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Senator McCrory Welcomes More Than \$3 Million In Grants For Hartford-Area Nonprofits



Sen. Doug McCrory

Sen. Doug McCrory, D-Hartford, welcomed the release of more than \$3 million in state grants Wednesday for Hartford and Bloomfield-based nonprofits to support projects that will upgrade their facilities and strengthen their infrastructure.

"These strategic investments in our nonprofits will help ensure they have the capacity to

continue serving the Hartford and Bloomfield communities," Senator McCrory said.

"These groups represent the fabric of our social safety net and I am grateful that Governor Lamont has directed funds to support their missions."

The funding announced this week for Hartford and Bloomfield-area nonprofits included:

Bloomfield – Viability, Inc.: \$180,000 to purchase vehicles.

Hartford – NAFI Connecticut: \$291,144 to replace windows

Hartford – YWCA Hartford Region: \$131,00 to replace windows.

Hartford – Community Health

Services: \$401,162 for equipment upgrades.

Hartford – Community Partners in Action: \$223,769 for facility improvements.

Hartford – Mercy Housing and Shelter: \$157,000 for a roof replacement.

Hartford – Mercy Housing and Shelter: \$463,816 for basement renovations.

Hartford – Mercy Housing and Shelter: \$719,170 for residential campus reconfiguration and the expansion of a parking lot.

Hartford – NAFI Connecticut: \$54,000 for renovations.

Hartford – YWCA Hartford Region: \$55,000 for lighting upgrades.

Hartford – Hands on Hartford: \$315,000 for a permanent generator.

Hartford – NAFI Connecticut: \$45,494 for a generator.

The governor's office awarded the grants under the state Nonprofit Grant Program, an initiative that has provided more than \$130 million in support for capital projects by Connecticut nonprofit groups since it was established in 2013.

"Connecticut's nonprofit providers support residents in every town and are a vital part of our social services safety net," Governor Lamont said. "Providing funding to make strategic investments helps these organizations deliver the services some of our most vulnerable residents depend upon."

This grant funding will help all of the residents that these organizations support be able to utilize their personal strengths, talents, and passions."



Leon Fraser

Hats Off To Women

The month of March has been designated National Women's History Month to highlight the successes and sacrifices of U.S. women. At the international scene, there is also Women's History Month. For women everywhere it is a marvelously deserved tribute!

The occasion gave me yet again another opportunity to reflect on my mother, my wife, my daughter, my aunts, and all other women with whom I interact daily. In my view, the female gender is marvelously made.

From my point of view, women are the leaders of the planet despite not having the control of the reins of obvious power; women are teachers of male leaders; although in one way or another, some males tend to deny the value of women. Irrespective of what is written and spoken about women, they are the power players of the planet.

Contextualizing my view for example, I must make mention of the women of Jamaica. For this small country on the regional map, it seems like a giant turtle swimming westward, the country has notable giants in sports, medicine, entertainment, politics, and a wide range of other disciplines. Jamaica is also a country with the distinction of a large percentage of the country's population with women as the helm of organizations.

This fact is high on the UN list of woman bosses. In addition, there are notable increases in graduation rates and registration of women in institutions of learning from the primary school level to higher education.

The global interaction of women at those levels of education is minimal and is largely ignored. At the pace of world conflicts, the female factor is largely overlooked for no other reason than the fact that there are still some ancient residual notions of the place of woman in global affairs.

There is a notion that if you want to keep women quiet give them a task to undertake with minimal resources, like using a teaspoon to empty a pool.

Women of Jamaica are strong, resilient, more educated and resourceful than other women from my experience with whom I have interacted. And this is not to say that such qualities are not evident among other women of other cultures. This fact I drew from research and correlated with various sources suggest-

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STATE REPRESENTATIVE
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CONNECTICUT HOUSE DEMOCRATS

HB5004 VOTED OUT OF COMMITTEE

Modernizes Connecticut's Global Warming Solutions Act

Incentivizes businesses and municipalities to be sustainable

Expands land preservation

CONNECTICUT HOUSE DEMOCRATS

Dear Neighbor,
I'm excited to share my commitment to protecting the environment and working to combat climate change. **HB 5004** "An Act Concerning the Implementation of Certain Climate Change Measures," was subject to an Environment Committee public hearing on March 8 and was passed out of the Environment Committee **23-11** last week. It now heads to the House Floor for consideration.

The bill, referred to as the 2024 Connecticut Climate Protection Act, is a priority for the House Democratic Caucus. The bill seeks to respond to the climate crisis by:

1) Updating the Global Warming Solutions Act

to make Connecticut's greenhouse gas emissions targets more in line with other states in the region;

2) Creating incentives for businesses that engage in clean economy sectors or employ environmentally sustainable practices;

3) Developing plans for transitioning to a clean economy, including workforce training and long-term policy implementation;

4) Supporting nature-based solutions, such as preserving marshlands and forests.

