



All Hellshire Leadership Council

WORKING TOGETHER FOR THE GOOD OF THE COMMUNITY NEWSLETTER APRIL 2023

EARTH DAY CELEBRATIONS WITH C-CAM



Earth Day is a global activity celebrated every April 22 since 1970 to advance sustainability and climate action. The AHLC joined the Coastal Area Management (C-CAM) Foundation on Earth Day in their celebration to commemorate the 26th anniversary of the establishment of the Portland Bight, Jamaica’s largest protected area. C-CAM Foundation is a NGO that promotes sustainable development and conservation of the natural environment in the Portland Bight Protected Area (PBPA). The Hellshire Hills is a region of dry limestone hills which forms part of the PBPA. The day involved a tour of the Portland Bight Discovery Centre in Salt River, Clarendon for a first-hand experience of the natural wonders of our local forests, local bird sightings along the mangrove boardwalk to a red salt pond and a relaxing river boat ride. There were also games and activities to help participants learn more about what can be done to move towards a cleaner, more sustainable future for humans while preserving our beautiful natural habitats.

(Pictures left to right) C-CAM Earth Day Celebration participants learn about mangroves, climate resilience and local birds on the guided river boat tour.
Walking along the red salt pond
The dry mangrove forest shows what can happen if action is not taken to ensure they are protected.



STRONG POLICE RESPONSE TO SECURITY CONCERNS

The police have increased patrols and spot checks in the Hellshire area following several reports of suspicious vehicles and activities. Residents have reported seeing Probox vans obstructing the Sandhills and Hellshire main roads at nights.

One incident involved a high-speed pursuit which resulted in an accident, with the occupants fortunate to avoid injuries. We urge all residents to be vigilant, activate their Neighbourhood Watch protocols and report any strange vehicles or activities that seem threatening to the police.

The AHLC Safety and Security Team is also on heightened alert and will continue to monitor the situation and share updates in collaboration with the Police.

IF YOU ARE BEING FOLLOWED.... *Cont Pg. 2*

1. Stay calm and be alert. Do not panic and slam on the gas to get away. Remain calm and keep driving safely. Make it a point to be extra observant of your surroundings.

SHARE WITH US! Send pictures & activities to: allhellshireleadershipcouncil@gmail.com & follow us on Instagram @allhellshire_lc

IF YOU ARE BEING FOLLOWED... cont.

2. Do not stop moving and **do not** slow way down to let the car pass you. Trying to make the driver pass could give them an opportunity to run you off the road.
3. **Don't "show that you know"**. Do not signal to your follower that you know, meaning do not wave to them or stare at them through your side mirror. Doing so could escalate the situation. If you remain calm, you will remain in control. While you are doing this, try to get the make and model of the car behind you. If you can jot down the licence plate number, that's even better.
4. **Never drive home. We repeat, never drive home!** In many instances, the person following you is trying to find out where you live or is waiting for you to pull into a place that is not populated. Do not lead them to your home. In fact, start driving in the opposite direction if possible.



5. Call the police or go to the nearest station. Call the police 119 or drive to the nearest station if you feel like you are in danger. You can assess your danger level by how closely the person is following you. If you are unsure, call anyway. Law enforcement will instruct you on what to do next. The number for the Hellshire Police Post is 876-424-6758. Store it in your Favourites. Have a family member or friend on speed dial and ask them to also alert our Neighbourhood Watch team.

6. Drive to a crowded, well-lit place. If you don't call the police or cannot drive to the nearest station, the next best thing you can do is drive to a crowded, well-lit place. Park close to the building entrance, hurry inside, and inform an employee that you are being followed.



Specific to Sandhills:

7. If you have turned into Sandhills and are being followed, keep driving around the circle, keep tooting your horn and do not stop at your gate. Await instructions from the police or Neighbourhood Watch team.

STREETLIGHTS RETURN TO HELLSHIRE MAIN ROAD

Residents will have noticed the improved visibility on the Hellshire Main Road as new streetlights have been installed. A total of 70 lights are slated for the entire stretch of the main corridor, with work carried out the first week of May. Councillor for the Hellshire Division, Vanrick Preddie, advised that a transformer was also installed to power the lights which will go up the Johnson Hill Road and all the way to Sandhills.

We thank Cllr Preddie for his continued dedication to lobby for the interests of all Hellshire residents. The AHLC urges everyone to be mindful of the much appreciated utility which benefits everyone and makes the roadway safer and more secure. If you notice anyone tampering with the newly installed fixtures or any missing lights, please report immediately to your Neighbourhood Watch and the police.

COMMUNITY REPRESENTATIVES MEETING SET FOR MAY 20

The next Community Development Committee (CDC) Community Reps meeting will be on Saturday, May 20, 2023. Make sure you contact your CDC Community Rep or Citizen's Association and tell them your concerns and suggestions.

PLANT A TREE FOR LABOUR DAY

Get ready to work this Labour Day, Tuesday May 23! The major AHLC project will be planting of fruit trees in each community. This is in line with the National Labour Day Theme 'Plant A Tree for Life- Promoting Climate Change Mitigation, Food Security and Road Safety'.

Speak to your Citizen's Association reps for details on this and your CA community project. We need your support, so let us know you want to volunteer!



Hellshire resident at a previous Labour Day project. Jamaicans are being asked to plant a tree in support of the national Labour Day initiative.



RECYCLING MATTERS!

One thing we can all do for the environment is change how we use plastic bottles. Start by carrying a reusable water bottle. If you do use a plastic bottle, be sure to dispose of it in a proper bin or recycling receptacle. Do NOT drop on the ground or throw in gullies or drains. We also encourage you to separate plastics from your regular garbage. Store in a bag and place in recycling receptacles where available. There is currently one designated area in the Sandhills community, with more soon to be set up in other communities.



The recycling area in the Sandhills community has been put to good use since it was installed for Labour Day 2022.



The AHLC Fundraising Committee will be hosting a Benefit Performance of the hit Basil Dawkins play 'No Hope for Hopie' on Sunday June 25, 2023. Mark on your calendars and make it a play date! Look out for ticket info.



Home Choice GM Kareema Muncey and the Ladies of HELLSHIRE at EXPO Jamaica 2023

AHLC YOUTH AND SPORTS COMMITTEE ACTIVATED

Are you interested in sports or have experience organizing a team? The AHLC Youth and Sports Committee is looking for Youth Coordinators in all represented communities. The main role is to get youths to know each other and get involved in community development, organize activities & get participation.

Activities will be designed for the various age groups with a survey to be done to get accurate data on youth in communities and interest areas. The focus areas will be on Football, Netball, Basketball and Table Tennis as these are already active in the Hellshire area.

Plans are already in place for Labour Day, including the remarking of the Netball court at Hellshire Park and the placement of a Basketball backboard.

We need your feedback and participation in the survey that will be circulated soon and listen out for more activities as we move towards greater engagement and participation of our young residents.



The Hellshire Crocs Division 1 Basketball team is made up of Hellshire residents and practices at the Hellshire Heights Community Centre hardcourt.

DRONE CAPTURES SCENES FROM SANDHILLS EASTER BAZAAR

