

ST. JOHN TRADEWINDS

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

Kuipers, 13, Wins 13th Annual Beach to Beach Power Swim



St. John Tradewinds News photos by Jaime Elliott

Natalia Kuipers, 13, from St. Croix, above with Friends of V.I. National Park President Joe Kessler, was the first swimmer to reach Hawksnest Beach at the finish line of the long unassisted course in the 13th Annual Beach to Beach Power Swim. Sponsored by Friends of V.I. National Park, the race featured three different courses ranging from about one mile to about three miles. The first male finisher was 14-year-old Ky Odum of St. Thomas. See the next issue of *St. John Tradewinds* for more on this year's Beach to Beach Power Swim.

The Trouble with Dealing with Island Trash

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Three St. John Civil Servants are Honored for Achievement

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St. John Civil Servants Honored for Outstanding Achievements



By Judi Shimel
St. John Tradewinds



St. John Tradewinds News Photos by Judi Shimel
(clockwise from top right) Fillicia Thomas of Dept. of Tourism, Angel Bolques of Elections Systems and Shakima Jones of Sports, Parks and Recreations were honored..

Three St. John government workers received honors for outstanding contributions this month.

Recognition of the three, who each represented a different government agency, was part of the 27th Annual Public Service Recognition Week.

Gov. Kenneth Mapp issued a proclamation honoring public employees May 5. By doing so, the governor joined the Virgin Islands to states, cities and municipalities across the U.S. who also honored their best civil servants.

In his national proclamation, President Barack Obama said, "Civil servants demonstrate resolve and inspire optimism in sectors throughout the country ... and their individual and collective contributions drive us forward on the path toward an even brighter tomorrow."

Angel Bolques from the Election Systems of the Virgin Islands, Fillicia Thomas from the Department of Tourism and Shakimia Jones from the Department of Sports, Parks and Recreation were chosen by their co-workers and supervisors for displaying the qualities of diligence, quality of work and contributions made to their agencies. They were among 38 public employees chosen from the St. Thomas-St. John District honored last week. Thirty-eight of their counterparts were also recognized from the District of St. Croix.

Cruz Bay Customs Lot Closing June 14 for Festival Village

St. John Tradewinds

The Cruz Bay Parking Lot will be closed to the public from June 14 through July 9, for the erection of the St. John Festival Village. Vehicles not removed will be towed by the owner's expense. Festival officials apologized for the inconvenience. For more information please contact (340) 690-3692 or (340) 690-1725.

SJSA Scholarship Auditions are June 4

St. John Tradewinds

St. John School of the Arts is hosting auditions for the Ruth "Sis" Frank Merit/Performance Scholarship on Saturday, June 4.

Auditions will be at 2 at the school for all outstanding and talented students on St. John and St. Thomas. The scholarship is applied to tuition for the 2016-17 school year at SJSA.

Qualified students must be between the ages of 11 - 17 years old and a reference letter from a teacher or professional must accompany the completed application. Application forms must be completed and returned to the SJSA office no later than May 30. No applications will be considered after this date. Forms may be picked up in the office or download an application from our website at www.stjohnschoolofthearts.org Students are awarded this scholarship based solely on exceptional noted talent during the audition process.

Scholarships will be given in art, music, theater and dance. At least a two-minute performance will be required for music, dance and theater students. At least a two-minute presentation of art work will be required. Three upstanding community leaders will be conducting and judging the audition. Participants should be prepared to answer questions.

For more information, call Kim Wild at SJSA at (340) 779-4322. St. John School of the Arts is a non-profit 501 (c) (3) corporation. We are partially funded by Virgin Islands Council on the Arts and National Endowment for the Arts.

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The Community Newspaper Since 1972

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GHS Graduation is June 10

St. John Tradewinds

The community is invited to the Trayser Field at the Giff Hill School Upper Campus on Friday, June 10, at 5 p.m. for the Senior Class graduation ceremony.

Congratulations Graduates!

Lieutenant Governor Potter Forms Task Force to Help Tackle Complicated Property Tax Issues on St. John

By Amy Roberts
St. John Tradewinds

If you want to stir up conversation among property owners on St. John, just say the words “property tax.”

Some St. John property owners have been battling the Virgin Islands for the last ten years, claiming that the entire system for assessing property values is flawed and that St. John residents will be forced to sell their land because they cannot pay their property tax bills.

At the heart of the matter is a basic fact: The population on St. John is only about 5 percent of the overall population of the territory, but its property owners pay 23 percent of collected property taxes.

The reason for this is simple: Location, location, location. Property on St. John is more valuable because of its proximity to a National Park. This is not something unique to St. John but is a national trend.

In the last 30 years, property values on St. John have skyrocketed way beyond the reach of the middle class. As prices have risen, so has the number of luxury rental villas on the island.

The method used to determine the value of any particular piece of property is complex and will be addressed in future *St. John Tradewinds* articles. For now, it’s enough to know that a property’s value is partially based on land values within the neighborhood, so if you live in a plywood shack and a luxury villa is built next door, the value of your property increases. As the value increases, so will the taxes, and this is causing havoc, especially for some St. John families who are “land rich but cash poor.”

Recognizing that there is, indeed, a serious problem, Lieutenant Governor Osbert Potter has convened a task force to address the issue.

“Many Virgin Islanders, especially the people of St. John, are worried about rising property values and want to know how to manage future assessments that are virtually certain to result in higher tax bills,” said Potter in a press release announcing the formation of the committee.

The Real Property Tax Reform Task Force has now met twice since April with the mandate “to develop fair and equitable property tax legislation that balances the Territory’s need to generate revenue, with the need to help people of the Virgin Islands retain their property in the face of increasing tax liability based on increased property value.”

To assure that the issues of St. John residents remain in the forefront, the committee includes three citizen representatives from the island — real estate broker Miles Stair, businessman Jose Penn, and contractor Atlee Connor. The committee also includes two legislators, Senator-at-Large Almando “Rocky” Liburd, who, by law, must reside on St. John, and Senator Myron Jackson, who has been an advocate for cultural and environmental preservation.

Their job is anything but easy.

“As we try to bring relief to any group, we must take into consideration the impact on revenues overall,” said Ira Mills, the Tax Assessor for the Virgin Islands and a member of the Task Force.

Historically, the property tax rates in the Virgin Islands have been low compared to other jurisdictions. In 1993, on average, communities throughout the United States relied on property taxes for 65 percent of their revenues, but property taxes accounted for only 10 percent of revenues in the Virgin Islands, according to Verne Callwood Jr., who served

as tax assessor then.

For years that number remained fairly constant, but with the closing of HOVENSA on St. Croix, the percentage of overall revenue from property taxes has decreased to 8 percent. *St. John Tradewinds*

Give the Office of the Lieutenant Governor some credit for creating a website that can provide valuable property tax information and, for some people, hours of entertainment.

The site is <http://www.mapgeo.com/usvi/>, and it shows somewhat dated but otherwise excellent satellite photography of the entire Virgin Islands. With a few clicks of a mouse you can expand the photos and hover like a drone over the islands.

Interested in who owns a particular piece of property? You can choose a home or an undeveloped lot, and with just another few clicks you can find out the name of the owner and the owner’s mailing address.

Overall, the property tax burden remains relatively low compared to the rest of the country. On a list of the median property tax values from highest to lowest among the 50 U.S. states, the Virgin Islands ranks close to the bottom, on par with 48 out of 50 states. However, the median values on St. John are closer to the middle, on par with the state ranked at the 27 highest rate.

There is actually a great deal of land on St. John that is not taxed at all, and that includes the Virgin Islands National Park. Property owned by governments — federal, state, municipal — are generally exempted from paying property taxes, as is property owned by religious organizations and property owned by corporations that receive Economic Development Authority benefits.

Approximately 60 percent of the land on St. John is within the VINP boundaries, according to VINP Superintendent Brion Fitzgerald. Obviously, this has a significant impact on the total amount of property tax revenue collected by the territory.

However, there is a Federal program to offset some of these losses which is explained on the Department of the Interior website.

“Payments in Lieu of Taxes (PILT) are Federal government payments to local governments (counties) which have certain Federal lands within their boundaries. The purpose of the payments is to offset the losses in property taxes due to nontaxable Federal land. The Department of Interior [DOE] administers the program and is responsible for the calculation of payments according to formulas established by law and distributes the funds appropriated by Congress.”

“Here in the VI, the DOI has issued PILT’s for many years — with the last three years annual PILT running just over \$33,000,” said Fitzgerald.

One property owner on St. John scoffed at that number.

“There are businesses on St. John that pay more than that,” he said.

The Real Property Tax Reform Task Force has targeted September as a month by which it plans to present its recommendations for legislation to reform the property tax system.

In the coming months, *St. John Tradewinds* will publish articles which detail the complexities of the issue, including the current lawsuit filed against the VI Government by the Unity Day group which is challenging the system used to assess property tax values.

A Website All Property Owners Should Know

St. John Tradewinds

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NEXT DEADLINE

Thursday,
June 9th

No New Zika Cases for Third Straight Week in Territory

St. John Tradewinds

For the third week in a row, the U.S. Virgin Islands Department of Health reported no new cases of Zika. According to the DOH's weekly Zika Surveillance Report, the total number of Zika cases last week remains at 21; with 15 cases in St. Croix, five cases in St. Thomas and one in St. John.

"Although the number of confirmed Zika cases continues to remain steady, we cannot afford to be complacent and must continue to address this outbreak with vigilance and urgency," said DOH Commissioner Nominee Dr. Michelle Davis. "There are simple steps, each of us can take every day: use insect repellent, wear protective clothes, and mosquito-proof your home. And if you are pregnant or have symptoms, get tested for Zika today."

The mosquito that spreads Zika is the same species that transmits chikungunya and dengue and is an aggressive daytime biter; it also bites at night. The U.S. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention recommends protecting against Zika by using insect repellent with one of the following active ingredients whenever outdoors: DEET, picaridin, IR3535, oil of lemon eucalyptus, or para-menthane-diol.

CDC also recommends wearing clothing treated with permethrin that covers your arms and legs, as well as eliminating standing water in and around your home where mosquito larvae thrive, by emptying items that hold water, such as tires, buckets, planters, flowerpots, or trash containers.

Zika is spread primarily through the bite of an infected Aedes species mosquito. The most common symptoms of Zika are fever, rash, joint pain, and conjunctivitis (red eyes). The illness is usually mild with symptoms lasting for several days to a week after being bitten by an infected mosquito. People usually don't get sick enough to go to the hospital, and they very rarely die of Zika. For this reason, many people might not realize they have been infected or may be infected and have no symptoms. Zika can also be

spread sexually.

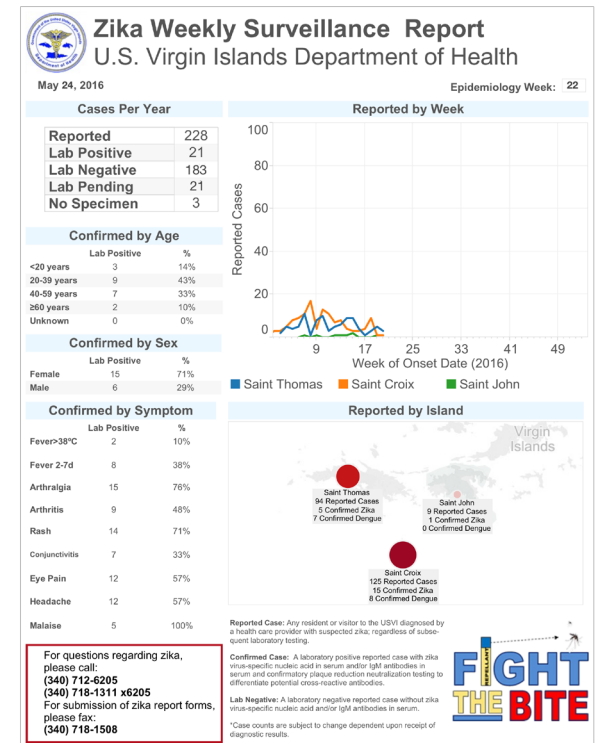
Pregnant women infected with Zika can pass the virus on to their unborn baby, which can cause a serious birth defect called microcephaly that is marked by smaller-than-normal heads and brains. The DOH is working diligently to protect USVI's next generation from these health effects by offering the following free services to pregnant women including Zika testing; inspections to look for mosquito larvae and mosquito breeding grounds at/around her house; larvicide treatment if mosquito larvae are found at/around her house; and Zika Prevention Kit, which includes educational materials, insect repellent, permethrin spray repellent for clothing, condoms to avoid sexual transmission of Zika, treatment tabs for preventing mosquitoes from breeding in standing water, and a bed net.

