

TRINIDAD and TOBAGO

**NEWSDAY**

**SUPPLEMENT**

SATURDAY AUGUST 13, 2022

The Hyarima statue  
located outside the  
Arima Velodrome.  
**PHOTO BY ANGELO  
MARCELLE**



# ARIMA CELEBRATES 134 YEARS



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## ARIMA BOROUGH CELEBRATIONS 2022



The Arima Public Market will be upgraded to include artisan vendors.



The landmark Arima Dial in the central business district of the borough.

PHOTOS BY ANGELO MARCELLE

## MARSHELLE HASELEY

The borough of Arima has extended its 134th anniversary celebration throughout August with a line-up of events and programmes for all ages and interest groups across the community.

Mayor of Arima Cagney Casimire said 2020 and 2021 were years of tension and anxiety. "There was loss of jobs and incomes. Health protocols we had to follow were put in place, but we had to ensure care was being given to our people."

Casimire said that challenging period required collaboration between government entities and programmes which provided hampers.

"We had to survive also through partnerships between the business community, the corporation, the police and non-government organisations which assist in meeting the goals of many of our social programmes and people-focused agendas."

He is pleased with how the borough, which includes Arima, Malabar and D'Abadie/O'Meara, has weathered the challenges posed by the covid19 pandemic.

"There are people who have a significant connection to Arima and our traditions. One significant partnership for this is the First Peoples. The traditions they carry on are at the centre of culture, such as parang, in Arima."

Casimire said Arima is proud to be the home of TT's first velodrome and the contribution it has made to cycling.

"Our celebrations for borough month is a compendium of those partnerships." This year's celebrations will recognise local heroes Deon Lendore, who died in a car accident on January 10, and the Grandmaster of calypso Lord Kitchener.

"Arima is celebrating 100 years of Kitchener, and in doing so we renamed Queen Street, Lord Kitchener Avenue. We also honoured

## Borough celebrates 134th anniversary

# Great plans for Arima's future



Arima Mayor, Cagney Casimire, rides the newly launched PTSC Coach service from PTSC Terminal in Arima to City Gate in Port of Spain. FILE PHOTO



Trinidadian-American rapper Trinidad James on right meets Arima Mayor Cagney Casimire outside the Arima Velodrome on Wednesday. James is in Trinidad to promote his new sneaker 'Home Work', which is a tribute to Tobago. Arima celebrates Borough Day on Saturday.

former West Indies cricketer and coach Phil Simmons with the lifetime achievement award. We will also celebrate a premiere citizen of Arima, Professor Rose-Marie Belle Antoine, who is now the principal of UWI, St Augustine."

Antoine will also receive a lifetime achievement award.

"She is from Arima and her family still lives here. She was born and raised here, but spread her wings, having attended UWI, Oxford, Cambridge."



Arima Mayor Cagney Casimire, stands outside the Arima Velodrome where the Hyarima statue is located.

### Collaboration with police for safety

"We have been collaborating with the police to ensure the safety and security of our borough. We have had several meetings with the commissioner of police and other senior

officers and our municipal police."

Casimire said the police will receive new cars before the end of the fiscal year, along with addition to the equipment they need.

### Community development

"We have a hard-working and grounded council. We have done work on the community gardens, and we are building a third one. One garden is in Malabar, another is in Tumpuna."

The council has also partnered with the Arima Business Association and the Sure Foundation, a non-profit organisation which focuses on preserving the natural environment.

"Through our partnership with the Sure Foundation we have given out over 35,000 seedlings, and that is with some of our partners from the business community, such as Universal Insurance Brokers, Royal Bank, First Citizens Bank and Gulf Insurance Ltd."

He said sustainability is more important than ever and everyone can play their part in their living spaces at home.

"This can also contribute to disposable income for many households."

### Infrastructural development

Casimire said he is looking forward to several projects which will be executed in collaboration with the office of the MP, the Inter-American Development Bank (IDB) and the Ministry of Digital Transformation.

