ISSUE 04/ DECEMBER 2024

CITY PULSE

BROUGHT TO YOU BY YOUR
BELIZE CITY COUNCIL

STAY INFORMED WITH YOUR CITY'S

MONTHLY NEWSLETTER



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BELIZE CITY COUNCIL
Always 'bout The People



HIS WORSHIP
MAYOR BERNARD WAGNER
FINANCE, BUDGETING, HUMAN RESOURCES, STAFF DEVELOPMENT & TRAINING, PUBLIC RELATIONS & SPECIAL EVENTS, ANTI-CORRUPTION

2024 Tree Lighting Ceremony Remarks by Mayor Bernard Wagner

My Belize City family!

I am filled with gratitude as we celebrate one of our most cherished traditions-our Annual Christmas Tree Lighting. This moment truly marks the beginning of the festive season, a time of hope, joy, and togetherness. Tonight, as we stand before these two magnificent trees at Battlefield Park and Mule Park-both beautifully adorned with lights and decorations-let us take a moment to reflect on the spirit of Christmas.

Christmas is a time of giving, kindness, and community. The twinkling lights remind us of the brightness of the star that appeared over 2,000 years ago, guiding the three wise men to a humble manger where they sought a child who would represent love, bring peace, and offer compassion and hope to the world.

I want to say thank you to each and every one of you for being here tonight. Your presence is a testament to the strength of our community. Together, we have faced challenges this past year, but we have also celebrated victories-both small and large. It is in these times that we must remember the importance of unity and supporting one another.

As we enter the Christmas season, let us embrace the spirit of generosity.

Whether it's helping your neighbor, volunteering your time for a community event, or simply sharing a smile-every small act of kindness contributes to the fabric of our community. Let's spread that Christmas cheer beyond our homes and into the hearts of those around us.

Now, as we prepare to light these beautiful trees, let them symbolize the hopes and dreams for the coming year. May these lights shine brightly, reminding us that even in the darkest of times, there is always light and hope.

So, my friends, let's spread some cheer as we count down to this special moment.

Happy Holidays and remember to keep love, hope, and gratitude in your hearts!



Belize City Christmas Tree Lighting

It was a night to remember! The Belize City Council, in collaboration with Coca Cola, once again brought the magic of the season to life with an unforgettable Christmas Tree Lighting.

We lit up two breathtaking Christmas trees, paired with a dazzling fireworks show that illuminated the sky.





Special moments that made this year's event even more magical included:

- Santa Clause
- Live entertainment
- Free cupcakes & Coca Cola
- Incredible prizes











This year, we were also excited to share special video greetings from our sister cities and Prime Minister Hon. John Briceño, who sent their heartfelt wishes to all of Belize City.

Thank you to our cupcake sponsors: Treehouse Restaurant, Royal Catering, Cambranes & Son Bakery, Best Western Plus Belize Biltmore Plaza, SugarFix Bakery, Cakes by Karla Belize, Ramada by Wyndham, and Mugs & Pugs Cookie Planet for providing the delicious cupcakes that kept everyone smiling.

Special thanks to Digi Our National Telecom, DigiWallet, Smart Belize, Femina's Store, Diva's Paradise Boutique, Trendz Boutique, LA Fashions Boutique, Dibary, and La Chic Melange for sponsoring prizes along with BCC and Coca Cola.

The turnout was incredible, as families and friends gathered to celebrate, sharing joy and festive cheer while creating lasting memories.

We wish everyone a joyful and prosperous holiday season, and here's to a bright New Year ahead!

Overpass Lighting

What a magical evening it was at the Sir Manuel Esquivel Overpass!



It was truly heartwarming to see so many residents gather to participate in another great Belize City Council Christmas event. The spirit of the season was alive as the Live to Worship Choir filled the night with beautiful Christmas carols and worship music.

Residents enjoyed a holiday treat with wine tasting sponsored by MADISCO Company and Coca-Cola for the kids, sponsored by Crystal Bottling.

A huge thank you to everyone who joined us in spreading Christmas cheer. We can't wait to see your photos capturing the magic of the Christmas lights!

Wishing you all a joyful and blessed Christmas season from your Belize City Council!

Annual Holiday Church Service

The Belize City Council came together for our Annual Holiday Staff Church Service, a beautiful tradition that unites our team in faith, reflection, and gratitude.

As we celebrate this special time of year, we're reminded of the importance of community and teamwork.

Thank you to the King's Park Church of the Nazarene for leading us in this impactful service accompanied by soulful worship music.

A heartfelt thank you to the staff, friends, family and community members who joined us for this meaningful service and to all those who continue to contribute to the growth and success of our beloved city.

