

# TRADEWINDS

The Community Newspaper Since 1972 • St. John, U.S. Virgin Islands



St. JohnTradewinds News Photos by Tom Oat

## Mongoose Junction Shopping Center Morning Fire Guts Second Floor Stores and Floods Ground Level Businesses

A fireball blew out of the entrance to The Tap Room while firefighters were struggling to battle the Mongoose Junction fire from the opposite side of the complex on the small porch outside the office of developer Glenn Spear on Friday, January 23. Water company tanker trucks were shuttling water to refill V.I. Fire Department pumper trucks in the driveway to the rear parking lot of the complex.

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**LETTERS: PGS 14-15**

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# Armed Bandit Escapes with Receipts; Coral Bay Store Owner Escapes Arrest

By TOM OAT

*St. John Tradewinds*

**CORAL BAY** — When the Dolphin Coral Bay grocery store courier was accosted at gunpoint at the gate to the Cocoloba commercial complex on Route 107 along the shore of Coral Bay on Wednesday, January 21, at about 10 p.m. and robbed of the day's receipts, store owner Nael Ahmad arrived on the scene from his home outside Cruz Bay in "less than 10 minutes," according to eyewitnesses.

The two V.I. Police Department officers on overnight duty on the island arrived on the scene — together — "one hour and twelve minutes" after the robber had struck the courier with a handgun and fired two quick shots in the air before running off into the darkness, according to one of the witnesses who called to report the robbery.

The robbery was reported to the VIPD dispatcher by employees from the store and a number of employees and lingering customers at the outdoor bar adjacent to the gate, just steps from the struggle over the bag containing the grocery store's day's receipts.

Although there were rumors of an arrest later in the week, there were no announcements from the V.I. Police Department. There was no report of the robbery

itself or any arrest in the police activity record provided to the *St. Thomas V.I. Daily News*.

## Struggle With Lone Gunman

Witnesses in the handful of bar patrons and employees related how the lone masked gunman confronted the courier as he exited the front gate of the Cocoloba commercial complex on Route 107.

Another employee shouted for the guard to give up the money pouch but the struggle over the receipt bag ended when the robber struck the courier in the head with his handgun, wrested the bag from him, fired two quick shots into the air and ran off on foot.

Dolphin Market opened just before Thanksgiving and has been a big success in the isolated community. Although the Coral Bay convenience store Savers has been the target of several similar armed robberies in recent months, this was the first incident at Dolphin.

Once at the scene at the scene, one of the VIPD officers threatened to arrest Ahmad — who was still holding his registered handgun when they arrived — for violating his permit to carry a concealed weapon by not concealing the weapon, one eyewitness told *St. John Tradewinds*.

Fortunately, *St. John Tradewinds*, was unable to reach Ahmad for comment.

## NO CBCC Forum on Monday, Jan. 26 State of Territory Address at 7 p.m.

A Coral Bay Community Council Forum will not be held Monday, January 26, since this is the evening of the State of the Territory speech by our new governor, Kenneth Mapp, and most people will want to hear that.

CBCC encourages everyone to tune into your TV at 7 p.m. to listen to the Governor's plans and direction.

## Bethany Movie Night Set for Jan. 30

Bethany Moravian Church will be hosting Family Movie Night on Friday, January 30 at 7 p.m. This month's movie is "God's Not Dead" everyone of all denominations are welcome to join in this family friendly activity.

For more information call the church at (340) 776-6291.

## Broadway Comes to St. John Jan. 30-31

Get ready for two nights of toe-tapping music and glittery glamour at the Westin's grand ballroom as Broadway Comes to St. John for the fifth year in a row on Friday, January 30, and Saturday, January 31.

Angel tickets and raffle tickets are available at SJSA. For more information call the school at (340) 779-4322.

## Bethany Church Bazaar Jan. 31

There will be a Bethany Bazaar and school supply drive on Saturday, January 31 from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. at the Bethany Moravian Church grounds.

## Next UUF Service at VIERS February 1

Join Reverend Allen Wells at the Unitarian Universalist Fellowship (UUF) special retreat service at VIERS on Sunday, February 1 at 10 a.m. at VIERS for: What Marks Our Spiritual Journey?

Though the nature of our spiritual journeys differ widely, most of us are on one whether we know it or not. But, are we headed in the right direction? And how would we know? I would like to suggest a perspective which we can all use to evaluate our progress, whatever our beliefs.

Rev. Allen currently serves The Morristown Unitarian Fellowship as Affiliated Community Minister, and he maintains a private, mindfulness based psychotherapy practice in Morristown. He is an earth-centered, Buddhist, UU, or as he says: a "Gaia Bu U."

## Free Valentine's Vow Renewal

St. John's Barefoot Minister, Anne Marie Porter, invites all married couples to celebrate Valentine's Day by renewing their marriage vows on February 14, at 5 p.m. on Trunk Bay Beach.

In the past 12 years, approximately 1,230 couples have participated in this annual celebration of love For more information, call 340-626-4658.

## 8 Tuff Miles Festival Begins Feb. 21

The 8 Tuff Miles Road Race and the St. John Cancer Fund have joined forces to present the 8 Tuff Miles Festival. The festival will begin on Saturday, February 21, at 4 p.m. with "Light up the Night" an 18-hour, family-oriented, community supported overnight event.

## Two Die in Virgin Gorda Boating Mishap

By JUDI SHIMEL

*St. John Tradewinds*

**VIRGIN GORDA** — The body of a male and a female were recovered by rescue workers off the coast of Virgin Gorda on Saturday, January 24, after an early morning boating accident.

The two deceased were part of a group of

six people travelling back from an event to Oil Nut Bay, BVI officials said in a statement issued Saturday.

The deaths occurred after the motorized vessel they were riding in struck a rock. Four others were taken to Peebles Hospital for treatment.

Police did not identify the two deceased accident victims.

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St. John Tradewinds News Photos by Tom Oat

St. John civic and business leaders Glenn Spear, left, and Andrew Rutnik, right, watch the early firefighting as the V.I. Fire Department members – and at least one uniformed V.I. Police officer manning a hose on a second-level balcony – battled a stubborn fire which gutted the second floor businesses in the iconic Mongoose Junction.

# Mongoose Junction Shopping Center Morning Fire Guts Second Floor Stores and Floods Ground Level Businesses

By TOM OAT

St. John Tradewinds

**CRUZ BAY** — “We’re going to need a new roof,” said Mongoose Junction commercial complex developer, builder, owner and community leader Glenn Spear stoically as he watched a relentless, late-morning fire slowly begin to spread through the wood-frame second floor section of one of three buildings in the island’s first “shopping mall” through the late morning and early afternoon of Friday, January 23.

The origination and cause of the fire is under investigation with conflicting reports from witnesses as to its smoldering start.

The first report of the fire was called in at 11:13 a.m. Friday, according to Assistant Fire Service Director Daryl George. Three units were dispatched from Zulu company in Cruz Bay and additional units were called in from Romeo Company in Coral Bay and all off-duty firefighters on the island were called to duty. The fire was brought under control by about 3 p.m.

The daytime fire at the island’s iconic Cruz Bay commercial center outside the entrance to the V.I. National Park was almost on island time, developing slowly as crowds gathered in front



New St. John Administrator Camille Paris, was directing a steady shuttle of water trucks to keep the firefighters supplied before WAPA bucket trucks arrived to elevate them to fight the fire from above.

of the complex on North Shore Road, Route 20, through the late morning with a growing stream of foot traffic attracted to the scene from the

center of town by the increasingly-billowing, acrid, brown smoke visible for miles.

It was about an hour after the V.I. Fire Department arrived on the scene before the fire erupted and flashed over the second floor charging businesses and offices.

### Island Administrator Leads Assist

New St. John Administrator Camille Paris was in the thick of the firefight directing a steady shuttle of water trucks to keep the firefighters supplied as smoke and flames steadily increased on the second floor amid a series of setbacks including inadequate water supply and V.I.F.D. breathing apparatus equipment woes which prevented firefighters from getting inside the wood frame second floor office of Spear’s businesses to fight the fire which started in the second-floor day spa.

Tourist traffic to and from Cruz Bay to the St. John Virgin Islands National Park and typical island morning island traffic snaked past a jumble of fire apparatuses in position around the two-story, mostly-stone structures through the morning as tenants, management and firefighters struggled to keep the fire from spreading to neighboring buildings in the seven-building complex.

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**Thursday, Jan. 29<sup>th</sup>**

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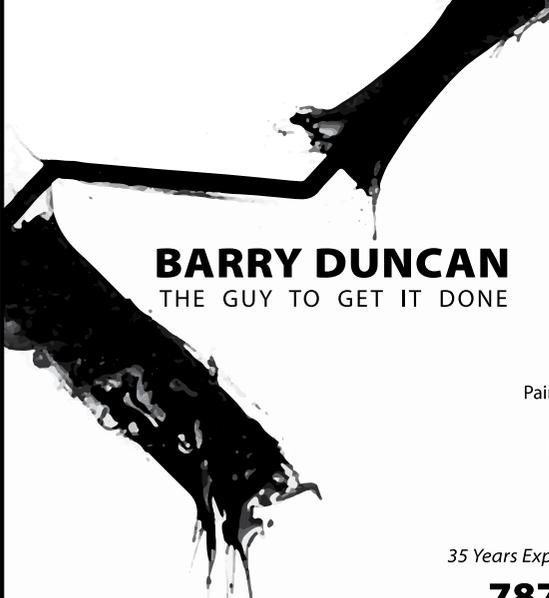
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## Concordia Eco-Resort Representatives "in Discussions With Very Serious Prospect"

By TOM OAT  
*St. John Tradewinds*

There is a potential buyer for the Concordia Eco-resort and eco-tourism guru Stanley Selengut's remaining property overlooking Saltpond Bay, according to persons involved in the

"We are in discussions with a very serious prospect, but it is premature to share information," Jack Zakim of Zakim and Zakim in Hackensack, N.J., a long-time St. John property owner who is handling the sale of the Concordia property for Selengut.

The Concordia property con-

sists of Concordia Eco-Resort, which currently consists of 42 units of evolving iterations of leading-edge design, eco-tent units and resort support facilities, including a restaurant, on 50 privately-held acres overlooking Saltpond Bay in the adjacent U.S. Virgin Islands National Park on the southeast tip of St. John and accommodates about 4,000 people annually.

Permits for an additional 64 eco-cottage units previously approved by V.I. officials are currently lapsed and would need to be reinstated. The adjoining 13 one-acre lots on the hillside above the

Concordia resort property, which could be incorporated into the expansion of the eco-resort, currently have deed restrictions proscribing further subdivision.

Although Selengut has said he hoped to find a buyer who would continue his eco-tourism goals; it is not known if that will happen.

Ironically, Selengut had to close his historic Maho Bay Camps in 2013 when his long-term lease on that property expired and the property was sold to a private investor who reportedly intends to use that property for a private family compound.



St. John Tradewinds News Photos



Governor Kenneth Mapp met with one of the territories oldest veterans, Pastor Ray K. Joseph on Friday, January 23. Veterans Director Designee Patrick Farrell had the distinct honor to introduce Pastor Ray Joseph to the governor at Government House, where he was received with honors.

Pastor Joseph served in the military for eighteen years during the Vietnam Era. He was born in 1932 and at 82 he stands as one of our eldest living Veteran Virgin Islanders. For many years Joseph served Emmaus Moravian Church in Coral Bay. He is also a former member of the Health and Hospitals Corp. district board for St. Thomas-St. John. His wife, Shirley Joseph, is a former principal of the Julius E. Sprauve School.

"I am pleased to have welcomed you to Government house and I assure you that serving our Veterans is a priority and an honor," Governor Mapp stated.

## Broadway Comes to St. John for Impressive Motown Madness Shows Jan. 30-31

By JAIME ELLIOTT  
St. John Tradewinds

It's almost show time!

Get ready for two nights of toe-tapping music and glittery glamour at the Westin's grand ballroom as Broadway Comes to St. John for the fifth year in a row on Friday, January 30, and Saturday, January 31.

The St. John School of the Arts fundraiser will feature two nights of Motown Madness entertainment. Four New York City Broadway professionals have been working with fourth graders at Giff Hill School and Julius E. Sprauve School as well as SJSA students for the past three weeks gearing up for the original theatrical production.

Prepare to be entertained with music inspired by the likes of classic Motown icons like Jackson Five, The Temptations, Stevie Wonder and more, explained SJSA Executive Director Kim Wild.

"This year's theme is Motown Madness so it's music from many eras, from the 50s and 60s to the 70s and even the 80s," said Wild. "It's going to be a lot of fun."

In addition to the fourth graders from GHS and JESS, SJSA's own students will join the cast and there might even be a few guest

performers taking the stage, added Wild, who declined to offer additional details about the surprises in store.

The first night's show, on Friday, January 30, at the Westin ballroom show is open to friends and family for a suggested contribution of at least \$20.

The Saturday, January 31, show is the big Angel Show for donors who will help to fund SJSA's programs for the year. Tickets for the January 31 show are \$200 each, which include a champagne toast, seats for the show and a dinner at the Westin Resort following the performance.

Angel Show attendees are also encouraged to dress like their favorite Motown performer for the chance to win the Golden Spammy Award, Wild explained.

"We call it the Golden Spammy or the Spammy Hammy and it's our version of the Grammy Award," said the SJSA Executive Director. "Come out in your fringe or your sequins and get into it. The winner will receive dinner for four at Ocean Grill and four theater tickets to the Motown on Broadway production."

SJSA is also hosting the exciting \$100 Golden Ticket raffle once again this year. The Golden

**"We call it the Golden Spammy or the Spammy Hammy and it's our version of the Grammy Award. Come out in your fringe or your sequins and get into it. The winner will receive dinner for four at Ocean Grill and four theater tickets to the Motown on Broadway production."**

— SJSA Executive Director Kim Wild

Ticket raffle winner will receive round-trip airfare for two to New York City, two tickets to a Broadway show, three nights at a hotel in NYC and dinner for two at Etc. Etc. in the heart of the Theater District. SJSA will only sell 150 Golden Tickets for this raffle.