"Apart from the police having a new post, renovated dormitories, over \$1.8 million is being spent on renovations to the town hall, which is a modern building."

ARIMA'S FUTURE:  
continues on page 4

**ARIMA BOROUGH CELEBRATIONS 2022**

ARIMA'S FUTURE:  
from page 3

**Delivery of services**

Arima is set to experience improvement in the delivery of services as major government offices and service providers aim to facilitate most business transactions online.

"We have a project called Arima Connect, where the Minister of Digital Transformation and the IDB are going to help us create wifi zones which will allow easy access for entrepreneurs to connect."

Casimire said seminars have also been held in a number of electoral districts to encourage entrepreneurship by putting vendors in key locations for exposure.

"This will be incorporated into the market. We will allocate spaces in the market for artisans and other vendors – broadening the definition of the market."

A connect kiosk will be installed in the market, which will be managed by the Ministry of Digital Transformation.

"Two agents will be there during opening hours to help senior citizens get on to the digital wave and access services. This initiative will limit our need for building spaces as most services such as licensing services, passport services and other business-related services – all of which will be facilitated online."

The mayor said this digitisation strategy will also cater to the needs of youth in the communities. Spaces will be set up at the Arima Community Centre, where young people will access information communication technology for educational use.

"At Phase 4, Malabar community, the board that runs it and the Arima Community Centre have agreed to give some of their spaces to set up a



The NCA basketball team practices on the basketball court near the Arima Velodrome. PHOTO BY ANGELO MARCELLE

multipurpose shelter to address the needs of the vulnerable.

"There are a few NGOs interested in partnering with us for that venture."

**Environment**

Casimire said, "We are working on all these fronts. Our councillors are working hard in their electoral districts on projects like the 1,000 Trees projects, where we have planted over 1,000 trees, including fruit trees and indigenous trees, in collaboration with the Ministry of Agriculture's horticultural division. We have also done some water harvesting, composting, and our recycling project is next in line."

# Move to decentralise Arima

small library which will be linked to Nalis (National Library and Information System Authority)."

Casimire said there is a thrust to decentralisation and a push to capitalise on virtual platforms, which proved their value during lockdowns and restrictions put in place to limit the spread of covid19.

**Arima administrative complex**

"We recently received affirmation that we will be allocated funds in the next budget for establishment of the Arima administrative complex.

"We have identified three sites and we have a preferred site for the complex at Robinson Circular. We will be exploring, through the Ministry of Public Administration, the

utility of that site for the complex to be placed there."

The complex will host some of the government services that are critically needed in Arima, such as tax offices and pension offices.

**Development of the Arima Market**

Casimire said, "MP Pernelle Beckles and I, around last year this time, engaged in several site visits with Udecott, the Ministry of Housing and IDB."

He said the intention is to build a complex south of the current market in the parts of the market that are currently uncovered.

"That complex is going to be our new market complex which will be green/eco-sustainable. We are

awaiting feedback from Udecott on the design regarding the progress."

**Transportation, traffic and safety**

"We have been in partnership with taxi associations and have made arrangements, notably with the associations of Sangre Grande and Brazil/Talparo, regarding the installation of surveillance cameras upon receipt of permission from T&TEC for the taxi areas."

Casimire said plans are also in motion on traffic management. Proposals have been submitted to make Arima free of traffic congestion.

