

# THE BENIFITS OF SUNSCREEN

**Sunscreen offers numerous benefits for skin health. It primarily protects against harmful ultraviolet (UV) radiation from the sun, which can cause sunburn, premature aging, and skin cancer. Regular sunscreen use can reduce the risk of these conditions and help maintain a healthy, youthful complexion.**

Here's a more detailed look at the benefits:

1. Prevents Sunburn: Sunscreen shields the skin from the damaging effects of UVB rays, which are the primary cause of sunburn.

2. Reduces Skin Cancer Risk: Consistent sunscreen use, especially with a broad-spectrum SPF, can significantly lower the risk of developing both melanoma and non-melanoma skin cancers.

3. Slows Down Skin Aging: UV radiation is a major contributor to premature aging, including wrinkles, fine lines, and age spots. Sunscreen helps to minimize these effects, keeping the skin looking younger for longer.

4. Prevents Sunspots and Hyperpigmentation: Sunscreen can prevent the formation of sunspots and other forms of hyperpigmentation caused by sun exposure.

5. Maintains Skin Tone: By blocking UV rays, sunscreen helps to prevent uneven skin tone and maintain a healthy, even complexion.

6. Protects Against Broken Blood Vessels: UV radiation can damage the skin's blood vessels, leading to visible broken capillaries. Sunscreen helps to prevent this damage.

7. Reduces Inflammation: Sunscreen can help to reduce inflammation caused by sunburn and other sun-related skin damage.

8. Improves Overall Skin Health: Regular sunscreen use contributes to better skin health by preventing various forms of sun damage and promoting a healthy complexion.

## Laugh! ... it's funny!



They all got burnt by the summer heat! I'm sure they will start coming to the office earlier from tomorrow!!



"Better let that stomach back out before you hurt yourself."



"Tom, this is Kate from the office. Boy, you're a hard person to reach when you're on vacation!"

# ROADSTER

A Publication of the Communication and Customer Services Department ... Paving the way

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**SPARK RAISING PROPERTY VALUES IN PORTMORE, ST. CATHERINE. ... pg 2-3**

**WHEN CONVENTION TURNS CREATIVITY: The Roadster's Personality Feature with Nickeshia Thomas Wizzard ... pg 12-13**

"They've heard the good news- Residents of Jasmine Close in Hamilton Gardens, East Central St. Catherine, cheer with joy as their MP Alando Terrelonge addresses the crowd during a recent road opening ceremony. MP Terrelonge highlighted the significant rise in property values following roadway upgrades in their community under the Shared Prosperity through Accelerated Improvement to our Road Network (SPARK) Project. See related story on pages 7, 12 and 13.

**PUH  
ROAD!**

POWERED BY THE NATIONAL WORKS AGENCY



# SPARK

Raising property values in Portmore, St. Catherine



## Real upgrade to Real Estate thanks to SPARK- Dr. The Most. Hon. Andrew Holness

Prime Minister (Second left) listens in keenly as Alando Terrelonge, MP- East Central St. Catherine explains the positive impact of the SPARK programme as it relates to real estate in the different communities in Portmore that have benefitted, while Robert Morgan, Minister without Portfolio in the Ministry of Economic Growth and Job Creation with Responsibility for Works (first left) and Varden Downer, Senior Director of Project Implementation at the National Works Agency (far right) listens in on the good news.

Residents of Mahoe Drive, Susan Avenue, Jasmine Close, and Ransford Close in Portmore, St. Catherine, are seeing tangible returns on their residential investment, thanks to road rehabilitation works completed under the National Works Agency's (NWA) SPARK Programme.

The Shared Prosperity through Accelerated Improvement to our Road Network Programme (SPARK) is part of the Government of Jamaica's broader push to modernize infrastructure islandwide. With the first phase of the programme zoning in on community roads, in Portmore, it has done more than just improve the quality of roadways—it has driven up real estate values by as much as 20 percent, according to recent statements made by Alando Terrelonge, MP,

St. Catherine East Central.

Residents of St. Catherine's largest urban township are crediting the increase in property values to the NWA's current flagship programme, reiterating that they are definitely feeling the SPARK, which have enhanced ease of access, safety, and overall aesthetics in the featured communities. Once plagued by potholes and uneven surfaces, roads like Mahoe Drive and Susan Avenue now boast smooth, durable pavement and improved drainage, significantly reducing the risk of flooding. Jasmine Close and Ransford Close have also undergone full rehabilitation, creating a more attractive and functional space for homeowners and those who commute there.

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'Disasters are a Reality, Be Prepared for any Eventuality' ...continue from page 22

Some of the core responsibilities undertaken by the NWA during this period include: clearing roadways of debris to maintain accessibility for emergency services; inspecting and repairing damaged infrastructure, such as roads, bridges, culverts, and retaining walls; as well as, monitoring flood-prone areas and conducting pre-emptive drain cleaning to reduce the risk of flooding. The NWA also provides technical assessments and reports to support national emergency response, collaborating with the Office of Disaster Preparedness and Emergency Management (ODPEM) and other agencies.

