

TRADEWINDS

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St. John Tradewinds News Photo Courtesy of Kekoa

Kekoa Sails on Despite Rough Waters

Jamison and Ryan Witbeck worked on their 50-foot Cat *Kekoa* in South Carolina before its treacherous maiden trip to the Virgin Islands. **Story on back cover.**

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**CELEBRATING
BLACK HISTORY
MONTH: PAGE 2**

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A stone carving of a Nubian Pharaoh as a sphinx.

Celebrating Black History Month:

Artifacts of Black Pharaohs Show Nubian Influence in Ancient Egypt

By Chuck Pishko
St. John Tradewinds

The *Economist* magazine in its first 2010 issue announced a new radio series based on 100 Objects in the British Museum that tell a history of the world that balances the haves and have nots, the victors and the vanquished, and the literate and the non-literate. A novel approach to history which is usually written with a bias towards Western winners.

Strangely, one of the objects chosen was the statues of black pharaohs as the best visual evidence that a Nubian tribe once seized control of ancient Egypt and that Africans ruled over the Nile for more than a century. This fact had been disputed by professional archeologists in modern times.

The selection of the Black Pharaohs may have resulted from recent archeology of the Sudan that revealed through carved stone inscriptions that a series of Nubian kings reunified a decadent Egypt and created an empire extending from the Mediterranean Sea to Khartoum. These leaders came from a solid Black African civilization that had flourished in the Sudan. Sudan has more pyramids than Egypt that were seldom visited until recently. They enhanced Luxor and other sites with their statues and brought the glory of Egypt back in its 25th Dynasty.

Nubia (Sudan) had been moving towards independence since the tenth century BC. Egypt depended upon the Nubian gold mines to pay for their conquest of western Asia. By the eighth Century the Egyptians had become factionalized. Their southern neighbors the Nubian had preserved and followed Egypt's spiritual traditions. The Nubians waged holy wars to restore Egypt. They purified themselves before combat by bathing in the Nile, dressed themselves in fine linen, and paid homage to Amun, the ram-headed sun god.

Taharqa of the Nubian lineage soon emerged as Pharaoh. He built monuments all over Egypt with busts, statues, and cartouches bearing his image or name. He is depicted as a supplicant to the gods, protected by the ram Amun, as a sphinx or in a warrior posture (see illustration above).

A measure of Taharqa status was his burial in a pyramid, one that precisely aligns with the sunrise on ancient Egypt's New Year's Day, linking him in perpetuity with the Egyptian concept of rebirth.



St. John Tradewinds News Illustration by Gregory Manchess

Taharqa depicted as a warrior.

Ironically much of this information was published by Ivan Van Sertima in *They Came Before Columbus* over 35 years ago. However it was quickly discounted by many archeologists. The great *Encyclopedia Britannica* of 1911 assumed that Africa (south of Egypt) had no history. The science of archeology has advanced and the knowledge of African civilizations had increased dramatically, thereby authenticating the true nature of Ancient Egypt's 25th Dynasty.

This unique history, 100 Objects in the British Museum, is available on the web at www.bbc.co.uk/programmes.

Tourism Commissioner To Speak at Chamber Chapter Meeting on Feb. 16

Department of Tourism Commissioner Beverly Nicholson-Doty will be the guest speaker at the St. John Chapter of the St. Thomas/St. John Chamber of Commerce's meeting on Tuesday night, February 16, at the Cruz Bay Battery at 5:30 p.m.

Nicholson-Doty will share the department's 2010 marketing campaign and announce the results of the secret shopper, which involved unknown tourists rating their experience on island.

"Sarayaku" Film Screening Feb. 18

St. John Film Society will welcome visiting filmmaker Marta Bautis on Thursday, February 18, at The Marketplace in Cruz Bay, with a screening of her film "Sarayaku: Rivers of Corn," at 7 p.m.

With her award winning film "Sarayaku: Rivers of Corn," Bautis will introduce the community to the inspiring Kichua women of the Ecuadorian Amazon.

