

ST. JOHN

TRADEWINDS

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

Chaotic Kayak Race Raises Funds for TRR



St. John Tradewinds News photos by E Franklin Tulloch / earthbound studios

A total of 38 teams competed in the 2016 CSM Robert Gallagher Memorial St. John Chaotic Kayak race at Oppenheimer Beach to raise funds for wounded veterans taking part in adaptive kayak program with Team River Runner. See more photos and story on Back Page.

Funding Approved for STJ Homeless Center

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Cruz Bay Marina Rumors are True

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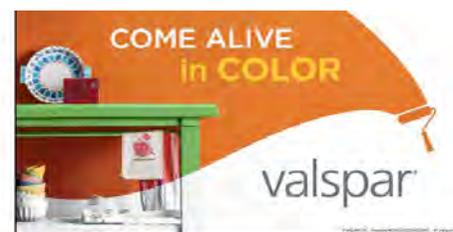
Concrete Not Pouring on STJ

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New at Paradise... Valspar Paint!

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Last Print Issue of St. John Tradewinds Island's Oldest Newspaper Moving to Online Only Format

St. John Tradewinds

Dear Tradewinds Readers,

I wanted to take this opportunity to announce that this issue, July 25, is the final print issue of the *St. John Tradewinds Newspaper*. Thank you for your loyalty over the years and in the recent months as we have taken over ownership and have been printing biweekly.

I would like to highlight our managing editor, Jaime Elliott, for all of her hard work as well as all of our current writers, Amy Roberts, Judi Shimel, Andrea Milam, Mary Bourassa and Rebecca Reinbold. I would especially like to thank the local businesses and business owners who have supported the Tradewinds as advertisers.

Although we will no longer be printing the paper, we are not going away. We are moving online. Our website, www.stjohntradewindsnews.com, will be your online resource for all things St. John. News, local events, advertising, business directory, etc.

Myself and my team at *Tradewinds* care deeply about St. John and want to remain a steadfast, reliable news source continuing to serve our community. We hope that you will continue to support us as we start our new journey as an online news source.

Thank you,
Nick Van Assche

Elections System Hiring Ballot Counters

St. John Tradewinds

The St. Thomas and St. John District Board of Elections are seeking High School Graduates and College Students to assist with the Counting of Ballots process from August 6 until August 16.

All Students must be registered voters in the St. Thomas and St. John District and shall receive a Per-Diem of \$75. For more information contact Angel Bolques at (340) 774-3107.

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The Community Newspaper Since 1972

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Bethany Church BBQ is July 30

St. John Tradewinds

Bethany Moravian Church is hosting a Barbecue Night on Saturday, July 30, at 6:30 p.m. Tickets are available from church members or by calling (340) 776-6291. The menu will include steak, fish, chicken and all the side dishes you can eat!

Caneel Bay Tennis Tourney is Aug. 6 & 7

St. John Tradewinds

All tennis players on St. John are invited to compete in the Caneel Bay End of Season Tennis Tournament on August 6 and 7.

Enter in doubles competitive or novice division (minimum four teams per division). Cost is \$10 per team which will be collected on August 6. Entry deadline is Wednesday, August 3. Players are asked to include names and phone numbers of both players when registering.

Ask a friend, spouse, sibling or your child to partner up with you to enjoy a fun day of exercise and tennis at beautiful Caneel Bay Resort. To register or for more information email Caneel Bay Director of Tennis Eric Gessner at eric.gessner@pbitenis.com.

St. John Rescue 4th Annual Rib Cook Off is Nov. 12 in Coral Bay

St. John Tradewinds

Come out and enjoy the best ribs on the island while supporting volunteer emergency responders at St. John Rescue's 4th Annual Rib Cook Off November 12 at 3 p.m. at the Coral Bay ball field.

All proceeds from the event will go directly to St. John Rescue to aid in the purchase of medical and training supplies, vehicle maintenance, operating expenses related to the headquarters building and oxygen generator, and training for members.

The contest is open to the public and is limited to 15 participants. Registration costs \$125 which includes 100 pounds of ribs. The event will feature live music and as well as a raffle and silent auction. For more information email stjohnrescue@gmail.com.

See you there!

We are Moving!

Find us ONLINE

www.stjohntradewindsnews.com

Funding Approved for St. John Homeless Center

By Amy Roberts
St. John Tradewinds

If all goes as planned, the homeless population of St. John will be able to receive an array of critical services at a new support center by the end of the year.

The St. John Community Foundation has been awarded a \$30,000 grant to set up a site where people who are homeless, vulnerably housed, or in transition will be able contact social and medical care providers, potential employers, and family members.

Known as the Homeless Support Center, the site will also provide counseling services and serve as a distribution center for donations of food, clothing and toiletries. Lockers will be provided where clients may store important documents and other belongings.

Celia Kalousek, executive director of the St. John Community Foundation (SJCF), emphasized that the site will operate as a day center and not as a shelter.

“It will not be a hangout,” she said.

Currently, there are no shelters on island for the estimated 75 people who are homeless or at high risk of being homeless on St. John. The target population for the center’s services is fluid. As many as 189 individuals have taken advantage of free meals provided by church groups on St. John, according to records from 2015. Approximately 30 are considered homeless by the standards established by the Department of Housing and Urban Development.

Exactly where the center will be located has not been finalized. The SJCF is working with St. John Administrator Camille Paris and the Department of Property and Procurement to determine if a site that was formerly slated to house the Safety Zone could be used. That building is situated between St. Ursula’s Church and the St. John Inn. The project initially proposed locating the center at the Lumberyard.

Kalousek, who based her master’s thesis on the health and welfare needs of homeless adults on St. John, has been coordinating her efforts with volunteers from several churches to provide at least one meal a day to the needy.

The Faith in Action group includes volunteers from Our Lady of Mt. Carmel Catholic Church, which serves lunch on Mondays and Fridays; the Nazareth Lutheran Church, which serves lunch on Tuesdays (with the assistance of Catholic Charities of St. Thomas); and the Seventh Day Adventist Church, which serves dinner on Thursdays.

Meals are provided by volunteers on weekends and other times by the Seventh Day Ad-

ventist Church, Freshwater Church, and other caring individuals. In addition, the Catholic Church provides access to showers and laundry facilities during the week.

Kalousek has pushed for the establishment of a support center to assist these groups in collecting and distributing donations of food and toiletries.

The center, which has plans to operate between 10 a.m. and 4 p.m., will also provide the homeless with access to phones and computers with internet service.

“There is no consistent place for the homeless to go for assistance in maintaining connections with social service providers and potential employment opportunities,” Kalousek said.

Many of the homeless have lost important documents as they’ve been moved by police from their makeshift housing or by theft.

“Not having these documents can mean denial of vital services,” Kalousek said, and for the most vulnerable, this can be critical. “Unfortunately, we lost three to untimely deaths that could have been prevented with a support system and proper medical attention.”

On the bright side, the SJCF has assisted five formerly homeless individuals in attaining permanent housing. One person, who had been on the streets of St. John for 27 years, was provided a place to live on St. Thomas through the Home at Last program operated by Catholic Charities.

Another person entered into rehab in Florida through the Salvation Army. A third person went to the Bethlehem House Shelter on St. Thomas and two others were reunited with family members.

The proposal for the grant was one of 18 selected from among 52 proposals submitted to the Virgin Islands Housing Finance Authority. That agency administers HUD’s Discretionary Grants, a program which includes Community Development Block Grants, Emergency Solution Grants, and the Home Investment Partnership Program.

Also selected for funding was a proposal by the Family Resource Center to provide one-on-one counseling services to youth and teens who have been victims of child abuse, domestic violence, or crime.

The Family Resource Center, which is based on St. Thomas, has been providing these services at the Myrah Keating Smith Community Health Center for the past three years.

“We had an unexpected volume of need, including youth who are at risk for suicide,” said Vivian St. Juste, executive director of the FRC.

Their grant, for \$43,000, will service clients on St. Thomas and St. John.

Mapp Salutes Tim Duncan

St. John Tradewinds

Virgin Islands Governor Kenneth Mapp hailed Tim Duncan as probably the best power forward ever to play professional basketball, as he joined in congratulating the St. Croix native for a stellar 19 year career in the National Basketball Association.

Duncan played the entire time with the San Antonio Spurs, during which the team won five championships, and never missed the playoffs.

Mapp noted that Duncan’s individual achievements puts him in a class with the greatest players in the history of the game, having won the NBA’s Most Valuable Player award twice, and three times named MVP in the finals. He announced his retirement on July 11.

“It was clear from the very beginning of his career in college that Tim Duncan would make basketball history,” Mapp said, noting that Duncan was the NBA’s first round pick after playing for Wake Forest, and is one of only three players to have won 10,000 games during their careers.

“His honors are almost too numerous to count,” Mapp said. “Tim’s successes were both on and off the basketball court.”

The Governor said he believes all Virgin Islanders can take pride in the fact that Duncan was highly regarded by players, coaches, fans, and sports casters throughout the country as an even tempered and highly disciplined team player.

“Tim will always stand out as a fine gentleman,” which is a great source of pride for all of us,” said Mapp.

The Governor said he looks forward to the opportunity to express to Tim Duncan personally how much he is admired and appreciated in the Virgin Islands, and how many he has inspired by his example of excellence in performance, character, and humility.

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DOH Reports Nine New Zika Cases in Territory

St. John Tradewinds

The U.S. Virgin Islands Department of Health reported nine new cases of Zika in the territory.

The total number of confirmed positive cases in the territory is now 56 — 18 cases on St. Croix and 38 cases on St. Thomas, according to the weekly surveillance report.

Out of the 797 pregnant women who have been tested for Zika, nine are presumptive positive. Additionally, there are currently 23 cases of dengue in the territory — 13 on St. Croix, eight on St. Thomas, and two on St. John.