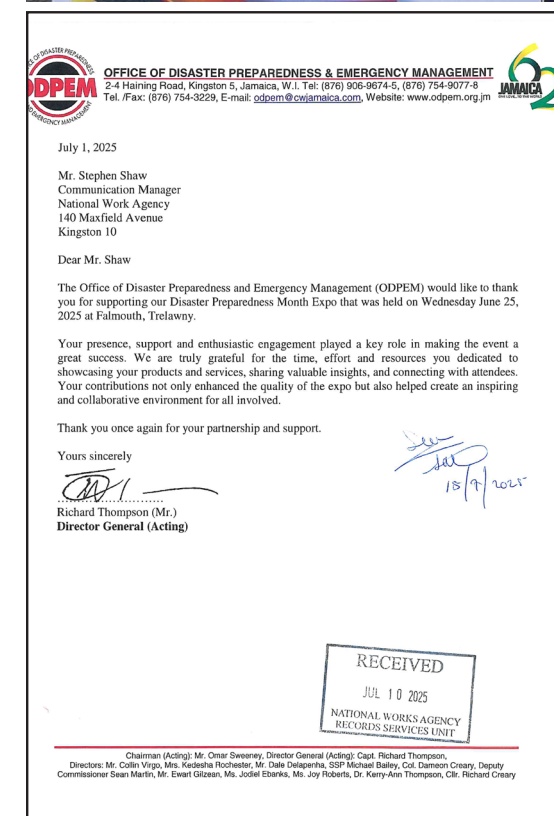
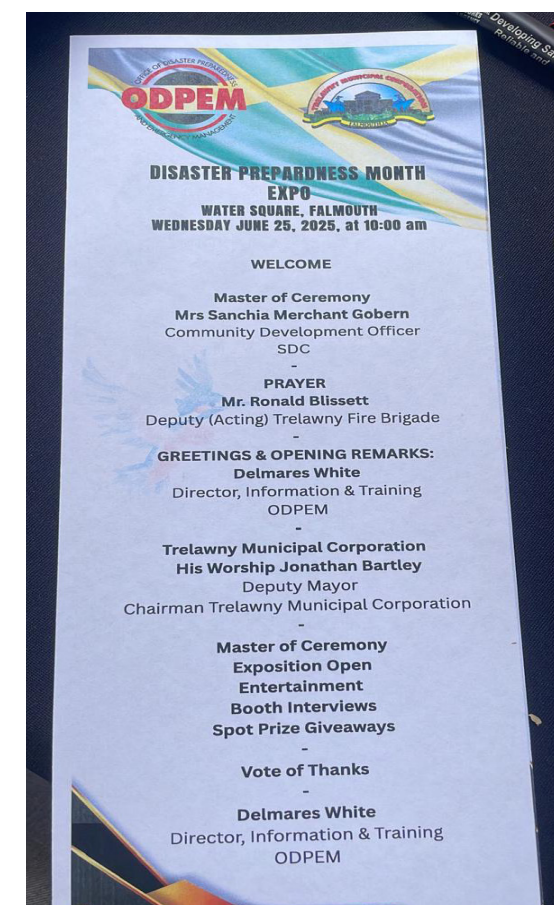
Public education is also part and parcel of the NWA's approach. Keeping Jamaicans informed about road safety, road closures, and emergency tips is critical during periods of disaster. That's why the Agency readily accepted ODPEM's invitation to be part of the Disaster Preparedness Expo, held on Wednesday, June 25, 2025, at Water Square in Falmouth, Trelawny.

Hosted by ODPEM, the Expo marked a major highlight on the national calendar of events commemorating Disaster Preparedness Month. With the Atlantic Hurricane Season already underway, the event served as a public reminder of the need for preparation and an all-hands-on deck approach. Among the participating entities were the Ministry of Local Government, National Land Agency, Digicel, and the National Solid Waste Management Authority (NSWMA)—all of whom showcased their roles in preparing for and responding to disasters.

The NWA was proudly represented by Miss Janel Ricketts, Community Relations Officer – Western Region, and Miss Susan Webb, Graphic Artist/Creative Designer. Through conversations, educational material, and real-life demonstrations, citizens learned about the importance of securing roofs, trimming trees, preparing emergency kits, identifying shelters, and safeguarding important documents. The NWA's booth focused on the importance of maintaining clear roadways and proper drainage, and how residents can help by not dumping waste into gullies and waterways.

As the hurricane season progresses, the NWA continues its mandate to ensure the safety and resilience of Jamaica's road network. Already, the Agency has been conducting island wide drain-cleaning activities.

Whether it is securing your home, checking in on vulnerable family members, or staying informed through reliable sources, everyone has a part to play. Let us take the theme to heart: 'Disasters are a Reality, Be Prepared for any Eventuality'—and act today, so we are not caught off guard tomorrow.





# DISASTERS ARE A REALITY

Be Prepared for any Eventuality



Community Relations Officer, Western Region, Janel Ricketts - engages students with valid information about the National Works Agency.

'Disasters are a Reality, Be Prepared for any Eventuality' – the Office of Disaster Preparedness and Emergency Management's (ODPEM) Call to Action this Hurricane Season.

Every year, from June 1 to November 30, Jamaica enters the Atlantic Hurricane Season—six months during which the island faces the threat of tropical storms, hurricanes, and other climate-related disasters. While we may sometimes 'miss' these disasters, the potential for devastation remains real and imminent. The theme for this year's Disaster Preparedness Month— 'Disasters are a Reality, Be Prepared for any Eventuality'—is a reminder of the importance of community awareness and involvement as well as coordinated national response efforts.

