

January 24-30, 2011

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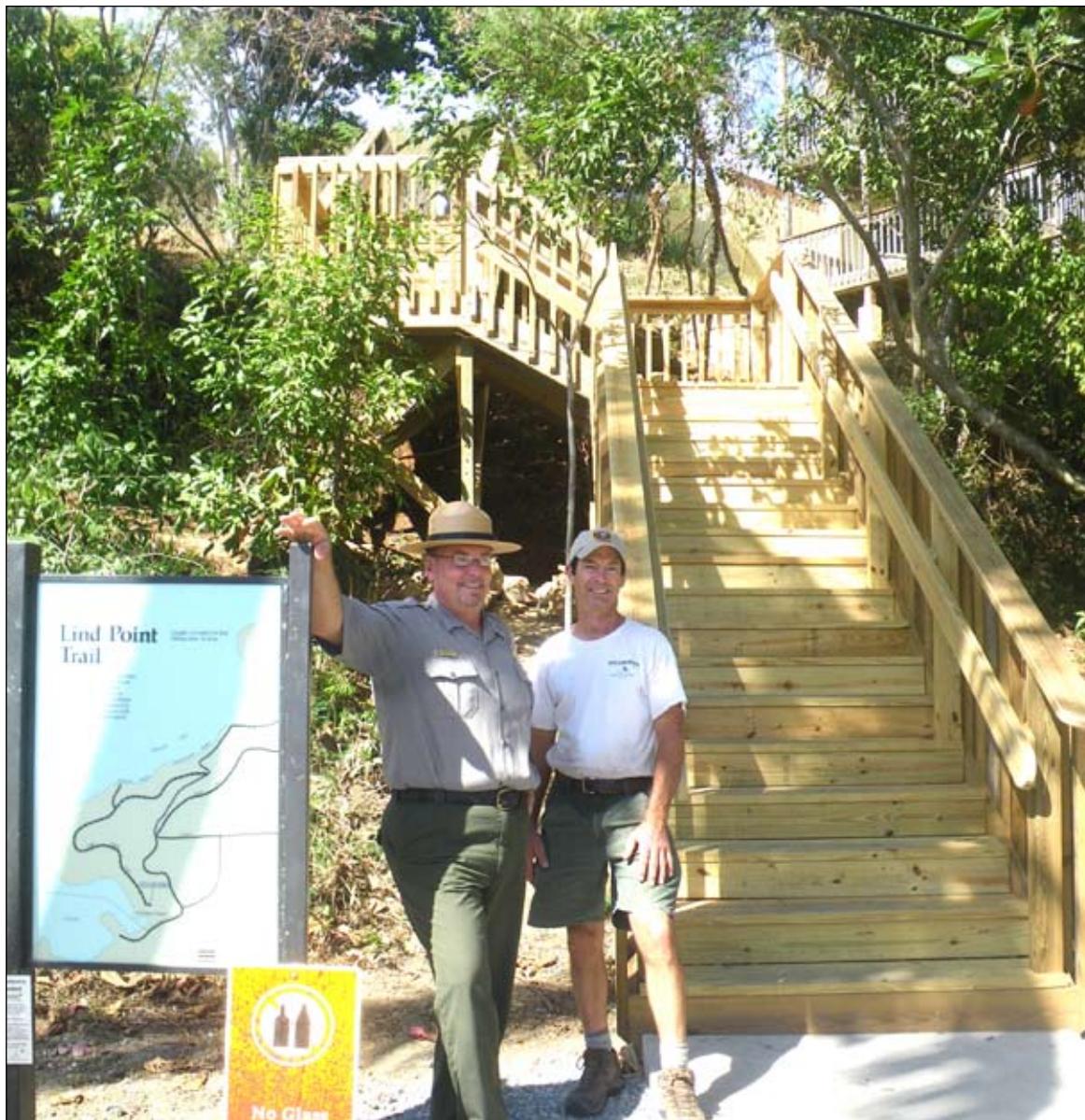
TRADEWINDS

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

Stairway to Heaven

V.I. National Park Superintendent Mark Hardgrove and Friends of VINP Volunteer Coordinator Jeff Chabot stand at the bottom of a new staircase, built by Chabot with the help of fellow volunteers, at the Lind Point Trailhead behind the VINP Visitors' Center in Cruz Bay.

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St. John Tradewinds News
Photo by Jaime Elliott

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Stairway to Heaven Rises at Lind Point Trailhead

By Jaime Elliott
St. John Tradewinds

A new wooden stairway at the trailhead to the Lind Point Trail has been attracting a lot of traffic and has garnered a popular nickname.

"We are calling it 'Stairway to Heaven,'" said V.I. National Park Superintendent Mark Hardgrove. "And it really does lead to some of the most beautiful beaches."

The stairway was constructed after VINP officials discovered that the previous trail up the hillside in the rear of the Visitors' Center parking lot was actually on private property, explained Friends of VINP volunteer coordinator Jeff Chabot, who built the staircase.

"It actually started about three years ago when the park discovered that the land here was private property," said Chabot. "The old trail scrambled up the hillside to the road above and went through private property."

The property owners granted the VINP an easement across their land and paid for the materials used in construction of the staircase, Chabot explained.

"They gave us an easement and they also indicated that they would fund it as far as materials," he said.

Chabot drew a few rough sketches and enlisted the help of a Sierra Club group of volunteers to dig holes for the footings and lay out the preliminary stakes for the stairwell.

"I had 15 people here digging footings and laying out stringers,"



St. John Tradewinds News Photo by Jaime Elliott

Instead of the dirt path leading up the hill, a new staircase welcomes hikers to Lind Point Trail, above, behind the V.I. National Park Visitors' Center.

said Chabot.

Another group of volunteers then helped mix and pour cement for the footings.

"We had 15 ladies out here mixing the cement in buckets and pouring the footings and the platform," said Chabot.

The Friends volunteer coordinator then took care of the rest, completing the staircase in about 190 hours.

"I spent all of my free time here

working on it until we got it done," Chabot said.

The 32 stairs at the head of Lind Point trail now welcome a steady stream of hikers and stand testament to the power of private and public partnerships, explained Hardgrove.

"The landowners wanted to be a partner with the park and together we were able to improve access to the trail for our visitors," said the VINP superintendent.

Love City Pan Dragons Hosting Boat Trip To St. Croix Agriculture Fair

The community is invited to join the Love City Pan Dragons as they travel to the St. Croix Agriculture Fair by ferry.

The boat leaves on Thursday, February 17, at 1:30 p.m. from the Cruz Bay bulkhead and returns on Monday, February 21, at 2 p.m. The cost for adults is \$85 round-trip and \$65 for one-way. For children the cost is \$65 round-trip and \$50 for one-way.

Transportation will be provided by Native Son Inc. Tickets can be purchased at Courtesy Car Rental or on board.

STJ Chamber Chapter Meeting Jan. 25

The January meeting of the St. John Chapter of the St. Thomas/St. John Chamber of Commerce will be on Tuesday, January 25, at Ocean Grill Upstairs from 5:30 to 6:30 p.m. The group plans to review 2010 accomplishments and plan an agenda for 2011.

ACC Annual Meeting Set for Jan. 26

The St. John Animal Care Center's annual meeting is Wednesday, January 26, at 6:30 p.m. at the Giff Hill School's lower campus greatroom.

Free Vow Renewal Ceremony Feb. 14

It's that time of year again! Love City's own Barefoot Minister Anne Marine Porter is hosting a free marriage vow renewal ceremony on Monday, February 14, at Trunk Bay Beach at 5 p.m.

For more information call Porter at 693-5153 or 626-4658.

Property Tax Waiver Ends Feb. 2011

Tax Collector Valencio Jackson advised Virgin Islands property owners that pursuant to Act. No. 7241, penalties and interest will be charged on the revised 2006 bills beginning February 16, 2011.

The revised 2006 property tax bills were issued in July 2010 and became delinquent on November 15, 2010. In accordance with prior legislation, property tax payers were not required to pay any penalty and interest on the 2006R tax bills.

"Notwithstanding the penalty and interest provisions of Title 29 Virgin Islands Code, section 2494, no interest or penalty may be levied on any assessment for the property tax years 2006, 2007, and 2008 for six months after the date of issuance of the respective year's tax assessment," according to Act 7241.

Accordingly, Virgin Islands property owners are encouraged to pay their 2006 property tax bills before February 16, 2011 in order to avoid the assessment of penalty and interest. After that date, penalty and interest charges will be assessed.

For more information, call the Tax Collector at 776-6737.

Audubon Society Annual Plant Sale Set for March 5 in Frank Powell Park

The V.I. Audubon Society will host its annual plant sale on March 5, in Cruz Bay's Frank Powell Park.

Mary Moroney and Dave Spoth are chairing the plant sale this year. One gallon pots are needed, and can be dropped off at Elaine Estern's studio. The group is trying to propagate more native and non-invasive plants to sell this year.

With that in mind, anyone who has Bay Rhum trees, any edible fruit or vegetables potted, are asked to donate these to the sale. Spoth will also be propagating some vegetables and ornamentals for the sale and orchids will be ordered.

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The Community Newspaper Since 1972

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NEWSLINE

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Tradewinds Publishing
P.O. Box 1500
St. John, VI 00831

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VINP Completed Major Projects in 2010

Virgin Islands National Park Continues To Face Funding Shortfalls

“The NPS is in the process of finalizing a special use permit to public works which will permit a resource inventory and analysis by conducting surveys of the Catherinberg property for a new school. The Catherinberg property is located at the park boundary on Centerline Road. Survey work will also include a storm water management study.”

— VINP Superintendent Mark Hardgrove



St. John Tradewinds News Photo by Jaime Elliott

VINP Superintendent Mark Hardgrove thanks VINP Volunteer of the Year Jane Bowry at the Friends of VINP’s annual meeting on January 16.

close to finalizing a special use permit to allow the Department of Public Works to inventory a parcel of land in Estate Catherinberg as a possible site for a new elementary and high school on St. John, Hardgrove explained.

“The NPS is in the process of finalizing a special use permit to public works which will permit a resource inventory and analysis by conducting surveys of the Catherinberg property for a new school,” he said. “The Catherinberg property is located at the park boundary on Centerline Road. Survey work will also include a storm water management study.”

“This project was funded through a technical assistance grant in December 2007 by the Department of the Interior and is an eight month study, which should be complete this September,” said Hardgrove. “This is a feasibility study for the NPS to determine if the property holds nationally significant or other natural or cultural resources. As we continue to work, we’re looking at three to five years out if all goes well.”

Other VINP projects slated for 2011 include new lifeguard stands at Trunk Bay and the long-awaited

Continued on Page 16

**By Jaime Elliott
St. John Tradewinds**

V.I. National Park expanded its boundaries in 2010, completed several major projects and has a few more in store for 2011, VINP Superintendent Mark Hardgrove told about 75 people gathered at Cinnamon Bay Campground’s T’ree Lizard Restaurant for the Friends of VINP’s annual meeting on Sunday, January 16.

In his State of the Park address, Hardgrove highlighted some major accomplishments and thanked numerous partners who helped the park to accommodate the 1 million people who visited VINP and the Coral Reef National Monument last year.

National Park Service Invests \$13 Million To Economy

“This year the NPS invested over \$13 million into the local economy through the payment of salaries, contracts, projects, supplies, materials and utilities,” said Hardgrove. “That is \$2 million more than last year. And that does not include the positive impacts having five NPS units has on the local economy, three of which are in St. Croix.”

The non-profit Trust for Public Land donated the 2.2-acre Nancy Cay parcel of land to the VINP last year and Estate Concordia officials granted visitors use of their access road, Hardgrove explained.

“This year TPL donated and the NPS accepted the 2.2-acre Nanny Point property at Estate Concordia,” said the superintendent. “This magnificent oceanfront parcel, which contains some incred-

ible cactus gardens, is now part of your National Park. You can access it on the road by Concordia and enjoy the incredible resources out there.”

Maho Bay Camps Lease Extended

TPL also continues to work toward saving Maho Bay Campground and was able to convince the landowners to extend the lease for the popular eco-resort, which was set to expire this year, Hardgrove added.

“TPL is still in negotiations with the owners of the property now leased to Maho Camps,” said the superintendent. “If successful TPL will launch a major fund raising campaign to raise the funds for the acquisition, similar to what they did at Estate Maho Bay. The good news is that the lease which was to terminate last year, closing the campground, has been extended allowing the Maho Campground to continue to operate while negotiations continue.”

North Shore Shoulder Repair

Improvement and paving of North Shore Road was almost wrapped up in 2010, complete with speed bumps and a center line, Hardgrove explained.