Bautis will also attend a pre fixe dinner at La Plancha del Mar before the screening at 5:30 p.m. Enjoy a gourmet three course meal, including wine tasting, for \$35 per person or \$25 for SJFS members. Seating is limited. For reservations call 777-7333.

For more information check out the group's website at www.stjohnfilm.com.

Mini-Film Festival Set for February 20

The St. John Film Society, in conjunction with artists Janet Cook-Rutnik and Sigi Torinus will be presenting the V.I.P. Mini Film Festival during St. John Arts Festival at the St. John School of the Arts on Saturday, February 20, starting at 8 p.m.

VIP — stands for Virgin Islands Productions — and local filmmakers and would be filmmakers are invited to submit short videos for inclusion in this mini film festival.

DVDs of videos, 10 minutes or less (exceptions may be made — just ask) should be sent or dropped off at the Mail Center, care of Andrea Leland, PMB 461, 5000 Est. Enighed, St. John, VI 00830 no later than February 18.

Kindly include name, telephone number, email address and mailing address with DVD and any other pertinent information. Notice will be sent out immediately regarding selection.

There will be a question and answer period for Virgin Islands producers, to briefly talk about their work. For more information contact Cook-Rutnik at 693-8069 or email the St. John Film Society at stjviff@gmail.com.

CBYC Flotilla To Support GBS Students

The Coral Bay Yacht Club is hosting the almost-annual flotilla to benefit Guy Benjamin School on Saturday, March 20, at Miss Vie's Campground on the East End.

Book the best priced day sail around — only \$40 which includes lunch — through CBYC members, who will be setting out from Coral Bay at 9:30 a.m. Or arrive by car to the East End and have a fun day out with all proceeds going to the Coral Bay public elementary school.

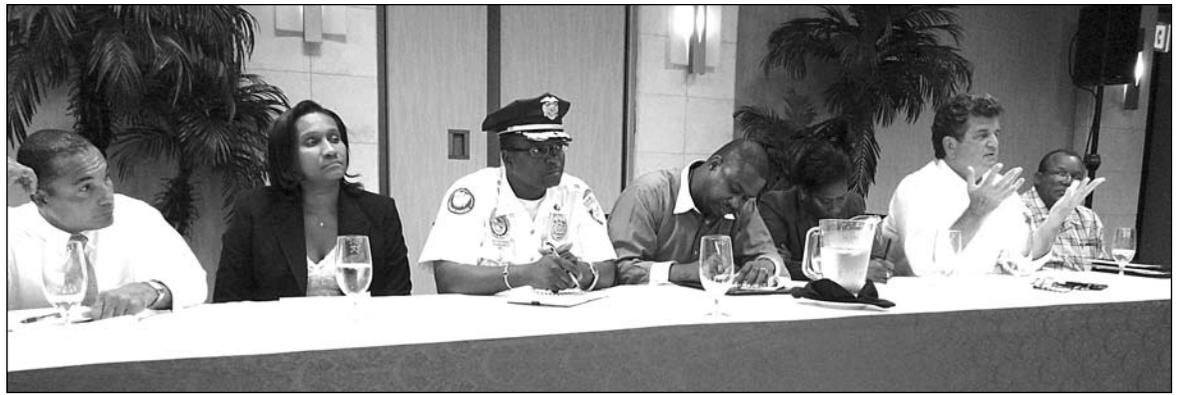
There will be a \$500 cash raffle and many other prizes. Koko and the Sunshine Band will be performing and food available will include burgers, hot dogs and a full West Indian menu.

Free Cervical Cancer Screenings Feb. 27

Myrah Keating Smith Community Health Center is offering free cervical cancer screenings on Saturday, February 27, from 9 a.m. to 3 p.m. A pap smear will be done on women starting from the age of 16 (with parental consent) and those who have not been tested in the past six months. For more information call 693-8900.

“I hope our government officials will finally realize that St. John is as viable and important to the Virgin Islands as are St. Thomas and St. Croix.”