It is often said that one must live through a storm to truly grasp the urgency of preparedness. Hurricanes such as Gilbert (1988), Ivan (2004), and Sandy (2012)

have left physical damage on Jamaica's landscape and psychological impact on citizens to this day. With climate change intensifying weather patterns, the frequency and unpredictability of storms have increased, demanding we all work together to 'face the storm'.

The National Works Agency (NWA) plays a critical role in Jamaica's disaster mitigation and recovery framework. As the state agency tasked with the development and maintenance of the country's main road infrastructure, bridges, and related civil structures, the NWA's responsibilities expand significantly during the hurricane season. Before, during, and after natural disasters, the NWA becomes a frontline agency ensuring access, safety, and mobility across Jamaica. Our offices are transformed to what person's may call a call centre- attending to the complaints of many Jamaicans.

continue on next page

# SPARK

Raising property values in Portmore, St. Catherine

continue from page 2



Residents of Jasmine Close in East Central St. Catherine cheer as their MP Alando Terrelonge outlines how the SPARK Programme has boosted property values in their communities

According to MP Terrelonge, the works done in Portmore reflect the Agency's continued commitment to upgrading communities through people-centered development. "The SPARK Programme is not only about fixing roads. It's about unlocking the potential of communities. What we're seeing in Portmore is proof that good infrastructure lays the foundation for long-term economic and social growth."

Real estate agents are able to note that improved infrastructure increases demand in a community, as many Jamaicans living in the parishes of Kingston, St. Andrew and St. Catherine can look to these sections in Portmore for quality roads, improved drainage, and accessibility. The enhancements under the SPARK Programme have positioned Portmore as a more attractive and viable option for middle-income earners, young professionals, and returning residents looking to invest.

With improved mobility, higher property values, and a renewed sense of pride among homeowners, the Portmore success story stands as a powerful example of how strategic infrastructure investments can transform communities. The NWA continues to monitor the area and is exploring further improvements in surrounding neighborhoods as part of the next phase of SPARK implementation.

As Portmore residents enjoy the benefits of these upgraded roadways, it is now the responsibility of them to take care of these roadways so they may survive the duration of the road's natural life, be it seven all the way up to 15 years.



# SPARK

## Revitalizes Targeted Parochial Roads in Portland

The Shared Prosperity Through Accelerated Improvement to our Road Network (SPARK) programme is officially underway in Portland. This multibillion-dollar road rehabilitation project is not only rehabilitating roadways and recharging landscapes but also revitalizing communities.

The first phase of the programme which targets parochial roads is now targeting four (4) roadways in the parish of Portland. These are the Black Hill to Rodney Hall to White Gate and Sandshore and Caenwood Road in Western Portland and Bellevue Road and Islington Road in Eastern Portland. The total allocation for these four roadways is One Hundred and Seventy-Three Million Eight Hundred and Ten Thousand Eight Hundred and Sixty-One Dollars and Thirty-Three Cents (\$173,810,861.33).

SPARK commenced in Portland on April 28 on both the Black Hill to Rodney Hall and Caenwood Roads. At the end of June these roadways were 20% and 16% completed respectively. Base works (grading and rolling) were underway along the Black Hill to Rodney Hall project while general site clearance and preparation of formation works were underway at Caenwood. Outstanding works on these projects include the construction of drainage infrastructure, construction of headwall and the paving of the roadways with asphaltic concrete.

Over in the east, the Islington Road commenced on May 5 and was 44% complete at the end of June. Bellevue Road, which commenced on June 9 was 12% complete at the end of the quarter. Base works were underway on both projects; drainage will be revamped and roadways paved with asphaltic concrete.

The works being done on these parochial roads are not only extensive but the likes of which have not been seen in these communities in decades. It is expected that once the works are completed, it will enhance economic activities for residents as well as promote faster and more reliable transportation of goods and services in the area.



Compaction works underway along the Bellevue Road in Portland



Motor Grader being used to spread approved base material at Bellevue Road



Base works in progress along Black Hill to Rodney Hall roadway

NWA Recognises Asphalt Day; The Engine Behind Infrastructure Innovation ... continue from page 20

Notably, Ms. Balfour indicated that the NWA uses Asphalt Day to showcase the Agency's adoption of sustainable practices or energy-efficient production methods. These energy-efficient production methods are employed by asphalt plants contractors who are key partners including the China Harbour Asphalt Plant, S&G Asphalt Plant, Alcar Asphalt Plant and Smith's Asphalt Plant.

"We have highlighted the use of Reclaimed Asphalt Pavement (RAP) to reduce waste, the adoption of Warm Mix Asphalt (WMA) technologies to lower emissions, and efforts to design roads that minimize water damage and extend pavement life. Through education and public engagement. The Agency is therefore reinforcing its commitment to long-term, sustainable infrastructure solutions," said Ms. Balfour

The MTEU is instrumental in ensuring materials used meet rigorous standards for strength and durability. This includes adopting modern asphalt design techniques, performance-based testing, and strict quality control to extend the lifespan of new roads.