“Based on current research, greater than 90 percent of all pregnant women who test presumptive positive for Zika will deliver an infant free from the development of microcephaly,” said DOH Commissioner Michelle Davis, PhD.

DOH is hosting the first Public Forum on Zika on St. Croix at the University of the Virgin Islands on July 26 in the Great Hall Room, from 5:30 to 7:30 p.m.

“This will be a great opportunity for the public, including pregnant women and their partners, to learn more about Zika, the techniques they can use to reduce becoming infected and ask questions,” said Davis. “This is a first in a series of educational efforts for the community.”

To ensure that USVI physicians have the latest scientific information available for Zika prevention and patient care, DOH is also planning a series of clinician seminars, on St. Thomas and St. Croix, with presentations by senior infectious disease specialists. The first forums and seminars on Zika will have a speaker from the CDC. The initial clinician/physician seminar will be on St. Thomas at the Schneider Regional Medical Center’s Cancer Center Auditorium from 8 to 9:30 a.m. on July 28.

Last week, DOH launched a series of five health education segments on USVI TV-2, which will be aired every Wednesday evening during TV2’s news cast, for the next four weeks. DOH officials urge everyone to tune in and learn more about ways to protect themselves and their families.

To date, the DOH in partnership with CDC has provided 227 presentations throughout the territory, 18 on St. John, 78 on St. Thomas, 131 on St. Croix. Currently there are nine CDC staff embedded in DOH’s EOC, assisting with the Zika response.

According to CDC, if infected with Zika, a pregnant woman can pass the virus onto her fetus during pregnancy or during delivery. Zika has the potential to cause a serious birth defect called microcephaly — a condition where a baby’s head is much smaller than expected because the brain has not fully developed during pregnancy or has stopped growing after birth. In addition to microcephaly, fetuses and infants infected with the Zika virus before birth, can also have other illnesses such as eye defects, hearing loss, and

impaired growth. Zika can also be sexually transmitted. To reduce the possibility of Zika infection, the use of condoms are encouraged.

DOH officials continue to urge pregnant women to take advantage of the free Zika virus testing and other services being offered by the DOH. While Zika is primarily spread by infected Aedes species mosquitoes, the virus can also be spread sexually. To reduce the possibility of being infected with Zika, condoms should be used correctly from start to finish during sex.

Zika is spread primarily through the bite of an infected Aedes species (Ae. aegypti and Ae. albopictus) mosquito, the same type of mosquito that spreads dengue, chikungunya, and yellow fever. The most common symptoms are fever, rash, joint pain, or red eyes. Other common symptoms include muscle pain and headache. Many people with Zika may not know they have the virus as symptoms are usually mild and can last for several days to a week.

DOH continues to offer all of these free services to pregnant women:

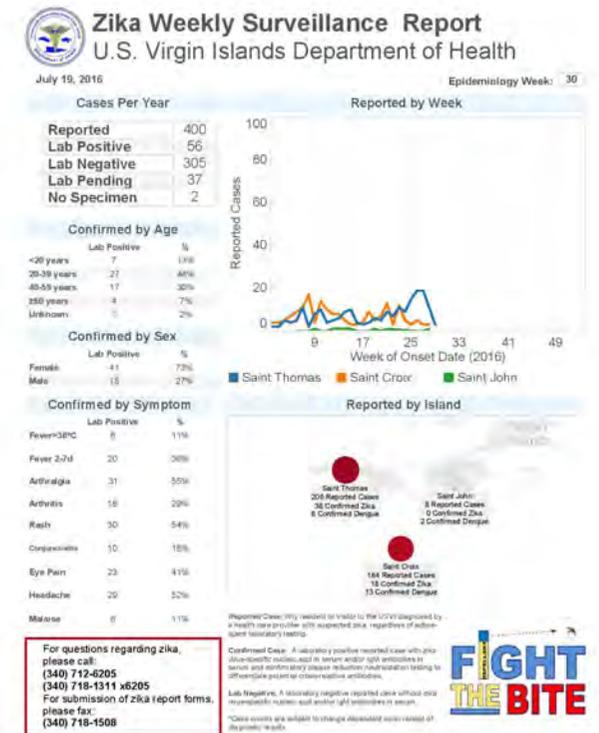
- Free Zika testing at 12 locations throughout the islands;
- Free Inspections to look for mosquito larvae and mosquito breeding grounds at/around her house;
- Free Larvicide treatment if mosquito larvae are found at/around her house; and
- Free Zika Prevention Kit, includes educational materials, insect repellent, permethrin spray repellent, condoms to avoid sexual transmission of Zika, treatment tabs for preventing mosquitoes from breeding in standing water, and a bed net.

The DOH urges anyone exhibiting common symptoms of Zika infection to take advantage of the FREE Zika testing offered through DOH-supported clinics throughout the territory.

To protect yourself and your family from Zika and other mosquito-borne viruses, follow the 4 Ds of prevention:

- Dress — wear protective clothing — long sleeves, long pants and light colors
- Drain — get rid of water containers in and around your home that can serve as breeding places for mosquitoes
- Defend — use repellent on exposed skin and treat clothes with one of several EPA-approved repellents
- Discuss — spread the word about the simple things you can do to make a difference

For local information about the Zika virus or to receive any of the Department of Health’s free services, call the Department of Health Emergency Operations Center at (340) 712-6205 or visit www.healthvi.org and our Facebook page, www.facebook.com/virginislandsDOH. For more general information about the Zika virus, call toll free: 1-800-CDC-INFO.



Early Voting is Open July 26-31

St. John Tradewinds

The Election System of the U.S. Virgin Islands announced to all registered voters that early voting will be available for Primary Election 2016. Voting will be conducted at the System’s Offices in each district. On St. Croix at the Office in Sunny Isles, on St. Thomas at Lockhart Gardens and on St. John at the Marketplace starting on July 26 and ending on July 31st. Voting will be open daily from 9 a.m. to 6 p.m. For more information on St. John call (340) 776-6535.

Reichhold Center's Youth Arts Festival is July 30

St. John Tradewinds

Join Reichhold Center's Youth Moviemaking Workshop for this summer's premiere of "Hide and Seek" on July 30 at 6 p.m. at the Reichhold Center for the Arts.

This is the tenth movie project since the program began in 2001.

The Youth Moviemaking Workshop is a summer program that challenges young inquisitive and creative minds between the ages of 11 and 16. Within the first two weeks, students are expected to understand the production process from camera operations, sound and audio techniques to script writing and team building skills.

The last three weeks of the program are dedicated to producing their final project that is presented to the public at an open screening at Reichhold Center.

This year, the "Red Carpet Premiere" has a couple of added bonuses. The Reichhold Center partnered with the UVI Music Camp, under the direction of Professor Austin Venzen and the School of Visual Arts and Careers, under the leadership of Barbara Callwood. The UVI Music Camp will conduct a music concert until the sun sets to view the premiere. The School of Visual Arts will have works completed by students their on display.

"We want to encourage support for all summer arts programs and this is one way that we can work together to bring the various art forms together, in one big festival," said interim director Denise Humphrey. "This is our first experiment. We hope to be able to grow this activity in the future."

"Hide and Seek" is about a group of kids who go on a camping trip and decide to play hide and seek deep in a forest that is supposedly haunted. While hiding, each camper experiences a life changing moment that is brought about by some supernatural encounter that alters their perception of each other.

Reichhold Center's Youth Arts Festival is a free presentation and the entire summer program is made possible through support from Total Petroleum USVI, Seven Seas Water, United Electronics Industries and the VI Council on the Arts.




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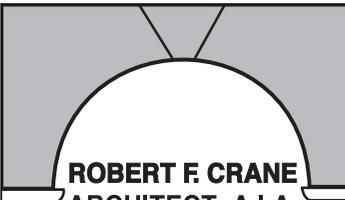

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St. John Contractors “Hard Up” for Concrete

By Amy Roberts
St. John Tradewinds

The interruption of regular barge service from St. Thomas to St. John is hitting St. John in a number of ways. Store managers can't restock merchandise. Vacationers can't get their rental cars back to the airport. Garbage is piling up in dumpsters.

But perhaps the most serious consequence is the effect on the construction industry. Deliveries of concrete manufactured on St. Thomas and trucked to St. John have ground to a halt since three out of the four barges that make the run have been out of service. Contractors estimate that between ten and 15 construction projects have been delayed, and layoffs are pending.

“It's the talk of the town,” said one veteran contractor. “We're strangled! None of us can deliver to a deadline.”

Contractors have been meeting with Kurt Nose, general manager and regional vice-president of Heavy Materials, the St. Thomas company that has supplied virtually all the ready-mixed concrete to the island for the past several years. St. John used to have two concrete manufacturers on island — Majestic Concrete and Centerline Concrete — but they ceased operations in the wake of the 2009 Recession.

“It's unfortunate for everyone,” said Nose.

St. John customers represent a third of his company's business and he has been seeking a solution to the problem, Nose explained.

“It's just because of the lack of barge capacity,” he said. “We don't see a short term solution.”

Fred Trayser of Trayser Construction said, “An awful lot of us are behind in concrete pours. We think we're 1,000 yards short.”

A concrete truck can hold about 10 cubic yards of concrete, but trucks coming to St. John typically carry only eight yards because the concrete tends to spill as the trucks lumber up the steep terrain. A yard of concrete costs around \$250 including delivery.

“Even when the barges were running, we had to schedule our deliveries three weeks in advance,” said one contractor, who has called for the reactivation of a concrete plant on St. John that's been out of operation for several years.

Heavy Materials has the lease for that deactivated plant located in Susannaberg, but Nose said, “It's far from being a quick solution. I don't want to comment on that now.”

One possible solution, according to Trayser, is the acquisition of a mobile volumetric mini batching plant which could be based at the site of the former concrete plant.

