



Sister Cities News

New Honorary Consul for Barbados Visits Charleston

The Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Trade in Barbados named a replacement for Colin Mayers, who passed away early last year. Nevil Greenidge was named Honorary Consul for the Southeast and his offices are based in Florida. Greenidge is not new to foreign service, having held a post in Canada prior to the US Consulate Services.

Senator Jerome Walcott, Minister of Foreign Affairs and Trade, said at a press briefing announcing the new appointments for the country's overseas missions - "We will strengthen Barbados' partnerships in the bilateral, regional and international arena and seek to optimize the benefits that Barbados gains from these engagements. Finally, we will ensure that Barbados' global diaspora becomes and is treated as a valuable asset."



Photo credit: City of Charleston

Greenidge visited Charleston on February 25 to speak to local officials and community members about the ties between the island nation and the Carolinas. The Barbados Carolinas Legacy Foundation, led by Rhoda Green, arranged for the public presentation. Later in the day, the City of Charleston and Greenidge signed a twinning agreement on behalf of Speightstown (Barbados), formally becoming sister cities. Charleston

Mayor Tecklenberg presented Greenidge with a key to the city and a rice spoon as part of the signing ceremonies.



Doncaster Prepares for a Tourism Boom in 2020

Caroline Flint, MP for the Don Valley, attended the launch of the Mayflower 400 program in December. The Kick-off event had attendees from the UK, the Netherlands and the US to celebrate the sailing of the Mayflower in

1620 to the new world.

Doncaster has been working on the Mayflower Heritage Trail for some time. John Carver, a Doncaster resident, was one of the Mayflower passengers. Located eight miles south of Doncaster is St. Helena Church where William Bradford and William Brewster had roots. Bradford, a leader in the Separatist Movement, became the first governor of the new colony and participated in drafting the first constitution.

The economic impact to Doncaster is expected to be upward of 76 million and create over 2,000 jobs. There are events throughout the year at the various locations on the Mayflower Heritage Trail, but one that captured my attention was the Square Roots Music Festival on August 19 (2019) which is one of many events to launch the Mayflower 400. It is an outdoor free music extravaganza featuring folk artists from the UK and the U.S. Square Roots had its inaugural program in 2018 organized by Creative Doncaster which is supported by the Doncaster Metropolitan Borough Council.

Belize Prepares for High Tech Risk Management

The MesoAmerican Integration & Development Project hosted a country-wide meeting in February to provide technical training and rollout a new technology platform. The program identifies threats and vulnerabilities and geospatial information that can help coordinate emergency response systems across agencies and geographies.

The Honorable Edmund Castro received a new HP laptop & Dell PC that can coordinate information with all the ministries - evacuation plans, health resources, fuel and water resources at the local level- using the new platform.

Brexit: Deal or No Deal

The Wilmington Sister Cities Association Annual Meeting scheduled for Monday, April 1 will be held at the downtown main library in the New Hanover Room beginning at 6:00 PM. We are pleased to announce that Andrew Terrell, the UK Consul for Business and Government Affairs, will be our guest speaker. Terrell came to Wilmington early in 2017 to participate in a panel discussion on Brexit long before the details of Britain's exit from the European Union were even under consideration in Parliament.

There will also be a short film, "Learning to Swim," which was a BBC production filmed and directed by Ruth Grimberg. The film had its US debut at the 2018 Cucalorus Film Festival. It was a serendipitous moment over lunch when Sister Cities learned that Grimberg actually shot the film in Doncaster and gave us permission to screen it again for the broader community. The short documentary shows the human side of the influx of refugees Europe has experienced in recent years, which also happened to be a major factor in the outcome of the Brexit referendum. No reservations are required for the evening program and parking is available in the library deck.

Terrell will also be the keynote speaker for the North Carolina Foreign Trade Promotion Council at a luncheon which will be held in City Council Chambers on the same date. The luncheon program will focus on the trade implications and political tension as the UK formally takes steps to separate from the European Union. To register for the NCFTPC luncheon visit www.ncftpc.com.

Sister City Commission News

Matthew Travis was named to fill the New Hanover County Board of Education seat on the Commission in

2019. Matthew is a resource person for educators in the areas of social studies and foreign languages for K-12. The Commission looks forward to his participation and expert guidance in the area of global classrooms and education exchange opportunities.

Citizen to Citizen Diplomacy Honor Roll

SCAW attempts to involve as many people and institutions as possible to achieve its mission in Wilmington and the international community. We want to recognize the individuals and groups that have made a contribution in the past calendar quarter through their active participation or support of a Sister City program activity.

Scott Czechlewski	Michael Jenkins
Marilyn Cantarella	Maria Goudiss
Peggy Rosoff	Szechuan 132
Chad Fan	Michael Jenkins

Upcoming Events

April 1 SCAW Annual Meeting will feature a presentation and short film on Brexit at 6:00 PM in the New Hanover Room of the downtown library. A luncheon program hosted by the Foreign Trade Promotion Council for the business community will be held at noon in City Council Chambers. For reservations for the lunch visit www.ncftpc.com

April 6-7 - Don't forget to make the **Multicultural Stage** a stop during the Azalea Festival Street Fair on Saturday & Sunday

April 16 – Sister Cities will host a farewell reception for the UNCW 2018-19 international students along with City officials at 5:30 PM in City Hall. SCAW members are welcome to join us for this event.

April 28-May 8 – The 2019 **Jewish Film Festival** will screen at Thalian Hall. Films will be scheduled Sundays, Mondays & Wednesdays over the 2 weeks. For more info on the selections, start times and how to buy tickets visit www.wilmingtonjff.org.

July 17-19 – **SCI Annual Conference and Youth Leadership Summit** will be held in Houston, TX. Early bird rates expire 4/5/19. More info & to register visit: www.sistercities.org.

July 22-Aug 5 – **Barbados Crop Over** is a great time to visit the island and experience a unique series of events featuring music, masquerade, history and culture.