Together, we look forward to a bright and prosperous holiday season and new year!







Staff Christmas Social 2024

Belize City Council's Holiday Staff Social - A Celebration of Joy and Gratitude!







What a magical day of Christmas cheer at the Belize City Council's 2024 Holiday Staff Social! The event was filled with the warmth of togetherness and holiday joy as staff members celebrated alongside Mayor Bernard Wagner, Deputy Mayor Pollard, council members, and the honorable presence of Prime Minister John Briceño.

Here's a look at the holly-jolly highlights that made this year's event truly unforgettable:

- Annual Employee Awards
- Christmas Bonus Payments
- Exciting Raffles
- Delicious Food & Festive Drinks
- Live Music & Entertainment




This annual gathering is our way of saying a heartfelt thank you to our incredible employees for their dedication, teamwork, and efforts in making Belize City shine brighter every day.

A round of applause to everyone who made this celebration a success and special congratulations to our staff members who were recognized for their exceptional contributions throughout the year!

Here's to a joyful holiday season and a bright 2025 ahead!






2024 Christmas Lighting of Lopez Mateos Park!

Mayor Bernard Wagner and the Belize City Council were happy to be invited to be a part of the festive celebration as Hon. Kareem Musa and the Caribbean Shores Committee lit up Lopez Mateos Park for the holiday season!

Families enjoyed a magical evening filled with holiday cheer where kids met Santa, indulged in cotton candy, popcorn, snow cones, and were entertained by sparkle fun and Ozzy the Clown all free of cost. Local vendors offered a variety of delicious food, drinks, and unique products, while the dazzling Christmas lights turned the park into a beautiful winter wonderland.

A special thank you to Hon. Kareem Musa and the Caribbean Shores Committee for hosting this event, to our incredible vendors and all the families who came to bring this holiday celebration to life, uniting our community in festive spirit!



Youth Innovation Incubator Christmas Blast

The Christmas break kicked off with a bang on Day 1 of the Youth Innovation Incubator Christmas Blast! Our first day was filled with creativity and fun, featuring activities like Arts & Crafts, Sewing, and Graphic Design.

Thanks to the Belize City Council and the Child Advisory Body Belize City, we've captured a few snapshots of the excitement, learning, and community spirit that defined this festive event.









13th Caribbean Conference on Comprehensive Disaster Management

Ms. Melony Dawson, CEMO Liaison Officer, proudly represented the Belize City Council at the 13th Caribbean Conference on Comprehensive Disaster Management (CDM 13) held in St. Kitts and Nevis from December 2-6, 2024.

The conference, themed "Road to Resilience - Checkpoint 2024: Levelling Up for a Dynamic Future ," brought together regional and international experts, policymakers, and practitioners to explore innovative strategies for disaster management and resilience building in the Caribbean.

During the event, which featured panel discussions, workshops, and networking opportunities, Ms. Dawson gained valuable insights to strengthen and enhance CEMO's Multi-Hazard Preparedness and Response Plan. She also took full advantage of networking opportunities, building partnerships with other Caribbean countries.

We remain dedicated to building a more resilient Belize City and are eager to integrate these valuable insights into the Council's disaster management strategies for a safer and stronger community.

Ms. Melony Dawson attended this conference alongside the National Emergency Management Organization (NEMO) Coordinator Mr. Daniel Mendez and other local Belizean representatives in disaster management.



Gwen Lizarraga High School: Class 3L Assembly

Love is the Reason for the Season

Mayor Bernard Wagner was honored to be invited as the guest speaker at the Gwen Lizarraga Evening Division Assembly led by Class 3L. He celebrated the true essence of the Christmas season with a special message, encouraging students to embrace the power of love, resilience, and determination.

He commended the students for their courage to continue their education and reminded them that the most meaningful gifts—time, kindness, and love—cannot be wrapped in a box.

"Your journey is uniquely yours. Every challenge you've faced and overcome is proof that you have what it takes to succeed. Keep showing up for yourself, your family, and your dreams."

Thank you to the students, teachers, Principal Mortis and especially Class 3L for the warm welcome and token of appreciation.



Deputy Mayor Receives Flame of Hope

Law Enforcement Torch Run for Special Olympics Belize 2024

The Flame of Hope made its inspiring journey through Belize City, uniting our community in support of Special Olympics Belize. Starting with the Community Policing Officers from Precinct One and Two, the torch was carried through the streets, bringing hope and excitement to everyone along the way.

The torch made its way from Faber's Road Extension to the traffic lights by Muslims School, where it was handed over to Eastern Divisional Commander One. From there, it was passed to Deputy Mayor Allan Pollard Jr and Councillor Malcolm Nunez, who continued the journey through Regent Street and halted in front of City Hall.

