



# BEYOND ROADWORKS: Meet the People behind the projects



As with any other year, the management and staff of the National Works Agency commit ourselves to giving countless hours in the field supervising infrastructural works, carrying out maintenance on our main road network and auditing various structures to inform future works. We celebrated our milestones while building camaraderie and paused to comfort team members during a year marked by both highs and lows. We are especially proud of the distinguished achievement of the Agency’s traffic supervisor, Judy-Kaye Grant, who became the first woman to be certified by the International Municipal Signal Association (IMSA) in the areas of signs and pavement markings in the world. *See related story on Page 10.*

Andre Hardy... Librarian with a Touch of Something Extra  
p. 3

Sleep In Peace, Our Dear Colleague and Friend  
p. 6



Shining Stars from the West  
p. 17

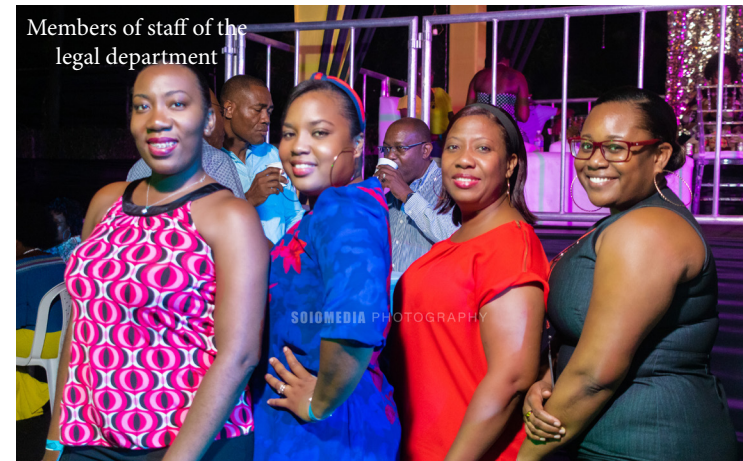


## Highlights - End of year Social

Advertised as a "Retro Party", this peaked the curiosity of staff who kept wondering what the pre-event buzz of activity around the tennis court was all about. Following two days of non-stop toing and froing, the little plain court was transformed beyond our wildest imagination. Many speculated if it would all be done on time. But voila, there emerged the most spectacular décor belying what was before.

The event was now billed as the ultimate stage show, backyard party vibes, a VIP escape, curbside dancehall, dance floor and of course, bar experience. The food was good and the liquor just kept coming. (Perhaps a little too much for some). The immortal Stone Love had staff and their guests moving all night to their nostalgic and riveting selections. If that wasn't enough, musical stalwarts Louie Culture and Frisco Kid took the vibes up ten notches with all-time favourites such as 'Gangalee', 'Old before young', 'Gal pon de side' and 'Likkle and cute'.

The **ROADSTER** takes our hat off to the Office Management Team who, when faced with a limited budget, got creative which certainly 'paid off'... pun intended!



Members of staff of the legal department



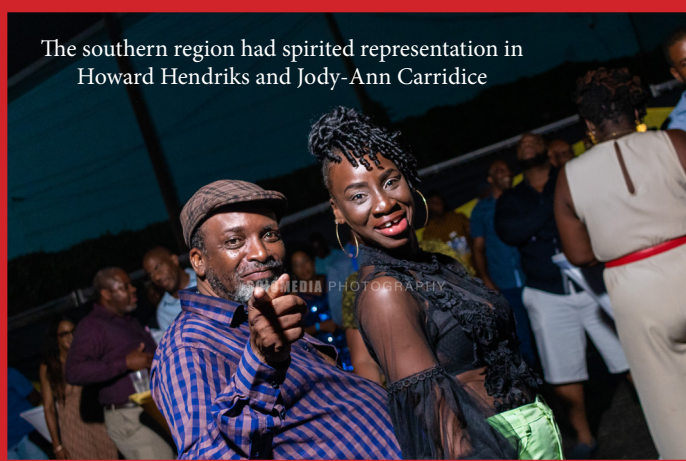
It was a DRISP link-up!



The ladies of the South and South-East regions



CEO, E.G. Hunter, celebrating with our good friends from the NWC



The southern region had spirited representation in Howard Hendriks and Jody-Ann Carridice



Director of Planning, Patrick Rose, flanked by two of his team members

### Shining Stars from the West ... Continued from page 16



#### ADVENTUROUS RAMESES MCGREGOR

Rameses McGregor's award as the Employee of the 2nd Quarter came as no surprise as he is a consistent high achiever who is known for his energy, commitment and initiative.

Mcgregor was born and raised in Montego Bay, St. James where he attended the Cornwall College and then went on to the Montego Bay Community College to study Architectural Technology. He then pursued Bachelors and Masters degrees in Construction Management and Sustainable Development respectively at the University of Technology.