**Multipurpose shelter**

Casimire said plans are being made for the establishment of a

**Calendar of events**

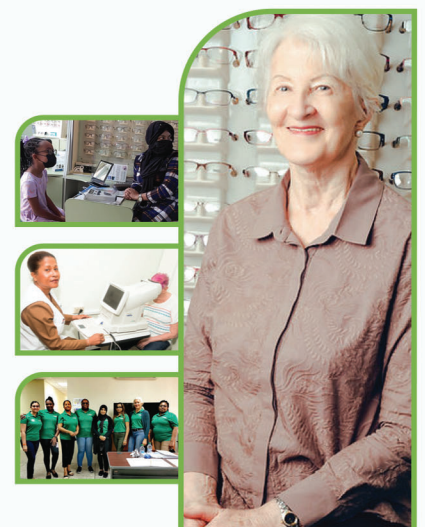
- August 13: Parade of the Bands; 3pm; Arima Layby
- August 14: Pan on the Move; 5pm; Arima Layby
- August 16: Spoken Word; 6pm; Rose Park
- August 19: Parang; 7pm; Home on the Hill
- August 20: Health fair; 8am; Promenade
- August 20: Cycling; 6pm; Arima Velodrome
- August 21: Gospel night; 6pm; India Grounds
- August 25: Civic awards; 6pm; Phase 4 community centre
- August 26 Food fair; 2pm; Larry Gomes carpark
- August 26: Civic awards; 6pm; Arima community centre
- August 26: Community Cup; 6pm; All areas w/grounds
- August 27: Appreciation day; 9am; Arima basketball court
- August 31: Fireworks; 7pm; Arima savannah



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# Arima hospital of service in pandemic



A view of the Arima General Hospital from Princess Royal Park. PHOTO BY ANGELO MARCELLE

The Arima General Hospital was opened in June 2020 and was first used during the covid19 pandemic, as the number of patients requiring hospitalisation grew. The hospital, situated on Providence Circular, overlooks Princess Royal Park to the east and

can usually be seen illuminated with changing colours at night. This project was completed under a government-to-government arrangement between TT and China. The hospital is listed as providing laboratory/blood bank and mortuary services, ambulatory care, pharma-

cy/dispensary, accident and emergency, radiology, obstetrics, physiotherapy, psychiatry, orthopaedics/burns, optical, ENT, gynaecology and surgery. It serves not only Arima but all its environs including D'Abadie, La Horquetta, Malabar and Arouca.



The cannon at Calvary Hill.

# The cannon on Calvary Hill

This gun is a Blomefield light brass six-pounder and overlooks the foothills of Arima from Calvary Hill. The cannon came to Trinidad in 1797, after being in the West Indies for two years. It was re-

located to Calvary Hill on August 11, 1994 by councillor Melan Garcia. History states that the gun was introduced in 1789 and was manufactured until 1980, when production stopped at 2,000. This was gun number 203. On March 29, 1997,

a plaque was unveiled by mayor Elvin Edwards and British High Commissioner Gregory Faulkner, to commemorate the 200th anniversary of British association with Trinidad. Contrary to popular belief, the loud noise

most Arimians hear every August coming from Calvary Hill is not the gun being fired but a mock blast, in a tradition followed by the Santa Rosa First Peoples during the Feast of Santa Rosa. The blast can be heard at 6 am on August 1 (Emancipation Day), August 15 and August 23. It is heard at 1 pm on August 22, and three times on August 28 - 6 am, 12 pm and 6 pm.

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A view of Arima and environs, and as far as the Central Range, from Calvary Hill. PHOTOS BY ANGELO MARCELLE

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# Kitch, the Grandmaster of Arima



The Grandmaster Lord Kitchener sits reading at the races. PHOTO COURTESY NALIS 2022.03.18

**A**ldwyn Roberts, also known as Lord Kitchener or Kitch, was also described as the Grandmaster of calypso.

He would have been 100 this year, and as part of the Arima Borough Day celebrations, Pro Queen Street was renamed Lord Kitchener Avenue on July 23. He was born in Arima on April 18, 1922.

His son Kernel Roberts, also a singer/musician, was elated at the gesture.

He said, "It is a great honour to see that 22 years after his death, people are still preserving the memory and legacy by renaming a prominent street after him. The family feels honoured and grateful. It's nice to see what he gave in the form of culture and the arts is still being rewarded. "He grew up in Arima in the early days, and that's where the heart is.