“It's a metered batch plant that brings consistent results,” said Trayser. “You can buy the materials and set up different size capacities.”

Trayser estimated that a volumetric plant could produce 300 to 400 yards of concrete a week.

“That would probably meet [the island's] needs of 15,000 to 20,000 yards per year,” he said.

Nose said he has discussed that option with the contractors, but Heavy Materials has to “make sure it's the right tool for the job. We don't own any in the territory now.”

One contractor said the entire construction industry would benefit by having a concrete batching plant on St. John. A truck coming over by barge from St. Thomas can usually make only one round trip to St. John per day, he said, when it could typically make two or three deliveries on St. Thomas. Locating a plant on St. John would cut down on turn-around time as well as save everyone money in barging fees.

Dan Boyd, one of the builders who has been holding discussions with officials from Heavy Materials, said the company has the obligation to meet the needs of the St. John community.

“They rent out the old yard,” said Boyd. “They made a monopoly. They owe it to us.”

Heavy Materials was purchased last October by U.S. Concrete, the largest concrete manufacturer in the United States.

“We're looking at the situation together,” Nose said.

Heavy Materials also has operations on St. Croix and regularly sends materials to islands in the Northern Caribbean by barge and tug. Asked if these barges could take over while the St. John barges were out of service, Nose explained that this wasn't possible under current maritime law. These barges are not U.S. flagged and cannot operate directly between two U.S. ports.

Before the Recession, huge barges carrying sand and gravel used to arrive in the Creek in Cruz Bay, and truck drivers would often work through the night unloading and carrying materials to the concrete plants in Susannaberg.



St. John Tradewinds News Photo by Amy Roberts

Unable to get concrete deliveries due to the lack of barges available, contractors across St. John are using on-site “cement mixers” while concrete trucks are stuck in St. Thomas.

Nose said he understands the frustrations of the St. John contractors and the effects on the St. John economy.

“We're in the concrete delivery business, but not the transport business,” he said.

After meetings with contractors and officials from Love City Car Ferries, Nose thought he had found a solution. That barge company had agreed to add an early morning run to transport four concrete trucks on the *Island Vic*, the only operating barge currently certified for heavy equipment by the Coast Guard. (A fully loaded concrete truck weighs about 35 tons.)

That plan fell through July 20, the day before it was set to go into effect, when the *Island Vic* broke down. Repairs to its engines are expected to take another week.

The topic of bringing in another barge company for general transport was broached at a July 20 meeting of the Virgin Island Port Authority, but the proposal was met by staunch opposition from the three barge operators. Board member Jose Penn said a meeting will be held in two weeks to consider the issue.

Meanwhile, some contractors are buying their own materials and mixing concrete on their own.

“I poured 10 yards the day before yesterday,” said one contractor. “It's 30 to 40 percent more expensive. I've got a small operation, so I can keep it going, but it's beating my guys up.”

“They're moving the concrete by bucket and wheelbarrow 40 feet away and 10 feet in the air,” he said. “It makes for a really tough day.”



ISLAND GREEN LIVING

by Lovango Cay resident Dan Boyd

Essential Water Makers

St. John Tradewinds

Last month I was lucky enough to go to Great Camanoe Island BVI to review a new type of desalination plant. This plant uses hardly any electricity and the electrical power it does use is produced from solar power.

I met the developers/owners of Elemental Water Makers about two years ago when they were just starting up their company. They are Sid Vollebregt and Reinoud Feenstra and are both from the Netherlands.

Unfortunately, at that time I did not have a project which could use their system. They did get a project on Great Camanoe Island and invited me and another friend to come and review it producing water.

Usually desalination plants require large amounts of electrical current to keep them running. The small system we have on Lovango Cay consumes about 12,700 watts per hour, which will make about 80 gallons of water. Based on current WAPA rates that would cost \$4.19 cents, about \$0.5 cents per gallon.

Although using a desalination plant on Lovango requires running a diesel generator, that cost would be three gallons per hour of diesel, about \$10 divided by 80 gallons or \$0.13 cents per gallon of water (not to mention the cost of the gen set and maintenance).

Sid and Reinoud's system uses solar panels to run a water pump in order to pump water up hill. By pumping the water up hill, they are able to use the head pressure of the water to run their high pressure pumps which ram the salt water through membranes.

No electrical power is required to run the desalination plant. The plant also runs very quietly; all you hear is the clicking of the pump shuttles moving back and forth. The system will make about 30,000 gallons on the average day and also have online monitoring of the system with built in alarms too

Yes, their system does cost much more than your conventional desalination plant. Although remember, it is much, much more energy efficient with no fossil fuel consumption at all!

You can contact Sid or Reinoud at elementalwatermakers.com.

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For more information call Boyd on his cell phone at 340-626-9685 or by email at islandsolarvi@gmail.com.

CFVI Awards Students Summer Enrichment Scholarships

St. John Tradewinds

The Community Foundation of the Virgin Islands has awarded a total of \$14,500 in scholarships to eleven Virgin Island students to attend marine-related programs this summer.

These students will have the opportunity to participate in swimming, boating and aquatic sporting activities. This is CFVI's annual grants program to provide financial aid for students to attend life-enriching summer programs.

With the expansion of the maritime industry and the growing number of marine-related youth programs in the territory, CFVI officials felt that it was important to support youth by making these opportunities available to them.

A main goal of CFVI is to enhance the quality of life for VI youth and to open up opportunities that would not otherwise be available. Funds for these offerings are provided through the generosity of donors who give to unrestricted funding- CFVI Angels.

Students of kindergarten age through juniors in high school were eligible to apply. Decisions were made on the basis of financial need and the quality of the program. Priority was also given to children that were living in foster care.

Many recipients this year are residents of the Queen Louise Home for Children on St. Croix.

"CFVI is seriously making dreams come true for these children," said Dana Holtz, Director of the Queen Louise Home for Children. "They will be able to have an experience they may not have been able to have otherwise."

Recipients are attending programs such as the St. Croix Adventure Camp, the World Ocean School Summer Program and the Department of Sports, Park, and Recreation Sports Camp.

Applications for the summer enrichment scholarships were managed at cfvi.fluidreview.com. For more information about CFVI scholarships and grants, visit our website at <http://www.cfvi.net>.

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Ceremonies of St. John Celebrates 20 Years



St. John Tradewinds News Photos courtesy of Ceremonies of St. John

Elegant weddings cake and creative ceremonies, both photos by Blue Glass Photography, are among Mulcare's achievements.

St. John Tradewinds

When Stacy Mulcare arrived on St. John in 1994 there were no private wedding planners on the island. Twenty years later, Mulcare has racked up plenty of "firsts," accolades for her creative ceremonies and stunning cake and is consistently ranked among the world's best wedding vendors.

"I had eight years of wedding and event planning in a private club before I arrived on St. John," said Mulcare. "Because of my knowledge of wedding planning, I introduced the following to St. John — using fresh rose petals as an aisle in the sand, the bamboo canopy with white tulle material and fresh flowers, wedding cakes designed by Seamus Mulcare, fresh flowers to decorate a wedding cake, designing a wedding cake table with a sterling silver champagne bucket and crystal flute glasses. This all seems commonplace now, but none of this existed when I arrived."

After weathering the devastation of Hurricane Marilyn in 1995, Mulcare opened Ceremonies of St. John in 1996.

"When the business opened, we did not have the internet yet," said Mulcare. "A photographer by the name of Constance Wallace was the first person to introduce the 'world wide web' to business owners on St. John. Once we had the internet on the island, business changed forever."

Mulcare has been featured on the Travel Channel, selected by "Destination Weddings and Honeymoons" magazine's "A-list" for planners, named among the 25 Most Influential Wedding Planners in the World by Event Planning University and is a Platinum member of Grace Ormonde Wedding Style an international site showcasing the best vendors to the international community.

In total Mulcare said has planned more than 3,400 ceremonies and reception along with her business partner and husband Seamus Mulcare.

Congratulations on 20 years of business!

US VIRGIN ISLANDS TIPPING FEES



What are Tipping Fees?
A tipping fee is the monetary charge levied upon a given type and quantity of waste received at a waste disposal facility.

Where will the fees be charged?
The fees will be levied at the three (3) VIWMA Disposal Facilities: the St. Croix Transfer Station, the Bovoni Landfill on St. Thomas and the Susannaberg Transfer Station on St. John.

Who will charged the Tipping Fees?
The tipping fee will be levied and collected from all solid waste haulers and other direct customers that deliver solid waste to the three (3) Disposal Facilities noted above for disposal.

How will the fees be assessed?
Each load of solid waste delivered will be weighed and categorized at the VIWMA waste disposal facility's scale house upon arrival. The fees will be calculated based on the type of waste delivered and the weight (measured in tons) of the load.

The Tipping Fee is based on measurement in Tons. What if a customer has less than 1 ton to dispose? Will they have to pay the minimum of 1 ton cost?
No. Although the units of the fee are in "tons", the rate is converted to "Pounds" to apply the appropriate charge. For example: a customer disposing of 1/10 of a ton of MSW, or 200 lbs, will be assessed a charge of \$5.21 or 1/10th of \$52.13.

How many pounds in a ton?
One ton is equivalent to 2,000 pounds.

Effective Date To Be Announced

For More Information Call: 340-712-4962 St. Croix or 340-715-9100 St. Thomas



	WASTE TYPE (WT)	DESCRIPTION	UNIT RATE (\$/TON)
FEE SCHEDULE Approved by the PSC April 20, 2016	MSW	Municipal Solid Waste (typical waste from households and businesses)	\$52.13
	C&D	Construction and Demolition Waste (asphalt, concrete, building, materials, etc.)	\$65.26
	GW	Green Waste (trees, shrubs, leaves, grass)	\$52.13
	FILL	Fill Waste (soil, sand, spoils, domestic sewage sludge)	\$31.28
	SM	Scrap Metal (vehicles, steel, aluminum, metal appliances)	\$39.15
	MIXED	Mixed Waste (co-mingled load of previous Waste Types)	\$65.26



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Chocolate Hole Trail to Hart Bay

A Hidden St. John Gem



By Amy Roberts
St. John Tradewinds



St. John Tradewinds News Photos by Amy Roberts

Dr. Gary Ray displays American Brunfelsia on the Hart Bay Trail, above. The Royen Cactus Tree provides shelter among its thorns for birds, at left.