"Asphalt Day is a reminder that when we build better roads, we build stronger communities and a more connected Jamaica. The future of infrastructure lies in quality, sustainability, and innovation and the NWA is fully committed to delivering on that vision," stressed Ms. Balfour.



Accounts Manager, Sandra Grant, takes a break to read up on the advances of asphalt throughout the years during Asphalt Day



Senior Bridge and Structural Engineer, Justin Naylor poses with an Asphalt Day brochure after visiting the booth



All smiles- Laboratory Technician Racquel Shaw (left) and Manager, Material Testing & Evaluation Daejah Balfour share lens as they welcomed individuals to their booth



Asphalt Day May 15 - Brochure



NWA Recognises

# ASPHALT DAY;

The Engine Behind Infrastructure Innovation



Administrative Assistant in the Directorate of Finance and Accounts, Josiene Brown Nelson, (right) listens in keenly as Laboratory Technician Racquel Shaw tells her more about the significance of Asphalt Day.

The National Works Agency (NWA) celebrated Asphalt Day on May 15, 2025 highlighting its pivotal role in road construction and the success of the many programmes and projects including the Shared Prosperity through Accelerated Improvement to our Road Network (SPARK) Programme undertaken by the agency.

For the Agency, key highlights of the day were the workers and professionals who are integral in the modernization of the roadways which ultimately contributes to our national development. As well as educating other colleagues who were not directly involved in ‘asphalt processes’ so they could be made aware and have a greater appreciation for what it entails.

Manager of the Material Testing and Evaluation Unit (MTEU) at the NWA, Daejah Balfour underscored the importance of asphalt to national development, primarily through major projects like SPARK.

“Asphalt development is foundational to many of the projects undertaken by the NWA. Many of the project’s objectives include improving road durability, reducing frequent maintenance and enhancing safety, are achieved through modern asphalt paving techniques and materials. Therefore, using high-quality asphalt mixes, improved compaction methods, and better design to ensure that roads last longer and perform better under Jamaica’s climate and traffic conditions,” said Ms. Balfour.

continue on next page

St. Elizabeth welcomes the

# THE SPARK

The highly anticipated Shared Prosperity through Accelerated Improvement to our Road Network (SPARK) programme has commenced in St. Elizabeth. The project is now being implemented along selected parochial roads in the parish.

Eight roads had been chosen in the first phase of the project in St. Elizabeth. In Southwestern St. Elizabeth, the School House Road in Middle Quarters, at the end of June 2025, was 18% complete with a contract cost of over \$78- million. The other selected road in this constituency, Pondside Road to Hilltop was yet to begin.

In Northwestern St. Elizabeth preliminary work commenced along the Holland Village Road with a cost of over \$83 – million at the end of June, this project was 20% complete. Work is set to begin on the Grove Hill parochial road, which abuts the White Hill main road.

In Southeast, St. Elizabeth works were progressing along the two corridors that form the first phase in this area. In Gayle Town, which adjoins the Junction to Top Hill main road; grading and compacting of base layer material was complete.

Works were in progress along the Tryall parochial road where grading and compacting of base layer material had also been completed. This project was just about 10% complete as at the end of June.

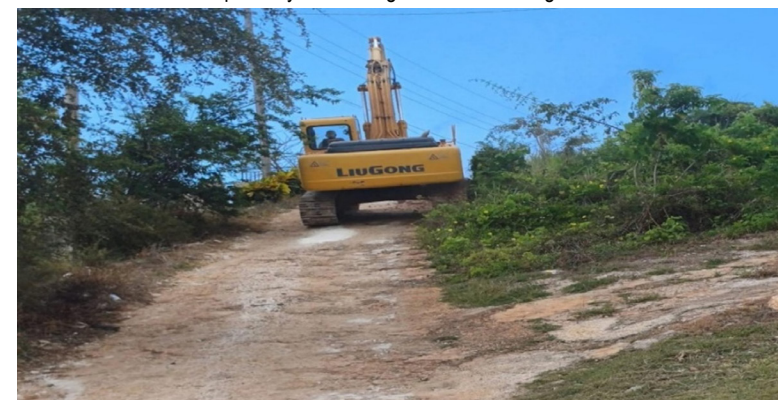
In the ensuing months, works are slated to commence on several other roads. These include Broomfield Town, Queensberry and Slipe. The scope of work will include new drainage features, kerbs and surface replacement.



Compaction along School Road Middle Quarters



Preparatory work along the Holland Village road



Grading along the Gayle Town PC Road



Grading along the Tryall PC Road



# SPARK

Serving our communities one road at a time

Many Jamaicans are now witnessing in real time advances in the quality of the nation's infrastructure. This is especially true in communities that have long awaited meaningful upgrades. This renaissance is happening through the Shared Prosperity through Accelerated Improvement to our Road Network (SPARK) Programme, a JMD \$45 billion project, where the government has split the funds equally to benefit main and community roads.

With the rollout of the first tranche of the programme, several key roads across St. Catherine and Kingston have now been fully paved. The works are being managed by the National Works Agency (NWA) and these completed sections are evidence of the agency honouring its mandate of building safe, reliable, and quality roads for Jamaicans, with a keen focus at the community level.