He joined the NWA in 2011 and was assigned to the International Development Bank (IDB) North Coast Highway Maintenance Programme. In 2014, he assumed the post of Assistant Parish Manager for St. James.

A racing enthusiast, Mcgregor is well known in the Motor racing circles and is the Co-Driver Champion (for two wheel drive) for 2008 and 2014. For him, the sport feeds his love for thrill. He describes himself as a daredevil at heart, and motor racing, he confesses, gives him an adrenaline rush which is indescribable. "It is like a bug that bit me that I can't get away from", he said. He also lists bird shooting and event planning as two of his other interests.

Follow us on twitter @ NWA\_JA and Facebook nwajamaica or [www.nwa.gov.jm](http://www.nwa.gov.jm)



#### COMMITTED ANTON CUFF

Anton Cuff is one third of the Employee of the First Quarter team from Hanover and also Employee of the 4th quarter.

He hails from Santa Cruz, St. Elizabeth, where he spent most of his formative years before relocating to Kingston to pursue his Bachelors in Construction Management at the University of Technology. Anton is also trained in Project Management. Cuff joined the NWA in 2011 as a Road Condition Technician and worked in this post until 2012 when he moved up to Assistant Parish Manager. He is deeply committed to his role and derives great pleasure from the impact he is able to have through the projects he supervises. This drives his commitment to the goals of the NWA and fuels his energy, especially when he is called upon to pull extremely long hours to ensure targets are achieved.

A family man, Cuffe is devoted to his beautiful wife and son.

# NWA

876-926-3210-9

1-888-429-5692 (toll free)

*Celebrating 17 Years of  
Developing Safe, Reliable and Quality Roads*



## Multiple Drains in the Corporate Area get much-needed Improvement



Construction of head wall on Chesterfield Road

Drainage infrastructure are an integral part of a fully functional road section. These structures, however, require routine maintenance. In recent times, and most notably in the last two years, several drainage structures across the Corporate Area have been improved, either as part of road rehabilitation projects or a Routine Maintenance Drainage Improvement Programme.

The programme which began in earnest in the 2018/2019 financial year targeted several metal gratings across Kingston and St. Andrew. Damaged metal gratings, in particular, is an issue that the NWA has been dealing with for some years and in the densely populated Corporate Area, this sometimes creates a hazard. The fact is that our network is aged and that is the main reason for some of the issues we experience. Of course there is the less frequent occurrences of drainage structures being damaged as a result of extreme weather, often exacerbated by improper garbage disposal.

A lack of sufficient maintenance due to insufficient resources has also contributed to the problem. A concerted effort has been made by the NWA to replace these gratings, and drainage infrastructure, as funding becomes available. Over the course of the last two years, a more structured effort has been put into place, in the form of a recurrent fund.

What this means is that a budget of \$20 million, per quarter, has been allocated for these types of works. As a result NWA has made significant progress in addressing the matter of deteriorated metal gratings across the Corporate Area, spending \$65M on drainage improvement for the 2018/2019 budget year. Areas, in the Corporate Area, that have benefitted from this programme include Half Way Tree (in the vicinity of the clock); Bob Marley Boulevard; Cooreville Gardens; Drummond Street and Slipe Pen Road/North Street intersection in Downtown Kingston; Duhaney Drive; Darling Street; Tom Redcam Drive; Old Hope Road and the Constant Spring Road / West Kings House Road intersection.

The latest effort which was undertaken during the Christmas holidays in December 2019 saw the repair of a concrete drainage structure on Chesterfield Road in the vicinity of Seaview Gardens. Build up of silt and garbage caused damaged to a section of the drain and had started to undermine the roadway. The damage, therefore, threatened the integrity of both the drain and the roadway and posed a safety risk for road users. As part of the repair works, the drain was cleared of silt and debris, outfall protection and a head wall were constructed and the scoured roadway was reinstated.

As we move into a new calendar year and a new quarter, it is expected that these much-needed drainage improvement works will continue as the National Works Agency strives to make roadways more efficient and functional.

## Andre Hardy: Librarian with a Touch of Something Extra

Andre Hardy is an affable individual with an easy smile, who many NWA Corporate Office staff easily associated with a rather trendy fashion sense. As the Agency's Librarian since September 2010, he has had to interact with internal and external customers and has been associated with several NWA endorsed social and philanthropic ventures over the past few years.

Ventures of note include, but are not limited to, bi-annual blood drives, Eat N Talk sessions, which are information / interaction opportunities for Corporate entities who want to share their products and services during the lunch-time period. There is also the Annual Summer Information Fair held in July, Health and Wellness fairs, annual cancer screenings and occasional health talks. Andre was also the person who disseminated the Agency's E-News which included information relevant and beneficial to staff.