Zika testing is also available, free of charge, to anyone exhibiting signs of infection, such as fever, rash, joint pain, or red eyes.

"At the Department of Health, we are committed to protecting pregnant women and their babies from the health effects of Zika," said Deputy Commissioner Kimberly Jones. "If you are a pregnant woman, we strongly encourage you to get tested either at the Department of Health or at one of the 15 clinics across the islands we have partnered with to offer free Zika testing to pregnant women and anyone exhibiting signs of the virus."

"If you are told that you cannot be tested at any of the sites, which are listed on the DOH website, call our Emergency Operations Center so that we can connect you immediately to the appropriate testing services," said Jones.

For local information about the Zika virus or to receive any of these free services, call the Department of Health Emergency Operations Center at (340) 712-6205 or visit www.healthvi.org. For more general information about the Zika virus call toll free: 1-800-CDC-INFO.



If you have symptoms of Zika or are pregnant, please see your local Primary Care Provider. The Department of Health has partnered with many clinics so that testing for Zika virus is available free of charge. The Department of Health continues to provide testing for the Zika virus as well.

For local information about Zika Virus, call the Department of Health Emergency Operations Center at (340) 712-6205. For more general information about the Zika Virus call toll free: 1-800-CDC-INFO.

Sick with chikungunya, dengue, or Zika?

Protect yourself and others from mosquito bites the first week you are sick. If a mosquito bites you, it can get infected, bite other people, and make them sick.

Protect yourself from mosquito bites

- Wear long-sleeved shirts and long pants.
- Use door and window screens to keep mosquitoes outside.
- Use insect repellent.

See your doctor if you develop a fever with:

- Muscle or joint pain
- Headache or pain behind eyes
- Rash
- Red eyes

For more information: www.cdc.gov/chikungunya, www.cdc.gov/dengue, www.cdc.gov/zika

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Author Turns to St. John Roots for Latest Children's Book

By Andrea Milam
St. John Tradewinds

Bish Denham grew up on St. John during a time when life was markedly different than the St. John of today.

Denham and her family arrived from California in 1955, when she was just five years old. They called various parts of the island home, from Cruz Bay to Giff Hill to Caneel Bay, until they moved to St. Thomas in 1962, where Denham attended and graduated from All Saints Cathedral School. After traveling around the U.S. for a few years, she returned to live on St. John in 1975 before leaving again in 1980 for Texas, where she has resided ever since.

Denham volunteered at a Texas home for abused and neglected children, eventually taking a full-time position there in a career that would span 23 years. Her innate love of writing blossomed as she worked as the home's librarian and produced a newsletter that was sent out six times annually to around 10,000 people. Upon retirement, she decided to pursue writing on her own.

After taking three correspondence courses through the Institute of Children's Literature, Denham's first story, "Hermia's Shell," about a soldier crab who was determined to find a home more flashy and beautiful than a plain whelk shell, was published in Spider magazine. She also won first place in a children's short story contest with the retold Anansi story, "Why Dogs Beg."

Denham then published her first book in 2013 called "Anansi and Company: Retold Jamaican Tales," based on the 1924 Martha Warren Beckwith book, "Jamaica Anansi Stories." Denham relied on her own knowledge of West Indian culture and dialect to refine 10 of Beckwith's stories into tales that are readable and entertaining for children.

"The original stories are really difficult to read and understand," Denham said. "I took the core kernel of each story and retold them. I thought my approach would be unique, and I gave the stories a Caribbean flavor that appeals to kids everywhere."



Denham then published her second book, "A Lizard's Tail," in 2014 about a young lizard whose family and friends are being attacked by a feral cat. The lizard follows what he believes is his destiny by going on an adventure to find a dog to scare away the cat in an effort to protect his loved ones. The book's core concept was obviously inspired by Denham's childhood in the Virgin Islands, which she says does indeed influence her descriptions.

The children's author expects her third book, a St. John ghost story called "The Bowl and The Stone: A Haunting Tale from the Virgin Islands," to be out in time for Halloween.

"It takes place in 1962 when the island is still very isolated and not what it is now," Denham said. "It's about two kids who are haunted by a ghost, and they have to find out what it is this ghost wants from them."

Denham, who's been married to her husband Stan for 30 years, comes back to the Virgin Islands at least once a year to visit her sister, Erva Denham, who lives on St. Thomas, and her cousin, Rafe Boulon, who lives on St. John.

"Growing up on St. John had a profound effect on me which I've carried with me no matter where I've lived," Denham said.

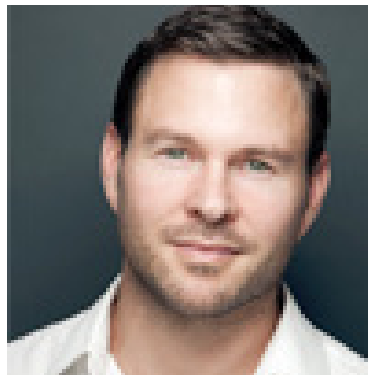
Denham's books are available on Amazon.

John McCann Joins 340 Real Estate Team

St. John Tradewinds

The 340 Real Estate Company is happy to announce that John McCann has joined as Broker Associate. McCann has been a real estate professional for more than 20 years. He is licensed in the US Virgin Islands, California and Massachusetts.

For more information on 340 Real Estate Company, LLC, go to www.340realestateco.com or email 340realestate@gmail.com.



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ATTENTION:

St. John Tradewinds' Next Deadline is:

June 9th



Connecting with Nature

by Gail Karlsson

The Loneliness of Stinking Toes

By Gail Karlsson
St. John Tradewinds

Imagine losing your best friends and then living for the next 11,000 years with only agoutis for company — if you're lucky.

That's the sad story of the West Indian Locust (*Hymenaea courbaril*), more commonly known as the Stinking Toe tree. Why the silly name? Well, it has a big, hard seed pod that looks like it might be an ogre's toe, and smells like one inside. You have to whack it hard to get it open, and then the seeds inside are surrounded with a sweet but very pungent pulp (which is nevertheless said to be very nutritious).

It is the size and hardness of the seed pod that lie at the heart of this tree's loneliness, not its smelliness. Millions of years ago in South America, the Stinking Toe had some really good friends that didn't make it through the last Ice Age — including a giant ground sloth weighing up to four tons, and herds of other large now-extinct mammals.

Big herbivores need lots of food, and the Stinking Toe trees offered them sugary, well-packaged grab-and-go meals. Its reward was that the seeds inside were widely dispersed, helping the tree to reproduce and spread. Like many plants, these trees evolved in relationship to the wild-life around them. Animals big enough to chew up the hard pods later deposited the seeds on the ground in their dung as they moved across the landscape.

Then, about 11,000 years ago, towards the end of the Pleistocene epoch, the large animals disappeared. None were left to eat those big pods. Maybe climate change was to blame, or the influx of human hunters, or a combination of the two. Certainly no one gave any thought to the plight of the Stinking Toe.

It doesn't work very well for a tree to just drop its pods on the ground below, especially if they are tightly sealed and the seeds can't get out. The Stinking Toe had to make new friends. Large rodents called agoutis

noticed the pods, and used their chisel-like teeth to gnaw away at the shells and get to the sugary pulp inside. Agoutis are known as "scatter hoarders" because they bury uneaten food for later. So sometimes they moved the seeds and buried them, though usually not very far from the tree.

The seed pods can float, but they were probably brought to St. John around 500 BC when the Tainos and Caribs came north in canoes from South America, moving up the island chain. The pods would keep the fruit fresh and dry, and the seeds could then be planted at the new place. There were probably also some agoutis brought along in the canoes as another type of food source, so the Stinking Toe would have arrived along with its substitute seed disperser.

Sadly, the agoutis did not last and are long gone from St. John. The Stinking Toe trees are on their own here, with only a few humans to appreciate them. Not so long ago, children used to pick the pods and break them open for a sweet snack. Now few people even know what they are, much less plant their seeds, and they are not so easy to find.

There are a few Stinking Toe trees in Catherineberg that you can see as you drive along Centerline Road. Even if there are no pods, you can identify the tree by its leaves, which are unusual because they grow in pairs turned in towards each other. The Latin name *Hymenaea* refers to this fact — *Hymenaeus* was the Roman god of marriage, inspiring feasts and songs about happy couples.

I first saw a Stinking Toe when I was getting fruits and vegetables from St. Croix through the Ridge to Reef Farm program. I tasted one after breaking it open with a hammer, and saved some seeds but didn't get around to planting them. Now I am thinking it would be good for me to evolve into a new role as a seed disperser so the Stinky Toes on St. John won't be so lonely.

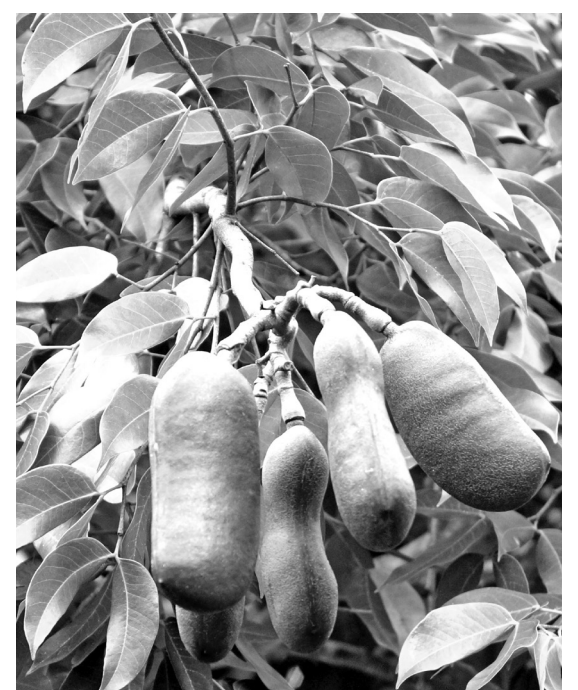
Photos by Gail Karlsson.

Gail is an environmental lawyer and author of *The Wild Life in an Island House*. gkarlsson@att.net. For information on the Unitarian Tree Appreciation Project, go to <http://uufstjohn.com/treeproject/> or the Facebook page 'UUF Tree Appreciation Project St John VI'.



St. John Tradewinds News Photos by Gail Karlsson

Stinking Toe's distinctive paired leaves are shown, above. Stinking Toe pods hanging on a tree are seen, below at right. The sweet, smelly Stinking Toe pulp, is shown below middle. Stinking Toe pods can be seen displayed on a plate, below at left.





ISLAND GREEN LIVING

by Lovango Cay resident Dan Boyd

Meet the ELF

St. John Tradewinds

The ELF is a solar and self powered hybrid vehicle powered by you and the sun! It's touted as "the most efficient vehicle on the planet!"

It is a revolution in transportation and gets the equivalent of 1,800 miles per gallon!

While visiting in the states recently, I came across a really cool vehicle parked outside the University of Virginia. It's an ELF made by Organic Transit, which is a bicycle and an electric vehicle all bundled into a three-wheeled vehicle. There is a solar panel mounted on top to help keep the battery charged and you can plug it in at home too help recharge the batteries too.

The ELF gets about 30 miles on one charge and will do about 20 miles per hour, you can also assist by pedaling along to help the battery life and increase your speed too, up to 30 mph!

It has lights, horn, bells (of course I'd install a whistle just for humor) and even a trunk in which to place your groceries.

Another cool aspect is that it is not considered a motor vehicle so it can park just about anywhere you would park a bicycle. There are no side doors so getting in and out of tight spaces is a breeze!

They start around \$7,000 and go up with added features, such as automatic transmission, side mirrors with lighted turning indicators, mag rims, cycle analysis system and even a phone docking station.

You can find more information about the ELF at www.organictransit.com.

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Audit at Westin Resort Results in Arrest of Employee

By Judi Shimel
St. John Tradewinds

An apparent problem with payroll and a subsequent audit led to the arrest of an employee at the St. John Westin Resort.

According to court documents a payroll administrator was arrested in the midst of an audit being conducted by Westin General Manager Mike Ryan. Edwina Lanclos, 42, was charged with grand larceny and embezzlement.

