



State Sen. Doug McCrory speaks at the Women's League Child Development Center on Main Street in Hartford to welcome a funding increase in the Care 4 Kids child care program. The program helps low-income families pay for child care.

## McCrory Announces Rate Increase In Care 4 Kids Program

**HARTFORD, CT:** State Senator Doug McCrory (D-Hartford) joined the Office of Early Childhood and other state legislators to announce a significant rate increase for Care 4 Kids, a state and federally funded program for lower-income working families to help pay for child care.

The rate increase for child care centers that participate in the Care 4 Kids program and who serve infants, toddlers, and preschoolers is the first in many years thanks, in part, to \$14 million in new federal Child Care Development Fund dollars and Connecticut's long-standing investment in this program. The rate increases will take effect September 1, 2019.

"As Senate Chair of the Education Committee, and as a state senator representing the people of Hartford, Bloomfield and Windsor, I not only know how expensive child care is for lower-income working families, I also know how important it is to have access to child care," said Sen. McCrory. "Being able to pay someone to watch your child while you work hard to get ahead

is going to be significantly easier with this infusion of federal funds."

The rate increase is a major step toward addressing the needs of Connecticut's working families. Connecticut currently has one of the lowest child care subsidy rates in the country and a 50,000 seat shortage of infant/toddler care, making it difficult for parents to access affordable child care. The rate adjustment has three major benefits:

It gives parents, particularly those with infants, better buying power and access to child care options;

It helps stabilize child care providers financially, many of whom are small business owners;

It enhances the ability of child care centers to improve the quality of care for developing minds.

The rates are being increased at the scale necessary to respond to federal requirements to provide greater choice and access to families. These rate changes will vary across regions and age groups. For center-based infant toddler care, the rates will increase from the 2nd percentile to the 50th percentile,

meaning families can access 50% of center based infant/toddler spaces using this child care. For centers serving preschoolers, the rates will increase to the 25th percentile.

For example, in Hartford, the rate for full-time infant toddler care will increase from \$201 per week to \$308 per week. The rate for full-time preschool care will increase from \$160 to \$203 per week.

"This is critical to maintain federal funding and is long overdue. It will support child care providers, parents, and children's development in these critical first years," said Office of Early Childhood Commissioner Beth Bye. "It will help stabilize an already fragile child care system and make some gains for better wages for child care workers."

"I am pleased that we can invest these new federal dollars to support child care providers and working families. We commend our Congressional delegation for fighting for this major federal investment in child care," said Governor Ned Lamont.

## Caribbean Immigrant, 2019 Graduate From U.S. Marine Corps



Kaheem Stewart with his mother Vivienne Miller and grandmother Mavis Jackson

**By Paulette Blythe**

Kaheem Stewart, a native of Kingston, Jamaica, born August 27, 1999, migrated at age seven with his twin brother and older sister to Hartford, CT. Stewart attended Hartford's Sarah J. Rawson Elementary School, A.I. Prince Technical High school and graduated in June 2018.

Stewart was a very quiet, hardworking, and disciplined student. His 6'6"-built gave him an advantage in basketball and football during his years at Prince Tech, and he also played soccer in the after-school program.

He grew up with his mother, Vivienne Miller and his grandmother, Mavis Jackson. They were his primary motivators. According to Stewart, his mom always encouraged her children to work hard in everything they did, especially at school. She always wanted them to do better than she

did so Ms. Miller encouraged her children to work to their full potential. This enabled him to aim high and he achieved more. His grandmother always encouraged her grandchildren to keep out of trouble and stay focused.

After graduation from A.I. Prince Tech, Stewart worked at Lowes for a short period. While working, he realized he wanted to do more. So he volunteered in various programs including cleaning-up areas for seniors, and he participated in beautification projects at senior centers and historical parks.

His desire was to serve his new country, travel the world, and engage in a job that encompasses all of these things. Soon he researched and chose the United States Marines Corps (USMC).