With this bill, we're saying that sustainability is not only the right thing to do but also the smart, economically competitive thing to do.

If you have any questions or would like to reach out, don't hesitate to email Bobby.Gibson@cga.ct.gov or call my office at 860-240-0472

The 10th Biennial Jamaica Diaspora Conference To Be Held In Montego Bay, Jamaica

The global launch of the 10th Biennial Jamaica Diaspora Conference was held on April 4, 2024. The official conference dates for the special event will be June 16-19, 2024 and will be convened at the Montego Bay Convention Centre in St. James.

This year's theme: 'United for Jamaica's Transformation: Fostering Peace, Prosperity and Youth Empowerment' is intended to be a platform that reflects the collaboration between Jamaicans, the government and other stakeholders aimed at achieving Jamaica's Vision 2030 national development plan.

The April launch led by the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Foreign Trade (MFAFT) anticipates a crowd of more than 1,000 Jamaicans converging at the conference and coming from all over the world, including the USA, Canada, UK, Africa, Caribbean, South America,



Mark Milward

Europe and Asia. The conference will be the first in-person conference following the COVID-19 pandemic.

Minister of Foreign Affairs and Foreign Trade, the Honorable Kamina Johnson Smith during her keynote address at the launch highlighted the significance of the Diaspora's contributions to Jamaica's development, which includes strategic partnerships in various sectors including healthcare, education and other socio-economic sectors. The Minister also described and introduced the official launch of the Jamaica Diaspora Engagement Model (JAM-DEM). To examine trade and investment opportunities focused on furthering Jamaica's growth and development.

Key stakeholders for the conference include conference chair Mr. Cortney Campbell and Legacy Partners VM Group, GraceKennedy Group and Jamaica National Group.

The Honorable Alando Terrelonge, minister of state in the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Foreign Trade and with responsibility for Diaspora Affairs commented that team members are working to design "an exciting program of activities" for the conference. Minister Terrelonge who was recently appointed to his current position in late 2023, will be leading the Global Jamaica Diaspora Council and Global Diaspora Youth Council.

Minister Terrelonge is imploring Jamaicans at home and



Minister of Foreign Affairs and Foreign Trade (MFAFT), the Honourable Kamin Johnson Smith

abroad to attend the conference. Minister Johnson Smith stated, "Quite simply, at the conference, connections will be made, partnerships will be born, some will be strengthened, business opportunities are going to be created; you have to be there to be a part of it all. The experience will be that much richer

if you are on the ground, and for those of you who have come before, you know it's good and this one is going to be better."

To register for the conference go to the following link: <https://www.eventbrite.com/e/10th-biennial-jamaica-diaspora-conference-tickets-875811023347>

Hats Off To Women

Continued from Page 1

ing that the women of Jamaica are doing outstanding feats. This is not to be considered a disrespectful comment, but an observation over a long period of time using available data. Historical data promoted as truth with fact checking that suggesting that facts about women of African ancestry.

There is much to do to ensure that the generations that follow are guided to true sources of history and not the ones fed to

them. Women are the best at what matters most, despite outliers that seem to highlight the opposite. There is the test-tube generation that seemingly suggesting that the laboratory is the source of life and scientists are doing all that is necessary to proving that myth as fact; it is not.

Women are the source of life, and we are grateful to the female gender for life. If you do not support this fact, do you have another source?



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Health & Wellness

Mental Health Issues

By Garfield L. Angus

Persons are being called on to end the stigma against individuals suffering from mental health issues and the misuse of substances, as this is a major stumbling block in the recovery efforts.

According to Substance Abuse Counselor with the National Council on Drug Abuse (NCDA), Lyrris Williams, persons from all strata of the society are affected by the disorder, and some have been made worse because of the treatment they receive from community members.

“Persons who suffer from mental illness are fearful, so look at them as individuals, because if you see an individual, it changes how your mind is processed in the scenario. If you don’t see an individual, you are only going to see your fear,” she said, while addressing a mental health forum at the Kitson Town Seventh-day Adventist Church, in St. Catherine, on April 6.

She added that youngsters between 13 and 14 years old in high

school are being diagnosed with serious mental issues, adding that some of them cannot cope because of the “constant stigma” that arises from names and castigations leveled at them.

“Stigma is one of the biggest barriers to treatment for those seeking mental health and addiction treatment,” she said, noting that the public health system offers free counseling and care but many do not seek help because of public lashing.

“Speak respectfully, focus on language that is clear and understandable, free of labels, such as cokeheads,” Miss Williams urged.

She underscored that it is important for individuals dealing with affected persons to know the facts through education and information about the issues, and what their behavior and conduct should be.

“We have to change the narrative so that we can lessen our fears; we are all here to care and support. When people have a mental

health condition, they need your support; they do not need you reminding them of what they worry about every day. Help people to find new activities,” Miss Williams told the audience.

