

# Bishan-Toa Payoh

Bishan-Toa Payoh Town Council Newsletter

MCI(P) 020/12/2019



## Encouraging Young Residents to Excel

Menggalakkan para penduduk muda untuk  
mencapai kecemerlangan

鼓励幼苗，力争佳绩

இளம் குடியிருப்பாளர்கள் சிறந்து விளங்க ஊக்குவித்தல்





## Toa Payoh East - Novena

Toa Payoh East - Novena • 大巴窑东 - 诺维娜 • தோ பாயோ கிழக்கு - நொவீனா

### Festive toasts to the seniors • Sambutan perayaan bersama warga emas

向立国一代致敬 • மூத்தோர்களுக்கு விழாக்கால சிறுந்ணடி

Chinese New Year is a joyful occasion for the elderly residents of Toa Payoh East-Novena. The "Silver" Residents' Chinese New Year Get Together, held on 11 January at the Community Plaza at Blk 1 Lorong 8 Toa Payoh, ensured that the seniors would enjoy a quality meal in excellent company. Healthy, wholesome meals were provided for the occasion as a result of a partnership between the grassroots organisations and students from Raffles Institution (RI). The students and grassroots leaders joined the elderly at every table to chat with them, while various CCA groups from RI entertained the attendees with lively Chinese New Year songs. Adviser **Mr Saktiandi Supaat** gave out oranges and presents to the seniors.

He also joined residents at the Merdeka Generation Appreciation Lunch held later in February, where everyone sat together for a scrumptious lunch, Lohei and a toast to the older neighbours for their contributions to nation building.







Bishan-Toa Payoh  
Town Council

## Town Improvement • Peningkatan Sekitaran • 邻里改善 • நகர மேம்பாடு

New facilities in your estate • Kemudahan baru di estet anda

邻里新设施 • உங்கள் குடியிருப்புப்பேட்டையில் உள்ள புதிய வசதிகள்



Construction of fixed awning at Blk 2 & 3 Lor 7 Toa Payoh



Upgraded children's playground at Blk 23 Toa Payoh East



Covered linkway from existing linkway between Blk 26 & 27 Toa Payoh East to lift access at pedestrian overhead bridge





# Toa Payoh Central

Toa Payoh Central • 大巴窑中 • தோ பாயோ சென்ட்ரல்

## Acknowledging our residents' hard work • Mengiktiraf kerja keras penduduk kami

向居民们感恩致谢 • நமது குடியிருப்பாளர்களின் கடின உழைப்பை அங்கீகரித்துப் பாராட்டுதல்

Two generations of residents at Toa-Payoh Central received acknowledgement and appreciation for their hard work over two separate occasions. There was the Edusave Presentations, held on 5 January at CHIJ Secondary School, where children and youths were awarded for excellent academic performance and character. Minister for Defence **Dr Ng Eng Hen** presented the awards. He later joined the recipients and their families in the school canteen where they ate together and chatted heartily about various issues.

The Merdeka Generation Appreciation Dinner was held on 8 and 9 February at the Toa Payoh Central Amphitheatre to thank the older residents for their hard work and dedication to the nation. Requests for selfies and pictures were abound, which Dr Ng happily obliged.







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Upgraded street soccer court and basketball court at Blk 53 Lor 5 Toa Payoh



Construction of covered linkway from existing drop off porch at Blk 147 Lor 2 Toa Payoh To Toa Payoh West CC



Upgraded children's playground and fitness station behind Blk 98 Lor 4 Toa Payoh





## Bishan North

Bishan North • 碧山北 • பீஷான் வடக்கு

**Celebrating our multiracial community • Meraikan masyarakat berbilang kaum penduduk kami**

欢庆多元种族社会 • நமது பன்முகக் கலாசார சமூகத்தைக் கொண்டாடுதல்

Imagine having Indian, Malay and Chinese traditional delicacies all in a day! The lucky residents of the Bishan North estate had come together on 19 January for the Malay Activity Executive Committee (MAEC) CNY Satay Party at Block 410A which included a Lohei, and the Mangala Pongal Kondaattam at Bishan Active Park. They were joined by Minister of Manpower and Second Minister of Home Affairs **Mrs Josephine Teo** at both events, who

was all dressed up for the occasion, and enthusiastically participated in the activities.