“The North Shore Road paving project is 99 percent completed and totaled \$5.2 million, only the last of roadway striping and directional arrows remain,” he said. “Last week we were able to add \$70,000 in repairs to road shoulders. This work will start next week as a modification to the project and add an additional 30 days.”

The year would not have been

a success without the volunteers who supplied thousands of hours of labor to keep trails clear and ruins standing, according to the superintendent.

“This year volunteers donated over 15,000 hours in support of the NPS programs,” said Hardgrove. “Volunteer crews, some led by Jeff Chabot, worked on trails, signs, cleaned up beaches, cleaned roadsides and installed trail signs, removed vegetation from cultural landscapes, staffed our historic sites, archives, libraries, curation facilities, led park interpretive tours, and staffed visitor facilities including the Visitor Center in Cruz Bay.”

Monument Open for Permits

The park issued more than 100 commercial use permits and has started accepting permits for the Coral Reef National Monument after suspending commercial use in that area for several months, Hardgrove explained.

“We issued 101 Commercial Use Authorizations to local businesses, which provide necessary and appropriate visitor services and recreational opportunities such as day sailing, scuba diving, underwater photography, snorkeling, hiking, cultural and natural history walking tours, kayaking and wed-

dings in the park,” he said. “Commercial Use Authorization Permits are being accepted for the Virgin Islands Coral Reef.”

The park continues to work towards renewing the concessions contract for Trunk Bay services and Cinnamon Bay Campground, the superintendent added.

New Concessions Contract Expected

“Renewed efforts are well underway for a new concessions contract,” he said. “The prospectus development process is for the Cinnamon Bay Campground and Trunk Bay concessions contract. With the new timeline, it is expected to have a new concessions contract awarded for these concession operations in Fall of 2013.”

“A new contract would provide a contract term of between 10 to 20 years, providing the new concessioner with financial stability to invest long term and make the much needed capital improvements to the Campground at Cinnamon Bay and snack bar and souvenir shop at Trunk Bay,” said Hardgrove. “That translates into an improved visitor experience. We are using our experiences at Maho Bay Campground and Concordia as our models.”

The National Park Service is

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(L to R) National Park Foundation President Neil Mulholland accepts a Friends of VINP license plate from Friends president Joe Kessler.



St. John Tradewinds News
Photo by Jaime Elliott

National Park Foundation President Is Guest Speaker at Friends Annual Meeting

By Jaime Elliott
St. John Tradewinds

Just as most National Parks across the United States were founded by individuals, citizens still have important roles in supporting those parks, National Park Foundation president and CEO Neil Mulholland explained at the Friends of V.I. National Park's annual meeting on January 16.

Mulholland, who oversees the philanthropic arm of the National Park Service, was the guest speaker at the Friends' annual meeting. He discussed the importance each individual has in supporting NPS in general, and specific parks in particular.

"There are 84 million acres of parkland in the United States and the territories," said Mulholland. "If you break that down, every one of us owns one-third of an acre on a per capita basis. Many National Parks were started by individuals and then the government took over the responsibility of managing them, but the role of the individual cannot be lost in this."

"It's a reality that budgets will continue to be strained all across the country," he said. "We really need public and private partnerships to ensure the continued preservation of our natural resources. Your voice must be heard in Washington, D.C."

Citizens should urge their elected officials to increase funding to National Parks and to support specific parks with volunteer efforts, Mulholland explained.

"We all talk about the importance of parks, but you have to share that with your elected officials," he said. "The current administration in Washington is committed to keeping parks viable and educating the next generation, but we have to make sure that continues. Parks are not a right, they are a gift that we've been entrusted with."

"There is a great deal you can do through volunteering," Mulholland said. "Donating money is very important but volunteering and introducing neighbors and friends to parks can shape their lives. The more we participate, the more these places become relevant."

The NPF will donate two tickets to the National Christmas Tree Lighting Ceremony in Washington, D.C. to Friends of VINP as an additional fundraising opportunity, Mulholland announced.

"We're giving Friends two tickets for them to raffle or give to a donor," said Mulholland. "It will not include room or airfare, but you will be our guest at the ceremony and after-party and it's a whole lot of fun."

Kids First! and St. John Eyecare Offer Free Eye Care for Needs-Based Children

St. John Tradewinds

Kids First!, a Virgin Islands-based non-profit that supports education on St. John has formed a partnership with St. John Eyecare to provide free eye care for needs-based children on the island.

Kids First! has provided a \$2,500 grant to fund this initiative. Using this grant, St. John Eyecare will perform free eye exams for children both at its clinic and at St. John schools.

If eye glasses are required and the parents are unable to pay, St. John Eyecare will use this grant to offset some or all of the costs.

"Children face enough challenges mastering the skills necessary for school and beyond," said

Bruce Claffin, Kids First! president. "That task becomes far more difficult when the student is burdened by problems with his or her sight. This program makes it possible for every child on St. John to enter school with the eyesight necessary for success."

"It's great for me to be able to serve the community by going into the island schools and screening the children for eye diseases and vision difficulties," said Dr. Craig Friedenberg, owner of St. John Eye Care. "The first mother whose child qualified for free eyeglasses under this program actually cried. Tears of gratitude streamed down her face."

Kessler Marks Decade of Leading Friends of VINP

Friends, VINP Volunteers and Partnership of the Year Awards Announced

By Jaime Elliott
St. John Tradewinds

About 75 residents packed the Cinnamon Bay Campgrounds' T'ree Lizard Restaurant on Sunday afternoon, January 16, for the Friends of V.I. National Park's annual meeting.

The afternoon marked a decade of Friends' president Joe Kessler's leadership of the non-profit arm of V.I. National Park.

"This is my 10th meeting with you," Kessler told the group. "It's kind of scary to tell the truth, but here we are. It's St. John, the Friends, the Park and all of you who make it all worthwhile."

Friends of VINP had a big year in 2010, and met its fundraising goals for the first time in years, Kessler explained.

"Despite financial woes here and around the world, members and donors continue to feel that

supporting Friends is a worthwhile investment," said Kessler. "We had a modest increase in membership and our general fundraising was on target for the first time in a long time."

The archaeology program at Cinnamon Bay, completing the accessible trail at the Cinnamon Bay ruins, new tables and grills at Francis Bay and other beaches, the underwater camera at Lameshur Bay and continued support of the annual Folklife Festival were just a few of the many projects Friends supported over the past year, explained Kessler.

"We're especially proud of our work getting school kids in the park," he said. "More than 800 St. Thomas and St. John students attended last year's Folklife Festival and we had more than 700 students at our Earth Day Fair. One hundred kids spent between three

and five days at VIERS eco summer camps."

"Eight high school students, four from the states and four from the Virgin Islands, took part in the summer trail crew program," said Kessler. "And we started our Ranger in Training program thanks to the National Park Foundation."

Looking ahead, Friends expects to be just as energetic and effective in 2011, according to Kessler.

"We have every hope that 2011 will be just as good, if not better," he said. "The second phase of our accessible trail at Francis Bay will be completed. We expect to complete the renovation of the archaeology lab at Cinnamon Bay and we'll continue for the support of the cultural and education projects which we do every year."

Instead of Carabana Ensemble's weekly plays at the Cinnamon Bay

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St. John Tradewinds News Photo by Jaime Elliott

Friends of V.I. National Park's Volunteer of the Year Martha Hills thanks the organization for the honor at Friends' annual meeting.

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VA Outreach Health Services Now Available at MKSCHC for Veterans

By Jaime Elliott
St. John Tradewinds

St. John veterans no longer have to travel to St. Thomas Veterans Affairs clinics for primary care, radiology or laboratory services, thanks to a new outreach partnership with Myrah Keating Smith Community Health Center.

Lieutenant Governor Gregory Francis joined Veterans Affairs officials from Puerto Rico and St. John American Legion Post #131 members, at a Wednesday morning, January 19, meeting celebrating the new services at MKSCHC.

The VA Caribbean Health System currently runs a main facility in San Juan as well as nine clinics across Puerto Rico, St. Thomas and St. Croix. The outreach services at MKSCHC mark the first time Love City veterans will be able to get healthcare on the island through the federal VA Healthcare System.

"Today is a special celebration to kick off the collaboration between VA Healthcare System and MKSCHC," said Wanda Mims, VA Caribbean Health System director. "One of our main focuses is to improve healthcare access for our veterans. The Department of Veteran's Affairs' goal is to provide care closer to where veterans live."

"We are all about serving America's veterans where they live," said Mims. "Taking the ferry over here was an eye-opening experience for me. It almost lulled me to sleep and I can imagine having to take that ferry when you're not feeling well."

Patient records and the entire VA Caribbean Healthcare System will now be linked to MKSCHC, explained Dr. Ramon Guerrido, VA Caribbean Healthcare System's associate chief of staff for primary care services.

"Primary and preventative care services will all be available right here," said Guerrido. "Those services will include all aspects of primary care, health management and preventive management care. Management of chronic conditions, vaccines, lab tests, nutritional evaluations and X-rays will be available here as well."



St. John Tradewinds News Photo by Jaime Elliott

Lieutenant Governor Gregory Francis, above, joined the celebration at MKSCHC announcing the new services last week.

"We have the same computer system at all of our facilities so this facility will be linked in and will provide full patient records," Guerrido said. "They will have records and will be able to reference all documents pertaining to that patient."

The VA Caribbean Healthcare System also contracted Chelsea Drug Store to provide emergency prescription drug services to veterans on St. John, according to Guerrido.

"We have contracted Chelsea Drug Store to provide emergency medication refills and renewals," he said. "They can provide up to 10 days of medication and the rest would be received via mail. We can't emphasize enough that we want to provide care closer to home for our veterans, wherever they live; they have earned it and deserve it."

The partnership is a significant milestone in veterans services, explained Lt. Gov. Francis.

"The availability of these services represents a significant milestone in our collective efforts to serve the residents of St. John," said Francis. "The men and women of our territory have served our country with pride and bravery. We appreciate and are grateful for their service to our territory and

our nation."

"And we must fulfill our own responsibility to serve our veterans and ensure that we are able to meet their health-related and other needs, without the expectation that they incur additional costs to travel to St. Thomas for services," he said.

The partnership with MKSCHC also signifies the unparalleled level of care provided by the health center, Francis added.

"This outreach health service is now a part of the extensive network of VA hospitals and offices throughout the United States," said the Lt. Gov. "I can personally attest that the care received through our VA facilities throughout the territory is second to none and I am immensely pleased that this same quality of care will now be available to our veteran community on St. John right here at MKSCHC."

"This partnership would not have been possible if the services already being provided here at MKSCHC were not exemplary," said Francis.

In order for the services to be remain available, however, all veterans on St. John should take advantage of the outreach clinic, Mims explained.

"When it comes to government

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Get Ready To Boogie — Blues Cruise Is Coming

By Jaime Elliott
St. John Tradewinds

St. John will be full of the Blues on Wednesday, January 26.

More than 1,000 passengers from the Legendary Rhythm and Blues Cruise will descend on Love City when the cruise ship docks offshore of Cruz Bay Wednesday morning for an island-wide party.

This isn't the first time the popular Blues cruiseline will visit Love City. Several years ago the ship docked in St. Thomas and hundreds of Blues fans came over to St. John for concerts across Cruz Bay.

This year the party will be in Cruz Bay's Frank Powell Park, at all three island schools and across the island to Coral Bay.

"Last time the ship docked in St. Thomas and we had a pub crawl in Cruz Bay," said devoted St. John Blues fan Yvonne Tharpes, who is helping to organize the festivities and will be cruising as well. "This time, they are anchoring off of Cruz Bay and we expect about 1,500 of the more than 2,000 passengers on board to come ashore. There are a lot of things happening that day."

To kick off the St. John Blues day, Department of Tourism officials are hosting a cultural exchange concert in Frank Powell Park at 11 a.m. which will feature local musicians, according to Tharpes.

After enjoying tunes in the Cruz Bay park, the Blues cruisers will be able to take the groove out to Coral Bay for a pub crawl, Tharpes explained.

"Cruise ship guests rarely go to the heart of Coral Bay," she said. "They may see an overlook, but this time they'll get to explore Coral Bay and visit the businesses and have a little exposure to the other side of the island."

Shuttle service will be provided from Cruz Bay to Coral Bay venues including Skinny Legs, Island Blues and Shipwreck Landing where the music is scheduled to start between 11:30 a.m. and noon, according to Tharpes.

Skinny Legs will be full of New Orleans Blues as Chris Klein and the Boulevards entertain the crowd. Cruisers will stop by Island Blues to hear the Van Gills Band and Mitch Woods and His Rocket 88s will keep the crowd at Ship-



St. John Tradewinds News Photo Courtesy of www.bluescruise.com

Guests aboard the Legendary Rhythm and Blues Cruise get their groove on.

wreck Landing entertained.

