

July 14-20, 2014

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TRADEWINDS

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

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St. JohnTradewinds News Photo by Dr. Caroline S. Rogers

The Buck Stops Here

Mature male adult bucks usually are harder to spot, but this nine-point buck was captured on camera in the island's forest. **SEE PAGE 3 FOR FULL STORY**



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Two Men Charged with First Degree Rape During St. John Festival

BY JAIME ELLIOTT
St. John Tradewinds

CRUZ BAY — V.I. Police Department officers arrested two men visiting from Virginia on charges of raping a woman they met during St. John Festival.

William Taylor, 26, and David Giles, 29, were arrested and charged with rape in the first degree after a victim positively identified both males as the two who sexually assaulted her.

The victim met the men in Cruz Bay during the recent celebration of St. John Festival, which includes late-night music, dancing and drinking.

“The victim first encountered the males while attending events at the St. John Festival in the early morning of June 28,” according to a prepared statement by VIPD. “During that time the males took the victim to another location where she was sexually assaulted and then returned to the Festival activities.”

The two weren’t arrested until July 4 when the victim saw the men in Festival Village, according to information from the VIPD.

“Police said the victim saw the suspects again on July 4, in the area of the Festival Village and pointed the suspects out to police officers who were patrolling nearby,” according to VIPD’s prepared statement. “The officers informed the Criminal Investigation detec-



David Giles



William Taylor

tives who were investigating the case, and the two suspects were arrested and charged with rape first degree.”

A report in the *V.I. Daily News*, citing VIPD Officer Kira Browne’s probable cause fact sheet included much more information about the rape case. According to the report, after meeting the victim, Giles and Taylor drove her to a home where they were staying and tried to force her to have sex with them.

“Initially Taylor tried to have sex with the victim, but she told him no and resisted, after which point Giles started having sex with her, which ‘initially she did not reject,’ according to the probable cause fact sheet,” read the *Daily News* report. “While the victim was having sex with Giles, Taylor tried to force the victim to perform oral sex on him, and the victim then asked what was going on and

asked for the men to stop, Browne wrote.”

“The victim then became upset and started throwing up, angering the men, who then told the victim she had to leave, the fact sheet said,” according to the *V.I. Daily News* report. “The men then gathered her belongings, put her in the vehicle and dropped her off in downtown Cruz Bay, Browne wrote.”

Back in the Cruz Bay in the early morning hours of June 28, the victim ran into a friend who took her to Myrah Keating Smith Community Health Center, where a rape kit test was performed, according to the *V.I. Daily News* report.

According to VIPD officials, Taylor is originally from California and Giles is from Virginia. Both suspects were placed on \$75,000 bail each.

Committee on Energy, Environmental Protection Meets July 16 on St. John

The Committee on Energy and Environmental Protection, chaired by Senator at Large Craig Barshinger, will meet on Wednesday, July 16, from 9:45 a.m.- 8 p.m. in the St. John Legislative Annex conference room in Cruz Bay.

See page 5 for additional details.

WMA Strategic Plan Meeting on St. John July 17 at Legislature

The V.I. Waste Management Authority will host a public meeting Thursday, July 17, at the Legislative Building in Cruz Bay for solid waste generators and the general public to gather public comment for the agency’s 2015-2020 strategic plan.

The Waste Management Agency is hosting two meetings on an each island.

The first session will be for the large solid waste producers, such as retailers, hotels, restaurants, private-sector businesses, government agencies and instrumentalities that generate large quantities of waste.

The second session is open to the entire community.

For all meetings, the first session will be from 4:30 to 5:30 p.m. and the second session will be from 6 to 8 p.m.

St. John School of Arts Party July 25

St. John School of the Arts is having a PARTY! Friday, July 25, from 7 to 10 p.m. to celebrate arts education for young musicians.

THE ISH will be taking the crowd into a fun filled night with great music and dancing. The floor will be clear, so put on your dancing shoes!

Admission is free, but we will accept any donation that goes directly to support SJSA’s youth music ensembles.

There will be a cash bar as well as light food plates for \$20 sponsored by several of our fine St. John restaurants. Students will perform to begin the evening.

Bring your friends and come support arts education for our island youth! For more information, call 779-4322.

GERS Workshop Set for July 25

The Government Employees’ Retirement System is presenting a financial literacy workshop and member self-service assistance on Friday, July 25, at the V.I. Legislature Annex in Cruz Bay.

The workshop will be from 8:30 a.m. to 1 p.m. and member Self-Service Assistance will be from 8:30 a.m. to Noon.

The objective of this workshop is to empower participants to take a more active role in developing a financial life-plan for themselves by means of education.

Participants will engage in a hands-on session where they will have an opportunity to:

- Assess where they are today;
- Explore investment options;
- Look at the impact of life events on their finances; and
- Develop an action plan.

The program will also assist active and retired members with registering for the system’s new line of business. Known as Member Self-Service or MSS, this feature will give members online access to their GERS account.

To pre-register, call 776-7703 ext. 4120 or 4202 or email tliburd@usvigiers.com. Registration deadline is Monday, July 21.

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The Community Newspaper Since 1972

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MAILING ADDRESS

Tradewinds Publishing LLC
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St. John Tradewinds News Photo by Dr. Caroline S. Rogers

Mature male deer, such as this nine-point buck, above, are harder to spot.



St. John Tradewinds News Photos by Amy Roberts

Island deer are not shy about grazing in yards, above and below, and train their young early how to forage.



St. John Deer Are Home on the Range — Especially at Caneel Bay Resort

BY AMY ROBERTS
St. John Tradewinds

“What’s up with the deer?”

That was a question posed by David Keplinger, a retired park ranger who was visiting St. John this spring.

When Keplinger worked in the Virgin Islands National Park from 1981 through 1992, he said he rarely saw deer. This spring he was seeing them every day browsing peacefully along roadsides throughout the national park.

Except for the East End of St. John past Haulover — which is still “goat country” — and Ram Head on the southeast tip, deer are everywhere, according to ecologist Gary Ray.

“Deer put a lump in the throat,” said Ray. For him, it’s not just because they’re dainty and wild and evoke childhood memories of Bambi.

It’s because they’re a non-native species that’s browsing on the vegetation, according to Ray. With no natural predators, their population is growing and changing the balance of the island’s ecosystem, Ray explained.

Non-native Species Browsing

“Their diet is critical. Deer have a broad diet, but they’re selective,” according to Ray. Deer like to “graze” (eat herbaceous, grasslike plants) as well as “browse” (consume shrubs and trees, more woody plants), he explained.

“The ground layer is dominated by tiny seedlings, baby shrubs and trees. How many seedlings can one deer remove in a day? We don’t know. In certain areas there are almost no seedlings.”

“I hike all the time. I keep mental notes on how many times I see deer,” Ray said. “If I go

on a loop for three to four miles, I’ll see about eight deer, in groups of one to two.”

As he hikes, Ray notices the plants deer prefer.

“You’ll see whole stalks of certain species of anthurium eaten to the stalk, but not others,” Ray explained. “Do the deer kill the plants? No. But at the beginning of dry season, when there’s stress on the plants, they could die.”

“I’m getting really worried about our rare, rare plants,” Ray said. “You have to take action and hold the line. There are problems if we don’t act soon enough.”

Problem for Home Gardens

Deer also present problems for homeowners who tend their gardens and shrubs.

“If you’ve got plants planted, you’re likely

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Thursday, July 17th

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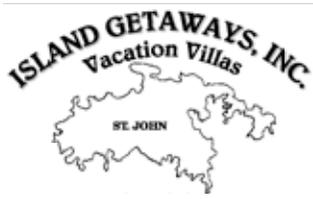
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“Time for a New Way of Thinking”

“Because so many people are asking me to do something so they can have a better choice than they have now, we are running a write-in campaign. We are going forward because many Virgin Islanders feel that it is time for a new way of thinking.”

— Jame Dalmida, Write-in Candidate for Senator at Large

Former Island Administrator Dalmida Launches at-Large Write-in Candidacy

BY TOM OAT

St. John Tradewinds

James Dalmida considers himself to be a Virgin Islander first and foremost, but likes to think of himself as a CruToJo because he was born on St. Thomas, his father was born on St. John and his mother was born on St. Croix.

The St. Croix connection may come in handy as Dalmida, the St. John Administrator from 1995 to 1999, mounts a write-in candidacy for Senator at Large in the 31st Legislature.

“If the people want me, the people want me,” Dalmida said. “The people will demonstrate that by writing me in.”

Dalmida said he decided to launch his write-in campaign because of an “overwhelming request by members of the Virgin Islands community” who are “not happy” with their current choices for the Senator at Large seat — Democrat Ronnie Jones and Independent Almando Liburd.

“I promise to work in their best interest in a way that they will never regret — no disrespect, no wild decisions to gain popularity, but a sensible and responsible approach,” Dalmida continued. “I am not looking for employment. I am looking to serve.”

Businessman, Fisherman, Administrator,

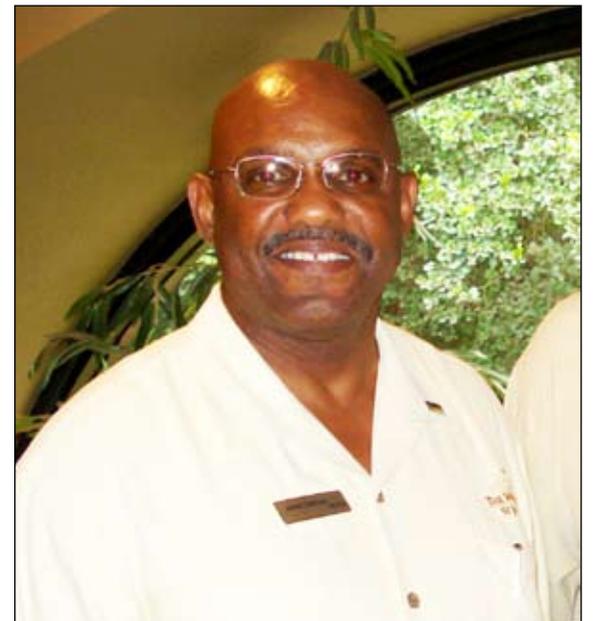
Dalmida said this is the same approach he has used in his life as a trusted business man, deep sea fisherman, St. John Administrator, veteran, husband and father of eight.

Dalmida is a veteran of the U.S Air force and Navy and a business man who has more than fifteen years of top management experience, locally, nationally and internationally, in the hospitality industry at major hotels such as Caneel Bay Resort, the Westin, and the Condado Vanderbilt, as well as El Dorado Hotel and Spa. In his international experience, he served as a hospitality consultant at the U.S. Embassy in Sana’a, Yemen.

Veteran, Husband and Father of Eight

Dalmida said his “life experiences” include deep sea fisherman, computer buff and, “most importantly,” a husband and father of eight.

Effectiveness and productivity are the hallmarks of his record of service, Dalmida said. This is why he believes that it is the right time for him “to give back to his people,” he said.



St. John Tradewinds News Photo File

James “Jimmy” Dalmida

Dalmida said he is a “viable option” for the at-large seat as someone who not only has a record of public service but also has been successful in that service, “being able to navigate among all of the people of the Virgin Islands with sensitivity, respect and dignity.”