The school is also hosting a second raffle with tickets costing \$25 and the chance to win dinner for two from Asolare, La Tapa, Lime Inn, Morgan's Mango, Ocean 362, Ocean Grill, The Terrace, Virgin Fire and ZoZo's.

"We'll have nine different winners for that raffle and we're really excited about that," said Wild.

Buy raffle tickets at SJSA or at the Westin Resort before the January 30 or 31 Motown Madness

performances.

This is the fifth year that Broadway professionals Rhonda Miller, Donna Drake, Michael Shawn Lewis, John Tartaglia and Laura Barnao have led the unique and entertaining SJSA fundraiser. The actors and choreographers have also brought along Rick Bertone this year.

Miller, is a long time choreographer who has worked extensively in New York and Los Angeles. Today she is an associate professor at Pace University and director of the school's Commercial Dance Program. Drake, also a dance teacher at Pace University, was a cast member in the original

production of "A Chorus Line," and has numerous other Broadway shows to her credit.

Michael Shawn Lewis, a theatrical producer, performer and activist, has worked around the globe in theater and is co-founder of the New York Children's Theater Festival. Tartaglia, a 12-year veteran of "Sesame Street," was one of the youngest puppeteers to work on the show. He earned a Tony Award Nomination for his role in "Avenue Q" and was the executive producer and star of the eight-time Emmy nominated "Johnny and the Sprite."

Barnao is a classically trained vocalist who has performed with Central City Opera and Da Capo Opera. Bertone, who is joining the SJSA Broadway instructors for the first time this year, is a musical director who has worked on the St. Louis productions of "Shrek the Musical and Tarzan."

Don't miss what is sure to be two impressive performances of Motown Madness when Broadway Comes to St. John January 30 and 31. Angel tickets and raffle tickets are available at SJSA. For more information call the school at (340) 779-4322.

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## Volunteers Needed for V.I. Continuum of Care 2015 Homeless Count on Jan. 31

### *St. John Tradewinds*

As part of a national effort to end homelessness, the Virgin Islands Continuum of Care 2015 Homeless Point-In-Time survey is a tally of who is homeless on a given night and provides a snapshot of who experiences homelessness throughout the year.

Volunteers are needed to help serve breakfast and conduct interviews on Saturday, January 31, from 7 a.m. to 12 p.m. at Our Lady of Mount Carmel. Volunteers will also be needed to canvas the community for individuals who are experiencing homelessness from Cruz Bay to Coral Bay.

There will be a volunteer training session on Friday, January 30, at 5:30 p.m. Volunteers are asked to meet outside of Sam & Jack's Deli on the third floor of The Marketplace. To volunteer, call Celia Kalousek at the St. John Community Foundation at 693-9410 or email her at [celia@sjcf.org](mailto:celia@sjcf.org).

The Point-in-Time Count is a one-day, statistically reliable, unduplicated count of sheltered and unsheltered homeless individuals and families in the country.

"St. John needs to be included in this count because we need accurate data to determine the size and scope of homelessness in our community," said SJCF Executive Director Celia Kalousek. "There is a grave misconception that the streets of St. John are paved with gold, but we all know that the majority of our residents are living paycheck-to-paycheck and some not even able to make that happen. We need the data that shows St. John needs the funding, programs and services that are out there to help individuals in need."

The Point-in-Time count is also critical for the island to receive much needed funding, Kalousek added.

"St. John Community Foundation is a member of the Virgin Islands Continuum of Care, and all CoCs must conduct a PIT count during the last 10 calendar days in January to be eligible for funding," said Kalousek. "Not only does it raise public awareness of the plight of homelessness, but it is a data source for reports used by Congress and the administration, as well as HUD, who uses PIT data to make informed funding decisions."

"The PIT data is useful to better understand the characteristics and needs of homeless people in our community," she said. "It is used for planning and program development efforts, and to measure progress toward eliminating homelessness and to ensure accountability of the programs addressing the issue in the territory."

People who should be counted as "unsheltered" also include those individuals living on boats or in shanties without electrical, plumbing or refrigeration, explained Kalousek.

The count should also include anyone who is "couch surfing," or at imminent risk of homelessness, such as individuals who are fleeing domestic violence or shuffling between homes because they cannot afford or find a shelter of their own, the SJCF Director added.

HUD needs this data to understand the extent and nature of homelessness throughout the country, and to provide Congress and OMB with information on services provided, gaps in service, and performance. The survey helps gather information about individuals suffering from chronic homelessness, mental illness, sub-

stance abuse, veterans, domestic violence, HIV/AIDS, and more.

"The St. John community has really pulled together over the past four years since we organized the first Project Homeless Connect on St. John," said Kalousek. "This event, designed to connect homeless persons with essential services, support, and quality of life resources, is starting place on the journey back to safety, stability, health, and hope."

Prior to getting the Project Homeless Connect event coordinated for St. John, there was only one subsidized meal being served at one of the churches on a Tuesday. Now, the local congregations have joined forces.

Our Lady of Mount Carmel serves meals on Friday and Monday. They installed a shower for the disadvantaged individuals and are now seeking to hook up a washer and dryer to help wash their clothes. The Seventh Day Adventist church offers dinner and showers on Thursdays and Sundays, and Ms. Smalls of the congregation can also be found handing out breakfast, sandwiches and other items on Saturday mornings. The Nazareth Lutheran church has been the location of the Catholic Charities meal on Tuesdays, and their women's group is now serving breakfast after their services on Sunday.

This is a one day event designed to connect homeless persons with essential services, support, and quality of life resources. Working with United Way and the Department of Human services, volunteers set up medical screenings, giving out hygiene kits and clothing, con-

*Continued on Page 19*

# BROADWAY Comes to St. John



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# CBCC Urges Residents To Write to ACOE with St. John Marina Concerns

By JAIME ELLIOTT  
St. John Tradewinds

**JOHN'S FOLLY** — About 30 people came out to John's Folly Learning Institute, some from as far as St. Thomas, to hear more about Summers End Group's planned mega marina for Coral Bay at Coral Bay Community Council's Weekly Forum on Monday, January 19.

"We had a really nice turn out, about 30 people with some who came from as far as St. Thomas to find out what is going on with the marina plans," said CBCC President Sharon Coldren. "We had a round table discussion format and many people asked questions. David Silverman provided a lot of information about the Army Corps of Engineers process."

Summers End Group (SEG) is proposing to construct a 145-slip mega-marina in Coral Bay harbor off shore of Island Blues as well as several restaurants, offices and parking lots in the Aqua Bistro area. The proposed development got the green light from local officials after sailing through a questionable St. John Coastal Zone Management Committee process late last year.

A group of Coral Bay residents and visitors opposed to the development formed the Save Coral Bay campaign to fight the marina. In just three months, the group has so far raised more than \$89,000 and launched a several pronged legal attack.

As Save Coral Bay organizers wait to hear their case with the V.I. Board of Land Use Appeals, SEG must still obtain federal ACOE permits. ACOE officials kicked off the public comment period of the permitting process this month and Save Coral Bay and CBCC officials are urging residents to share their concerns with the federal agency.

"This is a process which coordinates information from EPA, NOAA, Fish and Wildlife Service, the Coast Guard and all the federal agencies involved," said Coldren. "All of that information is coordinated through the ACOE so that it allows for a federal response that

***"That is the bottom line here, the public interest. What ACOE strives to do is look at the good and the bad points of a development application and weigh them and balance if its going to be in the public interest. People need to make their opinions known if they think Coral Bay will benefit in the long term by having this type of development."***

— Sharon Coldren, president  
Coral Bay Community Council

is logical in terms of protecting the public interest."

ACOE officials will not know how the public feels about this project, unless people write in and share their concerns, Coldren explained.

"That is the bottom line here, the public interest," she said. "What ACOE strives to do is look at the good and the bad points of a development application and weigh them and balance if its going to be in the public interest. People need to make their opinions known if they think Coral Bay will benefit in the long term by having this type of development."

ACOE officials will look at all of the potential effects which the proposed development will have on the area, Coldren explained.

"Impacts range from the economy, the local history and culture to protecting the environment," said the CBCC president. "All of those factors will be taken into account. Coral Bay and the Coral Harbor in particular, is an important nursery habitat for all kinds of reef fish and its a shark pupping ground."

"It really is a unique mangrove, seagrass and coral environment that is appreciated by lot of special types of marine creatures," said Coldren.

More than 300 residents wrote to V.I. Department of Planning and Natural Resources ahead of the St. John CZM Committee meeting, yet those letters didn't seem to make a difference. With the ACOE, however, letters against the marina could make a big difference, according to Coldren.

"One thing people continually ask is if it will matter if they write letters and the answer is yes, it will matter," said Coldren. "ACOE needs to see a range of public opinion. According to a recent press release from ACOE denying a marina application in Florida, they clearly state the importance of the numerous letters and emails they received in opposition to the project as a reason they denied the application."

"People think we are so small here that we won't be heard, but Friends of V.I. National Park and the federal organization that represents National Parks sent out emails to all of their members about the ACOE comment period on the Coral Bay marina," said Coldren.

CBCC worked with American Institute of Architect experts last year on a comprehensive plan for the future of Coral Bay through a public input process which drew numerous and diverse voices, Coldren explained.

"We heard through that process that people want small, entrepreneurial opportunities that provide the historic cultural tourism," said the CBCC president. "We have a lot of avenues to do that as well as improve facilities in the bay. If the government is working with us instead of working, as the last government did, to promote a particular large development, we can do that."

"Most people know that in May 2013, the Coral Bay boating community along with CBCC asked to

*Continued on Page 19*



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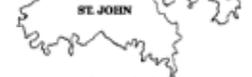
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## VINP Open House Jan. 28 Will Discuss “Possible” User Fee Increase

By TOM OAT  
*St. John Tradewinds*

Virgin Islands National Park officials will conduct a public open house on at the VINP Visitors Center Wednesday, January 28, to discuss possible fee increases related to the Trunk Bay Expanded Amenity fee and overnight mooring fees that would take effect January 1, 2016.

The V.I. National Park is proposing to raise fees for visitors by land and sea to increase revenues – while the National Park Service prepares to increase revenue through its share of National Park Service revenues from new contracts for the major resort concessions at Trunk Bay and Cinnamon Bay for the first time in their history.

The concessions have been operated under yearly extensions of the original agreements with Laurence Rockefeller’s Caneel Bay Resort that expired more than 20 years and have continued to be operated by CBI, the investment company that purchased Caneel Bay Resort more than two years ago.

The current park user fees for Trunk Bay facilities have been in place since June 1998. Current user fees at Trunk Bay are \$4 for an Individual Day Pass, an Individual Annual Pass is \$10 with the annual Family Pass priced at \$15.

There was no information available on the concession fees the NPS received from Cinnamon and Trunk Bay concessions or NPS expenditures related to those fees.

The Expanded Amenity Fee at Trunk Bay is not charged to persons under 16 years of age or holders of the America the Beautiful National Parks and Fed-

eral Recreational Senior, Access or Military Passes. These passes also may be obtained at the Park.

Beginning in 1990 the park began installing mooring balls to better protect the marine environment. With the financial support of the Friends of Virgin Islands National Park, overnight moorings have now been installed in 13 locations throughout the park. Overnight moorings are \$15 per night and that fee has not changed since its inception in 2000. Park officials did not release any further financial information on fee collections.

“We are committed to keeping the park affordable however we also want to provide visitors with the best possible experience,” VINP Superintendent Brion FitzGerald said in a VINP press release. “The money collected from these fees is used to maintain visitor facilities, including the boat moorings and to pay for park interpretive programs like the cultural history demonstrations at Annaberg.”

This summer the Trunk Bay shower and restroom facilities will receive a facelift, including new fixtures, skylights, roofs and gutters, paid for by user fees. Additional revenue raised by a fee increase would help better maintain all park facilities and ensure they remain in good condition, according to the VINP release.

In 2014, fee revenues were used to rehabilitate the restrooms at the park visitor center in Cruz Bay, according to the press release.

In 2013, more than 400,000 park visitors contributed \$64.7 million to the local economy and supported 798 jobs related to tourism, according to the press release.

## O’Connor Bids Port Authority Farewell

By JUDI SHIMEL  
*St. John Tradewinds*

**ST. THOMAS** — St. John businessman and former lawmaker Robert O’Connor Jr. says he is wrapping up a long affiliation with the Virgin Islands Port Authority.

O’Connor began his service on the Port Authority Board of Directors in 2003 and for the past several years has led the body as its chairman. In an election January 21 board members chose former Public Works Assistant Commissioner Roberto Cintron as their new chairman.

After officiating over the January board meeting to its end, O’Connor said he would not stay on as a member of the board.

“My final meeting with VIPA is going to be next month,” he said.

Several members of the board praised O’Connor for his leadership as he stepped down, including VIPA Executive Director Car-



*St. John Tradewinds News Photo by Judi Shimel*

Robert O’Connor, far left, leads his final meeting as chairman of the VI Port Authority Jan. 21 on St. Thomas.

lton Dowe. Dowe said he admired O’Connor’s low key style, directing the debate among board members over various issues, then sitting back in his chair and listening to the discussion, no matter how passionate it sometimes got.

Dowe also thanked the chairman emeritus for the hours of travel he logged over the years, making sure he represented the Port Authority on official meetings abroad, and also his constant

availability as an administrator.

“It’s really a board where there’s activity all the time,” he said.

O’Connor also expressed satisfaction with the major projects initiated and completed during his term, including the St. John Enighed Pond Barge Port, the Ann Abramson cruise ship pier in Frederiksted and the Crown Bay cruise ship pier and commercial center in Sub Base, St. Thomas.