Lincoln Terrace located in Central Kingston

**Communities that have to date reaped the benefits include:**

**Orange Grove Road, St. Andrew** – Residents of this once patchy and uneven road can now commute with ease thanks to the newly laid asphalt surface.

**14th Street, Greater Portmore** – A vital link within the community, this street now boasts a smooth and durable finish. Motorists and pedestrians alike have welcomed the improvement, cutting down commute time into major town centres significantly.

**Mountain Pass Road, St. Catherine** – Residents since feeling the 'SPARK' have renewed public confidence in local infrastructure. The paving has also opened opportunities for improved transport services and commercial activity, especially farming.

**Lincoln Terrace, Kingston Central** – Located near the heart of Downtown Kingston, Lincoln Terrace has benefited from focused attention under the SPARK initiative. Roads once riddled with potholes and drainage issues are now paved and are now able to withstand the crisis of blocked drain that can lead to flooding.

**Mansfield Avenue** – This residential stretch has undergone a complete facelift with fresh paving, providing a safer, more reliable commute for residents and others who traverse this area.

The paving of these roads forms part of the larger mission of the SPARK Project, which according to Minister

continue on next page

# FROM THE INTERN'S DESK



**Kamilia Williams**  
Communication and Customer  
Service Intern

majoring in Communication with an emphasis in Journalism.

When I found out I'd be working in the Communications Department, I was both nervous and excited. I've always loved writing and storytelling but now I get to see how that plays out in the real world where people rely on communication to keep things running smoothly. Whether it's writing for NWA's newspaper or just helping with surveys.

Something that I hope to achieve at the end of this summer is to grow. I want to learn what it's really like to work in a professional environment, how to take feedback, how to write stronger and how to bring ideas to life. I'm hoping to build some confidence too because stepping into a space where everyone already seems to know what they're doing can be a bit scary.

I also want to make connections and hear other people's stories. Everyone here has such a clear sense of purpose and it's contagious. Being part of a team that's helping people across the country to figure out the problems they are facing with the road. That's something I'm proud to be part of even just for the summer.

As summer rolls in, many students like myself are diving into internships that offer a glimpse into their future careers. For me, this summer is more than just an opportunity to gain experience, it's a chance to explore the world of communication in action at the National Work Agency (NWA). I'm Kamilia Williams, a student at Northern Caribbean University

As the summer progresses, I'm excited to continue learning, growing, and contributing to the NWA. I hope this internship will give me more than just practical experience—I want to gain a deeper understanding of how powerful communication can shape public service and connect people in meaningful ways.



**Arianna Lamey**  
Communication and Customer  
Service Intern

team. I look forward to acquiring new skills and behaviours that I can apply in my future whether it be out socially or in the working world. Being unfamiliar with how the profession works, I am eager to observe the professionals in the field and hopefully develop an understanding of how the area works and how they mesh their work and findings with other departments within the agency.

As a fairly non-social person, I hope these 6 weeks will help to break my shell, bringing me out my comfort zone and building my confidence and communication skills.

Overall, I think this summer program will benefit me both in my future career and otherwise. I hope I'll be able to make the most out of everything I will learn in my six (6) weeks at the NWA.

As a member of the summer program at the National Works Agency (NWA), I am excited to have the experience and be a part of the communication team. As an aspiring engineer, this certainly is a new area for me to explore. I am certain I can and will learn a lot of important things while working as part of this dynamic



NWA Bridge Programme to strengthening national resilience to natural disasters... continue from page 17



Capping of piles in north abutment



Laboratory Technicians making cubes to be used for testing of concrete

Over the course of the last three months, activities on site saw the driving of piles, the cutting and capping of piles, and the pouring of phases of both abutments. As it now stands, the site is starting to look like a bridge and this is a welcomed sight for the community, which after much anticipation can look forward to seeing a new bridge in place by the end of the calendar year.

NWA's project manager on site, Daniel Laing, reported that the work is progressing amidst construction challenges and the community is fully on board and supportive.

"The community has expressed a certain contentment and commendations in having the bridge rebuilt. They have welcomed the development as they have felt it was long overdue, and it will provide a face-lift for the community. Residents have also stated that they are pleased with the rate of progress on the project." The bridge is being constructed at a cost of \$249 million by Dwrights Construction Limited.



Preparations for blinding concrete on north and south abutments



Reinforcement bars and formwork in place for pouring of abutment foundation



Completed foundation for north

SPARK- SERVING OUR COMMUNITIES ONE ROAD AT A TIME ... continue from page 6

Without Portfolio in the Ministry of Economic Growth and Job Creation, Robert Morgan who provided updates on the progress of the SPARK Programme, confirming that construction is actively underway across the island. "We expect by mid-August, we'll have about 130 roads under construction and by the end of the year, we'll probably be constructing some complete, some not, probably 160 roads," he reported.

As the programme continues, more community roads are slated for improvement. Residents are now being encouraged to care for these roads so they may last as long as their design life which is up to 15 years.

Manager, Communication and Customer Services at the NWA, Stephen Shaw said that with proper care, including keeping drains clear of garbage, can see the rehabilitated roads lasting well beyond the design life. Residents he said should therefore take care of the infrastructure as they would their car or homes.



