

ST. JOHN TRADEWINDS

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

2016 St. John Festival Highlights



Above: Cool Sessions Band performs at Franklin A. Powell, Sr. Park.

Below: Crafts produced by the 2016 Festival Food Fair honoree Delroy Anthony.



Left: Lunch of coconut rice, fish and salmon, served in a special way at the 2016 St. John Festival Food Fair.



VIPA Eases Up on Barge Schedule

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Nicholas Named Festival Queen

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Seven run; One done

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Unity Day Challenges Property Tax System

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Benjamin School Ruled Out as Coral Bay Polling Place

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St. John Tradewinds News photos by Judi Shimel

The annual celebration for St. John Festival has begun. The theme for 2016 is "History and Sights Unseen for St. John Festival." Weekend events drew hundreds to the Food Fair, Boat Race and Queen Pageant at Winston Wells Ballpark. The opening of "Varlackville" honoring transportation executive Delrise Varlack is scheduled for Tuesday, June 28, 2016.



St. John Tradewinds News Photos by Judi Shimel.

TRADEWIND'S OWN - Student intern, Raven Phillips, graduated with honors from the Ivanna Eudora Kean High School June 18. She was one of 186 high school seniors who celebrated the completion of their secondary education as the Kean High Class of 2016 (above).



THE LAST COMMUTE - Kean High graduate Devon Charles (below) on the ferry ride back home to St. John from graduation on Saturday, June 18. Of the 186 seniors who made the grade from Kean High School in 2016, 102 plan to attend the University of the Virgin Islands.



IT REALLY PAYS - A good education and a proud dad. Abioseh Bruce celebrates Father's Day and his son, Jah-Haile's graduation from Ivanna Eudora Kean High School (above).

Spending Priorities

By Judi Shimel
St. John Tradewinds

On Tuesday, June 21, 2016 Gov. Kenneth Mapp, flanked by Finance Commissioner Valdamier Collens (left) and Management and Budget Director Nellon Bowry (right) held a briefing for members of the press to outline spending priorities in the Fiscal Year 2017 budget.

Plans to build a new K-8 public school on St. John and a new fire house in Coral Bay were listed among those priority items. But Mapp said the original design for a new school complex should be scaled down from its original size.

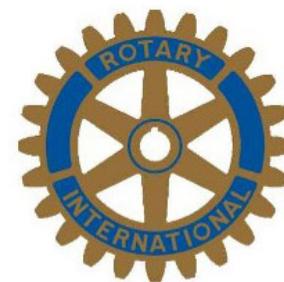


St. John Tradewinds News Photos by Judi Shimel.

Rotary Club of St. John to sponsor Children's Carnival Village; Volunteers Needed

St. John Tradewinds

The Rotary Club of St. John is sponsoring Children's Carnival Village across from the National Park Visitor Center June 29 - July 3, from six to nine pm. This drug and alcohol free village is the perfect place for children to buy tickets, play games, win coins and redeem them for great prizes, in a safe and fun environment. In order to do this each year, the Rotary Club depends on the goodwill of the community. So if you would like to help for three hours one night, please call Symone James at 340-513-9886 and add your name to the list of volunteers. If you would like to make a donation to the event, please call Symone and she will gladly accept water, juice or checks! In any case, we invite children of ALL ages to stop by the little village and enjoy the laughter and energy of our young people.



**Rotary Club of
St John, USVI**

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The Community Newspaper Since 1972

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IGLA Volunteers Move a Mountain (of Cans) at the Resource Depot



St. John Tradewinds News Photos by IGLA

**By IGLA Contributor
St. John Tradewinds**

ST. JOHN, USVI – This weekend volunteers of Island Green Living Association (IGLA) moved and prepped a towering 10-foot high mountain of aluminum cans for crushing while continuing to stamp down

doubts about recycling in the USVI. The pile was so large it actually blocked entrance to the two containers where this picture was taken. A special call out to IGLA volunteers and board members as pictured from left to right: New Resource Depot/Aluminum Recycling Manager Marty Johnson, Denise

Wright, Gary Ray, Rob Crane, Raquel Escarcega & Doug White (Akil Deshwal and Miles Stair not shown).

Beginning in July, anyone interested in volunteering is welcome to join the effort at the IGLA Resource Depot Tuesday - Friday 10 a.m. - 3 p.m.; Saturday 10 a.m. - 1 p.m., no appointment necessary. Individuals and groups are encouraged to take part. The Resource Depot is located at the Storage on Site facility on Giffit Hill Road across from the Susannaberg Transfer Station.

The majority of the cans are from the St. John Community Foundation Can Recycling Bins that the group established and manages at dumpster sites throughout St. John. Bin sites are collected by VI Waste Management Authority and delivered to the IGLA Resource Depot for IGLA volunteers to pre-sort and compact into bales to be shipped off island. The cans are then recycled into new aluminum products. The cancrusher was donated by Eco Serendib Villa and Spa and operation is generously supported by Linked Group.

To date IGLA has crushed tens of thousands of cans which otherwise would have gone to our overflowing landfills.

About IGLA: The Island Green Living Association (IGLA) is an organization dedicated to preservation, conservation and environmental responsibility on St. John and throughout the USVI. Among its many accomplishments, IGLA established the island's ReSource Depot, which has allowed 225,000 lbs. of building materials to be repurposed/reused to date, items that would have otherwise gone to the dump. The organization has been instrumental in helping to craft recycling legislation currently being reviewed by congress. In 2015 IGLA launched the Preserve St. John initiative to combat recycling issues on the island, starting with aluminum and is working with DOE on sustainability curriculum in schools. www.iglavi.org



St. John Festival 2016 Princess Pageant Shines Bright

**By Judi Shimel
St. John Tradewinds**

Tradewinds had the opportunity to interview St. John Festival Princess Akai'ya Heywood, winner of the June 19 pageant held at Winston Wells Ballpark, Cruz Bay.

TW: How old are you?

Akai'ya: I am ten years old.

TW: And what school do you go to?

Akai'ya: I attend the Ulla Muller Elementary School.

TW: What grade are you in?

Akai'ya: I am in the fourth grade.

TW: Was this your first contest?

Akai'ya: Yes, it was.

TW: What was it like?

Akai'ya: It was fun to have an experience to showcase my talents.

TW: Was it a lot of work?

Akai'ya: It was but it was fun.

TW: What was your favorite part?

Akai'ya: The talent, when we performed the cartoon characters.

TW: You were the police officer, weren't you? The little rabbit?

Akai'ya: Yes I was.

TW: You were amazing!

Akai'ya: Thank you.



St. John Tradewinds News Photos by Judi Shimel.

2016 Festival Princess Akahi'ya Heywood (center, left) celebrates along with fellow contestants E'Laisha Roberts (left), De'Naijah Chinnery (right) and 2015 Festival Princess Sanijah Gris (center, right).

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NEXT DEADLINE

**Thursday,
July 7th**

VIPA Eases Up on Barge Schedules; considers extending hours

By Amy Roberts
St. John Tradewinds

The Virgin Islands Port Authority has given its blessing to “fill up and go” to the two companies that are now running barges between St. Thomas and St. John.

“We are relaxing any schedule going forward,” VIPA Executive Director Carlton Dowe told St. John residents at a town meeting held at the Legislature Annex in Cruz Bay on June 21.

In the past, three barge companies have adhered to a set schedule, taking turns departing Cruz Bay and Red Hook roughly every half hour. But since one company, Boyson Inc., ceased operations because of a court action in January, congestion at the two barge terminals has increased.

Complaints about having to wait for a barge for up to two hours have become a mainstay in conversations in homes and public spaces throughout St. John.

Dowe said he would rely on the dock masters to “make sure there’s no chaos” as VIPA moves forward with its plan to allow the barge companies to depart when they’ve reached capacity.

The two barge companies now operating are Love City Car Ferries and Global Marine.

Love City’s CEO Anecia Sewer clarified Dowe’s statement about the flexible scheduling. She said that one of the company’s barges, the Capt. Vic, will strictly adhere to the schedule posted on their website and published in tourist guides. “You can depend on that schedule if you’re trying to get to an appointment at the doctor’s office,” she said.

However their smaller barge, the Island Vic, will be making additional runs between Cruz Bay and Red Hook during busy times of the day to relieve congestion. The Island Vic typically makes runs between Cruz Bay and Sub Base with larger, commercial vehicles, including gas trucks.

Sewer did not want to specify how many vehicles could be transported on any particular barge. The load is based on tonnage rather than number of vehicles, she explained, and additional restrictions are placed on vehicles carrying hazardous materials such as gas.

Love City Car Ferries’ posted schedule specifies seven round trips per day from 6:15 am until 7:00 pm. “It’s the schedule we’ve been operating on since 1997,” Sewer said. You can rely on that.”

Global Marine makes seven round trips daily with the General II and the Roanoke. One of its vessels will be out of service for several days pending a Coast Guard inspection, said owner Stanley Hedrington.

Dowe also said that he’s willing to consider extending the evening hours of barge operations from 7:00 pm to 9:00 pm, and Hedrington said he was prepared to provide barge service as late as 10:00 pm.

But Dowe warned that each additional service must have a funding source. “It doesn’t come without a cost,” he repeated throughout the meeting.

As discussion continued about providing transportation to meet the needs of expanding commerce to St. John, resident Ian Samuel asked whether anyone could start another barge company. “Put in a request, and we’ll discuss it,” Dowe said.

Dowe attended the meeting with his key staff members, including Julice Harley, his chief of staff; Nycole Thompson, VIPA’s attorney; and Kelvin Industrious, marine manager. But he seldom needed to consult with them as he spoke on a range of VIPA projects and responded to questions from the audience.

Apron

“In a couple of weeks we’ll open the apron area,” said Dowe, referring to the storage area for shipping containers that was recently covered by concrete at the cost of several hundred thousand dollars. VIPA is now considering offers from businesses which wish to reserve space.