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# Homeless Point-In-Time Survey Seeks Snapshot of Island Homeless Experience

*St. John Tradewinds*

The Virgin Islands Point in Time Count will take place on January 31, as part of a national effort to end homelessness.

The Virgin Islands Continuum of Care 2015 Homeless Point-In-Time (PIT) survey is a tally of who is homeless on a given night and provides a snapshot of who experiences homeless throughout the year.

Volunteers are needed to help serve breakfast and conduct interviews on Saturday, January 31, at 7 a.m. to 12 p.m. at Our Lady of Mount Carmel. Volunteers will also be needed to canvas the community for individuals who are experiencing homelessness from Cruz Bay to Coral Bay. There will be a volunteer training session on Friday, January 30, at 5:30 p.m. – meet outside of Sam & Jack’s on the 3rd floor of the Marketplace. To volunteer, please call Celia at the St. John Community Foundation 693-9410 or email her at [celia@sjcf.org](mailto:celia@sjcf.org).

The Point-in-Time Count is a one-day, statistically reliable, unduplicated count of sheltered and unsheltered homeless individuals and families in the country.

**“We need accurate data.”**

“St. John needs to be included in this count because we need accurate data to determine the size and scope of homelessness in our community. There is a grave misconception that the streets of St. John are paved with gold, but we all know that the majority of our residents are living paycheck-to-paycheck and some not even able to make that happen. We need the data that shows St. John needs the funding, programs and services that are out there to help individuals in need.”

“St. John Community Foundation is a member of the Virgin Islands Continuum of Care, and all CoCs must conduct a PIT count during the last 10 calendar days in January to be eligible for funding.” according to Celia Kalousek. “Not only does it raise public awareness of the plight of homelessness, but it is a data source for reports used by Congress and the administration, as well as HUD, who uses PIT data to make informed funding decisions.”

“The PIT data is useful to better understand the characteristics and needs of homeless people in our community. It is used for planning and program development efforts, and to measure progress toward eliminating homelessness and to ensure accountability of the programs addressing the issue in the terri-

tory.”

People who should be counted as “unsheltered” also include those individuals living on boats or shanties without electrical, plumbing or refrigeration. The count should also include anyone who is “couch surfing”, or are at imminent risk of homelessness, such as individuals who are fleeing domestic violence or shuffling between homes because they cannot afford or find a shelter of their own.

HUD needs this data to understand the extent and nature of homelessness throughout the country, and to provide Congress and OMB with information on services provided, gaps in service, and performance, according to Kalousek. The survey helps gather information about individuals suffering from chronic homelessness, mental illness, substance abuse, veterans, domestic violence, HIV/AIDS, and more.

**Community Pulls Together**

The St. John Community has really pulled together over the past four years since we organized the first Project Homeless Connect on St. John. This event, designed to connect homeless persons with essential services, support, and quality of life resources, is starting place on the journey back to safety, stability, health, and hope.

Prior to getting the Project Homeless Connect event coordinated for St. John, there was only one subsidized meal being served at one of the churches on a Tuesday. Now, the local congregations have really joined forces.

Our Lady of Mount Carmel serves meals on Friday and Monday. They installed a shower for the disadvantaged individuals and are now seeking to hook up a washer and dryer to help wash their clothes.

The 7th Day Adventist church offer dinner and showers on Thursdays and Sundays, and Ms. Smalls of the congregation can also be found handing out breakfast, sandwiches and other items on Saturday mornings.

The Nazareth Lutheran church has been the location of the Catholic Charities meal on Tuesdays, and their Women’s group is now serving breakfast after their services on Sunday.

**One-Day Event**

This is a one day event designed to connect homeless persons with essential services, support, and quality of life resources. Working with United Way and the Department of Human services, we set up

*Continued on Page 19*



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# 15th Annual St. John Arts Festival from February 14-18

## *St. John Tradewinds*

Even now it doesn't seem like fifteen years ago that the fledgling annual Festival was started, but since then, we have seen it steadily take root with visitors and islanders alike looking forward to it. St.

John is unique in that respect.

Many different events have been sponsored in the past: from Puerto Rican mariachi bands, arts and crafts from Ghana and Kakuta of the Maasai from Kenya, to name just a few, bringing a variety

of other cultures to this small island, widening its vista while providing a platform for displaying the special music, arts and crafts of the people of St. John and the U. S. Virgin Islands.

Although staffed entirely by

unpaid volunteers, the consistent sponsorship of the Virgin Islands Council on the Arts, the Department of Tourism, and the local businesses has been, and still is, crucial to providing a high standard of professional artists and performers.

This year's program, centered in Franklin Powell Sr. Park, Cruz Bay, kicks-off at noon on Saturday 14th February — "Children's Day," — with the "Love City Pan Dragons," a children's steel pan band, followed by a "Children's Choral Concert," then "Children's Dancing" and finishing with a performance by the "Love City Leapers," a lively Children's jump-rope team.

On Sunday at 2 p.m. there will be a Gospel Concert with choruses from local churches, followed by traditional island Quadrille Dancers. Then, in the evening, at 7.30 pm, at the St. John School of the Arts, there will be a most spiritually moving and uplifting film entitled: "States of Grace," introduced by the filmmakers Mark Lipman and Helen Cohen.

Monday, (President's Day), in the afternoon, the very colorful and talented Caribbean Ritual Dancers, with children Moko Jumbies, perform in the Park, followed by Koko and the Sunshine Band play-

ing classic old-time scratch band songs.

On Tuesday afternoon, we will have Latin-American music and dancing in the Park with the Samba Combo Band.

As part of the West Indies, St. Thomas and St. John have a Cricket Association and many enthusiasts, who will be demonstrating the game at Sprauve and Giff Hill schools later in the afternoon.

This will be followed by a film entitled: "Fire in Babylon" at Giff Hill School auditorium at 7.30 p.m., a terrific film documenting the outstanding success of the West Indies Cricket Team.

On Wednesday afternoon, in the Park, there will be a concert by St. John's reggae band, Inner Visions, and no Festival would be complete without it!

All the while, there will be a select exhibition of hand-made island crafts in both the Dept. of Tourism's little park and the main park.

A show of children's art will be on the second floor of The Market Place, as in past years.

That's just a brief sample of the program at this point. The full program will be published in a week or so.

Enjoy this little jewel of St. John.

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February 28th  
8 TUFF MILES - 7:15am  
National Park Visitor Center

8 TUFF Awards Ceremony  
Mongoose Junction - 4 to 6:30pm

March 1st  
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# Connecting with Nature

by Gail Karlsson

## Fishing Bats, Singing Frogs, Ravenous Toads and Rare Birds: Update on Tropical Ecology Research at VIERS

### St. John Tradewinds

**LAMESHUR BAY** — Once again this year, Richard Veit, a professor of biology at the College of Staten Island in New York City, brought a group of college students to St. John to examine the rich habitats surrounding the Virgin Islands Environmental Resource Station in Lameshur Bay. The area seems to be full of familiar wildlife (including over 60 types of birds), while also supporting newcomers and at least one species thought to have disappeared.

I met Professor Veit and two of his graduate students last April at VIERS and reported for the *Tradewinds* on their respective research projects: Danielle Fibikar is working on documenting the size and health of local bat populations, and Pearl Cales is studying different types of frog vocalizations, while also identifying changes over time in their density and distribution in certain areas of the island.

These researchers returned to St. John in November, and then came back again in January to follow up on their subjects, while the undergraduates in the Tropical Ecology Course were just getting familiar with the different birds, lizards, and crabs around Lameshur.

My husband and I, and local photographer Bill Stelzer, were excited take a trip out to VIERS and catch up with the research team to get an update about their findings. We set out along the road by the beach at Lameshur, where they set up fine-threaded 'mist' nets to catch bats flying along the roadway after dark.

The first ones caught were fishing bats, *Noctilio leporinus*, out for dinner. One of the fishing bats that got tangled up in the net had a familiar face — they had caught him several times before, most recently just a few days before. It was easy to tell because they put tiny metal tags on the wings of the bats before releasing them. Their re-catch rate shows that there is a fairly stable community of fishing bats in that area. The researchers also weigh and measure the bats.

The one caught a few days earlier hadn't grown in such a short time but turned out to be 8 grams heavier than before, probably because he had just eaten a small fish that evening before flying into the net. These bats fly low over the water in the dark using echolocation to locate little fish and grabbing them with the sharp claws on their hind feet.

The other bats caught that night were fruit-eating Antillean cave bats, *Brachyphylla cavernarum*, which seem to be getting more numerous on St. John based on the recent mist net counts and an examination of the buildings at the old Reef Bay sugar mill. These bats represented less than 10 percent of the bats netted on St. John by the Island Resources Foundation team in their 2009 survey (with Jamaican fruit bats, *Artibeus jamaicensis*, making up close to 75 percent of the total). The cave bats have been listed as a species of 'Greatest Concern' on the Territory's Endangered Species List, probably due to a limited number of caves for roosting and a general loss of habitat.

The researchers told us that one night they caught

*Continued on Page 17*



St. John Tradewinds News Photos by Bill Stelzer

banded Antillean cave bat in tree, above left, and a white-lipped frog in puddle on road near VIERS.



St. John Tradewinds News Photos by Bill Stelzer

Danielle Fibikar and Professor Richard Veit, above, banding Antillean cave bat.

A fishing bat close up, left.



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- Feb. 27 Kro-Gu Jewelry
- Mar. 6 Candice Greathouse Art
- Mar. 13 Anna Mou Art and Jewelry
- Mar. 20 Jennifer Robinson Art
- Mar. 27 Lynn Fecteau and Sandy Stein Jewelry
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## On *the* Market

A feature dedicated to special homes on the market listed with *Tradewinds* real estate advertisers\*

### Beachfront Villa Offers Alabaster Beach

Imagine yourself lounging in your own expansive, turquoise swimming pool as you gaze out to the sandy alabaster beach and azure waters just offshore of Great Cruz Bay.

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The five bedroom, five and a half bathroom villa is for sale for \$5.5 million, explained Holiday Homes of St. John broker/owner Christie O'Neil.

"This beachfront home abuts the beautiful sandy beach on Great Cruz Bay," said O'Neil. "This home is all about location, location, location."

Nestled on more than full acre of land, Beachfront Villa is located near the impressive Westin Resort and Villas St. John property on Great Cruz Bay beach.

The home is only a few min-

utes from the shopping, dining and nightlife of Cruz Bay while the flour sand beaches of the island's North Shore are only a short drive away.

"The location of this home is so convenient," said O'Neil. "Beachfront Villa is only four minutes to town shops and restaurants. Yet, the home has every amenity for the leisure lifestyle you and your guests desire."

"The home offers direct access to a beautiful sand beach for swimming, boating and other water sports activities," said the Holiday Homes of St. John broker/owner. "Plus Beachfront Villa boasts your own brand new, gorgeous large pool for swimming laps or lounging on the ledge while overlooking the beach in your front yard."

In addition to the swimming pool, Beachfront Villa also boasts

an elevated spa crafted from beautiful island stonework. There are also expansive sun decks as well as covered verandas which offer plenty of space for working on that tan or relaxing with a good book in the shade.

The home is accessed via a gated driveway and affords beautifully landscaped grounds as well as access to the sand beach of Great Cruz Bay.

Inside, Beachfront Villa boasts five spacious bedroom suites, each with its own private en suite bathroom. Mingle with your guests in the expansive great room and host your own dinner parties in the elegant dining area with designer decor.

The professional grade kitchen boasts granite counter tops and top-of-the-line stainless steel appliances as well as a separate pan-



St. John Tradewinds News Photo

An inviting swimming pool spans the front of Beachfront Villa.

try.

You won't mind getting some work done in Beachfront Villa's private office alcove.

From the white, sandy beach right outside to the expansive swimming pool in your own yard,

Beachfront Villa boasts the best that tropical living has to offer.

For more information about Beachfront Villa, call Holiday Homes owner/broker Christie O'Neil at (340) 774-8088 or on her cell phone at (340) 998-7451.

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# St. John Film Society Presents “Rebels with a Cause” February 3

## St. John Tradewinds

St. John Film Society (SJFS) is pleased to announce a very special screening of “Rebels with a Cause” on February 3 at 7:30 p.m. at St John School of the Arts, Cruz Bay. Filmmakers Nancy Kelly and Kenji Yamamoto will be present for the screening along with other Virgin Islands to discuss events currently taking place on St. John similar to those in the film.

“Rebels with a Cause” explores how a handful of politically savvy activists fought to protect San Francisco’s Point Reyes National Seashore and Golden Gate National Recreation Area from the threat of sprawl and over-development at a time when California was the nation’s fastest-growing state. Their efforts set new precedents for protecting open space and helped shape the environmental movement as we know it today.

Beginning in the 1950s, a national movement was born of principles that may seem obvious today. Unconvinced by land developers who promoted residential construction as unmitigated progress, citizens began banding together to preserve open spaces

near urban areas for parks and farms — and took the fight all the way to the White House. Deeply mired in an expensive war in Vietnam, Nixon determined that even if the Congress had appropriated the money, the Park Service would not get it. But petitions soon began arriving in Washington and Nixon knew the power of public opinion and the voices of the country’s nascent environmental movement were gaining traction.

“Rebels with a Cause” is the story of a regional California effort that grew into an astonishing system of fourteen National Seashores — the result of garden clubs, ranchers, farmers, conservationists, politicians from both parties, widows, and volunteers working together through compromise and negotiation, with the American public coming up as the winner. It’s a fascinating example of a hard fought campaign to preserve something important to all of us — our public land. And it is a powerful tool to illustrate that the personal is political, and the local is global. Rebels is a feel-good cinematic experience that conveys an inspiring truth about how ordi-

nary individuals have the power to change the rules.