Dalmida said he wants to provide the people with a forum to not only express their concerns but also to weigh in on the issues that face our community. He said he wants to “play a part in helping to determine the destiny of these great islands.”

Democratic, Independent Opponents

Ronnie Jones is working with the Democratic Party to promote his campaign for Senator at Large — including impromptu morning meetings in Cruz Bay park with the Democratic leader Pamela Richards Samuel as she heads off on inter-island party work.

Former Senator at Large Almando Liburd, meanwhile, has ostentatiously raised his on-island visibility at his Pastory home overlooking Cruz Bay and the southwestern shore of St. John with views to St. Thomas as he campaigns for his former seat.

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Pumper Weaves Through Lines



St. John Tradewinds News Photo by Tom Oat

A concrete pumping truck operator threaded its extendable pipe arm through electrical lines and tree limbs during the ongoing construction/expansion at the U.S. Post Office in Cruz Bay.

Residents Invited To Speak at Environmental Protection Meeting on St. John Wednesday

St. John Tradewinds

The Committee on Energy and Environmental Protection, chaired by Senator at Large Craig Barshinger, will meet on Wednesday, July 16, from 9:45 a.m.- 8:00 p.m. in the St. John Legislative Annex conference room in Cruz Bay.

During the first part of the meeting, the committee will host a panel discussion on the modernization of the V.I. Water and Power Authority's electric grid.

"I look forward to a progressive discussion with WAPA, the V.I. Energy Office and experts in the field on how we can improve our energy production by utilizing St. John as a model renewable

energy generation project," said Barshinger.

The second part of the meeting will focus on environmental issues, including Bill No. 30-0387, the plastic bag ban legislation, sponsored by Senators Shawn-Michael Malone Nereida "Nellie" Rivera-O'Reilly.

The committee will also receive testimony from the Department of Planning and Natural Resources in regards to its jurisdiction on St. John regarding some controversial development projects.

"My office received numerous complaints from St. John residents regarding environmental concerns resulting from specific projects that DPNR had approved, including

the Enighed and the Ingrao/Estate Dennis Bay projects," Barshinger said. "I felt it necessary to invite DPNR Commissioner Barnes to address these concerns."

During that portion of the hearing Barshinger will allow for five walk-in testifiers from the audience to put their particular concerns on the record. To sign up, call 693-8061 or email catherine@visenate.org.

"I urge residents to organize and select spokespersons that they are comfortable with to voice the community concerns to the committee," Barshinger said. "If time permits, it will be possible to allow further testifiers from the community."

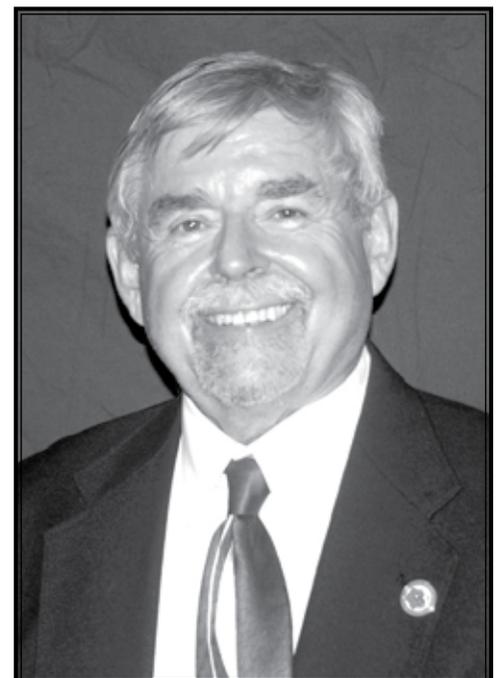
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DPNR Pledges To Issue East Bay Beach Development GDP Decision This Week

BY JAIME ELLIOTT
St. John Tradewinds

EAST END — Four months after hosting a public meeting, Department of Planning and Natural Resources officials pledged to issue a determination on East Bay Beach Club’s Group Dwelling Permit application this week.

The proposed East End development drew strong criticism at a March 11 Group Dwelling Permit public hearing with residents questioning the project’s size and environmental impacts.

Plans at the time called for constructing a 28-unit beach club consisting of 16 three-bedroom and 12 four-bedroom units spread among one and two-story structures, a clubhouse and pool on the remote and largely undeveloped East End of St. John.

The eight-acre property is zoned R-1 (residential-1), which allows for the construction of two units per each half-acre, and developers requested a Group Dwelling Permit in order to cluster those 28 units on one portion of the land.

The development plans DPNR officials pledged to rule on this week look much different than the plans which were discussed at the March 11 public hearing, explained DPNR’s Division of Comprehensive and Coast Zone Planning Director T. Stuart Smith.

While Smith has been meeting with East Bay Holding Company owner Mark Davies since March, the latest development site plan will be the final one, he explained.

“We have been working with the applicant since the

hearing to develop a site plan that is more aligned with the intent and provisions of the Group Dwelling Process,” said Smith. “Since that time there have been several iterations. The one that hit my desk yesterday is the final one that we will be reviewing.”

“It will either be accepted or denied, but there will not be any more revisions as far as the GDP process is concerned,” said the CCZP Director.

The GDP determination process took much longer than the anticipated 30 days due to DPNR officials working with Davies to create a document that could be considered, Smith explained.

“What this came down to was, ‘if you want the report in 30 days, it will be a denial; if you will work with us and make some changes it will take longer,’” said Smith.

New Plan Is Scaled-down Version of Original

The new plan — which will be available on St. John once DPNR’s GDP determination is issued by Commissioner Alicia Barnes — is a scaled down version of what residents opposed at the March 11 public hearing, according to Smith.

“It is along the same lines, but it is a far reduction of what was shown at the meeting,” Smith said about the new East Bay Beach Club site plan.

There will not be a new public hearing on the revamped East Bay Beach Club plan because — although Smith said the development was scaled back in its latest form — the changes didn’t alter the project’s footprint, according to the

CCZP Director.

“There will be no new meeting because the plan does not represent any significant changes as far as footprint,” said Smith. “The changes were administrative and do not require a public hearing. In concept, the design of the buildings haven’t changed.”

“It’s much smaller,” he said. “The location and the number of the buildings have changed, but everything else is pretty much the same.”

Smith received the final East Bay Beach Club plan to review on Wednesday, July 9, and pledged to have a decision made official by this week.

If DPNR denies the GDP request, the developers will have to return to the drawing board. If the department approves East Bay Holding Company’s GDP request, the project will progress through DPNR’s Coastal Zone Management process.

“If it’s denied, they are stopped; they can’t continue,” said Smith. “If it is approved it goes to the applicant and they can complete their CZM process. That process has already begun but has been on hold until the project completes the GDP process.”

The CZM process includes public hearings where residents will have another opportunity to share their opinions on the project with DPNR officials, Smith added.

The proposed development site, Parcel No. Remainder 6A-1 Estate Hansen Bay, is located past Privateer Bay close to the far end of the East End of St. John.



The V.I. National Park is hoping to avoid staffing shortages which could leave the busiest VINP Beach without lifeguards on weekends at the consistently top-rated beach in the world.

St. John Tradewinds News
Photo by Tom Oat

NPS Warns Public of Possible Lifeguard Shortage During Summer at Trunk Bay

BY TOM OAT

St. John Tradewinds

TRUNK BAY — Alert the media! Virgin Islands National Park Assistant Superintendent Jayne Schaeffer wants to give the public plenty of warning about a potential lifeguard shortage at the the Number Two beach in the world.

The V.I. National Park has three lifeguards on staff to patrol the world-renowned Trunk Bay beach and to protect and serve the hordes of cruise ship passengers dropped there on any given week-day day.

As staffing levels and hiring throughout the National Park Service have been impacted by budget cutbacks, currently the Virgin Islands National Park has three lifeguards on duty which “works out okay with a little overlap,” Schaeffer explained.

But the senior lifeguard wants to take an extended summer break, and the VINP has not been able to complete the pending hire of a fourth, Schaeffer explained.

“One has been here a long time and wants to take time off,” the assistant superintendent explained of the emailed announcement which initially warned:

“Due to a staffing shortage in the park lifeguard operation, Trunk Bay Beach will not have lifeguards on duty during the weekends starting July 19, 2014. The normal 7 day week schedule will resume on September 20. We regret any inconvenience this may cause.”

Asst. Supt. Schaeffer subsequently muted her warning — somewhat.



St. John Tradewinds News Photo by Tom Oat

A V.I. National Park Ranger who is also a certified lifeguard, is filling in for the summer season as the parks tries to keep lifeguards on duty at the popular Trunk Bay beach, above, with its underwater trail with one of the park’s three staff lifeguards on leave.

“We’re actually covered through August 3rd; one ranger is also certified as a life guard,” Schaeffer reported Friday, July 11.

“We’re also in the process of hiring,” Schaeffer added. “If it all works I’m hoping we’ll have someone by then.”



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St. John Tradewinds News Photos by Tom Oat

The bulges on the necks and bodies of several of the gelded males are fat deposits, according to the island vet Dr. Laura Palminteri and Caneel's donkey "caretaker" Oriel Smith acknowledges some of the donkeys have a weight problem and he is researching an appropriate diet to deal with the problem.



"Jenny" Craig Would Probably Cut Pastries from Donkey's Diet

BY TOM OAT

St. John Tradewinds

NORTH SHORE — The good life is getting to at least one of the island's signature donkey herds.

Living icons of the island's agricultural past, several small groups of donkeys populate different areas of St. John, and a handful of animals in the most visible small herd which ranges from the Caneel Bay Resortt have developed noticeable bulges under the skin of their hind quarters and sides.

The pronounced swelling has extended to the necks of several animals in the herd, which travels between Cruz Bay and Caneel Bay along the North Shore Road, creating large masses along the animals' spines under their sparse "mane."

"Fat on Well Fed Donkeys"

The bulges are "fat on well fed donkeys — especially breads and fruits," according to Virgin Island's veterinarian Dr. Laura Palminteri of *Canines, Cats and Critters*, who works on animals large and small in both the U.S. and British Virgin Islands.

Oriel Smith, who works for Caneel Bay Resort and cares for the small herd of donkeys which have been habituated to the resort, admits he may be partially responsible.

"The over-weight donkeys that you see are males that have been castrated," Smith

emailed *St. John Tradewinds*. "While the donkeys are roaming the eastern part of the island they are abused, not fed and lots them are injured, so that is why I try to keep them at Caneel."

"Not doing a good job at that!" Smith admitted.

It's not that Smith doesn't try to entice the donkeys to stay on the resort property.

"On occasion I give them pastries."

"I feed them grain, hay and, on occasion, I give them pastries from the bake shop," Smith explained.

"They are probably fed too rich a diet," admitted Smith, who keeps close tabs on the herd. "Because they do not work, they store the fat."

"Once they have that fat it is very difficult to get it off," Smith said. "I am researching ways to get the fat off."

Fitness and diet diva "Jenny" Craig might recommend Smith cut down on the Caneel Bay pastries in their diet.