Blues fans can expect some surprises at each venue as well, Tharpes added.

"All of the musicians from the ship, and there is an incredible line up there, are encouraged to come-out and jam at all of the different locations," said Tharpes.

Shuttles will be circulating to each venue, giving Blues fans the chance to hear all three bands and enjoy the full pub crawl, Tharpes added.

The Coral Bay concerts are expected to wrap up around 3 p.m. when the cruise ship guests will

be transported back to Cruz Bay for an afternoon Blues concert in Frank Powell Park featuring Bob Margolin and Zac Harmon, according to Tharpes.

But the Blues isn't slated just for pubs and parks; St. John students at all three island schools will get some serious entertainment on January 26 as well, Tharpes explained.

"We're hosting concerts in all three schools as part of the Blues in the Schools program," she said. "Corey Harris will be playing at Guy Benjamin School, Zach Harmon will play at Giff Hill School

and Rick Estrin will play at Julius E. Sprauve School."

After the late afternoon Frank Powell Park concert, several other venues in Cruz Bay are expected to host Blues concerts as well. Specific details, however, were not finalized as of press time.

Tharpes encouraged as many people as possible to come out to the various venues and take part in a true Blues explosion on St. John.

"Everyone should take the day off and come out and support the Blues," said Tharpes. "This is a real cultural exchange and there is going to be a ton of talent playing across the island that day."

The Legendary Rhythm and Blues Cruise, which will have Tharpes and Love City's Blues king Steve Simon — who will be hosting the Ninth Annual St. John Blues Festival March 16-20 — on board, departs Ft. Lauderdale on January 22 and stops in Antigua and Barbuda on January 25 before docking off Cruz Bay around 9 a.m. on January 26.

For more details about the Legendary Rhythm and Blues Cruise visit www.bluescruise.com.

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Kids First! Supports GBS E-Books Reading Program

St. John Tradewinds

Kids First!, a VI based non-profit which supports education on St. John, announced a grant of \$1,500 to Guy Benjamin School to support an innovative reading program using Kindle E-Book readers.

Age appropriate books will be downloaded into four Kindles which will be used by 4th to 6th grade students at the Coral Bay public elementary school.

On-line instruction materials linked to downloaded books will be used by teachers and students to develop their understanding of the materials being read. Classroom curriculum including tests, will also support instruction.

Kindle E-books support reading

instruction in several ways. First, there are over 30,000 children's books available on-line, that can be reviewed and purchased in a matter of minutes at a cost up to 80 percent less than a bound book. They never "wear out" and can be shared among students.

Children also like the "cool factor" of buying and reading books on-line and they can also download magazines, newspapers and other reading materials from all over the world, in a matter of minutes.

"We applaud the creativity of the Guy Benjamin staff for developing this proposal and expect it will promote reading and comprehension," said Bruce Claffin, president of Kids First! "Further,

as positive results are achieved we hope to use this success as a model for use throughout the Virgin Island's schools."

"We appreciate the support Kids First! has provided to launch this new program," said GBS Principal Dionne Wells. "Reading is an essential skill which must be mastered in the early years to support learning in higher grades and beyond. Kids First! recognizes this and has generously supported reading programs at Guy Benjamin School over the past few years."

In operation for over two years, Kids First! has provided over \$100,000 of grants to island schools and programs. To learn more about Kids First! go to www.kidsfirststj.org.



St. John Tradewinds News Photos by Jaime Elliott

Beckowitz had 14 inches of her hair clipped off for Locks of Love last week.

Carol Beckowitz Gets Shorn for Good Cause

By Jaime Elliott

St. John Tradewinds

Carol Beckowitz cut her long, flowing locks last week and by doing so helped out a disadvantaged teenager.

Michelle Collins, co-owner of Grapevine Salon along with Colleen Moore, snipped off 14-inches of Beckowitz's blonde hair on Thursday afternoon, January 20. Beckowitz, who hadn't cut a significant amount of her hair in more than a dozen years, mailed the tresses off to Locks of Love.

Located in West Palm Beach, Florida, Locks of Love is a non-profit organization which provides hairpieces to financially disadvantaged children in the United States and Canada under the age of 21 suffering from long-term medical hair loss from any diagnosis.

Beckowitz, Senator at Large Craig Barshinger's chief of staff, was moved to donate to the organization because she won't be on Love City for the first ever St. John Relay for Life American Cancer Society fundraiser on Saturday, February 19.

"I can't be here for Relay for Life and I wanted to make a contribution," said Beckowitz. "So this is my contribution, to send my hair to Locks of Love."

Locks of Love accepts any hair at least 10 inches in length. To find out more about the organization check out the website www.locksoflove.org.

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Friends of VINP Will Come Out and Dance Under Stars at February 5 Gala

By Jaime Elliott
St. John Tradewinds

It's time to mark those calendars for one of the island's biggest events of the year.

The Friends of V.I. National Park's 7th Annual Gala is on Saturday, February 5, at Cheryl and David McDaniel's stunning "Butterfly Beach" home right on the water in Fish Bay starting at 6 p.m.

"This is our signature social event of the year," said Friends' development director Heather Ruhsam. "We're very proud this year to have DIAGEO USVI as our sponsor."

The night will feature dancing under the stars to live music on the McDaniel's waterfront lawn, mouth-watering fare by Mathayom and plenty of opportunities to win exciting prizes.

Raffle packages include a ladies' day with lunch at the Lime Inn and gift certificates to some of Love City's most popular shops. A men's day package consists of a sport fishing charter on World Class Anglers and a few rounds of beers at a local watering hole.

"We're trying to think outside the box a little bit this year as far as the raffle prizes go," said Ruhsam. "But we also kept some raffle prizes that were popular in the past."

Those always popular raffle prizes include a custom wood cutting board from Gerry Hills, blown glass from Maho Bay Glassworks, a keg party furnished by St. John Brewers and tickets to the Aspen Santa Fe Ballet's performance at the Reichhold Center for the Arts.

Raffle tickets, \$25 each or five for \$100, are available through Friends of VINP Store, both Connections locations, the Friends' office in Mongoose Junction and will also sold the night of the soiree as well.

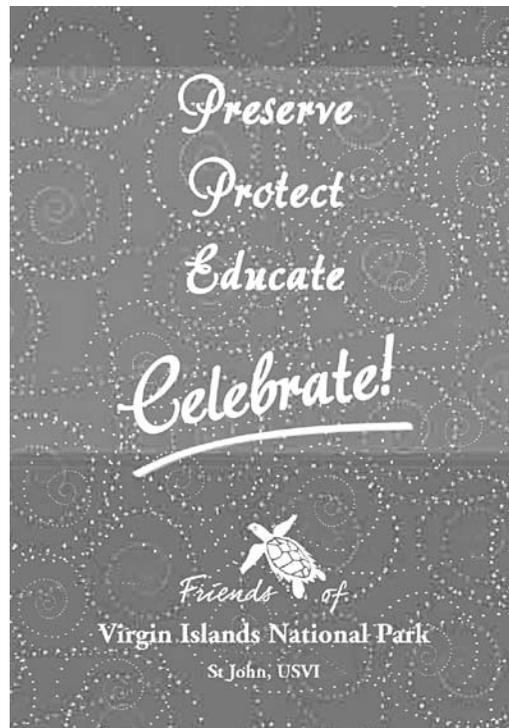
Party-goers can even choose which raffle packages to try for by placing their tickets in a basket in front of the prize they want to win. For people who aren't attending the gala, they just have to tell one of the Friends' staff which prize they want and it will be placed in that basket, explained Ruhsam.

"We did the raffle that way last year and people really enjoyed being able to choose what they try to win," she said. "You can put your tickets into a few different baskets or, to increase your chance of winning one package, put them all in one basket. Or just tell us what prizes you want and we'll do it for you."

There will be several silent auction items available to bid on at the gala as well, including an original oil painting by Elaine Estern. Ruhsam is also still accepting donations of items or services for the raffle packages, she added.

As Friends supporters don their island elegant attire for a night under the stars, there could be no better venue than the McDaniel's Fish Bay home, explained Ruhsam.

"The way the house is situated, it's almost a small representation of the VINP with mangroves and grassy areas and it's right on the water," said the Friends' development director. "The McDaniels are also interested in bringing back the butterfly population in Fish



Bay and the surrounding area by reintroducing native plants on their property."

As one of the three major fundraisers for Friends of VINP, the gala goes a long way toward ensuring that the group's many programs and projects continue throughout the year.

From Friends' summer eco-camps and ranger in training programs to the group's lionfish response program and cultural events at Cinnamon Bay amphitheater, gala-goers will be truly doing good while having a blast.

"This is one of our major fundraisers, besides the online auction and the Beach to Beach Power Swim," said Ruhsam. "The funds we raise go to support all of the different programs we host and our efforts on behalf of V.I. National Park."

The event is also an opportunity for Friends to thank the people who support the organization, Ruhsam added.

"More than anything, the gala is a chance for us to publicly thank our donors and our members," she said. "A lot of our members come to the event and it's a great opportunity for us to say 'Thank you' face to face. We also use the night to celebrate our accomplishments and honor our relationship with the National Park Service."

Last year's gala raised \$20,000 for Friends of VINP and this year Ruhsam hopes to top that by \$5,000, she explained.

Shuttle service to the McDaniel's home will be provided from the Westin Resort and Villas vacation villas area as well as from the Cruz Bay dock after the 6 p.m. and 7 p.m. ferries. The night kicks off with cocktails at 6 p.m. on the McDaniel's lawn and Friends staff request RSVPs by January 30.

For more information or to purchase tickets to the gala call Ruhsam at Friends at 779-4940.



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ENCORE:

A Caribbean Consignment Shop and So Much More

By Jaime Elliott
St. John Tradewinds

Behind the brightly painted doors of Caribbean gingerbread detailed building in downtown Cruz Bay is the home of Encore, a combination art gallery and consignment shop recently opened by Dr. Iris Kern and husband Bill Needham.

Kern and Needham's newest venture is located across the street from Da Livio's Restaurant, in an historic building which housed the island's first bank at one time.

Today the shop is full of paintings by Madeleine Meehan, silk batiks by Eunice Summer, African masks, Maasai wedding necklaces, collectibles, clothing, jewelry and more.

The shop isn't easy to categorize, since it's not necessarily a second-hand store, or a classic art gallery. More than anything Encore is more a reflection of Kern's own taste.

"It's something the Virgin Islands hasn't had before," she said. "It's really an upscale consignment shop. Some items are new, some items are really gently used and there is artwork and collectibles too."

"It's really something you wouldn't expect to find on St.

John," said Kern.

While Kern has a full time job with the Department of Justice on St. Thomas, she is also an avid art collector who yearned to get her creative juices flowing again.

"I almost majored in Art History back in college," she said. "I really like African art and I've been collecting it for 40 years. This is a great excuse to get more and then share it with others."

"I adore my job with the Department of Justice, but, like I told the Attorney General, I need an opportunity to do something more creative," said Kern. "Plus I really like start-ups and I think this is really fun."

Encore truly is a reflection of Kern's personal and exotic taste. There are two main rooms in the shop, one dedicated to art, masks, collectibles and jewelry and the other mostly filled with clothing, shoes and some pottery and stained-glass.

"The art will be very selective," said Kern about the paintings, musical instruments and small sculptures. "We're going to be changing up the art as well and one of things we might do is feature one artist and have an opening of sorts dedicated to that particular artist."

Women, men and children can

look to Encore for their wardrobe needs. From a hot-pink corset and designer capes to vintage beaded dresses and Egyptian cotton skirts, the store has a wide array of attire, all chosen by Kern herself.

"I really just picked things that I like and I was very particular about what I put in here," she said. "Not everything in here is super cheap. When you know the value of something, like a vintage beaded dress, you know you are getting a good deal; but that doesn't mean it is necessarily cheap."

Kern's husband Needham agreed that the store is almost an out-post of the two's family home.

"The idea was really to show a combination of all the things that Iris loves," said Needham. "Iris is the consummate consumer and I see this as sort of the realization of a fantasy of hers to have this shop full of all the things she loves and she believes others will love too."

Encore should really be browsed through for full enjoyment. Stop by the store located next door to the Lime Inn shops in downtown Cruz Bay. Encore is open Tuesday through Saturday from 11 a.m. to 7 p.m. Kern accepts consignments on Saturdays only.

For more information call 626-0927 or just stop by.



St. John Tradewinds News Photos by Jaime Elliott

Store owners Dr. Iris Kern and Bill Needham pose in the doorway to Encore, above. A peek inside the new Caribbean consignment shop, below.



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Calling All Bridge Players and Potential Bridge Players — Lessons Available for Beginners, Advanced Games Too

By Jaime Elliott
St. John Tradewinds

Calling all St. John residents who have been looking for a new hobby that is challenging, stimulating and just plain fun.