This film is timely as it reflect some of the same issues facing Coral Bay where a large marina development project is proposed for the pristine bay on the East End of St. John.

The proposed marina would be destructive to federally listed endangered sea turtle habitat, endangered coral species, and a prime nursery for lemon and black tip

sharks. A grass-roots movement has quickly drawn support from hundreds of people inside and outside of the Virgin Islands opposing this development. “Rebels with a Cause” reflects a similar issue faced by the residents of Marin County in California.

Kelly and Yamamoto will visit St. John for the screening thanks to On Screen/In Person which is made possible by Mid Atlantic Arts Foundation through the gen-

erous support of the National Endowment for the Arts’ Regional Touring Program. Representatives from the Save Coral Bay group will be present for the discussion

SJFS is supported in part by the National Endowment for the Arts, Virgin Islands Council on the Arts and St John Community Foundation. For more information contact St John Film Society stjviff@gmail.com or www.stjohnfilm.com.



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For more information, please visit CDC website ([www.cdc.gov/hpv/vaccine.html](http://www.cdc.gov/hpv/vaccine.html)) or call the Department of Health Immunization Clinic in your area,  
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**This message is sponsored by the Department of Health Immunization Program**

**“Celebrating National Cervical Cancer Awareness Month”  
January 2015**





## Letters to St. John Tradewinds

### St. John Rescue Needs Help

Are you interested in being part of a dynamic and growing organization? Are you looking for a way to give back to our community? If so, St. John Rescue needs your help.

St. John Rescue needs community members to fill positions on our Board of Directors, Currently, our Board is composed solely of active responding rescue members. We need to free up these responding members to devote more time to life saving activities.

We are searching for anyone interested in filling the positions: President, Vice President, Secretary, Treasurer, and Liaison. Board member obligations can be down in a mere five hours per month and most of the work can be done around your schedule. Please contact us to get more information on the duties and responsibilities of these positions.

Our annual Board of Directors elections are in March so we need to hear from interested individuals NOW.

Please consider giving some of your time to help out our wonderful organization. For more information, please call 340-693-7377 or email: stjohrescue@gmail.com.

Help make St. John a safer place for all.

**Bob Malacarne**

# WHAT DO YOU THINK?

Send your letter to editor@tradewinds.vi

**Next Deadline: January 29<sup>th</sup>**

### Crossword Answers (Puzzle located on Page 20)

A	M	O	U	N	T		J	U	M	B	O		O	M	G		S	K	I	S			
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### Barshinger Says Intent of Energy Bill Lost

The media published a letter from Ms. Matthews-Sterling on Monday. She complained that a recently enacted bill to harmonize our old and new renewable energy legislation was flawed. Although I am retired from the Legislature, I met with the Executive Director to make him aware of the issue and ask his assistance in tracing what went wrong with this legislation. Normally there is a very organized, trackable path that Legislation follows as legislation is developed. But errors do happen and when they do, we must correct them.

Two weeks ago I received a telephone call that alerted me that the the bill that we passed through committee was not the bill that was signed by the Governor. I contacted the Legislature's legal counsel and several senators to verify if there were a problem and to trace it if there were. The changeover from the 30th to the 31st Legislature made this difficult and I did not receive answers. At first I thought it was simply a matter that a small but necessary amendment had been omitted from the bill when it was sent to Government House. Ms. Matthews-Sterling raises yet another issue, so it appears that the wrong version of 30-0426 was sent to the Governor. Two amendments appear to be missing.

The bill went from the Energy Committee to the Rules Committee, to Session, then to the Governor for signature. Somewhere in this chain, the intent of

the Legislature was lost. We must restore the original legislative intent, which was hammered out by many stakeholders, including the Chamber of Commerce, Solar Installers, WAPA, PSC, and my staff. Senator Sanes is the new Chair of the Energy Committee. I have alerted him to the problem and I believe that he will be eager to restore the intent of the what was agreed upon.

The bill (30-0426) was crafted to harmonize Acts 7075 and 7586. Act 7075 deals with net metering and Act 7586 deals with Feed-In Tariff. Because of the rapidly-changing nature of the renewable energy field, I believe that revised legislation will be needed yearly, for the foreseeable future.

Although I am retired from the Legislature, I retain a keen interest in seeing expanded use of modern technology to lower electric rates and increase reliability. Having the right legislation in place is necessary to promote and guide this modernization.

I would like to thank all Virgin Islanders for the opportunity to serve as your senator at large in the 26th, 28th, 29th, and 30th Legislatures. I encourage all who believe in Democracy to consider serving in a public office at some point during your career.

**Craig W. Barshinger**  
Senator at large, retired  
St. John

### Fixing The Good Island of St. John

Now that we have a new Governor, it is hoped that the main and only road on the island of St. John, Centerline Road, Route 10, can be rebuilt, not just patched and holes filled.

This road has 135 corners, of which 37 are dangerous and need to be corrected. To rebuild this road completely will take time and cause many delays.

Here are some ideas that may help in the long delays and help ease the traffic on the main road:

Number 1 – Completely rebuild Route 108 that

runs from Mountain Top (Mamey Peak) to Coral Bay, about three miles.

Number 2 – Build the south shore road that runs through the Park from Route 107 Mandal to L'Esperance running from L'Esperance down to the Sieben ruins, about seven miles. At the same time of building one of the above roads, rebuild some of the dangerous corners on route 10.

**Norm Gledhill**

### Live in Moment and Have Fun

At a recent meeting, a comment was made that we had forgotten to have fun. That happens when we become bogged down with excessive work and drama.

We put aside activities like swimming, reading, seeing a movie because we have so much to do. Even taking time to rest gets shoved aside in order to fit in more activities on the schedule.

Therefore we've stopped smiling, caring and sharing with one another. Even worse, we've stopped forgiving.

Already our year has started with so many folks saying good-bye to loved ones. What we say and do today can mean the difference in our attitude towards life. It can transform a dull existence into a beautiful

and joyous experience.

The Bible says "Whatever your hands find to do, do it heartily as unto the Lord."

As children we found our island and way of life to be fun. Growing up doesn't mean that it stops being fun. It just takes more intentional planning and sometimes spontaneity to make sure that time is given to new things.

So my fellow St. Johnians, 2015 is here, we have lots of work to do.

But along the way, lets live in the moment and have fun.

**Enthusiasm?**  
**Emmanuel Prince**

## Letters to *St. John Tradewinds*

### Mega Marina Impacting Park Resources

First off I would like to wish you the very best for the new year and I hope that you will use the promise of a new year to join an effort to confront a serious threat to the marine resources of Virgin Islands National Park and the Coral Reef National Monument.

I wrote to you in November about plans to build a large marina in Coral Bay. The marina project appears to be moving forward and the US Army Corps of Engineers recently issued a public notice and opened a public comment period about the project. Please follow this link to read the public notice: <http://www.saj.usace.army.mil/Missions/Regulatory/PublicNotices/tabid/6072/Article/559161/saj-2004-12518-sp-jms.aspx>

There is widespread concern about this development on social, economic, and environmental grounds. In addition, the viability of its location and its feasibility as a sustainable business is also called into question. You can read more about these concerns at [www.savecoralbay.com](http://www.savecoralbay.com)

We remain particularly alarmed about environmental issues and the impact this development will have on nearby VI National Park lands and VI Coral Reef National Monument waters both at Hurricane Hole and to the south of St. John.

If you share our concern I urge you to voice your opinion by responding to the US Army Corps of Engineers' request for public comment. You can provide your comments by mail or electronically (see addresses below), but please do so as soon as possible — the deadline for receiving comments is January 31, 2015.

We have not provided a form letter or boilerplate and hope that you will send a more personal response on what this marina will mean to you and the national park that means so much to you. Whether you send one sentence or a full page please register your concern now.

Some talking points you may want to consider include:

This marina would be a significant threat to nearby NPS-protected lands and waters. National Park land abuts the site of the proposed marina and the waters of Virgin islands Coral Reef National Monument are only a mile away as a gull flies and 1½ miles by water.

Within Coral Harbour it would eliminate a minimum of nine acres of seagrass beds, create a sizeable obstruction to water flow in the bay, add an unknown amount and number of contaminants to the bay waters from all the vessels and generally lead to severe degradation of water quality. There are no physical barriers in the sea and the degradation of the waters of Coral Bay will have a negative impact on the waters of nearby Hurricane Hole and beyond.

The National Monument contains significant biological flora and fauna, including several threatened

and endangered species, which forage, breed, nest, rest, or calve in the waters. Humpback whales, pilot whales, four species of dolphins, brown pelicans, roseate terns, least terns, hawksbill sea turtles, leatherback sea turtles, and green sea turtles all use portions of the monument. Countless species of reef fishes, invertebrates, plants and algae utilize these submerged lands during their lives, and over 25 species of seabirds feed in the waters. Between the near shore nursery habitats and the shelf edge spawning sites, habitats in the monument play essential roles during specific developmental stages of reef associated species, including spawning migrations of many reef fish species and crustaceans. These are threatened by the marina and the development has given no consideration to the potential negative cumulative impacts to park and monument resources caused by significantly increased vessel traffic.

Mitigation measures proposed by the developers, such as planting seagrass where there is none presently (and where they probably would not grow), and planting mangroves in an area unsuitable for mangroves, are simply not adequate.

The Environmental Assessment prepared for this marina gives no consideration to impacts to the monument's water quality, marine resources, wetlands (mangroves) coral reefs, sea grasses, fish, marine invertebrates, and species of concern protected by the Endangered Species Act.

I again urge you to voice your concerns about this marina.

Mail can be sent to:

District Engineer

Antilles Permits Section

400 Fernández Juncos Avenue

San Juan, Puerto Rico 00901-3299

Emails can be sent to: [Johann.M.Sasso@usace.army.mil](mailto:Johann.M.Sasso@usace.army.mil)

In both cases be sure to include the application number (SAJ-2004-12518) in the subject line.

There is an opportunity to request a public hearing about the application for the marina. In your response to the US Army Corps of Engineers please request a public hearing, and give a reason such as the need for more information, or because of the public controversy.

Lastly, please copy the Friends on your communication about the marina. Please copy emails to [nomarina@friendsvinp.org](mailto:nomarina@friendsvinp.org), or fax letters to 340-693-9973.

Thank you for your concern regarding this threat to park and monument resources. Together we can make a difference.

Sincerely,

Joe Kessler, President

Friends of the Virgin Islands National Park

# DID YOU KNOW...

## THAT YOU CAN SUPPORT YOUR FAVORITE NON-PROFIT GROUP AND YOUR ISLAND NEWSPAPER AT THE SAME TIME?

Animal Care Center of St. John  
Coral Bay Community Council  
Friends of the Virgin Islands National Park  
Giffit Hill School  
Island Green Building Association  
Kids First!  
Kids in the Sea (KATS)  
Sisterhood Agenda  
St. John Audubon Society  
St. John Christian Academy  
St. John Community Foundation  
St. John Film Society  
St. John Historical Society  
St. John Montessori School  
St. John Recycling Association  
St. John Relay for Life  
St. John Revolving Fund  
St. John School of the Arts  
St. John Youth Coalition  
STT/STJ Chamber of Commerce - STJ Chapter  
Team River Runner  
Using Sport for Social Change  
(and many more)

Call to add your registered non-profit to this list

### IT'S A SIMPLE SOLUTION: Underwrite a yearly advertising budget for your favorite community group.

*St. John Tradewinds* supports all registered non-profit organizations with a non-profit advertising rate.  
For more information, call 776-6496.

**SUBMIT LETTERS, OPINIONS & OBITUARIES TO:** [editor@tradewinds.vi](mailto:editor@tradewinds.vi)

## Community Calendar

*St. John Tradewinds* welcomes notices of community-oriented, not-for-profit events for inclusion in this weekly listing. Call 776-6496, e-mail [editor@tradewinds.vi](mailto:editor@tradewinds.vi) or fax 693-8885.

### Monday, January 26

— Newly-elected Governor Kenneth Mapp will give his State of the Territory address on Monday, January 26, at 7 p.m.

### Friday, January 30

— Bethany Moravian Church will be hosting Family Movie Night on Friday, January 30 at 7 p.m. This month's movie is "God's Not Dead" everyone of all denominations are welcome to join in this family friendly activity. For more information call the church at (340) 776-6291.

— Get ready for two nights of toe-tapping music and glittery glamour at the Westin's grand ballroom as Broadway Comes to St. John for the fifth year in a row on Friday, January 30, and Saturday, January 31. Angel tickets and raffle tickets are available at SJSA. For more information call the school at (340) 779-4322.

### Saturday, January 31

— The Bethany Bazaar and school supply drive will be on Saturday, January 31 from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. on the church grounds.

### Sunday, February 1

— Join Reverend Allen Wells at the Unitarian Universalist Fellowship (UUF) special retreat service at VIERS on Sunday, February 1 at 10 a.m. at VIERS for: What Marks Our Spiritual Journey?

### Tuesday, February 3

— St. John Film Society (SJFS) is pleased to announce a very special screening of "Rebels with a Cause" on February 3 at 7:30 p.m. at St John School of the Arts, Cruz Bay. Filmmakers Nancy Kelly and Kenji Yamamoto will be present for the screening along with other Virgin Islands to discuss events currently taking place on St. John similar to those in the film.

### Saturday, February 14

— St. John's Barefoot Minister, Anne Marie Porter, invites all married couples to celebrate Valentine's Day by renewing their marriage vows on February 14, at 5 p.m. on Trunk Bay Beach.

### Saturday, February 21

— The 8 Tuff Miles Road Race and the St. John Cancer Fund have joined forces to present the 8 Tuff Miles Festival. The festival will begin on Saturday, February 21. at 4 p.m. with "Light up the Night" an 18-hour, family-oriented, community supported overnight event.