Meanwhile, the Bordeaux Mountain and Coral Bay area herds do not appear to have the "fat" problem of the Caneel Bay and North Shore herd.

Of course they don't.

They aren't invited to Caneel Bay often...

...and they don't like the resort's parking policies for locals.

"I feed them grain, hay and, on occasion, I give them pastries from the bake shop."

— Oriel Smith, animal activist



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St. John Tradewinds News Photo by Tom Oat

VITRAN Tunnel? The pair of catamaran-hulled ferries were briefly docked side-by-side in early July before going into service operated by the two St. John ferry franchisees, Varlack Ventures and Transportation Services.

New VITRAN Catamaran Ferries Are Luxurious — But Not All Smooth Sailing

BY TOM OAT
St. John Tradewinds

The first full week of regular service by the new government-owned VITRAN ferries on the Red Hook, St. Thomas, to Cruz Bay, St. John, route started inauspiciously on Monday, July 7, and problems continued through the week while government officials hailed the introduction of the new vessels.

When the *Cruz Bay I* limped into Cruz Bay harbor before 6 a.m. Monday, after leaving Red Hook at 5:30 a.m. full of commuters, and carrying the latest edition of the *St. John Tradewinds*, it was apparent the vessel wasn't running properly.

The captain didn't attempt to turn the obviously crippled boat around before pulling up to the dock and couldn't maneuver it sideways to berth so deckhands struggled to pull the stern of the 200-passenger vessel to the end of the ferry dock.

The crew then had to carry any luggage or cargo from the limited baggage space at the stern the length of the boat to off-load from the forward doorway — from which the passengers also had disembarked.

Mechanic Tackles First Repairs

A mechanic arrived within minutes to assess the problem with the Transportation Services operated *Cruz Bay I* — as franchisee Varlack Ventures prepared one of its regular ferries for the 6 a.m. run to St. Thomas.

The *Cruz Bay I* was back in service by the end of the day and both ferry franchise operators were running their respective 85-foot aluminum catamarans in their daily schedules — more than eight months after the \$3.25 million vessels first arrived in the territory.

After Monday morning's glitch, both ferry franchisees appeared to be incorporating the new vessels into their schedules until another interruption Wednesday night, July 9, which involved St. John Senator at Large Craig Barshinger as a passenger.

“Cruz Bay 1... stranded adrift in Vessup Bay”

Cruz Bay 1 from RH (Red Hook, St. Thomas) to Cruz Bay stranded adrift in Vessup Bay. *Red Hook 1* passed the stranded boat & docked in

Continued on Page 18

“Cruz Bay 1... stranded adrift in Vessup Bay.”

– Senator at Large Craig W. Barshinger

VOTING DISTRICTS ARE NECESSARY IF WE ARE TO OVERCOME THE CURRENT PROBLEMS IN OUR COMMUNITY

- For 1000s of years small villages have banded together into tribes, and tribes into nations
- Villages had “elders” that participated in tribe discussions and decisions
- Tribes had “elders” that participated in the nations, discussions and decisions. I grew up in Penacook, New Hampshire and it was actually Ward 1 of Concord, NH. It was a village of small stores, our own schools, and a few extremely dangerous factories. To the Pennacook Indians the word means a bend in the river — they were part of the Algonquin Nation
- This was truly a representative form of government. We can use this method to become the great community that we can be

We can lower the crime rate, lower the cost of electricity, teach all our kids to read, but we all have to participate.

We live in a very unique community, we are a very mixed community and we accept each other and work with each other.

There are many, many not for profit community organizations in sports, health, day care, general service, etc that provide a lot of positive service to the community.

We can come together and our government can be part of the solution and stop being part of the problem. We have to let the leaders know that we need their help to solve some of our problems.

#11

on the ballot



B. Gregory Miller

gregmiller4vi@yahoo.com



AD PAID FOR BY GREGMILLER4VI



Senator-at-Large Report

By Senator Craig Barshinger

Energy Committee Meets on St. John Wednesday on WAPA and Net Metering

St. John Tradewinds

I attended the promotional ceremonies for Julius Sprauve School (JESS) and Guy Benjamin School (GBS). The ceremony for the Guy Benjamin School was bittersweet for me, because it is the last graduation of what I regard as the best elementary school for early childhood education in the Virgin Islands. The Department of Education (DoEd) has closed GBS for the foreseeable future due to insufficient enrollment.

Fifty-five students attended GBS in 2013-2014. The St. John Community rose to the challenge, registering 73 students for GBS 2014-2015 by May 29. Unfortunately this fell short of the 100 students the DoEd said it needed in order to keep the school open. It is my hope that some of the early-education “magic” of GBS can be recreated at JESS.

For those who are focussed forward, it would be good to read the planning documents for the new St. John School in Hammer Farm (mid-island). These documents were presented in a public meeting by the DoEd a few months ago. Contact the DoEd or my office if you would like an email or printed copy.

Energy Committee Meets on St. John

I chair the Committee on Energy and Environmental Protection. On July 16, it will meet in St. John in the Legislative Chambers. The public is always invited, and this meeting will feature a special extension into the evening to allow those who are working during the day to attend.

In the morning we will explore how WAPA can and must modernize. This includes the consideration of the plan to make St. John an energy net-zero substation of WAPA. This means that St. John would still exchange power with WAPA, but would on average produce all of the electricity it consumes, from renewable sources.

Plastic Bag Ban Bill

In the afternoon, we will hear the plastic Bag Ban Bill, sponsored by senators Malone and O’Reilly. The issue of banning disposable plastic bags in grocery stores has been strongly promoted by St. Johnians, particularly the Giffit Hill School students.

They advocate the use of reusable bags, which appear to be in abundant supply. Of course we must remember to walk with our reusable bags when we go shopping. Banning plastic bags will preserve sea life (which can be damaged by bags that blow into the water), and help reduce our landfill volume.

DPNR Permitting Examined

In the late afternoon and evening, DPNR will address the issue of how permitting is occurring on St. John. The public is invited to come listen, or even to testify if you know of any instances of questionable

permitting.

It is important that rules and regulations are uniformly enforced. Apparently this is not happening presently. I have scheduled this item late in the day, to allow those who work to attend the hearing. We will go until 8 p.m., or longer if necessary.

Feed-in Tariff Bill

Recently we passed a Feed-In Tariff Bill, Act 7586, which will take our growing solar industry to the next level. Our intent was to have two programs, Feed-In Tariff (FIT) and Net Metering (NM) which would complement each other. Each offers Virgin Islands homeowners and businesses the opportunity to reduce or eliminate their electric bills.

Unfortunately, we were not able to pass bill 30-0347, which would have streamlined the solar permitting process, increased the solar “Caps” available to NM & FIT customer-generators, and harmonized Act 7075 and 7586. We were able to pass one part of it, which amends Act 7075 in way that allows the Donoe Solar Array project to go forward.

“Problem Appears To Be Greed”

The problem appears to be greed. Some of the early adopters who are net metering customer-generators have made a substantial investment in a solar system. They are now paying nothing to WAPA, although they use WAPA’s lines to buy and sell power 24/7.

This form of NM is not sustainable, and benefits only the customer-generator. It doesn’t benefit other WAPA customers. The problem is that a few of the early NM adopters don’t want to move toward FIT in 2025, even though they have paid back their outlay and made a healthy return-on-investment (ROI)!

My intent, as an author of the 2009 legislation that got this solar industry started, was to jump-start a new industry by offering the incentive of NM (net metering). Under NM, customer-generators can buy and sell at the exact same price, presently 53¢ per kilowatt-hour.

“Influential, Wealthy Early Adopters”

What we are seeing now is that some influential, wealthy early adopters want us to remain stuck with the 2009 Act 7075!

The problem is that we cannot do this, because NM doesn’t scale up. If 5 percent of the customers do it, no problem. But if 60 percent of customers did it, WAPA would collapse.

By contrast, FIT does scale up. Everyone can do FIT, and I hope they do. If they go with FIT by 2025, WAPA will be able to accommodate them, and even modernize in order to accommodate an ever-increasing amount of renewable energy. This will benefit everyone, not just the early adopters.

Save the Date: Flea Market Is Oct. 18

On Saturday, October 18, the Animal Care Center of St. John will present the “No Fleas Please” Flea Market Sale at Winston-Wells Ball Field from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. This annual event is a major Animal Care Center Fundraiser — with emphasis on the fun.

Donors are invited to drop off “gently used” household items at the ACC shelter located near the library and can call the ACC with questions at 774-1624.

There is someone on the island that can make good use of the items you no longer need! Such as: tools, sports equipment, books, (no encyclopedias or National Geographic); toys, clothing, kitchen utensils, lamps (in working order), pictures/frames, dishes, pots and pans, furniture (no appliances), electrical products (working order), bedding (in good condition no stains), decorator pillows, curtains, etc.

All toiletries and hygiene products will be given to the St. John Community Foundation to be distributed to the homeless. The ACC understands homelessness and will make a donation from our profits to the organization as well.

Vendor tables will be available for a \$30 donation, if you wish to sell your own items.

I am quite frustrated at the lobbying by what appears to be a few business persons. They are lobbying what’s good for them, without regard to what is sustainable and promotes growth. However, sections 1-5 of bill 30-0347 did not pass due to their intense lobbying. They even wrote editorials in the media where they did not tell the truth.

For the moment, the lack of harmony between Acts 7075 (NM) and 7586 (FIT) has slowed the growth of the solar industry. The harmonizing legislation that we need was created in a series of roundtable sessions with 24 stakeholders from all walks of life. It was well-vetted and ready to enact. Lobbying prevented its enactment during the last Session, but I will patiently shepherd it fulfillment.

Ensuring Payback of Investment

I remain committed to ensuring that everyone who invests in renewable energy will get a complete payback of their investment, plus a healthy return-on-investment (ROI) on top of that. When someone insists on using WAPA’s lines in perpetuity, and not sharing benefit with others, I am forced to explain this greedy dynamic, and outline the steps we must take to move forward.

It will be necessary to update our Renewable Energy Legislation regularly, perhaps every year or two, during the next decade. I will do what I can in my remaining six months in office to keep us moving forward.

Thank you for the opportunity to serve as your senator at large!

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Cinematic Inspiration

JAWS To Continue Comeback With Launching from Shoreline Perch

BY TOM OAT
St. John Tradewinds

CORAL BAY — Fisherman Andy Greaux won't be the only one celebrating the refloating of his infamous fishing vessel "JAWS" from the shoreline of Coral Bay.

The 44-foot, broad-beamed vessel has spent the last few years propped up on the narrow south shoreline of Coral Bay while undergoing repairs to several holes in its hull after being washed ashore in a 2012 storm and subsequently suffering damage to its fiberglass hull while on the rocky shoreline.

Eyesore or Noah's ark, Greaux pasted copies of the legal paperwork establishing JAWS was still licensed and registered on the cabin windows of the vessel facing the passing traffic while he worked to prepare the Gulf Tracker boat to be refloated.

Derelict Conversation Piece

Much to the chagrin of many residents of the southeastern end of St. John, the battleship-gray fishing boat quickly became a Coral Bay conversation piece as its owner almost single-handedly raised the vessel precariously on blocks with a one-ton "bottle jack" and began making repairs to its hull.