Cruz Bay Parking

VIPA has plans to charge for parking in the Cruz Bay lot across from the post office. Dowe said that parking there should be for short term use only and not for parking all day for trips to St. Thomas. “It’s for the greater good of the community,” he added.

“I don’t want to see acceleration of this too fast, said Brian Smith, who is running for office as senator-at-large. “It shouldn’t be a hardship to go to the post office for 15 minutes.”

“People may be uncomfortable with the fees, but we have 350 plus employees that need a paycheck,” Dowe said. He added that since taking over as the chief executive, all staff VIPA members are now being paid at their contracted rate.

Dowe also confirmed that drawings have been completed and plans are underway to pave the well-used gravel parking lot near the barge facility. Once the project is completed, parking fees will be implemented. “These things can’t happen for free,” he reiterated, but added that VIPA staff and board members will consider structuring the fees to accommodate residents of the island.

Parking at Red Hook

The plans to construct a parking deck at the lot across from the ferry terminal in Red Hook are moving forward, Dowe said. VIPA has secured \$28 million in bond funding for the second level which will provide 88 additional spaces to the 100 that currently exist.

VIPA would have liked to see the construction of 300 additional spaces, but that would have required a four-story garage which would be unsightly.

Dowe said that since adding one additional level would not meet the need for parking in Red Hook, VIPA was talking to the Government of the Virgin Islands about upgrading and operating a parking lot near the dumpsters to the West of Ivanna Eudora Kean High School. He said VIPA was exploring the possibility of running shuttle service from that lot to the ferry during the day.

Parking at the VIPA lot is now \$10, and Virgin islanders should expect to see an increase, though not to \$35 a day, which is the rate charged by one of the three private parking facilities in Red Hook.

Customs in Red Hook

The complicated process of obtaining permits to build a facility in Red Hook for Customs and Immigration offices is underway. The plan includes an upgrade to the old ferry dock in Red Hook adjacent to newer Urman Victor Fredericks Terminal. However, Dowe could not give a timeframe for that project. “We’re awaiting a permit from the Army Corps of Engineers, and when I say the Army Corps, I really mean all of the other agencies that must sign off on the project. Some want to know how the ponging [of installing new pilings] will affect the sea turtles,” Dowe said.

The facility in Red Hook is meant to relieve the congestion at the Customs dock in Cruz Bay. Dowe said he was hearing complaints about delays from boat captains from the British Virgin Islands who had passengers trying to catch airplanes on St. Thomas.

Former Senator-at-large Carmen Wesselhoff-Hedrington asked Dowe if VIPA had any plans to accommodate small

boat owners on St. Thomas and St. John. “When you build your customs house in Red Hook, you have to consider sails boats. It’s becoming very dangerous.”

Dowe replied that VIPA has no plans for a small boat marina in Cruz Bay, and the Department of Planning and Natural Resources would have to decide if mooring in Red Hook would have to be eliminated or moved when the customs facility is built there.

Job Openings on St. John

Dowe told the audience VIPA was looking to fill two job openings in law enforcement on St. John. Candidates would need to go through the same screening and training as police officers, he said.

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Bajo El Sol Changes Hands; Owners to Breathe New Life into Art Gallery

By Andrea Milam
St. John Tradewinds



the local community was inspired by Hintz Rivera de Knight's time at Maryland's Goucher College, where she earned a master's degree in arts administration.

"Their emphasis as it pertained to the arts was geared toward community, and how the arts can impact the community at large, both socially and economically," she said. "So through that I was very inspired to be more of an art advocate."

This community-minded approach will be evident in Bajo el Sol's schedule of events, which Hintz Rivera de Knight hopes will include book readings by Caribbean authors, student artist exhibitions, and seminars aimed at art consumers with topics like starting an art collection on a budget.

"This year is the 250th anniversary of the founding of Cruz Bay, and we were thinking it'd be interesting to use that as a basis for an exhibition theme," said Hintz Rivera de Knight.

The couple's ideas for the gallery are still evolving as they get to know each of the artists whose work is on display there, and they'll likely close the gallery during off season for a makeover of the space. They expect to host their first exhibition in October. To learn more about the gallery and to view upcoming event schedules, visit www.bajoelsolgallery.com or the gallery's Facebook page.

The Bajo el Sol Art Gallery in Mongoose Junction is about to get a big rejuvenation thanks to new gallery owners, Priscilla Hintz Rivera de Knight, an art advocate and curator, and David Knight Jr., a journalist, photographer, and curator. Hintz Rivera de Knight has been revitalizing the St. Thomas art scene with successful events like the Caribbean Colour juried art exhibition and themed Pop-Up Gallery exhibitions, whose proceeds have gone to various local non-profit organizations. The couple hopes to breathe new life into the well-established gallery by hosting various events.

"We're planning to establish a more event-driven schedule to draw people into the space," said Hintz Rivera de Knight. "We plan to do very thematic curatorial exhibitions. We really want to challenge the artists to think a little bit differently about the work they're producing."

The new gallery owners also plan to invite artists from throughout the territory to exhibit at the gallery, which in the past featured only St. John artists.

"We'd like to reach out a little further throughout the territory because there is amazing work being produced by Virgin Islands artists on St. Croix and St. Thomas," said Hintz Rivera de Knight. "We really want St. John artists to collaborate with other territory artists and possibly even artists from throughout the Caribbean region. We tend to isolate ourselves on small islands such as St. John, and I think by reaching out, there's a greater possibility we can become more recognized as a destination for the arts."

Hintz Rivera de Knight, who grew up between St. Thomas and Puerto Rico, is brimming with ideas to stimulate the St. John arts scene, many of them community-minded, like the creation of murals and sculptures in public spaces. The idea of joining the arts and

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ATTENTION:

St. John Tradewinds' Next Deadline is:

July 7th



Inspiring Interiors

by Tiffany Cassidy

Kitchen Organization: 2016 Trends

St. John Tradewinds

Remodeling a kitchen is not only a big financial investment, but also a huge time investment. It can be overwhelming to think about what's trending, modern and efficient. We recently shared some popular design ideas for a kitchen remodel including: dark and light color contrasts, using LED lights under cabinets and overhead compartments, as well as automation in the kitchen. Having a beautifully painted kitchen, extra lights and automatic faucets are nice, but what about the functionality of the space? Keep reading to learn what is in when it comes to kitchen organization.



Kitchen Organization Trends

One of my most favorite companies for home storage and accessories is Blum; everything about their products is modern, sleek and sophisticated. Here are some of my favorite accessories for organizing they have right now:

Plate Holders

Sometimes reaching up into a cupboard to grab multiple plates at a time is not ideal and can lead to a heavy load - or even a shattered disaster if you slip! Blum's Plate holders hold and stack plates in a deep drawer to provide easy access and movability. They also come with handles so you can quickly grab a stack of plates with ease.

Knife Holders

Most people store their knives on the countertop. In Tandem and Tandembox drawers with the ORGA-LINE Knife holder, knives can be safely stored in the drawer. The Tandem and TandemBox holders are great for keeping countertops clear for meal prep and cooking all while being easy and convenient to grab.

Spice Trays

Using spices in cooking is the ultimate way to transform ordinary ingredients into culinary masterpieces! The ORGA-LINE Spice Tray keeps spices neatly organized in Tandem and TandemBox drawers. When you're ready for spice, the tray can easily be removed from the drawer to sit on the countertop, keeping spices where you need them most.

Or you can find the right spice at hand and at all times in LegraBox drawers. Spices of various sizes can be neatly stored in the Ambia-Line Spice tray without risk of tipping over.

Organizing Your Own Kitchen

Modern kitchen organization is important in 2016 remodels, and I think Blum products are perfect for this! All of their accessories are designed to be sophisticated, helpful and efficient!

About Lagnappe Custom Interiors: Tiffany Cassidy is a 15 year resident of St. Thomas and owner of Lagnappe Custom interiors, a full-service interior design firm specializing in bringing the luxury details to a home or commercial space that make it memorable, functional and yours. Lagnappe Custom Interiors is a Based out of St. Thomas, Visit www.Lagnappe.com for more information.

Nicholas Named Festival Queen

By Judi Shimel
St. John Tradewinds

A 21-year-old college student from the University of the Virgin Islands showed the judges of the St. John Festival Queen Pageant she had a little something extra that allowed her to stand out in a field of three. Nicholas won the title of 2016 festival queen on June 25 at an event that failed to turn out the crowds.

For those who did show up, there were three contestants giving polished performances through half a dozen segments. The one standout feature, the International Wear, incorporated the customary talent presentation.

Sixteen-year-old Cedaysia Fahie and 18-year-old Shyrah Issac, both students from the Charlotte Amalie High School, showcased beauty and poise along with Nicholas through swimwear, career wear, international wear/talent and evening wear segments.

The evening wear selections gave the contestants a chance to display their sense of high fashion in form fitting gowns in bold colors, spangled with crystal detailing.

But when the final segment, the question and answer, arrived, a visible shift took place. Contestants were asked what they would like to see the VI governor say to the territory's youth, to curtail a rash of gun violence seen largely on St. Thomas in the past few months.

When the judges' decision came, Issac was named Miss Congeniality. The photographers named Nicholas Miss Photogenic. Fahie won the title of Most Cooperative and for Best Evening Wear.

Nicholas was the judges' choice for Best Career Wear, Best International Wear as well as winning the crown.

Because there were three contestants competing this year, no First Runner Up was Named.



St. John Tradewinds News Photos by Judi Shimel.



ISLAND GREEN LIVING

by Lovango Cay resident Dan Boyd

Trash Talk

St. John Tradewinds

Ladies and gentlemen of the Virgin Islands, I ask of you to call any one of our senators and tell them that you support Governor Mapp's three bills to help us face our current trash crisis.