### ALCOHOLICS ANONYMOUS MEETINGS

All meetings are now open. Monday, Tuesday, Wednesday and Friday 6 p.m. Nazareth Lutheran Church, Cruz Bay; Thursday 7 a.m. Nazareth Lutheran Church, Cruz Bay; Sunday 9:45 a.m., Hawksnest Bay Beach; Tuesday, Thursday and Saturday 6 p.m. at Moravian Church, Coral Bay

### NARCOTICS ANONYMOUS MEETINGS

Narcotics Anonymous has open meetings from 6:30 to 7:30 p.m. every Saturday at St. Ursula's Church.

### AL-ANON MEETINGS

For Al-Anon meeting location and times, please call (340) 642-3263

## Obituaries

### Albert E. Smith Interred at Cruz Bay Cemetery

#### *St. John Tradewinds*

Funeral services were conducted for Albert E. Smith, 71, of St. John on Saturday, January 24, following a viewing at St. John Methodist Church with interment in the Cruz Bay Cemetery. Smith died on January 3 on St. John.

Smith is survived by his wife, Idencia Ina Chinnery Smith; sons Franklin "Frankie" Smith, Steve "Puncha Smith, Al "Boopy" Smith and Ivan "Cookie" Chinnery; daughter Asha Smith; grandchildren Jasmine Provost, Ebony Serano, Shawna Lettsume, Tifford Lettsume, Syneqa Smith, Kimisa Smith, Shikira Smith,



Jahsiah Smith, Jayvee Smith, Ashley Smith, Jalen Frazer, R a e ' s h a w n Frazer, Okelani Frazer, Shema Chinnery, Kishma Chinnery,

Ivan Chinnery Jr., Evanna Chinnery and Ivanna Chinnery; brothers Rudolph "Pimpy" Thomas, Aubrey "Tiny" Thomas, Alfredo "Baaba" Smith and Roy Smith; adopted brother, Frank "Jimmy" Powell Jr.; sister Anna Smith Penn; sisters-in-law Irma Pickering, Lettie Samuel, Ethlyn

Simmonds, Lauricia Chalwell, Selvina Chinnery, Joan Thomas and Olivine Smith; brothers-in-law Michael Chinnery, Curtney Chinnery, Edrick Chinnery, John Chinnery, Gerald Chinnery, Irvin Chinnery, Kendrick Chinnery, Sendrick Chinnery, Selvin Chinnery, Irvin Chinnery and Marvin Chinnery; and special friends Rudelle and Cynthia Parsons and family, Delma Sprauve, Lloyd Prince, Evelyn Romulus, Josanna Jarrett, Doreen Callwood and Willis Fahgie Sr.; 34 nieces, 27 nephews, six great-grandchildren and many more family and friends too numerous to mention.

### Elvis "Eley" Smith Jr. Interred at Calabash Boom

#### *St. John Tradewinds*

Elvis "Eley" Smith Jr., 16, the back seat passenger who was killed in a one-car crash that injured four other young St. John men, two seriously, in Upper Carolina on Saturday, January 10, was buried in the Calabash Boom Cemetery on Friday, January 23.

Following a viewing and service at Emmaus Moravian Church overlooking Coral Bay, the close-knit community on the southeast end of St. John filled the small walled cemetery on the opposite shore of the broad bay to say a final good bye to a popular young man.

Schoolmates from the island's "south" neighborhoods and Eley's school on St. Thomas, Ivanna Eudora Kean High School joined members of the young man's extended family in the emotional farewell.

Eley is survived by his mother, Shena "Simone" Esannason;



*St. John Tradewinds News Photo*

Elvis Smith Jr.

father, Elvis "Eley" Smith Jr.; brothers Michael "Mike-Mike" George and Tecari Smith; sisters Alisa Mason and Neveah Smith; stepsister and stepbrother Linique Esannason and Jnai Esannason; stepmother Ronise Smith; stepfather Lindel "Butch" Esannason; grandmother Brenda Chavis; grandfathers Louis George and Timothy "Tim" Chavis; great-grandmothers Eglah "Grand-

mom" Clendinen and Rita Sprauve; great-grandfather Vincen "Beef" Clendinen Jr.; aunts Kessa "Tracy" George, Tiombe "Tee" Cunningham, Tiffany Chinnery; uncles Kaseem "Boobie" George, Kwame George and Jaba "Glenn" Chinnery; great-aunts Jacquelyn "Jackie" Clendinen, Celia Tonge and Pierrette Clendinen; great-uncles Ernie, Wayne and Gary Clendinen; Will and Percy Sprauve, and Vincen "Melly" Clendinen; niece Tangia "Gigi" George; special cousins Delani, Abia and Anwar Clendinen, LaReesa Williams, Naiquan Frett, Leequan Sykes; Jordan Clendinen and Sokotto "Baba" Clendinen Jr.; special friends Leonard Jackson, Raheem Titre, Tanjiyah "Tanji" Potter and Amaan Raimer; and many other relatives and friends too numerous to mention.

Arrangements were under the direction of Hurley Funeral Home.

1-25

CRYPTOQUIP

J R S F O X   B C N   O B D M S   F A B Z R   R K S   U M I F C  
 K X A W M N   P M R W Z J   U W Z M R   S D S W   Y W B G I   M I  
 U W F I P S ' J   P F T M R F C : " C F J R   R F I Y S C B   M I   T F W M J . "

Today's Cryptoquip clue: B equals O

# Fishing Bats, Singing Frogs, Ravenous Toads and Rare Birds: Update on Tropical Ecology Research at VIERS

Continued on Page 11

five different types of bats within a few hours — including (besides the ones already mentioned) a relatively common insect-eating velvety free-tailed bat, *Molossus molossus*, and a rare red fig-eating bat, *Stenoderma rufum*, which is only found in Puerto Rico and the Virgin Islands, and is also listed as a species of Greatest Concern on the Virgin Island's Endangered Species List. During the Island Resources Foundation three-year survey, there were only 15 of the red fig-eating bats caught - out of 1,200 - slightly more than one percent of the total.

Meanwhile, Pearl Cales was chasing a Caribbean White-lipped Frog in the bushes along the road. It got away at one point and hid in a large puddle, but eventually it raised its face up to the surface of the muddy water and she was able to recapture it. She measured and examined it, then snipped off a tiny piece of its toe for a DNA sample to verify its identification (since the little frogs are difficult to distinguish with scientific certainty otherwise). Pearl is focusing part of her research on documenting the different sounds made by the white-lipped frogs. She is also doing a survey of overall frog sounds at selected points to see if there are any changes. Mostly she is concerned about whether there has been an invasion of large cane toads, which could potentially eat up many of the local tree frogs. This year, she did find one cane toad in Coral Bay on the flat land near the site of the Roller's farm.

As a bird lover, I was pretty excited to hear that Professor Veit had also identified a rare bird in the flat area near Coral Bay — a screech owl, *Otus nudipes*, that has been found only in Puerto Rico and the Virgin Islands. In 1995, these birds were declared extinct in the Virgin Islands because a careful survey of the three main islands (which have the woody habitats they require) had turned up no evidence of them. I thought I had heard an owl in the night recently, and wondered if it could have been this type. Although the recorded common cries of the screech owl didn't exactly match up with the hooting sounds I remember hearing, these little owls do apparently make loud 'coo-coo' sounds - as a result of which they were given the name "Cuckoo-bird" in the Virgin Islands. [www.oiseaux-birds.com/card-puerto-rican-screech-owl.html](http://www.oiseaux-birds.com/card-puerto-rican-screech-owl.html)

Professor Veit also saw another unusual bird in the lagoon near Lameshur Bay — a Little Egret. This bird is a Eurasian species that is in the process of colonizing the western hemisphere. They first nested in Barbados in 1994, where there are now 15-25 nesting pairs. That is still the only western hemisphere breeding location, but they have been recorded on many Caribbean islands including Puerto Rico, and have even been found as far north as Newfoundland. It looks like a snowy egret, but has two distinctive thin feathers at the back of its head.

In addition, he ran into four

brightly colored Adelaide's warblers, which are generally found only in Puerto Rico, along the south shore trail near VIERS. These sightings of rare birds were particularly interesting to me, since I was asked to lead an early morn-

ing bird walk at Lameshur during the Unitarian Universalist fellowship retreat at VIERS on February 1. Meanwhile I have been practicing trying to identify the different bird songs and frog voices around my house.

Gail Karlsson is an environmental lawyer and part-time resident of St. John. Her book *The Wild Life in an Island House* is available on [amazon.com](http://amazon.com) — or view some of her other writing at [gvkarlsson.blogspot.com](http://gvkarlsson.blogspot.com).



## 2015 Seminar Series

January 2 – April 12, 2015

Call 340.779.4940 to book today!

JANUARY
<b>FULL MOON HIKE</b> • Jan. 2, Fri. • 5:00pm – 8:30pm; <i>Meets:</i> Salt Pond parking lot; <i>Bring:</i> Snack, water, wear hiking shoes, flashlight or headlamp; <i>Seminar Fee:</i> \$25 Mem / \$35 Non Mem • <i>Max Group:</i> 20
<b>PASTELS WITH LIVY HITCHCOCK</b> • Jan. 11, Sun. • 10:00am – 1:00pm <i>Meets:</i> Take resort shuttle to Turtle Bay Veranda; <i>Bring:</i> Drinking water, wear old clothes; <i>Seminar Fee:</i> \$75 Mem / \$85 Non Mem • <i>Max Group:</i> 6
<b>HASSEL ISLAND KAYAK &amp; HIKE</b> • Jan. 16, Fri. • 2:00pm – 5:00pm <i>Meets:</i> Dock in front of Hook, Line & Sinker Restaurant, Frenchtown, St. Thomas; <i>Bring:</i> Towel, sunscreen, plenty of water/snack, dry bag, hiking shoes; <i>Seminar Fee:</i> \$69 Mem / \$79 Non Mem • <i>Max Group:</i> 8
<b>TROPICAL GARDEN TOUR I</b> • Jan. 17, Sat. • 10:00am – 3:00pm; <i>Meets:</i> Friends of the Park Store, Mongoose Junction to carpool; <i>Bring:</i> Lunch, water, sunscreen; <i>Seminar Fee:</i> \$55 Mem / \$65 Non Mem • <i>Max Group:</i> 20
<b>HIKE WITH THE "SUPER"</b> • Jan. 21, Wed. • 9:30am – 1:30pm <i>Meets:</i> Annaberg Ruins parking lot; <i>Bring:</i> Lunch, water, hat, sunscreen; <i>Seminar Fee:</i> \$40 Mem / \$50 Non Mem • <i>Max Group:</i> 16
<b>KAYAK THE MANGROVES OF HURRICANE HOLE</b> • Jan. 25, Sun. • 10:00am – 3:00pm; <i>Meets:</i> Skinny Legs Restaurant to carpool; <i>Bring:</i> Lunch, water, snorkel gear, hat, sunscreen & towel; <i>Seminar Fee:</i> \$65 Mem / \$75 Non Mem • <i>Max Group:</i> 11
<b>EXPLORE THE SHORE</b> • Jan. 29, Thurs. • 10:00am – 12:30pm <i>Meets:</i> Annaberg parking lot; <i>Bring:</i> Wear shoes to walk in water, lunch, water, towel, hat, sunscreen; <i>Seminar Fee:</i> \$25 Mem / \$35 Non Mem • <i>Max Group:</i> 20
<b>ADVANCED CANEEL/MARGARET HILL NATURAL HISTORY TREK WITH DR. GARY RAY</b> • Jan. 31, Sat. • 9:00am – noon <i>Meets:</i> Friends of the Park Store, Mongoose Junction to carpool; <i>Bring:</i> Minimum 2 liters water, binoculars & notebook; <i>Seminar Fee:</i> \$30 Mem / \$40 Non Mem • <i>Max Group:</i> 20
FEBRUARY
<b>ST. THOMAS MANGROVE LAGOON, CASE CAY KAYAK, HIKE, SNORKEL</b> • Feb. 1, Sun. • 12:45pm – 4:00pm; <i>Meets:</i> VI Ecorours, St. Thomas, Mangrove Lagoon Marina by 12:45pm. Tour leaves at 1:00pm; <i>Bring:</i> Water, snack, towel, sunscreen, hat, hiking shoes; <i>Seminar Fee:</i> \$59 Mem / \$69 Non Mem • <i>Max Group:</i> 30
<b>FULL MOON HIKE</b> • Feb. 3, Tues. • 5:00pm – 8:30pm <i>Meets:</i> Salt Pond parking lot; <i>Bring:</i> Wear hiking shoes, flashlight or headlamp; <i>Seminar Fee:</i> \$25 Mem / \$35 Non Mem • <i>Max Group:</i> 20
<b>BIRDS OF THE PARK</b> • Feb. 5, Thurs. • 9:00am – 1:00pm <i>Meets:</i> National Park Visitors Center; <i>Bring:</i> Water, snack, binoculars, notebook; <i>Seminar Fee:</i> \$55 Mem / \$65 Non Mem • <i>Max Group:</i> 20
<b>EAST END KAYAK TOUR</b> • Feb. 8, Sun. • 10:00am – 2:30pm <i>Meets:</i> Skinny Legs to carpool to Hansen Bay; <i>Bring:</i> Lunch, water, swimsuit, water shoes, snorkel gear, sunscreen, hat; <i>Seminar Fee:</i> \$65 Mem / \$75 Non Mem • <i>Max Group:</i> 10
<b>MEDICINAL HERBS</b> • Feb. 11, Wed. • 12:30pm – 2:30pm <i>Meets:</i> St. John School of the Arts; <i>Bring:</i> Notebook & pen; <i>Seminar Fee:</i> \$35 Mem / \$45 Non Mem • <i>Max Group:</i> 25
<b>PEPPER SAUCE MAKING AT HANSEN BAY</b> • Feb. 15, Sun. • 11:00am – 3:00pm; <i>Meets:</i> Skinny Legs to carpool to Hansen Bay; <i>Bring:</i> Lunch, water, notebook, pen, camera, swimsuit, towel, snorkel gear (optional); <i>Seminar Fee:</i> \$55 Mem / \$65 Non Mem • <i>Max Group:</i> 20
<b>ARCHAEOLOGY BY SEA</b> • Feb. 18, Wed. • 9:45am – 3:00pm <i>Meets:</i> National Park Visitor Center dock at 9:45am; <i>Bring:</i> Lunch, water, hat, sunscreen, swimsuit & towel (optional); <i>Seminar Fee:</i> \$65 Mem / \$75 Non Mem • <i>Max Group:</i> 28
<b>EXPLORE THE SHORE</b> • Feb. 19, Thurs. • 10:00am – 12:30pm <i>Meets:</i> Annaberg parking lot; <i>Bring:</i> Lunch, water, wear shoes for walking in water, towel, hat, sunscreen; <i>Seminar Fee:</i> \$25 Mem / \$35 Non Mem • <i>Max Group:</i> 20
<b>COASTAL ECOLOGY</b> • Feb. 21, Sat. • 9:00am – 3:00pm <i>Meets:</i> National Park Visitor Center, 8:45am; <i>Bring:</i> Lunch, water, sunscreen, & snorkel gear; <i>Seminar Fee:</i> \$75 Mem / \$85 Non Mem • <i>Max Group:</i> 18
<b>BOOBY ROCK SNORKEL/SUNSET SAIL</b> • Feb. 22, Sun. • 1:45pm – 6:30pm <i>Meets:</i> Calabash Market, to follow Capt. Karl to Johnson Bay; <i>Bring:</i> Snorkel gear, hat, towel, sunscreen, snacks (optional); <i>Seminar Fee:</i> \$65 Mem / \$75 Non Mem • <i>Max Group:</i> 6
<b>TRADITIONAL BROOM MAKING</b> • Feb. 25, Wed. • 12:45am – 2:45pm <i>Meets:</i> St. John School of the Arts; <i>Bring:</i> Yourself; <i>Seminar Fee:</i> \$45 Mem / \$55 Non Mem • <i>Max Group:</i> 10
<b>SEA TURTLE SAIL</b> • Feb. 26, Thurs. • 1:00pm – 5:00pm <i>Meets:</i> Charlotte Amalie waterfront, St. Thomas (across from Greenhouse Restaurant); <i>Bring:</i> Snack, water, sunscreen, hat, snorkel gear, & swimsuit; <i>Seminar Fee:</i> \$65 Mem / \$75 Non Mem • <i>Max Group:</i> 50
<b>BOTANY HIKE</b> • Feb. 27, Fri. • 9:00am – 1:00pm <i>Meets:</i> Friends of the Park Store; <i>Bring:</i> Lunch, water, sunscreen, hat, & hiking shoes; <i>Seminar Fee:</i> \$45 Mem / \$55 Non Mem • <i>Max Group:</i> 25