(In fact, after being patched, the vessel was washed off its blocks in another storm and floated in Coral Bay harbor for several days before grounding again on the shoreline — facing in the opposite direction — where it has sat for another year.

The week of July 13 Greaux is planning to slide JAWS into the bay from the shoreline shoulder of Rte. 20 along the south side of the Coral Harbor.

Greaux, who was pushing to have a new paint job on the hull before the relaunching, said he will move the refloated vessel to its Coral Bay mooring for further repairs before it is towed to a shipyard for major hull repairs and the installation of a new engine.

JAWS Is Registered Vessel

Greaux also retained his commercial fishing license and maintained his mooring as a commercial fisherman while keeping JAWS registered.

Meanwhile, Greaux has continued to earn his living fishing from a 12-foot dinghy — or more accurately, free diving for conch and spearfishing "bottom fish" — on a good day



St. John Tradewinds News Photo by Tom Oat

Fisherman Andy Greaux says he will be re-floating his fishing boat JAWS within the next week — which will leave only a half-dozen wrecked or sunken vessels in Coral Bay's inner harbor.

hauling as much as 100 pounds each of snapper, conch and lobster.

The Coral Bay transplant plans to continue his emphasis on commercial fishing with JAWS while renewing his former focus on sharks and eventually offering shark cage dives.

Greaux also reconfirmed that he had found a "good-size" lion fish in the belly of a large tear drop snapper, proving the invading species has predators— but he "forgot" to take a picture.

Greaux posts information on his exploits on his Facebook page — Andy Da Sharkmon.

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Netfa Romain, far right in photo, interviewing Rashawn Ross (trumpet player) of the Dave Matthews Band for an upcoming episode of "USVI Ambassadors with Netfa Romain."



St. John Tradewinds News Photo

"It is my hope that these stories will inspire the young and the young at heart in the territory. All of our interviews are insightful and will show how nice our talented people truly are."

— Netfa Romain, journalist

"USVI Ambassadors With Netfa Romain" To Premiere July 19 on WMNS CBSTV2

St. John Tradewinds

ST. THOMAS—Award winning multimedia journalist, director and producer Netfa Romain has embarked on a journey to explore the talents and success of people from the United States Virgin Islands. USVI Ambassadors with Netfa Romain — is set to premiere on CBSTV2 on Saturday, July 19, and will be hosted by multimedia journalist Netfa Romain for an eight-week run.

An influential voice in U.S. Virgin Islands journalism, Netfa Romain has teamed up with the USVI Department of Tourism to tell stories of U.S. Virgin Islanders who are true ambassadors to the territory. Romain sits down for in-depth interviews with key players from the worlds of business, entertainment, art, and sports who all call the U.S. Virgin Islands home.

"It is my hope that these stories will inspire the young and the young at heart in the territory. All of our interviews are insightful and will show how nice our talented people truly are." Romain said "This is a passion project that has been in the works for nearly three years, starting first as a small idea to it now becoming a reality. It's been a great journey telling the stories of our ambassadors."

The show will also highlight the U.S. Virgin Islands Department of Tourism's Ambassador Program that recognizes and empowers U.S. Virgin Islanders who passionately promote the culture, music, cuisine, natural beauty and hospitality of their island home.

"We started our Tourism Ambassadors program a few years ago to not only connect with Virgin Islanders abroad but also to enlist their support in promoting the Territory," said Commissioner of Tourism Beverly Nicholson Doty. "We are keen to air these vignettes to a larger audience as we showcase the best and brightest of our islands. I am continuously awed and inspired by the things Virgin Islanders are doing and by the pride they have for their home."

Netfa Romain went on to say "Bringing this project to CBSTV2 is a great homecoming, as I called this station home for 12 years. It is extremely exciting and rewarding. I want to thank Grace Rivera (General Manager at CBSTV2), the management/staff of CBSTV2, and Innovative for this tremendous opportunity. I also want to thank my sponsor the USVI Department of Tourism for teaming up with me to tell the stories of my fellow U.S. Virgin Islanders who are doing big things abroad and at home."

USVI Ambassadors with Netfa Romain premieres on Saturday July 19th at 730pm only on CBSTV2 <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=FY4N6pFm2lQ&list=UUR96oj6DCakBeuq7tuaaAmw>. To learn more about the Ambassador Program log on to www.usviambassadors.com

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On *the* Market

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

L'Autre Monde Will Wisk You Away To "Another World"

BY JAIME ELLIOTT
St. John Tradewinds

Built with entertaining in mind, L'Autre Monde offers hosts and their guests plenty of space to mingle and, when desired, to enjoy the utmost in privacy as well.

This four bedroom, four and a half bathroom custom built villa boasts breath-taking water views over Great Cruz Bay and is for sale for \$5.25 million, explained Islandia Real Estate/Sea Glass Properties broker associate Lynn Giovanna.

Meaning "another world" in French, L'Autre Monde truly takes one far away from the hustle and bustle of life, yet its Great Cruz Bay location means you're only a few minutes' drive to the shops, dining and nightlife of Cruz Bay.

"L'Autre Monde is located in the Great Cruz Bay neighborhood with protective covenants and restrictions and private dinghy dock access," said Giovanna. "This well maintained neighborhood is very popular for short term rentals. It is a wonderful area for a morning jog or evening stroll and you are just a

few minutes from town, shopping, grocery stores, restaurants and North Shore beaches."

From the spacious deck at L'Autre Monde, soak up sunset views and watch as the lights of St. Thomas twinkle to life in the distance. Areas of the deck can connect to span the length of the entire villa, which is separated into two distinct wings.

The East Wing was originally started as a master suite addition and eventually became a four bedroom wing completed in 2004. This wing, completely separate and self-sufficient from the West Wing, features a professional-grade kitchen, as well as a spacious outdoor dining and BBQ area.

The East Wing boasts four bedrooms and four and a half bathrooms over two levels. A laundry room and three of the bedrooms, one of which is currently being used as a home gym and office, are found on the lower level.

L'Autre Monde's East Wing also features a luxurious, custom-design swimming pool with a unique waterfall feature as well as

outdoor dining areas and plenty of deck space.

The original structure at L'Autre Monde is now the West Wing and is accessed across a covered stone walkway. The main level of the West Wing consists of two bedrooms and two bathrooms as well as an open-air living space with an oversized great room and dining area.

The West Wing boasts its own professional-grade kitchen as well as its own heated pool/spa, outdoor dining area and spacious decks. An additional one bedroom and one bathroom — accessed via private entry making it ideal as a caretaker's unit — is found on the lower level of the West Wing.

With sweeping water views, plenty of space to entertain as well as get away from it all, L'Autre Monde is truly a one-of-a-kind property.

"L'Autre Monde is a unique, custom built property with quality, high-end finishes that should truly be seen to be appreciated," said Giovanna. "Much attention was paid to detail with African



St. John Tradewinds News Photos

Aerial view of the two-pod L'Autre Monde villa.



Breathtaking views of Great Cruz Bay and beyond.

slate floors throughout most of the property, extensive stonework, handmade glass sinks, custom cabinetry, indoor/outdoor audio system and more."

For more information on L'Autre Monde, call Giovanna at Sea Glass Properties/Islandia Real Estate at (340) 776-6666 or on her cell phone at (340) 344-1825.

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Letters to St. John Tradewinds

Tom Oat Is A Gadfly

I read with interest the letter in the most recent edition of your publication, regarding the displeasure about Mr. Tom Oat's usage of the term, gadfly. The American Heritage Dictionary, which focuses on the term as it is currently utilized states that a gadfly is:

1. A persistent irritating critic; a nuisance. 2. One that acts as a provocative stimulus; a goad.

I have been personally acquainted with Mr. Tom Oat for about ten years. I have also, carefully followed the persistent, undaunted community activism of Mr. Steve Black for about the same amount of time. I submit to you my belief that, from a behavioral point of view, BOTH Mr. Black and Mr. Oat are gadflies!

Steve Black's unwillingness to EVER let go of what is good for the St. John community, come the newest legislator or hurricane, is to be lauded. The St. John community could never afford to pay Mr. Black for his careful, well thought out efforts, and fortunately, that is not Mr. Black's motivation. His magnanimous contributions are from the heart. Steve Black is the very best kind of gadfly! Love City is blessed to have him buzzing around.

Tom Oat's, apparently controversial usage of the term, gadfly, is but one example of why Mr. Oat is one of St. John's most notorious gadflies! He is a genuine wordsmith, in the truest sense of the word (no pun intended). He takes great pleasure from reading and writing, and with all things relating to language usage. Mr. Oat's style of being in the island world may indeed be controversial, but it is certainly never boring.

It is no secret that this publication has improved, since Mr. Oat has taken on a more significant role in the weekly content. A review of the aforementioned, gadfly definition, precisely describes Tom Oat.

**Thinking good thoughts and missing my Love City home,
Susan Mann, AKA,
"The white woman with the little black dog"**

Thank You from Love City Pan Dragons

The Love City Pan Dragons has lots of thanks to spread around now that our 60th Festival is in the history books.

I'd like to thank the people behind the pans, sticks in hand — our committed regular band members, our visiting alumni who joined us for the parade, and our St Thomas players who helped grow our sound through this spring's membership challenges. It's all about the music, people!

Kudos to our arrangers, Shomari Dyer and Morlan "Ikema" Dyer, whose dedication and considerable musical gifts have brought a bright new flavor to the Pan Dragons' signature sound, to our tuner, Mike Sorzano, who keeps the sound sweet and in proper pitch, to our conga man, Elijah Lee, who doubles as our St Thomas driver and a welcome extra hand, and to Patrick Dyer for his expertise in the 'engine room'.

Huge hugs to our dedicated board members and parent volunteers, whose hard work made it possible for the band to participate this spring and summer in two Panoramas, Rising Stars Pan Fair, Giff Hill School graduation, our Food Fair, Opening of the Village and Parade. Special thanks to Gregory Edward, whose truck gets more use from us than it does from him, who keeps our own Big Bertha GMC box truck up and running, and who resurrected the parade trolley's aged tires to get us back on the road after two years in the yard.

Love to Shikima and her assistant Carol, our hosts at the Sports Parks and Recreation Youth Center, for support, cooperation, and general good neighborli-

ness.

A hearty wave to our firefighter friends across the street, who have stepped up many times over the years to help out in any number of pinches, and who have been our biggest fans. They know all our music since they never miss a practice.

Many thanks to the Festival Committee for their cooperation and assistance with logistics for the many events in which we took part.

Special thanks to Rotary St John for sponsoring upcoming travel to Antigua for selected Pan Dragons to perform with our arrangers' 'home' band, Cool and Smooth Ebonites, for their Panorama.

Thanks to Gail Seart from Outside the Box Solutions for donating assistance with our website, www.pandragons.org.

Thanks to the youth and community organizations that are beginning to forge bonds to work more closely with us to enhance the lives of our young people — St John Youth Coalition, St John School of the Arts, St John Community Foundation, Coral Bay Community Council and others.