Michael and Lauri Weinman and Glenda Werbel are looking for more bridge players of all ages and abilities in order to organize duplicate games and share their passion for the age-old card game.

The core group of Love City bridge players has been meeting and playing the game for almost 15 years, but more interest recently has prompted the Weinmans and Werbel to put the call out for others and to organize the St. John Bridge Club.

“Since we don’t have a movie theater or concert hall here, this is something really fun to do,” said Werbel. “It’s very social and it’s like mental aerobics. It’s good for all ages and abilities.”

The game can be as complicated or challenging as one makes it, explained Lauri Weinman.

“Bridge can be as competitive as you want,” she said. “But it doesn’t have to be super serious in order to be fun. We don’t say, ‘how could you have played that dummy.’”

“It can be played enjoyably at any level and it makes for a really fun evening,” said Werbel.

The group is inviting anyone interested in learning the game, brushing up on their skills or those who are advanced bridge players to contact them to join the fledgling club.

For beginners, the group has arranged for accredited bridge teacher Barbara Hollingsworth, who heads up the St. Thomas Bridge Club, to give lessons. For more advanced players, Hollingsworth can also run sanctioned duplicate games so players can get master points.

But talk about points and accredited games should not scare anyone, Werbel added.

“You don’t have to know anything about the game really,” said Werbel. “It will take a few lessons and it just gets more fun the more you learn how to play. We all help each other out because we all want to keep learning too.”

Part of what makes the game so much fun is that players are continually improving and learning new strategies, explained Werbel, who has been playing the game since college.

“It’s engaging and you can for-

ever learn how to play bridge better,” she said. “It’s a game of communication with your partner and it’s the most intellectual of card games.”

Once the group gets a sense of how much interest is out there, more details about lessons and bridge club gatherings will be determined, explained Michael Weinman.

“I’d love to see us get together once or twice a week and run games and give lessons,” he said. “St. John School of the Arts has agreed to let us use their Lumberyard Complex space and if we need more space we can find it. A lot will depend on how much interest we get.”

Games usually take between three and four hours, but players are so engaged, the time flies by, according to the group.

“It’s very stimulating mentally,” said Michael Weinman. “Every hand is different and there are billions of combinations possible so you’re always learning.”

Anyone interested in joining the St. John Bridge Club should contact Weinman at mhw@morriswco.com, or write to Michael Weinman at P.O. Box 1510, St. John, V.I., 00831.

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The New York Times

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Wednesday Night Jam Hosted by Lovely Lauren 7:30-10:30



St. John US Virgin Islands

Lionfish in the Caribbean

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Guest Speakers: The National Park Service

Mongoose Junction Courtyard
February 1, 2011
6pm-8pm

- The Sun Dog Cafe has generously offered to provide free appetizers for the event
- Samples of our “Lionfish Shot” will be served to those who wish to try one
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Senator-at-Large Reports

By Senator Craig Barshinger

Some Bad News and Some Good News

St. John Tradewinds

Greetings! I and my staff wish you a healthy and prosperous 2011.

This is my first Senator at Large report for the new year and the new legislative term. The year started with the inauguration of Governor John P. deJongh and Lt. Governor Gregory R. Francis to a second term. The following Monday, the members of the 29th Legislature were sworn in. Both events took place in Emancipation Garden on St. Thomas.

Citing budget constraints, the Governor sensibly scaled back the inaugural activities, yet still St. John had a beautiful service in the Anglican Church, led by clergy from the many faiths that are embraced on St. John. Afterwards, a delightful reception was hosted at the Battery. Both events were open to the public, and I saw many of you there.

I am optimistic about the prospects for the 29th Legislature, but I have some bad news to report, hopefully to be followed by some good news.

The Senate majority caucus controls the allocation of all resources at the Senate except senator's allotments. (I am not in the majority caucus.)

On Wednesday, January 19, the majority caucus terminated the employment of my St. John office manager and community liaison Catherine Stephen. How could the majority do this, you ask? Catherine was actually a Central Staff employee for St. John, officially working for all senators in the St. Thomas/St. John District.

Those who have worked with her know how passionately and effectively Catherine dealt with your constituent issues. She loves to help the community and she's good at it. The firing was heart-wrenching

to Catherine, to me and to my whole staff.

I believe it is wrong to terminate someone's employment when they are performing their job well. In fact, my objection to the willy-nilly firing of Central Staff employees last December was one of the reasons that I was ousted from the majority.

The Central Staff has funded a helper for the Senator at Large for many years, because the budget given to the at-large senator is not sufficient to staff an office on all three islands to standard.

St. Thomas/St. John District senators have 80 percent of the senator-at-large budget, yet they only staff one office. Because I am the only senator who lives on St. John, I naturally looked after St. John, and Catherine essentially became part of my staff for St. John.

How to deal with this crisis? The good news is that there are options. Perhaps public outcry can convince the senate majority to bring Catherine back to the position in which she worked so well.

I will of course do all that I can do personally. And please take some action on this situation if it concerns you.

In other news...

The St. John ambulance boat is progressing well and is on schedule for February delivery. I will be providing photographs to *St. John Tradewinds*, hopefully they can do a story on this long-awaited, much-needed replacement for our aging *Star of Life* ambulance boat.

In the next report....

I will tell you more about progress on the new Legislature for St. John and how your activism has helped chart a better course.

11th St. John Arts Festival Will Feature Caribbean Music, Arts, Food and Crafts Through the Ages

St. John Tradewinds

The St. John Arts Festival is off and running again with a great program for the week commencing February 19 through February 25, 2011.

The program kicks off with the 73rd Army Band playing in Cruz Bay Park from 12:30 p.m. through the afternoon with an exhibition of Caribbean-made arts, crafts and foods, which runs for the whole week from 10 a.m. to 5:30 p.m. each day.

Sunday, February 20, is a special Gospel Concert of local church choirs together with the UVI "Anacrusis Brass" band providing music reminiscent of the lazy Sunday afternoons of old.

Sunday evening at the Westin ballroom at 8 p.m. will be a guaranteed sizzling performance of the Caribbean Ritual Dancers who personify the essence of all that is Caribbean and, moreover, what visitors and locals alike expect to see when they speak of "Caribbean."

Monday keeps the beat going with the reggae band of St. John Inner Visions playing in Cruz Bay Park all afternoon. There just isn't a better reggae band, as their extensive global tours can attest.

Monday evening at the St. John School of the Arts at 6 p.m. is a special St. John School of the Arts Performs show covering the whole range of student activities ranging from instrumental, vocal and dance through all ages to highlight the exuberance and talent of the children of St. John.

Tuesday, February 22, in Cruz Bay Park rolls back time to the days when voice and percussion instruments were the only form of musical expression along with story-telling, portrayed by the Echo People ensemble of St. John.

Tuesday evening at 7:30 p.m. at the St. John School of the Arts, the St. John Film Society will be showing the award-winning documentary "Taking Root: The Vision of Wangari Maathai" by Lisa Mer-

ton and Alan Dater.

Then on Wednesday in the park, the festival moves along in time to when island songs and musical instruments were simple and inexpensive (home-made mostly) with Koko and the Sunshine Band taking everyone back to those uncomplicated times.

Thursday, February 24, in Cruz Bay Park it's time to switch to the smooth Latin-American-influenced music of the Samba Combo band which adds another interesting facet to the tropical setting of St. John.

Thursday evening at 6 p.m. at the St. John School of the Arts, it's time to go way back, before the Europeans discovered St. John and the other Caribbean islands, with a film presented by the St. John Historical Society entitled "La Buena Herencia" depicting the life of the earliest inhabitants — the Taino Indians from South America.

Translated from Spanish, the title means "The Good Heritage" which, compared to what followed these peace-loving people, is indeed the "good" heritage of the islands.

Also on Thursday the V.I. National Park kicks off its annual three-day Folklife Festival at the Annaberg sugar mill ruins further expounding on the culture of the islands in all its forms.

Rounding off the week on Friday, February 25, a new local St. John band "Musical Vibrations" will play in the park which bring the festival right up to the present.

Concurrent with the seven-day festival is the Restaurant Live Music Program listing all the island restaurants and the various band and instrumentalists playing each evening for diners to choose according to both cuisine and music.

An updated printed program will be available soon and the website, www.stjohnartsfestival.com, will also be updated soon.

Do not miss this unique Arts Festival of the U.S. Virgin Islands!

Broadway Is Coming to St. John in February with "Dream, Wish, Believe"

By Jaime Elliott
St. John Tradewinds

Students at Julius E. Sprauve School, Guy Benjamin School, Giff Hill School and St. John School of the Arts will have 15 hours to learn choreographed dances, Broadway tunes and puppetry before taking the stage on Friday, February 18, to perform the original musical "Dream, Wish, Believe" at the Westin Resort and Villas.

While it might sound like a tall order, the students will be learning from some of the best talent seen on the Broadway and beyond. The program will also raise much-needed funds for the St. John School of the Arts through a special donors performance and raffle.

The program was the brainchild of the vice president of St. John School of the Arts' board of directors Ronnie Lee who approached John Tartaglia after seeing his off-Broadway original show "ImaginOcean."

Tartaglia, who fallen in love with the island during previous visits, enlisted a group of equally talented friends and created an original musical for St. John students.

Tartaglia, one of the youngest ever Sesame Street cast members, will be teaching puppetry, both helping students to make their own puppets and to then perform with their creations.

"Learning puppetry from John Tartaglia is like learning painting from Michelangelo," said the St. John School of the Arts board of directors vice president.

Michael Shawn Lewis, who has numerous cast credits to his name from touring productions of Les Miserables to Broadway's Phantom of

Continued on Back Page



Donna Drake



Laura Barnea



Rhonda Miller

PLAYBILL

BROADWAY
COMES TO ST. JOHN



Dream, Wish, Believe

An Original Musical by Tony Award Nominee - John Tartaglia

Premiere Performance

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Broadway Comes to St. John

Five Broadway professionals including Tony Award nominated actor John Tartaglia, will work with our island fourth graders to put on two shows on Friday, February 18, at the Westin Ballroom. The first showing, at 6 p.m., will be for the St. John "Angels" who will pay \$200 for a ticket, followed by a reception and then gourmet dinners at various restaurants. The 8 p.m. show is open to everyone with no set charge, but a request for a donation. All proceeds benefit the St. John School of the Arts.

ANGEL TICKETING INFORMATION

The "Angel" tickets to the 6pm performance will go on sale January 19th at 10am at Connections & Chelsea Drug Store. If you purchase an Angel ticket you will also have access to our pre-sale of Raffle tickets. For \$100 you have the chance to win a three day trip to New York City! Details are below. There is a limit of 1 Raffle ticket per person.

RAFFLE TICKETING INFORMATION

SJSA will kick off the sale of Raffle tickets on February 7th from 4-6pm in front of Starfish Gourmet Market at The Marketplace. Starfish Gourmet will be having a wine tasting. There will also be meet & greet with the Broadway actors at 5pm. Tickets sold are on a first come first serve basis.

RAFFLE DETAILS

Due to popular demand we have increased the amount of Raffle tickets available to 200! The winner will receive:

- 2 roundtrip airline tickets to NYC
- Nice hotel accommodations for three nights
- Tickets to three Broadway shows (CHICAGO, LA CAGE AUX FOLLES, & QUEEN OF THE DESERT) & backstage passes to CHICAGO
- Dinner at 2 restaurants, The famous Sardi's and Etcetera Etcetera

FOR MORE INFORMATION CALL 779-4322

Correction:

The Merchant's Commercial Bank Robbed article in the January 17-23 issue of *St. John Tradewinds* did not include the fact that the bank hired a security guard the day after the robbery.

Merchant's Commercial Bank officials have had a security guard in place, in addition to keeping the bank's door locked until clients present identification, since Wednesday, January 12.

Keeping Track of Crime

2010

Homicides: 0

Shootings: 0

Stabbings: 0

Armed Robberies: 1

Arsons: 0

1st Degree Burglaries: 3

2nd Degree Burglaries: 22

3rd Degree Burglaries: 70

Grand Larcenies: 67

Rapes: 0

2011-TO-DATE

Homicides: 0

Shootings: 0

Stabbings: 0

Armed Robberies: 0

Arsons: 0

1st Degree Burglaries: 0

2nd Degree Burglaries: 2

3rd Degree Burglaries: 1

Grand Larcenies: 2

Rapes: 0

Letters To St. John Tradewinds

ACC Becoming Lean, Mean, Animal Machine

The Animal Care Center of St. John is switching gears and becoming a lean, mean, animal machine! We have reduced the size of our formerly elephantine board of directors to a manageable eight and have created the new position of Shelter Administrator.