Have you ever walked the trail from the Chocolate Hole East Road to Hart Bay? Up until now, it's been one of those secret little places on St. John, known only to a few who live beyond the boundaries of Chocolate Hole.

This short but delightful trail, which passes through near pristine areas of dry forest, past wetlands and a lagoon bordered by mangroves, to the rocky shoreline of Hart Bay, is about to make its public debut.

The Estate Chocolate Hole Landowners Association (ECHLA) is preparing to welcome the public by installing interpretive signage while ensuring the preservation of valuable natural features for future generations.

Dr. Gary Ray, an expert in native species and the vice president of the St. John Land Conservancy, can take barely 10 steps down the trail before grabbing a branch of what appears to be an ordinary shrub and exclaiming, "Do you see this? It's a thornless acacia called Amarat, or Senegalia. When you see this as a dominant species, it indicates that you are in a site never cultivated."

Ray spots some Yellow Dancing Lady orchids and further down the trail a Bertero's barbasco, or Bois Bande tree, that might well be 500 years old.

"With 650 native species, St. John has an ungodly rich flora for an island of 20 square miles," said Ray. "There are about a dozen distinct plant communities in tropical dry forest — some on rocks, some on hills, and some near the beach. This trail passes through shrub land and mangrove communities."

"Each one has wonderful features and needs to be appreciated," he said.

The narrow trail, which is about a quarter mile in length, has been designated a foot track

since the mid 1980's and is owned in common by members of ECHLA. The trail leads to a 2.5 acre beach park on Hart Bay that is also owned by the association.

ECHLA hopes to work with other community members in identifying and appreciating the natural resources in the area and enhance public awareness of this little-known natural area just a short distance from Cruz Bay.

"There is so much pressure to develop lots, flip them, and make money," said Kevyn Salsburg, president of ECHLA.

At least one undeveloped lot that borders the trail has been cleared, and Salsburg worries that some owners who have adjacent lots might be tempted to build too close to the trail and destroy rare plant communities.

Conserving the trail is critical to keeping the plant communities healthy. As Ray walks the trails, he cautions his companions to stay on the well-worn path.

"The crust of the soil contains free-living, nitrogen-fixing organisms," said Ray. "When we humans walk, or wild animals humans introduced, such as goats, donkeys, or deer, we crush the crust which is then blown by the wind and washed away by the rains."

The soil supports the plants which in turn provide habitats for a variety of native species, explained Ray.

"Just about every dove and pigeon can find shelter from thorn-shy predators in that Royen Tree Cactus," he said. "The bromeliads — air plants — hold on to water and become homes to the tree frogs."

The Hart Bay Trail entrance is located on the Chocolate Hole East Road, just before the turnoff to Iguana Road (opposite the Pond Bay Club development.) The public is welcome to enjoy the trail and the 2.5 acres of the Hart Bay beach park preserve.

READ MORE



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Crippled Barge Leaves Trucks Stranded & Solid Waste Piling Up

By Judi Shimel
St. John Tradewinds

After two days of restricted barge service last week, dumpsters along Centerline Road on St. John spilled onto the ground and piled up.

Mounting piles of household waste along the public roadways became the latest symbol of transportation troubles that have plagued the island's barge transportation since June.

Because the island's landfill has been closed for several years, St. John trash is barged to St. Thomas and trucked to the Bovoni Landfill. But damage to the barge *Island Vic* sidelined the one vessel approved by the U.S. Coast Guard to transport trucks between the two islands.

Island Vic, one of two vessels operated by Love City Car Ferries, was approved for use at the end of June when the *General II*, owned by Global Marine, went to dry dock and onto its annual Coast Guard inspection. The other Love City barge, *Captain Vic*, overcame a number of problems cited in its Coast Guard inspection but its ramp was approved to move only cars, small vans and pick up trucks.

Operators at Love City said heavy silt at the Red Hook port damaged the *Island Vic*'s propeller and engine. Barge owner Lew Sewer said the barge's propeller plowed into silt while backing away from the Red Hook bulkhead. The vessel's engine was damaged as well. That left operators of delivery trucks, construction trucks, fuel trucks and trash haulers without the means to reach to St. John.

As a result, dumpsters dotting the landscape are full to overflowing. Jose Penn, manager of Penn Trucking, the company responsible for trash hauling, declined comment on the garbage pileup, referring a reporter to the Waste Management Authority and the office of the island administrator.

An engineer for the Port Authority said Red Hook had never been dredged in the 10 years the agency oversaw operations at the Red Hook barge dock. Port Authority Director Carlton Dowe said the authority got approval for dredging from Coastal Zone Management Tuesday.

But VIPA Operations Director Dale Gregory said dredging still cannot begin until the Army Corps of Engineers grants permission as well. That process could take more than a month, Gregory said.

Officials hope to have a better sense of how quickly that step can be taken in a few days, Gregory added.

An assistant to St. John Administrator Camille Paris Jr. said the administrator is trying to address the need to ship trash off island with the Coast Guard.

Attempts to reach the Waste Management Authority for comment were unsuccessful.

Sewer said a new engine has been ordered for *Island Vic* and should arrive on island next week. The Love City Car Ferries owner said he did not blame the Coast Guard for taking his vessel off the run temporarily.



St. John Tradewinds News Photos by Jacob "Pepper" Pepper & Judi Shimel

With no barges able to carry large trucks, solid waste has been piling up across St. John. The dumpster in Estate Adrian, above, was overflowing by Friday afternoon with no relief in sight until next week. On a normally busy Friday morning, a flat rack trailer with building materials and a second trailer sit at the Theovald Moorhead Marine Terminal at Enighed Pond.

St. Thomas Man Wanted for Murder

St. John Tradewinds

The Virgin Islands Police Department is requesting the assistance of the general public in locating the following felon.

Tahira Charles is a 32-year-old black male with a dark brown complexion, locked black hair, and brown eyes. Charles goes by the alias of "Cosmo" and is known to frequent the areas of Tutu High Rise.

Charles is wanted in connection with the First Degree Murder that occurred on June 25 in the vicinity of One Stop Gas Station on Rumer Road.

Anyone who comes into contact with Charles, should approach him with caution. Anyone that knows the whereabouts of, or has information concerning Charles is asked to call of the Homicide Task Force at (340) 714-9823, 911 or the anonymous tip service, Crime Stoppers USVI at 1-800-222-8477.



SJ Land Conservancy Gears Up for New Preservation Efforts

By Amy Roberts
St. John Tradewinds

With a new board and several new land donations in process, the St. John Land Conservancy (SJLC) is working hard to help preserve additional St. John property for conservation purposes and for use by the public.

SJLC was originally established in 2011 to protect 3.6 acres of land near Haulover on the East End. At that time, many people wrongly assumed that the land at Haulover was part of the Virgin Islands National Park and thus protected from development.

When signs were posted at Haulover advertising the sale of the property — which was popular with snorkelers and those who sought to get away from crowds — residents became alarmed.

The Haulover property included beachfront land on Round Bay, part of Coral Bay, and woodlands and wetlands across the road all way to the stone beach at Dreekets Bay on the north shore. With R-2 zoning, developers could have constructed up to 28 condominium units.

Fortunately Raf Muilenburg, a partner in Morri-sette and Muilenburg LLC, Attorneys at Law, had developed a professional relationship with the property owner, Family Properties Caribbean LLC. Muilenburg had been raised on St. John aboard his parents' boat *Breath* and had moved back to the island in 2009 to practice law.

Family Properties Caribbean (FPC) had listed the sale price for the land at \$1.9 million, but FPC principal David Prevo, a conservationist at heart, spoke to Muilenburg about finding a way to protect the land from development.

Although he was unable to afford a direct donation, Prevo was willing to sell the land for conservation for \$800,000, the price he had paid for the property ten years earlier plus property taxes and other costs incurred.

The Virgin Island National Park, working with the trust for Public Land, had already committed all available funds to preserving the Maho Bay Watershed and couldn't afford to take on another project at that time, so Muilenburg sought another solution.

Eventually Muilenburg and his wife Thia joined up with long-time residents Lauren and George Mercadante, Athena Swartley, and others to establish a land trust called the St. John Land Conservancy. They were able to raise enough money through do-

nations to purchase the Haulover property and hold it until it could be donated to the National Park several years later. In the process, others in the St. John community have expressed their willingness to assist financially with future land purchases.

With its newly expanded board and officers, including Muilenburg and his wife Thia, naturalist Gary Ray, Realtor Marty Beechler, David Prevo, Mary Vargo, Matt Crafts and Kelly Larkin, the St. John Land Conservancy is now continuing its mission to preserve natural and historic properties and maintain them for public recreational use.

Its website, www.stjohnlandconservancy.org, lists numerous ways that property owners can transfer their land to the conservancy while receiving significant tax benefits and even (when desired) maintaining the option to continue using the property for a certain period.

"There's a great need for a local land trust," said Muilenburg who now serves as the organization's president. "We provide a local alternative to the Park for land conservation, and we can preserve small parcels and land outside the Park boundaries that the Park cannot."

By law, the Virgin Islands National Park boundaries are established by Congress, Muilenburg explained.

Even if someone wanted to donate land to the park, that person would not be able to unless the land was already within the park boundaries, or an extension was granted by Congress, which can be a lengthy process.