Mountain Pass Road located in St. Catherine



14th Street, Greater Portmore located in St. Catherine



Orange Grove Road located in St. Catherine



Mansfield Avenue located in St. Andrew



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Princess Hotels and Resorts Partner with the

# NWA TO INCREASE ROAD SAFETY

in Green Island, Hanover



Recently installed traffic lights in the vicinity of the Green Island High School.

The Princess Hotels and Resorts Group recently opened two properties in Green Island Hanover. The properties are the Princess Senses the Mangrove – an adults-only resort and the other Princess Grand Jamaica a family-oriented. Combined, it is one of the largest properties to begin operation in Jamaica in the last 15 years.

With Green Island, Hanover now being their home, the group assessed the needs in their immediate vicinity. For General Manager of the hotel, Enrico Pezzoli,

the management of the hotel was concerned with the increased traffic the hotel would bring to the corridor and its possible impact on not only the staff and visitors to the hotel, but the staff and students at the nearby Green Island High School. With this in mind, the hotel group took the decision to partner with the National Works Agency (NWA) to install two traffic signals along the busy stretch of roadway. One, in the vicinity of the main entrance of the hotel and the other at the nearby high school.

continue on next page

# NEW BRIDGE UNDERWAY

at Nightingale Grove, St. Catherine



North and south abutments of Spring Village Bridge following concrete pour in early June 2025

After years of waiting, the Nightingale Grove community in St. Catherine is getting a new bridge. The structure, monikered “Spring Village Bridge”, was used by vehicular traffic to access the communities of Spring Village, Bamboo, Back Pasture and Worthy Park from Gutters / Old Harbour Road. The bridge was officially closed by the National Works Agency (NWA) in September 2022, after a routine inspection determined that the structure was severely compromised and a danger to the motoring public. The process to replace said bridge started later that year.

Fast forward to July 2024, the old structure was further ravaged by Hurricane Beryl – all while the process to identify another contractor was close to completion. This created anxiety for persons serviced by the structure

and encouraged risky use of the damaged structure by idle commuters.

The bridge replacement project which officially commenced in December 2024 got underway in earnest in late February. Since that time, much activity has been in progress on site and, as at the middle of June 2025, new north and south abutments are now in place. The new structure will be a concrete girder bridge, spanning two abutments, complete with wing walls, parapet walls, deck slabs, approach slabs and sidewalks. The project will also see river training works being done with the construction of gabion wall, reno mattress and boulder packing which have the dual function of also protecting the new structure.

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# NEW CULVERT

for residents of St. Jago to  
Pusey Hill Underway

Plans by the National Works Agency to build greater resilience into the infrastructure of Southern Manchester went into higher gear in mid-June. This as work commenced on a major drainage replacement project along the main road from St. Jago to Pusey Hill.

The road which is pounded by vehicles of all sizes on a daily basis had developed signs of major weakness, with a hole developing in section of a major drain. The matter was investigated by the NWA and it was determined that the underground drainage feature had been severely compromised and had to be replaced.

The project to replace the defective drain and improving the carriage capacity of the new structure, commenced on June 16. The project started off with the excavation and demolition of the old culvert, site clearance and the cleaning of side and earth drains.

Under the contract, valued at some \$31 – million, drainage facilities to be completed include; the construction of concrete cross drains, along with ‘U’ and ‘V’ drains. There will also be the construction of retaining walls..

At the end of the quarter, the project was 20% complete. The improvement on the road surface along this busy corridor will allow for free movement of traffic and ease of access to Pusey Hill, Victoria Town, Hammonds, Pratville and other surrounding communities.



A hole that existed in the road before its rehabilitation



An excavated section of the road in preparation for the relaying of culverts.



Parapet section of a retaining wall along with coping underway.

Princess Hotels and Resorts Partner with the NWA to Increase Road Safety in Green Island, Hanover... continue from page 8



A view of a section of the Green Island main road where traffic signals were installed, in the vicinity of the main entrance to the Princess Hotel.

Additionally, they have further sought to improve the safety along the stretch by constructing sidewalks and an exclusive right turning lane, in the vicinity of their main entrance.

This represents a \$26 million investment in the road safety systems along the corridor, with funding being provided by the Princess Group and oversight responsibility for the project being managed by the NWA.

This move has been welcomed by residents and stakeholders in the area. For many, it is a timely intervention to ensure the safety of road users in the area. Principal of the Green Island High School, Maxine Evans, has applauded the work of the Princess Hotels and Resorts Group as well as the NWA. For her, it has helped to allay some of her fears regarding the safety of students and staff, as prior to the opening of the hotel, there had been instances of fatal accidents involving children, at the entrance of the school. With the increased traffic expected in the vicinity of the school the staff and management of the institution were concerned but now look forward to the commissioning of the lights.



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# LONG AWAITED REHABILITATION

of Braeton Road to Hellsire Road Now Set to Begin



The location of the Braeton Road – Hellshire Main Road Project

Works are soon to commence on the second Capital Expenditure (CAPEX) project in Portmore, St. Catherine. This time, the targeted roadway is the much-used road section from the Naggo Head Roundabout along Braeton Road to the Texaco Service Station at Eighty-Five, and along a section of the Hellshire main road to the East Mid Street intersection.