– Paul Devine, St. John resident



St. John Tradewinds News Photos by Andrea Milam



Above: The panel at Senate President Louis Patrick Hill’s Wednesday evening, February 10, public meeting at the Westin Resort included Deputy Commissioner of Education Donna Gregory, St. John Deputy Chief of Police Darren Foy, Senator Patrick Simeon Sprauve, St. John Administrator Leona Smith, Department of Planning and Natural Resources Commissioner Robert Mathes and Housing, Parks and Recreation Commissioner St. Clair Williams. **Left:** St. John resident Paul Devine shares his ideas on establishing an island council with Senate President Louis Patrick Hill.

Senate President Hill Hears Residents’ Concerns on Self Governance, Parking and More

**By Andrea Milam
St. John Tradewinds**

Senate President Louis Patrick Hill made it clear that he expected to leave his Wednesday evening, February 10, public meeting with some concrete solutions to St. John residents’ concerns.

Approximately 100 people attended the meeting at the Westin Resort, and some who testified offered their own solutions to problems which have long plagued Love City. Many of the island’s issues have stemmed from a lack of self governance, explained resident Paul Devine.

Devine recommended Love City receive five percent of each government department’s budget, based on the fact that five percent of the Virgin Islands population resides on St. John. He also proposed an island council form of government where members are elected locally and given executive power, which current island administrators lack.

“I hope our government officials will finally realize that St. John is as viable and important to the Virgin Islands as are St. Thomas and St. Croix,” said Devine. “I would not be understating by saying that representation by our elected officials is poor at best, or in some cases, non-existent. Government

representation is sorely lacking.”

Several of those in attendance debated the best way to go about improving representation for St. John, without requiring an act of Congress.

Longtime resident Lonnie Willis emphasized the importance of budgeting monies specifically for St. John, rather than for the St. Thomas-St. John district as a whole.

“Without money, it’s meaningless,” said Willis. “If St. John doesn’t have money, we’ll never have any power.”

In the absence of change in how funds are budgeted and how St. John is governed, the island can gain some footing by having government representatives stationed right in Love City, according to St. Johnian Ronnie Jones, who lauded Hill’s recent hiring of Bonny Corbeil as his St. John representative.

“My biggest concern is having someone who represents the senators on St. John,” said Jones. “We’ve been neglected of that opportunity.”

Local real estate agent B.J. Harris, who wears several hats on the island, asked Hill for his help with issues facing the organizations with which she is involved. With the help of the Virgin Islands Legislature in purchasing a piece of land, the St. John Animal Care

Center – which currently receives \$25,000 a year from the Department of Agriculture – could eventually become financially self-sufficient, explained Harris.

“We need a small piece of land in the country,” she said. “We can get the architectural plans for free, and we can have the building constructed. We can become self-sufficient by offering things like boarding services and a pet shop.”

Harris asked Hill for his consideration in including a new home for the ACC with the construction of a new school in the Estate Catherineberg area, and 100+20+Hill pledged his support.

A public meeting on St. John would not be complete without the topic of parking being raised, and several residents asked Hill about various parking problems in Cruz Bay including derelict cars being left next to the lot at Nature’s Nook.

“Someone is in that lot each week checking for derelict cars,” said Department of Public Works St. John Deputy Director Ira Wade.

Residents also asked what to do about on-duty taxi drivers blocking public parking places. St. John Deputy Police Chief Darren Foy assured the audience they are allowed to ask taxi drivers to move if they are blocking a parking

space, and encouraged residents to call the V.I. Police Department if they need further assistance.

St. Johnian Edmund Roberts raised two of his “pet peeves” – boat pollution and the lack of striping on Centerline Road.

“We need to stripe the road,” said Roberts, whose comment was met with applause from the audience of nearly 100 people. “I am getting old and I have trouble seeing at night. I cannot see where the road ends.”

Wade assured the crowd that the road striping machine would be on island in March.

“My guys will learn how to run it because I don’t like being dependent on anyone,” he said.

Roberts recalled playing in mangroves and seagrass beds as a child, and commented on how different those environmental resources are today as a result of pollution from liveaboard boats.

By 2011, Coral Bay liveaboards will be required to show a receipt from a pump out station, or to be monitored by Department of Planning and Natural Resources as they go three miles away from shore to pump out, explained the department’s director of environmental enforcement, Roberto Tapia.