The St. John Land Conservancy is currently working on acquiring additional land through donations of certain St. John properties that they hope will be realized in the near future.

"We are getting close to completion of a donation of land on the east end of Lovango Cay in a particularly beautiful spot, along with a couple of other pending donations in the Coral Bay area," said Muilenburg. "Further details should be available for publication very soon."

The SJLC welcomes community support through donation of conservation property, funds or volunteer work and other services, and asks that community members stay tuned for further announcements and opportunities to support the cause of land conservation on St John.



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JAZZ is a female pit-boxer around 2-years-old and does well with other dogs. She also does well with children. Jazz is undergoing heartworm treatment and will make a full recovery.

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Barge Operators Speak Out at VIPA Meeting - Companies Force Delay in Vote to Add Additional Provider

By Judi Shimel
St. John Tradewinds

Members of the V.I. Port Authority governing board delayed a ratification vote that would have given Varlack Ventures permission to initiate barge service between St. Thomas and St. John.

The decision to put off the vote and open a dialogue over the matter occurred at the board's scheduled monthly meeting, hosted at the Battery in Cruz Bay on July 20.

Operators of the three companies already providing service appeared at the meeting to voice opposition to a plan allowing a fourth company into what they called an already crowded field.

The discussion comes at a time when only one of the three companies is active, while the other two are sidelined; one for financial reasons, the other under federal regulation.

Delays, break down and interrupted schedules over the past few months have made the task of moving vehicles, goods and services difficult or impossible.

One Barge Running

In the latest development, mechanical problems crippled the *Island Vic* last week, one of the two remaining barges left in service owned by Love City Car Ferries.

Representatives of Boyson Inc., Love City Car Ferries and Global Marine Inc., were granted time during the meeting to voice opposition to a poll vote that would have given Varlack Venture the go ahead to operate.

On July 13 VIPA Executive Director Carlton Dowe wrote to board members, asking them to indicate their approval of granting Varlack Ventures' request to provide barge service. Their preference would be finalized with a vote taken during the meeting at the Battery, he wrote.

At the Battery meeting VIPA board member Claude Walker appealed to VIPA Chairman Miguel Cintron to permit the barge operators time to speak, although a discussion was not part of the scheduled agenda.

"They're here," Walker said. "We can hear from them. Then we can decide whether to ratify."

Cintron allowed board members to vote on granting each company time to make a brief presentation.

Attorney Lisa Michelle Komives spoke on behalf of Love City owners Lew and Anice Sewer. Her clients had grave concerns about the speed with which VIPA appeared to move forward with ratification.

"It's something that should be discussed at an open meeting with the Virgin Islands Port Authority where the public can comment and the press can be present," Komives said.

The lawyer also pointed out that VIPA offered limited schedules for barges to operate on, which meant when run times were covered, there was no room for others to do business.

"Let's think about it as a pie," said Komives. "There are only so many schedules to be run. There are three existing companies. If another company were to come in there's not going to be enough pieces of pie for everyone to exist."

Noel Boynes Jr., of Boyson, Inc., Carmen Hedrington of Global Marine and Anecia Sewer of Love City Car Ferries called the scheduled action hasty. They said they objected to seeing another company being given a chance to compete for a limited number of weekly barge runs.

"I think the board needs to allow us to make a formal presentation," Hedrington said. "We need to be heard."

Boynes made the briefest remarks.

"We stand in solidarity with the other barge companies," he said. "We agree with what Ms. Sewer's lawyer has said."

For years Boyson Inc. dominated the St. John barge industry but financial problems and court actions have slowed the company's progress lately.

Hedrington's two vessels, the *Roanoke* and the *General II*, are currently inactive. The *Roanoke* hasn't run for months. The *General II* came off the run in June for a visit to dry dock prior to its annual required U.S. Coast Guard inspection. Problems uncovered during that inspection have prevented *General II*'s from return to service.

The owner says repairs are under way.



St. John Tradewinds News Photo by Judi Shimel.

Carmen Hedrington from Global Marine, Inc. raised concerns about VIPA port schedules at a July 20 board meeting at the Cruz Bay Battery as she objected to the board allowing an additional barge company to operate between St. John and St. Thomas. Neither of Global Marine's barges, *Roanoke* or *General II*, is currently in operation.

An anticipated \$17,000 visit to dry dock had turned into a \$153,000 bill, Hedrington said. In spite of Global Marine's difficulties, increasing competition would make it harder for them to get back on their feet financially, said Hedrington.

Boyson Inc's vessel, the *Mr. B* was seized in January by order of a federal bankruptcy judge.

There was also the issue of schedule assignments. Love City Car Ferries co-owner Lew Sewer, after the meeting, said his vessel *Cap't Vic* once had a VIPA schedule assignment. But in recent months no assignment was granted. Repeated calls to VIPA to find out why, have gone unanswered, he said.

VIPA Executive Director Dowe said he has met with all three companies and has expressed both concern and dissatisfaction with barge operations between St. Thomas and St. John.

The Varlack Ventures proposal was being considered because of practicalities, Dowe added.

"The Port Authority's interest is not to provide service," said Dowe. "It's to make sure that commerce continues."

Following the presentations, the board voted to delay ratification of the poll vote and to schedule a discussion about barge services at the next scheduled monthly VIPA meeting.

VIPA board member Jose Penn, a St. John businessman, said he hoped that future discussions will include routes, schedules and proposed solutions.

Waterfront Development Planned for Cruz Bay

By Amy Roberts
St. John Tradewinds

The rumors are true.

“Yes, I am attempting a waterfront development,” said Brett Jefferson, a property owner on St. John since 2008. “I have the waterfront rights in front of Grande Bay.”

Jefferson preferred not to discuss any details of the project, which has been rumored to include a boardwalk, restaurant, and marina, at this time.

“I will have a full presentation with renderings within a month,” he told *Tradewinds*. “I’ll be sharing it with the public.”

Jefferson said St. John needs a place for boat owners and visitors to dock their boats in Cruz Bay as there are no available moorings in Cruz Bay, and National Park Service has set strict limits on the use of its dock in the Creek.

“I have a boat, and it’s a difficult thing,” he said. “For people who have commercial boats, it’s a much more difficult thing.”

The infrastructure is already in place for septic, water and electrical connections at the site in front of the Grande Bay Resort, and Jefferson said his plan includes a sewage pump out facility for boats.

Jefferson owns several units in Grande Bay and is building a home for his family on Battery Hill above Grande Bay. He runs Hildene Capital Management, a hedge fund based in Connecticut. The fund, which operates locally from an office in the Islandia Building, receives Economic Development Commission benefits and employs several St. John residents, he said.

Rumors about the development began to spread last week when a letter Jefferson allegedly sent to condominium owners at Grande Bay was circulated on Facebook and picked up by local blogs.



Mapp Appoints Moorhead as Sec. General of IVIC



St. John Tradewinds

Governor Kenneth Mapp announced that Shelley Moorhead, Special Advisor for External Affairs, has been appointed to fill the position of Secretary General to the Inter-Virgin Islands Council.

On September 3, the Mapp/Potter administration will be hosting the first meeting of the Inter-Virgin Islands Council and will be welcoming a delegation from the government of the British Virgin Islands to St. Thomas.

Under the terms of the Joint Memorandum of Understanding signed by the USVI and BVI in May of 2004, the position Secretary General is jointly determined and the U.S. Virgin Islands currently holds the venue for the position.

Moorhead will be coordinating all VI department and agency heads regarding participation on the Standing Committees of the IVIC which will actively engage with the BVI counterparts.

Moorhead currently serves as the Special Advisor for External Affairs and also serves on the Centennial Commission. Under his new position, Moorhead will explore the issues that jointly affect the United States Virgin Islands and the British Virgin Islands.

No Discounts on Property Tax Payments

St. John Tradewinds

Lieutenant Governor Osbert Potter announced recently that the 2016 Property Tax bills which have been issued to all property owners on record as of January 1, 2016 will not offer the 5 percent discount as in previous years.

The 5 percent discount was discontinued because the Office of the Tax Assessor will no longer issue two bills each year. The discount was given to assist property owners that may experience hardship as a result of issuing two bills in the same year.

The Office of the Tax Assessor is now on schedule with the issuance of the property tax bills, therefore will issue one bill per year going forward. Additionally most property owners can apply for the credits that are available which include General Homestead, Veterans, Seniors, Disabled, Class 1 Inheritance, VISIBLE Home, and Virgin Islands Farmers.

Property tax bills may be paid online at the Office of the Lieutenant Governor’s website at <https://propertytax.vi.gov>. However, payment plans must still be made through the Office of the Tax Collector.

Letters to *St. John Tradewinds*

How to Help Keep St. John Beautiful & Clean Up the Dumpsters

St. John Tradewinds

When I first moved to St. John there were lots of things that seemed odd at first which now after some island time seem quite normal.

Things like donkeys being a common cause of traffic or being given directions that include instructions like “Turn at the storage unit with a lazy lion on top” or “When you come to the tree in the road you’re just about there.”

And then there were the dumpsters. I remember my first pass by one and I thought, dear God did someone’s house explode. There was garbage everywhere, inside the dumpster and out. But it wasn’t an explosion, in fact it wasn’t even extraordinary, it was Tuesday at the dumpster. Driving past one now it’s equally as disturbing the deplorable state of the dumpsters and how normal that state seems to me.

I cringe when I think about every tourist that drives by the dumpsters as they vacation on the island I call home. Here’s an amazing view of the white sand beaches of Maho Bay on the island’s idyllic north shore. There’s a sloop with full sails traversing the cerulean blue waters of the Sir Francis Drake Channel towards Tortola. Oh, and here’s a dumpster overflowing with rain-ripped cardboard boxes and half rotted heads of lettuce. And there on top a red crested rooster picking the wilted scraps, king of the dumpster, his flock below pecking at the loose debris that is strewn all over the ground.

