

Sunday, July 5, 2020

COMMUNITY 31A

New spot for food trucks

A 20 000 square foot eyesore of bush, derelict buildings and trees at Worthing, Christ Church, has been transformed into a food court offering Caribbean and international cuisine in an environmentally friendly space.

Worthing Square was formally launched Thursday with 18 food trucks and businesses.

"This is an innovation for Barbados," said managing director of Mount Gay Distilleries Ltd, Raphael Grisoni. He said that among the values of the world's oldest rum producer was to support communities and Mount Gay wanted to be "a part of this great adventure".

Worthing Square, located amid South Coast hotel, entertainment and other businesses, resulted from an aim by property owner Sacha Soodeen to assist the small food operators and transform the area into an environment for families and tourists to enjoy.

Cleared the area

Soodeen cleared the area, installed utilities, water and sewage facilities and offered the business owners concessional rates.

The ambition to uplift the area and its environs to provide Caribbean cuisine was encouraged by visits to Europe. "I have seen how street food vendors have become a niche," said Soodeen, chief executive officer of V.H. Investments, a real estate and management company.

Latin American and Caribbean dishes and Caribbean accents mixed with the uptempo music of deejays **Ras** and **Schoolboy**, while family members, tourism executives and business owners sampled the food.

Mount Gay's client experience manager Anies Jordan described Worthing Square as "an amazing community project". It would be a safe and friendly environment for families and visitors alike while the food vendors would also benefit, the organisers said.

Mount Gay helped the businesses set up their operations with various forms of guidance.

(HH)



Managing director of Mount Gay Distilleries Ltd, Raphael Grisoni, said the initiative was an innovation for Barbados.



Patrons at one of the food vendors set up in Worthing, Christ Church. (Pictures by Reco Moore.)



National Insurance Board

NOTICE

Electronic Payment of Short-Term Benefits

From September 1, 2020, the National Insurance Office will no longer be issuing cheques for the payment of short-term benefits such as unemployment, maternity and sickness.

The National Insurance Office is requesting persons who register or apply for any type of benefit, to submit their bank or credit union account details to receive their payments electronically.

To aid in this process, claimants of all NIS benefits with bank or credit union accounts (Barbados Public Workers' Co-operative Credit Union Ltd, City of Bridgetown Co-operative Credit Union Ltd, Barbados Workers' Union Co-operative Credit Union Ltd.) are encouraged to download the NIS Direct Deposit form from the NIS website www.nis.gov.bb, and upload scanned copies of the Direct Deposit Form and the header of the bank statement to Directdepositforms@bginis.gov.bb. Alternatively, they may also submit completed forms to the Customer Service Front Desk at the Frank Walcott Building.

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