three active teams. In Boston the men were hosted “in fine style,” given gears to play in and some to take back to Hartford to help with the promotion of the game.

Following this, a league was started in Massachusetts and through Leslie’s drive they were able to take part in the competition. With regular recruiting and increased interest, the team became so good that they beat all the teams in Massachusetts, and then went in search of new opponents, with games against the Canadians becoming their next target.

They next took on a strong New York team, which was led by another stalwart of the game in the region, St. Lucian James Gabriel. This match was played at Colt’s Park in Hartford. The game and the team continued its progress in the area and the hosting of a team from the British warship HMS Sniper that had arrived at the New London base turned out to be the highlight of the 1951 season.

Around that time, the West



The first West Indian Cricket Club of Hartford. Standing: Vincent Elliot, Luther Wright, Leslie Murray, Sidney Elliott, Freddie Elliot, Vincent Crockett, and Ashley Bean. Bottom: Ivan Redwood, Reginald Leslie (captain), Desmond Blake, Noel Elliott (vice captain), and Ashley Willaims

Indian Social Club started its own team, the only one in Hartford. As the game developed and more West Indians started to arrive in the area, more teams were formed. With the securing of a field in Keney Park (Ridgefield Street), the teams began to compete in a New York league. Eventually a Connecticut Cricket League was started and today, it has as many as 10 teams participating.

Leslie, who throughout the years held various posts including captain, manager and promoter, is regarded as the per-

son mainly responsible for getting the game started in Hartford. Elliott revered as one of the best cricketers to come to Hartford, held similar positions with the team before retiring from the game.

As it stands today Hartford which got good support from the city legislators now has six active teams and three very good fields. So, although many may be of the belief that the sport is dying in the area, it is safe to say that the sport is still very much alive and well in Hartford.

Caribbean Tidbits

Tullow finds oil

GEORGETOWN, Guyana - UK petroleum company, Tullow, On August 12th announced the discovery of oil in commercial quantities in the Orinduik Block, underlining the vast resources in the Guyana Basin and increased projected wealth for the country. Tullow Oil Plc is the operator of the block via its wholly-owned subsidiary Tullow Guyana B.V. and has as its partners French oil major Total, Canadian company Eco Atlantic (Guyana) Inc and Qatar Petroleum in an arrangement that is still to be clarified with local authorities. Tullow holds 60%. Eco Atlantic originally held 40% but now has 15% after a deal in which Total exercised an option for 25%. Last month it was announced that Qatar Petroleum had supposedly struck a deal for 40% of Total’s 25% stake or 10%.

BL&P monopoly: ‘Breaking up is hard to do’

BRIDGETOWN, Barbados – Opposition Bishop Leader Joseph Atherley today warned Government of serious challenges ahead to the break-up the near 120-year-old electricity supply monopoly by the Barbados Light & Power Company Limited. He told the House of Assembly: “BL&P has about nine years left on its license and if Government is serious about its 2030 agenda with respect to renewable energy then that has implications for the BL&P investment. And if dismantling of the monopoly is seriously intended that has implications for BL&P existing infrastructural development and any further infrastructural development likely to take place over the next five, six, seven years.”

CBU wants to be engaged in decisions on changing media landscape

BRIDGETOWN, Barbados - Caribbean Broadcast Union (CBU) President Gary Allen is urging governments across the region to involve the media in the conversation as they develop policies that may affect the industry as they continue to move into the digital age.

“As a new information, communication and technology ecosystem takes shape globally, print, radio and television are being reshaped. As this happens, it is important for governments and regulators to take charge of designing the right successor framework for indigenous media and not leave them behind in this change,” Allen said as he addressed the CBU’s 50th annual assembly in San Andrés Island, Colombia, on August 12.

St Ann Homecoming Foundation honors Douglas Halsall

ST. ANN, Jamaica - Seemingly brushing aside the saying, a king is without honor in his own land, Advanced Integrated System’s (AIS) CEO Douglas Halsall returned to the parish of his birth, St Ann, after 49 years away building a legacy, to be honored by the St Ann Homecoming and Heritage Foundation. At the foundation’s annual awards banquet, held Saturday night at Jewel Dunn’s River Beach Resort and Spa in Mammee Bay, St Ann, Halsall picked up the individual recognition award for his years of service to the information technology sector. I said they think because to be honest with you, when you’re passionate with what you do, it doesn’t feel like work, and when you’re honored you sometimes hesitate, say, whether you’ve earned it or not because you wake up every morning anxious to do what you do, and so achievements come as a consequence of that pattern.” Halsall, who hails from

Brown’s Town, St Ann, left for Kingston in 1970, and within a few years started what would later become a revolution in information technology in Jamaica.

The Grandest of Galas: Jamaican Independence 2019

Jamaicans celebrated the island’s 57th anniversary of Independence on Tuesday at the National Stadium in Kingston. The indomitable spirit, vibrant culture and undeniable talent of Jamaica was on full blast inside the National Stadium at Independence Park in Kingston at the official 57th birthday party of the country on August 6th. For those few hours, the estimated 30,000 people who filled the venue, which was constructed to host the official lowering of the Union Jack and hoisting of the black, green and gold flag of Jamaica in August 1962, were given a chance to exhale, let their hair down and party with wild abandon. Minister of Culture, Entertainment, Gender Affairs and Sports Olivia ‘Babsy’ Grange had earlier announced that the cost of the Grand Gala would be \$85 million. From the look of things, it was a good spend.

UWI students to receive over \$2M for scholarships from CGCL

Eighty (80) nationals of Trinidad and Tobago attending The University of the West Indies (The UWI) St. Augustine Campus will

benefit from scholarships and bursaries over the next five years courtesy Caribbean Gas Chemical Limited (CGCL). The awards will be based on academic merit, financial need and/or extra-curricular activities or any combination of two or three. These scholarships and bursaries will be offered to new and continuing undergraduate students respectively from CGCL’s fence line communities such as La Brea, Sobo Village, Rousillac, Vance River, Vessigny Village and Union Village. Signing on behalf of both parties were UWI St. Augustine’s Pro Vice-Chancellor and Campus Principal Professor Brian Copeland and Mr. Hiroshi Kita, Chief Executive Officer of CGCL. Professor Copeland expressed his sincerest gratitude to CGCL for their continued support to students of the UWI.

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2019 West Indian Independence Celebration



Third World performing at Bushnell Park, August 10, 2019.
Photo: Mark Milward

Dance competitors at the West Indian Independence celebration included the Caribbean American Dance Company of Hartford, Hamden Dance Company, Cultural Dance Troupe of the West Indies and others, with the Caribbean American Dance Co., headed by Judith Williams walking away with the first-place prize.

The dance company also received a \$500 dollar cash award for community service from Vinyl Records.

Among the many attendees at the Bushnell Park celebration was Mrs. Debbie Hutchinson, vice consul/liaison officer for the Jamaica Central Labor Organization, Embassy of Jamaica—Annex.

Mrs. Hutchinson’s agency represents, among others, Jamaican migrant farm workers and hospitality workers. She highlighted the significance of the presence of the very popular Third World band whose message has traditionally been one of love, peace and harmony.

Her comments were echoed by Third World guitarist/cellist Stephen “Cat” Coore, who offered a brief commentary on the band’s soon-to-be released LP in Summer 2019, produced by four-time Grammy winner, Damian “Jr. Gong” Marley.

Watch that interview with “Cat” Coore on “The Jamaica Diaspora Show,” and Hartford Public Access TV, Channel 5 (www.hpatv.org).

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