A man reads the description on a monument to Lord Kitchener, Hollis Avenue, Arima in 2020. FILE PHOTO

"He told me about winning the calypso competition in Arima all the time and they called him the 'Arima Champion' before Lord Kitchener.

"They eventually chased him from the Arima competition be-

cause they said he was only winning. They told him go into Port of Spain and challenge the calypsonians Tiger and Roaring Lion. That was in the budding stages of his career."

There is also a bust of Kitchener outside the Arima Market.



Lord Kitchener entertains the crowd during one of his many performances. PHOTO COURTESY NALIS



Pro Queen Street was renamed Lord Kitchener Avenue in July. PHOTO BY ANGELO MARCELLE

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ARIMA BOROUGH CELEBRATIONS 2022



Members of Arkadians Sports Club show the T-shirts maqueraders would wear on Borough Day. PHOTO BY ANGELO MARCELLE

# Good vibes with Arkadians

Arkadians Sports Club isn't the oldest sports club in the borough, but it is definitely one of the most vibrant when it comes to Carnival-related events.

The club has been in existence for approximately 30 years and has been participating in the parade of bands for 20 years. This year it pays tribute to soca singer Dexter Stewart, "Blaxx," who died in March.

Arkadians is one of the largest

bands that cross the stage for Carnival and Borough Day. Since their first stint at masquerading, Arkadians have always participated, sometimes as the only large band.

Arkadians is based on Calvary Hill and like many bands, the masquerading starts at the mas camp to the Princess Royal Park. Bands then move to either one or two judging points.

This time around, bands are asked to meet at the park and not start from their respective mas camps.

# V'zuelans take part in borough celebrations



The Herencia Venezolana drum group will participate in the parade of bands for the 134th anniversary of the Arima Borough Corporation. PHOTO BY GREVIC ALVARADO

The Venezuelan community will support the celebrations of the 134th anniversary of the Arima Borough Corporation.

Andreina Briceño Brown, director of the Hispanic Cultural Centre of Arima, said the Venezuelan community will take part in the parade of bands on Saturday afternoon.

Briceño Brown said the centre is calling on the community to attend.

"In previous years we have participated to promote the

cultural spaces that have been opened to the Latino community, but that were stopped due to the covid19 pandemic. This year we are encouraged to participate again," she said.

The migrants will parade in a cultural style with the customary drums of the Herencia Venezolana parang group and the children with their families.

"We are calling for them to come dressed in yellow, blue or red shirts in the colours of the Venezuelan flag," she said.

Briceño Brown explained the

presentation will be called *Los Buenos Somos Más* (The good ones are more).

She said the goal is to continue the Latin American community's bonding with and becoming part of the local community.

"Being included in the borough's 134th-anniversary activities is a step forward to brotherhood and in a society where we can all live together in harmony and celebrate Arima's achievements together," she said.

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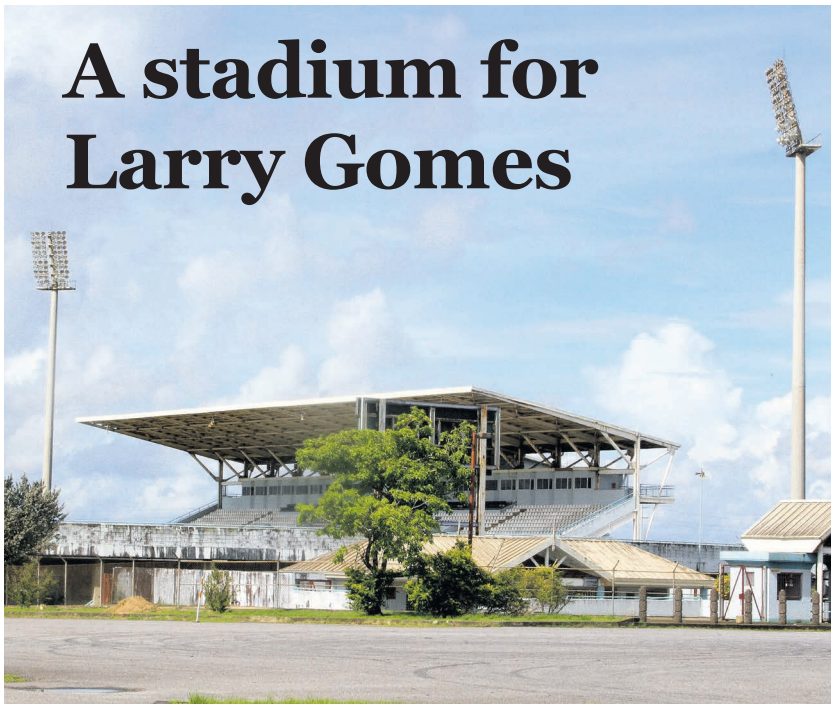
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# ARIMA BOROUGH CELEBRATIONS 2022