Carol Beckowitz, who works under Senator at Large Craig Barshinger, questioned DPNR’s

ability to follow up on the new rules.

“I’ve called seven to eight time for violations, and not once has DPNR been able to send someone out,” said Beckowitz. “You’re understaffed and your boats are sometimes not working.”

DPNR is increasing manpower and vessels, and should be ready to enforce the new rules by 2011,

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NEXT DEADLINE

Thursday, Feb. 18th

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Wha's Happ'nin'

by Sis Frank

Congratulations To Miles and Christie on Holiday Homes' 50th Anniversary

St. John Tradewinds

I arrived on St. John on December 23, 1959, and never left this beautiful island! There were 20 continentals and 900 natives who thoroughly enjoyed their lives here. A few cottages were rented from time to time, including John Andreson's, Helen Paynes', Gallows Point and Doris Jadan's to name a few.

These cottages soon added the two houses formerly owned by Moe and Bev Poulin to a growing list of available vacation homes. Among the first guests were the Ken Colonys, who named them Lavender Hill.

I knew that I had really found "Paradise" and set up a rental business. The government insisted that I have a name and a license.

Eventually, in 1962, I married Carl Frank and we became the first Realtors on the island, with business conducted from our home (I still live here!). Carl also created the St. John Insurance Agency. Patrons would pay him on the Cruz Bay streets.

The demand for more rentals grew and eventually we were agents for 14 cottages as they were built.

Property was sold in Great Cruz Bay from our back terrace. In 1972 Carl died and I took in Peter Griffith as a partner. Our offices were above Connections and eventually in the Boulon Center.

By this time our rentals numbered 36! Some were rented, some were managed. The island was growing, Peter left and Miles Stair became the sole owner in 1992. He took in Christie O'Neil as a partner.

Now they're celebrating 50 years for Holiday Homes! Congratulations Miles and Christie!

Unidentified Body That Washed Ashore Could Be Megayacht Crew Member

St. John Tradewinds

V.I. Police Department officials were alerted to a body found on the shoreline of Privateer Bay, a remote rocky beach on the East End of St. John on Sunday, February 7, at about 3:20 p.m.

Upon arrival, VIPD officers confirmed a body on the rocks on the eastern side of the bay. The body appeared to have been in the water for a number of days before washing ashore, according to V.I. Police Department spokesperson Melody Rames.

"The deceased male, appearing to be Caucasian, was wearing three-quarter length camouflage pants with a long sleeved shirt, that was bluish in color," said Rames.

The lack of a current missing persons report for a Caucasian

male, promoted VIPD District Chief Rodney Querrard to contact law enforcement officials in Tortola, according to Rames.

"VIPD Chief Querrard was informed that a missing person report was filed that prior weekend, and that the person in question had not been located as of the time of the call," she said. "VIPD on St. Thomas/St. John are working in conjunction with the law enforcement in Tortola to determine if this could be their missing person."

Last week British Virgin Islands officials believed the body to be that of a Polish megayacht crew member who was last seen leaving the floating bar *Willy T*, anchored off Norman Island, on January 29, according to a report in the *V.I. Daily News*.

Normal Island, with the *Willy T* anchored nearby and a second bar found onshore, is a popular boating destination located approximately five miles from Privateer Bay.

The corpse found on the rocky St. John shore matched descriptions of Pawel Kwiatkowski, a 32-year-old engineer on the 130-foot Bahamas-flagged megayacht *Charisma*, according to the report.

BVI Police officials were awaiting the results of a DNA test and did not comment on the cause of death. As of press time, *Charisma* was docked at Tortola's Village Cay Marina.

Anyone with information should call Detective Lionel Bess, Supervisor of VIPD's Major Crime Unit, at 642-8449, or Crime Stoppers at 1-800-222-tips (8477).

Internship Available with Friends of VINP This Summer

St. John Tradewinds

Friends of V.I. National Park will accept applications for a summer internship for between eight to 10 weeks during the months of May to August.

The main role of this individual will be to assist the organization in project management and administrative support.