And huge appreciation to the steel pan lovers in the St John community for your love and support over the last twenty years for St John's only continuous—running steel band.

As they say on the Pan On the Net website, "when steel talks, everybody listens."

**Elaine Penn, President
Love City Pan Dragons Youth Steel Orchestra
pandragons@unitedstates.vi**

Crossword Answers (Puzzle located on Page 20)

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New VITRAN Ferry?



St. John Tradewinds News Photo by Tom Oat

The popular charter sailboat Goddess Athena made a graceful appearance at the Cruz Bay Loredon Boynes Ferry Dock on Friday morning, July 11, to pick up passengers.

Letters to *St. John Tradewinds*

St. John Hearings July 16 Will Discuss DPNR Environmental Enforcement and Other Issues

This is an open letter to the community and to the VI Department of Planning and Natural Resources (DPNR), who is also being sent a copy, as background to the Senate hearing that DPNR will attend on Wednesday, July 16, 2014, about St John environmental enforcement and other issues.

We are pleased to note that DPNR has begun to focus on these issues. Various community members and local groups have recently met with DPNR officials about St. John community concerns involving permitting, enforcement and transparency at DPNR – and DPNR officials have made clear that they are concerned about these issues and want to take action on them, and that they want the community to be their “eyes and ears” for such problems. This has been a full-on community effort, and many citizens on St John who love their island are hoping to continue to work with DPNR to address these issues in a cooperative spirit.

Among the particular concerns we face as a community is a recent pattern of structures being built without permits, or projects allowed to expand beyond the scope of associated DPNR permits with no consequences to the owner, as DPNR has at times declined to enforce its own building codes, zoning codes and CZM rules. Also, many citizens question what appear to be serious conflicts of interest among DPNR’s staff, and DPNR’s failure to respond to requests for public records.

The purpose of this letter is not to single out individuals or to discuss violations at specific projects, as we and many others have already been doing that in discussions with DPNR. We believe, however, that all these matters can be effectively addressed. We are all seeking a strong and effective DPNR that enforces its rules consistently and fairly. All parties involved are working towards the same goals, engaging in the (difficult) work of balancing economic development and environmental protection. We therefore hope to assist DPNR in performing its needed functions as well as possible.

A. Concerns Raised. We understand that community concern has continued over the Denis Bay project that has recently been in the news [Tradewinds note: including TW articles dated _____ and _____, Daily News dated _____, News of St John blog posts dated _____], but the issues now reach much further, as they involve many different St John developments and a much broader public interest. We have been hearing about similar problems all over the island from a wide and diverse group of St Johnians, including business owners, landowners, and representatives of environmental groups – along with various architects, designers, contractors and developers, who are extremely concerned with all of this as professionals.

Most people seeking to develop their property in the VI have been held consistently to DPNR rules,

as should be done for everyone – but lately some projects have not. This differential treatment, obviously unfair, is becoming intolerable for many – and at times is causing substantial damage to neighboring properties and sensitive natural resources. DPNR needs to act swiftly to stop “selective” enforcement of rules designed to protect the general public, and hold all projects to fair and consistent standards – and to show that everyone must play by the rules, especially the agencies charged with enforcing them.

Some folks have asserted that the current system is beginning to look like certain foreign countries where development gets done mainly based on “who you know” or which consultants you hire, and chaos results – as those who have proper connections do not seem to have to worry about enforcement, while everyone else must play by the rules. This perception greatly diminishes public confidence in DPNR and its role.

We deem it vital to restore public confidence that DPNR clarify and reinforce its standards, along with commencing enforcement measures and other actions where appropriate, and allow the public to access records of these permitting actions. These are the first steps in demonstrating DPNR’s genuine commitment to lawful regulation of land use.

B. Potential Solutions.

1. Greater Focus on St. John. Given that our island is developing so rapidly, and the beautiful beaches, waters, forests and other natural resources found here – within and outside the National Park – are such important long-term assets for tourism and the VI’s economy, it seems appropriate that DPNR put greater focus on ensuring proper permitting procedures are followed here, and that consistent and fair review and enforcement be performed on all ongoing projects. DPNR has indicated that they agree with this, and that they are seeking to hire a qualified full-time permit inspector under Building Permits who would live and work full-time on St John.

We have also requested that DPNR provide a planner for St John, as was approved by the Governor several years ago after many years of community requests – to give a better “voice” to the St John community in planning its own development. St. John has suffered greatly from a lack of planning over recent years, and this has contributed substantially to the problems we now face. The St John planner could help to serve as a “liaison” between DPNR and the St John community on the issues in this letter and help to avoid these problems. We will submit a further letter on this soon.

2. Review of permit applications needs to be significantly improved. While some DPNR staffers are doing a great job, the review staff typically appears to be absent and/or overloaded. Many times the reviewers are unable to take calls or respond to

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Coral Bay Community Council
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Giffit Hill School
Island Green Building Association
Kids First!
Kids in the Sea (KATS)
Sisterhood Agenda
St. John Audubon Society
St. John Christian Academy
St. John Community Foundation
St. John Film Society
St. John Historical Society
St. John Montessori School
St. John Recycling Association
St. John Relay for Life
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IT'S A SIMPLE SOLUTION: Underwrite a yearly advertising budget for your favorite community group.

St. John Tradewinds supports all registered non-profit organizations with a non-profit advertising rate.
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Community Calendar

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

Wednesday, July 16

The Committee on Energy and Environmental Protection, chaired by Senator at Large Craig Barshinger, will meet on Wednesday, July 16, from 9:45 a.m. to 8 p.m. in the St. John Legislative Annex conference room in Cruz Bay.

Thursday, July 17

— The public is advised that the St. John Passport Office will be closed from June 20 to July 17. Customers needing to renew or apply for passports are encouraged to visit the St. Thomas Passport Office located at Nisky Center for services.

Friday, July 25

— St. John School of the Arts is having a PARTY! Friday, July 25, from 7 to 10 p.m. to celebrate arts education for young musicians. Bring your friends and come support arts education for our island youth! THE ISH will be taking the crowd into a fun filled night with great music and dancing. The floor will be clear, so put on your dancing shoes! For more information, call 779-4322.

— The Government Employees' Retirement System is presenting a financial literacy workshop and member self-service assistance on Friday, July 25, at the V.I. Legislature Annex in Cruz Bay.

Sunday, July 27

— Mark those calendars for Sunday, July 27, for a day of competition and fun on the waves for a great cause as the St. John Chaotic Kayak race takes over Oppenheimer Beach for the fourth year in a row.

Saturday, October 18

— On Saturday, October 18, the Animal Care Center of St. John will present the "No Fleas Please" Flea Market Sale at Winston-Wells Ball Field from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. This annual event is a major Animal Care Center Fundraiser — with emphasis on the fun.

Saturday, November 22

— The Rotary Club of St. John will host the annual Flavors of St. John fundraiser on Saturday, November 22 inside the Westin ballroom. The fundraiser will include about 24 participating restaurants, live music by Cool Sessions and more.

ALCOHOLICS ANONYMOUS MEETINGS

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

NARCOTICS ANONYMOUS MEETINGS

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

AL-ANON MEETINGS

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

Obituary

St. John Culture Bearer Gustave Milton Samuel, 85, Dies

St. John Tradewinds

A memorial service was at 5 p.m. Saturday at the Cinnamon Bay Campground pavilion for Gustave Milton Samuel.

A native of Coral Bay, St. John, Gustave Milton Samuel was born to Sulton and Esther Samuel on February 27, 1929. He was the eldest of his parent's four children and attended the Benjamin Franklin School in Coral Bay. Milton sang with other young men in a group led by Mr. Guy Benjamin and later worked at Caneel Bay before joining the Army in the late 1940s.

On his return to St. John from the Army, Milton worked for a short time at Public Works and then as a policeman. He was also briefly married to Elvina Jennings and from that union came his oldest son, Grantley.

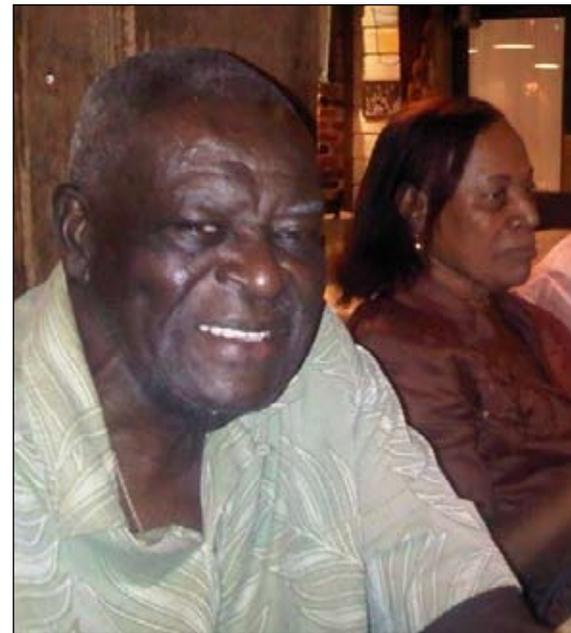
In 1972, he married his loving wife, Beryl Simmons, and from that union came their son, Ian. Together Milton and Beryl not only built a life, but lovingly supported family members in the building of their lives as well.

Milton cherished not only his immediate family, but his extended family and friendships. He was a loving husband, father, grandfather, uncle, cousin and friend. Milton enjoyed trips to the states to celebrate his children and grandchildren's accomplishments. Milton also enjoyed his visits with family and friends.

In the late 1960s, Milton began his beloved career as a ranger with the U.S. National Park Service here on St. John. Milton enjoyed his 20-plus years with the National Park before retiring in 1993. He often told stories of his adventures while patrolling and of the interesting people he met. He loved teaching his sons about the island he loved and the areas in the National Park he worked so hard to keep secure. He also loved to swim in the waters and spent much of his free time doing just that at the various beaches along the North Shore.

Milton loved working with wood. His biggest and most proud accomplishment was the building of and continuous preservation of his two homes. Milton also enjoyed the woodworking classes taught by Avelino Samuel. Milton was always bringing home a piece of furniture he made in class, as well as rolling pins that he gave as gifts to family members.

After retiring from the National Park, when not traveling to the states to visit family and friends, or the doctor, Milton spent much of his time as a mem-



Gustave Milton Samuel

ber of the Senior Center in Adrian. He loved going to the center spending his days participating in the activities and trips. Milton also loved to play dominoes and cards, while keeping everyone on their toes with his quick witted opinions and advice.

Milton also loved to spend time with his brother Oliver before Oliver's passing in 2013. They would sit in the park in Cruz Bay and talk to the many people they knew. Milton also spent a lot of time with his good friend and neighbor Slim Man. Milton would go down to Slim Man's parking lot and chat with Slim Man and the various passersby. There were few people on St. John that Milton did not know, or that did not know Milton.

Milton was a living icon on the island of St. John. He was very knowledgeable of not only the people in the community, but of the historical and cultural information of St. John. Milton has served as the Grand Marshal for the St. John Festival Parade. It was a very proud moment for Milton. Milton also sat on a panel with Guy Benjamin, Kenneth Marsh and Edmond Roberts sharing the wonderful stories of St. John cultural traditions. Milton was one of the greatest storytellers on the island. His wisdom was welcomed, and his wit spared no one from the tongue that was more than fast.

