

USE MONEY TO IMPROVE ROADS

PRESIDENT of the Barbados Road Safety Association (BRSA), Sharmane Roland-Bowen is calling for a portion of the

road taxes which are paid to the State and fines collected by the courts for traffic offences, to be earmarked for road safety initiatives in-

cluding road maintenance.

Speaking to *The Barbados Advocate* recently, she said such finances are needed to ensure that all road users, mo-

torists and pedestrians alike, are kept safe. In that respect, she is suggesting that some of that

MONEY on Page 3

Call for 24-hour facility for the homeless

THE government of Barbados is being called upon to assist in providing a property that will serve as a 24-hour shelter for persons who are homeless.

The call has come from President of the Barbados Vagrants and Homeless Society (BVHS), Kemar Saffrey, who charges that the current Democratic Labour Party administration needs to look at the issue of homelessness in a more serious way going forward into 2018, as it is an issue of national importance.

"For next year, obviously we would like the support. We would like government to look into this more seriously and to see this as something that could turn out to be a national crisis, with our country having so many homeless persons," Saffrey commented.

Pointing out that more and more persons are turning to the streets as they lose their jobs and are unable to pay their rent, fall out with relatives or even lose their homes to fire, Saffrey stated that the longer persons remain on the streets, the greater the dangers, especially for women and children, and the greater the likelihood of a link to vagrancy.

"So we are urging government in whatever way they can, to secure a property, even if it is a property that can only be temporarily used, and if they don't want to include us, we don't mind, but they need to find something that we can run a 24-hour shelter from, so that when a man or woman comes on the street, there is somewhere for them to go. That is our appeal to government for next year. That is our focus," Saffrey maintained.

The BVHS president meanwhile noted that the Society will be pushing a more visible campaign against homelessness in 2018, in a bid to remove more of the homeless, off of the streets.

BVHS on Page 5



These young guests at Crystal Cove Hotel had a fun time with the green monkey during the event yesterday.

Crystal Cove guests enjoy festive activities

CRYSTAL Cove Hotel transformed its garden into an Enchanted Forest, yesterday.

Guests of the Appleby, St. James property enjoyed the annual festive activity, which included Santa's Barn House showcasing snakes, turtles, birds and the green monkey; Mrs. Claus' Kitchen, which cooked up a va-

riety of sweet treats, as well as games on site and a live DJ playing the season's favourite tunes.

General Manager Sophia Babb said that the event, which is now into its sixth year, is always well received by guests, not only from Crystal Cove, but also their other Elegant Hotel properties.

"Every year we change up the format such as featuring new characters. This year we have the Grinch. We change it up because we have a lot of repeat guests. We have new guests, but the majority of our business right now is with our repeats," she revealed.

This season Crystal Cove's Festive Programme com-

menced on December 23rd and was embraced by the young and young at heart. Several other activities are planned, which include a repeat guests cruise and an elegant evening on Old Year's night with dinner, entertainment with "Aquatic Floor Show" and Crystal's spectacular fireworks display. (TL)