This individual will be assigned to several projects and tasks at the beginning of the internship, which

will be determined in the late spring. This individual will gain experience in working with a National Park and with an environmental, non-profit organization.

Candidates for the internship should be entering university juniors or seniors or graduate students with a major in a field related to the environmental sciences or environmental education. In addition, candidates should have excellent writing and internet re-

search skills, be self-motivated and strong team players.

This is an unpaid internship, however, housing at Maho Bay Camps and a small food and transportation stipend of \$250 per week will be provided.

Send a resume, cover letter and two references no later than March 5, to: Friends of VINP, Summer Internship Program, P.O. Box 811 St. John, VI 00831 or email apenn@friendsvinp.org.

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St. John Tradewinds News Photo File

The V.I. National Park is trying to work out a North Shore taxi shuttle service with the Taxi Commission.

North Shore Taxi Shuttle Service Is “Imminent Change,” Says Hardgrove

By Andrea Milam
St. John Tradewinds

A regularly scheduled shuttle service on the North Shore Road will likely be implemented this year, with or without the participation of St. John taxi drivers.

V.I. National Park Superintendent Mark Hardgrove is calling for the V.I. Taxicab Commission to present its plan by the end of this month before the park moves on to other options.

The idea for the shuttle service was born out of National Park Foundation Transportation Scholar Beth Isler’s November 2009 visit to the island.

“There are a number of items that we’re trying to implement as part of her strategy,” said VINP Superintendent Mark Hardgrove.

The V.I. Taxicab Commission supports the idea; however, Hardgrove’s hope that the commission will submit a plan detailing the specifics of a shuttle service by the end of this month may not be realized.

“They voted to organize themselves and get back to us on what they’d like to see implemented,” said Hardgrove. “With the population increase and increase of visitation, it’s an imminent change. The issue is who is going to deliver the services.”

If the Taxicab Commission does not respond in time, the VINP has plans in place to offer the shuttle service itself, or to partner with VITRAN.

The Taxicab Commission is indeed interested in providing the shuttle service; however, it is waiting for a proposal from St. John taxi company Paris Taxi Service, explained the commission’s executive director, Judy Wheatley.

“I’m waiting for them to give me a proposal so I can see if it meets the Taxi Commission’s criteria,” said Wheatley. “I know the taxi drivers recognize

“With the population increase and increase of visitation, it’s an imminent change. The issue is who is going to deliver the services.”

— Mark Hardgrove,
Superintendent
Virgin Islands National Park

they need to take the ball and run with it so VITRAN doesn’t step in. There are additional revenues they can make.”

Wheatley was confident she would hear from Paris Taxi Service “soon,” she said, and as long as Paris’ proposal falls under the commission’s guidelines, she will endorse the proposal and present it to Hardgrove.

Neither Hardgrove nor Wheatley knew any specifics of the shuttle service proposal, including cost and schedule.

“A reduced rate is a possibility,” said Wheatley. “It would be a scheduled run by taxis which would pass on the north shore in designated areas where people would know to wait. The idea is to keep service in those areas all the time for folks at the beaches.”

Any reduced rate has to be approved by the Taxi Commission, Wheatley added.

The VINP is prepared to fully support the Taxi Commission’s proposal, provided it is presented in a timely manner, explained Hardgrove.

“When they get back to us on what they’d like to see implemented, we’ll support that,” he said.