It was a day of fun and learning as residents of different ethnicities exchanged knowledge about the different customs and cultural dishes. Being able to celebrate their traditional festivals in beautiful ethnic costumes alongside their neighbours, their pride and happiness were apparent.





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Repainting of block facade from Blk 401 to 409 Sin Ming Ave



Upgraded lifts at Blk 257, 259, 260 Bishan St 22



Installation and upgrading of double-tier bicycle racks at Blk 210 and 211 Bishan St 23





Bishan-Toa Payoh  
Town Council

# FIGHT COVID-19

Memerangi Covid-19 sebagai sebuah masyarakat • 齊心合力，共抗

## Cleaner spaces for the community

Ruang lebih bersih untuk masyarakat • 更清潔安全的社區

சமூகத்திற்கான சுத்தமான இடங்கள்

In response to the evolving Covid-19 situation, the Town Council has stepped up on cleanliness and hygiene measures to maintain clean and safe public spaces for residents in the Bishan-Toa Payoh GRC.

1

Increased  
Frequency of  
Sweeping



2

Increased  
Frequency of  
Cleaning



3

Use of  
Disinfectants  
for Cleaning



LIFT LOBBIES, BUTTON PANELS, HANDRAILS



RAILINGS



STAIRCASES



PLAYGROUNDS



FITNESS STATIONS



LETTERBOXES



VOID DECKS



BENCHES & SEATS

**Our Estate**  
Let's work towards a



# AS ONE COMMUNITY

疫情 • அனைவரும் ஒன்றிணைந்து கொரோனா வைரஸை (Covid-19) எதிர்த்துப் போராடுவோம்

## Initiatives to fight Covid-19

Inisiatif untuk memerangi Covid-19 • 对抗2019冠状病毒疾病的措施

கொரோனா வைரஸை எதிர்த்துப் போராடுவதற்கான முனைப்புகள்

As our Town Council geared up to keep the environment clean and safe, our Advisers, grassroots leaders, residents, agencies and community partners have contributed in many ways to keep the virus at bay.

### Masks for All

To ensure that every HDB household has masks, Advisers and volunteers distributed a set of four masks to every Bishan-Toa Payoh household in the island-wide mask distribution. This simple gesture of care and concern had touched many residents and brought them reassurance.

### Stay Healthy with Clean Hands

With the hygiene and safety of residents at heart, hand sanitisers had been installed in all lifts in the GRC for residents' use. Thoughtfully placed near the lift buttons panel, it also carries an important message from the Grassroots Advisers and Organisations to remind residents to "Stay Healthy with Clean Hands!"

### Community Space Cleaning

With community effort, the volunteers and Advisers initiated to wipe-down and sanitise common facilities like playgrounds, fitness stations, pavilions, and void decks for the good of the residents. This move was to encourage residents to take ownership of keeping the public amenities clean, hygienic and disinfected so that the community can continue utilising public spaces for leisure and enjoyment.

### S&CC Rebate for Retailers

To help bring some relief to our heartland shops

and markets, each HDB commercial property and hawker stall was given a 0.5-month rebate of the monthly S&CC for March and April 2020. Businesses have taken a hard hit during this period, and the Advisers hope that along with the rebate, residents will continue to support our heartland retailers too.

### Supporting Our Healthcare Frontliners

Initiated by the Youth Network of the GRC, Adviser and volunteers visited the Toa Payoh Polyclinic to show appreciation and encouragement to our frontline workers who have worked tirelessly in the fight against COVID-19. Fruit cups were given to every staff, with packed food and drinks delivered to their pantry. Heartwarming messages of gratitude and from our community had spurred healthcare frontliners on too.

### #toSGwithLove

Another meaningful initiative by the youths, volunteers visited the vulnerable and elderly residents and shared about Covid-19 hygiene measures. The outreach had successfully raised awareness, touched the hearts of elderly residents and bonded the community.