MARCH
<b>MARINE BIOLOGY SAIL</b> • Mar. 1, Sun. • 8:45am – 3:00pm <i>Meets:</i> National Park Visitor Center dock FLAGPOLE; <i>Bring:</i> Lunch, water bottle, towel, & sunscreen; <i>Seminar Fee:</i> \$85 Mem / \$95 Non Mem • <i>Max Group:</i> 27
<b>FULL MOON HIKE</b> • Mar. 5, Thurs. • 5:00pm – 8:30pm <i>Meets:</i> Salt Pond parking lot; <i>Bring:</i> Snack, water, wear hiking shoes, flashlight or headlamp; <i>Seminar Fee:</i> \$25 Mem / \$35 Non Mem • <i>Max Group:</i> 20
<b>LOVANGO SUSTAINABLE LIVING &amp; DESIGN TOUR</b> • Mar. 7, Sat. • 9:30am – 1:30pm; <i>Meets:</i> Friends of the Park Store; <i>Bring:</i> Lunch, water, sunscreen, hat, & wear bathing suit & hiking shoes; <i>Seminar Fee:</i> \$55 Mem / \$65 Non Mem • <i>Max Group:</i> 20
<b>PADDLEBOARD, HIKE, &amp; SNORKEL</b> • Mar. 8, Sun. • 9:30am – 12:30pm <i>Meets:</i> Skinny Legs parking lot to carpool to Hansen Bay; <i>Bring:</i> Lunch, water, swimsuit, water or hiking shoes, towel, hat; <i>Seminar Fee:</i> \$60 Mem / \$70 Non Mem • <i>Max Group:</i> 10
<b>LAMESHUR BAY/VIERS TOUR</b> • Mar. 9, Mon. • 10:00am – 2:00pm <i>Meets:</i> Lameshur Bay parking lot; <i>Bring:</i> Notebook & water; <i>Seminar Fee:</i> \$45 Mem / \$55 Non Mem • <i>Max Group:</i> 20
<b>TRADITIONAL BROOM MAKING</b> • Mar. 11, Wed. • 12:45pm – 2:45pm <i>Meets:</i> St. John School of the Arts • <i>Bring:</i> Yourself; <i>Seminar Fee:</i> \$45 Mem / \$55 Non Mem • <i>Max Group:</i> 10
<b>CANEEL BAY KAYAK, HIKE &amp; SNORKEL ADVENTURE</b> • Mar. 13, Fri. • 9:00am – noon; <i>Meets:</i> National Park Visitor Center; <i>Bring:</i> Lunch, snacks, water, towel, hat & sun protection; <i>Seminar Fee:</i> \$60 Mem / \$70 Non Mem • <i>Max Group:</i> 10
<b>MANGROVE SNORKELING BOAT TRIP</b> • Mar. 14, Sat. • 9:00am – 3:00pm <i>Meets:</i> National Park Visitor Center dock at 8:45am; <i>Bring:</i> Lunch, water, snorkel gear, towel, sunscreen, hat; <i>Seminar Fee:</i> \$85 Mem / \$95 Non Mem • <i>Max Group:</i> 18
<b>PEPPER SAUCE MAKING AT HANSEN BAY</b> • Mar. 15, Sun. • 11:00am – 3:00pm <i>Meets:</i> Skinny Legs to carpool to Hansen Bay; <i>Bring:</i> Lunch, water, notebook, pen, camera, swimsuit, towel, snorkel gear (optional); <i>Seminar Fee:</i> \$55 Mem / \$65 Non Mem • <i>Max Group:</i> 20
<b>TROPICAL LIGHT PHOTOGRAPHY</b> • Mar. 16, Mon. • 8:00am – noon <i>Meets:</i> Friends of the Park Store; <i>Bring:</i> Camera & manual, batteries, memory cards, water & notebook; <i>Seminar Fee:</i> \$45 Mem / \$55 Non Mem • <i>Max Group:</i> 15
<b>MEDICINAL HERBS</b> • Mar. 18, Wed. • 12:30pm – 2:30pm <i>Meets:</i> St. John School of the Arts; <i>Bring:</i> Notebook & pen; <i>Seminar Fee:</i> \$35 Mem / \$45 Non Mem • <i>Max Group:</i> 25
<b>ARCHAEOLOGY BY SEA BOAT TRIP</b> • Mar. 25, Wed. • 9:45am – 3:00pm <i>Meets:</i> National Park Visitors Center dock at 9:45am; <i>Bring:</i> Lunch, water, hat, sunscreen, swimsuit & towel (optional); <i>Seminar Fee:</i> \$65 Mem / \$75 Non Mem • <i>Max Group:</i> 28
<b>TAINO POTTERY</b> • Mar. 27, Fri. • 10:00am – 1:00pm <i>Meets:</i> Pottery in Paradise, Coral Bay (behind Pickles Deli, Rt. 107, Coral Bay) <i>Bring:</i> Snack, water; <i>Seminar Fee:</i> \$55 Mem / \$65 Non Mem • <i>Max Group:</i> 8
<b>TROPICAL GARDEN TOUR II</b> • Mar. 28, Sat. • 10:00am – 3:00pm <i>Meets:</i> Friends of the Park Store, Mongoose Junction to carpool; <i>Bring:</i> Lunch, water, sunscreen; <i>Seminar Fee:</i> \$55 Mem / \$65 Non Mem • <i>Max Group:</i> 20
<b>MAHO/WHISTLING CAY KAYAK &amp; SNORKEL ADVENTURE</b> Mar. 29, Sun. • 9:45am – 1:00pm; <i>Meets:</i> Maho Bay parking lot; <i>Bring:</i> Lunch, water, wear swimsuit, towel, hat, sunscreen, camera; <i>Seminar Fee:</i> \$55 Mem / \$65 Non Mem • <i>Max Group:</i> 8
APRIL
<b>HIKE WITH THE "SUPER"</b> • Apr. 1, Wed. • 9:00am – 3:00pm <i>Meets:</i> National Park Visitor Center; <i>Bring:</i> Lunch, hat, water, sunscreen; <i>Seminar Fee:</i> \$55 Mem / \$65 Non Mem • <i>Max Group:</i> 6
<b>FULL MOON HIKE</b> • Apr. 2, Thurs. • 5:00pm – 8:30pm <i>Meets:</i> Salt Pond parking lot; <i>Bring:</i> Snack, water, wear hiking shoes, flashlight or headlamp; <i>Seminar Fee:</i> \$25 Mem / \$35 Non Mem • <i>Max Group:</i> 20
<b>LEINSTER BAY GUIDED SNORKEL &amp; HIKE</b> • Apr. 11, Sat. • 9:00am – 3:00pm <i>Meets:</i> Annaberg parking lot; <i>Bring:</i> Lunch, water, sunscreen, & snorkel gear; <i>Fee:</i> \$40 Mem / \$50 Non Mem • <i>Max Group:</i> 15
<b>LIONFISH BOAT ADVENTURE</b> • Apr. 12, Sun. • 9:30am – 3:00pm <i>Meets:</i> National Park Visitors Center dock; <i>Bring:</i> Lunch, water, sunscreen, towel, snorkel gear (optional); <i>Seminar Fee:</i> \$55 Mem / \$65 Non Mem • <i>Max Group:</i> 10

Visit [www.friendsvnp.org/seminars](http://www.friendsvnp.org/seminars) or pick up a brochure for more details!



Pearl Cales with Cane Toad

## Church Directory

### **Baha'i Community of St. John**

For Devotions and Study Circles, call 714-1641  
7:30 p.m. Fridays; Study Circles 9 a.m. Sundays  
776-6316, 776-6254

### **Bethany Moravian Church**

Sunday School 9 a.m., Divine Worship 10 a.m.

### **Calvary Baptist Church**

13 ABC Coral Bay, 776-6304  
Sunday School 10 a.m., Sunday evening 6 p.m., Thursday 7 p.m.

### **Christian Ministry**

Cinnamon Bay Beach  
Inter-Denominational, Sunday 8:30 a.m.

### **Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints**

Sun. 9 a.m., on St. Thomas . 776-2379  
Sun., 5 p.m., STJ, Lumberyard

### **Cruz Bay Baptist Church**

Sunday 11 a.m., 6 p.m. 776-6315

### **Emmaus Moravian Church**

Coral Bay, Divine Worship 8:30 a.m., 776-6713

### **Freshwater Church**

Freshwater Church St. John USVI  
Sunday Worship 10 am at Hawksnest Beach  
Follow us on Facebook, 340.514.6578

### **Jehovah's Witness**

7:30 p.m. Tuesdays; 7 p.m.  
Saturdays (Español), 10 a.m. Sundays, 340-715-053

### **Missionary Baptist Church**

9:30 a.m. Sunday Services, 10:45 Worship,  
Tuesday 7 p.m. Bible Study 693-8884

### **Nazareth Lutheran Church**

Sunday 9 a.m., Sunday School 8 a.m. 776-6731

### **Our Lady of Mount Carmel Catholic Church**

Saturdays: 6 p.m.; Sundays: 7:30 & 9:30 a.m., 12:30 p.m. in Coral Bay  
at the John's Folly Learning Institute & 6 pm. in Spanish;  
Mondays: 12:15 p.m.; Tuesdays, Wednesdays & Thursdays: 7 a.m.  
& Fridays: 7 p.m. Call 776-6339 for more information.

### **Prayer House of Faith**

Sunday Morning Service at 8 a.m; Bible Study at 7:30 p.m. on Mondays  
Prayer services at 7:30 p.m. on Wednesdays; 340-690-3820

### **St. John Methodist Church**

Sunday 10 a.m, 693-8830

### **Seventh Day Adventist**

Saturdays, 779-4477

### **St. John Pentecostal Church**

Sunday 11:05 a.m., 6:30 p.m. Tuesdays Prayer 7:30 p.m.,  
Thursdays Bible Study 7:30 p.m. 779-1230

### **St. Ursula's Episcopal Church**

Sunday Church Service, 9 a.m.  
Bible Class on Wednesdays at 5:30 p.m. 777-6306

### **Unitarian Universalist Fellowship**

9:45 a.m. Sunday, 776-6332

## Mongoose Junction Shopping Center Morning Fire Guts Second Floor Stores, Floods Ground Level Businesses

### *Continued from Page 3*

After the fireball erupted more than an hour into the firefight, store owners from the adjacent complex deployed a garden hose to check the flames which had torched the canvas roof of the Island Grill restaurant and threatened to spread the conflagration to the wooden trellises of the adjacent building housing Caravan Gallery.

### **WAPA Bucket Trucks Give Firefighters Lift**

The fire was finally brought under control and doused after V.I. Water and Power Authority trucks were deployed to use their bucket lifts to raise firefighters above the two-story building to fight the blaze.

"WAPA saved the day," Speer said succinctly.