The first bill would require Virgin Islands retailers to eliminate plastic shopping bags. If the measure passes, beginning in October, businesses may offer only recyclable paper or other biodegradable bags at checkout counters.

The second bill mandates that Virgin Islands Waste Management start a recycling program to help slow down the waste stream into our landfills. If this proposal becomes law, as of January 2017, trash and recyclables would be separated, dramatically reducing what we send to the dump. (New visitors to the Virgin Islands are always astounded to learn that we do not already do this!)

The third bill proposes a 5-cent redemption charge on all bottles. Customers could redeem this deposit at retailers and so-called "reverse vending machines".

The bottle bill in particular is way past due. Senator Bent Lawaetz of St Croix proposed a bottle bill back in 1992, and it was voted down. It's time to get it passed!

We live in one of the most beautiful places in the world. But if you look around the islands, trash is piling up all over. Our beaches are littered with it; our roadsides are strewn with it. Our landfill is growing larger than the hills around it!

Our economy is tourism based. If tourism declines, our economy shrinks. Even if you do not personally work in the tourism industry, it is our islands' biggest business—having fewer visitors will impact everyone.

I know many businesses will complain about the added costs and that it will hurt their bottom line. What really hurts their bottom line is the tourists who remark on the taxi ride from the airport, "Wow, there's a lot of trash around." Those visitors, and their money, are not going to come back if we do not start to clean up our islands NOW!

Want to create more jobs and help the environment? Support the government in charging a 5-cent deposit on all bottled drinks. Right now bottles are the biggest part of our litter problem. You will be amazed at how quickly the roadsides will be cleaned up, and it will start a new Territory-wide industry.

Plastic bags are a pollution nightmare—they can take up to 1,000 years to decompose. Even when we put them in a dumpster or landfill, they can blow away and harm our birds, sea turtles, and fish, who die from either ingesting or getting tangled in the bags. Use reusable or paper shopping bags, and our environment will benefit.

Recycling is a no-brainer! Everything in the world today is a commodity. We have been dumping precious resources into our landfill for years. Glass, aluminum, copper, brass, paper, and plastics can all be reclaimed and sold by the pound.

Old tires can be ground down and recycled into our asphalt roads. This paving mix lasts four times as long and improves drivers' stopping and steering capabilities.

If we are America's Paradise, let's start showing it by cleaning up the Territory!

For a greener tomorrow,

Dan Boyd
Lovango Cay

Dan Boyd of Island Solar is a Virgin Islands Energy Office authorized vendor. For more information call Boyd on his cell phone at 340-626-9685 or by email at islandsolarvi@gmail.com.

New Chief of Police Announced

By Judi Shimel St. John Tradewinds

Jason Marsh, was introduced Tuesday, June 14, on St. Thomas as the new Chief of Police. Marsh is a former detective, patrol officer and director of VIPD Internal Affairs. He is replacing former St. Thomas, St. John, Water Island Chief Darren Foy.



St. John Tradewinds News Photos by Judi Shimel.

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V.I. Unity Day Group Challenges the Property Tax System

By Amy Roberts
St. John Tradewinds

If you've ever wondered how the Office of the Tax Assessor calculates the value of your property, you're not alone. Property tax assessments have been a source of confusion and controversy for nearly two decades, but the turmoil reached its peak on St. John following the 2006 revaluation at the height of the housing bubble.

"I had my property appraised, and the value my appraiser gave was hundreds of thousands of dollars less than the assessment on my property tax bill," said Myrtle Barry, a member of the Williams family that has owned property in Great Cruz Bay for several generations.

Outraged by her sky-high property tax bill, Barry started organizing other concerned property owners on St. John. Along with Lorelei Monsanto, Pam Gaffin and others, Barry formed the Virgin Islands Unity Day Group and successfully challenged the 2006 revaluation. As a result, the property tax rates in 2008 reverted to the rates set in 1998 and remained at those levels through 2012.

By law, the government must conduct a revaluation every five years, and in 2013 the government conducted another revaluation that is currently in effect.

The Office of the Tax Assessor's website contains a brief explanation of how the 2013 rates were set:

"The 2013 property tax bills are based on new property values which reflect the USVI real estate market as of January 1, 2013. The recently completed revaluation was conducted by the Tax Assessor's Office, as required by law.

"The values are based on neighborhood sampling and analysis of arms-length sales that took place from 2009 through 2012, with a time adjustment to bring them to January 1, 2013. For commercial properties, income and expense questionnaires submitted by USVI commercial property owners were analyzed and an income approach to value was applied.

"Valuation methods and standards recognized by the International Association of Assessing Officers (IAAO) were employed throughout the revaluation."

The V.I. Unity Day Group, however, claims the entire system for evaluating property is flawed and tax bills from 2013-2015 should be rescinded.

In fact, in February 2015, Unity Day filed a suit on behalf of 500 property owners. "The goal of our case is to bring fair property assessment to St. John," said Barry.

Property values on St. John have continued to rise faster than on St. Thomas or St. Croix partly because of the presence of the Virgin Islands National Park which encompasses nearly 60% of the land.

The scarcity of land available for development has driven up property prices while the pristine nature of the island attracts a robust market for luxury villas.

St. John has carried more than its share of the property tax burden; although its population is only about 5% of the overall population of the territory, its property owners pay 23% of collected property taxes.

Because the current mass appraisal system bases the value of property partly on comparable sales within neighborhoods, St. Johnians who have lived in modest homes have found that their property taxes have increased when someone builds a luxury villa next door.

The fear now is that St. Johnians are being forced to sell



St. John Tradewinds News Photo courtesy of Amy Roberts

A modest two-bedroom home built in the 1970's is dwarfed by its neighbor-- a more recent eight-bedroom villa.

their land because they cannot pay their property tax bills.

"I know of elders in our community who live on Social Security and who have had to borrow \$20,000 every year, or sell a piece of their land in order to pay their taxes," said Pam Gaffin, an accountant who has become an expert on the Virgin Islands property tax system.

Gaffin joined up with Unity Day when her own home, a simple, small, wood cottage, was taxed as if it was a vacation villa with luxury amenities and a dazzling view. She filed an informal appeal, and after not receiving a response from the Tax Review Board, filed a formal appeal which she won.

To educate herself, she poured over data from the Office of the Tax Assessor's database and Map Geo site and ended up creating her own database. For her hearing, she prepared five pages of testimony in tiny print citing inconsistencies in comparable land values, violations in property tax law, and flaws in the formula used for the mass appraisal in 2013.

Why the 2013 mass appraisal does not work

According to Gaffin, the 2013 mass appraisal is impossibly flawed for several reasons.

One reason mass appraisal does not work on St. John is that it is designed for stateside subdivisions where all the homes in a particular area were built within a certain time period and are of similar value. The homes may vary to some degree—one may have a carport and another a ga-

rage; one may have an extra bedroom and another a swimming pool—but these factors can be accommodated within the formula for determining the tax value.

Although there are areas in St. John where all the homes are of similar value, such as Peter Bay where all the homes are luxurious, it is not true throughout most of the island where plywood shacks and concrete villas share the same estate road.

Another reason the formula doesn't work well, according to Gaffin, is that it includes features that are rarely used in local construction, such as attics and garages, but doesn't include elements that are important for island living, such as cisterns and hurricane-proof roofing construction.

Furthermore, Gaffin contends that data for determining comparable sales only exists for luxury homes, which are bought and sold for investment purposes, but not for homes for under \$500,000 where ordinary people live. "How many local people do you know who have sold their homes to outsiders?" she asked.

"People from here keep their homes for their children. They may sell off a piece of land when they need money, but they can't sell their home because where else would they go?" In the current market, downsizing to a smaller unit would be more costly than staying where they were, she said.

Property tax system continued on page 22.

Seven run; One done

By Judi Shimel

St. John Tradewinds

CRUZ BAY -- St. John is fielding seven candidates for public office in 2016. Tradewinds recently caught up to several of those seeking seats in the 31st Legislature, the Board of Elections and the Board of Education.

Some, like Alecia Wells, Ivy Moses and Wilma Marsh-Monsanto, are experienced office holders. Others, like Brian Smith, Stacy January and James Provost, are newcomers. Businesswoman Patricia Varlack, a former Senate candidate, is trying again for public office.

There's also the most recognized politician who is stepping off the stage. Former three time Senate President and current Senator-At-Large Almando "Rocky" Liburd, did not add his name to the list of hopefuls this time around.

Smith was the first to start the bid for the at large seat. He began by greeting passers-by in Cruz Bay Park and mounting a campaign sign on the back of his pick up truck. A retired federal probation officer, Smith can often be seen on Saturday mornings sweeping up his personal Adopt-A-Spot, downtown Cruz Bay.

January is also seeking the at-large seat. She said she decided to run for office after reflecting on the years she spent away from the Virgin Islands while in college.

The candidate said it was not that she viewed the city she attended school in to be better than the VI or without its share of problems. Instead, she saw the difference in the way the political system organized itself around different issues.

Provost, a retired science teacher from the Julius E. Sprauve School, is running for

a seat on the Board of Education. He said he decided to run after being recruited by others who thought he would make a suitable replacement for the late Oswin Sewer.

"I could never fill his shoes, but I'll see if I can fill his seat," Provost said.

Moses is a recent Nursing graduate from the University of the Virgin Islands and founded the AIDS advocacy group, Hope, Inc. She is also a first-term member of the St. Thomas-St. John District Board of Elections.

Her candidacy drew controversy from time she filed papers to run as a district lawmaker in 2016. Elections Supervisor Caroline Fawkes notified Moses that current law prohibits elections board members from holding office and running for any other elected position at the same time.

Moses sought and won a temporary restraining order from Superior Court, allowing her name to be placed on the official ballot.

When asked why she wanted to run for the Senate at this time, she said, "I am the change agent that's needed at this point in time."