Lanclos made her initial appearance before Magistrate Judge Henry Carr III on May 23. According to court records, the administrator confessed to taking cash from the safe in the resort's accounting office.

At the time of her arrest, Lanclos was assisting an audit of cash on hand with General Manager Mike Ryan. Security Director Benon Loebel told investigators the resort management wanted to see if there was sufficient cash to make payroll.

"Loebel stated that they were planning on paying their employees in cash because they had been experiencing problems making payroll but the cash on hand was coming up short," according to court documents.

V.I. Police Department investigator Shaharazad Donastorg said the Westin audit revealed a discrepancy of \$13,200. Discrepancies of varying amounts began to appear around April 21.

It wasn't until the audit that Lanclos admitted to Ryan she had been taking money from the resort's safe, Donastorg said in a report filed with the court.

The payroll administrator allegedly said she had initially taken up to \$17,000. While the audit was under way, the defendant said she returned \$3,800 to the safe. Ryan alerted security and police were summoned at the end of the business day.

At the May 23 hearing, Carr found probable cause to uphold the charges and ordered Lanclos to appear for arraignment on June 9.

The accounting department worker was freed on \$35,005 bail after family members posted a 10 percent cash bond.

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Thursday,
June 9th*

The Complicated Issue of Airbnb on St. John: Part 1

By Amy Roberts
St. John Tradewinds

When St. John resident Elaine Estern traveled to Bali and Tahiti several years ago, she didn't stay in a hotel or guesthouse. Instead, she booked rooms in private houses through the online service Airbnb.

Airbnb is a website that allows anyone with space in their home to rent it out for a night, a week, or longer. It may sound like a risky arrangement — after all, you're seeking shelter half-way around the world, jet-lagged and travel-weary, at a stranger's home — but trust (along with verification) is what the system is based on, and Estern had only glowing things to say about the experience.

"It was great. Airbnb sends you an email as soon as you arrive to make sure everything is okay, and they send one to the host, too," she said.

Everyone is anxious to please, she explained, because guest and hosts are rated by each other very publicly on the website.

Airbnb has quietly moved into the tourism industry on St. John, and it's beginning to have a significant effect on the long-term rental market and the economy overall.

The listings available range from little shacks to entire villas with pools to boats at anchor. In New York City, one Airbnb host listed his van parked on the street and provided his guests with a map of local businesses which allowed easy access to their bathrooms.

A quick look at the St. John listings on Airbnb two weeks prior for the week of May 23 revealed the availability of 24 rentals of a separate private room, 27 rentals with a shared room, and more than 300 for an entire dwelling. By May 21, bookings had clearly been made, as only nine private rooms, 13 shared rooms, and 53 entire dwellings were now available.

A great deal of Airbnb's appeal is the availability of affordable options for places to stay on St. John. Even with off-season rates, a single room at the Westin Resort or at Caneel Bay tops \$400 a night.

But two weeks earlier, the average price of a private room listed on Airbnb was \$144, and some were under \$100 a night. Of course, accommodations in a local resident's private home are generally not of the level of a premium hotel, but luxury is not a necessity for many travelers. Instead, many are willing to make due with a comfortable bed, windows with screens, and a clean shared bathroom.

For the thousands of people who stayed at Maho Bay Campground during its tenure of nearly 40 years until its closing in 2013, that was sufficient.

"Nothing has replaced Maho Bay in terms of price range and location, so budget-minded people are looking at Airbnb," said Margie Labrenz of Cruz Bay Realty.

But Labrenz, with decades of experience in St. John real estate, has noticed another trend which has perhaps even more significance for St. John residents: As homeowners convert their extra rooms or downstairs apartments into short-term rentals, there is a corresponding decrease in long-term rental units.

"We've lost six units in the last three months to Airbnb and VRBO, [Villa Rentals by Owner, another popular person-to-person website]" said Carol Wassel of Scenic Properties, one of the few property managers on the island that specializes in long-term rentals.

"I feel sorry for the kids coming down, looking for a place to live in September and October to work as staff at the hotels and restaurants," said Wassel. "We haven't ad-

vertised an apartment since September. Everything's been grabbed up within a week."

Disrupting Traditional Business Models

Airbnb is part of a larger trend known as the "sharing economy" brought on by the onset of the internet, which is disrupting traditional business models.

An April 2016 report by the Caribbean Hotel and Tourism Association (CTHA) has tried to bring its members up to speed with the changes. It lists Airbnb, VRBO, Flipkey, and Home Away (which was recently purchased by Expedia) as major players in the accommodations sector, and Uber, which connects drivers to riders, as the most widely used on-demand online car service in the world.

"The sharing-economy accommodations are growing every day," according to the CHTA report. "By February 2016 Airbnb, recorded more than 25,000 listings in the Caribbean. Early in 2015 Cuba was added to Airbnb's inventory and in March 2016 showed over 1,000 listings."

The report outlined that governments around the world are now setting up partnerships and facilitating cooperation between local tourism stakeholders and hosting platforms like Airbnb, but in the Caribbean, "jurisdictions have found themselves lagging in understanding and responding to the ramifications and new opportunities which are presented."

Asked about the effect of sites like Airbnb in the Virgin Islands, Lisa Hamilton, who heads up the USVI Hotel and Tourism Association, said, "It's a loaded question."

"Obviously, adding room content will add to our leverage for air lift [more flights coming in and out of the territory], but we have to make sure that [the Airbnb providers] are doing it right," said Hamilton. "Some are, but some are not. They're not paying gross receipts taxes. They're not paying the 12.5 percent hotel tax."

In addition to not paying their fair share of taxes to support a destination's infrastructure and marketing costs, some participants in the sharing economy are disrupting the long-held arrangements between developers and lenders. This is particularly true of islands that have based their economy on the proliferation of condominium development. Concern is rising as individual condominium owners are now listing their units on Airbnb and VRBO at significantly lower rates.

"Independently rented resort condos — some boasting offering 70 percent off the resort rates — are upsetting the financial models adopted to support debt financing and operational costs," according to the CHTA report. "Failure by governments and condo resort operators to address this quickly can undermine the entire model and have serious negative consequences on its future and the destinations where the operations are predominant."

The report urges governments to adapt to the new economy to ensure they are not left behind.

What it Takes to be Legal

The Virgin Islands government has not set up any categories in its licensing structure to accommodate the new sharing economy.

It's unclear whether an individual homeowner using Airbnb needs to apply for a business license if the owner or "host" occupies the dwelling with the "guest," and they share a common indoor stairway, according to one real estate expert.

But if the unit is separate, even if it's only a studio, the owner must apply for an "Apartment House D" license, according to Cherokee Thomas, a licensing officer with the Department of Licensing and Consumer Affairs. If one

person is renting out one unit, she or he may apply for a sole proprietorship license which costs \$130 annually with a \$12 application fee. If there are several units, the owner must get a business license, which involves applying for an EIN number from the Federal Government.

All of this can be done online. Thomas made the process sound fairly quick and easy, but before obtaining a license, an owner must pass inspections from DLCA and the Fire Department, and obtain a tax clearance letter from the Virgin Islands Bureau of Internal Revenue.

Complying with government regulations "is actually the hardest thing to do," said one long-term owner of short-term rental properties. "The process is not consistent."

Unlike many hosts, this resident does everything strictly legally — paying all his taxes and licensing fees for his units which he lists on Airbnb, Home Away, and VRBO. In addition, he pays \$30,000 a year to a management company and \$15,000 to cleaners to maintain his properties.

This property owner said he wonders how long those who don't comply with government regulations can stay below the radar in terms of reporting income.

"The money goes through a credit card and gets wired to your bank account," he said. "Airbnb takes a deposit once a reservation is made and holds funds until the day after check in."

These transactions leave a digital trail that can be traced, he added.

Although this resident does things strictly legally, he did not want *St. John Tradewinds* to publish his name. In fact, there's no shyer group of people on St. John than Airbnb hosts. Although several were willing to speak to *Tradewinds* about their experiences renting portions of their homes through Airbnb, none was willing to go on record. All of them, however, said they were happy to have the option of being Airbnb hosts.

"I believe in the individual, and these businesses like Airbnb and VRBO give more power to the individual owner of a home," said one property owner.

Most cited financial reasons for becoming hosts: to supplement their income after retiring; to keep up with the cost of living; to afford to pay for home improvements. Some said they do it for more social reasons: To fill an empty space left by a child who's grown and moved away or a family member who has passed away. Others wanted to expand their horizons and genuinely enjoy meeting Airbnb travelers, who tend to be more adventurous and cosmopolitan.

"Go live somewhere," is Airbnb's current slogan, and foreign travelers, who are often more accustomed to home stays, are using the website to book lodging on St. John, especially in homes where hosts speak their language.

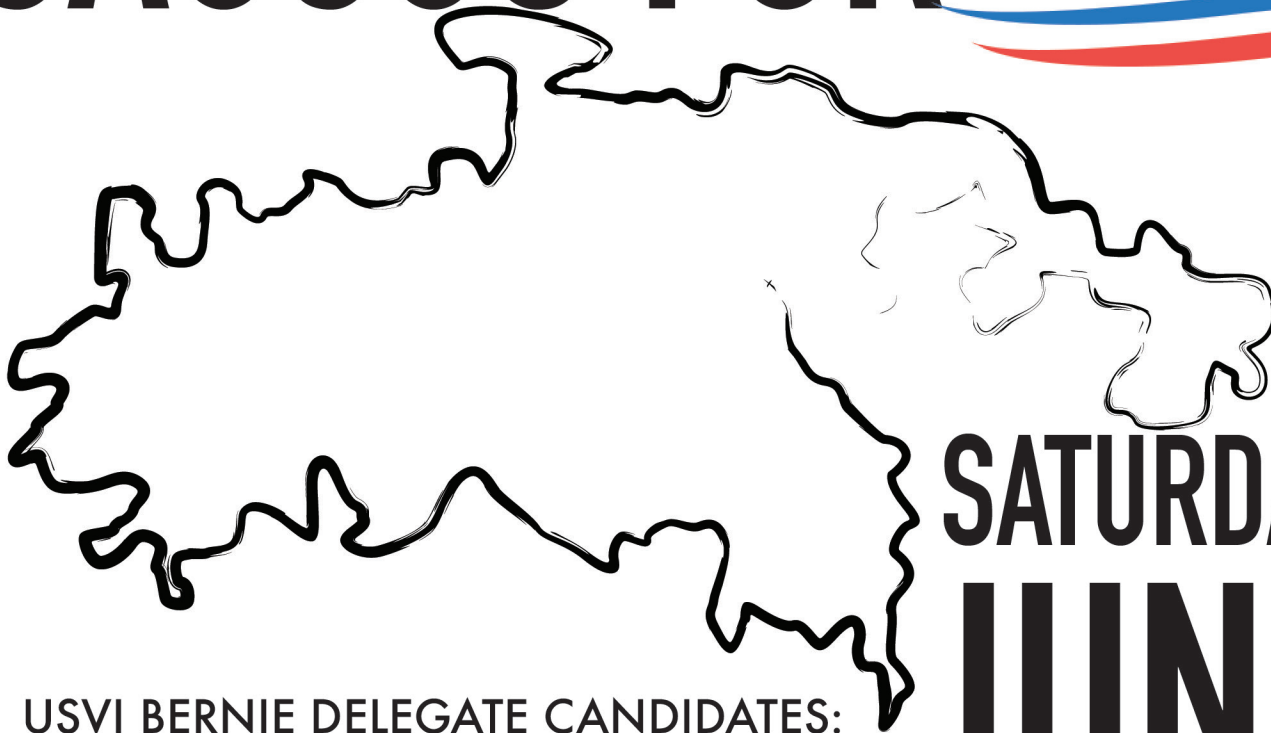
But there are tradeoffs.

"It does affect your privacy when you live on the property," said one VRBO owner. "I only rent from December through April because I want my privacy back."

Airbnb allows hosts to determine how much privacy they wish to keep. One St. John host prefers to keep her distance from guests who stay in a separate downstairs unit but will occasionally invite someone she likes upstairs. Another couple allows full access to their home and invites guests to share their kitchen. Others let their guests find their own way.

This is Part 1 of a Series on Airbnb written by Amy Roberts. See the next issue of St. John Tradewinds for more on this interesting island topic.

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*St. John Tradewinds*

This year marks the Centennial of the creation of the National Park Service; the agency responsible for the management of the country's national parks and historic sites.