This person will have key responsibilities for ACC business affairs, coordinating communications, volunteers, website and events, among other things. We are developing committees called "packs" and inviting the public to join them.

These committees will do the heavy lifting and be task-specific so everybody can enjoy their contribution of energy and time without feeling that it never ends!

We want to thank all of our loyal employees and

volunteers over the years, especially Connie Joseph, who has been the caretaker of our cats and dogs, and the glue that held things together, for the last five years. We wouldn't be at this new level in our development without her selfless dedication to the animals and to the ACC, and we are looking forward to her continued service to our wonderful cat family for years to come.

We also thank you, St. John, for your unending generosity and support.

Sincerely,
B.J. Harris,
President,

ACC Board of Directors

No Health Insurance Options for Virgin Islands Residents

Dear Governor,

I am writing to you in regards to the lack of adequate health insurance programs for Virgin Islands residents. My wife and I own and operate a small photography business in the Virgin Islands and have been doing so for the past 20 years.

During that time we have enrolled in numerous health insurance programs only to have the policies canceled after several years because the insurance company no longer wishes to carry policies for Virgin Islands residents.

We currently have no health insurance. On Tuesday last week we went for a complete medical check-up on the recommendation from Peterson Insurance group only to find out on Friday that they are no longer accepting new policies in the Virgin Islands. This is very distressing to us because we virtually can not find a health insurance option living here in the Virgin Islands.

I am writing to you asking your help.

I'm not sure what President Obama's health care plan has done. But it is not helping us one bit. And I'm not sure what our local government has done or if they are even aware of this dilemma.

That is why I'm writing you asking you to look into the problem and see what can be done to attract an insurance company to the Virgin Islands that will remain here and be honest and offer good service to their customers.

The Virgin Islands has had a history of insurance companies closing their doors after major catastrophes such as Hurricane Hugo and Hurricane Marilyn. I think it is criminal that insurance companies can take the premiums for years and then when a claim is made close up their doors and leave the territory. That is criminal. What do my wife and I have to show for years of paying premiums to insurance companies that are no longer here in the territory ... nothing!

Sincerely
Steve Simonsen

Crossword Answers — Puzzle on Page 20

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1-800-222-TIPS (8477)
Remain Totally Anonymous
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Help Our Community be Safe

Christensen Fights Against Repeal of Health Care Reform

St. John Tradewinds

Delegate to Congress Donna Christensen joined her colleagues last week to fight the repeal of the Patient Protection and Affordable Care Act.

Christensen led a special order on Tuesday evening, January 18, hosted a press conference with the Tri-Caucus on Wednesday morning and gave a five minute speech on the floor on Wednesday evening pointing out that health care reform has begun to improve the health of Americans and that repeal is a step in the wrong direction.

The Republican led House of Representatives was expected to pass their repeal bill, but the measure was expected to die in the U.S. Senate or be vetoed by President Obama.

Christensen told the body that health care reform has already begun to improve the health and well being of our nation's most vulnerable residents.

The new law has already begun to help Americans whose health care needs exceed their budgets by expanding and bolstering Medicaid programs, Christensen added.

Repealing health care reform will take away the significant gains that the historic law has already made, explained Christensen.

Christensen emphasized that repealing health care reform will mean that the health equity provisions which include strengthened data collection, more equitable treatment of the Americans in the U.S. territories, increased support for community health workers and community health centers, greater accountability for and coordinated efforts to reduce health disparities across HHS and greater support for programs to strengthen and diversify the healthcare workforce will cease to exist and the promises of reform will disappear.

DeJongh Welcomes Sandra Day O'Connor To Second Annual District Court Conference

St. John Tradewinds

On Monday evening, January 17, Governor John deJongh welcomed Supreme Court Justice Sandra Day O'Connor to the Virgin Islands describing her as a revered jurist, groundbreaking public servant and extraordinary woman.

"I also want to extend a very warm welcome to Chief Judge Theodore McKee of the Third Circuit Court of Appeals; Professor Erwin Chemerinsky, Dean of the UC Irvine Law School; Professor David Sonenshein of Temple University Law School and all who are visiting the territory to attend the Second Annual District Court Conference," said deJongh.

"For 25 years, Sandra Day O'Connor exerted a tremendous influence on the course of American progress as an Associate Justice of the United States Supreme Court," said the governor. "After breaking the highest glass ceiling of the time, she embarked on a career that shaped American law in a way few others — even her colleagues on the high court — ever have. She has witnessed, and profoundly influenced, the progression of our nation's history, and for those reasons, she is undeniably a national treasure."

Justice O'Connor is rightfully celebrated as a staunch defender of judicial independence and as an advocate for a truly non-partisan judiciary, explained the governor.

She has spoken so eloquently, and with such insight and passion, on the importance of ensuring that judges are selected on the sole basis of fairness and merit, he added.

"During her two and a half decades sitting on the Supreme Court, and in the many writings, speeches and other work she has offered since her official retirement, Justice O'Connor has been a voice of wisdom and caution," said deJongh.

The governor noted that since the Virgin Islands joined the United States of America almost a century ago, the citizens of this territory have been blessed with the benefits of the American legal system and the freedoms it guarantees them.



St. John Tradewinds News Photo Courtesy of Government House

V.I. First Lady Cecile deJongh, above at left, and Governor John deJongh, above at right, welcome Supreme Court Justice Sandra Day O'Connor to the territory.

"That great system, one extended to us by an act of Congress, has allowed us as Virgin Islanders to continually develop our territory's political and social institutions and peacefully solve the disputes that could have derailed our march toward greater freedom and prosperity," said deJongh. "With great pride Virgin Islanders have watched their territory's court system expand over the years, assuming greater jurisdiction and more autonomy. It was only a few years ago that the territory reached another milestone with the formation of the Virgin Islands Supreme Court."

The governor also said in his remarks during the Government House reception that this is the second major legal conference hosted on St. Thomas in a very short span of time.

"A year ago, Virgin Islands Chief Justice Rhys Hodge played host to State Supreme Court Chief Justices from across the nation," said deJongh. "This week, our island again extends warm greetings to some of the greatest legal minds in this country. That we are not only participating, but hosting, these conferences tells me that the Virgin Islands has come into its own as a respected member of the national legal community."

In these days, when absolutist ideologies are distracting us from the important work of solving our nation's all too real economic, le-

gal and social challenges, deJongh said it is useful to take a moment to consider the judicial career of Justice O'Connor.

"As a jurist, she recognized and was comfortable with nuance, and therefore never ignored the complexity of the cases that were before her by taking cover with ideological rhetoric," said deJongh. "Her decisions were always grounded in an intricate understanding of the law, but were still informed by the real world implications and consequences they would have on society."

In the many landmark opinions she has authored, and the many more for which she has cast deciding votes, the people of this country were well-served by a Justice who understood their values, and who believed in practical solutions and fair remedies.

"Justice O'Connor never was willing to be boxed in by strict and overly-simplistic rules," said the governor. "She did not allow herself to be bound by ideological associations and political loyalties. That independence endowed her vote — often the swing vote — with a moral authority that gave credence to the court's precedents."

"She has left an indelible mark on the practice of law and administration of justice in this country, and we live in a more equitable and civil society as a direct result of these efforts," said deJongh.

Governor Nominates Alicia Barnes as DPNR Commissioner and Victor Browne To Head LEPC

St. John Tradewinds

On Monday, January 17, Governor John deJongh nominated Alicia Barnes to be the next Commissioner of the Department of Planning and Natural Resources effective January 18.

Upon confirmation by the 29th Legislature, Barnes would replace Robert S. Mathes who retired from government service on December 31.

Barnes comes to the position having served two years as DPNR Assistant Commissioner during the first term of the deJongh/Francis Administration. Most recently, she was Assistant Chief Executive Officer at the Economic Development Authority.

"During her tenure as Asst. Commissioner, Alicia Barnes served as the department's Chief Operating Officer and was responsible for the administrative oversight of all department functions including federal delegated programs to ensure compliance with environmental, planning and assessment of operational and administrative policies to foster effective management functions and the efficient delivery of services to the public," deJongh said.

Barnes holds a Masters Degree in Public Administration from the University of the Virgin Islands and a Bachelor of Science degree in Marine Science and Environmental Studies from Hampton University.

Her professional career has evolved around government service having held positions including: Environmental Affairs and Energy Resources Manager; Assistant Environmental Manager and Environmental Specialist at the V.I. Water and Power Authority; Director of the V.I. Energy Office; Chief of Staff to then-Senator Norman Jn Baptiste; and as an instructor at the University of the Virgin Islands.

Also on Monday, deJongh appointed Victor Browne to lead the Law Enforcement Planning Commission. Browne replaces Meredith Nielsen. Browne has served four years as Fire Services Director during which he has used his financial management background to support the mission of the V.I. Fire Services.

A certified public accountant, Browne holds a Bachelor of Science degree in Accounting and an Associates of Science degree in Management and Accounting. Browne came to the deJongh/Francis Administration in 2007 having had the position of Fiscal Officer for the St. Croix Foundation for Community Development.

Browne has more than 25 years of credentials, having served as staff accountant for a financial management company, educator in the subject of mathematics for grades nine through eleven and as an assistant supervisor for a financial brokerage company.

Browne's appointment took effect on Tuesday, January 18. St. Croix Fire Chief Steve Brow will serve as Acting Fire Services Director until a permanent director is named.

WHAT DO YOU THINK?

Send your letter to editor@tradewinds.vi

**NEXT DEADLINE:
THURSDAY, JANUARY 27TH**

Virgin Islands National Park Completed Major Projects in 2010

Continued from Page 3

renovations to the Maho Bay beach pavilion, according to Hardgrove.

Maho Improvements Funded

“Maho Bay pavilion was finally funded and I can’t wait,” he said. “The project includes new parking areas, new comfort stations, a new shade pavilion, new picnic tables and grills and the existing historic structure will be preserved and restored with the non-historic elements removed. And to the community thank you for your patience, I know this has been a long time coming.”

VINP continues to experience serious budget shortfalls and will be forced to do without three employees in 2011, according to Hardgrove.

“The most significant factor affecting a park’s ability to protect its resources and deliver visitor services is the funding a park receives from Congress,” said the superintendent. “With our operating shortfalls we

are only able to fund 56 of the 76 authorized positions with our existing budget and as each of you know operational costs rise substantially each year on our islands. We have lost three more staff again this year.”

Maintenance Backlog Hits \$17 Million

“In addition to staffing shortfalls, the park faces a maintenance backlog of \$17 million just in front-country cultural resources and facilities at today’s costs,” Hardgrove said. “A full time project planner has been added to the staff to support the two to three million additional project dollars and continue to build five year plans for each NPS funding source.”

Looking ahead, VINP continues to work with government officials on a Cruz Bay waterfront plan, Hardgrove explained.

“We continue to participate in numerous important planning projects working along with the Governor, Delegate Christensen and Senator Barshinger looking into is-

ues such as illegal immigration, waterfront planning, parking, transportation and other capital improvements,” he said. “Only with the necessary partnerships in the Virgin Islands can we move forward together. Planning and public scoping through community involvement will allow us to move forward at a pace that governments can follow.”

Cruz Bay Waterfront Planning Underway

“The Cruz Bay waterfront planning committee started work this year and the NPS is proud to be included in the planning opportunities working along with the Port Authority, USCG, U.S. Customs, DPNR, Housing Parks and Recreation, the Island Administrator and the community,” said the superintendent. “Our goal is to allow the community to speak to each issue so that alternatives can be developed, considered, and decided upon in an open forum and then task the responsible agencies with implementation and operational responsibilities.”

“A successful waterfront plan would benefit the economy of St. John by improving the visitor’s experience and island resident’s life by planning for parking in Cruz Bay and off-site parking at the pond,” the park superintendent added.

The waterfront plan will also allow VINP to take a look at transportation issues as it continues to support a North Shore shuttle service, Hardgrove added.

“This plan will also allow us to evaluate and consider traffic flow, pedestrian safety, boating access, and establish maintenance dredging partnerships for a long term maintenance dredge program in Cruz Bay,” he said. “We continue to encourage a scheduled hourly shuttle, during our visitor season on North Shore. If successful these services would be provided by our St. John taxis.”

“We have high hopes and with the leadership of Judith Wheately our Taxi Commissioner and our local operators we can be successful,” said the superintendent.

Kessler Marks Decade of Leading Friends of V.I. National Park

Continued from Page 5

amphitheater, Eddie Bruce will lead drumming and music sessions at the campground once a week starting in February, which Friends is supporting.

The group will also focus on improving the local lionfish response, conduct an assessment of the VINP and rate the trails for difficulty, Kessler explained.