Wells, current President of the St. John Rotary Club, has served on the Elections Board for several terms, and has made attempts at gaining a Senate seat, without success.

Marsh-Monsanto has also run for Senate seats in the past and won a seat on the elections board in 2010. Like Moses, Monsanto is vying for a district lawmaker's seat this year.

Varlack, a veteran of the U.S. Marine Corps, has placed her name in the running for a seat on the elections board.



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GHOST is an all white Pitbull around two years old and weighs around 50 pounds. He is very friendly and does well with people, other dogs, walks great on the leash, is house broken, and needs to be in a home with no cats. He is currently undergoing treatment for heartworm and will make a full recovery.

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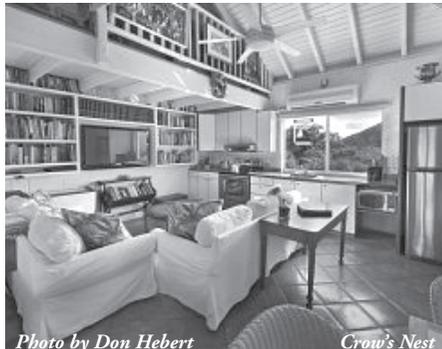


Photo by Don Hebert

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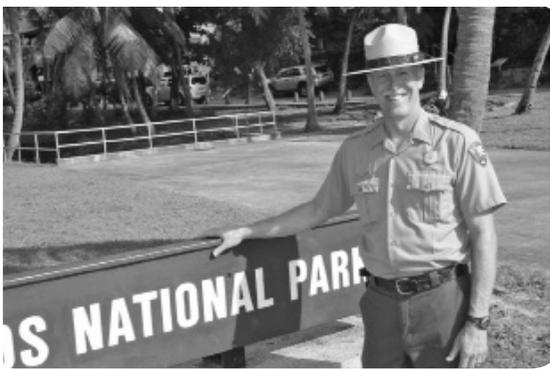
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St. John Tradewinds

Virgin Islands National Park has outstanding natural features both terrestrial and marine as well as world class cultural sites representing human history from prehistoric times through the 1917 transfer to the United States. These features, along with beautiful weather, attract well over half a million visitors a year to the Park. Facilities are provided for visitors to safely enjoy these wonderful resources including restrooms, showers, trails, roads, parking lots and other built infrastructure. In addition to providing service to visitors, these facilities help protect park resources from impacts by people. Keeping facilities in good working order is a significant challenge that all National parks face.

The Facility Management Division has primary responsibility for meeting this challenge. There are 16 NPS employees who keep the park facilities functioning and clean. The staff is responsible for day to day maintenance and completing larger projects. Some of the work is very visible to visitors: cleaning restrooms, emptying trash cans, and mowing the road shoulders are a few of the tasks you may see employees doing. In addition, staff develops project proposals, contract scopes of work and works with our central contracting office to hire local trades' people and contractors to do routine repair work and large projects.

The Facilities Division has three main functions: buildings and utilities, roads and trails and program management. Buildings and utilities staff is charged with maintaining park structures and utility systems, providing custodial services and fixing anything that is broken. Custodial staff clean and maintain the bathrooms, pavilions, changing rooms and shower facilities that are found in the park. With buildings also comes the need for carpentry, electrical and plumbing work. Many of those tasks are carried out in-house and the park also hires contract labor on a regular basis.

Facilities staff also manages drinking water and waste water systems, ensuring that water collected is transformed into safe drinking water for our visitors and employees and waste water is treated and disposed of safely.

Roads and trails staff is responsible for mowing road edges to keep the roads safe, filling potholes and removing downed and dangerous trees. They also maintain the park's emergency generators, vehicles, boats and equipment. Much of the park trail work is accomplished by the Friends of VINP through their trail crew leader and volunteer groups. Park staff coordinates with the Friends to ensure that the trail crews have what they need to get their work done.

NOTES FROM THE SUPERINTENDENT'S DESK

By Virgin Islands National Park & Coral Reef National Monument

Superintendent Brion Fitzgerald

Maintaining a National Park

Most large projects are completed by contract. This year you will see two projects underway in the park. One is placing a gravel surface on a portion of Lameshur Road, another consists of placing additional gabion baskets along North Shore Road. Additionally, if you visit the park at Hassel Island, you will notice repairs being made to the historic seawall at Creque Marine. All of these projects were developed by Facilities staff here at the park.

Virgin Islands National Park Facility Management by the numbers:

- 3 staff clean restrooms, picnic areas, & showers at 20 recreation sites & pick up trash at 28 locations 52 weeks a year.
- 3 staff maintain 20 miles of roads & overlooks & 19 parking areas - primarily using hand held equipment.
- 2 Utility Systems Operators maintain 18 potable water supply systems and a major waste water treatment system.
- 1 marine mechanic & 1 automotive worker maintain over 20 vehicles, 8 boats, 17 large generators & numerous pieces of heavy and light equipment.
- 1 carpenter (who doubles as a jack-of-all-trades) maintains & repairs 125 buildings including doors, windows, furniture, masonry, etc.
- 5 staff manage a \$1.6 million budget, supervise, manage projects, and operate facility database systems.

The Virgin Islands National Park Facility Management staff has a huge responsibility to maintain park facilities in a safe and efficient manner. The staff works hard to serve visitors so that they have a safe, enjoyable visit while ensuring that the wonderful place we call home stays beautiful.

See you in the park.

Three Contestants Compete at St. John Festival Queen Selection Pageant



St. John Tradewinds

The three contestants for the 2016 St. John Festival Queen Selection Pageant competed on stage in front of judges and a crowd at the Winston Wells Ballpark on Saturday night, June 25, 2016. Pictured: Contestant No. 1, Cedaysia Fahie (left), Contestant No. 2 and winner, Steff Nicholas (center), Contestant No. 3, Shyrah Issac (right).

St. John Tradewinds News Photos courtesy of Judi Shimel

Governor details St. John capital improvements planned under FY 2017 budget

St. John Tradewinds

ST. THOMAS -- Going forward with plans to build a new public school for St. John was among the priorities named by Gov. Kenneth Mapp in his 2017 budget plan.

The governor held a press briefing June 21 to highlight portions of the budget. The \$1.35 billion spending plan was submitted to the 31st Legislature at the end of May.

In the transmittal letter sent to Senate President Neville James, Mapp presented a list of capital projects he wanted to see funded in the coming year. One section addressed construction and renovation projects for schools on St. Thomas, St. Croix and St. John.

"The budget will address the cost of maintenance and restoration of a number of public schools, including the shuttered Elena Christian Jr. High the Evelyn Williams and Joseph Gomez Elementary Schools. In addition we have identified local land to construct the new K-8 grade school on the island of St. John," the governor said.

Thirty-two million dollars is being asked to acquire land, build and equip a St. John elementary and middle school. Funding from a portion of Series 2016 Bonds was identified as the funding source to get the job done.

Attempts to build a replacement for the Julius E. Sprauve School in Cruz Bay have been going on since

the late 1980s. During the previous administration of former Govs. Charles Turnbull and John de Jongh talks took place with the National Park Service about procuring land for construction. A parcel near Estate Catherineberg was identified as a relocation site.

Mapp told reporters a hurdle was cleared when it was discovered that the identified site did not need to be approved by NPS. Earlier this year the governor and Chief of Staff Randy Knight visited the island to review plans created by Jaredian Design.

At the briefing the governor said the original plan should be scaled down. The original plan called for space to accommodate students from kindergarten through 12th. Since then a decision was made to keep the K-8 format Sprauve School had from the beginning.

Now, the relocated school will be built to accommodate 300 students, plus educators and staff.

Also included in the governor's request is \$14 million to build two new fire stations. The Romeo Company Fire Station in Coral Bay was identified as one of the two stations slated for construction.



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ATTENTION:

St. John Tradewinds' Next Deadline is:
July 7th

The Ruby Rutnik Scholarship Fund Awards Four Grants

By Amy Roberts
St. John Tradewinds

Since 1997, the Ruby Rutnik Scholarship Fund has given grants to young women from St. John to attend college. By 2015, the total amount of scholarships awarded exceeded \$150,000, according to Janet Cook-Rutnik.

Janet and her husband Andy started the scholarship fund to honor the memory of their daughter Ruby, the starting pitcher of her high school softball team who died in a car accident during her senior year of college.

To raise money, they organized a weekend-long softball tournament for girls from the USVI and the BVI that was a popular community event for 16 years. The entire community, including David Mugar of Starfish Market, and the Royal Sisters of St. John pitched in to organize the first tournament. The fund is now under the auspices of the Giff Hill School.

In a typical year, the fund makes two awards of \$2,500, but in 2015, Kissa Williams was the only applicant. This year, however, the competition was much stiffer, and the scholarship committee had a tough time choosing among the eight worthy candidates.

The Rutniks requested that since only one scholarship was given out in 2015, an additional scholarship should be awarded this year, and that request was granted. That \$2,500 grant was split between two deserving young women. All of the recipients are attending colleges in the States.

It's very likely you already know at least one of the recipients, but in case you don't, here are the 2016 winners of the Ruby Rutnik Scholarship Fund.

Kaitlyn Cummings

She's slain lionfish, slung trays at the Lime Inn, and won a trip to Monaco after turning a mousetrap into a speedy vehicle.

At the age of 17, Kaitlyn Cummings, the valedictorian of the Giff Hill School's class of 2016, has already made her mark on the world.

In August she'll be using her \$2,500 award to help pay for her freshman year at Florida Gulf Coast University in Fort Meyers, Florida where she plans to major in communications and environmental science.



St. John Tradewinds News Photo

"Growing up here has made me aware of how we treat our environment," said Kaitlyn. In the future, she plans to do something related to marketing environmental sustainability.