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CRYPTOQUIP

QLDX OJMQDI QV IV J FJH BQYIX VM RDVRFD
WVKMW JUVYMI KM NKUNFDB, HYQ QLDUD
ODUD MV OLKUFKMW RJUQKNKRJMQB.

Today's Cryptoquip clue: N equals C

Obituary



Maia Mongie

Maia Hanley Mongie Passes Away

St. John Tradewinds

Maia Hanley Mongie, 72, died on June 30, 2014, at her home on St. John in the U.S. Virgin Islands.

She was the wife of Henry Mongie for thirty years, and the daughter of the late Martha (Hanley) and William Flanagan and stepdaughter of Stuart Lister. Born in Providence, Rhode Island, she spent her childhood years in Barrington, Rhode Island and later lived in Boston and Ibiza, Spain, before moving to St. John in the early 70s.

Maia attended the Wheeler School, Hollins College and Rhode Island School of Design. She was the owner of the Cruz Bay Travel Agency and Pine Peace Liquors, which she established with her husband. She was a founding member and longtime supporter of the Animal Care Center, an animal rescue organization that she helped form in St. John.

In addition to her husband, Maia is survived by two stepsons, Jonathan Mongie and his wife Eva, of South Dartmouth, Massachusetts, and their children, and Stefan Mongie of St. Petersburg, Florida, and three cousins, Susan Mulvany of Concord, Massachusetts, J. Edward Hanley of Bristol, Rhode Island and Michael Hanley of Minneapolis, Minnesota.

In lieu of flowers, donations in her memory are appreciated at the Animal Care Center, Box 429, St. John, USVI 00831.

Gustave Milton Samuel, 85, Dies

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Milton is preceded in death by his parents; his wife Beryl; his sister Doris Samuel; his brother Oliver Samuel Sr.; and his cousin Louisa Stevens-Duzant.

He leaves behind his sons, Grantley and Ian; his sister, Eleanor; his grandchildren, Markita, Amaya and Mikayla; his sisters-in-law, Eldra Simmons and Lettie Samuel; his nephews, Mitchel, Oliver Jr., Aniel, Gyasi, and Yuvone; his nieces, Yolanda Rayside,

Pamela, Lachalle and Yuvana; his cousins, Alice O'Connor, Godwin Stevens and Mattilda Harvey; as well as a host of cousins and dear friends.

Milton will surely be missed, and never forgotten. We give thanks to God for the big man with the big heart who loved us as much as we loved him.

Arrangements were by Hurley-Davis Funeral Home.

- Obituary written by family.

Letters to St. John Tradewinds

St. John Hearings July 16 Will Discuss DPNR

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questions because they are simply not in the office. As far as we know the reviewers have no working email or voice mail. Years ago DPNR would take calls, and respond to inquiries and code questions; now there is no one there. Increased funding (see below) could help improve this situation and allow DPNR to be as responsive as needed.

3. Inspections / enforcement: before work is to progress on site, DPNR inspectors are supposed to review all work for compliance to the approved permit and to the zoning and building codes. While this was the case years ago, inspectors are now rarely seen on St John sites. Also, where construction is underway without permits, inspectors do not appear to respond and demand compliance, allowing construction that is either not permitted at all or is not built as permitted.

4. Improved Transparency: DPNR should implement a policy of full transparency for all its records to restore public confidence in its functions – as required by the VI Public Records Act – and respond promptly and fully to all requests made concerning pending projects, to prevent the appearance of impropriety that results from the apparent withholding of information. (For example, requests for permit documents on the Denis Bay project were not honored – but DPNR has said recently that it will honor all document requests.) This transparency should extend to DPNR's enforcement actions, so that everyone can see that fair and consistent standards are being applied. Effective use could be made of DPNR's website for this purpose, to allow more user-friendly public access to its records.1

5. Conflicts of interest: Some DPNR reviewers have side jobs to increase their income that involve preparation of plans for development permits. Other problems involve apparent family relationships or friendships between DPNR inspectors and project developers, where enforcement then is not performed or other rules are not followed. In many peoples' view, what has been happening seems little short of "disguised bribery" of government employees in order to obtain permits and COs or avoid inspections / enforcement. A "zero tolerance" standard should be adopted towards conflicts of interest and favoritism.

DPNR should find people that are willing to work exclusively for DPNR, for better pay, in order to eliminate "moonlighting" and the conflicts it creates. At a minimum, a strict "conflict of interest" rule should be enforced immediately, prohibiting employees from doing work that involves obtaining permits from DPNR or related agencies.

6. Increased Funding Through Effective Permitting and Enforcement. DPNR could easily generate more funds to pay for improved inspections (and full-time inspectors), if it simply begins charging realistic permit fees based on the full value of the projected work. (By contrast, for example,

the \$50,000 value reported for the massive Denis Bay road work and grading, as shown on the posted permit, appears far lower than the value of the work, and DPNR's own schedule of costs reportedly would have required over \$500,000.) Anyone providing the DPNR estimated construction cost (owner or architect/designer) should use the DPNR defined schedule, should be obligated to update the estimate if the design changes, and should pay a steep penalty if caught having misled DPNR.

Such higher permit fees (better reflecting DPNR's actual costs) could generate significant funds for the DPNR improvements sought by the community. Furthermore, with thorough, fair and consistent enforcement of DPNR's existing rules, and meaningful fines reflective of the work's actual value imposed in all appropriate instances, particularly on intentional violations, DPNR could generate more than enough funds to pay for the necessary inspectors, with appropriate training, in order to enforce its rules properly – as well as to avoid further conflicts of interest and further "professionalize" DPNR's processes and its personnel.

C. Community Input / Feedback. These issues are finally starting to get attention, and this letter is an invitation to all concerned citizens to come out and share your concerns at the public hearing to be held on "St John environmental issues" on Wednesday, July 16, 2014 (starting at 4 pm) at the Legislature building in Cruz Bay – where all these issues will be discussed with DPNR officials in attendance. Senator Barshinger is well-informed about many of these concerns, and his Senate Committee on Energy and Environmental Protection will host the hearing. We all should emphasize the desire to work with DPNR to resolve these problems – serving as its "eyes and ears" by raising concerns, as Commissioner Barnes and others at DPNR have requested.

Per recent discussions with DPNR, we understand DPNR is planning to meet with stakeholders from the affected community on St John, including the design and building professionals who work most with DPNR and others – to share perspectives and ideas, with a view to implementing fundamental reforms in DPNR's processes to address the above issues. We look forward to agreeing on dates for these stakeholder meetings in the near future.

We also know that the situations described are relatively recent occurrences, not typical of the DPNR that we have known and worked with for many years, which usually has enforced its rules fairly, vigorously and consistently to protect the natural environment and community of our Islands. As such, we are hopeful that these issues can be addressed soon.

We look forward to working with the community and DPNR to resolve these problems.

Sincerely,
Rafael F. Muilenburg, Esquire
Morrisette & Muilenburg, LLP

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

Sunday Service 10 a.m.; Monday Bible Study 6:30 p.m.
Thursday Women's Bible Study 9 a.m.
Saturday Men's Bible Study 10 a.m.
Follow us on Facebook for Locations or call (340) 514-6578

Jehovah's Witness

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

Missionary Baptist Church

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

Nazareth Lutheran Church

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

Our Lady of Mount Carmel Catholic Church

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

St. John Methodist Church

Sunday 10 a.m., 693-8830

Seventh Day Adventist

Saturdays, 779-4477

St. John Pentecostal Church

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

St. Ursula's Episcopal Church

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

Unitarian Universalist Fellowship

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

New VITRAN Ferries Are Not All Smooth Sailing

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RH," Sen. Barshinger emailed DPW Commissioner Daryl Smalls from his mobile phone. "After 20 mins, *Cruz Bay 1* doubled back to RH dock. Confusion in pilot house. Finally it set out & performed normally. Reached Cruz Bay abt 7:47 pm."

"Seemed like a safety issue," Sen. Barshinger wrote Smalls. "Captain & crew members in pilot house appeared unfamiliar with boat operation. No Safety Briefing was made/played."

"Please investigate & inform Legislature Cmte on Gov't Ops of status of this issue," Diane Capehart, Chair, and Craig Barshinger, Vice-chair.

"*The Red Hook 1* seems to be running better than the *Cruz Bay 1*," opined one veteran taxi driver monitoring operations from the Cruz Bay taxi stand.

Officials of long-time franchisees Varlack Ventures and Transportation Services have been reticent about the introduction and operation of the new ferries and their months of negotiations with the V.I. government.

Contract Talks Take Eight Months

Negotiations on operating agreements for the vessels between the V.I. Department of Public Works, as the owner of the vessels, and the two private St. John companies which hold government operating franchises for the St. Thomas-St. John ferry service had dragged on since the ferries arrived in the territory in early November 2013.

After reportedly being pressed into service on Emancipation Day, July 3, by Gov. John P. deJongh himself, the bright blue boats with white trim earned good reviews from passengers as the vessels were worked into the operating schedules through the

heavy traffic of the Fourth of July holiday weekend.

After months of negotiations, both franchisees subsequently have signed management contracts with the government for the operation of of their respective boats, Smalls said.

The operating agreement includes a token payment to the government by the franchise operators for the use of the boats, which were purchased with a total of \$7.6 million in federal funds, and requires the franchisees to maintain the vessels with operating revenues, according to the commissioner.

The boats are meant to supplement the existing fleet, not replace the larger single-hulled boats, Smalls reportedly told the *V.I. Daily News*.

"I've received nothing but positive words and encouragement," Smalls said. "The reviews that I've had have been positive, both from the public and the franchise operators themselves."

"Plush" Interiors Face Heavy Use

In fact, regular inter-island travelers expressed concern about the durability of the plush seats with the local daily commuter traffic and sometimes soggy tourists.

Infrequent ferry travelers who haven't yet experienced the voyage on the new vessels, meanwhile, react incredulously to the reports of multiple flat screen televisions to entertain riders in the wood-paneled cabin complete with handicapped accessible toilets.

Unfortunately the St. John to St. Thomas transit takes less than 15 minutes when the new vessels are operating effectively — so the movie being shown on all four screens never gets very far before starting over again for the return trip.

Dalmida Launches at-Large Write-in Candidacy

Continued from Page 4

The two candidates to succeed retiring three-term Senator Craig W. Barshinger — Jones as a Democrat and Liburd as an Independent — don't appear to be concerned about a write-in campaign by former St. John Administrator James Dalmida Jr.

Dalmida texted *St. John Tradewinds* in June 28 that he was planning to mount a write-in campaign for Senator at Large so voters can have a "better choice" in the November election.

"I don't have any comment on that," Democrat Jones told *Tradewinds* July 9 when asked about Dalmida's then-potential write-in challenge. "I am hoping that the (Democratic) Party is truly getting organized."

Residency Question Raised

Dalmida withdrew his announced candidacy for the Democratic nomination for the at-Large V.I. Senate seat in May after election officials questioned his residency eligibility because Dalmida has been working out of the territory.