The fire began in the rear building of the three original buildings in the oldest of the two adjoining commercial complexes and V.I. Fire Services personnel fought an extended battle fraught with water supply, breathing equipment and personnel problems to try to prevent the fire from spreading under the the corrugated metal-covered roof to the front of the building.

In the course of the late morning, the fire spread under the roof from the rear of the building all the way to the front, eventually flashing over to char both the The Tap Room and The Beauty Lounge as builder and owner Speer had predicted. The fire never reached the other buildings in the complex.

### **Fireball Billows**

A fireball blew out of the entrance to The Tap Room and The Beauty Lounge in the center of Mongoose Junction near mid-day. At about the same time, firefighters were struggling to battle the fire on the opposite side of the complex from the small porch above the driveway to the parking lot behind the commercial complex.

Water company tanker trucks were shuttling water to refill V.I. Fire Department pumper trucks from the Robert O'Conner Sr. Fire Station and the Coral Bay Fire Station on the scene for hours.

Two trucks were in position in front of the complex in the event the fire spread to those two buildings, and two trucks were positioned alongside the burning building in the driveway to the rear parking lot until the WAPA trucks were backed into position.

### **Complaints of Fumes**

The fire apparently began around 10 a.m. in the The Beauty Lounge spa that had not yet opened for the day. Spa owner Sophia Boynes told St. John Tradewinds she went to Mongoose Junction representatives about the noxious fumes and together they searched for the source of the acrid odor. There are conflicting reports that the fire began in a clothes dryer in the day spa.

### **VIFD Clears Hurdles**

The VIFD had to clear a series of hurdles in finding and fighting the stubborn fire.

There was no confirmation of reports that the Fire Department had problems with breathing equipment and ran out of air canisters, a half-dozen of which littered the ground near the trucks by late morning.

While two firefighters with air packs could be

seen on the rear corner of the roof of the building, a uniformed V.I. Police Department firefighters on the second floor balcony was helping two firefighters working without breathing devices train their house into the rear entrance to the Mongoose Junction business office. The Spears' office was completely gutted by the fire.

The fire eventually burned through the interior of the second level of the original portion of the native-stone façade commercial complex – from the day spa directly above Northshore Deli to the popular The Tap Room bar.

### **The Tap Room Will Rebuild, Northshore Deli Will Reopen Ocean Grill Damaged**

The newly-renovated original Mongoose Deli location on the ground-level which owners Demetrious and wife Nikki Ahladis reopened in October and a portion of the neighboring al fresco Ocean Grill restaurant suffered water damage. There were unconfirmed reports an air conditioning unit had fallen through a burned section of the roof over Ocean Grill offices.

Ahladis and staff and were laboring through the weekend to clean up from the fire after having discarded all the food and supplies in the establishment. Power had been restored to Northshore Deli by Sunday and the new owners were hoping to reopen as soon as possible,

The Tap Room bar was entirely destroyed, but Spear said the owners are committed to rebuilding the business in the location.

The new owners of The Fabric Mill, located on the ground level under The Tap Room could not be reached for comment.

"We'll build a better building," Speer said. "It won't be as nice – probably not as many details. It's too expensive today."

(The front building in the complex Speer developed with his wife Radha suffered a similar fate about 15 years ago, Speer recalled. That building subsequently was rebuilt.)

"The community has been wonderful," Speer emphasized. "WAPA has been very good."

The older section of the seven main buildings in the complex is connected to the adjacent Mongoose Junction II by two concrete walks that bridge the broad dry ghutt which bisects and flows under portions of the two properties.

After the fireball erupted from the rear building of the neighboring complex and firefighters had not yet appeared between the two complexes, tenants of Mongoose II scrambled to unravel a landscaping hose to extend across the second level patio to the front of the spa where the flames were threatening to reach the portico of Caravan Gallery on the second floor of one of the two street-front buildings in the neighboring Mongoose Junction complex.

The roaring conflagration torched the canvas roof over the outdoor dining of The Island Grill, but when the fire was over, the outer awning of the restaurant nearest Caravan Gallery was almost unscinged.

Saved by a garden hose.

## Island Homeless Experience

*Continued from Page 9*

medical screenings, giving out hygiene kits and clothing, connecting them with food stamps and substance abuse assistance, employment services, etc ...

We provide breakfast and a hot lunch, clothing, haircuts, etc. too. Because Project Homeless Connect is volunteer-driven, it offers an amazing opportunity for community involvement and human connection.

“Project Homeless Connect is breaking the myth that people do not seek assistance and services and would rather be on the street,” said San Francisco Mayor Gavin Newsom, who created the first Homeless Connect in 2004. “The data prove that when people are approached in a respectful and kind manner, and with available resources, they are eager to accept help toward self-sufficiency.”

It is great to know that during this Point in Time Count, there will be at least one less person to survey on St. John. I am following up this count with interviews of what services these individuals are seeking to help them transition out of homelessness as part of the fulfillment of my Master’s Degree from UVI and as I formulate my doctoral dissertation.

When we were able to make the connection for Gregory Jackson, who had been chronically homeless on St. John for 21 years, it was awesome! Gregory is now living clean over in St. Thomas, and says it is the best thing that ever happened to him!

St. John Community Foundation has successfully been carrying out the mission of providing services and supporting programs that positively engage people, build resources and strengthen the St. John community since 1989. SJCF continuously looks for ways to fill service gaps and cultivate community assets including people, organizations, programs, and resources to effectively respond to changing needs of the community now and for future generations.

## 2015 Homeless Count on Jan. 31

*Continued from Page 6*

necting them with food stamps and substance abuse assistance, employment services, and more.

“We provide breakfast and a hot lunch, clothing and haircuts too,” said Kalousek. “Because Project Homeless Connect is volunteer-driven, it offers an amazing opportunity for community involvement and human connection.”

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For SJCF Director Kalousek, working to transition individuals out of homelessness is also something she’s passionate about.

“I am following up this count with interviews of what services these individuals are seeking to

help them transition out of homelessness as part of the fulfillment of my Master’s Degree from UVI and as I formulate my doctoral dissertation,” Kalousek said. “When we were able to make the connection for Gregory Jackson, who had been chronically homeless on St. John for 21 years, it was awesome. Gregory is now living clean over in St. Thomas, and says it is the best thing that ever happened to him.”

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For more information call SJCF at (340) 693-9410.

## Friends Raffling Bronze Mother of Pearl and Diamond Pendant

*St. John Tradewinds*

Friends of V.I. National Park is pleased to announce a special limited-ticket jewelry raffle of a 14k red gold heart pendant, made by KABANA and donated by R&I PATTON at Mongoose Junction on St. John, is inlaid with extra fine quality Bronze Mother of Pearl and set with 0.90ctw Diamonds.

The value for this pendant is \$3,469. It can be seen at R&I PATTON until the drawing at the Friends Gala on February 7. Only 100 tickets will be sold.

Tickets can be purchased for \$50 each at the Friends of the Park Store, by phone at 340-779-4940, or at Connections in Cruz Bay.



## Residents Urged To Write to ACOE with St. John Marina Concerns

*Continued from Page 7*

be able to do a marine uses plan for Coral Bay and we were told flat out ‘No,’” said Coldren. “Hopefully the new administration will embrace and engage with the boating community to create a marine uses plan that works.”

Part of SEG’s local permit entails V.I. Legislative approval for developing on the submerged lands which are owned by the public. As part of that Land Trust Lease process, the Committee on Economic Development, Agriculture and Planning will analyze the proposal before introducing a bill before the full Legislature for vote.

Economic Committee Chairperson Senator Jeane

nette Millin-Young is planning a site visit to the proposed SEG marina location in Coral Bay this Tuesday, January 27, according to her staff secretary.

While the senator’s visit does not include meeting the public, Millin-Young will reportedly be meeting with SEG principles Rick Barksdale and Chalise Summers. The senator’s visit is scheduled for 10 a.m. January 27.

Letters to ACOE about SEG’s proposed marina should be emailed to Johann.M.Sasso@usace.army.mil with the subject line SAJ-12518 (SP-JMS) - Coral Bay Marina. For more information about ACOE letters, check out Save Coral Bay’s website at <http://savecoralbay.com/army-corps-comments>.

## Crime Stoppers USVI

### Crimes of the Week

*St. John Tradewinds*

Crime Stoppers thank you for making a difference in the US Virgin Islands. Let’s help make the USVI one of the safest places in the world to live, work, and raise a family. To do that we have to make sure that no crime goes unsolved and to do that, everyone needs to speak up. If you know something, say something.

**St. John**

On January 2nd at about 11:20 p.m., officers were dispatched to the area of Estate Adrien in response to a burglary. The resident informed the officers that between 6:15 p.m. and 9:45 p.m. someone broke into their home through the bathroom door by jimmying the lock. A large sum of cash, bank cards, and an iPhone 4S in a purple case were stolen.

**St. Croix**

On January 16th, 2015 the Territory recorded its first homicide for the New Year. Around 5:05 p.m. police received a report of a shooting in the vicinity of 37F Estate Whim. When police arrived, they found 29-year-old Jose Hernandez of Marley Homes dead from multiple gunshot

wounds. Witnesses said after the shooting was heard, they saw a vehicle leaving the area at a high rate of speed. Please help police solve this murder.

**St. Thomas**

On December 25th, 2014 at 3:30 a.m., a 52-year-old black male reported that while walking in the area of Wimmelskafts Gade (Back Street) he was shot in the leg by someone he could not see. If you witnessed this, please let us know.

The above crimes could easily have happened to you. Please continue to work for the good of all. Tell us what you know about these, or any other crimes, at [www.CrimeStoppersUSVI.org](http://www.CrimeStoppersUSVI.org) or call 1-800-222-TIPS (8477). You can also text “USVI” plus your message to CRIMES(274637).

If your tip leads to an arrest or the recovery of stolen property, illegal drugs, or weapons, in addition to having made your home a safer place, you will receive a cash reward to be paid according to your instructions. Please note: our technology makes it impossible for anyone, including us, to find out who submitted a tip.

# St. John Tradewinds Business Directory

## Accommodations

**Caribbean Villas & Resorts**  
tel. 1-800-338-0987  
or locally 340-776-6152

**Island Getaways**  
888-693-7676,  
islandgetawaysinc.com  
kathy@islandgetawaysinc.com

**Suite St. John Villas/Condos**  
tel. 1-800-348-8444  
or locally at 340-779-4486

## Architecture

**Crane, Robert - Architect, AIA**  
tel. 776-6356  
P.O. Box 370, STJ, VI 00831

## Art Galleries

**Bajo el Sol Gallery**  
Located in Mongoose Junction  
tel. 340-693-7070

**Kimberly Boulon Fine Art Gallery**  
Located at The Marketplace  
340-693-8524

## Banking

**Firstbank**  
Located in downtown Cruz Bay  
340-776-6881

## Furniture

**Carlos Furniture - 340-693-0016**  
Located at Tutu Park Mall on STT  
Free delivery and setup to St. John

## Green Building

**Island Green Building Association**  
check www.igbavi.org for Seminar  
Series info and ReSource Depot  
inventory

## Insurance

**PGU Insurance**  
Located at The Marketplace  
776-6403; pgunow@gmail.com

**Theodore Tunick & Company**  
Phone 775-7001 / Fax 775-7002  
www.theodoretunick.com

## Jewelry

**R&I PATTON goldsmithing**  
Located in Mongoose Junction  
776-6548 or (800) 626-3445  
Chat@pattongold.com

## Landscaping

**Alfredo's Landscaping**  
tel. 774-1655 cell 513-2971  
P.O. Box 91, St. John, VI 00831

**Coral Bay Garden Center**  
tel. 693-5579 fax 714-5628  
P.O. Box 1228, STJ, VI 00831

## Real Estate

**340 Real Estate Company, LLC**  
340-643-6068 or 340-779-4478  
340realestateco@gmail.com  
www.340realestateco.com

**Holiday Homes of St. John**  
tel. 776-6776 fax 693-8665  
P.O. Box 40, STJ, VI 00831  
info@holidayhomesVI.com

**Islandia Real Estate**  
tel. 776-6666 fax 693-8499  
P.O. Box 56, STJ, VI 00831  
info@islandiarealestate.com

## Restaurants

**Fish Trap Restaurant and Seafood Market**  
tel. 693-9994, Closed Mondays

**La Tapa Restaurant**  
tel. 693-7755  
Open 7 Days a Week

**Ocean 362**  
American Contemporary Cuisine  
For reservations, call 340-776-0001

**Skinny Legs**  
"A Pretty OK Place"  
tel. 340-779-4982  
www.skinnylegs.com

## Services

**C4th Custom Embroidery**  
tel. 779-4047  
Located in Coral Bay

## Wedding Services

**Weddings by Katilday**  
www.stjohnweddingplanner.com  
340-693-8500 - Consulting, Travel  
Coordination, Accommodations

## Crossword

By Frank A. Longo

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## CROSS-MULTIPLICATION

### ACROSS

- 1 Sum total
- 7 Extra-large
- 12 Texter's "No way!"
- 15 Biathlon pair
- 19 Flung
- 20 Negative particle
- 21 Large town with a harbor
- 23 "Absolutely out of the question!"
- 25 Says again and again
- 26 Lose all power
- 27 Sandra of "Gidget"
- 28 "For shame!"
- 29 1982 coming-of-age comedy
- 39 Nuptial beginning
- 40 Almost here
- 41 Parade site
- 42 Manhattan's 229 West 43rd Street, familiarly
- 50 Up to, shortly
- 51 Calendar unit
- 52 See 117-Down
- 53 Debtor's slip
- 55 Shop with cold cuts
- 56 Ding-a- — (dopes)
- 58 Prefix with cycle
- 59 Suffered misfortune
- 63 Try hard
- 65 Ruin the secret
- 66 Bean holder
- 67 "Give — buzz"
- 68 Almost always
- 72 Exploring aid
- 75 "Who am — judge?"
- 76 Ballpoint fills
- 77 "Judging Amy" co-star