The St. John Band



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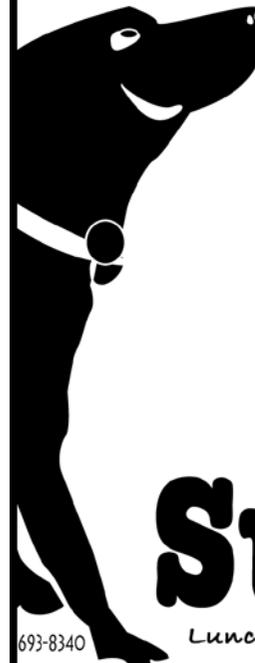
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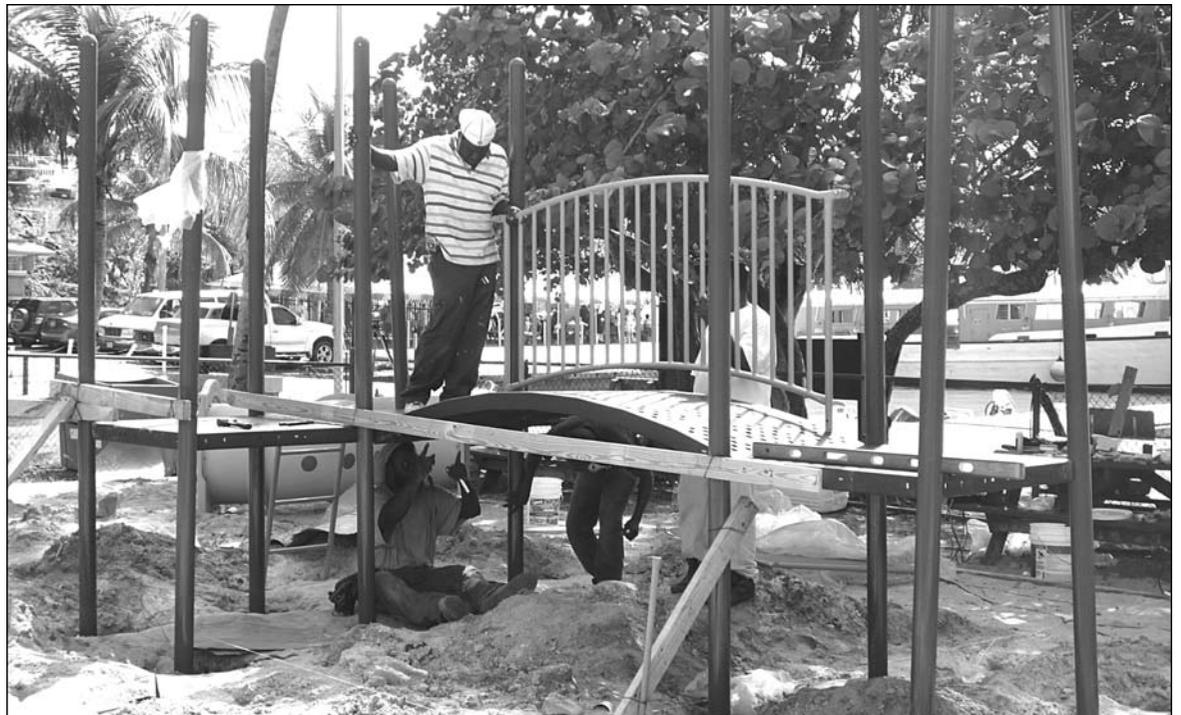
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St. John Tradewinds News Photo by Jaime Elliott

Housing, Parks and Recreation workers install new playground equipment at the V.I. National Park ball field earlier this month. The new structure should be open to the island's children this week.

Playground Renovation Nearly Complete

— Ball Field Renovations Could Begin in March

By **Andrea Milam**
St. John Tradewinds

The island's children will soon have a brand new playground to slide, swing and have fun on when the V.I. National Park playground reopens in the next week or so.

The structure was completely redone, with a brand new playground being installed by Housing, Parks and Recreation.

HPR invested approximately \$40,000 in equipment for the playground, which is located on land leased to HPR by the VINP for recreation.

"The playground had reached the end of its useful life," said VINP Superintendent Mark Hardgrove. "Parents have been telling me concerns they had for the safety of their kids, and how important this area is to them."

The ball field renovation, which will involve draining and grading the field, bringing in new topsoil and hydroseeding the entire area, was initiated by the St. John Community Foundation.

SJCF Executive Director Paul Devine, who is involved in youth recreation activities which take place at the ball field, including flag football, saw a need to spruce up the field, which has not been maintained since the 1970s and had deteriorated to an incredibly rocky playing surface, he explained.

"I started the ball rolling by contacting HPR," said Devine. "On several occasions we had to cancel our sports programs, because when it rains it's too slick to play. We felt it'd be a great idea to get volunteers together and decide on a plan."