In the evolving virus situation, we are thankful for the community for uniting to combat Covid-19! We thank residents for your understanding and support for the Town Council's efforts as we strive to serve you better. We wish to remind residents to keep good hygiene practices and maintain a clean environment for all. Social responsibility is the most effective weapon against the Covid-19, so let's start by doing our part now!

Our Home  
Clean & Green zone!



## Bishan East – Thomson

Bishan East – Thomson • 碧山东 – 汤申 • பீஷான் கிழக்கு - தாம்சன்

**Joyous occasions for young and old • Detik-detik gembira untuk warga tua dan muda**

老少同欢迎新春 • இளையர்களுக்கும் மூத்தோர்களுக்கும் மகிழ்ச்சியான தருணங்கள்

It was a huge party for Bishan neighbours at the 12生肖迎新春 CNY2020 (12 Zodiac Signs Ring In the Lunar New Year), held at the Bishan Community Club on 19 January. Some 2000 residents came together to welcome Spring. To their delight, they were joined by the God of Fortune, 12 Chinese Zodiac Mascots, and Minister for Defence **Dr Ng Eng Hen** as well as Advisor **Mr Chong Kee Hiong**.

The adorable mascots were a huge hit with both young and old among the multi-cultural crowd, and everyone wanted photos with them. The older residents were delighted to receive oranges from Mr Chong and Dr Ng.



Mr Chong also hosted the Education Awards Presentation Ceremony on 11 and 12 February, where he presented the awards to students in the Bishan community for their excellent school results and diligence.







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Construction of shelter over existing ramp at Blk 313 Shunfu Rd



Construction of drop off porch at Blk 191 Bishan St 13



Newly painted blocks at Blk 153 to 167 Bishan St 13



Newly painted block facade at Blk 145-149



## Toa Payoh West - Balestier

Toa Payoh West - Balestier • 大巴窰西 - 马里士他 • தோ பாயோ மேற்கு - பேலஸ்டியர்

### Youths and pets take centre stage • Belia dan haiwan peliharaan diraikan

居民宠物，其乐融融 • அனைவரின் கவனத்தையும் கவர்ந்த இளையர்களும் செல்லப்பிராணிகளும்

The year started off on a high note for some families and young residents of Toa Payoh-West Balestier. On 4 and 5 January, Senior Minister of State for Trade and Industry and Education **Mr Chee Hong Tat** congratulated awardees at the Edusave Awards Presentation. They were recognised for their excellent academic performance, as well as display of leadership and good character in school. Entire multi-generational families turned up to show their pride and support for the children.

The furry pets too had their day in the sun. The Fortune of Pets, held on 19 January at the Bishan-AMK Park, saw many furkids frolicking with their pet owners and mingling with other pets. Visitors could shop at booths on pet food and

related services, do art, learn about ant keeping and adopt pets via the adoption drive. They also got to speak with Mr Chee, who was happy to mingle with the participants and their pets. The event was a great opportunity for animal lovers to get together, and for people to learn more about responsible pet ownership.







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Construction of shelter over existing ramp at Blk 108 Lor 1 Toa Payoh to Blk 205 Toa Payoh North



New double-tier bicycle racks with shelter near Blk 120 Lor 2 Toa Payoh



Upgraded children's playground at Blk 102 Jln Dusun



# Embracing Our Community

Memperkasakan Masyarakat Kita • 暖怀社区 • நமது சமூகத்தை அரவணைத்தல்

## Community Scholarship Scheme

Skim Biasiswa Masyarakat • 社区奖学金计划 • சமூக உபகாரச் சம்பளத் திட்டம்

Success holds different meaning to different people. There is no wrong definition of success, so long as you enjoy what you do, work hard to be better at it, and contribute your skills and talents to society. Our education system is focused on developing and recognising each individual based on their interests and talents, and creating multiple pathways to success. Our community too, seeks to make further education accessible for diligent young residents, so that they may advance towards the career of their dreams.