We are proud to support our athletes, and we can't wait for this year's National Games, to be held at the Marion Jones Sports Complex. Thank you to everyone who joined the Torch Run in spreading the spirit of unity and inclusion!





Councillor Garcia Hands Over Flame of Hope

Councillor Sherwin Garcia had the privilege of handing over the Flame of Hope in front of Memorial Park to the Division Commander, symbolizing the strength and determination that athletes will carry with them throughout the Belize Special Olympics 2024.

The flame continued its journey throughout Belize City, leaving for Ladyville and later to Corozal, igniting hope and inspiring unity as it led the way for the athletes, who embody the spirit of resilience and perseverance.





SANITATION STATS

THIS DECEMBER OUR SANITATION TEAM CLEARED

14,000

BAGS OF GARBAGE

2,100 TONNAGE

FROM OUR CITY STREETS



WHITE GARBAGE COLLECTION

IS DONE ON WEDNESDAYS BY SCHEDULED APPOINTMENT ONLY!

CONTACT BELIZE WASTE CONTROL AT
222-4091 OR 222- 4092 OR WHATSAPP 614-4399

GOT A QUESTION OR COMPLANT

Give us a call at
☎ +501 227-3073 or
WhatsApp 673-9055

MENgage

In recognition of our ongoing commitment to supporting young men, the Belize City Council, in partnership with UNICEF Belize, Belize Leadership Intervention Unit (LIU), and Department of Youth Services, hosted 75 young men from various schools and organizations for a series of engagement and training sessions. These sessions focused on engaging, educating, and empowering young men who face a variety of challenges.

The training sessions addressed topics such as emotional intelligence and anger management. Guest speakers included Deputy Mayor Allan Pollard Jr., Councillor Evan Thompson, and Mr. Jermaine Hyde.

Gratitude is extended to Nazarene High School, the Anglican Cathedral College, Restore Belize, and Pathlight International Belize for their support of our mission to Engage, Educate, and Empower young men!

Our plan for 2025 is to build on the foundation established with these institutions to develop the MENgage mentorship programs through partnerships.

Let's continue to champion, support, and aid in the development of our men and boys throughout International Men's Day and beyond.









Driving Towards a Greener Future!







The Belize City Council is proud to continue embracing a new era of sustainable, clean transportation! In partnership with the United Nations Development Programme, the Ministry of Public Utilities, Energy, Logistics, and E-Governance, and the Ministry of Youth, Sports, and Transport, we had the honor of welcoming Her Excellency Dr. Erja Askola, the new EU Ambassador, to discuss the impact of the EU-funded project, "Towards Low Carbon Transport: Piloting eMobility within the Public Transport Sector in Belize."

Since launching in July 2024, our two electric buses have transformed commuting in Belize City, providing over 60,000 passengers with a quieter, cleaner, and more comfortable ride—all while helping to reduce our carbon footprint.

During this important session, we presented the impact assessment of this pilot project and shared the vision for future fleet expansions, which residents have enthusiastically supported! Together, we're making strides toward a more sustainable future for our beautiful city.

Stay tuned as we continue to innovate and drive Belize City toward a greener tomorrow, one electric bus at a time!



2nd Annual Belize City Triathlon

The 2nd Annual Belize City Triathlon, spearheaded by Councilor Kaya Cattouse and the Belize City Council in partnership with the Belize National Triathlon Association, Belize National Sports Council, and Belize Coast Guard, showcased incredible sportsmanship, athletic discipline, and courage at Memorial Park in Belize City on Sunday, December 1, 2024.



ELITE MALES

1st Place: Francisco Lima

2nd Place: Kian Trejo

3rd Place: Mauro Cucul

4th Place: Kent Gabourel

5th Place: Kenroy Gladden

JUNIOR RELAY

1st Place: Jamir Clother, Devyn Major, and Tamia Bennett

2nd Place: Anna Mendoza, Jaheim Lewis, and Kerwin Guild

3rd Place: Christopher Encalada, Kelsi Castillo, and Jalen O'Brien

4th Place: Daylan Cruz, Kaelie Burgess, and Daniel Cruz

5th Place: Andre Enriquez, Ahmaad Cherrington, and Davae McCauley

MIXED RELAY

1st Place: Leon Guild, Tyrin Tasher, and Mirtha Welch

MALE RELAY

1st Place: Juan Carlos Dussan, Leon Leslie, and Jesus Contreras

2nd Place: Mauro Cucul, Byron Pope, and Albert Davis

3rd Place: Kiluvert Cal, Giovanni Lovell, and Ariel Avila

4th Place: Eric Trapp, Jyven Gonzalez, and Derrick Chavarria

5th Place: Kian Trejo, Steven Jorgensen, and Fred Usher Jr.