“We are grateful to our contributors and donor base and thank our board for its leadership and guidance as well as our effective staff which makes the VINP a model of resource protection and cultural preservation,” said the Friends president.

Volunteerism is the core value of Friends and 2010 saw 2,000 individuals giving their time to the group, according to Kessler.

“With so many volunteers it is difficult to decide who to single out, but this year we honor Martha Hills as volunteer of the year,” he said.

Hills has worked in Friends of the Park store since it opened three years ago and was honored with a plaque naming her the 2010 Friends of VINP Volunteer of the Year.

“I love St. John and the fact that I can contribute to the park makes me really happy,” said Hills.

Kessler also acknowledged volunteer coordinator Jeff Chabot for his continued work improving trails and clearing ruins throughout the VINP.

“Jeff Chabot continues to be our volunteer extraordinaire,” said Kessler. “He puts in an amazing amount of work to make this park what it is.”

Superintendent Mark Hardgrove announced that long-time VINP Visitors’ Center Volunteer Jane Bowry was honored as 2010’s VINP Volunteer of the Year.

“I have the easiest job on Earth — telling people about St. John,” said Bowry. “It’s a lovely place with lovely people.”

The 2010 Partnership Award, given to a VINP employee who best exemplifies the Friends and park relationship, was

bestowed on Jessica Hornbeck who led the Ranger in Training last summer.

“Jessica has since left the park, but that doesn’t diminish the contributions she made while she was here,” said Kessler.

While Friends continues to do all it can to support VINP, the park still faces serious threats, Kessler told the group.

“There is chronic underfunding by the federal government,” he said. “You can help by contacting your elected representatives and urging them to increase support to National Parks.”

Speaking before Kessler took the podium, Friends of VINP’s board of directors president Fraser Drummond announced that two long-serving members of the board resigned in 2010, Harry Daniel and Glenn Spear. Those openings were filled by Julius E. Sprauve School vice principal Brenda Dalmida and former Department of Licensing and Consumer Affairs Commissioner Andy Rutnik.

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25th Annual GHS Auction March 12

The 25th Annual Giff Hill School Auction will be Saturday, March 12, at the Westin Resort and Villas. For more information call the GHS development office at 340-776-1730 or email ghsdevelopment@mac.com.

GHS Second Annual "Seeds for Success" Matching Program Deadline Scheduled for January 31, 2011

St. John Tradewinds

Giff Hill School is pleased to announce the second annual "Seeds for Success" matching program.

Generous donors have agreed to match any donations made to GHS by January 31, 2011 based on the following structure: Grandparent donations: 5 to 1 match; and Student and Alumni donations: 9 to 1 match.

Faculty and Parent donations are based on participation as follows:

- 50-59% participation= 5 to 1 match
- 60-69% participation= 6 to 1 match
- 70-79% participation= 7 to 1 match
- 80-89% participation= 8 to 1 match
- 90-99% participation= 9 to 1 match
- 100% participation= 9 to 1 match

Community donations are matched 2 to 1 provided they are new or increased by 10 percent over last year's Annual Fund gift.

Donations can be mailed to the school at P.O. Box 1657, St. John VI 00831 or made via the website: www.giffhillschool.org. Donations must be received or post-marked by 1/31/11 in order to qualify for the matching funds, but all donations received in 2011 will be eligible for 2011 tax credit. Contact the Development Office with any questions at 776-1730.

Police Log

Friday, January 14

11:55 a.m. - A citizen p/r that she deposited money into her bank account and the money was never credited. Embezzlement by clerk.

7:48 p.m. - An Estate Enighed resident c/r that a male was throwing rocks on his wall. Disturbance of the peace.

9:20 p.m. - A citizen p/r that someone removed one pair of foam rubber from his dinghy. Grand larceny.

Saturday, January 15

9:55 a.m. - A citizen p/r that she lost her resident card. Lost document.

10:57 a.m. - A citizen p/r that she was assaulted by her mother. Simple assault.

6:45 p.m. - A citizen p/r that a male pulled a knife on him. Disturbance of the peace.

Sunday, January 16

12:14 p.m. - V.I. Fire Department r/ a structural fire in the area of Calabash Boom. Structural fire.

1:40 p.m. - An Estate Choco-

late Hole resident r/ a disturbance in the area of the Lumberyard. Disturbance of the peace.

2:00 p.m. - An Estate Grunwald resident r/ a disturbance. Disturbance of the peace.

11:27 p.m. - A citizen c/r shots fired in John's Folly. Illegal discharged of firearm.

Monday, January 17

12:09 a.m. - An Estate Enighed resident c/r a disturbance with her boyfriend. Disturbance of the peace, D.V.

9:07 a.m. - An Estate Contant resident r/ a grand larceny aboard the barge. Grand larceny.

4:15 p.m. - An Estate Grunwald resident c/r that she has a problem with her tenant. Landlord/tenant dispute.

Tuesday, January 18

7:05 a.m. - An Estate Enighed resident c/r a disturbance of the peace. Disturbance of the peace.

2:12 p.m. - A citizen r/ damage to a vehicle in Cruz Bay. Damage to a vehicle.

6:25 p.m. - An Estate Contant resident r/ an accidental injury. Accidental injury.

Wednesday, January 19

9:07 a.m. - An Estate Chocolate Hole resident c/r a burglary. Burglary in the third.

3:05 p.m. - A citizen p/r a simple assault. Simple assault.

11:44 p.m. - An Estate Glucksberg resident r/ a second degree burglary. Burglary in the second.

Thursday, January 20

1:25 a.m. - A visitor from Florida p/r that his wallet was taken in Cruz Bay. Police assistance.

2:36 a.m. - Badge #742 p/ at Leander Jurgen Command with one Darrel Ward of Cruz Bay under arrest and charged with possession of a controlled substance with intent to distribute. Bail was set at \$10,000 by order of the court. He was detained at Leander Jurgen Command and later transported to the Bureau of Corrections on St. Thomas to be remanded.

VA Outreach Health Services at MKSCHC

Continued from Page 6

resources, if these resources aren't being used you can't retain them," said Mims.

"It's a numbers game when you are dealing with the federal government," said Francis. "It wasn't easy to convince Washington that we needed this here, so we have to use it to prove that. It's very rare to have these services on St. Thomas, St. Croix and St. John."

St. John American Legion members, who have been working to get VA health services on St. John since the group was reactivated in 2006, celebrated the new partnership.

"Really every commander we've had since we reactivated has worked on this," said American Legion Post #131 Past Commander Jerry Runyon. "This is really great and everyone worked hard on this. Now we have to use these services."

While celebrating the new services, VA Caribbean Healthcare System officials still have much work to do on behalf of veterans, explained Mims.

"We know and recognize that our work is not done and we have a lot of work to do," said Mims. "You have my pledge that I will continue to fight for resources that are needed in the VA Caribbean Healthcare System."

VA Caribbean Healthcare Services are available to veterans Tuesday, Thursday and Friday by appointment. Call MKSCHC at 693-8900 to make an appointment.

In order to use the services, veterans must be enrolled in the VA Caribbean Healthcare System, which can be done online at www4.va.gov/healtheligibility, by calling 1-800-449-8729 ex. 31158 or at St. John Administrator's office at the Cruz Bay Battery.

CRIME STOPPERS U.S.V.I.

Organization Seeks Information on Recent Crimes

St. John Tradewinds

Crime Stoppers is asking the community's help to solve the following crimes throughout the territory. Even the smallest bit of information may be just what law enforcement needs to identify and arrest the criminals involved.

St. John

On Tuesday, January 11, at 2:02 p.m., police were dispatched to Merchants Commercial Bank on St. John in response to a bank robbery. Sources stated that around 2 p.m., two armed men stormed into the bank, robbed it of an undisclosed sum of money, and escaped in a GMC Jimmy. The minimum cash reward for the arrest of a bank robber is \$900 plus 10 percent of any cash recovered. The maximum cash re-

ward is \$2,500.

St. Thomas

On Thursday, January 13, at 10 a.m., police were dispatched to the Smith Bay area in response to a report of shots being fired. Shortly afterwards, information came in that there was a gunshot victim at the hospital. The victim, Rashailey Jah, died of multiple gunshot wounds. Sources stated they saw a slim-built male running from the scene of the shooting. The minimum cash reward for the arrest of a homicide suspect is \$1,500.

St. Croix

Over the past several weeks, there have been a number of burglaries in Estates Barren Spot and Strawberry. These burglaries have occurred mostly between 8 a.m. and 3 p.m., with perpetrators taking electronic

items, jewelry, etc. Help the V.I. Police Department identify burglars by reporting any suspicious activities, license plate numbers of unfamiliar vehicles and descriptions of strangers lurking in the area. The minimum cash reward for the arrest of a burglar is \$714.

Submit information on these or any other crimes at www.CrimeStoppersUSVI.org or by calling 1-800-222-TIPS (8477).

Tips are completely anonymous, and the stateside operators are multi-lingual. If a tip leads to an arrest or the recovery of stolen property, illegal drugs, or weapons, tipsters receive a cash reward to be paid according to their instructions. Only anonymous callers to Crime Stoppers are eligible for these cash rewards.

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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

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
Sat. 6 p.m., Sun. 7:30 & 9:30 a.m., Spanish Mass
5:30 p.m.; Monday and Tuesday, 7 p.m.;
Wednesday and Friday, 8:30 a.m. 776-6339

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 9 a.m.; Bible Class, Wednesday, 5:30 p.m.
777-6306

Unitarian Universalist Fellowship
9:45 a.m. Sunday, 776-6332

Word of Faith Church
Word of Faith International
Christian Center, Sundays 7:30 a.m.
Giff Hill School Call 774-8617

Bethany Moravian Church
11 a.m., Sunday School 776-6291

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

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

Christian Science Society
10:45 a.m. Sunday- Marketplace
Wednesday Testimonials
7:45 p.m. on last Wed. of Month

The 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, Sun. 9 a.m. 776-6713

Jehovah's Witness
7:30 p.m. Tuesdays; 7 p.m.
Saturdays (Español), 10 a.m. Sundays, 340-715-0530

St. John Tradewinds Business Directory

Accommodations

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

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

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

VIVA Vacations
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P.O. Box 1747, STJ, VI 00831

Architecture

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

Barefoot Architect, Inc.
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- One bedroom, one bath w/d, \$1700.00
- Two bedroom, three bath, w/d, pool \$2300.00

Coral Bay:

- One bedroom, one bath, \$1200.00

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Musts: St. John resident with 4wd vehicle, cell phone w/voice mail, can work weekends/flexible with hours. Solid references.

Please fax resume to VIVA! Villas, Inc. at (703) 940-4571 or apply in person- 3rd floor, Boulon Center.

Environmental Communications Job

- \$20/hr - flexible 20 hours a week for 4 to 5 months

Preferably with Publisher 2007 skills to make posters & write brochures; and quick ability to learn new software. Will be responsible for writing up and publicizing the NOAA Watershed stabilization project in Coral Bay, including interpretative signage, maps and brochures.

Job location: Coral Bay

Please see detailed job description for application instructions at www.coralbaycommunitycouncil.org

CBCC is an Equal opportunity employer and Drug Free Workplace

Notice

FOUND: 42-foot ketch in Coral Bay Harbor at 18.20.84 North and 64.42.68 West. Registration # 1562-TB. Hull I.D. 7292101. Call Richard Connors 340-244-6649

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Employment

VIRGIN ISLANDS WASTE MANAGEMENT AUTHORITY REQUEST FOR PROPOSAL

The Virgin Islands Waste Management Authority (VIWMA) is soliciting proposals for:

- | | |
|---------------------------|--|
| RFP-WMA-003-T-2011 | Transport and Unloading of Solid Waste Compactor Trailers from the St. John Transfer Station, Virgin Islands |
| RFP-WMA-004-T-2011 | Management and Transportation of Solid Waste on St. John, VI in and from Roll-On/Roll-Off Bin Sites and St. John Transfer Station to the Bovoni Landfill on St. Thomas, Virgin Islands |

Documents pertaining to this Request for Proposal (RFP) may be obtained from the VIWMA's Division of Procurement and Property, St. Thomas-St. John District Office at 9500 Wheatley Center II, Suite 2 or from the St. Croix District Officer at #1 La Grande Princesse, Suite BL1, Christiansted between the hours of 8:00am and 4:30pm, Monday through Friday, or by contacting the Director, Mrs. Cecile Lynch, directly via phone or email.