Arguably, the USMC's basic training is the most difficult to

*Continued on Page 2*



Hartford's Mayor Luke Bronin addressing gathering at scholarship function

## Scholarship Recipients Encouraged To Make Right Choices

**By Stan Walker**

This year's recipients of Hartford's Friendship Group's scholarships were given ideas on how they can go about making the right choices in this critical time in their lives.

The city's Mayor Luke Bronin,

keynote speaker at the organization's 40<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the annual scholarship awards, delivered a powerful message in which he congratulated the students and issued advice on how they should approach their efforts to further their education and then come

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# Marine

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get into, the hardest boot camp among the military disciplines. Stewart said training was strenuous; he had to work vigorously, getting up at 4:00 a.m. daily to begin the rigorous training sessions. Swimming, he said, was the most challenging for him (although born in Jamaica the “land of wood and water,” he never learned to swim). But Stewart was determined to stay with his platoon.

His mother’s admonition during his growing-up years kicked in and he decided to work hard, knowing that he had only one week

to pass his swimming test.

The core value of the Marine Corps—“Honor, Courage and Commitment”—resonated within Stewart and as he recalled his mother and grandmother’s words to always try harder and stay focused, he successfully passed his swimming test, enabling him to move onto the next level.

Stewart was a squad leader and took his responsibilities seriously. He was in charge of about 12-14 men and was responsible for encouraging and pushing them to do better and to excel at the various challenges.

Although at times the

pressure seemed great, quitting was never an option. He found the gas chamber to be the easiest of all the obstacle challenges to overcome during training. He recalled this training and the discipline it required, and not to laugh at another squad member undergoing this training or “ranking” on others is not tolerated; rather, the goal is to uphold the Marine motto, “Always Faithful,” was a high priority for Stewart. This helped him in accomplishing his goal in serving his adopted country, proud to be an American.

Congratulations, Marine Kaheem Stewart!

# West Indians Started Cricket In Hartford



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, Reginal Leslie (captain), Desmond Blake, Noel Elliott (vice captain), and Ashley Willaims

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 18<sup>th</sup> 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.”

# Scholarship

Continued from Page 1

back and make contributions to the community that helped them.

The 12 scholarship recipients are: Parris Douet, Nahreil Gelly, Leah Goodman, Rashid Jallow, Taelor McDonald, Alajzah Ortega, Kelsey Reid, Jayna Robotham, and Quincy Smith.

The recipients were also given advice from five past recipients: Michael Moore (2011), Angel Moore (Senior), Faith Ford (2012), Daniel Parkinson (2014), and Angelia Davis, about the dos and don’ts of college life.

This year’s recipients were selected from five high schools: Bloomfield, Windsor, Windsor Locks, Simsbury, and Mercy; three academies: Journalism and Media, Great Path and Medical Science; and Metropolitan Learning Center.

Receiving the Founding Fathers of the organization’s scholarships were Jahdessa Brown (Alphanso James); Deans Johnson (David Carter); and Myles Davis (Keith Carr Sr).

Michael Downes, who represented the American Legion

group admonished the students, saying that if they are not prepared for class, even if you do not have pencil or notebook, just show up. “No matter what, show up,” he said.

The annual event which was held at the Sportmen’s Athletic Club on Sunday, June 23, did not only draw its largest attendance ever, but had a number of speakers that included Bloomfield Mayor Suzette Debeatham-Brown, State Senator Douglas McCrory, Judge Foye Smith, and Councilman Thomas Clark. They addressed the gathering briefly, giving their views as to how they would like to see the high school graduating students go about their studies.

Mistress of Ceremonies Pam Rodney, delivered the final message in which she called on the students to pray, aim and focus on their studies.

Coordinator John Davis gave the closing remarks then thanked all the sponsors Benji’s Restaurant, Destiny Awaits, Dunn’s River Restaurant, Jahm Ske’s Restaurant, Sister’s Restaurant, Star Chinese Restaurant, and Jamroc Restaurant for their contributions to the program which helped to make the event successful.

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 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 person 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.