For years *St. John Tradewinds* has covered the problems with trash on St. John. There are stories about the dumpsters getting trashed then the dumpsters getting cleaned then the dumpsters getting trashed again. In the July 10, 2016 issue an article highlighted the work of Cherie Mulder and volunteers who cleaned up the dumpster on Giffit Hill (among others) and now less than a fortnight later the area around the dumpster is teeming with trash again; you can hardly tell it was just the focus of laborious hours of cleaning.

There are stories of illegal dumps and shoreline clean ups and overflowing dumps and closing dumps. Really trash is the herpes of island news because it keeps popping up and nobody’s happy about it. And the truth about this dirty little disease is it affects us all.

I might not be the one who threw out the plastic bag, but I am the one who sees it and drives by it. I am also the one who could pick it up and dispose of it properly so the wind doesn’t blow it into the ocean and contribute to the unnatural death of a sea-turtle who mistakes it for a delicious jellyfish. That way I can also be the one who drives out to Hansen and sees that turtle munching on sea-grass alive and well. One raindrop never thinks it’s responsible for the flood, but we all live on this rock together and no one has to do everything if everyone does something.

The first step in trash reduction has to be the recognition of personal impact in both creating and disposing of the garbage on St. John. The average American produces 4.3 pounds of waste per day which adds up especially on St. John where trash has to be shipped off island costing over \$1 million per year. By understanding personal impact on the trash cycle we can find individual ways to help reduce garbage production and manage the current waste situation.

First, consider composting. According to the Center for Sustainability & Commerce at Duke University as much as two-thirds of residential waste is estimated to be compostable,

and while waste management does not offer this service on St. John individuals and communities can do it for themselves. Green household waste and lawn clippings can be turned into rich fertilizer which anyone who has tried to garden on St. John knows is necessary in this top-soil poor island.

Secondly, consider ways you can contribute to cleaning your section of St. John. For example if you enjoy hiking then add a trash bag to your hiking pack and pick up any litter, like cans or cigarette butts, that you see along the way. Thus doing something you like and helping the place you like doing it.

Another way to get hands-on is to adopt a dumpster in your area. When people illegally dump home goods on the side of the dumpster, like old refrigerators and broken grills, it’s often concerned and caring individuals or community groups who end up doing the clean up. So be inspired by the pride they take in our community and bring friends, bring co-workers, bring neighbors, bring family, and of course bring a couple of six packs and make an altruistic afternoon of community beautification by cleaning up one dumpster site.

It’s also important to know how to dispose of waste properly. If you’re going to use the residential dumpsters do it correctly; respect the rules and make sure your garbage doesn’t end as litter blowing all over St. John.

- Break down boxes, all boxes,

- Tie garbage bags (so they don’t come open and spill their contents),

- Don’t illegally dump. The residential dumpsters around St. John do not accept bulk waste (like furniture or mattresses) or white goods (like refrigerators or stoves).

While we all enjoy the random, recycled treasures found at the bin sites let’s be real, no one wants an old rusty refrigerator that’s missing one door; it’s garbage and should be taken to the Susannaberg Transfer Station (open Monday through Friday from 9 a.m. to 4 p.m. and on Saturdays from 9 a.m. to 12 p.m.). If it’s really good enough for re-use consider donating it to the ReSource Depot on Giffit Hill to support their up-cycling efforts.

If you can’t get your garbage to the dump get someone to come to you. JLC Maintenance will pick up a large item at your location for just \$20. Call then at (340) 227-5924.

Lastly, get involved by supporting a local organization already entrenched in the war against garbage. Get Trashed St. John hosts trash pick-ups around the island and invites everyone to join. You can learn more about their eco-events on their Facebook page; the next organized clean up is August 13 on Maho Beach 10am to noon with a potluck beach barbeque to follow.

Island Green Living Association of St. John (I.G.L.A.) is another eco-minded organization working to improve St. John in environmentally sustainable ways. They run the aforementioned ReSource Depot and promote responsible living on St. John through Green Villa certification programs. They’re also the group that help co-write the bill with Governor Mapp which would ban plastic bags on St. John. Get more information on how to donate your money or volunteer your time through the I.G.L.A. website, IGLAvis.org.

- **Mary Bourassa**

Crossword & Cryptoquote Answers

(Puzzles located on Page 20)

Answer to July 24 Cryptoquip:
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Inspiring Interiors

by Tiffany Cassidy

Questions to Consider When Buying Furniture Part 2

St. John Tradewinds

Buying and choosing the furniture in your home is a major commitment; you use and look at the same items every day!

We work hard with homeowners to find the right pieces and create the best living space possible. Here are some more questions to consider when buying furniture to go along with the list I gave you in the last edition of *St. John Tradewinds*.

Questions to Ask When Redesigning Your Home

- Are you buying something just to make a piece you dislike work better in the room?

Maybe you're thinking about getting a new table, rug and side table because you think it will make that couch you don't really like look a little better; let me tell you, it won't. Address the issue — the couch or whatever it is you don't like — and replace it. If you replace the problem piece, everything may come together for you. Booking a consultation will allow us to talk to you and figure out what you need.

- Where can you successfully and easily mix in bold patterns?

Mixing and matching bold colors and patterns on a bed or couch can really add life to a room, but only when done correctly. I recently saw a couch and fell in love with the bold pink against the Navy and white chairs. We can help you find the right pairings to create a dynamic look.

- Does your color scheme fit the mood you want the room to reflect?

I am a big believer that colors have an impact on the mood and vibe of a room. Cool, calming colors have a relaxing effect, while bright colors can have an energizing and cheerful impact. Explain to us what you want the room to be used for (entertaining, relaxing, etc.)

and we'll find the right colors and finish.

- Is this piece a good investment?

Certain items can seem a bit steep, but quality cannot be overlooked. Purchasing a high-quality item now can save you from having to replace it in a year or two when the fabric rips and the springs give out. We have great connections to furniture businesses and can even get you custom made furniture, exclusive to your home.

Remember, it costs just as much to ship a cheap sofa as it does a higher priced, quality item. With the cost of shipping to the Caribbean, it's best to do it just once!

- Do you really love this piece?

This could be the most important question my designers or I may ask you. If you don't love the piece, then move on! If you don't like it now, you won't like it later.

Asking yourself these questions can help you design your home and help you be the happiest with a new redesign.

About Lagnappe Custom Interiors:

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

Love City Triathlon, Aquathlon & SUPathlon is Sept. 4

St. John Tradewinds

Grab your bike, lace up those running shoes and start training for the 17th Annual Love City Triathlon on Sunday, September 4th at 7 a.m.

If you don't have a bike, register for the Aquathlon. Or, bring or rent a stand up paddleboard and try the SUPathlon. If multiple sports isn't your thing but you still want to race, form a team for the Triathlon.

The Triathlon features a half-mile swim followed by a 13-mile hilly bicycle ride with 2,400 feet of elevation gain, then a four-mile run. There are individual and relay categories for the Triathlon.

The Aquathlon will feature a half-mile swim followed by a four-mile run.

The SUPathlon will feature a half-mile swim, followed by about 3.5 miles of stand up paddling and a four-mile run.

Relay teams are permitted in the Triathlon, but not the Aquathlon or SUPathlon.

The events will be staged at Maho Bay Beach pavilion. All swimmers will do the same two-lap course in the calm waters of Maho Bay. The bike course takes riders west along North Shore Road to Cruz Bay, then up Centerline Road to Colombo's Smoothies and down Kings Hill Road to finish at Maho Bay.

The SUP course will be a two-lap course leaving Maho Bay towards Cinnamon Bay, around Cinnamon Cay and back to Maho Bay.

The run is a challenging four-mile course from Maho Bay to Francis Bay, up the stairs at Annaberg, and back to Maho Bay.

The \$50 entry fee (\$45 for Relay participants) includes a t-shirt, finisher's award, on-course support, a beach picnic, and awards three deep. The finisher medals and top awards will be custom-made pieces crafted by local artists.

Triathletes will also be included in the coveted Inter-Island Award. Each island with at least three triathletes may enter, and teams must have a female member to be eligible. The times of each team's three fastest athletes will be totaled and the overall fastest time will win. The award has been traded back and forth among St. John, St. Croix and St. Maarten, with St. Croix having the most wins to date. St. John won in 2014 and 2015; can our local athletes defend the title this year?

Helmets are required for everyone on bicycles, and leashes or PFDs must be worn by athletes on stand up paddleboards.

Don't have a board? Rent one from Arawak Expeditions and take advantage of a special rate for event participants. A race rental fee of \$20 will include the board, paddle and PFD. Participants need to call Arawak Expeditions directly at (340) 693-8312 or 1-800-238-8687 or reserve and pay online at www.arawakexp.com/reserve-your-rental/.

Arawak Expeditions will deliver the boards to Maho Bay on the morning of the race. Reserve one right away, as quantities are limited.

Registration is open online at www.stjohnlandsharks.com. Registration forms can also be picked up at The Tap Room and Arawak Expeditions at Mongoose Junction. There will be no registration the day of the race. Register early! Only 70 participants will be allowed to compete.

A mandatory race check-in and pre-race meeting will take place at the Tap Room in Mongoose Junction on Saturday, September 3, from 4 to 5 p.m.

More race details, including detailed course descriptions, can be found at www.stjohnlandsharks.com.

For further information, including volunteer and sponsorship opportunities and joining Saturday Splash 'n' Dash training days in August, contact Matt and Mary at (401) 835-2046 or email stjohnlandsharks@gmail.com.

St. John Landsharks is an informal local athletic club, focusing on swimming, biking, running, stand up paddleboarding, and anything else we feel like doing. Visit the Landsharks at www.stjohnlandsharks.com.