PROPOSAL DUE DATE and TIME: Thursday, February 3, 2011 at 2:00pm Atlantic Standard Time

PROPOSAL DUE PLACE: Virgin Islands Waste Management Authority
9500 Wheatley Center II, Suite 2, St. Thomas, VI 00802
P. O. Box 303669, St. Thomas, VI 00803
#1 La Grande Princesse, Suite BL 1, Christiansted, VI 00820
P. O. Box 1689, Kingshill, VI 00851-1689
(Six (6) Sealed Proposal Packages Marked Proposal for RFP No. RFP-WMA-003-T-11 OR RFP-WMA-004-T-11, DO NOT OPEN)
NOTE: The proposal number must be placed on the outside of all Bid Packages. Proposals may not be withdrawn for a period of ninety (90) days from the date of the submission deadline.

DIRECT INQUIRIES: Mrs. Cecile Phillip-Lynch
Director, Procurement and Property Division
Virgin Islands Waste Management Authority
#1 La Grande Princesse, Suite BL1, Christiansted, VI 00820 OR
Email: clynch@viwma.org Phone: 340-718-4489

All questions pertaining to the submission of proposals, scope of services and the award process should be directed in writing either in hard copy or by email to Mrs. Cecile Phillip-Lynch, Director of Procurement and Property, at clynch@viwma.org.

The Virgin Islands Waste Management Authority reserves the right to waive any non-substantive informalities, technicalities, or irregularities; or reject any or all qualifications and proposals; or to re-advertise for proposals, and to award or refrain from awarding the contract for the work. The Virgin Islands Waste Management Authority also reserved the right to accept or reject any Proposal or any item listed therein. VIWMA further reserves the right to waive any informality in Proposals received.

May Adams Cornwall
Executive Director



Community Calendar

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

Tuesday, January 25

The January meeting of the St. John Chapter of the St. Thomas/St. John Chamber of Commerce will be at Ocean Grill Upstairs from 5:30 to 6:30 p.m. The group plans to review 2010 accomplishments and plan an agenda for 2011.

Wednesday, January 26

St. John Animal Care Center's annual meeting will be at 6:30 p.m. at the GHS's lower campus greatroom.

Monday, February 7

St. John School of the Arts will kick off the sale of "Broadway" raffle tickets from 4 to 6 p.m. in front of Starfish Gourmet Market at The Marketplace. Tickets sold are on a first come first serve basis.

Meet the five Broadway professionals who will teach island fourth graders singing, dancing, puppetry and choreography to produce a show entitled "Dream, Wish, Believe," during a meet and greet in front of Starfish Gourmet at 5 p.m.

Monday, February 14

Love City's own Barefoot

Minister Anne Marine Porter is hosting a free marriage vow renewal ceremony at Trunk Bay Beach at 5 p.m.

Friday, February 18

Five Broadway professionals along with island fourth graders will put on two shows at the Westin Resort ballroom. The first show, at 6 p.m., will be for St. John "Angels," followed by a reception and then a gourmet dinner at an island restaurant. The 8 p.m. show is open to all with no set charge, but a request for a donation.

Saturday, February 19

St. John Relay for Life will be at Winston Wells ball field.

Saturday, March 5

The V.I. Audubon Society will host its annual plant sale in Cruz Bay's Frank Powell Park.

Saturday, March 12

The 25th Annual Giff Hill School Auction will be at the Westin Resort and Villas.

March 18-19

The 9th annual Johnnie Walker Blues Festival will feature two nights of celebrity concerts in the Coral Bay ball field starting at 8 p.m.

ALCOHOLICS ANONYMOUS MEETINGS

Alcoholics Anonymous meets as scheduled: Sundays, 9:45 a.m. at Hawksnest Bay Beach; Closed meetings for alcoholics only at Nazareth Lutheran Church in Cruz Bay at 6 p.m. on Tuesdays; Open meetings on Mondays, Wednesdays and Fridays at 6 p.m. at Nazareth Lutheran Church; Tuesdays, Thursdays and Saturdays at 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

Al-Anon meets on St. John every Tuesday at 1 p.m. at the picnic table at the VINP ball field, and every Thursday at 5:30 p.m. at St. Ursula's Multi-purpose center.

ALATEEN MEETINGS

Alateen will meet on Mondays at St. Ursula's Church from 6 to 7 p.m. and is open to anyone interested in attending.

PREMIER Crossword

By Frank A. Longo

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	17	18	19		
20							21					22								
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117									118	119				120	121	122				
123									124					125						
126									127					128						

INNER LANES

ACROSS

- 1 Examine by touching, as for medical diagnosis
- 8 Florida resort port
- 13 Assemble again
- 20 New York Indians
- 21 Like a vine-covered wall
- 22 Top celeb
- 23 What an ivory tickler's hands are on
- 25 Kind of onion
- 26 — Reader (bimonthly digest)
- 27 Blokes
- 28 Jolly Roger
- 30 Bamboo-eating cutie
- 34 Domination, in slang
- 35 Hi- —
- 36 Gene-splicing need
- 37 Army meal buddy
- 43 Siren-sounding vehicle
- 50 Politico Ross
- 51 Shows at the Met
- 52 Actor Mickey
- 53 "Dallas" wife
- 54 Flax fabric
- 55 FedEx or fax
- 56 World Cup bouncer
- 59 Cookout pest
- 60 Query
- 62 In the past
- 64 Actor Ethan
- 65 With 40-Down, highway snooze site
- 67 Orca
- 71 Talks to a beat
- 75 Port near Nazareth
- 77 Connection

- 78 "For" vote
- 80 Prohibition
- 81 Chaplin movie, e.g.
- 86 Cato's 559
- 88 — Magli (shoe brand)
- 90 Inflammation of the ear
- 91 Stella — (lager brand)
- 93 Liquor lover
- 94 —'s razor ("keep it simple" maxim)
- 95 Cryptogram alternative
- 98 Synonym books
- 100 Scale notes
- 101 Charged bit
- 102 Rouse
- 104 Pet that looks like it's wearing a mask
- 110 Often-twisted treat
- 115 Author Rand
- 116 City in Colombia
- 117 Breakwater embankment
- 118 Descriptive of 10 answers in this puzzle
- 123 Vienna-born photographer Model
- 124 "— you!" (cry of challenge)
- 125 Longing person
- 126 Marital state
- 127 Campfire residue
- 128 Professions

DOWN

- 1 High fly ball
- 2 Baker of soul
- 3 "Blue" singer Rimes
- 4 Longed
- 5 Kerfuffle
- 6 "And we'll — a cup o' kindness yet ...": Burns
- 7 WNW opposite

- 8 Italian river
- 9 Bard of —
- 10 Hamm with a 56-Across
- 11 Suspects' humiliating escorts
- 12 Include as a bonus
- 13 Devastating damage doer
- 14 High classes
- 15 — one's time
- 16 Flyboys' org.
- 17 "— never fly"
- 18 Twin of Luke Skywalker
- 19 Lag behind
- 24 Sumac from Peru
- 29 "— Lama Ding Dong"
- 31 Secret things
- 32 They sting
- 33 Psychic "gift"
- 34 — about (close to)
- 36 Hard laborer
- 38 Kindle
- 39 Person in the club
- 40 See 65-Across
- 41 Parkway fee
- 42 And the like: Abbr.
- 43 Arctic
- 44 Offer views
- 45 Pre-Easter times
- 46 State of rage
- 47 "Right you —!"
- 48 Concerning musical pitch
- 49 Corp. kingpin
- 53 Fly-catching bird
- 55 Light boat
- 57 Third of a dance move
- 58 Flower part made up of sepals
- 61 Comedy bits
- 63 Meal crumb

- 66 Letters before iotas
- 68 Chou En- —
- 69 Surviving wives
- 70 Sun: Prefix
- 72 Activity-filled
- 73 Comic strip segment
- 74 Sleep loudly
- 76 Life principle
- 79 Teem (with)
- 81 Flue buildup
- 82 Have a yen
- 83 Pet pests
- 84 China's — -tzu
- 85 Famous Amos rival
- 87 Loc. of 75-Across
- 89 Peri's role on "Frasier"
- 92 Bygone ruler
- 93 Fraternal lodge org.
- 95 Some Louisianans
- 96 Jeopardy
- 97 Ten, in Dijon
- 99 Letter-shaped fasteners
- 103 Leg bone
- 104 Small kids
- 105 A, in Spain
- 106 Earthy hue, to a Brit
- 107 "Alfie" star Michael
- 108 Adjust
- 109 Theater rows
- 110 Norwegian capital
- 111 Bridle part
- 112 Soothe
- 113 Actor Wilson
- 114 Oscar winner Blanchett
- 115 Four roods
- 119 Jacuzzi sigh
- 120 TriBeCa site
- 121 Narcs' agcy.
- 122 Do battle

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- **A DAYDREAM** - Fantastic views of Coral Bay and beyond from this immac. 3BR 3BA Villa + 1BR 1BA Cottage. Cooling breezes. Spacious covered and uncovered decks w/ pool and hot tub. Ideal for short term rental or owner occupancy w/long term income from cottage. **\$1,295,000**

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- **PANAORAMIC SUNSETS!** 4 equal A/C BR's w/BA en suite on 2 levels Masonry const. Top of the line finishes. Large pool. **\$2,650,000**
- **DRASTIC REDUCTION!** This popular 3br, 3ba vacation villa with great Caribbean flair has amazing panoramic water views. Now only **\$859,000**.
- **Waterfront** - Beautiful masonry home on 1.37 acres in East End. **ONLY \$999,000!**
- **Cruz Bay** - Enjoy year round sunset views from this multi-unit income producer. **\$1,199,000.**
- **REDUCED! Bonus!** Private well maintained home in Coral Bay with an EXTRA LOT! Only **\$382,500.**
- **REDUCED!** Great value with this 4BR 2BA home. Use as 2 units or keep as 1 home. Large decks w/panoramic views. Only **\$525,000.**

CONDOMINIUMS

- **PRICED TO SELL!** Spacious, immaculate 3br 3ba unit with water views. Finishes include chef's kitchen with bar & granite c/tops/mahog kit cabinets and a/c. Common pool. **\$650,000.**
- **WHY RENT!** New 1BR 1BA with fantastic views and breezes. Priced to sell! Solid masonry construction! A/C in BR. Just **\$289,000.**
- **MASONRY** 1 bedroom 1 bath w/ocean & sunset views. Common roof deck. Walk to town. Just **\$289,000!**
- **SOLD!** Pastory Condos. 2BR 1BA top floor unit. Common pool. Low fees. **\$379,000.**

LAND

- **REDUCED! IMPROVED PARCEL** on Bordeaux Mountain with income producing long term rental and separate foundation/cistern. Live on the parcel while you complete your dream home. This beautiful moderately sloped parcel boasts views to the north and northeast which include Jost Van Dyke and Tortola. **ONLY \$265,000.**
- **WATERFRONT!** 2.1 waterfront acres on Lovangof 420 feet of waterfront! Private location w/unobstructed panoramic views from St. John to St. Thomas. Currently sub-divided into 3 lots, can be 4 lots. Tremendous value! **\$1,300,000.**
- **Waterfront!** A rare opportunity in Privateer Bay. A deal at **\$875,000.**
- **REDUCED! SCUBA DIVING BUSINESS!** With BOAT AND EQUIPMENT. Walk on board and start generating income! **\$189,000.**
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"L'Autre Monde" - This unique, gated, custom villa was built with entertaining in mind & includes views of sunsets & lights of St. Thomas. The main house has 4 bedrooms, with gourmet kitchen, outdoor dining, pool & barbeque area. A covered walkway joins a separate guest house with 3 bedrooms & open air kitchen, living/dining area & heated indoor pool. Just **\$6.8M**



"Cloud 9 Villa" - Spectacular sunsets & breathtaking views over Pillsbury Sound to St. Thomas & south over Great Cruz Bay are highlights of this masonry home with pool, spa, air conditioning, wi-fi, & large, new sun deck with gazebo. The lot is almost flat & tropical landscaping abounds. Two bedrooms adjoin the pool deck and a comfy loft is above the living room. **\$1.499M**



"Ridgetop" is a two-story, two-bedroom private getaway vacation rental nestled in the hills overlooking Coral Bay. From it's locale in Eden Place, a small private neighborhood, it is an easy drive to the island's beautiful beaches, hiking trails, restaurants and entertainment. A shared swimming pool with deck and gazebo is located adjacent to the house and is used by only 4 other homes. Walk to the world famous Skinny Legs. **\$649,000**



"Calypso by The Sea" - is a charming Caribbean style beachfront villa with an impressive rental history located in tranquil Johnson's Bay Estates - a truly picturesque & idyllic tropical site. Two master suites separated by a central great room which includes kitchen, dining and living areas, all opening up to an oversize deck with covered outdoor dining and a sunken spa. Located right on a sandy beach with good snorkeling. **\$1.295M.**