When officials asked Dalmida for tax documentation of his three-year USVI residency at the May deadline for filing candidacy papers, the popular administrator and hospitality industry professional said he was unable to provide the

necessary documentation before the deadline and he withdrew his candidacy promising to try again in 2016.

Some insistent supporters were urging him to reconsider his withdrawal and to instead run as a write-in candidate in the general election, Dalmida said in June.

"Time for a New Way of Thinking"

"Because so many people are asking me to do something so they can have a better choice than they have now, we are running a write-in campaign," Dalmida emailed *Tradewinds*. "We are going forward because many Virgin Islanders feel that it is time for a new way of thinking."

Election officials also denied Senator at Large bids by Democratic B. Greg Miller and Republican Jodi Hodge based on the Board of Elections' three-year St. John residency requirement leaving only two St. Johnians qualified to run for Senator at Large in the November election: the outspoken Jones as the Democratic candidate and former Senator at Large Almando Liburd as the Independent candidate

St. John Tradewinds is offering home delivery to candidates for Senator at Large — on St. John.

The St. John deer population in the V.I. National Park appears to be in growing leaps and bounds with deer hunting not allowed in the VINP.

St. John Tradewinds
News Photo by Tom Oat



St. John Deer Are Home on the Range

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to find deer browsing them,” Ray added.

How many deer are there on St. John?

“I can only guess. Thousands?” Ray poses with a shrug. “We need to take breeding rates from a range of places in the Western hemisphere and research what is the potential for their fertility. Here in the Virgin Islands, are there any defined breeding seasons? We don’t know.”

No Guess on Deer Population

Venturing a guess on the deer population is more than Thomas Kelley, the Natural Resource Manager at the Virgin Islands National Park, is willing to do.

“They appear to be increasing in number, but we don’t have the data. We know they’re changing their habitat. They’re in places where they didn’t use to be. They browse and change the seed dispersal through their digestive tracts, affecting the native plants, says Kelley.

“They’re introduced exotic ungulates, and we’re charged with managing them, so we will develop a management plan,” said Kelley. “We have plans for most of the larger mammals — rats, cats, mongoose, sheep, goats and hogs. Burros and deer are next on our list.”

Developing a management plan is a multistep process that can take many months. The Park is required by the National Environmental Policy Act to file documents, conduct studies, and hold public hearings before the plan can be implemented. Facing budget cuts, parks are struggling to find the funding to do the research.

“Conducting a wildlife census is difficult and expensive, especially on an island that’s densely vegetated, with steep slopes and a small number of trails,” Kelley added.

Introduced as Food Source

Deer were originally brought from the

southeast United States in 1790 and released on St. Croix as a food source, according to Rafe Boulon, who served as Chief of Resource Management with the VINP for 14 years.

In 1845, some were removed to St. Thomas, and more deer were brought in the 1960s from Texas and the Carolinas for hunting.

“We think they swam to St. John via the St. James islands,” he said.

Boulon is not certain exactly why or when hunting season was closed on St. Thomas.

“I assume it was during the 1970s,” he said.

Prior to working at the National Park, Boulon spent 18 years with the V.I. Division of Fish and Wildlife.

In 1982, when he was acting head of Fish and Wildlife, Boulon said he was asked to testify before the Virgin Islands Legislature because previous deer hunters wanted seasonal permits again. About 20 hunters attended the session chaired by Senator Lorraine Berry.

“I said, ‘No problem,’ if the hunters wanted to use a bow and arrow, shotgun, or attended snare,” Boulon recalled. “I said no to dogs and long rifles. (Hunting with dogs is inhumane, he explained, and a bullet from long rifles can have a range of a couple of miles.) I asked the hunters if that would be okay with them (the proposed rules), and they said ‘No.’”

That was the last time Boulon said he could recall a push to re-open a deer hunting season, but individuals can apply to Fish and Wildlife to hunt deer on their own property.

There is no hunting permitted within the V.I. National Park, but there are rumors of

clandestine hunting in certain parts of the island.

Puzzled by Population Explosion

Boulon is also puzzled by the apparent deer population explosion.

“When I was growing up on St. John, I heard about deer, but I never saw one until I was in my late 20s, in Wintberg on St. Thomas,” said Boulon, who theorizes the population growth is tied to the above average amount of rainfall in the past ten to 12 years, increasing their food supply.

To fend off the deer from eating the plants and fruit trees at his north shore residence, Boulon has built a fence around his property.

“It takes an eight-foot high fence to keep out a deer with a running start,” explained Boulon who said that as he walks through unprotected areas, he notices deep gouges in the bark on seagrape and mango trees.

“I don’t know if it’s from them sharpening their horns,” he said.

Caneel Welcomes Deer

Not everyone tries to keep out the deer, however.

Patrick Kidd, the director of Sales and Marketing at the Caneel Bay Resort, says the deer are part of the landscape on the hotel property.

“We make provision for wildlife,” Kidd said. “The guests love them.”

“The numbers seem to ebb and flow,” Kidd admitted. “Right now the population is on the buoyant side.”

The deer seem to have little regard for human presence as they roam the beaches, Kidd acknowledged.

“I’ve seen them swim,” he added. “They’re highly entitled.”

“Glorious Life” of Non-Stop Eating

In the late afternoons, as many as a dozen deer — including a handful of spotted fawns — can be seen on the green lawns of Caneel Bay contentedly munching on blossoms from cedar trees and flamboyants.

“They pretty much lead a glorious life,” Kidd remarked. “They do eat non-stop.”

Kidd admitted the deer’s eating habits do present problems for the resort’s horticulturists.

“Many of our plants are rather tasty,” he said. “The donkeys have a nibble as well.”

The deer and donkeys, however, don’t graze enough to keep the resort’s acres of lawn “at the manicured level we need,” Kidd said, and grounds keepers still need to mow.

Although most guests do appreciate that the deer are wild, some do try to feed them, as one guest admitted to former Ranger Keplinger, who said the Caneel grounds “look like a petting zoo.”

Do Not Feed Wildlife

Kelley of the NPS does not like to hear this.

“It’s good practice not to feed wildlife for any purpose at any time. They get humanized and expect a treat or a handout and act more aggressive than their wild counterparts,” Kelley said. “And the deer are truly wild, unlike the burros or feral cats which were once domesticated.”

The deer do cause another problem as they become more comfortable with the presence of humans. Motorists are much more likely to encounter them in the road, and occasionally deer and cars do collide.

“I almost hit one on my motorcycle,” Boulon said. “Fortunately, I was going slow and I could stop.”

The consequences of hitting a deer at high speed can be devastating. Dean Hulse, a long-time St. John resident who now spends part of the year in Colorado, recently hit a deer when he was driving his motorcycle there and suffered 12 cracked ribs.

No Lyme Disease Ticks on St. John

Fortunately, the most serious health hazard associated with deer, the ticks that carry Lyme disease, has not been found on St. John. Boulon said that deer do carry dog ticks, but a sampling by the U.S. Department of Agriculture’s Wildlife Service Division was unable to find any traces of Lyme disease.

Without any predators, the deer will continue to thrive on St. John until the Park Service implements a management plan. In the meantime, guard your gardens, and enjoy the deer for the photo opportunities they present.

A blood stain on North Shore Road on Friday morning, July 11, was probably the result of a vehicular collision with a deer — although the carcass had been removed.

St. John Tradewinds News
Photo by Tom Oat



St. John Tradewinds Business Directory

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kathy@islandgetawaysinc.com

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or locally at 340-779-4486

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Crossword

By Frank A. Longo

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MIXED

VEGETABLES

ACROSS

- 1 Reinforcing shoe tip
- 7 Brand of prescription painkiller
- 13 Toss out
- 20 Southern African land
- 21 Give in
- 22 Big markets
- 23 Many an earthen plant holder
- 25 Vegetable mixed inside 110-Across
- 26 Dog biscuit, to a dog
- 27 Bit in a stew
- 28 Canon — Rebel
- 29 Bakery item
- 30 — Paese (cheese)
- 31 Mall with wholesale goods
- 34 Speakers of Celtic
- 36 Put- — (ruses)
- 37 "— a woman?": Sojourner Truth
- 38 Knife cut
- 39 Writer Oz
- 43 Diplomacy
- 45 Food store worker
- 49 Vegetable mixed inside 72-Across
- 52 Ranks
- 54 Gorbachev's wife
- 55 Not sleeping
- 56 Fills untidily
- 57 Vegetable mixed inside 23-Across and 84-Across
- 58 Vegetable mixed inside 97-Across
- 60 It's charged

- 61 Like slightly spoiled meat
- 62 "Ta-ta"
- 63 Pack-toting beast
- 64 Dell products
- 65 Vast span
- 66 DOJ arm
- 69 Swinging ditty
- 71 Toby brew
- 72 Rapid weight-loss option
- 75 Vegetable mixed inside 23-Across
- 78 University in Silicon Valley
- 80 Moray lurer
- 81 Eye-tricking paintings
- 82 Lobbies for
- 83 Vegetable mixed inside 45-Across
- 84 Impact depression near Flagstaff
- 86 Jedi sage
- 87 Begged
- 88 Corn units
- 89 1950s Ford
- 92 Vacation site
- 95 In a strange way
- 97 Affect one's emotions
- 101 Spinks foe
- 104 Dijon "yes"
- 105 Sauna sound
- 106 Part of GPS: Abbr.
- 107 Made known
- 108 Vegetable mixed inside 31-Across
- 110 Surfs while watching TV
- 113 Intertangles
- 114 Langston Hughes memoir, with "The"
- 115 Probes into
- 116 TV satirist Stephen
- 117 Party split
- 118 Double boxing punch

DOWN

- 1 Bit of skin art
- 2 Minimal lead in baseball
- 3 Some herons
- 4 — reef
- 5 Get — start (be tardy)
- 6 D.C. donor
- 7 Kind of sail
- 8 Circle eighth
- 9 Brand of cable modem
- 10 Plains shelter
- 11 "When is — not ..."
- 12 Reno stakes
- 13 Loses hope
- 14 Irreverence
- 15 Pitcher's talk
- 16 Dupe
- 17 Qatari, e.g.
- 18 Paddy plant
- 19 Writer Roald
- 24 In the work already mentioned: Abbr.
- 32 Dash device
- 33 Snug
- 34 Dells
- 35 Periodic pay
- 38 Contempt
- 40 Israel's Golda
- 41 "In that area"
- 42 Three-hand card game
- 43 "Kon- —"
- 44 "Just —!"
- 46 Tendency to keep silent
- 47 Nondairy spreads
- 48 Overpack
- 49 Broccoli —
- 50 Cockeyed
- 51 Calendar info
- 52 Lodge group
- 53 Feed lines to
- 56 Amount paid
- 57 See 67-Down
- 59 Ring of virtue
- 61 Urge on
- 64 Braid
- 65 Isn't right
- 66 Folder filler
- 67 With 57-Down, some tavern trash
- 68 Response to "Nice job!"
- 69 Texas city
- 70 "I gotta hand — ya ..."
- 71 Chart book
- 72 Bivouac bed
- 73 Take note of
- 74 Oscar — Renta
- 75 Pageantry
- 76 German car
- 77 British art gallery
- 78 Apology word
- 79 One axing
- 82 Most flaky
- 83 RC, say
- 85 One losing weight
- 86 "You've gotta be kidding!"
- 90 Puts down, to a rapper
- 91 Overhead stadium recorder
- 92 Most irritated
- 93 Future D.A.'s major
- 94 Builds on
- 96 "Irma la —"
- 97 — law (old Germanic legal code)
- 98 Femur locale
- 99 "Emperor of the Air" author Ethan
- 100 Doorway joint
- 101 British actor Guinness
- 102 Jay of TV
- 103 "— never fly!"
- 105 Fliers' mil. posts
- 109 Key near Q
- 111 23rd Greek letter
- 112 Bustle

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St. John Tradewinds News Photo by Tom Oat

A well-coiffed young donkey was nibbling on ornamentals at Morgan's Mango restaurant in Cruz Bay on the Sunday morning after St. John Festival.