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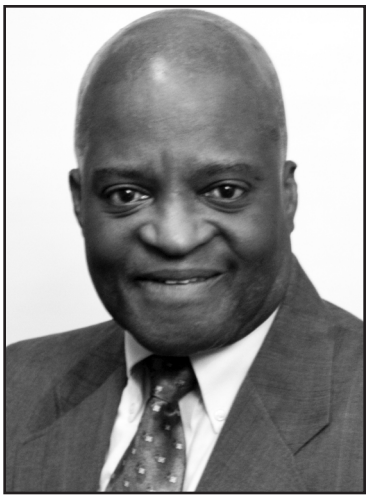
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## As I See It Failing To Plan Is Planning To Fail



Christopher A. Service Sr.

Over the many decades that I have lived in the United States, I have admired individuals who speak passionately about what they plan to do. With reflection, I am reminded of what someone told me years ago, that is, if one fails to plan then failure follows.

In this connection, the family is the focus of my discussion. I am imagining that readers of this column are by now smiling, either in agreement with the concept of planning or possibly regretting that they acted impulsively and did not plan before acting on some decisions.

One can possibly start with the basic unit--the family, asking the following questions: Was there a conscious plan as it relates to the size of one's family? In retrospect, was one's present family size planned. Was all that is needed for proper family support properly thought out?

What about the place where you presently live, was there enough thought put into that decision? And what about the place where you work or went to school? Was that properly thought out? How about relationships? Were those properly thought out?

These and many other questions have surely entered the thoughts of most West Indians. The thought, "If I had known" has entered the thoughts of many, I am sure. Therefore, when should plans start?

As I see it, the starting point ought to be in the family. Many who have studied sociology may rightly ask: What type of family? Is it the nuclear family, the matriarchal family, the patriarchal, the extended family, or other combinations of living arrangements?

Arguably, the type of family from which one originates can greatly influence the quality of life one displays as well as the value system of individuals. Some things are "taught" and some things are "caught."

I have written in the past about what I regard as the "unconscious influence." Basically, this view is that one practices what one is constantly exposed.

If plans are discussed at home (among family members), it is likely that decisions will be made based on those plans.

The degree to which plans are discussed at home will depend on the type of plan. There are obviously some plans that will not be discussed with all family members. I am advocating that a dialogue should take place among family members before decisions are made.

As I see it, it is not always practical to have the type of dialogue needed to resolve many of the issues that may arise among family members. Depending on the family structure, the head of the family should devise ways and means to have that dialogue.

Since failure means different things to different people, I do believe, however, if one fails to plan then failure will most likely follow.

## Remarkable Perseverance, Endurance: Story Must Never Fall Into Obscurity

"After having been kidnapped from their villages in what is present-day Angola, forced onto a Portuguese slave ship bound for what Europeans called the New World and stolen from that ship by English pirates in a confrontation off the coast of Mexico, 'some 20 and odd Negroes' landed at Point Comfort (today's Fort Monroe in Hampton, VA) in 1619, in the English settlement that would become Virginia," so wrote journalist Etheleen R. Shipp.

The harrowing journey that began with about 350 Africans on board the Japanese built ship, the San Juan Bautista was one of unbelievable cruelty, hunger and death even before the encounter with the pirates who roamed the seas. "About half of the Africans," according to Shipp, "who were taken on board the Portuguese ship died." They were some of the millions who perished during the Middle Passage from the 1600s to the 1800s.

When the San Juan Bautista docked near what is now Veracruz, Mexico, on August 30, 1619, there were 147 Africans on board. Fifty had been taken by those English pirates aboard two ships, the White Lion and the Treasurer.

This was, however, 100 years after Africans arrived in Jamaica. They came in 1513 from the Iberian Peninsula (Spain and Portugal) after having been taken from West Africa by the Spanish and the Portuguese. They were servants, cowboys, herders of cattle, pigs and horses, as well as hunters.

When the English captured Jamaica in 1655, many of them fought with the Spanish who gave them their freedom and then fled to the mountains resisting the British for many years to maintain their freedom, becoming known as Maroons. This year, Jamaica celebrates its 57th year of independence from the British.

When the White Lion arrived unheralded in Point Comfort, the captain's immediate task was to sell the Africans in exchange for food. "Few ships, before or since, have unloaded a more momentous cargo," historian and journalist Lerone Bennett wrote in his 1962 book, "Before the Mayflower: A History of the Negro in America."