While the agency turns 100 this year Yellowstone, our oldest park, is 144 and new parks are being created every year. Virgin Islands National Park reaches its 60th year this fall and Virgin Islands Coral Reef National Monument is now 15 years old.

The National Park System is constantly changing and the work of protecting these amazing places doesn't happen in a vacuum. Even back when Yellowstone was created there was an ardent group of citizens interested in preserving the landscape and wildlife there.

The same thing happened during the creation of Virgin Islands National Park. Parks usually get created because there is an interested person or group of people who want the land or site protected forever and are willing to do the hard work to make it so.

The work of operating a park doesn't happen in a vacuum either. The NPS depends on interested volunteers and partners to meet its mission "to preserve and protectto allow for the enjoyment.... for the benefit of this and future generations."

At VINP, we could not do this without our park partners and volunteers. Volunteers donated 16,500 hours (the equivalent of eight full time employees) of their precious time to the Park in 2015. Volunteers provide tours of Annaberg, assist rangers on park hikes, support the park dive team and staff our visitor center, among other things. Without their help, the NPS would struggle to provide the kind of experiences that visitors expect from a national park.

There are also a number of non-profit organizations that support the park: The Friends of Virgin Islands National Park and the St. Thomas Historical Trust are just two of them. The

NOTES FROM THE SUPERINTENDENT'S DESK

By Virgin Islands National Park & Coral Reef National Monument

Superintendent Brion FitzGerald

Working with Friends and Partners

Friends operate our visitor center bookstore and gift shop, raise funds and provide hundreds of thousands of dollars in support to the park each year. They provide funding for the multitude of children's programs here, including School Kids in the Park, our Learn to Swim program for local youth and the Ranger in Training, Science and Eco Camps.

The Friends coordinate almost all of the park trail maintenance work each year using labor provided by volunteers. The park's highly regarded archaeology program is almost completely funded by the Friends. If you would like to learn more about the Friends and all the good work they do for Virgin Islands National Park, please visit their website at www.FriendsVINP.org.

There is a treasure located in Charlotte Amalie harbor known as Hassel Island. A total of 114 acres of the 134 acre island are part of Virgin Islands National Park. The St. Thomas Historical Trust is our vital partner providing many hours of labor on Hassel Island, keeping trails open and obtaining funds for ruins stabilization there. The Friends and the Trust also work together to help the Park accomplish projects on Hassel. If you would like more information about the STHT please visit their website at www.StThomasHistoricalTrust.org.

Much has changed since the establishment of the National Park Service in 1916 but one thing has stayed the same; our need for the support of dedicated citizens in helping to preserve, protect and educate on behalf of our national parks.

In fact, the need for friends and partners grows stronger and more important every day. Speaking on behalf of our staff and the NPS, we are very grateful for all of the people that help us meet our mission and the needs of our visitors each and every day.

I hope to see you out in the park.

New Crosswalk Soon Come to Bordeaux

*By Mary Bourassa
St. John Tradewinds*

Stop when a school bus stops to let children get off; it's basic driving safety that Lorelei Monsanto says many people on St. John are forgetting.

Around the u-shape curve in front of her restaurant Chateau Bordeaux, Monsanto has seen many dangerous situations when the school bus has stopped to let students disembark.

"Cars just go around," she said, cutting across into the oncoming lane and even sometimes partially through the median just to pass the bus.

In this situation both the curve and the bus block visibility making an unsafe situation for students on foot who could unknowingly step out into the path of a passing motorist.

It's a dangerous situation at a blind curve in Centerline Road with many young, excited children involved.

And unfortunately with the narrow, windy roads of St. John, this kind of situation has proved deadly in the past. In 2005 a second grade student from Julius E. Sprauve Elementary School was stuck by a delivery truck in Cruz Bay on his way home from a Christmas party at school.

To improve the situation and protect young lives, Monsanto along with Friends of St. John, a group of local business leaders she's a part of who meet weekly at Chateau Bordeaux, has teamed up with Department of Public Works officials.

With paint donated by Monsanto and Friends of St. John, the DPW officials will paint a crosswalk at Chateau Bordeaux at the end of May. It will hopefully be a visual reminder to drivers that when the bus stops, pedestrians are present and drivers need to yield.

*St. John Tradewinds News Photo by Mary Bourassa*

The ceremonial donation of paint for a crosswalk at Chateau Bordeaux. Pictured from left to right: DPW's Kethney Williams (holding paint can); William Willigerod, Friends of St. John (holding paint can); Lorelei Monsanto, owner Chateau Bordeaux; and DPW's Derron Jordan.

The Trouble with Island Trash

By Mary Bourassa
St. John Tradewinds

It's no secret that trash is a problem on St. John. From overflowing dumpsters to plastic bags consumed by sea turtles to abandoned cars slowly being reclaimed by the island, the impact of garbage is easy to see on St. John but difficult to resolve.

One group that is looking into the trash problem is Friends of St. John, a group of business owners who meet every Friday at Chateau Bordeaux to discuss current island issues (meetings start at noon, all are invited to attend). For their meeting on May 20, the group invited representatives from the Virgin Islands Waste Management Authority (VIWMA) to speak.

During the meeting, local business owners discussed garbage issues specific to commercial entities including the inability of VIWMA to consistently dispose of specialty items like motor oil, proposed tipping fees at the Susannaberg Transfer Station, and the future of both commercial and residential waste in the territories.

In response to their questions VIWMA Director of Solid Waste Mario Leonard and Susannaberg Transfer Station Supervisor Avery Christian talked openly about some of the current challenges faced by waste management in the Virgin Islands and how VIWMA is moving forward with garbage collection on St. John.

One of the biggest hurdles for the island's garbage is transportation, according to Leonard.

Without an actual landfill on St. John (Susannaberg Landfill was closed in the 1990s after an underground fire), garbage on the island is collected and compacted at the Susannaberg Transfer Station then shipped to the Bovoni Landfill on St. Thomas. The transportation costs alone to move the 9,000-10,000 tons of annual solid waste from St. John to St. Thomas are over \$1 million.

Additionally the VIWMA does not have its own barge or transportation system, so they rely on private companies to do the leg work which can cause added problems when those companies get backlogged.

Take for example motor oil. Though the Susannaberg Transfer Station accepts motor oil, transporting the oil off island falls to Regulated Waste Management Inc. When they are unable to make a pick-up, the holding igloos at Susannaberg can fill completely which means they'll temporarily be unable to accept oil.

Unfortunately, some residents who are turned away then dispose of their oil by mixing it in with regular household garbage at area dumpsters, ditching it at Cruz Bay gas stations or simply dumping it in the wild; all of which are illegal and disastrous for the environment. Christian acknowledged that like many things on St. John, maintaining consistency is a continual challenge for VIWMA.

VIWMA is also still trying to become self-sustaining, and so their current limited budget translates into only being able to provide limited services. Currently VIWMA is funded by a combination of sources including the anti-litter fund, St. John capital improvement fund, sewer fund, the general fund and federal grants. However, creating a sustainable profit stream of its own would help VIWMA open up more possibilities for waste management.



One way they are looking at raising money is by collecting tipping fees at the Susannaberg Transfer Station. The fees range from \$31.28 to \$65.26 per ton depending on the type of material being dumped: fill waste \$31.28; scrap metal \$39.15; municipal solid waste \$52.13; green waste \$52.13; construction and demolition waste \$65.26; and mixed waste \$65.26. By collecting fees VIWMA will take a step toward becoming self sufficient and providing its own funding for future improvements at Susannaberg.

However, the biggest unanswered question at the meeting was what will happen to St. John garbage in the future when the territory dumps are full. Currently both the Anguilla Landfill on St. Croix and the Bovoni Landfill on St. Thomas are slated to reach capacity and then be closed in the next several years. The unique topography of the territory makes finding new dump sites extremely difficult, and establishing new sites or expanding current sites is expensive.

There has also been little progress in the Virgin Islands in the way of green disposal (for example composting), commercial recycling programs (like crushing cement to sand to make new cement) or waste-to-energy options; much to the discouragement of many at the Friends of St. John meeting who believed finding an alternative, environmentally friendly and profit producing system of waste disposal is integral to sustainable habitation on St. John.

So while steps are being made now to improve current conditions, the future of garbage on St. John is still largely unknown. And it is something that affects everyone.

"This affects us all," said Leonard.

For the individual St. John resident, there are ways in which to help with waste control that VIWMA cannot. For example, while the terrain of St. John does not allow for large scale composting, individual homes could compost their own green waste in private or small community compost piles.

Also, there is a push on St. John to join the growing anti-plastic bag movement; places like San Padre Island, Maui, and Ireland have all banned or taxed bags. Plastic debris directly threatens over 200 species of marine life because of ingestion or entanglement; with life on St. John so closely tied to the ocean, plastic poses a palpable threat.

Local residents can push their government representatives to pass legislation limiting plastic on St. John, an act VIWMA cannot do. Though many issues were left unresolved at the meeting, it was clear that joint cooperation will be necessary to take on the growing garbage issue facing St. John.

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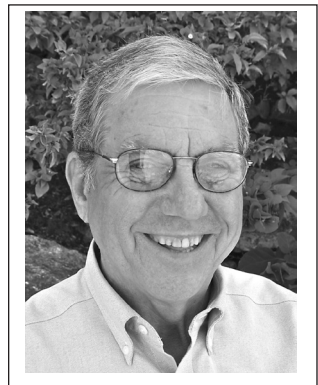
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Historical Bits & Pieces

by Chuck Pishko

VI Constitution: Foundation for Progress Part One

St. John Tradewinds

After 50 years of transfer negotiations between the United States and Denmark, one would assume that the Treaty of August 4, 1916 would be a finely-polished document covering every possible contingency.

Not so. The most critical issue of citizenship was left incomplete and subject to misinterpretation and court interpretation.

A treaty provision granted "citizenship in the United States" which Virgin Islanders assumed meant U.S. citizenship. VI contacts in Washington, including the Congress, and the local Naval Administration all appeared to share this assumption. Examples abound to support this. For example, in 1918 the US Labor Department announced that wartime labor requirements would be met by Puerto Rican and VI American citizens.

Congress extended the jurisdiction of the local courts to all cases where the US "or any citizen thereof" may be a party. If they meant to exclude Virgin Islanders, the courts would have remained empty. The Naval Administration Codes provided that a juror had to be a citizen where he lived or a US citizen.

It wasn't until March 9, 1920 that a definitive statement was made by a US official, Acting Secretary Frank L. Polk stating that the State Department was issuing passports "to inhabitants of the Virgin Islands entitled to the protection of the United States.... They have American nationality and are entitled to the protection of the government, but have not the civil and political status of citizens of the United States."

Polk's rationalization of this denial defies logic revolving around the treaty's use of the word citizenship "in" rather than "of" which meant all the difference. Islanders felt that since they were acquired by purchase or transfer, and not

the spoils of war, they should have full citizenship. (Boyer pp136-8)

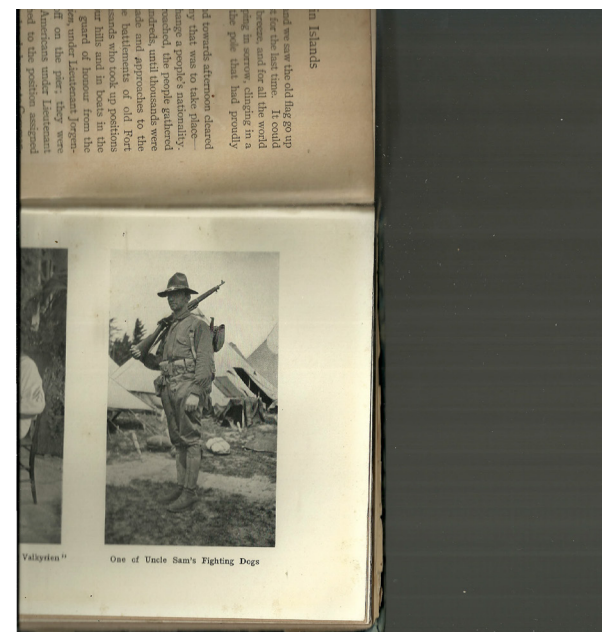
It's important to note the original organic act, the Northwest Ordinance of 1787, had three stages of political development whereby colonies or unincorporated territories would become states. The periods were strong executive control, followed by representative government and eventual statehood. To have people ruled by the US without their eventual full inclusion in the union would fly in the face of the principles won in the American Revolution.