The Bishan-Toa Payoh GRC Community Scholarship Scheme is funded by the efforts of the GRC Citizens' Consultative Committees and generous donations from two major donors – Mr Peter Lim, who donated \$2 million, and the late Dr Albert Hong, who donated \$750,000.



**TAN JIA JUN**



Singapore Polytechnic



Diploma in Business with Engineering



Year awarded: 2019

Age: 17

Area: Toa Payoh East-Novena

Jia Jun dreams of becoming an entrepreneur and running his own fashion chain. About two years ago, he started taking an interest in observing the latest fashion trends online. Pictures of well-dressed and fashionable people gave him joy and inspiration, and that eventually led to him working on his own designs. Now he too hopes to inspire others with a fashion chain stocked with his original products.

Armed with the creative juices, but lacking the knowhow, Jia Jun decided to take a course that would teach him the ins and outs of running a business. When asked why he didn't just go for a pure business or fashion course, Jia Jun candidly replied that he liked cars as well. But before Jia Jun ventures into fashionpreneurship, or possibly even technopreneurship, he has his mind set on university after NS, and he hopes to do so via his own means.

"The community scholarship encouraged me to work harder, and hopefully paves the way to getting more scholarships, so I can continue to further my studies while paying for them by myself," he said.

A regular visitor to the CC for the sports facilities, Jia Jun read about the scholarship on the CC noticeboard and decided to give it a shot. Educational materials are expensive, and computers are mandatory. His mother is the sole breadwinner of the family since his father passed away three years ago, and he also has an older sister in university. With the scholarship money, he was able to purchase his own computer for his school work, and also use it to fulfil his musings in his free time.

Paying it forward, Jia Jun has started giving IT and mobile app literacy lessons to the elderly at the CC. Together with his friend, they spend about four days preparing power point slides for their lesson, which is delivered in English and Chinese. He takes enjoyment from watching his elderly students pick up the necessary skills so quickly, and he is already looking forward to the next one.



**MITASHAH RAI**



ITE College East



Nitec in Nursing



Year awarded: 2019

Age: 17

Area: Bishan North

From a young age, Mitashah knew that she wanted to be a nurse. Her grandmother came down with a stroke, and she saw how difficult it had been on the patient. It was also a heavy responsibility on her caregivers who has to tend to her after she was discharged. Mitashah's cousin, a staff nurse, was the only one who possessed the necessary skills to take adequate care of their grandmother.

"I saw how the nurses were able to make my grandmother happy with their professionalism and good service, and I wanted to be like them. I want to be part of the team that journeys with families in their darkest times, and to help patients on their road to recovery."

Choosing a nursing course came naturally to her, and through her internships, she has received exposure to working in the high-pressure hospital setting in the medical wards and surgical wards of two hospitals. She found it to be a stressful but good experience for her to understand where she stands at and how she can improve. If anything, it has hardened her resolve to be a nurse, and she already has her eyes set on the Diploma in Nursing course in Nanyang Polytechnic.

Aware that school fees and costs of educational materials will only go up with further education, and that she cannot always rely on her ageing parents, she applied for the community scholarship. She hopes that through tapping on scholarships, she will eventually be able to save enough money to go to university.

Thus far, she has put her interests in serving the community and her people skills to good use. She has sat in at a few Meet-the-People sessions, where she is looking forward to officially volunteer at. She has even helped the CC to plan Holi, an ancient Hindu festival.

Mitashah grew up in Bishan-Toa Payoh with fond memories of the playgrounds and family walks in the parks. School keeps her busy now, but on days when she gets to go home early, she still hits the parks with her parents.



**JOHN WELFORD**



Singapore Institute of Technology



Bachelor in Food Business Management (Culinary Arts)



Year awarded: 2019

Age: 22

Area: Bishan East-Thomson

John knew early on that his ambition lay in the culinary arts. He remembers watching "a tonne of cooking programmes" on the television, during his growing up years. His mother, a homemaker, would prepare all their meals on a budget, showing him that one can elevate simple ingredients to great dishes. In secondary school, he took elective modules, including one in cooking, and that made him realise that he could turn his love for cooking into a career.