"Fish Beach" - a new Mediterranean Style two bedroom luxury pool villa located in Coccoloba Beach Estates, a waterfront neighborhood with community beach parcel & dock bordering the National Park near Reef Bay yet near all the amenities of Cruz Bay. Villa features include travertine floors, tile roof, antique brick & coral patios, cook's kitchen with stone countertops & stainless appliances and luxurious baths. Secluded National Park beaches are just a stroll away. Unbeatable value at only **\$995,000.**



"Bo Atabay" - a new solid masonry pool home in a quiet & private location on Seagrape Hill. The spacious, open style floor plan features a central great room, kitchen & dining area flanked by a master bedroom suite on each side for guest privacy. There is space below for a proposed one bedroom apartment. The grounds are beautifully landscaped with stone walls and lush gardens that surround the sunny pool and entertainment deck. **\$1.35M**



"Deja View" is an immaculate two bedroom one bath masonry home on oversized lot with end of road privacy situated high atop Gift Hill with sweeping views southeast to northwest. Income producing studio unit with separate parking and entry located on lower level. Thoughtfully and beautifully designed with many high end, unique and practical touches to make island life comfortable and easy. Plenty of room for expansion and/or pool addition on this moderately flat lot. **\$875,000**



"Surfside" - This is a rare chance to own a home in the exclusive Reef Bay enclave. Surfside is a beautifully appointed Mediterranean style three bedroom, three bath pool villa situated on the edge of undeveloped park land with fabulous ocean views and breezes. Stroll via pathway to secluded white sand beach from this oversized lot. Very successful rental home with plans for another 2x2 villa with separate entrance. Price reduced to **\$1,550,000!**



"Palm Terrace Villas" - Some of the most spacious condos on St. John with beautiful views, generous balconies, common sun deck and pool area, walk to town and Frank Bay Beach. The 2 bedroom unit is over 1700 sq. ft. All feature lg kitchens, granite countertops, stainless appliances, private washer & dryer and ample storage. These condos have it all. **\$600,000 to \$999,000.**



"HANSEN BAY 7A" - 18 Acres, of waterfront, trade wind breezes and great water views over Long Bay, Round Bay to the north, west to Rams Head and south to St. Croix. Deeded rights to sandy beach at Long Bay. Proposed subdivision map available. An easy project for the first time developer or perfectly suited for a very private estate. **\$2.99M** reduced from \$5.5M.

Space Available for Lease in a brand new retail/office building! Built in 2009. Beautiful architecture with stone work, columns and arches. Ample on-site parking and back up generator. Great tenancy in place with supermarket, bank branch, day spa, and more! Ideally located on the south shore road walking distance to the Westin Resort and Guinea Grove Apartments. Call Islandia for more details.

Great Deals: Seagrape Hill - \$85,000 & \$99,000, Calabash Boom lot with fantastic water views for just **\$145,000**, Bethany building lot over looking the Westin reduced to **\$99,000**, Hansen Bay - 18 acre waterfront development with subdivision permit, great ocean views. **\$2.99M**

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GOLDEN DRAGON - Beautiful stone villa w/exceptional craftsmanship. 4 bds./4 baths, infinity pool, multi patios & decks, lush gardens, Pt. Rendezvous location. **Reduced to \$1,925,000.**



CHRISTY ANN - New rental villa in upscale neighborhood. Masonry construction w/low maintenance features. 3 bd/2 baths, large covered veranda, spa, 20' vaulted ceiling in greatroom, ample room for expansion. **\$1,595,000.**

REEF BAY VIEW - Absolutely stunning, unobstructed, views of National Park land, w/secluded white sand beach below. Attractive 4 bd/3 bath w/pool, spa and vacation rental history. **Reduced to \$1,395,000.**

A BEST BUY! - Well built, poured concrete cottage w/ lovely covered wraparound porch in Est. Carolina. Tile floors, louvered windows w/complete hurricane shutters, flat lot for gardening & concrete slab in place for future garage & expansion. Only **\$349,000.**

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BOATMAN POINT - Masonry 4 bd. home on spectacular 1 ac. waterfront site with amazing views & outstanding neighborhood. **\$2,795,000.**

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BETHANY CONDO - Spacious, free standing 2 bd/2 bath unit. **CONTRACTED**

CRUZ VIEWS CONDO - Nice 2 bedroom unit w/full A/C, sunset views, common pool, good rental history. **\$495,000.**

SELENE'S - Ideal in town location, w/parking, for living/rental or business. Terrific views. **Reduced to \$399K!**

CBR LAND LISTINGS

CRUZBAYTOWN - Walk to Frank Bay, R-4 zoning. **\$249K.**

GLUCKSBERG - Gentle grade, 1/2 ac., lg. trees. **\$125K.**

ZOOTENVAAL - Hurricane Hole views, paved road. **\$400K.**

GREAT CRUZ BAY - Prime 1.05 acre site w/fantastic harbor views & architectural plans. **\$695K.**

WATERFRONT on MONTE BAY - Spectacular 13.44 ac. site, ideal for private estate or subdivision. **\$2,900,000.**

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"WATERFRONT ON DEVERS BAY"
"CHOCOLATE BLISS" (5x5) Private, extremely quiet masonry/stone home has all the amenities one would desire on over an acre of gently sloped land.




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"WATERFRONT "VILLA BELVEDERE" (3x3.5) privacy, pool & spa, plus deeded access to HOA dock on Great Cruz Bay. Quiet neighborhood, mesmerizing sunset views!



\$2,500,000

"CORAL POINT BEACH HOUSE" for the active waterfront lifestyle. Ridgetop, waterfront, open air solid masonry 3 bedroom home. Must be seen to be appreciated.




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"VISTAERO" offers total privacy with breathtaking views over Rendezvous Bay & St. Thomas. 5 spacious bedroom suites, huge pool, gazebo & hot tub make this a top rental villa.




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"POINCIANA" is an island classic home on 1.24 acres of prime waterfront overlooking Hart Bay. 3 bedroom popular rental with one of the best views of the south shore.



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"WINDCHIME" is a very private 1.4 ac. estate set high atop Giff Hill. Dramatic views to the east w/ spectacular breezes and sunrises. This 3 bdrm villa has room to expand with an oversized pool facing the terrific view.



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"SEA TURTLE VILLA" is a contemporary Skytop home with amazing water views. 2 master suites, 3 baths, tropical landscaping, pool, & open architecture set amidst secluded privacy. Great vacation villa or island home!



\$1,500,000

"WINDWARD SIDE" CALABASH BOOM offers 2 cottages with hot tubs in private setting. Panoramic views over harbor to BVIs. Charming brick courtyard, lush tropical landscaping, and outdoor showers. Excellent rentals.



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"SEABISCUIT" is a winner! Charming 2x2 Caribbean style masonry villa with panoramic views, very private pool & hot tub. Breezy location convenient to Coral Bay. Walk to shoreline watersports.



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CORAL BAY INCOME PRODUCER Beautiful water view from both decks of well built home. Flexible floorplan can be 2 units or combined as 3 bedroom home. Convenient to town! Great rental!



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- "BOATMAN POINT WATERFRONT"** Sunset Views and Gentle Site. **\$ 1,095,000**

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NEW IN CAROLINA Masonry 2x2 main house with 2x1 lower apt & separate cottage. Complete solar systems. Paved driveway, valley views. \$600,000

ZOOTENVAAL! Newly built multi unit tasteful masonry home sited on 1.36 FLAT acres. Expand or subdivide. Private with large yard. \$925,000

NEW IN CAROLINA! Beautiful, peaceful mostly flat parcel with end of road privacy. Masonry 3x2 upper unit and 1x1 lower unit. \$750,000

UNBEATABLE VALUE! ALLESANDRA Luxurious masonry villa, renovated in 2007, views of 3 bays, 3BR/3BA, 2 car garage **REDUCED TO \$1,769,000**

BAREFOOT New 2 bedroom, 1.5 bath guest cottage in quaint neighborhood. \$599,000.

SOLAR POWERED BED & BREAKFAST! "Garden By The Sea" is a quaint Caribbean home. Spacious owners' apartment & 3 income producing A/C units. \$1,800,000.

AMANI Spectacular 180° views, prestigious Maria Bluff, 3 bedrooms with baths located in the main building, plus private guest cottage \$1,795,000

WATERFRONT RETREAT Privateer Bay. 3BR/3BA casual beach house steps from the water. Paved roads & u/g utilities. \$975,000

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SUSANNABERG! New masonry home on FLAT lot plus separate rental cottage. Borders Nat'l Park. \$750,000

FUN & CONTENTMENT 180° views. Tiled pool deck, 2 large AC. suites & mahogany hardwoods. Plans for 3 more bdrms. \$1,235,000

MAMEY PEAK 1.05 acres, 1x1 Main House and 1x1 Guest Cottage. Flat slope and stunning views. One of a kind fixer upper!!! \$795,000

CVISTA Magnificent open air 4 bedroom villa above Rendezvous Bay. Stunning residence exudes comfort, class & elegance. \$3,895,000

VILLA TESORI Luxurious custom home, uncompromising quality, exquisite finishings, sweeping views. 5 bedrooms, 5 baths. \$4,250,000

NEW! Income producing 2 unit in Chocolate Hole. Large flat yard, walking distance to Chocolate Hole Beach. \$875,000

NEW! Caribbean cottage in Carolina, that currently caters to short term rental guests. Price includes adjacent vacant lot for expansion. \$599,000

MILL RIDGE Attention to detail, Classic Caribbean architecture, masonry 2 bedroom, 2 bath, office/3rd bedroom, garage and pool. \$1,595,000

MYSTIC RIDGE 4 bedroom, 4.5 bath, dramatic views, short distance to North Shore beaches, cooling breezes \$1,990,000.

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Broadway Is Coming to St. John

Continued from Page 13

the Opera, will be heading up the vocal portion of the program along with long-time friends Laura Barnao.

The two will be teaching choir and melodies and have great hopes for the students, explained Barnao.

"We're kind of just hoping for the best, but we know that all kids love to sing," said Barnao. "Most kids do perform in some way and it's just a matter of training their ear."

While discovering the next Michael Buble is a distinct possibility, Barnao is hoping to spark something within each child.

"I really hope kids go away with a sense of accomplishment," she said. "I hope they get a sense of being able to try something new and different. We're trying to bring them a taste of something new and give them the confidence that they can really do anything."

What the students learn on the stage will also come in handy in other parts of their lives, Barnao explained.

"I think this will translate into other parts of their lives too," she said. "Once you try something new and you know you can do it, you can do that with other things in your life too. Anything is possible if you work for it and I hope this program gives them a glimpse of that."

Donna Drake and Rhonda Miller will be leading the choreography end of the program and the students are in for a treat. Students will learn three different choreographed numbers encompassing popular jazz, contemporary modern and even a bit of hip-hop elements, according to Miller.

"I think most people will think of it as pop jazz," said Miller. "There will be a little bit of hip-hop, which I'm sure the students will enjoy and then we're also putting in a little contemporary modern feeling too. There is a nice combination of lyrical dance and a little bit of everything so the kids will have a lot of fun with it."

A seasoned dance instructor, Miller is hoping the students walk away with a sense of what they are capable of accomplishing.

"I want them to feel empowered," she said. "I want them to

believe in themselves and to trust their own strength and just see what they can do. I have been teaching dance to young children for a lot of years and one of my favorite things in the world is to try to inspire greatness in children."

"We need to spend time with children and to really cultivate what they have and point them in the direction to achieve their dreams," Miller said.

Growing up in a small Southern town, Drake dreamed big and has been living that dream her entire life. She wants St. John students to have that same opportunity.

"Why can't you do whatever you want," said Drake. "I am a small town little Southern girl and it just never occurred to be that I couldn't have my dream. Why can't children anywhere do it?"

"If you can dream it, and you are willing to put the work in, you can certainly do it," said Drake.

While mastering dance steps and learning a variety of styles, Drake hopes her students also walk off the stage with more self-confidence.

"I hope the students come away with a sense of appreciation, not just of the art forms we are bringing down, but also of themselves," said Drake. "This is about them and when you achieve something that gives you confidence. Standing on stage in front of people and performing isn't easy."

"I hope they walk away with knowing something about themselves and with a sense of pride," said Drake.

After studying with these talented professionals, students will perform Tartaglia's original "Dream, Wish, Believe," in two shows on February 18 at the Westin.

The first show, at 6 p.m., will be a special St. John School of the Arts sponsorship show for \$200 a ticket, which also gets audience members a champagne reception and dinner at one of Love City's finest restaurants.

A second performance will be at 8 p.m. and will be open to the entire community for any donation. St. John School of the Arts officials expect standing room only for this performance. For more information call the arts school at 779-4322.

"Once you try something new and you know you can do it, you can do that with other things in your life too. Anything is possible if you work for it and I hope this program gives them a glimpse of that."

— Laura Barnao, Broadway actor

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