In addition to all the above, Andre was awarded Employee of the Quarter twice – once by himself and another time with his team. He was also one of the Agency's Jamaica Civil Service Association (JCSA) representatives for four years, between 2015 and 2019. Even with all of these accolades, not many NWA staff can truly appreciate the persona that is Andre Hardy, so to rectify this discrepancy, Natalee (Bloomfield) sat down with him in December 2019 and got the gems outlined in the interview below.

Andre was born in Kingston and is married to "the beautiful and ever lovely Mary". They were both "blessed with a trinity of boys (three) for which he is truly thankful to the Lord".

### A NOTEWORTHY VOCATION

As the Agency's Librarian, Andre was responsible for overseeing the Documentation Center which includes the Library and the Reprographic Unit. He was the custodian of materials that support the work of the Agency and assisted, where needed, with providing research aid to both internal and external clients.

Andre's journey to Library Studies was not straightforward. In fact, he, at one point, thought he would become an Accountant, and when this did not materialize, Andre realized that he had to seek gainful employment and landed in his current field. He believes, though, that this was divine intervention as he remembers spending a lot of time in the library in high school and becoming fascinated with the classification system.

Before his foray into the world of work, Andre attended the Excelsior Community College (EXCED) and the Mico



University College where he gained a Bachelor in Education in Library and Information Studies (with honours). He also acquired certification in Drywall Installation from the HEART College of Construction Studies, and is now pursuing a Master of Arts in Archives and Records Management Programme, which he admits is a little out of his comfort zone.

Andre has never been one to eschew challenges and has dreams of moving forward in the field of Construction by pursuing courses in tiling and plumbing also at HEART, once he has completed his MA. He denies being a "professional student" and admits that he has a plan as it relates to what he would like to achieve so he will move forward with that plan, if it is the will of God.

Of all that he has achieved, though, Andre has stated that one of the most rewarding things about his job is meeting the needs of clients and knowing that they are satisfied with the level of service that has been provided. He enjoys planning activities, whether it be for church, for family or for work. He says he likes to "see people happy and enjoying themselves" and somehow that gives him a sense of accomplishment. He fondly stated that the most memorable compliment he has received at work was from team member Warren (Wilson) who, he said, excitedly exclaimed that "this fair was the best ever" in response to an event he oversaw.

One of the highlights of his career at NWA was being allowed to develop the information sessions and to see how far they have come. He continues to credit God for allowing him to achieve this, but he is also grateful to his team members such as Mrs. (Houple) Modest, who he describes as being "one of the most supportive managers one could ask for", and also for Meshia (Davidson) and Andy (Barracks), whose support, he says, has been invaluable.

Continued on page 13



## Treacherous Climb in search of Mahogany Vale



The rusty old metal foot bridge at Mahogany Vale is nestled in thick riverside foliage low in a valley

It was an overcast Monday afternoon in early December, which made conditions a bit hot and muggy in the tightly-squeezed town square of Papine, St. Andrew. We had wisely stopped there to await company for our trip to Penlyne Castle Primary School in St. Thomas - way over in St. Thomas, in fact. Far beyond Gordon Town and Dublin Castle, even farther than the precarious, drop-off slopes of Guava Ridge and Mavis Bank and a steep and treacherous climb above Hagley Gap.

So high up is Penlyne Castle that when we finally got to the beautiful plateau on which the schoolrooms sat, we could have easily touched the clouds crowning the top of the Blue Mountain Peak if we had just stretched out our hands far enough.

Though quite rural, Penlyne Castle is far from being just remotely important in terms of its significance to the national economy. It is from the area's farms that the acclaimed flavorful St. Andrew scallions is reputed to come while conical pine trees dot the hillsides, advertising space between pines, which have been harvested and sold for Christmas Trees in the capital city.

With dirt-stained backpacks slung over their shoulders and machetes in hand, coffee and scallion farmers, slowly crowded into the small classroom upon this majestic summit. They had come straight here from their farms to hear of our plans to replace the derelict Mahogany Vale bridge, which once provided access to their communities over a tributary of the Yallahs River.

The resilient farming community has made do without

the structure for going on thirteen years. Its absence has, however no doubt, affected their agricultural enterprise. It would have been very challenging and costly to transport produce to market whenever the River is in spate as the nearby fording hardly provides an alternative in periods of inclement weather.

However, it has not been for a lack of planning or genuine intent on the part of the NWA why the wait has been this long. Several attempts were made over the last decade to replace the existing iron pedestrian bridge, now covered in rust and lying in ruins.

One set of designs were completed to replace the structure under a previous British Mabey and Johnson bridge programme. However access to the site by the heavy equipment required to do the job was restricted by the rugged, winding, countryside. Time ran out on the plan and the programme expired. A second feasible opportunity to complete the works came recently with the Chinese Compact 200 Modular bridge programme. Mahogany Vale has been gifted one of the seven.