John then decided to enrol into Food Business Management to gain a wider understanding of his craft. The course also explores business elements, service elements, history and culture studies of different regions. He believes it is this knowledge that sets apart a chef from a cook. Since joining the course, he has also learned something about himself – his love for the adrenaline rush during the busy hours in the kitchen. This was something he had hands-on experience with during his internships, as well as part time jobs he took up with catering companies.

He has also developed an interest in competitions as it places significance on creativity and the fundamentals. "Working under pressure with strict times, trying to prepare a dish to the best of your ability is like nothing you can imagine," he explained.

Despite knowing clearly that he wants a career in cooking, John does not believe in planning too far ahead. For now, what is most important to him is to find a good mentor to continue learning from.

John applied for the community scholarship after reading about it from a poster in the lift. "It encouraged me to know that in our community, despite whatever issue you may face, your education need not be placed on the backburner. There will always be opportunities for assistance with the only requirement being that you put in your hundred percent," he said.

Despite his hectic schedule, John volunteers with the People's Association Youth Movement, where he has brought members of a local volunteer welfare organisation on excursions, and helped out with the Bursary Awards.



Job Search Woes:

# How Can I Stand Out in the Crowd?



Not sure how you can take the job application process one step forward to get ahead of the pack? Here are some tips from MyCareersFuture.sg's Careers Toolkit to help.

## 1. Revamp your CV to include in-demand skills

Jobs are becoming more skills-centric – more companies are considering candidates from various backgrounds, so long as they possess the necessary skills. As such, individuals need to diversify their portfolios by displaying the breadth and depth of skills in your job. This helps to highlight your versatility and adaptability.

## 2. Personalise your resume

You only have a few seconds to make an impression and a cookie-cutter resume will not get you noticed when corporations receive tens to hundreds of resumes for each job. Crafting a resume that tailors to the job you're applying for can help hiring managers see how your experience is relevant. Include volunteering stints and personal passions to position yourself as a holistic individual with good balance. Remember to keep information short and concise.



## 3. Tap on your network

Seize opportunities to network with industry professionals when career fairs are held. This gives you an advantage in understanding the different functions and industries available, and what they're looking for. Touching base with past employers will also allow you to follow up on advice and available opportunities.

## 4. Stay up to date

In the ever-changing market landscape, it's important to keep abreast of trends and breakthroughs of your industry of interest. You'll be able to learn about in-demand skills needed, while showing prospective employers that you have initiative. Follow reputable local and global news publications and proactively engage with peers to build a professional brand.

For more career tips, [MyCareersFuture.sg](https://www.mycareersfuture.sg), our national jobs portal under Workforce Singapore (WSG), is ready to help you on your job search journey. Visit [go.gov.sg/mcf-btp2019](https://go.gov.sg/mcf-btp2019) today!

Want to receive career articles in your email? Subscribe to WSG's monthly e-newsletters today by scanning the QR code.



# STAY AT HOME DO THE RIGHT THING

**Don't go out unless you have to and go home as soon as you are done**

**Don't gather in groups,** either at home or outside, e.g. at void decks or neighbourhood centres

**No dining in at eating places** bring your own containers for takeaways or opt for delivery

**Keep 1 metre apart from others**

**Limit social contact to household members**

**It is an offence to disobey these safe distancing measures.**  
The health of all depends on each one of us.

**If you have to go out and be in close contact with others, wear a mask or some covering for your mouth and nose.**

#### **If you are sick**

- Wear a surgical mask
- See a doctor
- Stay at home
- DON'T doctor-hop



#### **Do not spread rumours.**

Get the latest on COVID-19 by signing up for the Gov.sg WhatsApp channel ([www.gov.sg/whatsapp](https://www.gov.sg/whatsapp))



Ministry of the Environment  
and Water Resources  
SINGAPORE

**gov.sg**

Updated: 6 Apr 2020



**After-&-Before School Care (课前课后学生托管)** at Bishan St 13, Blk 513, #02-516, near MRT. Fetching Service, Meals (No MSG), Fully Air-Con, CCTV, Napping Space, Shower Facilities, Homework Supervision, Tuition During / After Care Hours, etc.

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