



All Hellshire Leadership Council WORKING TOGETHER FOR THE GOOD OF THE COMMUNITY NEWSLETTER JUNE 2023

HELLSHIRE RESIDENTS BENEFIT FROM HEALTH FAIR



(L-R) Ann-Marie Hall, Damion Francis, Doreen Thompson-Reid, Ramone Reid (Student Doctor), Ornelia Cameron and Dr. Franz Collins of the MobiCare team.

There was good support for the Medical Clinic organised by the AHLC Senior Citizens and Welfare Committee with the assistance of MobiCare medical team that graciously donated their time and staff. The free clinic was held on June 27 at the Hellshire Pentacostal Tabernacle in Hellshire Park Estate. Residents young and old were able to get weight, blood pressure and blood sugar checks, along with select free medication and blood glucose monitors. The AHLC thanks Dr Collins and his team for their kind services to the people of Hellshire.



BEAT THE HEAT - STAY COOL, STAY SAFE AS SUMMER HEAT SOARS

The Meteorologist Service of Jamaica is predicting at least 15 to 20 heatwave days through to the end of August 2023. A heatwave is defined as a period of abnormally hot weather.

Here are some tips for beating the heat:

- Stay Hydrated:** Drink water throughout the day to prevent dehydration. Avoid excessive caffeine and alcohol.
- Stay Cool at Home:** Use fans, open windows during cooler times, or use air conditioning if possible. Close curtains to block out sunlight. *Cont. pg 2*

Heat Wave Tips

- Avoid the heat by staying out of the sun, especially between 11am and 3pm
- Keep rooms cool by using shades and reflective material & light coloured curtains
- Have cool baths and showers
- Drink cold drinks and avoid tea, coffee and alcohol
- Wear loose & cool clothing and a hat when outdoors

BEAT THE HEAT - STAY COOL, STAY SAFE cont.

Dress for Coolness: Opt for loose, lightweight and light-colored clothing to help your body stay cool.

Limit Outdoor Activities: Schedule outdoor activities during cooler hours like early morning or evening.



Several Hellshire residents were featured on Television Jamaica's Prime Time News on June 21 in a featured story on the extreme heat and how they are coping.

All the residents interviewed represented themselves and their communities well and we were proud to see Hellshire in a positive light in the national spotlight.



SARGASSUM HERE TO STAY

Ongoing research on the patterns and predictions of sargassum seaweed deposits have identified Hellshire as the worst affected area, according to a recent Gleaner article.

The yellow-brown seaweed has been observed along the eastern and southern coastlines of Jamaica for several years, creating massive pileups that scientists say may increase.

"Get used to it. Sargassum is here to stay, and it's likely to get worse ..." was the response from Technical Project Coordinator Darren Fletcher during a Gleaner interview at the Mona Geoinformatics Institute at the University of the West Indies, Mona. "By October, we used to see sargassum beaching completely gone, but now, even in December, it is still there. So the sargassum season is like a year-round thing and it is very difficult to combat," he said.

"Hellshire is the worst affected in terms of the frequency of sargassum beaching, in terms of severity, in terms of volume as well because in the severe months, on a 100-metre stretch of coastline we can see 100 to 150 metres cubed of sargassum. So in terms of height, we have seen from a metre to three metres, so the sargassum then is, basically, taller than us."



The unsightliness of the piles of brown seaweed strewn along bathing beaches such as Fort Clarence and Wavez Beach prevent people from enjoying the seaside. The decaying sargassum also emits a smell said to be akin to rotten eggs, which seems linked to increased respiratory complaints. "...We have some people complaining of respiratory illnesses, especially if they have a history of sinus, asthma, or some other pre-existing respiratory conditions," Anderson noted. Solid waste such as plastic and glass bottles also gets trapped in the bands of sargassum and deposited onshore, making an existing pollution issue worse. (Source: Gleaner)

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

ILLEGAL DUMP SITES CLEARED

Residents who use the Johnson Hill Main Road are breathing easier as the unsightly dump site on Johnson Hill in the vicinity of Windcrest Hills was cleared. The update was given by Cllr Vanrick Preddie. The illegal dump at the Old Hellshire Beach was also cleared.

Residents are reminded that dumping is not allowed in these areas. Plans are underway to prevent the areas from being used for this purpose by unscrupulous persons.

Hellshire residents are encouraged to report any persons seen dumping in these areas as we continue efforts to maintain the natural beauty of our communities.

Road patching work has also been carried out along the Sandhills main road and other inner roads of the Hellshire communities.



HELLSHIRE POLICE UPDATE

The St. Catherine South Police Division has been active over the past few weeks. A number of events have been staged as they seek to work together with residents to build safer communities. The events included a series of pop-ups across the division, including a stop at the Hellshire Police Post in Hellshire Park and a virtual Town Hall Meeting looking at Transnational Crimes. The JCF Torch Run for Special Olympics also passed through Central Village, Portmore.

ST. CATHERINE SOUTH POLICE DIVISION
"Do it right the first time - it saves lives."

present

CROSS STATIONS INVASION
Pop-Ups

Coming to a Station near you!

JUNE 9th
- Greater Portmore Police Station
- Bridgeport Police Station

JUNE 16th
- Old Harbour Police Station
- Old Harbour Bay Police Station

JUNE 21st
- Hellshire Jamaica Constabulary Force
- Caymanas Police Station

JUNE 23rd
- Central Village Police Station
- Waterford Police Station
Widely Publicized Meeting @ 3PM

Chair of the AHLC Safety and Security Sub Committee, Roger England, expressed his thanks to Sergeant Mikey Lord for the increased police patrols and faster response times along with a generally enhanced police presence within the community.