This year marks the 400th anniversary of the Africans' arrival in what is now the state of Virginia. It is being observed and commemorated in places such as *The Association for the Study of African American Life and History* who is taking the lead in paying tribute to the perseverance and resilience of people of African descent. A story that needs to be told and retold and must never be allowed to fall into obscurity. It was the U. S. Congress that established the *400 Years of African-American History Commission Act*, on January 8, 2018, to coordinate the 400th anniversary of the arrival of the first enslaved Africans in the English colonies. The Commission's purpose is to plan, develop, and carry out programs and activities throughout the United States attached to that momentous time.

Why is it that 1619 arrival in Virginia is noteworthy when, as Bennett wrote and schol-



Jim Daniels

ars are still explaining, it was but one of the points of arrival of blacks in the New World? More than a century before, blacks had accompanied Spanish and Portuguese explorers on expeditions in North and South America. Some historians believe Africans may have accompanied Sir Francis Drake when he arrived at Roanoke Island in 1586, attempting but failing to establish a permanent English colony.

But while some declare that 1619 marked the beginning of slavery in England's American colonies, they are off the mark in at least two ways. First, Africans had been imported as slave labor in the English colony of Bermuda before 1619. Second, the status of those "20. and odd Negroes" from the White Lion is still a matter of contention.

"The 1619 story is only

important for the people who develop within the nation state that becomes known as the United States," notes Daryl Scott, a professor of history at Howard University in Washington, DC and a past president of Association for the Study of African American Life and History. "It's about how you define the history that you're telling."

He points out that if one were to consider the migration of Africans from about the 15th century, one could also mark arrivals in Spain, Portugal and Italy, as well as in the Arab world.

"There is a tendency to simplify our story; to have a definitive start and end date, to say that slavery began on this day, when we actually don't know; to say that black people arrived on this date so that we can mark it," says Karsonya Wise Whitehead, a professor of communication and history at Loyola University Maryland. "That's part of being American. We like to mark things."

But our history is more complicated than that." Nothing is more complicated than sorting out who those '20 and odd Negroes' were, what their status was in the settlement, and what became of them. This only adds to the need to make our story more complete.

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# Sportmen Win Mayor Bronin’s Cup

By Stan Walker

Cricket fans in Hartford will always remember the weekend of Saturday, July 6 to Sunday, July 7, 2019. Sixty-five players from Boston, Massachusetts, New York; New Jersey; and Bridgeport, New Britain, Bloomfield, Manchester, and Hartford, Connecticut, assembled in Keney Park, Hartford, Connecticut, for a very exciting weekend of T10 Cricket. They were there to compete in the first Mayor’s Cup and the Joshua Guthrie Tournament.

The players were divided into four teams representing Sportmen’s Athletic Club, Caribbean Club, West Indian Social Club and Cornwall Cricket Club of New York.

The tournament started at 10.30 a.m. on Saturday. Semi-finals and finals were played on Sunday. On Saturday, Hartford’s Mayor Luke Bronin, donor of the cup, welcomed the

players to the park and wished them all the best.

On both days the spectators were treated to an awesome display of cricket skills: fielding, bowling and batting. One spectator remarked he had always seen fielder converting a six into a catch on television but on Sunday when Bruce Blackwood, captain of the Sportmen’s Athletic Club’s team pulled off a spectacular catch on the boundary, the spectator said he was glad he attended the game.

Director of the Tournament Michael Chambers, executive director of the Cricket Hall of Fame, said he was impressed with the caliber of players that reside in the United States of America. “I enjoyed watching young Stephan Pink, the recipient of the 2018-19 Hartford Community Scholarship,” he said. The Jamaica Progressive League (JPL) and the Cricket Hall of

Fame came together in 2018 to provide a scholarship for Pink to attend the University of the West Indies, Kingston, Jamaica. Pink was back in Hartford to represent JPL for the 2019 cricket season, after completing one year at the university.