At one point residents did use the old structure whenever the fording was impassable, but today no one would dare be so intrepid. The bridge lost one of its span and a pier during a major flood event in 2007.

The proposed contract to erect a new double-span bridge of thirty-two bays upon two reinforced concrete piers is now with Cabinet for its approval. The proposed sum to undertake the works is an estimated \$181,476,300.00 under a six-month contract.

## National Works Agency plays its part in the fight against the Dengue Epidemic

Over the course of the last two years, Jamaica has seen an increase in suspected and confirmed cases of Dengue, the mosquito borne disease, with just under 8,000 suspected cases being investigated at public health facilities. There has also been between 135 and 137 confirmed Dengue related deaths over the period, with a reported 81 or 88 of these deaths occurring in 2019 (the statistics differ across health-related sources), between January and November.

The impact of the virus is widespread and, according to health officials, children and older adults were the worst affected. As a result, several sectors of government, to include the National Works Agency (NWA) were activated to fight the threat posed by the disease.

In November 2019, the Prime Minister, Most Honourable Andrew Holness, announced an Enhanced Disaster Mitigation Works Programme that was meant to ramp up vector control activities targetting mosquitos responsible for the transmission of Dengue. The programme, valued at \$1.3 billion, was initiated during the Christmas holiday season and all constituencies across the island became a focus. It incorporated debushing and drain cleaning, sanitation and beautification, road repair and patching as well as mosquito control. The NWA participated in activities related to debushing and drain cleaning, mosquito control (in collaboration with the Ministry of Health {MOH}) as well as road repair.

The programme got underway as early as November 18, 2019, in some parishes, with a robust debushing component that saw the clearing of overgrowth that block drainage structures and result in the ponding of water thereby creating mosquito breeding sites. Critical drains with overgrowth or a build-up of silt, debris or garbage were also targeted for clearing. Close to 800 roadways and road sections received attention as part of these works. The works which began in mid-November was completed during the holiday period.

In the same way the component that was focused on mosquito control got underway in November. This phase which was a collaborative effort between the NWA and the MOH, with the Ministry providing support in identifying priority areas and probable breeding sites. Under this component of the programme, drains in approximately 450 communities islandwide were cleaned. At present the works are at a significantly advanced stage. Road repair works to include patching are also being done as part of the programme and are ongoing.



A concrete U-drain being cleaned as part of the Enhanced Disaster Mitigation Works Programme



## Shining Stars from the West

2019 was an eventful year marked by the successful implementation of a number of projects which had a positive impact on the lives and livelihoods of residents and stakeholders across the Western Region. There were a fair number of challenges during the period but what reigned supreme was the commitment of team members.

Through the Rewards and Recognition Programme, an initiative of the Human Resource Management and Administration directorate, the exemplary performance of team members was duly highlighted and rewarded. Meet four of the Western Region's standouts for 2019.



**CALM-NATURED GARETH BERNARD**

"I can do all things through Christ who strengthens me." This is the personal mantra of Employee of the 1st Quarter, Gareth Bernard. A devout Christian, Bernard joined the Team in 2018 as Parish Manager for Hanover.

Bernard hails from Yallahs, St. Thomas and is known for his zeal and unwavering commitment. He is multi-talented, with HEART NCTVET certification in plumbing and electrical installations and he has a way with children. He comes alive whenever he engages with them and never passes up an opportunity to accompany the team to public education sessions at schools. His presentations always captivate the minds of very small children. This undoubtedly stems from his 6 years teaching experience.

A deep thinker, he explores creative solutions to problems at hand and is deeply committed to team building. His work speaks for itself; he is well respected for his affable, calm nature and excellent work ethic.



**WILLING XAVIER GRACE**

Xavier, a son of Carron Hall St. Mary, is an Assistant Parish Manager in Hanover. He is a two-time recipient of the Employee of the Quarter – 2019 Award.

He joined the team in 2011 as an AutoCAD Technician Intern, fresh out of the HEART VTDI Drafting and Building Technology programme. Having completed his period of internship, he continued to volunteer at the Agency eventually being assigned a permanent post.

For Xavier, 'the only time you fail is when you stop trying.' As such, he is committed to career growth through knowledge acquisition. This zeal for knowledge led him to complete a Bachelors in Construction Project Management from the Herriot Watt University, shortly after which he was promoted to Assistant Parish Manager.

Xavier derives great pleasure from being able to help others and impact the communities where he works. He also dabbles in farming and has a love for animals.

Continued on page 19

## Smoothing over Rocky Roads in Hanover



A section of the Cold Spring to Thompson Town roadway in Eastern Hanover, which is currently being rehabilitated at a cost of \$33 million.