The states of Ohio, Indiana, Illinois, Michigan and Wisconsin were established under this original organic act. Congress generally fosters self-government, guaranteed fundamental constitutional rights, and statehood. Indeed the Constitution was following the flag.

The Treaty of Paris of 1898 ceded the Philippines, Guam, and Puerto Rico to the U.S. Unfortunately these territories were populated by people of alien cultures, languages, and political heritages. Now for the first time in US expansionist history, no promise was made of statehood or citizenship.

The treaty held that political status and citizenship would be determined by Congress. The Supreme Court in the case of *Downes v. Bidwell* (182US244, 1901) developed a new doctrine of "incorporation" which denies the application of the Constitution to the non-contiguous territories: a complete reversal and contrary to the Declaration of Independence and the Northwest Ordinance of 1787. (Boyer p195) This was the political and legal climate that the USVI entered.

From the beginning of negotiations in the 1860s, the overwhelming value of the Virgin Islands were military in nature. The coaling station and harbor provided a berth for damaged ships and a secure place for captured Confederate



St. John Tradewinds News Photo

New guardian of the peace.

ships. (Dookhan p248) The building of the Panama Canal and the need to track European ships only increased the value over time.

While the Naval Administration accomplished important health and educational programs, it failed to foster and grant those political and democratic freedoms necessary to actuate their full development. The administration quickly allied itself with the existing Danish government and Congress kept the Danish Colonial Law of 1906 in effect.

Secretary of State Robert Lansing, who negotiated the 1916 Transfer, observed the political incapacities and incompetence of the American Blacks from his dealings with Haiti. (Langley p72) Also the Navy and Marine Corps recently bloodied in Haiti brought a plethora of their Southern prejudice with them. This temporary government lasted in principle for some 20 years, an inauspicious beginning.

V.I. patriots, Rothchild Francis, Hamilton Jackson, Casper Holstein and Ashley Totten petitioned Congress for citizenship. Congress was eventually moved to grant United States citizenship to most Virgin Islanders in 1927, a full 10 years after the transfer. This grant of citizenship was announced with great fanfare on the occasion of the inauguration of Captain Waldo Evans as the seventh Navy governor in 10 years. Subsequently, a 1932 Act of Congress granted American citizenship to all natives of the Virgin Islands, regardless of their place of residence on January 17, 1917.

Mega Yacht *Adastra* Makes a Splash Around St. John



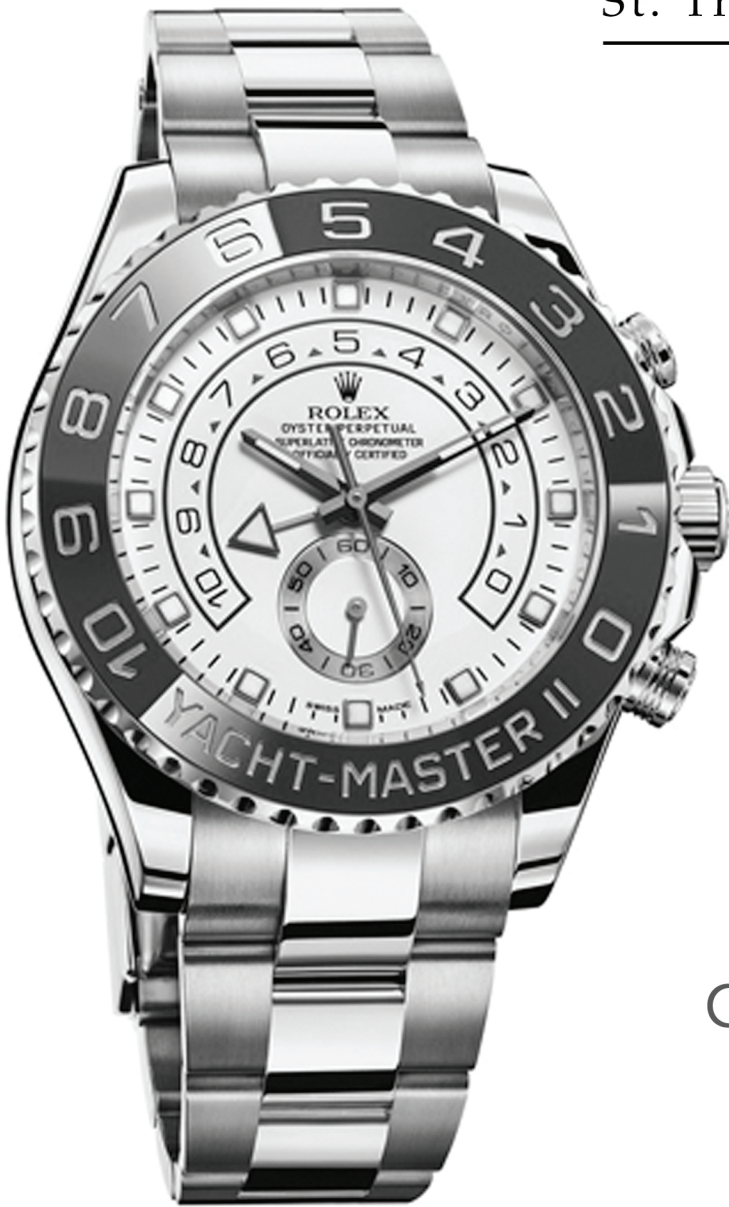
St. John Tradewinds News Photos by Mares Crane

The 140-foot super high tech mega yacht *Adastra*, whose bow and stern are shown at left, turned more than a few heads as the vessel owners spent time in several bays around St. John last week.

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Letters to *St. John Tradewinds*

Enough Politics?

St. John Tradewinds

Long ago, it seemed that the only time we engaged in politics was the time in which to promote and vote for the candidates. Now it seems that every day, we are engaging in political talk, study and conversations. Our world has become one giant battlefield of egos, wills and ideas.

As our society gets “smarter” our daily lives have gotten more political whether we are discussing family issues, church, healthcare, recreational activities etc.

Our focus has shifted from “we the people” to “they the government.” And the funny aspect is, we have seen how the previous and current have failed us, yet come November, some of us will once again make that trek to the voting booth and cast that ballot; therefore prolonging this insanity.

I believe that the time has come for us to cease and desist. I fully realize and understand the sacrifice that our people have made in order to give us those rights. But I'm sure that we weren't supposed to be mindless robots just going along with the system.

Here are some questions to ask yourself before dismissing this thought. Have the number of senators been reduced? Has the trash problem been properly addressed? Has the property tax issue been given high priority by the officials? Can we afford to pay high electrical bills?

If we do not get serious about this upcoming voting season, all roads lead to further chaos. Candidates will continue to feed us more rhetoric while we waste more of our time, energy and money campaigning for the same results.

Recently the teachers and police staged a protest concerning their needs. Well, we need to add our bodies to this endeavour. Let the whole V.I. know that St. John has had enough. For years, our leaders have brought their knives, forks and spoons to the dinner table and have feasted off the sumptuous meal that the taxpayers have provided. Now, all that is left are the crumbs on the table. It's time to stop feeding this entity.

Simplify.

Emmanuel Prince



Vandalism is Not Art

St. John Tradewinds

Why is it that some of us always try to find excuses for different types of expression?

Yes, this is expression, and maybe art. But more importantly, it's also categorized as vandalism to public property. It's not a collaboration. I'm guessing the spray paint artist (vandal) didn't seek permission to express on the side of the dumpster? How about if they express by urinating or defecating on it? Is that artful collaboration?

Think with your brain for a second. A collaboration is an agreement that is made between people by working together to create something, whether it's art or a structure. There are great graffiti artists out there. They should just seek permission from the community to display their expression; that's collaboration.

I come from a big city, where many tolerate and promote unfettered non-permitted nuisance/nonsense graffiti and other. They consider it as an expression or art. How thoughtful and accepting they are!

But really, public and private property is simply being vandalized and destroyed because of this liberal, tolerant view of degenerative activity. As a business owner, I have spent thousands of dollars to repair and repaint over unwanted graffiti. For those of us that tolerate or commend this type of expression, maybe you'll want to collaborate with the artist before they choose colors for the side of your house, car, business, etc.

Passer-by

Crossword & Cryptoquote Answers

(Puzzles located on Page 20)

Answer to May 29 Cryptoquip:

IF SINGERS JAGGER AND FLEETWOOD ENJOY MANY DIFFERENT KINDS OF STYLES, WHAT COULD YOU CALL THEM? ECLECTIC MICKS.

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St. John Tradewinds

Next Deadline for Letters

is:

Thursday, June 9th

Letters to *St. John Tradewinds*

Coral Bay Redevelopment — Done the Right Way

St. John Tradewinds

We are all familiar with the mantra to Reduce, Reuse, and Recycle. These are critical concepts not only for our waste management practices, but also for our development practices. Too often a developer looks at a parcel and their first thought is to demolish what is there, bring in new materials, and construct something new. However, when we start to look at our landscape in terms of how we can reduce our footprint, reuse what is already there, and recycle our older structures into new uses, then we can lessen our impact on the environment while still moving forward. We are very fortunate that these concepts are now being put into practice in Coral Bay.

After almost a decade of neglect, the “Voyages Building” in Coral Bay is now being refurbished, and the new owner – Paul Sabers – met with me to discuss his plans and aspirations to preserve Coral Bay for future generations. I’d like to share with you what I’ve learned of Paul’s plans.

You may recall that the Summer’s End Group had hoped to convert the Voyages building into a private yacht club, with a 1000’ pier extending more than half way across Coral Bay straight from the main entrance of Voyages. Part of their plan was to demolish existing structures, pave new parking areas, and transform the entire area into their vision of the future. Well that, thankfully, is never going to happen.

Paul Sabers saw the potential for Voyages to become a multi-use property, combining short term apartment rental,

dining, and small shops under a single roof. His experience in rehabilitating distressed properties made this a perfect fit for his expertise. Voyages is a remarkable property, and Paul intends for the refurbished property to become a beautiful addition to the already thriving Coral Bay scene. Here are a few of the many things Paul and I discussed over a couple days last week:

- Paul is adamantly opposed to the Summer’s End Group marina project. He is not an investor and he said he would never invest in such an ill-conceived project. He recognizes that the location is unsuited for a marina due to the exposure, and that the project could never succeed for a myriad of reasons.

- As a father of young children, Paul wants to help protect the unique beauty and tranquility of Coral Bay so it can be enjoyed by future generations. He sees Coral Bay, as we all do, as something special to be cherished and protected.

- The unique architectural details and setting of the Voyages building are things that Paul wants to showcase. He plans to construct a low impact parking area in the back to avoid blocking the view to the open water. He wants to minimize paved areas, and create an open, inviting presence. His concepts will enhance, rather than replace existing businesses in Coral Bay.

- Sabers told me that he has been in the USVI for forty years and he has personally seen how the cottage ecotourism industry of Coral Bay has been built one house at a

time, over years, by individuals investing their life’s savings in creating something special. A large yacht marina in Coral Bay would destroy all of that while possibly lining the pockets of a few well-placed individuals. This is precisely the economic argument against large scale commercial development which we have been making for years, and it was gratifying to me to hear Paul say exactly what we have been saying, in his own words.

After spending time with Paul, having a heartfelt and sincere discussion, I came away feeling that his heart is in the right place and his plans for Voyages will enhance the Coral Bay we all love.

Needless to say this development with Voyages places another huge wrinkle in the already infeasible plans of Summer’s End. The SEG “project” is now cut down the middle with the loss of the Voyages building and the lot behind it. The time is right for the Summer’s End Group to cut their losses, admit that their project was not the right project for Coral Bay, and move on to something else.

On behalf the thousands of supporters of Save Coral Bay, I would like to welcome Paul Sabers to our community and encourage everyone to show their support for his efforts to revitalize an important piece of our landscape.

David Silverman for Save Coral Bay

Please visit our website <http://SaveCoralBay.com>.

Constitution vs. Corporation

St. John Tradewinds

In 1871, The United States of American, incorporated. Soon after that, the states also incorporated and later on, the counties and cities incorporated.

The effect of this legally, was to create a second government paralleling the constitutional government, that was not beholden to the U.S. constitution but only to corporate law.

This means that for every government political position from the state governor’s seat to the congress and president, there is actually two seats, the constitutional seat and the corporate seat.

Up until about 20 years ago, all of the constitutional seats were vacated and all the corporate seats were occupied.