"Your efforts to curtail crime in Hellshire has not gone unnoticed. We give thanks to you and the Hellshire Police Post team for your hard work to make us safe. We continue to support you in all the ways we can," said Mr. England.

Councillor for the Hellshire Division, Vanrick Preddie, also noted that he heard of a reported break-in and immediately headed to the area. "I called Sgt Lord as I was nearby and made my way to the location just in time to see the culprit being taken away in the police car."

The AHLC supports these efforts of the Police as they engage, educate, empower and enforce.

HELLSHIRE HEIGHTS BUILDERS CLUB RECOGNISED BY KIWANIS INTL

Congratulations to the Builders Club of the Hellshire Heights Community for achieving Distinguished Status from Kiwanis International for the 2022-2023 Administrative Year. They are the only Builders Club in Jamaica to receive this honour. We extend our gratitude to the supportive residents who have played a crucial role in this accomplishment.



We are pleased to announce that the Kiwanis Club of the Sunshine City, Portmore, the Key Club of the Cedar Grove Academy and the K Kids Club of the Hellshire Park Basic School will be recruiting new members from primary/preparatory school-aged students. Join us in making a positive impact on the community!

SUMMER SAFETY

CHILD SAFETY TIPS FOR SUMMER

1. Always supervise children under 12.
2. Create a list of emergency numbers and keep them easily accessible.
3. Establish rules for older siblings and communicate responsibilities.
4. Regularly check in with children, especially if parents have a busy schedule.
5. Provide close supervision during swimming activities.
6. Ensure pools are inaccessible without adult supervision.
7. Discourage unsupervised visits to rivers or beaches.
8. Prioritize sufficient supervision for summer activities and events.
9. Supervise and limit children's use of stoves and potentially harmful equipment.
10. Keep lighters, matches and foreign objects out of children's reach.



The AHLC Fundraising Committee thanks all residents and well-wishers who supported the Benefit Performance of the hit Basil Dawkins play 'No Hope for Hopie' on Sunday June 25, 2023. It was a successful event.

The All Hellshire Leadership Council appreciates your assistance and welcomes your support for future fundraising activities.

BLUE KITE SWALLOWTAIL BUTTERFLY ENDANGERED

HAVE YOU SEEN THIS BUTTERFLY?
HELP PROTECT JAMAICA'S NATURE



BLUE KITE SWALLOWTAIL

Where can you see it in
Portland Bight?

- Portland Ridge
- Braziletto Mountains
- Kemps Hill
- Hellshire

This butterfly is only found in Jamaica and is considered vulnerable because of a loss of habitat and significant reduction in sightings. This beautiful butterfly can be seen quickly flying around after a shower of rain.



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↑ CALL OR TEXT WITH ANY INFORMATION ↑

The iconic crocodile could be joined by the beautiful Blue Kite Swallowtail butterfly as a symbol of the Hellshire area. This endemic butterfly found in only four sites in Jamaica is regarded as endangered. The butterfly has long been regarded as a symbol of transformation, hope and faith.

The Blue Kite Swallowtail is the smallest of the island's swallowtail butterflies and is found in four small breeding sites in Hellshire, Roselle in St Thomas, Rio Bueno in St Ann and Crownlands, Trelawny. These fast-flying black and bright blue insects with a red stripe are easily recognised in the field.

Coastal Area Management (C-CAM) Foundation hosted a virtual workshop on June 30 aimed at developing a conservation plan for the Blue Kite Swallowtail butterfly. The Blue Kite Swallowtail was accorded IUCN Red List status as 'Vulnerable' in 1985, with considerable adverse changes to the restricted habitat where this species occurs over these past 38 years leaving the continuing survival of the species in grave doubt. Submissions are now being made by local scientists to have this status re-assessed as 'Critically Endangered'.

There were virtually no sightings in 2022 and 2023, leading to a call shared with Hellshire residents for greater awareness, observation and reports of any sightings.

Threats to the species include farming activity, charcoal burning and forest fires, with the main danger being reduced numbers of Black Lancewood trees, the only known food for the Blue Kite Swallowtail larvae or caterpillars. Changes in annual rainfall patterns will also have a severe impact on future populations, as the adult butterfly only emerges after extended period of heavy rain. These rains have traditionally been in May and October, but unpredictability due to climate change has made this cycle unreliable.

There is no conservation plan currently in place for this species, with C-CAM leading the effort to design and implement strategies to protect the habitat of Black Lancewood stands and save the beautiful Blue Kite Swallowtail butterfly from becoming further endangered.

HELLSHIRE FUN FACTS

How much do you know about your beloved community? For the next few issues of our Newsletter, we will share some fun & interesting facts about Hellshire.

Read on and see how much you know!

1. The name of Hellshire was originally Healthshire and was once known as a popular health retreat.
2. History reveals that hundreds of runaway slaves escaped to Healthshire and lived there for many years before being captured by the Maroons.
3. The Hellshire Hills comprise dry limestone hills and forms part of the protected Portland Bight Protected Area.

BUTTERFLY QUIZ – ANSWER ALL 4 QUESTIONS CORRECTLY TO WIN A PRIZE!!

1. What are the main colours of the Blue Kite Swallowtail butterfly?
2. Where are the breeding sites found?
3. What is the known food of the Blue Kite Swallowtail larvae or caterpillar?
4. When does the adult butterfly emerge?