Parish Manager at the NWA's Hanover Parish Office, Gareth Bernard (left), along with Senior inspector at the Integrity Commission, Michael Hyatt, examine a retaining wall which was under construction in Riley, Hanover.

Finally! Is a unified sigh of relief from residents and commuters who traverse the Riley to Harvey River and Cold Spring to Thompson Town roadways in Hanover. The roadways are being rehabilitated at a cost of \$59.9 million through the National Works Agency's (NWA's) Maintenance of Secondary Roads programme. The Riley to Harvey River roadway falls along the stretch leading from Riley to Bushmouth. While the Cold Spring to Thompson Town roadway is nestled in the hills of Eastern Hanover. These parochial roads have been in a state of disrepair for some time, having been undermined by successive flood events.

Residents have long bemoaned the condition of the roads, which has overtime made for an uncomfortable commute. Sections of the Riley to Harvey River roadway have been undermined, resulting in the narrowing of sections of the carriageway, while other parts are heavily pitted. A similar situation exists along the Cold Spring to Thompson Hill roadway, where flood rains have resulted in several sections of the roadway being heavily scoured and void of any Asphaltic surface. The projects aim to address the worse sections of these roadways and provide for a more comfortable and safe commute for road users. The projects, which commenced in mid-2019 involves the construction of retaining walls, drainage improvement in the form of cleaning of drains and the construction of additional drainage features. Additionally sections of the roadway will be reshaped and asphalted using Asphaltic Concrete Overlay.



A view of a retaining wall which was constructed at Riley, Hanover.



A V-drain which was constructed along the Riley roadway in Hanover.



Sleep In Peace, Our Dear Colleague and Friend

N is for neat Nevia, you were always professionally attired  
E is for efficient, you were effective and not a time waster  
V is for very short, you stood at 5 feet in stature  
I is for interest, you loved and enjoyed your job  
A is for adaptable, you were capable of fitting into any situation

Nevia, you grace our paths in May 2016 as administrative assistant to the Construction Manager with special responsibility for the Major Infrastructure Development Programme (MIDP). Your entry was graceful as you took on your daily tasks, being on point for your meetings and keeping your boss up-to-date with such information like test results and monthly reports. You worked assiduously in your role, supporting your team members and colleagues on the MIDP. You were also flexible to the point where you acquiesced on several occasions to fill in at the parish level when the need arose. You displayed a character befitting of selflessness and tirelessness; you worked relentlessly in support of your team members. You worked in what we would call a man’s world but you were never lost in it, that ‘fine’ voice of yours could make commands to complete a task or just to give a reminder.

Nevia, you were very punctual, and as the saying goes ‘the early bird catches the most worm’. Work was an early start for you as you would be the first staff from the regional office to arrive in the mornings. Sitting on the bench in the lounge with handbag and lunch bag beside you, swinging those short feet, waiting for 8.30 to move to your desk. at the close of the workday, 5.00 p.m. you would descend those old polished-stained wooden stairs to head home, having given a full day’s work. You were the epitome of team spirit and what a team member should be, you could rally the staff to purchase cakes in support of the Social Development Fund (SDF) cake sale, or you could be called upon to put on your apron and chef’s hat to take part in cooking activities when there was a staff function. You were inclusive as you made yourself useful in every area at work. You were never at the heart of controversy, you were always willing to learn, you just needed to see how it’s done once and you could master it like a professional.

Nevia, your three years and eight months in this organization have left an indelible mark, we all conclude that it was a glorious phase. Monday, January 13, 2020 is a day that will always be etched in our minds as this was the day we awoke to the heart-wrenching news that you would no longer be here with us. Your death is what we ascribe as being untimely; it has definitely left us in a daze. It will be difficult to see the empty bench in the lounge in the mornings; it will be sad eating lunch in the lunchroom without you and the pain of coming upstairs to see your empty chair will be never ending. We are happy that you chose to come to us; we are grateful most of all that you made an impact on all of us. We will treasure your smile and that mild childish laugh, your warmth and sociable nature. Nevia, we will cherish the moments we shared together as you will forever be in our hearts.



Nevia Sinclair, former Administrative Assistant at the Manchester Parish Office

Christmas Joy Flows From Ginger Hill Basic School

In December we journeyed to the Ginger Hill Basic School in North West St. Elizabeth to host our annual Christmas treat for a basic school in the region. The staff members of the Southern Region of the National Works Agency have been carrying on this tradition for the past thirteen years to, in their own way, assist an early childhood institution that is in dire need.

Like a lot of early childhood institutions in rural Jamaica, the Ginger Hill Basic School was started in the 1986 by the Ginger Hill Church of God. Principal, Ms. Adleta Watson with the assistance of two teachers and a cook, teach an almost even 20 boys and 21 girls ranging from age 2 to 5 years. The students come here to school from Pisgah, Maybole, Washfoot Gully and the General Ginger Hill area.