Special acknowledgment to this year's top performers:

TOP PERFORMERS - JUNIOR MALES

1st Place: Daylan Cruz

2nd Place: Kasion Vernon

A resounding thank you to the Council Members, Youth Shadow Council, and volunteers who ensured the event ran smoothly!

National Secondary School Basketball Tournament 2024

Mayor Bernard Wagner delivered an inspiring keynote speech at the opening ceremony of the National Secondary School Basketball Tournament, emphasizing the values of dedication, discipline, and teamwork that basketball instills.

As a passionate supporter of sports and a lifelong basketball enthusiast, Mayor Wagner took the ceremonial first shot to officially tip off the finals tournament, igniting the excitement for the games to come.

In his words: "Basketball is more than a sport; it's a teacher." The lessons it teaches go beyond the court, shaping qualities that will guide athletes to success, both in their future careers and in life.

A special thank you is extended to the National Secondary School Sporting Association and Nazarene High School for making the event possible for the students in our communities.









PeeWee Basketball Christmas Classic

Christmas break is here and the Peewee Basketball Christmas Classic was off to a stellar start with 60 basketball stars in training!

Here are a few snapshots of the never-ending fun and learning brought to you by the Belize City Council and the Child Advisory Body Belize City!







Youth Panel Discussion

Belize City Council and Partners Host 4th Annual Youth Panel Discussion on Gender-Based Violence, Violence Against Women and Girls, and Human Trafficking!



In recognition of our commitment to amplifying youth voices, the Belize City Council, in partnership with the UNFPA Caribbean, UNICEF Belize, Department of Youth Services, Child Advisory Body Belize City, and RET International, hosted its 4th Annual Youth Panel Discussion on Gender-Based Violence, Violence Against Women & Girls, and Human Trafficking in Belize City.

This panel followed a series of youth sensitization sessions and surveys for over 300 youths countrywide, in addition to the 90+ in-person participants.

As we continue to advocate for the eradication of violence in all its forms throughout the 16 Days of Activism and beyond, join us in applauding the youths at the forefront of this event:

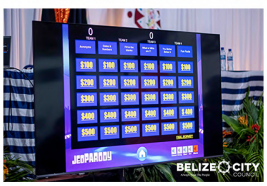
- Abbygail Williams - Belize City Youth Shadow Council Deputy Mayor
- Arthur Butler - Belize City Youth Shadow Councillor
- Elizabeth Ranguy - UNFPA's Youth Advisory Group Member
- Raheema Hafiya - Youth Representative (Anglican Cathedral College)
- Triston Courtenay - Youth Representative (Pathlight Belize & Edward P. Yorke High School)
- Brianna Joseph - Belize City Youth Shadow Council City Administrator

The Belize City Council extends its gratitude to the partner agencies who made this feat in amplifying youth voices through forums such as these possible.













Christmas Parade After Bash

Belize City, you made it magical!

The Christmas Parade After Bash was an unforgettable evening, and we're so grateful for all of you who came out to celebrate with us after the Love FM Christmas Parade!

The night was buzzing with:

- Amazing food and drinks
- Unique products and small trinkets from talented local artisans and vendors
- A FREE Kids Zone full of smiles and laughter

Electrifying live performances by YasThalia, Cocono Bwai, Lord Rhaburn, and Boom & Chime—they brought the vibes and energy we all loved!



Let's keep the spirit alive, Belize City, and continue spreading joy this holiday season. Stay safe, stay merry, and we can't wait to celebrate with you again soon!

A special thank you is extended to the NICH Culture Is the Business Project for sponsoring tonight's entertainment!



Happy Holidays from Mayor Bernard Wagner and the Belize City Council!

New Beginnings Youth Development Center Christmas Cheer

Members of the Belize City Youth Shadow Council and the Child Advisory Body of Belize City made a special stop at the New Beginnings Youth Development Center to spread Christmas Cheer and continue the longstanding tradition started in 2021 by the Council.

During this visit, the BCC crew delivered gifts and sweet treats on behalf of Mayor Bernard Wagner and the Belize City Council to the 32 residents of the facility. In addition, members of the Youth Shadow Council and Child Advisory Body took time to interact with the residents and staff of the center.

As a Council, throughout this festive season and beyond, we remain committed to ensuring that no child is left behind as we continue to develop and curate safe, child, youth, and family-friendly spaces within our growing municipality.