About that time, the new governor of Colorado announced that he was going to occupy the constitutional seat and vacate the corporate seat of the governor. Since then, other state governors began occupying their constitutional seats and vacating corporate seats.

Up until the last state governor’s election, we had 45 states governors occupying their constitutional seats. After the last election, we lost 5 constitutional governors and now there are 40 constitutional states. We lost a few but that is of little consequence in the long run. We will gain them back. Some of these governors upon completing their terms of office, have gone into Congress in the House of Representatives, to work at restoring Congress to constitutional order again. And it is an uphill battle against the corporate United States of America, and the fur has been flying, and the battle continues.

The point I’m going to make is this:

There is a very strong legal possibility, that the colossal debt that has been incurred by the U.S. Federal Government is only owed by the corporate United States of American and NOT by the constitutional United States. That means the corporate U.S. can declare bankruptcy and shut down and that will leave the constitutional U.S. free of debt and will allow the U.S. Treasury to print new treasury bills again.

All this depends on returning to constitutional government in a solid way with firm intent occupying all the constitutional seats of governance and vacating all of the corporate seats.

I’m sure the lawyers would love to argue this endlessly, but eventually the buck stops with the judges of the Supreme Court. The seven banks of the European world banking cartel, who literally own and operate the indebted corporate U.S. government, do not want the free people of the constitutional United States to realize this. The bankers are the ones who have convinced us that “debt” is an asset. And if you will believe that, you will believe anything. Debt may be an asset to a banker but debt to a nation or an individual is economic slavery. And that is exactly where the USVI is headed.

To regain our prosperity we must return to constitutional law. There is no other path I see that is open to us. This current move into oligarchy and the abandonment of constitutional law, will lead directly to political and social lawlessness.

If there is no law for our government and our leaders, there is no law for anyone.

Set our people free of bureaucracy of government and restore our constitutional law, liberties and rights, and we the people, will build a real economy here in the USVI and have peace and prosperity once again. The true power of any nation lives in the people, both economically and politically. The people are the producers that generate real wealth in the nation. And from the people come the real leaders of the nation.

Free people, free market and free enterprise bring social and economic stability and produce wealth every time. Thank you for listening.

Howard Carter

ALCHOLICS 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

Senators Celebrate African Liberation Week

St. John Tradewinds

Sen. Myron Jackson, Chair of the Committee on Culture, Historic Preservation, Youth and Recreation, hosted a program in celebration of African Liberation Week last week, on the grounds of the Capitol Building.

The observance was "to recognize our struggles in our freedom for our rights to be free men and women," Blyden said.

African Liberation Week is in recognition of the adoption of Bill No. 18-0147 which names the third week in May as African Liberation Week, in homage of Africans brought to the Virgin Islands by force, taken away from their homeland, family and culture.

The event began with a libation ceremony followed by song and dance from the students of the Addelita Cancryn School as well as the Ulla Muller Elementary School's Bamboula dancers.

Community culture bearers shared words of wisdom and encouragement but added that the community must have an urgency to continue the work of those that came before us.

"We can celebrate our culture when we have eliminated and eradicated colonialism," said Leba Ola-Niyi of the Pan African Support Group.

Colonialism and slavery eradicated our humanity and history; we have to reach self-determination, he added.

Members of the Legislative Youth Advisory Council, Yohance Henley and AnuMaat Davis-Kahina also took part.

Henley, a recent college graduate of the University of the Virgin Islands, spoke of some of the challenges young men and women face in their local community.

A day, a week, even a year, is not sufficient to fight the "psycho academic warfare" that young men in the territory face in the struggle between choosing the pursuit of education versus a lucrative life of crime. African Liberation, like American history, should be celebrated every day, he said.

Anna Francis, Advisor of the Environmental Rangers concurred.

"Culture is not something that happens once a month but it's something you live daily," Francis said.

Cultural education under the auspices of Mavis Brady, Ruth Moolenaar and others were abundant in the past, said Senator Jackson.

It is imperative, though "to make sure that our children understand our environment and the fruits of their land," he said. "We just need to continue the work."

Senators in attendance were Marvin Blyden, Jean Forde, Novelle Francis, Clifford Graham, Justin Harrigan, Positive Nelson and Tregenza Roach.

Obituary

Dr. Hamer Lacey January 29, 1925 - April 29, 2016

St. John Tradewinds

Gloucester, MA. - Dr. Hamer Lacey, 91, husband of former Julius E. Sprauve teacher on St. John, Charlotte (Sawyer) Fish Lacey, retired pediatrician, died April 29, 2016.

He was born on January 29, 1925 in Keene N.H. Hamer joined the Navy and served on the *USS Thorn* in WWII. He completed his undergraduate degree and graduated from Boston University medical school. He served his residency at Children's Hospital, Boston. He was married for 53 years to Marjorie Lacey and they had five children.

Dr. Lacey served Gloucester as a pediatrician for 36 years. In that time his skill, kindness and support of mothers and children made him an important part of the community.

After retiring in 1989, Dr. Lacey pursued his other interests. He loved music and art and traveled extensively.

After his wife died, he met and married Charlotte Fish Lacey, who had just relocated to Gloucester after 25 years of living on St John. Together, they spent 13

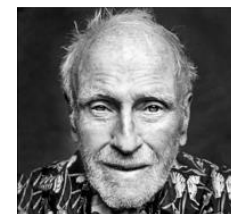
years travelling in Europe, the Americas and Asia.

They were active in anti-war activities in Gloucester, Boston and Washington, DC.

They met and were active members of the Gloucester Unitarian Universalist Church and spent winters at Samuel Cottages on St. John.

Hamer's life was about making the world a better place with his medical practice, letters to the editor, personal relationships, gardens and charitable giving.

He is survived by his wife, Charlotte, sister Ninon Chaet, children, Carolyn Porter, David, Mark and Peter Lacey, 7 grandchildren, 12 great grandchildren; step children Natasha Balsom, Lisa Conley, Nancy Liburd and Karl Fish; 8 step grandchildren including Monique and Lincoln Liburd who were born here in the islands and 2 step great-grandchildren.



BIR Hikes Excise Tax Rates for Cigarettes and Cigars

St. John Tradewinds

Director of the Virgin Islands Bureau of Internal Revenue Marvin Pickering, EA, PHR, announced last week that increases to the excise tax rates for cigarettes, cigars and other tobacco products will go into effect on June 1.

In accordance with Act No. 7839, the excise tax rate on cigarettes has increased to 45 percent. In addition, in accordance with Act No. 7852, the excise tax on cigars and other tobacco products, not including cigarettes, has increased to 25 percent.

The BIR's excise tax system and the appropriate online tax forms have been revised to reflect the change commencing on the implementation date of June 1. Excise taxpayers are urged to update their internal systems to reflect the increase in tax for these two categories.

Taxpayers who have questions concerning the increase in the tax rates can call the Office of Chief Counsel at (340) 715-1040, ext. 2248.

Pam Kristan Speaking at June 5 & 12 UU Meetings

St. John Tradewinds

Join the Unitarian Universalist Fellowship of St. John at 10 a.m., on Sundays at Giffit Hill School lower campus.

On June 5 Pam Kristan will speak on "Doing or Being ... or both." Are we human beings? Or human doings? We're so used to Do Do Doing that the quality of Being gets short-changed. We need to right the balance. Each mode can then interpenetrate the other making our lives a full, rich mix of both action and awareness, striving and allowing, Doing and Being.

On June 12 Kristan will speak on "Everyday Creativity: Life As Art." Even if we never pick up a brush, chisel, or pen, we are artists. The moments of our lives furnish an ever-renewable source of 'art supplies' from which we create our own humble, yet grand artwork. Bringing out our unique gifts, we play our part in the great, vivid symphony that is life.

Kristan, author of "Awakening In Time: Practical Time Management for Those on a Spiritual Path" and "The Spirit of Getting Organized: 12 Skills To Find Meaning & Power In Your Stuff," has been offering retreats, workshops, and consultations in spiritually-oriented time management since 1985. Her experience with administrative details, the artistic life, spirituality, and the natural world give her a unique position bridging the creative and the practical. Her eclectic spirituality draws on text-based, channeled, and earth-centered traditions.

On the Market



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

Enjoy Stunning Sunset Vistas from Yellowbird

St. John Tradewinds

With two apartment units spread over two spacious floors, Yellowbird offers tons of potential for new owners looking to off-set some costs.

This recently renovated home consists of a total of three bedrooms and three bathrooms and is for sale for \$745,000, explained Tammy Donnelly, owner/broker of 340 Real Estate Company.

“This property has such pretty gardens and boasts ample flat room to expand and even add a larger pool,” said Donnelly.

Nestled on a quiet cul-de-sac in Estate Enighed not far from the shopping, dining and nightlife of Cruz Bay, Yellowbird offers the best of both worlds.

You’ll surely feel a million miles away from the hustle and bustle of life, while only needing to drive a few minutes to reach the conveniences of town.

The famed alabaster beaches of St. John are also only a short drive away.

You’ll never tire of the year-round sunset views or watching the lights of St. Thomas across the Pillsbury Sound

flicker to life in the distance.

The lush one-third of an acre property boasts beautiful and well-kept gardens. The property also features a small dipping pool, perfect for cooling off after a long day of shopping or working on that tan, and a detached workshop and storage area.

Inside Yellowbird, find two units over two floors. The upper floor of the main house features a large living area with a charming Caribbean style exposed beam ceiling and an open plan kitchen.

This unit includes a master bedroom with a spacious master bathroom as well as a detached second bedroom and second bathroom.

The lower apartment boasts a comfortable living space and kitchen area with a covered breezeway featuring a sitting and dining area which connects to the bedroom and bath.

“With two full units upstairs and downstairs, Yellow bird offers to much opportunity,” said Donnelly. “An owner could live in one unit and rent out the other, keep the unit for guests or do a combination of both.”

“Plus having a large workshop on the property is a builder’s dream,” said the 340 Real Estate Company owner/broker.

For more information about Yellowbird, call Donnelly at (340) 643-6068 or (340) 779-4478.



St. John Tradewinds News Photos courtesy of 340 Real Estate

Enjoy watching jaw-dropping tropical sunsets from Yellowbird, far left. The home features two separate units on two floors. The upper living room, above middle. Views from the property are shown above. The property also features lush gardens, at top.



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

Unity of St. John VI

Meditation Sundays - www.unityofstjohn.org

Consumer Committee Approves Bill to Hike Mooring Fees by 200%



St. John Tradewinds

The Committee on Government Services, Consumer and Veterans' Affairs, chaired by Sen. Justin Harrigan, approved a measure to increase the fees relative to the mooring and anchoring of vessels in the territory last week.

"This bill is a necessary update of the mooring permits and fees which have remained the same for over two decades," said Sen. Novelle Francis Jr., the bill's sponsor. "These stagnant fees have created a burden on the Department of Planning and Natural Resources which has greater demands in enforcement more than ever. There are critics who say that a fee increase would be detrimental to the territory's marine industry; however, I believe the opposite — that a lack of enforcement is just as harmful to our marine industry."

Greer Scholes, Manager of the St. Thomas Yacht Club, provided a testimony on behalf of Commodore Dan Nicolosi in opposition of the measure. Scholes said that the 200% increase would negatively impact the territory's marine community, causing the islands to lose customers.

Legislators shared, however, that even with the increase, rates would still be competitive to other islands where higher rates are charged monthly or sometimes daily.

Scholes noted though, that higher rates on other islands come with services to offset other costs. The Department of Planning and Natural resources does not provide electricity, water, or mooring maintenance.

Department of Planning and Natural Resources Commissioner Dawn Henry said that other services are provided.

Enforcement and adequate search and rescue response is provided to the marine community at a cost to the department, according to Henry.

Ultimately, Bill No.31-0333 was approved with a vote of six yes, one absent (Jackson).

The Committee also considered a measure pertaining to the assessment of real property.

"This bill is to bring about checks and balances in the Office of the Tax Assessor," said Sen. Marvin Blyden, the measure's primary sponsor. "The bill provides language to separate and remove certain duties from the Tax Assessor's Office and requires the Lieutenant Governor through the collection's division to administer and enforce all laws relating to the collections of real property taxes."

"The tax assessor's office should not assess properties, collect property taxes and still give reduction in penalties," he said. "One entity cannot have so much control and influence."

Bill No. 31-0326 was held in committee with a vote of six yes, one absent (James).