Ginger Hill is a rural farming settlement located along the Red Gate to Washfoot Gully and the Ginger Hill to Pisgah corridor. The area is by this world-renowned for its high quality of pineapples, breadfruits, cocoa and ginger production.

The NWA staff members provided a warm lunch for the students, teachers and parents who attended the treat. The school was gifted kitchen utensils and a small stove while the children were given toys for their Christmas (we hope they enjoyed). Principal Watson expressed her appreciation for the gifts she received and expressed hope that the school would be assisted with kitchen cupboards and the extension of electricity in the basement of the school building where the kitchen is located. Insufficient classroom space and the feeding programme are two of the school’s primary challenges.

President of the Parent Teachers Association (PTA), Ms. Roshida Goulbourne said the NWA team was the largest contingent of volunteers that little Ginger Hill Basic School had ever hosted. She expressed a desire for the team to return in future to facilitate more joy to the children of hilly Ginger Hill and its surrounding.



Our late colleague, Nevia Sinclair (left) and Principal Watson (right) serving food to the children



Santa Claus our own Leroy White doing his job



NWA staff celebrating with the children of Ginger Hill Basic School



## NWA and TEF Partner to Improve Road Safety along the North Coast Highway

In a major attempt to improve safety features along the North Coast Highway, the National Works Agency (NWA) and the Tourism Enhancement Fund (TEF) have forged yet another rewarding partnership through a \$42.9 million dollar contract devoted to the remarking of sections of the corridor and the installation of additional safety features.

This robust road marking exercise targeted the stretch of roadway between Runaway Bay, St. Ann and Falmouth, Trelawny, with particular attention paid to the section between the Runaway Bay Police Station and the Glistening Waters Restaurant and Marina.

The project involved the installation of pedestrian crossings; the removal of 4,800 old raised pavement markers and the installation of 11,100 two-way raised pavement markers; 75,500 metres of white thermoplastic edge line road markings and 39,000 metres of white centre line road markings. Hatchings, directional arrows and stop bars were also repainted, where required, along the combined 37.3 kilometre project area.

Having gotten underway in October 2019, the project which forms part of the Government's ongoing efforts to improve safety along the island's roadways, is now substantially complete. This project complements earlier efforts to improve driver safety such as the installation of traffic signals at the Daniel Town road intersection in Falmouth, Trelawny in June last year, as well as the routine maintenance of the roadway including repairs to the approaches to the Davis Cove and Mosquito Cove Bridges located along the stretch of the highway that passes through Hanover.

Residents have expressed appreciation for what they generally refer to as a positive move and one which will undoubtedly improve safety. According to President of the Falmouth Chamber of Commerce, Delroy Christie, the contract has made a tremendous difference as the corridor is now much easier to navigate since motorists have a better sense of where their vehicles are positioned on the roadway, especially at nights. He added that the markings have made the 'turn off points' along the corridor more visible at nights, which therefore makes for an easier commute.

Similar sentiments were expressed by Divisional Head of the Trelawny Highway Patrol, Sergeant Paul Atkinson who spoke recently with the **ROADSTER**. For Sergeant Atkinson, commuters no longer complain about being unable to properly traverse the corridor, especially at nights. Sergeant Atkinson says that the project has, "improved public safety and reduced the fear associated with the use of the highway, by some sections of the society, especially the elderly." He added that the road markings have also significantly improved the management of traffic along the corridor, as it makes it easier for the police to successfully prosecute offending motorists when the roadway is clearly marked and the appropriate signs are in place.

The project was completed by Road Grip (Bahamas) Limited and funded through TEF.



A team repainting a turning arrow along a section of the North Coast Highway.

## NWA's CEO, E.G. Hunter denounces gender-based violence



We were confounded, along with a bewildered nation, on receiving the news that the senseless spate of deadly man-on-woman violence in recent times had in fact seeped inside our own organization.

It was with a deep sense of sadness and disbelief that we learnt in early January that Miss Nevina Sinclair, formerly of our Southern Regional Office in Mandeville, had died allegedly at the hands of her partner.

The NWA is an organisation of over 400 strong and I believe that among us are very strong men. Men who are assured in their positions as males; men who are given to rational thought; men who support and love their women, and children, and men who will choose forms of conflict resolution that restore and renew rather than abuse and belittle.

I denounce the act that so publicly and viciously took Nevina away from us, such a promising, professional and friendly co-worker and friend. I also denounce every act in private that hurts or demeans any woman.

I urge our men of the Agency to walk away, hold strain or seek a friend in situations of seemingly unbearable stress and pressure. I urge our women to be discerning in your interactions with your partners and do not hesitate to seek help at the first sign of trouble.

Our prayers and thoughts are with the Sinclairs at this time and our family supports theirs during this period of grief and bereavement.