The NCDA has a vision of striving relentlessly for a ‘Drug Free Jamaica,’ in which the abuse of illicit substances is eliminated. Its mission is to provide quality reliable information to policymakers, international partners and the general public about substance use and abuse in Jamaica, its nature, the extent, prevention, treatment, control and underlying problems that negatively impact nation-building.

The agency’s officers are dedicated to strengthening protective factors against substance abuse, in collaboration with diverse local and international organizations, through the implementation of treatment and prevention programs. (Source: jis.gov)



Substance Abuse Counsellor with the National Council on Drug Abuse (NCDA), Lyrris Williams, addresses a mental health forum at the Kitson Town Seventh-day Adventist Church in St. Catherine, Jamaica



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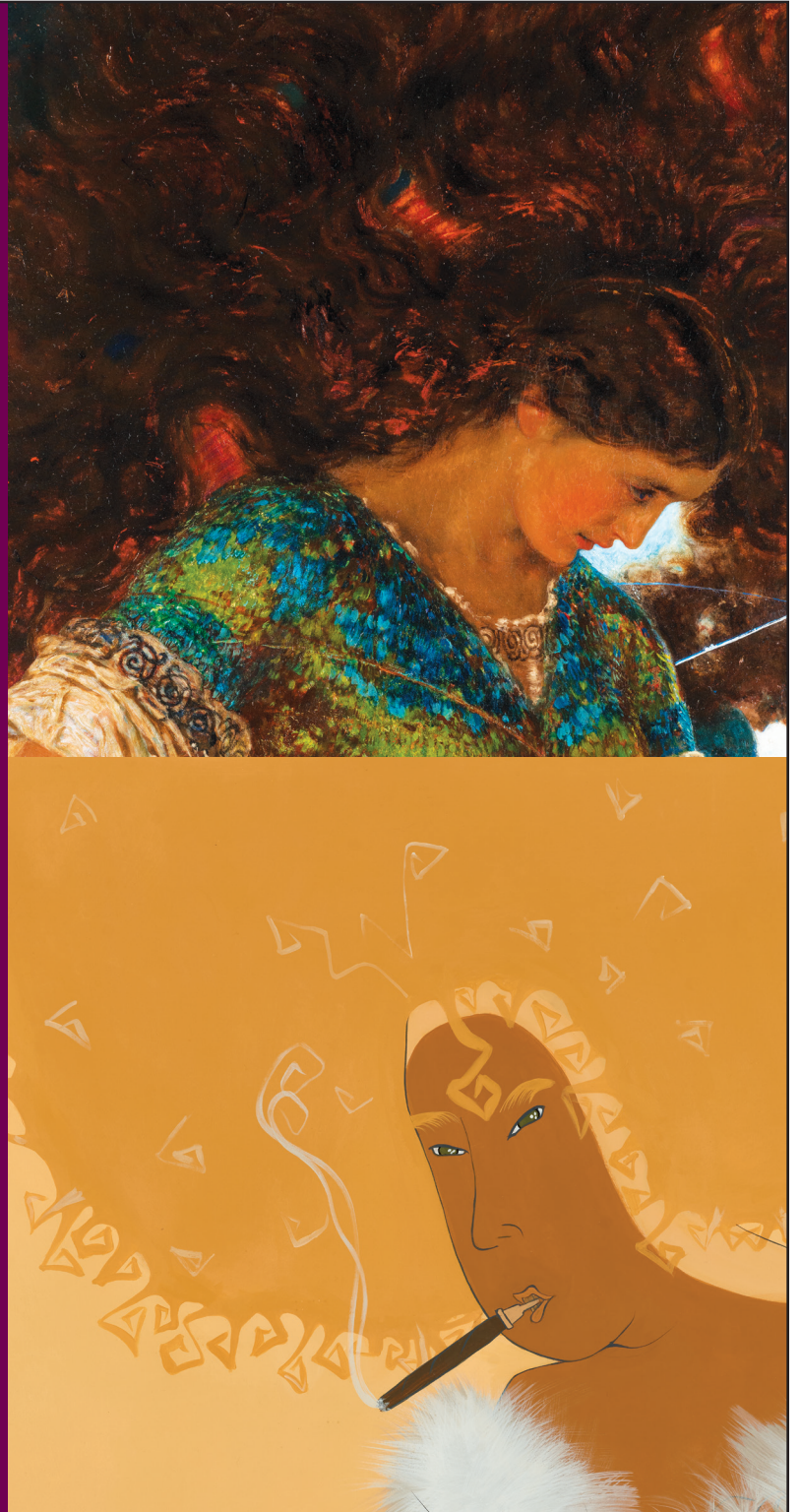
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FROM TOP William Holman Hunt (English, 1827-1910), *The Lady of Shalott* (detail), c. 1886-1905. Oil on canvas. The Ella Gallup Sumner and Mary Catlin Sumner Collection Fund, 1961.470. Rozeal (American, b. 1966), *a3 blackface #70* (detail), 2004. Acrylic paint on paper. African American Art Purchase Fund, 2004.13.2.



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