Additionally, legislators received an update on the status of operations at the V.I. Taxicab Commission as well as an overview of the Taxi Industry in the Virgin Islands.

Officials spoke about the possibility of reinstating road taxes in exchange for allowing taxis to be used for personal and public use without incurring fines and enforcing the rules and regulations that create the best environment for visitors.

"Based on industry feedback, most taxi drivers provide a positive experience and the Department of Tourism commends those drivers who go 'above and beyond' daily to deliver memorable service," said Department of Tourism Assistant Commissioner Joyce Griffin.

"There is a small percentage of drivers that have not quite gotten it, making the overall image of taxi drivers as a 'poor and unfriendly' experience," Griffin said. "An encounter with one from that small sub-group can cost the territory visitor vacations dollars. Therefore, DOT is in support of mandatory training certifications tied to registration and renewal. This would provide opportunity for the minority to improve."

Committee members present were Senators Harrigan, Myron Jackson, Neville James, Positive Nelson, Tregenza Roach, Samuel Sanes, and Janette Millin Young. Non-committee members, Senators Marvin Blyden and Novelle Francis Jr., were also present.



Wine Talk with Paul

by Paul Tsakeres

How Wood Influences Wine

St. John Tradewinds

The influence of wood in winemaking has some very interesting things to offer the quality of a wine. Today, in the trends of wine consumption (as well as other social spheres) people can often be extremists and jump on a few bandwagons that in hindsight they discover are limited.

As is the case when people say they do not like oak in their wine. It has been a preferred vessel since antiquity so we might examine how it is being used Today. If we examine this trend a bit further it is actually quite promising. As people explore their tastes in wine and match it up with what they are actually drinking they notice....Hmmm \$5 Chuck makes me ill, an overly oaked \$2 wine sold as a value to you at \$5. Some actually use chemicals that will mimic the Oak since, after all, it is expensive. That is the market someone might fall for but don't go over the top in your generalizations about the use of wood in wine-making from drinking a wine like that.

Once a wine-maker decides to use wood barrels there are a staggering number of criteria to evaluate and prioritize. Beyond the choice of wood is the size of the vessel. A decision to use barrels or tanks has to be made and whether for fermentation or ageing. The amount of Oak influence is carefully regulated by the size and age of the barrel and the time it lives in it. The larger the size of the container the less effect on the wine.

The exact choice of wood is considered since it will have a powerful effect on flavor and structure. American Oak or French...air dried in Australia where it is hot and dry or in France where it is cool and moist. I bet you can imagine the difference. In Australia the heat draws out a concentration of oak flavors that are much higher than in France. A barrel will have a level of toasting to consider too.

The way a wine is made is not lost in all these decisions and the vintage itself the greatest variable of them all. It is generally preferred to use oak barrels that have had a slow medium toast to promote color stability. Wine-makers will use a percentage of new and used oak barrels to soften the influence and to season the barrels for a few seasons' work. Furthermore they will mix French and American barrels to gain the layering one describes in a complex wine.

Although stainless steel did away with many of the large older wooden tanks and does offer benefits the discussion here is about wood. We can talk about stainless steel next! Interestingly, the large Bottis in Italy were made of Chestnut Wood and often this style of wine-making is still utilized there.

Maneuvering through all these criteria is part of what makes these artists so impressive. Still the wine-maker has one final tool to use...his greatest tool...Time. In Italy, a traditional wine may sit in a large old wood cask for up to 4 years before it is decided to bottle it where it further develops before release. The Great Ones will tell a very humble story of what they do so well but you can see how detailed it really is for a quality wine of any price.

Cheers!

Unity of St. John Peace Hill Meditation Gatherings Take a Summer Break

St. John Tradewinds

Unity of St. John Peace Hill Community Sunset Meditation gatherings are taking an "off season recess," beginning in June until fall 2016 while so many people are off-island.

We'll continue in synchronized global meditations such as the Deepak Chopra-Oprah Winfrey worldwide Meditation for Compassion in July and ongoing World Meditation Days. We will post and share inspirational information and news on the Unity of St. John Facebook page and on our website www.UnityofStJohn.org.

Thanks for your participation and bringing your consciousness to the meditations this year. For more information email UnityofStJohn@gmail.com.



Island Cork

Starting our 4th Year

Thanks to You!

stop by and see what's new

GHS Student Kaitlyn Cummings goes to Monaco for Mouse Trap Car Competiton

St. John Tradewinds

Giff Hill School announced recently that Kaitlyn Cummings, class of 2016, had been selected as one of 12 finalists worldwide to compete in the annual Monaco Mouse Trap Car Grand Prix.

Cummings traveled to Monaco with GHS Physics teacher Jim Willen May 25 to June 1 to participate in the final competition.

The Monaco Mouse Trap Car Grand Prix is a contest that invites science students to demonstrate their knowledge by applying the laws of physics in designing and building a mouse trap car. The contest is conducted under the patronage of His Serene Highness Prince Albert II of Monaco.

This year's contest involved the design of a car that can traverse 10 meters in the shortest time. The students in Willen's physics class decided to enter this exciting contest. The students conducted tests on their cars during the months of January to April and used their test results to continually modify their cars.

On April 6, the final time trials were conducted in the Great Room at the Lower Campus of Giff Hill School. The Monaco Mouse Trap car officials were notified of the class results.

On May 5, the officials from Monaco notified Mr. Willen that Cummings was selected as one of the 12 finalists. The staff and students of Giff Hill School congratulate Cummings for all of her hard work.

Cummings will be graduating with the Class of 2016 on June 10 at 5 p.m. on Trayser Field at Giff Hill School's Upper Campus.

St. John Tradewinds Business Directory

Accommodations

Estate Concordia Preserve
tel. (340) 693-5855

Windspre Vacation Homes
Exclusively Coral Bay
Rentals & Management
tel. (340) 693-5423

Architecture

Crane, Robert - Architect, AIA
tel. (340) 776-6356
email rob@crane3.com

Art Galleries

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

Kimberly Boulon Fine Art Gallery
2nd Floor of The Marketplace
tel. (340) 693-8425

Green Building

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

Jewelry

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

Services

Caribbean Solar Company
Got Sun? Get Solar!
Call today for a Free Quote
tel. (340) 643-6007

St. John Hardware
Everything you need on St. John
tel. (340) 693-8780

St. John Solutions
How is your wood performing?
tel. (340) 201-6038

Sky Med USVI
Serving USVI for over 15 Years
tel (340) 277-1523

Landscaping

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

Skinny Legs
“A Pretty OK Place”
tel. 340-779-4982
www.skinnylegsvi.com

Concordia Cafe
Dine with a View
Call (340) 693-5855

Ronnie’s Pizza and Mo’
Great Pizza &
Island’s Biggest Vape Shop
tel. (340) 693-7700

FOR RELEASE SUNDAY, MAY 29, 2016

PREMIER CROSSWORD/ By Frank A. Longo

RECREATIONAL MATHEMATICS

ACROSS

- 1 Sovereign
9 “And on and on and on”: Abbr.
15 Like saltines
20 Fit to send via the postal service
21 Old-time comedian Russell
22 Designer Oscar de la —
23 Olive Oyl’s guy, to a math lover?
25 Hall’s partner in music
26 Chicken —
27 “Have — a deal for you!”
28 Increases, as debt
30 2011-15 speaker of the House
34 Huge grin, to a math lover?
38 Meditative discipline
39 “Oh really? — who?!”
41 Old Carl Sagan series
42 Guitarist Nugent

- 43 Layer with a “hole” in it
45 Hand lender
48 Narrow coastal inlet
49 R.E. Lee’s org.
52 Male Oscar category, to a math lover?
58 Cry audibly
59 Sir — Newton
60 One like the previous one
62 Suffix with leopard
65 Will subject
67 Lump of mayo, e.g.
69 Harsh in tone
70 “Les Misérables” author, to a math lover?
73 More done than “bloody,” to a math lover?
75 Pretty up
76 Mimic
77 Ballpark bite
78 Casual greetings
79 Cry upon arriving
81 Air, as an oldie

- 82 Wallach of “The Misfits”
85 Spinning measure, to a math lover?
92 — while
93 Extra NBA periods
94 Petrol station name
95 “— Marner”
96 Stick on
99 Reporter, informally
102 South, south of the border
104 Tetra- + five
105 Protective spirit, to a math lover?
110 Motoring TV series
112 No fewer than
113 Burglarizes
115 Jerry’s uncle on “Seinfeld”
116 Certain floor specialist
117 1950 black-comedy film noir, to a math lover?
125 Lift with effort
126 Motionless
127 Talked nonsense
128 Pack-toting animals

- 129 Carmelite nun
130 Vampire novelist

DOWN
1 Mini-demon
2 — Zedong
3 Domino spot
4 Pachyderms
5 Silky fabric
6 Alpine goats
7 Height stat
8 Utah City near Provo
9 Belgian artist James
10 Big name in breath mints
11 Tax doc. pro
12 U.S. aliens’ subj.
13 Hot brew
14 Storied duelist with a big nose
15 Gators’ kin
16 Supply with a new weapon
17 Have a hunch
18 Remington of 1980s TV
19 Went by
24 Yolk’s place
29 Med. x-ray
30 Party abbr. about drinks
31 Seep

- 32 Huge heads
33 Get as profit
35 Classical column style
36 “The ball — your court”
37 Hi-tech ‘zine
40 “Hush!”
44 Tijuana “that”
46 Prescription measure
47 Lyric Muse
50 Derision
51 Floral oil
53 Rival of Lyft
54 — kwon do
55 One-named Italian model
56 “Hey, I was thinking ...”
57 Glossy proof
61 Deli breads
62 “Well, Did You —?” (Cole Porter tune)
63 Nisan feast
64 Win points
66 SeaWorld killer whale
67 Outfits
68 Peculiarity
71 Roman fountain
72 Shallot’s kin
73 — code
74 Many moons
77 Mother bird

- 80 Singer Morissette
81 Bow rub-on
83 Guitarist Paul
84 Freezing up
86 City
87 “— trap!”
88 Beat big-time
89 Balm plant
90 Mama’s ma
91 Old overlord
96 Christie of mystery
97 Import taxes
98 City in Texas
100 Annoys a lot
101 Way to leave
103 Arrive, as fog
106 Christopher of “Superman”
107 Ventures
108 Bunch of, informally
109 Diminish
111 Annoy
114 Mixer choice
118 Aztec cousin
119 “I’m cold!”
120 View
121 It may dispense
13-Down
122 Old ring king
123 Abbr. on a camcorder
124 HST follower

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5-29

CRYPTOQUIP

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QOIV UFGGCJCM TFIUW EG WMVRCW, BYOM
ZENRU VEN ZORR MYCQ? CZRCZMFZ QFZTW.

Today’s Cryptoquip Clue: G equals F

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FESTIVAL & CULTURAL ORGANIZATION OF ST. JOHN, INC.