**E.G Hunter**  
C.E.O., NWA





## First, Field Work

The field studies and surveys which precede civil works on mega road projects are very important as the information forms the blueprint from which life-long infrastructure will be constructed.

This is so with the Southern Coastal Highway Improvement Project (SCHIP), which is seeking to upgrade and expand critical sections of the island's road network through the parishes of St. Thomas, Portland, St. Andrew, Clarendon and Manchester.

The National Works Agency (NWA) and hired consultants Stanley Consultants Incorporated are, for now, concentrating on five of what are described as Packages along targeted corridors in both St. Thomas and Portland.

The works are expected to impact and benefit hundreds of communities situated along the combined 48.5 kilometer project area to include the Morant Bay Roundabout to Prospect; Hordley to Long Road and Morant Bay to Cedar Valley corridors in St. Thomas as well as Manchioneal to Fair Prospect in Portland.

Three months of the fourteen to eighteen-month contracts are dedicated to surveys. The final round of which is now being done to locate all above-ground infrastructure including light poles, cabinets and manhole covers along the project areas. This will inform the contractors' relocation and protection-in-place plans so as to minimize the impact of the physical works on existing utility infrastructure.

The data, which will be shared with important stakeholders such as the Jamaica Public Service (JPS), will assist in determining the design and budget for relocating assets where necessary. These preliminary activities should be completed by mid-February.

The design for the pipeline improvement works are now finalized and will be implemented alongside the existing civil works under separate contracts. The preferred approach is to invite the civil works contractors to submit bids for the pipeline works. These contracts are to be put to tender in January and the tender process wrapped up a month later.

The timelines for the project will be impacted by the extended survey activities and material procurement for the pipeline works, for which main contractors China Harbour Engineering Company (CHEC) is responsible. Approximately two to three months have been added to the



A theodolite, unattended surveys a section of the south coast corridor which passes through St. Thomas

contracts to accommodate the supplemental works. Mid-February is now targeted for the commencement of some aspects of civil works on the project particularly as it relates to structures.

Land acquisition proceedings have started with section 3 and 5 notices already served on some property owners. Contractors are required to establish a priority list of parcels that they would want access to in order to commence some critical works. These parcels are likely to be located in areas where structures are to be refurbished or reconstructed.



A team from Stanley Consultants and the NWA makes their way through a heavily-vegetated area to ascertain valuable data needed to inform the road's design.

Andre Hardy: Librarian with a Touch of Something Extra ... Continued from page 3



Activities spearheaded by Andre over the course of the last nine years

For Andre, life at NWA did not present that many challenges. For him, the most impactful challenge that he encountered was "getting those outside his department to understand the need to share information". When asked how he addressed that, he disclosed that it is still a constant struggle but "we continue to engage our internal stake holders and are currently drafting a 'policy directive'" that should improve the situation.

### WORK / LIFE BALANCE

Andre credits God, his wife and his children with helping him to find balance in his life. He tries to maintain a connection with God, which he admits is not always easy, but he continually seeks divine guidance to get him through his days at work.

In addition, he names his wife as a perpetual "escape" and his family as motivation for remaining grounded and focused.

When asked "What advice he would offer to persons who are aspiring to the level of success he has already achieved" Andre's simple answer is one that he attests sums up his whole life: "Put God at the forefront and center of ALL that you do and put in plenty of hard and consistent work."

(Since this interview Andre has moved on from the National Works Agency and we wish him all the best in the next chapter of his life).

Down to the wire: Nail Biting Finish! ... Continued from page 9



Dance instructor, Keino Lawson leads his team in their victory dance

their penalty kicks.

However, the **ROADSTER** contends that Lady Luck and good goal-keeping were the true champions of the finals as neither team really got the better of each other. Camaraderie was also a big winner on the day. The competition gave the co-workers, based in the different Regions, an opportunity to interact with other team members. It facilitated bonding and a greater level of integration with the rest of the organization.

It was however a fairly exciting season of play. The dearth of regular-time goals aside, the finals was an entertaining affair and the **ROADSTER** looks forward to next year's staging. Captain Johnson says DRISP is chomping at the bit to retain their hold on the League trophy. Hi-Tech, otherwise known as the IT department, were Knock-Out Champions, surprisingly. But that's a whole other story for another time.



## Residents Welcome Multimillion Dollar Investment in Community Roads



A view of a section of the Montego Hills roadway which was recently rehabilitated under the Maintenance of Secondary Roads Programme



Martin Hall, Taxi Operator – Montego Hills, St. James

Residents of several communities across St. James are now benefitting from a major effort to upgrade the road infrastructure in across this Western parish. For many, the projects have been long in coming, nonetheless residents have expressed appreciation for the much-needed intervention as these roadways were in dire need of repair.