- 79 1978 #1 hit sung by Lionel Richie
- 84 Mont Blanc, for one
- 85 Interior look
- 86 Actresses Charlotte and Cassidy
- 87 L minus IX
- 88 Pricey
- 90 Slipper, say
- 91 TV plugs
- 92 Dickens novel opener
- 97 Makes irate
- 101 Salt's call
- 102 Inspired stuff
- 103 Start of a parent's rebuke to an insistent kid
- 111 Villains' looks
- 112 Hall & Oates, e.g.
- 113 — -ray
- 115 Unit of naval vessels
- 118 "Out with the old, in with the new"
- 124 With direct ancestry
- 125 Information stand, often
- 126 Nullify
- 127 Gem mined in Australia
- 128 "Rescue us!"
- 129 Trims, as text
- 130 Gorilla studier Dian

### DOWN

- 1 Just barely
- 2 Design theme
- 3 Actor Milo
- 4 Mil. morale booster
- 5 Not old, in Germany
- 6 Gridiron stat
- 7 Leigh of "Psycho"
- 8 Lesser than
- 9 Jumble
- 10 — mot

- 11 "Dear Yoko" dedicatee
- 12 Poppy drug
- 13 Watchword
- 14 — Green (old eloping site)
- 15 Excoriate
- 16 Sewing —
- 17 Suffix with Balkan
- 18 Part of CBS: Abbr.
- 22 "Hardcore Pawn" network
- 24 Idaho county
- 28 Garr of films
- 30 Shrub with milky latex
- 31 — -la
- 32 Many Nam vets' kids
- 33 Participating
- 34 Playa — Rey
- 35 Rove (about)
- 36 Lay to rest
- 37 Part of SAG
- 38 DNA shape
- 42 Plant tissue
- 43 Paris' river
- 44 Post-lecture session, for short
- 45 John of song
- 46 Wilkes- —, Pennsylvania
- 47 Prefix with cycle
- 48 Zippo
- 49 Liquidy gunk
- 54 Let out of a cage
- 55 Pop
- 57 "À votre —!"
- 59 Happening by chance
- 60 Grub
- 61 Wall St. takeover
- 62 Perfected
- 64 Withdrawn painkiller from Merck
- 65 Tie
- 69 First dynasty of China
- 70 N.J. borough
- 71 Laid-back sort
- 72 Like a stud
- 73 Not friendly
- 74 Ovenware glass
- 75 Pluralized -y, often
- 78 "— Rides Again" (old western film)
- 79 Junked stuff
- 80 Didn't get a choice
- 81 Stitch again
- 82 Prince in "Aladdin"
- 83 Soused
- 84 Part of NCAA: Abbr.
- 88 Eye irritation
- 89 Ring out
- 93 Infant cries
- 94 Sleuth's cry
- 95 Like pre-1991 Russ.
- 96 Caesar of TV
- 98 Dutch beer
- 99 Major fad
- 100 Fishing lines
- 104 Mello — (soft drink)
- 105 Inside looks?
- 106 That is, in Latin
- 107 Pulls up into a fold
- 108 "Wow!"
- 109 Tonys' kin
- 110 Forearm bones
- 114 Grotesque
- 115 Rapper — Rida
- 116 Cup edge
- 117 With 52-Across, tilted
- 118 Classic Jaguar
- 119 Give a hand
- 120 King, in Toulouse
- 121 Pound sound
- 122 Recent prefix?
- 123 Auto rental add-on

### Answer to Jan. 25 Cryptoquip:

STEAMY OLD MOVIE ABOUT THE FINAL HYBRID CITRUS FRUIT EVER GROWN IN FRANCE'S CAPITAL: "LAST TANGELO IN PARIS."

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Cruz Views Unit 10 | \$510,000  
2 bed | 1 bath | 933 sqft

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## Saturday Night Traffic Jam



St. John Tradewinds News Photo by Tom Oat

A water truck accident on South Shore Road just west of Chocolate Hole scrambled many island dinner plans when it tied up traffic for an extended period from late afternoon into the early evening Saturday, January 24. Through access from both directions was stopped for an extended period while equipment was brought in to right the truck.

## LOVE VIEW



LOVE VIEW Hear the sound of surf from the shoreline below from this all masonry home featuring panoramic views of the east end of St. John, the BVI's, sunrise and moonrise, facing the easterly breezes and pristine quiet of the National Park surrounding the area

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# Best of Both Worlds Brings Back Art, Jewelry, Photography and Live Music at Friday Night Fête

## St. John Tradewinds

**CRUZ BAY** — The Best of Both Worlds Fine Art and Craft Gallery is pleased to invite the public to a series of Friday Night Fêtes from 6 to 9 p.m. at Mongoose Junction.

Beginning Friday, February 6, the Fêtes will feature the work of visiting and local artists in a variety of media from artwork, painting, wearable art, jewelry, and photography, accompanied by live music and wine.

The artists include well know favorites as well as newcomers to the St. John art scene. February 6 will feature photographer Andrew Hajjar and Anne Larkin-Roy Jewelry. Andrew will return again on February 13 accompanied by jeweler Emily Amey. February 20th will see the return of T Breeze, well known and loved not only for his exquisite Inlay and Marquetry Jewelry but also for his guitar playing. February 27, Kro-Gu's artists, Peter and Melissa Luterek, will be display-

ing their master crafted, one-of-a-kind pieces of jewelry.

March 6th, will bring the return of painter Candice Greathouse with colorful paintings full of action and a sense of joy and Anna Mou will be back on March 13 exhibiting her sophisticated wearable art and jewelry. Local artist, Jennifer Robinson will exhibit her latest paintings on March 20 and on March 27 Coral Bay jeweler Sandy Stein will be showing her new work along with Lynn Fecteau's delightful paintings, many with a perfect window view.

And last but not least, there will be an exhibition of gorgeous hand painted silk accessories on April 3. Don't miss this opportunity to enjoy pleasant and inspiring end of the week celebrations of art, music and wine.

For more information, please contact Best of Both Worlds at 340-693-7005 or by e-mail at thebestof@optimum.net

## Christensen Joins Kallaloo Network



St. John Tradewinds News Photo

Former Congresswoman Donna M. Christensen, MD of the U.S. Virgin Islands has joined the Kalaloo Network & SEDI Broadcasting (Caribbean Public Broadcasting), and Center for Caribbean Studies & Development (CPB) team of correspondents of experts.

She will join and contribute/co-host on the weekly (every Monday 12:30-2:30 pm AST) show, The Economic Round Table & The Marketplace, simulcasting LIVE on AM 970 WSTX and the Kalaloo Network.

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<p><b>"HALF MOON HOUSE"</b> VIDEO BEACHFRONT Reef Bay beachfront is the setting for this uniquely modern home. 5x4.5 with top quality construction, privacy and security. MLS 14-100 <b>\$8,000,000</b></p>	<p><b>"ROTUNDA"</b> VIDEO Lavish Upper Peter Bay villa bordering the pristine VI National Park. 5x5, sensational northern views, &amp; beach access included. MLS 12-424 <b>\$7,485,000</b></p>	<p><b>"MERMAID FALLS"</b> VIDEO Spectacular villa in prime Peter Bay area, 5x 5.5 with island stone, fine mahogany finishes, verandas, pool &amp; waterfall. North Shore views. MLS 11-385 <b>\$6,500,000</b></p>	<p><b>"BEACH GARDEN"</b> VIDEO WATERFRONT Ultimate privacy architecturally stunning Bali inspired 4x4.5 home, 1 ac. w/ pool, spa &amp; surf! EXCELLENT rental income! MLS 14-333 <b>\$4,900,000</b></p>	<p><b>"CINNAMON BAY ESTATE"</b> 3X4, pool, spa, 1 ac. cul-de-sac in CATHERINEBERG borders National Park; stunning views of Cinnamon Beach &amp; BVIs. MLS 14-243 <b>\$3,599,000</b></p>	<p><b>"VILLA MARBELLA"</b> Virgin Grand Estates, 3x3.5, fine finishes, large pool, custom-built villa. Live on single level. STT sunset views. MLS 14-335 <b>\$1,950,000</b></p>
<p><b>"VILLA LE VIRAGE"</b> Pt. Rendezvous South Shore views from 4x4 villa, masonry, great porches, island stone work, tropical gardens, tastefully furnished. MLS 14-233 <b>\$1,850,000</b></p>	<p><b>"VILLA MADELINE"</b> VIDEO A classic stone and tile roof exterior, with a modern, luxurious 2x2.5 interior plus pool and bar-b-que deck, overlooking Coral Bay! MLS 14-332 <b>\$1,395,000</b></p>	<p><b>"PARADISE ON THE ROCKS"</b> Two unit (2x2 and 1x1) home. Coral Bay ocean views and mountain breezes. Private entry apartment, lush landscaping and more. MLS 14-473 <b>\$995,000</b></p>	<p><b>"SONNENBERG"</b> Amazing views from Bordeaux to BVI from many decks. Lg. pool w/ cabana guest room, in gated community perched above Coral Bay. 4X4 MLS 13-392 <b>\$950,000</b></p>	<p><b>INVESTORS SPECIAL</b> The groundwork has been laid to complete this Fish Bay house! Masonry 2X1 apartment completed plus wooden private cottage. MLS 13-129 <b>\$699,000</b></p>	<p><b>YOU CAN SEE FOREVER</b> Exceptional Bordeaux Mt views to BVI's. Two independent cottages offer generous view porches, lush gardens, &amp; living options. MLS 13-346 <b>\$585,000</b></p>
<p><b>"CORAL COTTAGE"</b> PRICE REDUCED Cute Caribbean cottage w/ lg. decks, overlooking Coral Bay to Virgin Gorda. Plenty of room on large lot to expand or add pool. 3x2 MLS 14-25 <b>\$479,000</b></p>	<p><b>GIFFT HILL GEM</b> Quiet neighborhood, 2 unit home (2x1 up / Studio down), level parcel, pleasant view to Pillsbury Sound, lush gardening opportunities. MLS 13-347 <b>\$475,000</b></p>	<p><b>"COQUI COTTAGE"</b> Caribbean cute and ready to be loved! Studio layout with king bed in a solid masonry building makes a great start on this .5 acre lot. MLS 14-520 <b>\$372,500</b></p>	<p><b>GALLOW'S POINT CONDO</b> WATERFRONT Unit 9C - 1x1.5 loft w/ private deck/patio, common beach, pool and spa. Restaurant &amp; concierge svcs. on property. Walk to town! MLS 14-244 <b>\$1,100,000</b></p>	<p><b>"RAINBOW'S END" BATTERY HILL CONDO</b> 2X1, clean and colorfully decorated pool-side condo is close to town w/ nicely manicured grounds. Seller says make an offer! MLS 12-358 <b>\$449,000</b></p>	<p><b>OWN A MONTH IN A LUXURY HOME</b> FRACTIONAL 3 BR/3.5 BA or 4 BR/4.5 BA villas in upscale Virgin Grand Estates. 3,000 sq ft villas w/ STT &amp; sunset views, pool, AC &amp; more. <b>From \$50,000</b></p>

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## *Liburd Urges VITRAN Weekend Service For Greater Public Access to Transportation*

By TOM OAT

*St. John Tradewinds*

**CRUZ BAY** – The territory’s elderly and disabled residents require greater access to public transportation, according to St. John Senator-at-Large Almando “Rocky” Liburd, who has asked VITRAN to offer weekend service.

“VITRAN does not operate its buses on weekends and holiday,” Sen. Liburd said in January 20 press release. “Many Virgin Islanders, particularly our seniors, rely heavily upon public transportation to shop, see their doctors and take care of other vital needs. We must find a way to make public transportation accessible seven days a week.”

Sen. Liburd may be a minority of one Independent in a Senate with a solid Democratic majority, but the St. John senator is earning a lot of positive publicity with interesting proposals for legislation early in his return to the V.I. Senate after a five-term absence.

With a new, anonymous press aide providing professional press releases on newsworthy public issues to local media and generating a lot of publicity for his proposals,

Sen. Liburd is setting his own agenda on his high-profile return to the V.I. Senate after a ten-year absence.

### **Former Running Mates**

Sen. Liburd wrote Governor Mapp requesting that the Administration consider expanding VITRAN service to weekends and holidays. Sen. Liburd served five terms as St. John Senator-at-Large before he stepped down to be Gov. Kenneth E. Mapp’s running mate in the Governor’s unsuccessful first run for the office in 2004.

“I do understand that the cost of operating our buses is prohibitive, however even running on a limited schedule on weekends would be most helpful and may eventually allow for increased economic activity as people are able to move more freely to conduct their business,” Sen. Liburd wrote.

“Young people, the elderly, the disabled and residents without vehicles of their own are often disenfranchised as a result of our lack of adequate public transportation and I hope we can work together to make VITRAN more accessible to one and all,” Sen. Liburd continued.

### **Schedules and Routes**



*St. John Tradewinds News Photo File*

tw invoice

The Senator-at-Large also urged the regular publication of bus schedules and routes.

“Without this information being readily available we have little hope of encouraging ridership,” Sen. Liburd stated. “I also ask that VITRAN consider adopting the new technologies available – such as Smart

Phone apps that alert riders to bus arrival times.”

“As we know, public transportation will play an increasingly important role as our population both ages and grows and we must begin to lay the groundwork now for expanded service in the future,” the Senator at Large said.

## **Thank you for making this the best ever Flavors event!**

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**CATERERS:** Creative Catering, East-West Catering, Mathayom Private Chefs/St. John Catering.

**WINE:** Paul Kessock for coordinating wine distributors: Bellows International, Glazer’s Premier Wines & Spirits, Hunter Food & Spirits, Prestige Wine Group, West Indies Company.

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