ALCHOLICS ANONYMOUS MEETINGS

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

NARCOTICS ANONYMOUS MEETINGS

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

AL-ANON MEETINGS

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

Noise Pollution Bill Advances to Rules Committee

St. John Tradewinds

The Noise Pollution Control Bill sponsored by Senator Novelle Francis advanced to the Rules Committee.

The bill was one of two heard in the Committee on Homeland Security, Justice and Public Safety which met on July 15. The Committee considered Bill 31-0364, which would implement hazardous duty pay (HDP) for firefighters in the Suppression Unit for the performance of hazardous duty and Bill 31-0381, which amends existing noise control statutes.

Francis, sponsor of Bill 31-0381, refuted claims that the proposed legislation serves a special interest.

"This is not an anti-business, anti-music, anti-entertainment or anti-culture bill," said Francis. "It is a quality of life bill."

Francis said he has heard from diverse groups, all of whom have their own concerns about the impact of noise in residential and business areas.

Representatives from the Frederiksted Economic Development Association, the Christiansted Community Alliance, the St. Croix Chamber of Commerce and the Departments of Licensing and Consumer Affairs, Health and Police were in favor of the legislation.

All testifiers suggested amendments that would address inconsistencies and improve the enforceability of the legislation. The bill was favorably voted on by all six committee members present and will proceed to the Rules Committee for further vetting.

Legislation that Senate President Neville James said would "correct a long standing omission" was also heard during the committee meeting. Firefighters and their union representatives from the St. Croix and St. Thomas/St. John districts were on hand to advocate for the passage of the legislation, which some senators felt should be part of a greater discussion on hazardous duty pay for first responders.

Possible amendments to the bill were discussed, which include the designation of a funding source to cover the hazardous pay costs as well as the extension of hazardous duty pay to all eligible law enforcement personnel. The bill was held in committee to allow for a more comprehensive financial analysis by the Senate's Post Audit Division.

Francis will continue to work with key stakeholders to fine tune the Noise Pollution legislation.

"Today's discussion reflects that this bill is a work in progress," he said. "Common courtesy cannot be legislated, but legislation that allows the greater community to enjoy a better quality of life certainly can."

Good Samaritans Rescue Two Fishermen Off Outer Brass

St. John Tradewinds

Two overdue fishermen were rescued by Good Samaritans early Wednesday morning, July 20, just off the western coast of Outer Brass north of St. Thomas, U.S. Virgin Islands.

Rescued were brothers Francis Brian and Edver Brian, who were located inside a small cove safely aboard their 16-foot fishing boat that had become disabled.

"This case highlights the importance of filing a float plan and letting someone responsible know the details of your trip, as well as, the selflessness of fellow mariners looking out for each other," said Lt. Cmdr. Catherine Phillips, Sector San Juan Command Center supervisor. "The notification and information received by friends and family proved to be valuable to the search and led to the prompt rescue of the two fishermen."

Coast Guard watchtanders in Sector San Juan were initially contacted by Edver's wife, at 12:38 a.m. Wednesday, who reported the men had not yet

returned after they departed Tuesday afternoon on a fishing trip from Hull Bay in St. Thomas.

Coast Guard watchstanders launched a Coast Guard MH-65 Dolphin helicopter from Air Station Borinquen and a 33-foot Special Purpose Craft vessel from Coast Guard Boat Forces in St. Thomas to search. They also diverted a Coast Guard HC-144 Ocean Sentry maritime patrol aircraft and transmitted an Urgent Marine Information Broadcast advising boaters in the area to be on the lookout and report any sightings of the overdue fishermen or their vessel to the Coast Guard.

During the search, Coast Guard watchstanders received additional information from Marvin Brian who stated that the two men usually went to a small cove on the west side of Outer Brass island, where they were later found by the Good Samaritans, friends of the fishermen, who towed the disabled vessel back to Hull Bay, St. Thomas.

USGS Ends Search for Migrants of Capsized Vessel Off BVIs

St. John Tradewinds

U.S. Coast Guard rescue crews ended a four-day search July 16 for possible survivors of a migrant vessel, which reportedly capsized sometime between the night of July 9 and July 11 in waters between the British Virgin Islands and the Caribbean island of Saint Maarten.

Search efforts by rescue crews yielded no signs of additional survivors.

"Our thoughts and prayers are with the families and loved ones of those lost in this tragic incident," said Capt. Robert Warren, Commander of U.S. Coast Guard Sector San Juan.

Two Saint Maarten and two Cuban migrants who were traveling aboard the capsized vessel were rescued by a Good Samaritan vessel Monday in waters south of Virgin Gorda, British Virgin Islands and transported to Virgin Gorda, where they were transferred to island authorities.

Rescue units collectively searched over 70 operational hours and completed 20 search patterns covering approximately 10,538 square nautical miles, an area approximately the size of the state of Maryland.

Coast Guard watchstanders in Sector San Juan were notified by British Virgin Islands authorities and family members July 13 of the vessel capsized at sea. One of the survivors reported that the migrant vessel had departed Saint Maarten the night of July 9 on a trip to St. Thomas, U.S. Virgin Islands. The vessel was carrying 15 Cubans, one Colombian, a Dominican Republic national and two persons from Saint Maarten when it capsized after the vessel started taking on water.

An HC-130 aircraft from the 920th Rescue Wing's 39th Rescue Squadron with a team of Pararescue Jumpers from the 308th Rescue Squadron from Patrick Air Force Base flew in support of search efforts Friday, while a WC-130 aircraft from the Puerto Rico Air National Guard's 156th Airlift Wing searched Saturday.

The Dutch Caribbean Coast Guard supported search efforts with a dash-8 maritime patrol aircraft, while Virgin Islands Search and Rescue units in the British Virgin Islands and National Park Service Rangers in Saint Croix, U.S. Virgin Islands conducted shoreline searches for possible survivors.

Anyone with information on this case is asked to contact the Coast Guard Sector San Juan Command Center at 787-289-2041.

On the Market



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

Enjoy Unique & Luxurious Living at Hakuna Matata

St. John Tradewinds

Enjoy the very **St. John Tradewinds**

From the jaw-dropping water views to the exquisite decor, villa Hakuna Matata is like no other on St. John.

This four bedroom, four bathroom villa in Estate Catherinberg is for sale for \$6.35 million, explained Abigail Schnell O’Connell of Holiday Homes of St. John.

“Hakuna Matata is a fanciful plantation villa with a global vision that brings far away style home,” said Schnell O’Connell. “Bringing together idiosyncratic pieces in an array of styles and periods that sit comfortably in this space, Hakuna Matata is a villa that begs to be discovered.”

Nestled among lush vegetation and native stone boulders in Estate Catherinberg, the villa is only a few minutes from the alabaster shoreline of the island’s famed North Shore. The dining, shopping and nightlife of Cruz Bay is a just a short drive. But with so many amenities, stunning views and a luxurious swimming pool, you might find it extremely difficult to leave Hakuna Matata.

“The villa offers mesmerizing ocean views in a jungle like setting,” said Schnell O’Connell. “Pool side, one can

take in the panoramic view of Cinnamon Bay and the British Virgin Islands, while enjoying the rustle of the trade winds through the treetops.”

Completed in 2000, Hakuna Matata is an original design by award winning architect Michael Oxman in close collaboration with the owners. Arriving into the beautifully landscaped circular driveway brings you to the massive 13-foot entry doors leading to an open two story courtyard for the breath taking view and welcoming experience.

From the open courtyard, double mahogany French doors lead into the expansive great room. An arched doorway leads to the gourmet French country-styled kitchen with hammered copper farm sink and range hood, custom mahogany cabinets and coral stone countertops. The villa features four spacious bedrooms, each with ocean views, private terraces and en suite baths.

Outside, find the free form heated pool with native island stone and brick detail. The spa/hot tub was custom designed and built in 2004 by a designer from Miami using the natural stone from the property. There is also a spacious sunning deck paved with old reclaimed Chicago bricks and

furnished with cast aluminum outdoor furniture.

“Hakuna Matata is exquisitely decorated with art from all over the globe, thoughtfully designed and laid out for a worry free island lifestyle,” said Schnell O’Connell. “Hakuna Matata is whimsical yet understated elegant island living.

For more information on this must-see villa, call Schnell O’Connell at Holiday Homes of St. John at (340) 776-6776 or on her cell phone at (340) 998-1934.



St. John Tradewinds News Photos courtesy of Holiday Homes of St. John

From antique Chicago brick near the custom designed pool, above, to the gourmet French country style kitchen, above left, to the exquisitely decorated grand great room, top, Hakuna Matata is a must-see villa. But the biggest draw might be the views, at far left.

Got a Hot News Tip? Got a Great Photo? email us at: editor@tradewinds.vi

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What's That Buzz?

Church Directory

Baha'i Community of St. John

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

Bethany Moravian Church

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

Calvary Baptist Church

13 ABC Coral Bay, 776-6304
Sunday Worship 9 a.m., Tuesday Prayer 7 p.m., Thursday 7 p.m.

Christian Ministry

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

Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints

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

Cruz Bay Baptist Church

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

Emmaus Moravian Church

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

Freshwater Church

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

Jehovah's Witness

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

Missionary Baptist Church

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

Nazareth Lutheran Church

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

Our Lady of Mount Carmel Catholic Church

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

Prayer House of Faith

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

St. John Methodist Church

Sunday 10 a.m, 693-8830

Seventh Day Adventist

Saturdays, 779-4477

St. John Pentecostal Church

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

St. Ursula's Episcopal Church

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

Unitarian Universalist Fellowship

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

Unity of St. John VI

Meditation Sundays - www.unityofstjohn.org

Wine Talk with Paul

by Paul Tsakeres



Expand Your Wine Skill Set

St. John Tradewinds

When experienced tasters approach and assess a wine, they utilize a set of skills systematically that allow them to move through the important criteria to make a full evaluation. A more casual wine drinker may only go just so far in describing what they are tasting.