The projects, which were undertaken by the National Works Agency (NWA), through its Maintenance of Secondary Roads Programme, involved the repair of the Montego Hills roadway, Farm Heights Boulevard, the Porto Bello corridor and the stretch of roadway from Somerton to Virgin Valley. These projects have greatly improved the driving conditions along the targeted road sections and residents are anxious to see other roadways in their communities receiving similar attention.



Dorrel Williams, Resident of Farm Heights, St. James.



The freshly-paved roadway through Farm Heights, St. James

Taxi operator, Martin Hall, says the improvements along the Montego Hills roadway have made it much easier for him to operate his taxi as it takes less time to traverse the area. According to Mr. Hall, "we no haffi inna no leh leh again. It is a big relief and less stress pon mi poor car."

For Farm Heights resident, Dorrel Williams, he is pleased with the road works and so far has no complaints. "This is a marked improvement from what we had before," said Mr Williams. As at December 2019, the projects which involved drainage improvement and the reshaping and asphaltting of roadways using Asphaltic Concrete Overlay were all listed as being substantially complete.

## Down to the wire: Nail Biting Finish!

The atmosphere around the HQ's multi-purpose court was pregnant with anticipation, tension and excitement as the pair of well-deserving finalists - Technical Services and DRISP - took the playing surface to square off in the finale of the NWA's Social Sports and Welfare Club three month-long six-a-side football tournament.

The finalists were undefeated going into the ultimate day of competition. The stage was tantalizingly set for fireworks and a thrilling, goal-filled encounter as both teams were evenly-matched and had outstanding goal scoring records heading into the finals... or so we thought.



Champions DRISP receives their trophy from Senior Director, Varden Downer

First whistle, the kick-off was nerve-wracking confessed eventual winning captain, Jhevonn Johnson. A ding dong battle emerged into the first few minutes of the match as the counterparts traded pies and passes, in an attempt to get the better of each other. Both teams had their fair share of chances throughout the contest to go one up on their opponent but instead the cheering supporters who had gathered to witness history were treated to one spurred chance after the other. Free shots on goal went abegging. The opponents' nets were left undisturbed during the 40 minutes of regular time.

It now required extra time to settle the tie. The teams however, served up much of the same except for a heck of a gem, in the dying moments of the game. A brilliant save by the Technical Services goalkeeper Gary Lindo stopped Jhevonn Johnson's screamer of a shot, robbing DRISP of the extra-time win and increasing the likelihood of penalties. Spectators with heads held in hands breathed a sigh of relief. That was close.

The end of extra time, jittery players were faced with no other option but to settle the duel in that dreaded penalty shootout. Captain Johnson counselled his trusted penalty takers to remain focused and not to allow nervousness to get the better of them, which seemed to work as DRISP would eventually walk away with bragging rights converting four of their penalty kicks to Technical Service's three.

From early on, through studied 'analysis of his opponents' and careful 'strategizing', the Captain said he was 'very confident' his team could have taken the whole competition. In the end, he says, they won because they were better able to keep their nerves on the day and were more clinical with



Captain Johnson, who sports the moniker Baptist, lets one fly



## Congratulations Judy-Kaye!



Judy-Kaye (right) pilots the operator of a Road Marking Machine

Earlier in 2019, Judy-Kaye Grant, Traffic Supervisor, successfully sat and passed the International Municipal Signal Association (IMSA) Senior Pavement Markings Technician Level III examination, making her the first person in the world to be certified as both a Level III Senior Signs and Pavement Markings Technician.

This, in turn, made the National Works Agency the only national road authority and Jamaica, the only country that can lay claim to this distinction. Judy-Kay is also the first woman in the world certified at the highest levels in both fields, which deservingly recommended her for the NWA's 2019 CEO's Special Award, which was presented at year-end.

## PEERLESS CLIMB

Neither dithering on the edge  
Nor boxed in by lines  
Not simply maintaining position  
Or caring what parameter defines

Man or woman  
Just determined to soar  
Unafraid to go  
Where neither has been before

Skirting that straight line  
Scrubbing the status quo  
Right down the center  
Go, woman, go

Solid and unbroken  
Hitting pavement hard  
Marking on the pages of herstory  
Expertly in that regard

Stacking cones, directing flow  
Often under the sun's glare  
With command so effortless  
And proficiency so rare

Skillfully guiding man and machinery  
Often along moonlit routes  
Painting guidelines, ensuring safety  
For all our other regular pursuits

Hand work, long lines  
Winding round bends  
Hatchings and arrows  
Service par excellence she renders

To a road rarely travelled  
She stands pretty much alone  
Unrivalled and unequalled  
Quality she has shown

This, this is no ordinary journey  
One, two, now three rungs aloft  
This, this is truly exemplary  
This peerless climb to the top



And there comes a time when the  
workplace becomes that place where  
we find long-lasting love

*Congratulations  
Audrey and Robert!*