Kaitlyn has spent a lot of her life underwater. Her parents, Frank and Tammy, started V.I. SNUBA Excursions 26 years ago, and Kaitlyn works with the family business. (SNUBA allows underwater visitors to stay at depths of up to 20 feet while breathing through a hookah apparatus connected to an air tank.)

In addition, since Frank serves as the outreach and education director of CORE, an organization dedicated to the eradication of lionfish, Kaitlyn has accompanied him on many culling expeditions.

She credits her 9th grade marine biology teacher, Jen Bradham, with inspiring her to go deeper into science. This year, in Jim Willen's physics class at GHS, she developed the mouse-trap-race-car that was good enough to allow her to compete against students from France, Italy, and Monaco. Her entry came in fourth place, completing the ten-meter course in 3.4 seconds, which was the same as the winning time the previous year. "The competition is really intense," Kaitlyn remarked.

Kaitlyn's face will be familiar to those who have dined at the Lime Inn where she's been a hostess and waitress for several years, and to those who have attended dance recitals at the St. John School of the Arts.

Maia Ginther

"You're that girl from the information booth!" is something that Maia Ginther has heard for several years since she started working part time for York Yachting, which operates booths selling excursions on St. Thomas and St. John.



St. John Tradewinds News Photo

She's also a June graduate of the Giff Hill School, ranking third in her senior class, and a recipient of a \$2,500 grant from the Ruby Rutnik Scholarship Foundation.

This past year, Maia has worked at Snorkels in the Marketplace in addition to serving as Student Council president and pursuing her hobbies of painting and photography.

Maia is moving to North Carolina in August to study liberal arts at High Point University and also be near her brother Brandon, who is one of her role models. Brandon has taught her to "listen to everyone around you," but to act

independently. "When he wants to do something, he does it," said Maia.

But there's a tradeoff: to be near her big brother, she has to leave behind her mother, Christine "Tina" Petitto, who has been her other guiding light since Maia's father (James Ginther) died in an accident in 2008. Maia says she will miss St. John and the people when she moves stateside. "Growing up around here, the whole island becomes your family."

Maia credits her mother with giving her a love of travel and the chance to click with people "who are like-minded and those who have different perspectives." Last summer, Maia and Tina traveled to China on a journey she found "truly eye opening." And before she goes away to college, Tina and Maia are planning one more trip together.

Kierra Krigger

Kierra Krigger, a recipient of a \$1,250 grant from the Ruby Rutnik Scholarship Fund, is working at three part-time jobs this summer. In the fall, she'll be returning for her sophomore year at Ferris State University in Big Rapid, Michigan, where she is majoring in early childhood education.



St. John Tradewinds News Photo

Kierra attended two high schools—Charlotte Amalie High School, and a school in Jonesville, Michigan—before graduating from the Antilles School in 2015.

She finds herself drawn to both Michigan and the Virgin Islands. Her mother, Kristen Cox, is from Detroit, and Ferris State University "is far away enough to be independent but close enough to have her family members nearby," she said. When she's on St. John, she enjoys being a part of the Krigger and Marsh families.

This summer, she's helping out at St. John Ultimate Villas, where her mother works, teaching children at the St. Thomas Reform Church summer camp, and babysitting. Her love of children helps her to find the patience she needs to work with little people every day. "You have to be flexible—kids aren't always the same," she said.

When she finishes college, she says she definitely plans to return to the islands, "Where everybody still knows you and they're happy to see you," but she remains committed to her guiding principle—"Try to broaden your horizon and experience new things."

Ruby Rutnik Scholarship story continued on page 16.

Gifft Hill Dumpster Clean Up: Before & After

St. John Tradewinds News

Photos by Cherie Mulder.



Left: Large appliances and furniture left at dumpster site before clean up; **Right:** Construction debris, appliances, and mattress at dumpster site before clean up. **Bottom left:** Volunteers at work. **Center & bottom right:** Gifft Hill dumpster site after clean up.



St. John Tradewinds

Not everyone watches the dumpster for a hobby, but Cherie Mulder has observed dumpster behavior while working to clean up four different dumpster sites over the past three weeks.

“Unlike popular belief, only a small percentage of the strewn garbage is caused by the chickens and donkeys. Most is the result of improper human disposal of garbage,” said Cherie. “People need to put garbage in bags, tie the bags securely and break down boxes to reduce their volume by 99 percent.”

On Saturday, June 25, Cherie and other volunteers including Suki Buchalter, Linda Sorensen, Allen Glenn and Lucy Portlock, spent six hours filling twenty-nine large bags with garbage from the ground and the bush surrounding the Gifft Hill dumpster site.

As a community service, Mulder hired Joseph Christian and Terry

Thomas with JLC Maintenance to haul away trash from four different dumpsters site over the last three weeks. All together they carted away 15 refrigerators and at least 10 large appliances, including stoves, dryers and microwaves, totaling nine full truck loads of garbage and construction waste.

People falsely believe that the Susannaberg Transfer Station is charging to dispose of those types of large items. “This is not true,” says Cherie.

JLC Maintenance will pick up and dispose of any large appliance for \$20 each. “There is no longer a need to discard of large items at the dumpster for others to deal with,” said Cherie. Christian can be contacted by phone at 340-227-5924.

“Let’s work together to take care of the serious trash situation we have on St. John.” The Susannaberg Transfer Station is open Monday through Friday from 9:00am to 4:00pm and on Saturdays from 9:00am to 12:00pm.



Letters to *St. John Tradewinds*



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NOTICES & COMMUNITY MEETING
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Crossword & Cryptoquote Answers

(Puzzles located on Page 20)

Answer to June 26 Cryptoquip:
WHEN YOU CUT YOUR GRASS, BUT THEN IT BECOMES TOO TALL AGAIN, HOW WOULD YOU DESCRIBE IT? MOWN AND GROWN.

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St. John Tradewinds
Next Deadline for
Letters
is:
Thursday,
July 7

Benjamin School ruled out as Coral Bay polling place

By Judi Shimel
St. John Tradewinds

ST. THOMAS -- In an attempt to reach a settlement with federal civil rights authorities, the Board of Elections decided to eliminate the Guy Benjamin School as a polling site for St. John. For the past few months elections officials have proposed using the former Coral Bay school as an early voting center leading up to the November General Election.

Joint Elections Board Chairman Arturo Watlington Jr. convened an emergency meeting to share copies of a proposed settlement calling for compliance with the Americans with Disabilities Act. As part of the enforcement action undertaken by the U.S. Department of Justice Civil Rights Division an inspection was conducted of all 31 VI polling places.

Deficiencies cited at Benjamin School included problems with the handles at the school's entry gate. Inspectors also called for installation of a three-and-a-half foot long ramp to accommodate voters using walkers and wheelchairs.

A lack of accessible door handles was also cited at the Julius E. Sprauve School in Cruz Bay. Inspectors pointed to a lack of space, allowing vans transporting the disabled to park near the polling place.

Solicitor General Pamela Tepper passed along a copy of a June 3 letter written by the U.S. Attorney's Office Virgin Islands Civil Chief Joycelyn Hewlett. Despite assurances from elections officials that ADA compliance was reached, Hewlett said a follow up inspection proved otherwise.

"The Department reviewed the accessibility of 29 of the Virgin Islands' polling places during that election, and concluded that many of the remedies were not implemented. In its October 14, 2014 Letter of Findings ... , the Department concluded that most of the Virgin Islands' polling places were inaccessible to person with disabilities."

Sprauve School's poll also needed proper signage, a deficiency repeated for several polls. Elections officials, meeting on June 23, called those problems they could address. But they complained that other problems were the responsibility of the Department of Education.

Many of the territory's public schools are used by the Election Systems of the VI for balloting.

Board members decided to keep Sprauve School as the island's primary polling place but said Benjamin School would not be used.

Elections Supervisor Caroline Fawkes told board members that officials were still looking for an eastern St. John location where voting could take place. Fawkes said she visited the Calabash Boom Housing Community June 22 to see if it would make a suitable replacement for the former Benjamin School.

Early voting was first instituted in 2014 and it proved popular with essential service workers, the elderly and disabled across the territory. St. John offered the option in that election cycle, but accessibility and other problems with the Elections Systems office near the Cruz Bay traffic circle curtailed the time voters could take advantage of early voting.

Actions taken in 2015 led to the relocation of the old St. John elections office to the Marketplace, which was chosen for its accessibility features. Calabash Boom Community Center might help provide an ADA accessible site for early voting in 2016 but as of June, no final decision had been made, Fawkes said.



...Confirmed Bands and Artists

TUESDAY, June 28, 2016

Ish Band
Cool Sessions Brass
To Be Announced...

WEDNESDAY, June 29, 2016

Jam Band
Poizon

THURSDAY, June 30, 2016

Extreme
VIO International
Small AXE

FRIDAY, July 1, 2016

Spectrum Band
Fadda Fox
Shal Marshall
To Be Announced...

Kerwin Dubois

Rock City

SATURDAY, July 2, 2016

Express Band
Rudy
Nadia Baston

Patrice Roberts

Destra

SUNDAY, July 3, 2016

Ah We Band

Triple Kay

Benji

Shurwayne Winchester

MONDAY, July 4, 2016

CMK Band

Cool Sessions Brass

Hypasounds

Krosfyah

Honoring: Ms. Delrise Varlack

NOTE: RANDOM TSA CHECKS WILL BE CONDUCTED!!! BE PREPARED!!!

FESTIVAL HOTLINE NUMBERS: (340) 690-3692/ (340) 690-1725



Community Calendar

St. John Tradewinds welcomes notices of community-oriented, not-for-profit events for inclusion in this weekly listing. Email editor@tradewinds.vi for more information.

Thursday, June 30

— Master Ballet Class with Jennifer Grapes. Intermediate to Advanced Students at St. John School of Arts from 4:00 pm to 5:30 pm.