Mayor Bronin was present at the Sportmen’s Athletic Club, Sunday evening to present his trophy to the captain of the winners of the competition Sportmen’s team, Bruce Blackwood.

Chambers announced that his ambition next year is to offer prize money in the amount of \$10,000 for the tournament and explained to Mayor Bronin, Ms. Haldine, president of the West Indian Foundation, Advocate for Legacy, Attorney Brian Ajodhi, and Attorney Michael Chambers Jr., sponsors of this year’s tournament that he was expecting their support for the 2020 tournament.

He thanked Mohammed Qureshi from Cricket Council USA of Florida for supplying the cricket balls used in the tournament.



Sportmen’s Captain Bruce (left) with Mayor Luke Bronin.

## Caribbean Tidbits

### Caribbean Cement to Convert Old Tires to Energy

KINGSTON, Jamaica:

Caribbean Cement Company plans to spend US\$9 million (\$1.2 billion) on capital projects this year, one of which involves converting old tires from waste to energy at its kiln. The cement company has 35 projects planned for this financial year. Outgoing General Manager Peter Donkersloot Ponce not as a moneymaking venture pitched the tire project, but one meant to make a positive contribution to the environment.

“We will be able to eliminate the tires in Kingston, probably in four years,” said Donkersloot Ponce at the company’s annual general meeting on July 18. The cement maker, which is ultimately owned by construction giant Cemex of Mexico, said more details would be revealed this week following the signing of

a memorandum of understanding with the Jamaican Government.

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### Caribbean nationals elected to UN Dispute Tribunal

BRIDGETOWN,

Barbados: Two Caribbean nationals have been elected to serve as “half-time” judges on the United Nations Dispute Tribunal. Justices Francis Belle of Barbados and Justice Eleanor Donaldson-Honeywell of Trinidad and Tobago will serve their seven-year terms of office on rotation in New York, Geneva, and Kenya.

Four judges were elected by secret ballot on July 10 with justices from Malawi and Uganda being the others. They will serve on one of two entities—the other being the United Nations Appeals Tribunal—that comprises the Organization’s system of the administration of justice for employment-related disputes. Half-time judges on

the Dispute Tribunal are deployed up to a cumulative period of six months per year, as decided by the president based on the caseload and any judicial absences affecting the work of the Tribunal.

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### St Vincent and Grenadines to get first female Governor General

KINGSTOWN, ST

Vincent: Prime Minister Dr Ralph Gonsalves says he has written to Britain’s Queen Elizabeth requesting that retired educator, Susan Dougan, be named as St Vincent and the Grenadines new Governor General. Gonsalves said he wrote seeking the replacement of 83-year-old Sir Frederick Nathaniel Ballantyne who “is not in the best of health and has indicated his desire to demit office on the 31st of July.”

“A few days ago, the Palace, Buckingham Palace informed our government that Her Majesty had approved the recom-

mendation of her prime minister in this regard, and the instrument of Her Excellency’s appointment is on its way to us,” he said. Dougan, who becomes the island’s first female head of state, will take up her appointment on August 1. Sir Frederick has been head of state since September 2, 2002. Dougan is a former chief education officer and Cabinet secretary, currently serves as Deputy Governor-General. Over a 34-year career, she rose through the ranks of the teaching service.

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### Recyclemania: Tobago to launch first recycling Program

PORT OF SPAIN,

Trinidad & Tobago: is set to introduce the island’s first recycling program. Secretary of Infrastructure, Quarries and the Environment Kwesi Des Vignes, who said greater emphasis must be taken on protecting the environment, announced this. “[We] are about to launch a

pilot project for the first recycling program in Tobago, a groundbreaking program, as we will have the first Waste Material Depot in Tobago, so we no longer have to consider sending material to Trinidad,” Des Vignes said during a recent post-budget debate. He said keeping Tobago clean and green remains a priority for the Division.

This ambition is also reflected in the annual Recyclemania project. This year, four THA Divisions are competing for supremacy in the race to Beat Plastic Pollution: The Division of Finance and the Economy; the Division of Community Development, Enterprise Development and Labor; the Division of Health, Wellness and Family Development; and the Division of Education, Innovation and Energy.

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