The plan was presented to HPR, which gave its full support along with VINP Superintendent Hardgrove.

The St. John community viewed the plan at a November 2009 public meeting.

The project has been dubbed the National Park Community Partnership Project, representing the partnership between the VINP, HPR and SJCF.

Devine and his volunteers, which include Department of Public Works St. John Deputy Director Ira Wade, Wharton Smith, Jose Penn and Majestic Construction, are waiting for HPR to complete their portion of the project before they can move forward.

"They are going to replace the entire perimeter fence with black plastic coated chain link and install new field lighting," said Devine. "They were supposed to start in January, but they got delayed."

Devine now estimates work will begin in March, and the entire renovation process should take approximately three months. The field will likely be playable by June, allowing extra time for the grass to grow.

The ball field and playground renovation projects are expected to cost approximately \$340,000 – \$260,000 of which will come from HPR, and approximately \$80,000 worth of volunteer time.

The installation of the lights on the field will open up a whole new world of opportunities for the St. John community, Devine explained.

"It's not only for sports; it's for the community," he said. "Once the lights are up, you can consider doing community activities at night, under the coolness of the evening. I think there will be lots of opportunities to do events there."

Hardgrove echoed Devine's sentiments.

"I think it really enhances the community's opportunities to get their kids outdoors for great family time," the VINP superintendent said.

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Holiday Homes Celebrates 50 Years in Real Estate Business

By Jaime Elliott
St. John Tradewinds

Fifty years after Ruth “Sis” Frank first opened the doors of Holiday Homes in 1960, the St. John real estate firm is still a thriving hub of activity today.

Holiday Homes is currently owned by Miles Stair, who purchased the company from Peter Griffith in 1992, and Christie O’Neil, who joined Stair as a partner in 2001.

Frank first came to St. John in December of 1959 and fell so in love with the island that she has never left. She started Holiday Homes as a rental management company — the very first of its kind in Love City.

“I arrived on St. John on December 23, 1959, and never left this beautiful island,” said Frank. “There were 20 continentals and 900 natives who thoroughly enjoyed their lives here. I knew that I had really found ‘paradise’ and set up a rental business.”

“The government insisted that I have a name and a license and that’s how Holiday Homes was born,” Frank said.

The former interior decorator from upstate New York would go on to run the local ferry boats, help found the St. John Corporation — which was an early lending and stock company integral to the development of the island — and the St. John School of the Arts.

After marrying Carl Frank in 1962, the couple became the first realtors on the island, selling property from the back porch of their Great Cruz Bay home — where Frank still



St. John Tradewinds News Photo by Jaime Elliott

Sis Frank and Miles Stair

resides to this day.

At that time there were dirt roads past the Franks’ house and a bulldozer had only recently cleared lots for sale. A parcel would sell for somewhere between \$7,000 and \$9,000, according to Stair.

When her husband died in 1972, Frank took on Peter Griffith, the father of the actress Melanie Griffith who used to vacation on St. John at the time with her then-boyfriend

and actor Don Johnson.

St. John is not a new place for Stair either. He and his wife Susan first came to the island to work at the front desk of the then-Rockefeller resort Caneel Bay in 1972. After a stint at Cinnamon Bay, Stair became food and beverage manager at Caneel until 1977 when he left to work stateside.

The Stairs returned to St. John in 1985, when Miles Stair started working with Griffith at Holiday Homes. Stair bought the business from Griffith in 1992 and hasn’t looked back.

“It’s wonderful to have the company going for 50 years,” said Stair. “To have Sis here is the most exciting thing. There aren’t many people who live to see their company have an anniversary like this.”

The St. John real estate market is not at all the same landscape that Frank saw back in 1960s. Similar lots to what Frank sold for less than \$10,000 have routinely sold for more than \$1 million, according to Stair.

“There has been a big change,” he said. “But Sis was there in the beginning. She started an industry that has become one of the underpinnings of the St. John economy.”

Looking ahead, Stair sees Holiday Homes remaining as a vibrant entity.

“We hope to have just some portion of as good an influence as Sis Frank has had on St. John, between St. John School of the Arts and all the great things that she’s done,” said Stair.