Month of July

— VIERS Summer Camps. This is the 19th consecutive year that Friend of Virgin Islands National Park and other sponsors have supported Clean Islands International and the VIERS Summer Eco-Camps. Eco-Camps for VI students ages 7 to 12 yrs old. Science Camp for VI students ages 13 to 17 yrs old. Ranger-in-Training for VI students ages 13 to 17 yrs old. Visit www.islands.org/VIERS/ for more information and to register.

Saturday, July 9

— Farmer's Market at The Marketplace. 10:00 am to 2:00 pm in the back parking lot.

Sunday, July 10

— 5th Annual St. John Chaotic Kayak race at Openheimer Beach. Live music, beer tents, food, kayak races, raffle prizes and more! Visit the 2016 CSM Robert Gallagher Memorial Chaotic Kayak Race Facebook page for more information.

Friday, July 15

— Lena Greenstone invites you to Paint Bar. Hosted by St. John School of the Arts. Reservations required. Call 779-4322.

Sunday, September 4

— Love City Triathlon, Aquathlon, SUPathlon & Tri Relay at Maho Bay Beach. Visit www.stjohnlandsharks.com for more information and to sign up for the race.

Monday, October 10

— JUST PLAY. 8th Annual Community Event in Cruz Bay. A day of Sports for Youth, ages 5-17.

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

Ruby Rutnik Scholarship cont'd from page 12

Renesha Fleming

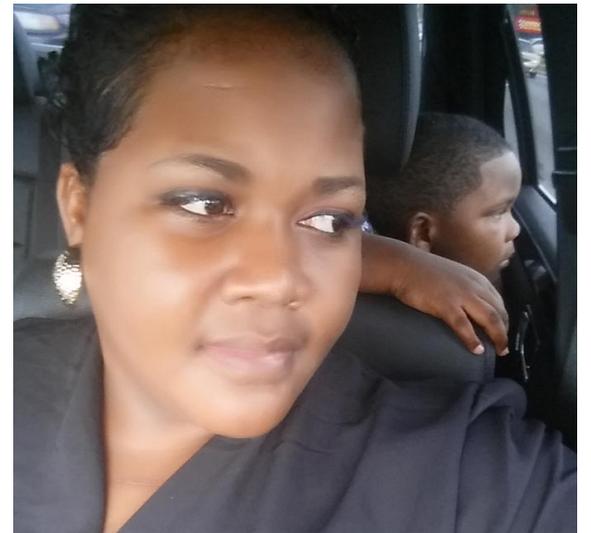
After four failed attempts, Renesha Fleming has finally achieved her goal -- moving to Orlando, Florida and enrolling in college to study business.

Her seven-year-old son, Jesse Z.A. Jackson, has provided much of the motivation for making the move. "He's very bright; he's always on the honor roll," Renesha explained. "The V.I. isn't bad, but there's much more to explore. His teacher thought the move was a good idea."

A graduate of Ivanna Eudora Kean High School in 2006, Renesha has worked at Caneel Bay, Gallows Point, the Parrot Club, and Starfish Market. After becoming a licensed cosmetologist, she supported herself and her son as a nail technician.

"It can be tough being a single mother" she said, but she's always maintained the belief that "Better days are coming." Though it has been a struggle at times, she has kept her faith. "Knowing that your kid is paying attention to everything you do, is looking up to you, helps keep you focused. And with the grace of God, all things are possible," she said.

Renesha will be using her \$1,250 award from the Ruby Rutnik Scholarship Fund to help pay tuition at Valencia College.



St. John Tradewinds News Photo

In August she'll be studying real estate, event planning, and small business management as she seeks to find her true calling. In the meantime, she's working on obtaining her Florida license as a cosmetologist. "I need to build myself," she said. "After that, it's an open book."

Minimum Wage Increases in the Virgin Islands

St. John Tradewinds

ST. THOMAS - Governor Kenneth E. Mapp announced Tuesday, June 21, 2016 to Virgin Islands' businesses and employers, and to the general public within the territory that ACT NO. 7856 amending the minimum wage for all hourly employees takes effect.

According to the Fair Labor Standards Act, state governments have the right to set a higher minimum wage than the current federal minimum wage rate. To date, twenty-nine (29) states including California, Florida, New York and New Jersey have enacted legislation increasing their state's minimum wage. Studies have shown that increasing of the minimum wage does not have a negative effect on small business, as some have claimed, and in fact contributes to an increase in the overall health of local economies.

Today, the minimum wage in the Virgin Islands will increase to \$8.35 per hour for all hourly employees in the territory. Additionally, effective June 1, 2017, the minimum wage will increase to \$9.50 per hour and on June 1, 2018 the rate is set to increase to an amount not less than \$10.50 per hour. Additionally, tourist service industry and restaurant workers who are tipped employees must be compensated at a rate of not less than 40% of the prevailing minimum wage.

Federal minimum wages have not been increased since 2010, while the cost of living has seen a sharp uptick throughout the country, particularly here in the Virgin Islands where the cost of electricity alone has risen by 11% between the years of 2010 through 2015.

"Adjusting the minimum wage to take into account the increases in the cost of living, especially around such basic necessities as food, rent, and clothing, will go a long way to eliminating the

"working poor" in our community and improving the overall quality of life for all of our residents," said Governor Mapp.

"While this step is not the answer to all of our economic development and opportunity needs, it is a significant step in the right direction," added the Governor.

COMMENT ON ARTICLES

www.stjohntradewindsnews.com

13th Annual Beach to Beach Power Swim

Thank You to Sponsor, Volunteers & Participants

St. John Tradewinds

In the June 13, 2016 edition of the *St. John Tradewinds* on page 24, the Friends of Virgin Islands National Park "Thank You" Ad for the Saint John Beach to Beach Power Swim referenced the sponsors, volunteers and participants from the 2015 event. The correct "Thank You" ad is situated below, acknowledging those who supported the 13th Annual Saint John Beach to Beach Power Swim that took place on Sunday, May 29.



Thank you!



Friends SAINT JOHN BEACH -TO- BEACH POWER SWIM

Thanks to every sponsor, volunteer & participant for making this event a resounding success!

Friends of Virgin Islands National Park
St. John, USVI

Friends would also like to extend a big thank you to all the event volunteers who helped to make this year's Power Swim a success. Without you we would have never been able to put this event together!

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- PHOTOGRAPHERS -

Yelena Rogers
 Bill Stelzer (videographer)

- OFFICIAL RADIO STATION - 104.3 The Buzz!

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;
Tuesdays: 6 p.m.; Wednesdays, Thursdays and Fridays: 7 a.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

10 a.m. Sunday, Lower Campus GHS 626-2625
follow us on Facebook: uufstjohn

Obituary

St. John Tradewinds

James Elliot Samuels fondly known as "Jim" or "Jimmy" was born on June 9, 1928 and died on June 23, 2015 at the age of 87 in Smyrna Beach, Florida. He is survived by his wife Eleanor M. Samuels, children Roxanne Hose, Dr. Karim Abdullah, Rosalind Samuels, Derek Samuels (predeceased), Shane Samuels, Ramona Cabrera (stepdaughter), 16 grandchildren, 27 great grandchildren; 1st cousins - Catherine Liburd, Gloria Samuel, Inez Hart, Marva Applewhite, Harriet Sanders; children of Ella Samuel Hodge, Cleopha Thomas, Willis Samuel, Frederick Samuel, Aristide Samuel, Marjorie Christain, Gwendolyn Moorehead, Laurel Johnson, Sylvia Harlye, Noble Samuel, Wesley Samuel, Huldah Sewer; 2nd cousins - Melville Samuel, Rita Sprauve, Claudette Samuel, June Samuel Knight, Marvin Samuel, Ray Samuel; children of Dora Petrus, Patricia Richardson, Frank Samuel, Irvin Samuel and Wilbur Samuel.

He was born on June 9, 1928 in Detroit, Michigan to Dr. Bernard Van Samuels of St. John, VI and Maude Goring Samuels of St. Vincent, WI. After graduating from chiropractic school in Detroit, his father moved the family to New York City where Jim spent his early childhood. When he graduated from high school he joined the U.S. Army. It was just prior to the end of World War II. As a member of the National Guard he was recalled to serve in the Korean War and was stationed in Korea and the Philippines'. Upon his return to civilian life he studied for and became a member of the N.Y. Police Department. After making several trips to St. John with his father he decided to pull up roots and in 1960 settled in St. Thomas. Jim held several positions with the V.I. Government ending as the Executive Director of the V.I. Civil Rights Commission. He was Director of Trans Caribbean Airways (prior to American Airlines taking over). He owned and operated the "Downbeat" Record Store in Drakes Passage and of course for many years his popular jazz radio show "Jim's Gentle Sounds of Music" on WSTA Radio Station. His theme song was Duke El-

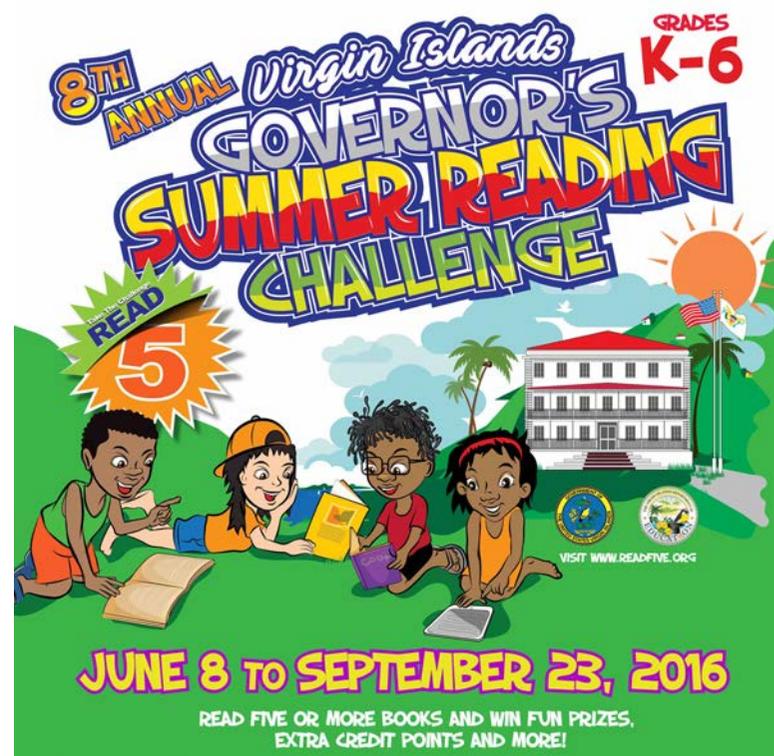


lington's "Satin Doll". He served as Vice President of NATRA (National Association of Television & Radio Announcers) and was president of the Duke's Club. He was Cub Master of Pack 124 and the Master of Ceremonies for the Caribbean Choral Concerts.