This project has been in the pipeline since 2022 but is now contracted with an official start date of June 25, 2025. The project is valued at Two Billion, Three Hundred and Ninety-three Million, Eight Hundred and Forty-nine Thousand, Nine Hundred and Ninety-two Dollars and Ninety-one Cents (J\$2,393,849,992.91) and was contracted to S and G Road Surfacing Materials Limited. The contracted period is sixteen (16) months.

Braeton Road is a significant corridor within the community of Portmore and a main access point to communities such as Greater Portmore and Hellshire. In addition to these communities the roadway serves Naggo Head, Braeton, Old Braeton and Marine Park. Not only is it a main access for these communities, but it is also a major link between Portmore and Spanish Town, as well as Portmore and the Corporate Area. There are many commercial entities along the corridor including restaurants, gas stations, shopping plazas and residences.

Director of Planning and Research, Patrick Rose said that the objective of the project is to increase the capacity of the roadway and remove the bottleneck at Naggo Head that contributes to congestion. Speaking with the ROADSTER, Mr. Rose said that the project will also address pedestrian safety; help to reduce vehicle

continue on next page

**MORE BOUNTY!** Residents of Bounty Hall and Surrounding Communities in Northern Trelawny elated following the completion of the \$145 Million Road Improvement Project ... continue from page 14

With the second phase of a multifaceted programme aimed at rehabilitating the stretch of roadway from Falmouth to Springvale now complete, the government is now sharply focused on completing the remaining sections of the roadway. Member of Parliament Hamilton, speaking at the recent opening ceremony, shared that the third phase of the project will target the Bounty Hall to Wakefield section of the corridor. This leg of the project will be completed under the Shared Prosperity through Accelerated Improvement to our Road Network (SPARK) programme.

Residents, though eagerly awaiting further repairs to the corridor, are pleased with the progress so far. The project has significantly improved their commute and has greatly helped to improve the ease with which farmers take their produce from their farms to their intended markets.

## Tour of Northern Trelawny



Minister Morgan and MP Hamilton walking along a section of the recently rehabilitated Duncans to Long Pond roadway, as they discuss plans to repair further sections of the corridor. The road section was recently rehabilitated at a cost of \$20 million. The visit to the completed section of road was one on several stops of Minister Morgan as he toured communities in North Trelawny. The Minister also toured the roads from Wakefield Friendship and Martha Brae to Kinloss.



# MORE BOUNTY!

Residents of Bounty Hall and Surrounding Communities in Northern Trelawny elated following the completion of the \$145 Million Road Improvement Project



Minister Without Portfolio in the Ministry of Economic Growth and Job Creation (Works), the Hon. Robert Nesta Morgan (fourth left), and Member of Parliament for Northern Trelawny, Tova Hamilton cuts the ribbon marking the official opening of the Holland to Bounty Hall corridor. Sharing in the moment are, from left, Managing Director, Morris Hill Limited, Kelvin Hill, Project Manager-NWA, Caswell Whyte, Regional Manager – NWA Western, Robert Francis and Acting Construction Manager, Gareth Bernard.

On June 6, 2025, the Government of Jamaica officially opened the a ceremony led by Minister without Portfolio in the Ministry of Economic Growth and Job Creation, the Hon. Robert Nesta Morgan with the support of Member of Parliament (MP) for North Trelawny, Tova Hamilton. This follows the completion of a \$145 million dollar road improvement project on some six (6) kilometres of roadway.

This marks a significant milestone for residents and other stakeholders who travel along this corridor. The corridor is an important arterial link in North Trelawny which serves to connect several communities to the town of Falmouth. Additionally, there are several farms, educational institutions, churches, residential and commercial properties, as well as other points of interest along the corridor.

The project involved extensive drainage improvement and the reshaping and asphaltting of the targeted section of the corridor. This project represents the second phase of a targeted approach to the repair of the 20 kilometre stretch of roadway, extending from Falmouth to Springvale. The first phase involved the repair of the Wakefield to Deeside corridor. This project was completed in 2023 and involved the complete rehabilitation of some four (4) kilometres of roadway.

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**LONG AWAITED REHABILITATION of Braeton Road to Hellsire Road Now Set to Begin.** ... continue from page 10

operating costs; reduce motor vehicle accidents; reduce travel time; reduce congestion and reduce the need for traffic diversions onto minor roadways.

The project will encompass approximately one point-one kilometer (1.1km) along Braeton Road and approximately one point-eight kilometer (1.8km) along the Hellshire Main Road. Both sections of road are crucial transportation routes, with the Braeton section carrying approximately twenty thousand (20,000)

vehicles per day, while the 1.8 kilometre stretch of Hellshire Road sees some twelve thousand (12,000) vehicles per day. The two sections also experience high traffic congestion during peak hours and on weekends. It is projected that traffic will continue to grow over the next few years and increase to a rate of 6% for at least two years following the completion of the project, especially with planned developments for Portmore and its environs.

## PROJECT DESCRIPTION / SCOPE OF WORK

The project will include various infrastructure components, each contributing to the enhancement of the transportation network.