Welcome Resource Center Christmas Cheer

Members of the Belize City Youth Shadow Council and the Child Advisory Body paid a courtesy visit on behalf of Mayor Bernard Wagner and the Belize City Council to the Welcome Resource Center for the Annual Christmas party for the Center's clientele.

During this visit, the team delivered care packages for the Center's clientele, which included hygiene products.

In addition, the Youth Shadow Council and Child Advisory Body members took time to participate in games and serve the clientele a traditional Belizean Christmas dinner.

As we celebrate the reason for the season, let us all remember to spread a little Christmas cheer and leave no one behind, particularly those vulnerable amongst us who need just a little extra help!







16,220 (LINEAR FT) STREET REHABILITATED THIS YEAR

Christmas Lights Glow Ride 2024

The Belize City Council, in partnership with the C-Ray Cycling Club and the Child Advisory Body of Belize City, hosted its 3rd Annual Glow Ride through the streets of Belize City.

Lights, music, cyclists, and rollerbladers paraded the streets, delivering a blast of Christmas cheer to residents as the Glow Ride made its way!

Special thanks to all participants, particularly our Senior, Junior, and Youth category winners!

As we continue the countdown to Christmas, let's remember to spread a bit of cheer to all!



JANUARY 2025

UPCOMING STAFF Birthdays

Alex Nolberto
Alex Ysaguirre
Allison Broaster
Andy Parham
April Harris
Aretha Hamilton
Britney Pook
Darren Carrillo
Denise Swazo
Derix Rosales
Devon Myers
Dorian Usher
Edgar Flowers
Councillor Eluide Miller
Emory Baird
Francis Lopez
Geondale Pipersburgh
Jose Rosales
Kenrick Deshield
Kimberly Grant
Kirstcel Smith
Marianne Vasquez
Marvin Edwards
Michael Young
Minerva Ochoa
Ninfa Ramos
Rachime Linarez
Ruth Swazo
Shane Locke
Stephan Straughan
Stephanie Lamb
Terrylee Smith
Tiffany Gentle
Councillor Stephanne Hamilton
Travis Santos
Troy Smith
Vasni Pech
William Johnson
Winston Gabourel
Ziandra Baird

Happy Birthday! Wishing you a great day and a successful year ahead.
Thank you for your hard work and contributions to the team.

FROM: MAYOR BERNARD WAGNER AND THE BELIZE CITY COUNCIL

JANUARY 2025

WORK ANNIVERSARY

Cardell Bernardez
Reginald Flowers
Marcia Joseph
Michelle Smith
Tricia Bradley
Leonor Mariano
Yona Anderson
Jermaine Hyde
Shaykh Sutherland
Jermain Martinez
Marilyn Young
Tiffany Gentle
Stephanie Lamb
Minerva Ochoa
Ruth Swazo
Licia Diaz Staine
Jose Escobar

Alicia Faber
Valentine King
Elroy Yarde
Dabeyba Chavez
Andy Garcia
Samuel Harvey
Winston Gabourel
David Henkis
Roberto Lalin
Ian Reneau
Ardeth Steven
Sharlene Bailey
Carlet Belisle
Shelmadene Lynch
Felix Montoya
Courteney Young
Delwin Gordon
Melida Jimenez

Gilroy Thomas
Curt Burgess
Winsfield Matura
Julio Arenivar
Miguel Barrera
Pauline Mclean
Frederick Tillett
Lisa Tracey
Silas Agustin
Cecelia Middleton
Samuel Beeks
Julio Contreras
Jacqueline Gentle
Cleyon Marage
Bert Palmer
Shearlette Bennett
Medardo Cardoza

Janice Flores
Ismael Leon Balderramos
Stephanie Ramirez
Jose Rosales
Keira Munnings
Cordell Gonzalez
Emory Baird
Allison Broaster
Mark Humes
Janice Flores
Kimania Gordon
Jamie Burn
Jason Reyes

Shaquille Neal
Tracy Grant
Michelle Arnold
Keeton Bennett
James Zelaya
Natasha Rodriguez
Phillipa Gonzalez
Harry Belgrave
Cyrus Welch
Sheena Barrow
Jordan Ek
Kurt Cutkelvin
Tyrone Raymond

Thank you for your hard work and dedication. Your contributions are truly valued and appreciated. Here's to many more successful years together!

FROM: MAYOR BERNARD WAGNER AND THE BELIZE CITY COUNCIL

MARKET DAY

AT THE MICHAEL FINNEGAN MARKET

MONDAY – FRIDAY
6:00 AM – 6:00 PM

SATURDAY
5:00 AM – 6:00 PM

SUNDAY
6:00 AM – 12:00 PM



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