Jim had many hobbies of which his love to travel carried us from coast to coast: Alaska, Europe, Hong Kong and Singapore. He loved vintage cars and car racing in general. We have fond memories of him in the good old days racing his 1971 Dodge Demon at the Bovoni Track. He spent many hours restoring his pride and joy, his 1934 Ford, which was given to him as a teenager and kept in New York.

Jim had a great thirst for knowledge. He was always reading or on his beloved "Apple" computer thus his favorite quote "Knowledge is like a garden, if it's not cultivated it can't be harvested." Jim loved people; he never met a stranger he couldn't engage in conversation, he had an amazing "Gift of Gab." He is sorely missed.

A memorial service to celebrate the life of James Samuels was held at 2 pm on June 22, 2016 at the Bethany Moravian Church in Cruz Bay, St. John, V.I.





Chef's Corner

by Mares Crane

A Trip Across Europe, Continued

St. John Tradewinds

Belgium: Sole meuniere

This is a traditional dish meaning "in the way of the millers wife."

Four Sole fillets, ½ Cup flour, kosher salt and cracked pepper, 2 Tbsp veg oil, ¼ stick unsalted butter.

Sauce: ½ stick unsalted butter cut into 4 pieces, 2 Tbsp chopped flat leaf parsley, 1 Tbsp fresh lemon juice, lemon wedges.

Place flour in a baking dish. Rinse fish and pat dry, sprinkle with salt and pepper. Dredge with flour, shaking off excess. Heat oil in a skillet and add butter. When foam subsides, add fish and cook until golden, about two to three minutes then, turn over and cook an additional one to two minutes on the other side. Keep warm on a plate. Pour off drippings. Add butter back on the heat, and cook for one to two minutes. Take off heat and add parsley and juice. Spoon sauce over fish and serve with lemon wedges

Ham and Chicory Gratin

This is a Flemish speciality, but they call chicory "wifloof" there. Serves 6 to 8. Six to 8 chicory intact cored, 4 Tbsp butter, 8 slices ham (you could use prosciutto), 2 Tbsp flour, 2 Cups milk, pepper, 1/8 tsp nutmeg, 2 Cups grated Gruyere cheese.

Steam the chicory until very soft, about 10 to 15 minutes. Drain and push down in a colander with a paper towel to get rid of excess water, but do not mush them. Melt 2 Tbsp of butter in a skillet. Add the chicory until brown and caramelized. Remove and wrap each one in the ham or prosciutto and set aside.

In a saucepan melt remaining butter, whisk in flour and cook for one minute. Whisk in milk, stirring constantly on a simmer until thickened. Season with salt, pepper and nutmeg. Spread 1 Cup of sauce over the bottom of a 9 X 13 inch baking dish. Place the chicory on top, cover with sauce and the cheese. Bake until bubbling and browned.

Austria: Spatzle

This Alpine dish is served mainly in the mountainous region. It's kind of a soft egg noodle, like a macaroni cheese a la Austria! During my ski seasons in the Tyrol it was a hearty meal after skiing.

Kasespatzle serves 2. Two Cups all purpose flour, 5 eggs and 1 egg yolk, good pinch of salt, 2 to 3 Tbsp water if necessary, 2 Tbsp salted butter, 1 ¾ Cups grated Emmental and Gruyere cheese, ¾ stick salted butter, 2 mid sized onions cut into rings, chopped chives, salt and pepper to taste, crispy bacon.

Place flour in a bowl, make a well in the centre add whisked eggs and salt. Blend well and add water if necessary spoon by spoon. The dough should not be runny but soft

enough to follow gravitation. Set to rest for 20 to 30 minutes. Heat butter in a frying pan over medium heat, add onions and let them slowly gain a golden brown colour. Drain on paper towel and set aside.

Bring a large pot of water to the boil, add a pinch of salt and reduce heat to a simmer. Cut and shape spatzle by hand or use a large holed colander to push it through. Cook for 2 to 3 minutes until they float. Do in batches, then drain water. Melt butter in the pan and return Spatzle to pot. Shake a few times so all the dough is coated in the butter. Add the grated cheese and mix well. Serve in a bowl with some of the onions and chopped chives on top. If you are a bacon lover, throw some crispy bacon on top too!

Sachertorte

This chocolate cake was invented by Franz Sacher in 1832 for Klemens Venzel von Metternich in Vienna. The original recipe is a well kept secret!

Six eggs separated, ½ Cup granulated sugar, 1 Cup cake flour, 1 Cup confectioners sugar, 9 Tbsp unsalted butter, tsp vanilla extract, 1 Cup semi sweet chocolate morsels.

Butter a 9 inch pan and line the bottom with parchment paper. Preheat oven to 325 F. Melt chocolate and allow to cool. Beat butter with a mixer on low and add the confectioners sugar. Beat on high for 2 minutes. Beat in the yolks one at a time, then chocolate and vanilla. Whisk whites with the granulated sugar together in a bowl until in soft peaks. Stir in ¼ into the chocolate then fold in the rest. Stir in ½ flour, fold in and repeat with the rest of the flour. Spread evenly into pan. Bake 45 minutes, then cool 10 minutes and remove from pan. Glaze and frost to liking.

Glaze cake with ½ Cup apricot jam, let down a little on the heat. Either on top or split the cake and fill.

Spain: Romesco Sauce

This is a tomato based sauce originating in Tarragona, Catalonia in north eastern Spain. It is very versatile and can be served with grilled vegetables, meat and fish, tossed over pasta or used as a sandwich spread.

Rack of lamb with Romesco sauce x 4.
2 Racks of lamb trimmed, fresh rosemary, handful of all purpose flour, salt and pepper.

8 Cloves garlic, 1 cup olive oil, ½ cup sliced blanched almonds, ¼ Cup peeled hazelnuts, 2 slices stale white bread, 2 vine ripe tomatoes cored and quartered, 2 piquillo peppers, 2 large roasted red peppers de-seeded and trimmed, ½ Cup dry or fruity red wine, ¼ tsp red pepper flakes, kosher salt and pepper.

Preheat oven to 300 F. Roast garlic on a baking sheet with a drizzle of olive oil until soft, about 20 minutes. Set aside to cool.

Toast almonds and hazelnuts in a pan. Set aside. Fry the bread in a little olive oil until browned, drain on paper towels. Saute the tomatoes in the same pan adding more oil if necessary for 4 to 5 minutes.

In a food processor add the cooled bread, nuts, tomatoes and blend. Add garlic, piquillo, roasted red peppers and blend 2 to 3 minutes. Add wine and pepper flakes. While running slowly, add the rest of the olive oil and salt and pepper to taste.

I cook my lamb very simply just like my mother always has. Preheat oven to 400 F, place the lamb racks intertwined. Rub some flour on to the fat and place rosemary branches under and over and around. Place in oven for 25 to 30 minutes, remove and then rest for 5 minutes before carving into cutlets.

Serve the lamb on a bed of sauted spinach or grilled vegetables with roasted potatoes and the romesco sauce

Sangria

The most famous chilled drink of Spain, it is like a wine punch. 2 Bottles chilled red wine like rioja, 1 Cup brandy, 1 Cup orange juice, ¼ Cup superfine granulated sugar, 2 oranges, 2 lemons, 2 key limes cut into thin rounds, 2 apples cored and cut into ½ inch chunks, 2 Cups cold club soda.

In a large pot or bowl, combine wine, brandy, orange juice and sugar, stir until sugar dissolves. Add fruit slices and apples and refrigerate until well chilled at least an hour or two. Remove add soda. Serve in glasses over ice.

Germany: Wienerschnitzel

Basically a boneless breaded meat that is then fried, it is a term that is regional and protected in Germany and Austria. It can only be made of veal in the restaurants. But sometimes in their homes they use pork instead as it is a cheaper cut of meat.

1 ½ Lbs veal cutlets, ½ Cup all purpose flour, 3 Tbsp grated Parmesan, 2 eggs, 1 tsp chopped parsley, ½ tsp salt, ¼ tsp pepper, pinch of ground nutmeg if desired, 2 Tbsp milk, 1 Cup dried breadcrumbs, 6 Tbsp butter, 4 slices lemon

Place each veal cutlet between 2 pieces of plastic wrap and pound with the flat side of a meat mallet until about ¼ inch thick. Dip in the flour to coat. In a medium bowl stir together the Parmesan and eggs, parsley, salt, pepper, milk and nutmeg if using. Place the breadcrumbs on a plate. Dip each cutlet into the egg mixture, then press in the breadcrumbs to coat. Place on a plate and chill in fridge for 1 hour or overnight

Melt butter in a large skillet over medium heat. Cook the breaded cutlet until just browned on each side, about 3 minutes on each side. Remove to a serving platter and

pour the pan juices over. Garnish with slices of lemon and sprigs of parsley and serve with a German potato salad.