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Safer and More Effective Sunscreens



According to the Environmental Working Group, which assessed the safety and effectiveness of more than 1,400 sunscreens for its 2014 Guide to Sunscreens, only one in three sunscreens for sale on the shelves of American stores offer good skin protection and are free of ingredients with links to health problems.

Credit: Bruce A. Stockwell, Courtesy Flickr

Skin cancer is by far the most common form of cancer in the United States, with more new cases each year than breast, prostate, lung and colon cancers combined. And the rate of newly diagnosed cases of the most deadly skin cancer, melanoma, has tripled over the last three decades. But many of the sunscreens on the market do not provide enough protection from the sun's damaging rays. Also, some of them contain chemicals that can also cause health problems in their own right.

According to the non-profit Environmental Working Group (EWG), which assessed the safety and effectiveness of more than 1,400 "SPF" (sun protection factor) products for its 2014 Guide to Sunscreens, only one in three sunscreens for sale on the shelves of American stores offer good skin protection and are free of ingredients with links to health issues. "That means two-thirds of the sunscreens in our analysis don't work well enough or contain ingredients that

may be toxic," reports the group.

A big part of the problem is the lack of tougher rules from the U.S. Food & Drug Administration (FDA). "The FDA's first major set of sunscreen regulations, 36 years in the making, took effect in December 2012 and proved far too weak to transform the market," reports EWG. While the new rules did restrict some of the most egregious claims on sunscreen labels (such as the "patently false" 'waterproof' and 'sweatproof' claims) and ended the sale of powder sunscreens and towelettes that were too thin to provide protection against ultraviolet rays, they didn't address inhalation threats from spray sunscreens or take into account the risks of exposure to so-called "nanoparticles" from zinc oxide and titanium dioxide varieties.

While the FDA is currently reassessing its stance on sunscreens, EWG warns it may be a while before new rules address these and other concerns, especially given

push-back from regulatory-averse members of Congress and some manufacturers. So what's a health-conscious sun worshipper to do about sunscreen?

For starters, read labels. Some common sunscreen ingredients to watch out for and avoid include: oxybenzone, which can cause allergic reactions and hormone-like effects; Vitamin A (AKA retinyl palmitate), a skin irritant and possible carcinogen; and fragrances which can contain allergens and chemicals. Also, spray sunscreens are suspect because inhaling some of the ingredients can irritate breathing passages and even potentially compromise lung function. And EWG warns to avoid products with SPF ratings higher than 50, as their use can tempt people to apply too little and/or stay in the sun too long. Sticking with products in

the 15-50 SPF range and reapplying often makes much more sense.

Some of the best choices are those sunscreens that employ either zinc oxide or avobenzone, both which have been shown to block the most damaging ultraviolet rays effectively without the need for other potentially troublesome additives. Some of the leading brands that meet EWG's criteria for both safety and effectiveness include Absolutely Natural, Aubrey Organics, California Baby, Elemental Herbs, Goddess Garden, Tropical Sands and True Natural, among others. Find these and other winners on the shelves of natural foods retailers as well as online. For a complete list of all 172 recommended sunscreens and to learn more about the risks, check out EWG's free online 2014 Guide to Sunscreens.

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| <p>"WINDCHIME" is a very private 1.4 ac. estate set high atop Giff Hill. Dramatic views to the east w/ spectacular breezes and sunrises. This 3 bdrm villa has room to expand with an oversized pool facing the terrific view.</p> <p>MLS 13-516 \$1,295,000</p> | <p>"WHALE WATCH" – Enjoy pristine East End in this lovely, 2 bedroom villa with big water views.</p> <p>MLS 13-204 \$1,125,000</p> | <p>"TREE PALMS" Versatile 5 BR 5 BA property with solid rental history. Charming home w/ 2 kitchens, covered verandas, stone entrance, garden fountain, concrete pool and spa deck. Solar panels, and ocean views complete the package!</p> <p>MLS 13-3 \$995,000</p> | <p>"SAGO COTTAGE" adorable Caribbean style masonry cottage with wonderful island views and great rental history.</p> <p>MLS 14-254 \$825,000</p> | <p>"ENIGHED GARDENS" is a 5x4 masonry home in gated .46 ac. garden setting with spectacular views over Pillsbury Sound. Flexible floor plan, expansive decks, wonderful potential "as is".</p> <p>MLS 13-128 \$795,000</p> | <p>"VILLA MIMOSA" IS A BEST BUY! 4 bedroom private rental home—awesome down island & Coral Bay views! Turn key! Originally \$1,700,000 now priced to sell.</p> <p>MLS 13-459 \$695,000</p> |
| <p>"GIFFT HILL" View, quiet area & convenience! Two unit home—Live in one, rent the other! Main level features 2 bdrms, bath & a generous great room w/ sliders to Pillsbury Sound view deck. Lower level studio apartment with porch. Lush, level property with easy parking.</p> <p>MLS 13-347 \$499,000</p> | <p>"FISH BAY" 4X2" INCREDIBLE VALUE! Huge panoramic views and a quiet, private, breezy location that borders Nature Conservancy property make this home a must see!</p> <p>MLS 13-267 \$475,000</p> | <p>"VERY MOTIVATED SELLER!" SABA COTTAGE offers an open floor plan & valley views of historic sugar mill. Room to expand this small but well constructed home. Two parcels—keep one and sell the other.</p> <p>MLS 13-199 \$215,000</p> | <p>"LAVENDER HILL" Luxurious 1 bedroom unit adjacent to pool with 2 decks. Walk to beach and town. Handsomely furnished, immaculately maintained, excellent rental management.</p> <p>MLS 12-249 \$459,000</p> | <p>"BEACHFRONT GRANDE BAY RESORT" Has great views! Beautifully furnished & easy access to shop/restaurants. Large pool & deck area, fitness & reception center, indoor parking & elevator service.</p> <p>3 BR/2 BA \$1,195,000 1 BR/1 BA \$745,000</p> | <p>"OWN A MONTH IN A LUXURY HOME" Choose a 3 BR 3.5 BA or a 4 BR 4.5 BA villa in upscale Virgin Grand Estates. These 3,000 sq ft villas feature STT & sunset views, pool, AC & more.</p> <p>Priced from \$55,000</p> |

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| FISH BAY from \$ 79,995 | VIRGIN GRAND ESTATES from \$ 150,000 | LOVANGO CAY South shore from \$ 250,000 |
| CHOCOLATE HOLE from \$ 118,500 | GLUCKSBERG from \$ 195,000 | SAUNDERS GUT hillside & WATERFRONT from \$ 299,000 |
| | | UPPER MONTE BAY/RENDEZVOUS from \$ 799,000 |
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A Constant Help in Trouble Has Troubles of Its Own

BY JUDI SHIMEL
St. John Tradewinds

CRUZ BAY — When trouble comes to families as domestic violence and to individual victims of related crimes a tiny outpost on St. John stands ready to help.

The Family Resource Center provides people and resources that mobilize in time of crisis from a shared space at the Myrah Keating Smith Clinic. And according to the non—profits' leadership, the mission is served in spite of a host of uncertainties.

The volunteer base is small, says FRC Director Vivian St. Juste. Most of the time it boils down to one person, Annette Smalls. St. Juste describes Smalls as a community—minded person determined to help when the need arises.

The need first arose in 2012. By then the St. John Safety Zone, later renamed the St. John Community Crisis Center, ceased operations. From its St. Thomas location in Charlotte Amalie, the FRC set up a satellite response center at the Keating Clinic, with Smalls providing response and coordinating services.

"The staff on St. John is reliable, and an established St. John resident who cares about her neighbors and goes beyond the call of duty to provide services on island," St. Juste said. "All means of communication are used to assist victims of crime."

"Connections are established and maintained with the contacts needed from resource sites outside of FRC, from St. John," she explained. "When it is required, victims are accompanied to St. Thomas and accompanied to critical appointments including court appearances and hearings."

She also expressed thanks to MKS administrator Dr. Joseph de-James and the MKS staff for providing in—kind office space and support.

When sexual assault or domestic violence related assault occurs, a team approach is sometimes required. In those cases the V.I. Police Department's Victim Advocate also pitches in. Desiree Lambertis answers the call, also traveling from St. Thomas to St. John.

"If police or 911 sees the need for a victim's advocate, they would call me," Lambertis said. "I'd hop

on a boat and come over."

And somewhere between the scene of the crime and the clinic, Lambertis and Smalls cross paths. Like St. Juste, Lambertis commends the efforts of St. John's dedicated few.

"FRC helps a lot with domestic violence situations, so victims can stay in their environment, instead of taking them elsewhere," Lambertis said. "FRC is a big boost over there because it helps us work with people in their environment."

Although it is not a government agency, non—profits specializing in crisis response like FRC and St. John Rescue have been an important supplement for entities like police, the Dept. of Health, Human Services and Superior Court. But as of late those non—profits also find themselves under pressure.

Earlier this year Debra Gottlieb, Director of the Office of Management and Budget, told those gathered for the annual meeting of the League of Women Voters to expect four percent cuts to the Fiscal Year 2015 budget. She added that projected revenues for the last quarter of FY 2014 — the current spending year — were expected to fall short.

These projections left FRC, it's management and staff, struggling with anticipated late payments of government allotments for July, August and September. On St. John, St. Juste said, the shortfall is expected to hurt the most.

"The financial crunch will directly affect services on St. John. Currently we are operating the St. John office (services and 1 Social Worker) with only private fundraising dollars," she explained. "That is very unstable and the need for the support from all directions is great. To date, no new information has been provided on when there can be some relief."

"We are operating that site on a day—to—day basis at this point," St. Juste acknowledged. "The residents of St. John have no other outlet for support of victims of crime on the island outside of law enforcement."

Organizations like the St. John Rotary have begun to take note. In a recent edition of their newsletter, Coconut Telegraph, Rotarians said they are looking at the old safe house run by the St. John Safety Zone and looking at ways they may

be able to help restore the facility.

FRC leaders say establishment of a St. John safehouse is part of a three—year plan. Until then

other means will be sought to help victims of extreme domestic violence.

Officials say the organization is

also in need of donations, since the St. John FRC is currently funded through private fundraising done on St. Thomas.

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