*At the end of the project it is expected that commuters and residents alike will benefit from not only an improved roadway that is safer but also have new water infrastructure and drainage. This will contribute to faster travel times, safer pedestrian and traffic movements and encourage investments and developments in the area.*



# WHEN CONVENTION TURNS CREATIVITY:

The Roadster's Personality Feature with Nickeshia Thomas Wizzard

Nickeshia Thomas Wizzard is the Manager Information Resource (Acting), operating out of the Information Resource Management Unit. She sits in the quiet retreat of the National Works Agency (NWA) Library located on the lower level of the Corporate Office in Kingston. After job hunting for a while, an advert for the post of Librarian stood out to her and she decided to respond. Now employed to the agency for the better part of five years, Nickeshia is now a multifaceted employee. From planning and executing health fairs to sensitizing the staff of the latest technological advancements via the agency's intranet.

Nickeshia recently sat down with the ROADSTER for a peak into her work and her life in and outside of the library.

## Back to the beginning

She told the ROADSTER that she was a very unassuming child who had a zeal to learn more about the world. Growing up in Spanish Town, St. Catherine, there was always interesting things that piqued her interest all around her. One such thing was the historical architecture of the centre- from the Old House of Assembly, the Old Court House and even ruins of the Old King's House. It was her matriculation to St. Jago high school where all her areas of interests were heightened. She excelled in the Arts, namely English Language, English Literature and History. Those individuals who knew her from school could always recall Nickeshia as the girl that was always smiling.

## Becoming Nickeshia

After doing so well in the arts at high school, her desire to study English at university was testament to her love for the discipline. She pursued a Bachelor of Arts Degree in Library Studies at the University of the West Indies, Mona campus. This is where she truly gained a greater appreciation and insight into the now revered art. She mentioned that persons often have this misconception about what Librarians do in their



Mrs. Nickeshia Thomas-Wizzard - Manager Information Resources (Acting)

When Convention Turns Creativity: The Roadster's Personality Feature w/ Nickeshia Thomas Wizzard ... continue from page 12

line of work. She assures us that it is more than the quintessential 'nerdy' Librarian who looks over their glasses at patrons at the library constantly uttering 'shhh'. During her time at university she was exposed to methodologies that captured how to organize, catalog, preserve, and retrieve information, as well as a great deal of research.

After completing her degree, Nickeshia went on to gain work experience in different sectors across Jamaica. At one point serving as a public relations specialist with oversight for social media. This allowed for her to be creative in the space while learning so much about how people consume and digest information which in turn caused her to approach her work with an information systems mindset, which inevitably led to a higher quality output. However, she wanted to return to her first love which was Library Studies and so when a career Ad appeared in the newspaper for a Librarian at the National Works Agency she did not hesitate to apply. In total, she has over 20 years of experience in the field of librarianship.

## Let's get personal

She is a married mother of two lovely boys who adore her. She was asked how similar is her personality and daily routine at work to which she replied "extremely similar!" Her personality is described as creative, quiet and reserved so in many ways the creative and reserved side shines through her daily duties at work as they coincide with the stereotypical characteristics of a librarian. The creative side comes out when she has to plan events or designing a simple flyer to get information across. She recalls in many instances where they overlap but never confused. When she is not at work she enjoys spending time with her family, binge-watching suspense movies and television series. With a smile, she also mentioned undertaking lots of 'Do-It-Yourself' projects and writing short stories with central themes of science-fiction, as well as writing songs- anything that will get her 'creative juices flowing'

## Work Life Balance

When asked about how she ensures work/life balance is being maintained Nickeshia said that the trick was to know your 'limit'. She further stated that in order for a proper work/life balance, one must know how much they can take on at both work and home, that way they are never truly burdened or overwhelmed. Both are important, however if one becomes priority over

the next that may be troubling. A thing we do not talk about a lot during the world of work is 'burn out'. Burn-out is included in the 11th Revision of the International Classification of Diseases (ICD-11) as an occupational phenomenon. However, it is not classified as a medical condition. The World Health Organization defines Burn-out as a syndrome conceptualized as resulting from chronic workplace stress that has not been successfully managed.

Nickeshia said that she shines at work when she plans and executes events for the agency that benefit the staff and brings them together. These include health and information fairs. At the health fairs employees get an opportunity to participate in health checks for communicable and non-communicable diseases, get a chance to be active via exercise sessions and patronize booths that provide services or goods that they would need to visit outside of work which is often a difficult task as one may get caught up in their day-to-day desk duties. Information fairs are no different. Important services are brought to the 'door steps' of NWA employees, where they are able to apply for important national documents including birth and marriage certificates, passports, open new or update existing credit union accounts, purchase insurance as well as bus cards and a host of other services and goods. This is a rewarding experience for Nickeshia to see the fruits of her labour pay off in such a tangible way.

Her colleagues are equally appreciative, ensuring that they verbalize their gratitude to her and the entire team at the Documentation Centre that is also located in the library. She is extremely happy after receiving the positive feedback after these events and shouts of "when again?" by patrons.

## Last Words (For Now)

Nickeshia said that she will encourage anyone entering the Library Service field, especially if they have a degree in Library Studies, to be innovative. The field is not a dying one, however she said it will die if those now entering fail to innovate. "With innovation springs creativity and you'll succeed in any organization you decide to be a part of" she reiterated. "Add your personal style and fair to your life; Everything after that becomes second nature" is her personal mantra that she puts into practice each day.