German Potato Salad

3 Pounds new potatoes, 1 yellow onion quartered, ½ lb bacon diced, 1 large red onion diced, ¾ Cup cider vinegar, 1 Tbsp Dijon mustard, ¼ Cup olive oil, salt and pepper, ¼ Cup chopped parsley

Cook the potatoes with the yellow onion in a pan with water until tender, then drain and discard the onion. Cut the potatoes into cubes when cool enough to handle then keep warm in a covered bowl. Add the bacon to a frying pan and cook until crisp. Remove the bacon and drain on paper towel. Add the red onion to the bacon fat and cook until soft, 4 minutes or so. Carefully add the vinegar and mustard and cook for a few minutes. Whisk in the oil and season. Add the hot dressing to the potatoes and toss gently to coat. Fold in parsley. Season to taste

Apfelstrudel

This is a delicious pastry dish, traditionally made with a flaky pastry which is made from an elastic dough. Another easier way of making it is with filo.

3 Granny smith apples, peeled, cored and cut into pieces, 1 Cup sugar divided into 2, ½ Cup breadcrumbs, 2 sticks butter plus 3 Tbsps, ¼ Cup raisins, ½ Cup chopped walnuts, ¼ Cup grand marnier or rum, ½ tsp cinnamon, 16 sheets phyllo dough, juice of 1 lemon

Preheat oven 375 F. Melt 2 sticks of butter in a frying pan. Melt the rest of the butter with ½ Cup of sugar and breadcrumbs until golden brown, transfer to a bowl and cool. In a small bowl, mix the rest of the sugar with cinnamon.

In a large bowl, mix apples, lemon juice, raisins, walnuts, ¾ of the sugar mix and alcohol if using. Lay a kitchen towel on the counter and cover with flour. Lay the first sheet of phyllo down and brush with the melted butter. Add the next 7 layers on top always brushing top with butter. You should finish with 8 layers, top one also buttered. Spread half the breadcrumbs on the left long side. Spoon half the apple mixture on top. Roll the dough 180 degrees, adjust the fillings and edges and roll again until you have a log.

Transfer to a baking sheet covered in parchment. Brush strudel with butter, sprinkle top with the remaining cinnamon sugar. Make 3 to 4 cuts so the steam to escape. Repeat the process with the second strudel. Bake for 25 to 30 minutes until golden brown. Serve sprinkled with powdered sugar and vanilla ice cream.

Classifieds

Employment

Administrative Assistant Job Posting - Coral Bay Community Council

CBCC seeks a full-time Administrative Assistant to provide support to all aspects of its programs. Excellent office computer and organizational skills. Motivated to work for the community. Coral Bay location, flexible schedule possible. Competitive pay, may have Health Insurance. See the complete job description and application instructions at: www.coralbaycommunitycouncil.org.

Watersports Center Attendant/Kayak & Snorkel Guide

Full Time position available. SCUBA Skills a plus. Honeymoon Beach, St. John. Email resumes to jobs@viectours.com.

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Property Tax System continued...

Finally, based on the map published by the Office of the Tax Assessor, data is missing for huge portions of the island, especially on the East End of St. John. The data is “fairly okay” for the South Shore of St. John, Gaffin said, but “if a property has never been part of a massive subdivision, the record is no good.”

All of this means the Office of the Tax Assessor has a pretty tough job ahead if it wants to establish a new formula for a mass revaluation. It’s one of the reasons that Lieutenant Governor Osbert Potter has established a Property Tax Reform Task Force which has been meeting monthly since April.

“It would be really hard to come up with a formula for a mass appraisal that would work for St. John,” said Gaffin. “Robert Glouderman, the man who literally wrote the book on this for the International Association of Assessing Officers (IAAO), said it could be done, but he would need a list of details from a certified appraiser and include all the variables that apply here. And he would need to include non-investment houses that rarely sell because people live in them and have nowhere else on island to move.”

If an accurate formula was created, a second problem would have to be addressed, and that is finding enough qualified people (certified by the International Association of Assessing Officers) to go house-to-house and appraise the homes throughout the island. The lack of qualified personnel for such a task was one of the reasons the 2006 revaluation was declared invalid, according to Myrtle Barry.

A solution: “Last fair price paid”

Designing a revaluation formula, training the personnel, and gathering the data for a mass appraisal is technically possible, but the entire process would be massively expensive.

Gaffin has identified a solution, one that has been used in various locations throughout the U.S., which is much simpler, cheaper and easier to implement. It simply says that the value of a particular property will be based on the “last fair price paid.”

“‘Last fair price paid’ means the property is worth whatever you paid for it, or if it was inherited, whatever your granddaddy, or great granddaddy, paid for it. If the price was \$250, then that is the value. If the price was \$5 million, then that is the value. Of course, if you build improvements on the property, the value would increase by the amount it cost you to build the improvement,” said Gaffin. Improvements could be verified by plans submitted to public agencies.

Such a provision was invoked in order to keep land prices from escalating, speculators from profiting, and local people from bearing the ensuing tax burden when the Divi Carina Resort and Casino was built on St. Croix, according to Gaffin.

Gaffin enumerates the advantages of this system. It would:

- Eliminate the need for native families to sell or develop their land to pay the property taxes every year.

- Save the approximately \$5 million cost of doing mass appraisals every five years.
- Reduce the workload in the Property Tax Office since most of the data will come from the Recorder of Deeds and the Department of Planning and Natural Resources (for new construction.) The need for many certified appraisers would also be eliminated.
- Reduce the massive number of cases to be handled by the Board of Tax Review.
- Generate more revenue. All of the owners of extremely expensive properties bought on St. John and other islands would finally be paying taxes on the actual purchase price.
- Avoid a lengthy court case—The V.I. Unity Day Group is prepared to go to court if the mass appraisal system is used for any tax bill.

A bill proposing this “Last fair price paid” system has been drafted by the Virgin Islands Legislature. Sponsored by Senator Myron Jackson and Janette Millin Young, and co-sponsored by nine other senators as of September 2015, Bill Number 31-0234 is still awaiting consideration by the full Senate body, according to Toya Malone, Senator Jackson’s chief of staff.

It remains to be seen whether this system will generate or exceed the \$76,644,290 in property tax billing for the territory sent out for 2015. Common sense suggests it may be time to start crunching the numbers in order to find out.

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Cruz Views #3



Big price drop! Very cute decor in the popular condo with great views over the pool to St. Thomas and amazing sunsets. Walking distance to Cruz Bay. Low HOA fees. Successful short term rental. **\$398,000. 2 bed. 1 bath. MLS#15-115.**

Sea Cliff



Cute cottage sited at the top of the parcel just off the main road. Includes classic Calabash Boom big water views & breezes. Offers multiple options for further development. Property is 3.53 acres comprised of three lots. **\$825,000. 1 bed. 1 bath. MLS#15-103.**

Tree Frog Cottage



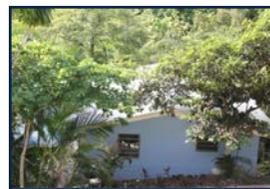
Charming home that overlooks Coral Bay with an active short term rental history. Beautifully furnished with lush tropical landscaping, perfect for vacation or permanent home. One of the nicest homes in its price range. **\$525,000. 1 bed. 1 bath. MLS#15-387.**

Hakuna Matata



Mesmerizing ocean views in a jungle like setting. Designed and laid out for a worry free island lifestyle. Lavish indoor and outdoor living spaces. Centrally located in Estate Catherineberg minutes to the National Park beaches. **\$6,350,000. 4 bed. 4 bath. MLS#16-227.**

Glucksberg Getaway



Don't rent, buy this two unit home! Live in one unit and rent the other for income. Masonry home on over a half acre with great breezes in a lush tropical garden setting. Located centrally near Cruz Bay and Giff Hill School. **\$359,000. 4 bed. 2 bath. MLS#15-353.**

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71-1 Fish Bay
\$280,000 | Land | 0.61 acres



49 Chocolate Hole
\$975,000 | 2 bed | 2.5 bath



16E Fortsberg
\$295,000 | Land | 0.512 acres



6-3-111 Carolina
\$599,000 | 2 bed | 2 bath



3B-12 St. Quaco&Zimmerman
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Six Palms
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1-D REM Bethany
\$2,900,000 | Land | 1.22 acres



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\$795,000 | 3 bed | 3 bath



6a-1-14 Hansen Bay
\$595,000 | Land | 1.021 acres



Beach Garden
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Festival PAN-O-RAMA 2016
4p.m. Franklin A. Powell, Sr. Park

SUNDAY, June 19, 2016

Festival PRINCESS PAGEANT 2016
6p.m. Wiston Wells Ball Park

SATURDAY, June 25, 2016

Festival QUEEN PAGEANT 2016
6p.m. Wiston Wells Ball Park

SUNDAY, June 26, 2016

Festival FOOD FAIR & ROYAL CORONATION 2016
1p.m. Franklin A. Powell, Sr. Park
Festival BOAT RACE 2016
3p.m. Cruz Bay Beach Front

TUESDAY, June 28, 2016

Festival VILLAGE 2016 Opening
"VARLACKVILLE"
7p.m. Cruz Bay Parking Lot
Festival CHILDREN'S VILLAGE 2016
6p.m. St. John National Park Parking Lot

SUNDAY, July 3, 2016

EMANCIPATION DAY Program 2016
1p.m. Franklin A. Powell, Sr. Park
Festival POKER RUN 2016
12p.m. Cruz Bay Beach Front
Festival HORSE RACE 2016
1p.m. Clinton E Phipps Race Track

MONDAY, July 4, 2016

Festival J'OUVERT 2016
SUNRISE: St. John National Park
Festival PARADE 2016
11a.m. St. John National Park
Festival FIREWORKS DISPLAY 2016
9p.m. Cruz Bay Harbor