St. John Festival 2016

SCHEDULE OF EVENTS

Festival Village Honoree: Delrise Varlack
Festival Food Fair Honoree: Delroy “Ital” Anthony
Festival Parade Grand Marshal: Nikolay Hotze

FESTIVAL THEME:

History and Sights Unseen for
St. John Festival 2016

Submitted By: Tichelle Knight

SATURDAY, May 21, 2016

Festival Food Sale 2016

1p.m. Franklin A. Powell, Sr. Park
Contact: Linda S. Williams (340)-776-6444

SATURDAY, June 4, 2016

Festival PAN-O-RAMA 2016

4p.m. Franklin A. Powell, Sr. Park
Contact: Liston “Matey” Sewer (340)514-2341

SATURDAY, June 18, 2016

Festival BIKE RACE 2016

8a.m. St. John National Park Parking Lot
Contact: Jane Thill (340)514-6611

Festival MUSICAL MIX 2016

8p.m. Winston W. Wells Ball Field
Contact: (340) 690-3692/ 690-1725

SUNDAY, June 19, 2016

St. John Festival PRINCESS 2016 Pageant

6p.m. Winston W. Wells Ball Field
Contact: Loraine Richards (340) 626-4804

SATURDAY, June 25, 2016

St. John Festival QUEEN 2016 Pageant

8p.m. Winston W. Wells Ball Field
Contact: Enid Doway (340) 626-0785

SUNDAY, June 26, 2016

Festival FOOD FAIR & CORONATION 2016

Contact: Leona E. Smith (340) 690-3692

Festival BOAT RACES 2016

3p.m. Cruz Bay Harbor
Contact: Slim (340) 771-2498

TUESDAY, June 28, 2016

Festival VILLAGE 2016 OPENING
“Varlackville”

7p.m. Cruz Bay Parking Lot
Contact: Jane Johannes (340) 776-6740

Festival CHILDREN’S VILLAGE 2016

6p.m. St. John National Park Parking Lot
Contact: St. John Rotary Club -Alecia Wells (508)963-2641

SUNDAY, July 3, 2016

EMANCIPATION DAY Program 2016

1p.m. Franklin A. Powell, Sr. Park
Contact: Alecia Wells (508) 963-2641

Festival POKER RUN 2016

12p.m. Cruz Bay Beach Front
Contact: Gaylord Sprauve (340) 690-9340

Festival HORSE RACES 2016

1p.m. Clinton E. Phipps Race Track
Contact: Clinton “Boogie” Hendrington (340) 642-0705

MONDAY, July 4, 2016

Festival J’OUVERT 2016

Sunrise: St. John National Park
Contact: (340) 690-3692/ 690-1725

Festival PARADE 2016

11a.m. St. John National Park
Contact: Natalie Thomas (340)690-1725

Festival FIREWORKS DISPLAY 2016

9p.m. Cruz Bay Harbor
Contact: MaLinda Nelson (340) 776-6492

Note: Random TSA checks will be conducted, BE PREPARED
FESTIVAL HOTLINE NUMBERS: (340)690-3692 or ((340)690-1725

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Calabash and Bellevue Residents will Not See \$200 Rent Hike, Officials Say

St. John Tradewinds

Sen. Marvin Blyden, Chair of the Committee on Housing, Public Works and Waste Management hosted a town hall meeting last week at the Charlotte Amalie High School Auditorium, where he told Lovenlund, Bellevue and Calabash Boom residents that the proposed \$200 rent increase would not occur on July 1.

“A compromise was made,” said the Senator. “As of now the rent increase will not take effect July 1st.”

Instead, upon recertification, residents will incur a rent increase of no more than \$50. Robert Couch, Regional Director of McCormack Baron, was present to assure tenants that their concerns would be considered.

“We appreciate the fact that a rent increase is not a happy occurrence for anybody,” said Couch. It is necessary however, to continue operating the homes “in a safe and respectable manner.”

The market rate will go up, however, for those interested in renting one of the properties, he added.

Residents, delighted at the news, changed the course of the discussion by raising concerns about infrastructure challenges they were facing. Broken pipes, excessive leaking and flooding, lack of water, gray water, charges for water overuse, mold, and feces overflowing into lower apartments caused by pipe blockages, were just some of the issues raised.

Couch, and property managers present, assured residents that all of their concerns would be addressed in a timely manner.

Some tenants inquired about how the median income is reached during the qualification process. Officials explained that the median or middle income (not to be confused with average) is assessed territory-wide based on the salaries provided by the Housing and Urban Development.

On St. Thomas, the median salary is \$50,700, on St. John the median salary is \$54,400; and on St. Croix it is \$45,100.

Residents also asked officials about the process for becoming eligible for home ownership, which prompted Sen. Clifford Graham to answer.

There is a 15-year federal compliance period and then an extended use agreement for another 15 years for the local jurisdiction with the low income housing tax credit, Graham explained.

“The Virgin Islands Housing Finance Authority may waive the second 15 year for affordable home ownership conversion,” he said.

Graham also shared what he recently learned about the Cost of Living Allowance.

“If you are an air traffic controller working in Arizona and you’re making \$40,000 a year and they relocate you to the Virgin Islands, the salary will still be \$40,000 a year,” he said. “However, you will get an adjustment for the cost of living.”

The U.S. Virgin Islands has the highest COLA, but this is not taken into effect when the federal government uses formula based models for projects and programs in the territory, he said.

Committee members present were Senators Marvin Blyden, Clifford Graham, Jean Forde and Kenneth Gittens. Non-committee members, Senators Justin Harrigan, Myron Jackson and Tregenza Roach were also present.



St. John Tradewinds News Photo

Residents of Calabash Boom apartment complex, above, and Bellevue Village met with Senator Blyden last week to discuss ongoing infrastructure issues and hear about a proposed rent hike at the median income residential communities.

Real Estate



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Sandy Mohler

1-G Gift & Regenback



Cute house in nice residential area, two units with lots of potential! Sunset sky view from the breezy main level featuring 2 beds, 1 bath, a generous great room & large deck. The lower level is a small efficiency unit.

\$475,000. 3 bed. 2 bath. MLS#13-347.

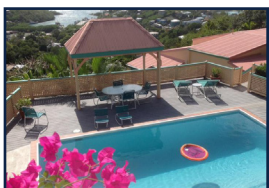
Stone House



Beautiful villa in Great Cruz Bay of classic design and exquisite execution. Soaring stone walls frame the views over to St. Thomas and give a spacious feel to the indoor/outdoor living areas.

\$1,750,000. 3 bed. 2 bath. MLS#16-44.

Cruz Views #3



Big price drop! Very cute decor in this popular condo with great views over the pool to St. Thomas and

amazing sunsets. Walking distance to Cruz Bay restaurants and shopping. Low HOA fees. Successful short term rental.

\$398,000. 2 bed. 1 bath. MLS#15-115.

The Boat House



Charming 3 bedroom home designed and built by Glen Speer in the desirable neighborhood

of Great Cruz Bay. The water views are amazing and the practically flat, gently sloped lot is tropically landscaped.

\$1,300,000. 3 bed. 3 bath. MLS#15-130.

Southern Cross & Dolce Vita

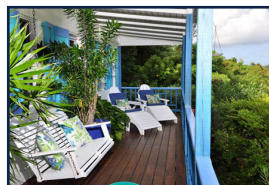


Two houses on one property in Estate Chocolate Hole! The first, Southern Cross is an established

short term rental villa with impressive income. The second, Dolce Vita, is a stone & masonry home with a grand design.

\$3,495,000. 4 bed. 4 bath. MLS#14-504.

Sago Cottage



Sago Cottage has panoramic views over Coral Bay, Fortsberg, East End, and all the way down the BVI chain

to Virgin Gorda. Adorable Caribbean style masonry cottage with colorful shutters, a covered gallery and more.

\$825,000. 1 bed. 1 bath. MLS#15-242.

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6-3-89 Carolina
\$219,000 | Land | 0.52 acres



PRICE REDUCTION

Adventure Villa
\$615,000 | 3 bed | 3 bath



17G Fortsberg
\$395,000 | Land | 0.527 acres



132 Chocolate Hole
\$2,832,000 | 4 bed | 4 bath



6-o-37 Hansen Bay
\$225,000 | Land | 0.51 acres



Colibri
\$2,699,000 | 3 bed | 4 bath



1a-4 Hansen Bay
\$595,000 | Land | 0.82 acres



Coral Rays
\$1,800,000 | 4 bed | 4 bath



9-7 Contant
\$899,000 | Land | 1 acre



WVC 4211 Wk 14
\$29,000 | 3 bed | 3 bath



WVC 3223 Wk 49
\$9,500 | 1 bed | 2 bath



WVC 3218 Wk 11
\$3,990 | Studio | 1 bath

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Coral Bay Open Nets \$15K for SJ Cancer Fund

St. John Tradewinds

Golfers of all ages and abilities gathered at Skinny Legs on Saturday, May 28, for the almost world famous Coral Bay Open mini golf tournament.

A total of 30 teams completed in the whacky pitch and putt course winding through the Coral Bay harbor area. With food and drink sales, team registrations and raffle tickets, the event raised more than \$15,000 for the St. John Cancer Fund.

Thanks to fiscal oversight by Community Foundation of the Virgin Islands, every penny donated to St. John Cancer Fund goes directly to residents in need.



16th Annual Wagapalooza is a Big Success



*St. John Tradewinds News Photos by
Yelena Rogers*

The 16th Annual Wagapalooza island style dog show drew a huge crowd of puppy-lovers to the Winston Wells ball field on May 21. From adorable costumes and delicious treats to impressive tricks, this year's Waga did not disappoint.

By Lucy Banks
President ACC Board of Directors
St. John Tradewinds

The success of any fundraiser depends solely upon the dedication and commitment of those people who share the same passion as the project's originators.

The St. John Animal Care Center staff and Board of Directors are humbled by, and grateful for, the supportive businesses and good people of St. John who share in our respect and care for our island's abused, abandoned and neglected cats and dogs.

Shelter manager Ryan Moore is unflappable in his determination to provide a proper environment for these orphans, and tirelessly seeks forever homes for them as well.

The ACC is very fortunate to have such overwhelming support from the local community. Our survival and good works are dependent upon people such as those listed below.

T-Shirt Logo Sponsors (by size)

R&I Patton; 776 Pool-Crystal Clear Pools; American Paradise Real Estate; Caravan Gallery, Inc.; Caribbean Villas & Resorts; Low Key Water Sports; Merchants Bank; Mongoose Junction; St. John Properties, Inc.; St. John Spice; Anne Marie Weddings; Bamboula; Big Cox Plumbing; Carlson Construction Co.; Catered To; Cool Signs; Cruz Bay Realty, Inc.; Destination St. John; DRINK; Freebird Creations; Longboard; Marketplace; Queen of Tarts; St. John Beach Bum; St. John Brewers; St. John Car Rental, Inc.; St. John Hardware; St. John Inn; St. John Repair; St. John Solutions; St. John Ultimate Villas; 340 Real Estate Co.; Windspreet Vacation Homes; Connections of St. John; Fabric Mill; News of St. John; Ocean Runner; Holly & Dino Palone; Ronnie's Pizza; St. John Ice; St. John Printing; Scenic Properties; Shirey Cadillac-Chicago; Susan & David Silverman; Wasted Sun.

Raffle Donations

Alfredo's; Amora; Aqua Bistro; Asolare; Caneel Bay Resort; Canines Cats & Critters; Connections; Cruz Bay Boutique Hotel; Dr. Alan; Dog House Pub; DRINK; Indigo Grill; Island Abodes; Island Stylin'; Just Beach; Kid's Night In; Kro-Gu; Little Olive; Lulee; North Shore Deli; Papaya Café; Pink Papaya; Anne Marie Porter; Lucy Portlock; R & I Patton; Rok & Rolla Boat; St. John Beach Bum; St. John Inn; Skinny Legs; Sloop Jones; Snorkel Spot; Starfish Gourmet; SUSH!; Sweet Plantains; Triple B Food Truck; Twerk & Tone; Virgin Fire; Yelena Rogers Photography.

Food & Beverage Donations

Bellows/West Indies; Caribbean Food Service; Glazers Premier Distributors; Long-

boardMerchant's Market; St. John Brewers; St. John Ice; World Class Charters.

Judges

Dawn Burgess; Dr. Maria Catlette; Paris Nicholson.

Activities

Art - Lisa Traina Quin
DJ - Liston Sprauve
Electrical - Percy
Facepainting - Vela
Logo Design - Cynthia Swan
MC - Ellis Davis
Photographer - Yelena
Scoops Ice Cream Cart
T-Shirts - Billy D's
St. John Photo Booth - Jason

Volunteers

Peter Alter; Morgan Barlas; Lori & Tom Buttermore; Marti Callies; Nancy Carrieri; Mark Elia; Michelle Fage; Catherine Fahy; Dan Frary; GHS Students; BJ Harris; Tarn Hildreth; Jane Kyser; Deb Lawson; Shelley LeTendre; Michael Marsh; Ryan Moore; Kara Morgan; Jessi Palmer; Kade Parent; Susie Preston; Rebecca & Chris Reinbold; Marjorie Sprauve; Anna Tuttle; Denise & David Walker; Carol & Rick Wassel.

The stars of the evening were, of course, all of our dog show participants. Ribbons were awarded to the First, Second and Third place winners; however the consensus was, that every dog present was a winner!!

Queen Olive and King Phineas ruled over the show. The Babe Award is given to a shelter dog singled out for the struggles and hardships they have survived, and the turnaround they have achieved. This winner exemplifies what the ACC and the work of all its volunteers is about.

Dallas, who came to the shelter emaciated, terrified, abused and heart worm positive, was given the 2016 Babe Award. He is being fostered by Serena, one of our dedicated staff members who has succeeded in bringing Dallas out of his shell and preparing him for adoption.

Many hands, and hearts, made the 16th Annual Wagapalooza a success. We thank you for helping us care.