## A stadium for Larry Gomes



The Larry Gomes Stadium in Malabar. PHOTO BY ANGELO MARCELLE

The Larry Gomes Stadium was named after the renowned West Indies cricketer.

The facility was built in 2001 as one of the venues to host the FIFA U17 Men's World Cup and is in Malabar, between Phase 1, 2, 3 and 4.

Although the stadium is not outfitted to accommodate competitive cricket, it hosts many other sporting activities, some of which are held in the car park areas. Some of those

activities are athletics, football, the Namdevco farmers' market, religious conventions, family and fun days by various entities, and sports training. There is also a VIP area for formal functions. On most evenings, you will see scores of people exercising around the stadium.

It is popular with bikers testing their stunting skills, while those who like to listen to crisp, loud and clear music in their car can often hear vehicles competing against each other for the best sound.



Suresh Singh looks at his bird Megatron. He competed in the brown bird category at Arima Bird Fest held last Sunday at the Arima Velodrome. PHOTO BY ANGELO MARCELLE

## Bullfinch, the bird of Arima

A large number of Arimians are bird-lovers and their favourite birds are bullfinches.

Should you take an early morning walk on a Sunday, you are bound to see at least one man walking with his caged bullfinch for airing or feeding. Many years ago, bird owners would compete against each other in what was called "Kut Bullin."

For \$2,000-\$3,000, two owners would place their bullfinches on a pole about ten feet apart. A stopclock and scorer would be used to time the competition and count each time a bird rolled. An "objector" would also be used to avoid cheating. The bird that made the most rolls won.

The Bird Association of TT is the overseeing body for bird lovers and under its purview competitions are now sanctioned.

Arima Bullfinch Club has 30 members but the number of birds owned by Arimians is well into the thousands. The club has been hosting competitions for many years, with the most recent one being held at the Arima Velodrome on August 7.

President of the club Anthony Davis expressed satisfaction at the turnout and believed it was the biggest turnout in the history of the competition.

Initially, competitors were awarded prizes for placing in the

phies are awarded now. Since then, all bird clubs have adopted this model.

Buying a bullfinch from an owner with a track record of winning at these competitions can cost you about \$40,000. The average bird owner in the borough has about five of these feathered friends, though some own as many as 20.



Birds are placed on poles to compete in the brown bird category at Arima Bird Fest held last Sunday at the Arima Velodrome.



A bullfinch at Arima Bird Fest.

*Congratulations*  
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**ARIMA BOROUGH CELEBRATIONS 2022**



The entrance to the Toute Bhagai museum in Santa Rosa Heights. **PHOTOS BY ANGELO MARCELLE**



Longtime musical instruments, radios and record players at the Toute Bhagai museum in Santa Rosa Heights.

# Toute Bhagai museum, a hidden gem

One of the best-hidden gems in Arima is a museum called Toute Bhagai.

Toute Bhagai is a patois phrase that means “everything and anyone.”