By practicing with a few descriptors listed here, you can begin to conceptualize what is being tasted and provide a more detailed perception and shine at your next party and impress your date. Really though, it simply adds to your overall enjoyment to develop a few skills.

Body is the perceived weight of the wine, the sensation of fullness resulting from the density or viscosity of a wine on the palate. Is it full bodied or light? The body of a wine makes a prominent impression and if you were to add that it was Big, you would be saying it is high in alcohol.

A Concentrated wine will have intense, though possibly subtle, flavors. I think of the Malvasia from Crete at Island Cork which begins with focused white grapefruit that blends with more subtle orange blossom and more. Paradoxically it is both intense and subtle.

Crisp is a favorite term to describe a wine that has an attractively high acidity. Experienced as prickly sensations on the side of your tongue, acidity is one of the most important components in a wine and has a direct influence on the color and an even more important role in the capability of the wine to age.

A wine is Fat when it is full bodied and viscous but it is Flabby if it is lacking in acidity...having fun yet?

Finish is a noun for aftertaste and how long a taste of wine remains in your attention is another indicator of quality...you can appreciate nuances that come with a long finish.

If a wine is Green it is too acidic and the fruit is unripe.

Hard describes a wine that has too much tannin and too little fruit.

Hot describes a wine that is too high in alcohol and therefore out of Balance. And Balance is, indeed, the best descriptor for a wine when all the qualities are in harmony.

Legs or Tears is how the viscous droplets appear on the inside of the glass as it evaporates and drips down the glass. It is an indicator of alcohol strength but not quality.

Smooth is an imprecise term for a pleasing texture and it is Soft when it is low in tannin.

These are some helpful words for your wine vocabulary list that you can begin to have a lot of fun with.

So the next time you are in the store or in a café or party you can describe your experience and what you enjoy about it more fully. These are more structural terms and not the fruit salad of terms some tasters get carried away with...perhaps a classic wine that is crisp, complex and expansive without being extracted or jammy.

The Wine Spectator has a fun biweekly quiz that will ask you to identify a wine with just a few references that is always fun to try.

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Junction in
Cruz Bay



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Ferry Companies and Public Service Commissioner Debate Local Fare Structure

By Amy Roberts
St. John Tradewinds

How do you define a bona fide resident of the Virgin Islands?

That is the question the Public Services Commission will be grappling with at its next monthly meeting, according to Andrew Rutnik, vice chairman of the PSC.

The question became critical starting around Food Fair on Sunday, June 26, when visitors starting arriving in droves to attend events during the annual St. John July 4th Festival.

As visitors lined up in Red Hook, St. Thomas, to buy ferry tickets for the 15-minute ride to St. John, they found that ticket prices were \$1 cheaper each way for residents. Many people who claimed to be residents could not furnish proof of residency to the ticket sellers' satisfaction, and this led to heated arguments and angry phone calls to the offices of the governor, lieutenant governor, and PSC.

The ferry companies have generally accepted only three forms of identification — a V.I. driver's license, a voter's registration card, or senior resident's card — as valid proof of residency.

"But a lot of people don't drive, or vote, or don't carry their ID with them," said Rutnik. "There were 50, 60, even more complaints by phone and we had to respond right away."

The PSC called a meeting on Tuesday, June 28, to discuss the issue with representatives from Varlack Ventures and Transportation Services, the two ferry companies that share the franchise to operate ferries between Red Hook on St. Thomas and Cruz Bay on St. John.

The issue particularly affects people who come to the Virgin Islands to work during tourist season. Many of them spend from October to April in the territory. They pay rent and they pay taxes, but they don't necessarily vote in local elections or change their stateside license. Whether these people qualify as bona fide residents is up for debate.

By the end of that meeting, the Commission voted 4-0 to compel the ferry companies to accept any V.I. government-issued identification, including a food handler's card, as proof of residency.

Rutnik said the entire rate structure for ferry tickets — which has been in place for about a year — will be examined in the PSC's upcoming meetings. Whether there should be any discounted rate for locals will be discussed.

Another question regarding fares for students will also be addressed.

Currently students who live on one island but attend school on another are given one daily round trip ferry ticket subsidized by the Department of Education. But when students go home and then return to school to attend a school event, such as a ballgame, concert, or club meeting, they have to pay the full rate adult rate of \$6 each way.

Rutnik said these students are sometimes charged \$7 each way because they don't have a driver's license or voter's registration card.

Rutnik said it's time to consider whether the territorial or federal government should subsidize ferry tickets.

"You can go from Fajardo [Puerto Rico] to Culebra [a distance of over 20 miles] for \$2.25 each way because the tickets are subsidized by mass transit funds," he said.



St. John Tradewinds News Photo

The issue of having valid local IDs in order to enjoy a discounted ferry fare from Cruz Bay, above, to Red Hook irked some residents who returned home for Festival earlier this month.

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dinghy landing. Gourmet kitchen and lushly landscaped grounds with room for expansion.

\$1,650,000. 2 bed. 2 bath. MLS#16-41.

482 B Chocolate Hole



This charming, Caribbean style home features a very private and sunny pool plus decks in a quiet,

breezy location convenient to Cruz Bay's shops and restaurants. Deeded rights to 2 beaches within walking distance included.

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Medicare Vows to End Funding of Sea View By July 30

By Judi Shimel
St. John Tradewinds

Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services officials said a St. Thomas nursing home can no longer receive funding after July 30.

The statement made July 19 in District Court was directed at owners and operators of Sea View Nursing Home.

Sea View is the territory's only skilled nursing facility. It was decertified by CMS last June but was allowed to keep serving 19 bedridden, mostly elderly, patients from St. Thomas and St. John for one year under a settlement reached earlier this year.

Certain conditions that were supposed to be met in that time were not CMS officials told District Court Judge Curtis Gomez on July 19. As a result federal funding will end.

Assistant U.S. Attorney Angela Tyson-Floyd told Judge

Gomez that continued funding past August 1 was unlikely, although there had been marked improvement at the facility.

"We would be the first to acknowledge that a lot has happened," Tyson-Floyd said. "What is the concern is that from July 30 the funding will end."

The last extension agreed to lasted seven months, requiring changes and that the facility be sold to a new owner or operated by a CMS certified provider. But Evan Shulman, CMS deputy director for Nursing Homes said the fire system was still inadequate, the staff was not conducting monthly fire drills, nor were the major requirements of turning Sea View over to a certified manager completed.

Department of Human Services Commissioner Vivian Ebbesen-Fludd brought a message to the hearing from Governor Kenneth Mapp, who said as long as CMS stays at the table his administration would do all they can to reach com-

pliance. But with that message came the request that CMS continue funding operations at Sea View, Ebbesen-Fludd said.

Tyson-Floyd said CMS was willing to keep talking, to cooperate and facilitate. But she said, there will be no further funding until those actions have been taken.

The impasse leaves the fate of the 19 residents and their caregivers uncertain. A number of family members showed up in District Court to listen to the proceedings.

They also heard Ebbesen-Fludd testify that other VI patients who were transferred off island from the Gov. Juan Luis Hospital under similar circumstances had died.

After August 1 Tyson-Floyd said, it's up to the VI government to provide funding. The alternative would be to assist CMS in relocating them to an approved nursing facility on the U.S. mainland.

St. John Chaotic Kayak Race Raises \$47K for Team River Runner



St. John Tradewinds News Photos by E Franklin Tulloch / earthbound studios
A total of 38 teams lined up at the start on Oppenheimer Beach, top and at left, at the CSM Robert Gallagher Memorial Chaotic Kayak Race. In the final race, Team Beach Bar, above, were the winners!

By Judi Shimel
St. John Tradewinds

A total of 38 teams of mostly bar and restaurant workers raised close to \$48,000 for disabled veterans in the 2016 CSM Robert Gallagher Memorial Chaotic Kayak race at Oppenheimer Beach July 10.

A total of 38 teams hit the bay in relay races while distracting their competitors with water guns on their way to the finish line. Local businesses donated tents and refreshments to keep the party going throughout the day. The afternoon also featured live DJ music and plenty of food.

Organizer Tom Larson said this year's kayak race enjoyed the greatest popularity in the six years St. John has played host to the event. Proceeds help wounded veterans who spend a week on St. John with the Team River Runner program.

Every November, wounded veterans travel to St. John for a week-long rehabilitative recreational program sponsored by TRR and funded by the Chaotic Kayak race.

"The group comes down in November," said Larson. "Fox News did a special last week but most of the guys featured on the show were the ones who come down here. Most of them are amputees or severely wounded."

Shelton Gore, Larson's event partner said there were several ways supporters could donate to the cause. Relay teams paid a fee to enter the race and the more money they raised translated into valuable head start time. There were also fees for teams who lost in their heats but wanted to re-enter the competition, as well as proceeds from food and beverage sales.

All told, about \$50,000 of the total came from St. John, Gore said.

"Four teams race at one time," said Gore. "Three paddle in the middle while the others shoot water at each other. The Beach Bar raised \$7,000 for additional time, and then additional people wanted to contribute by supporting their favorite team."

Donations also came through social media, Gore added. Those who wanted to support a team but were stateside at the time of Chaotic Kayak, could pledge donations online.

There was even a donation made for the referee, said Gore.

Larson, owner of the excursion boat *Sadie Sea*, said his back ground as a military vet gives him the inspiration to reach out to other veterans in need. He said as veterans visit the island, he's encouraged by those who return to St. John on their own for other events or just to vacation.

This year at May's Beach to Beach Power Swim, about half a dozen disabled vets either competed or worked with organizers.

As Chaotic Kayak continues as an annual event, he said, there is hope that veterans of all generations, living on St. John will join in the effort.