The museum is on King Orange Drive, Santa Rosa Heights and is owned by David “Dhal Power” Bashay. He started it 33 years ago, with items that reminded him of his childhood. Originally a kitchen covered by a carat-shed rood, it in-

cluded items such as a dirt oven, enamel cups, coal pot, bilna/rolling pin and mortar and pestle and many tools for cutting, seasoning, meats, etc.

Over time, musical records, photography equipment, Coca-Cola bottles, agricultural tools and a gingerbread house were added. There is also a hat collection, living and dining room, household ornaments, paintings, radios and telephone. The museum is a must-see and easily rivals any other in the country.



A dirt oven and irons are among the traditional household items in David Bashay’s Toute Bhagai museum in Santa Rosa Heights.



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## ARIMA BOROUGH CELEBRATIONS 2022



Home of the Santa Rosa First Peoples' Community, Paul Mitchell Street. **PHOTO BY ANGELO MARCELLE**



The Santa Rose First Peoples heritage site in Arima. **PHOTO BY SUREASH CHOLAI**



Maria Nutter Espinet leads praise, alongside Cristo Adonis and Chief Ricardo Bharath Hernandez, right, during the La Cruz de Mayo (May Cross Festival) at the Santa Rosa First Peoples' headquarters in Arima in 2019. **PHOTO BY ROGER JACOB**



Chief of the Santa Rosa First Peoples Community, Ricardo Bharath Hernandez, performs a smoke ceremony at the celebration of the International Day of the World's Indigenous Peoples, at the First Peoples Heritage Site in 2020. **FILE PHOTO**



In this 2017 file photo, a member of the First Peoples Community blows smoke at the Hyarima statue during a smoke ceremony held in honour of the first national holiday in honour of their historical importance to TT. **PHOTO BY ANGELO MARCELLE**

# Legacy of the First Peoples

The Santa Rosa First Peoples Community, formerly known as the Santa Rosa Carib Community, is recognised as the only organisation that seeks to ensure that the heritage of this group is preserved in TT.

Its headquarters is on Paul Mitchell Street just off De Gannes Street in Arima. Talks are under way on renaming the street after the community.

Chief Ricardo Bharath-Hernandez explained, "The town of Arima was started with the First Peoples when they were brought from Caura, Tacarigua and Arouca. The Spanish government was finished with the encomienda system and set up missions under the religious system.

"The town of Arima was born and all the festivals (of the Amerindians, as they were called then) came with it." The Amerindians celebrated many festivals, but they were all replaced by the Santa Rosa Festival. The park in front of the Santa Rosa RC Church would be used to accommodate the festival with dancing and food.

History has it that the patois term *gens d'Arime* (Arima people) that some Arimians can be heard saying, was coined by one of the governors at the time. Prominent families in Arima still use the term.

During Borough Day celebrations the Santa Rosa First Peoples' usually take part in the street parade but this year will be an exception.



Nona Lopez Calderon Galera Moreno Aquan, Queen of the Santa Rosa First Peoples, centre, with members of the community, during a ceremony at the community's headquarters in Arima. **File Photo**

## Hyarima, a defender against colonisers

A golden statue of Hyarima stands outside the Arima Velodrome on the corner of Hollis Avenue in tribute to the Amerindian chief.

He is adorned in a traditional costume with a spear in his hand. Leader of the Nepuyo people in the early 1600s, he became important to generations of Amerindian descendants (now called Santa Rosa First Peoples Community) because of his determination to take back control of the island from the Spanish colonisers.

After escaping their slavery, he formed

coalitions with other tribes to attack St Joseph, at that time the capital of Trinidad. They completely destroyed the town in 1637 and chased the colonisers into what is now Port of Spain. Hyarima's leadership as a cacique (chief) made him both respected and feared by the Spanish.

On October 14, Hyarima is celebrated by the Santa Rosa First Peoples Community with a smoke ceremony, followed by a walk through the borough of Arima. An evening of cultural events will take place on that date.



The Hyarima statue located outside the Arima Velodrome. **PHOTO BY ANGELO MARCELLE**