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Friends of V.I. National Park Nets About \$25,000 at Fundraising Gala

By Jaime Elliott
St. John Tradewinds

Guests at Janet and Martin Marshal's Great Cruz Bay villa A la Mer on Saturday night, February 6, were certainly "Feelin' Good While Doin' Good," — the theme of this year's Friends of V.I. National Park gala.

The Marshals opened their exquisite home to about 150 people who came out to enjoy the sounds of Paradise People and the food of Mathayom, while raising about \$25,000 for the non-profit organization.

The majority of the funds came through the sale of gala tickets, which were \$200 each, and raffle tickets, which were \$25 each or five for \$100.

The funds will be used to support the group's programs including the annual Earth Day fair, summer eco-camps and seminar series.

"Instead of the live auction, we did a raffle of more than 30 items and we gave people the chance to win their favorite item by placing the raffle ticket in a basket in front of the item," said Noreen Cavanaugh, Friends of VINP development director.

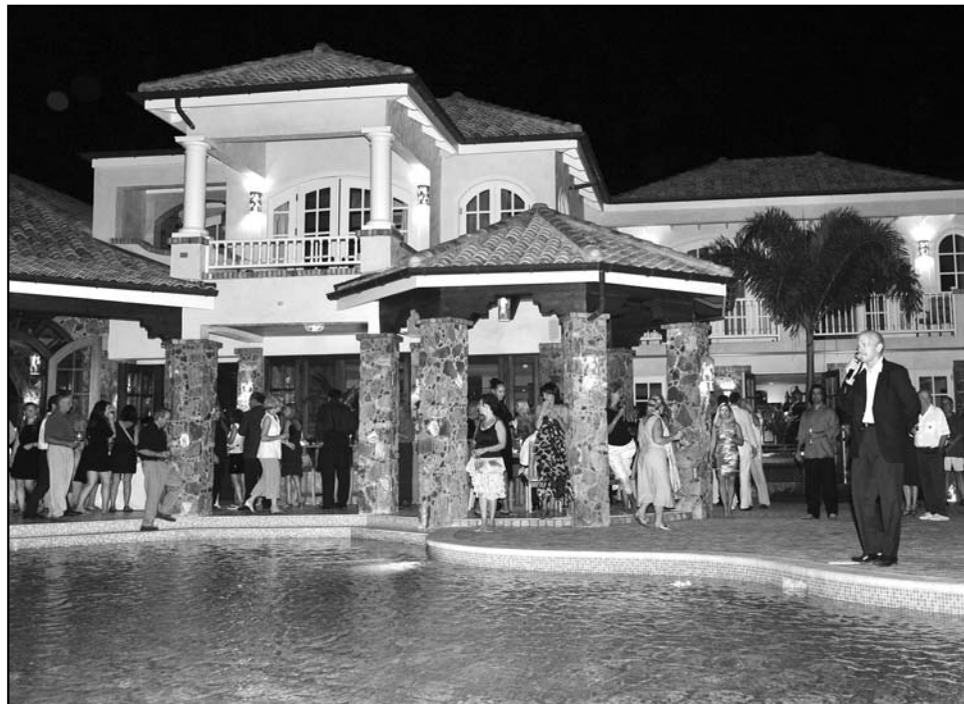
"It worked beautifully," she said.

At the conclusion of the raffle, the crowd got a surprise, Cavanaugh added.

"After we closed down the raffle, the Marshals donated a long weekend at their house so we did another raffle," she said. "It really created a buzz and we sold 170 raffle tickets for that alone."

In a new twist this year, Friends officials decided to forgo the usual live auction and instead hosted an online auction several months ago.

"I think everyone enjoyed the raffles and



St. John Tradewinds News Photo Courtesy of Tropical Focus

Friends of the VINP President Joe Kessler, far right, addresses the crowd during the organization's annual fundraising gala.

not sitting through the live auction," said Cavanaugh. "It really was a beautiful night and everyone had a great time. The Marshals were there and they really enjoyed themselves."

In addition to the Friends staff, there was a team of about 30 volunteers who helped ensure the event's success.

"We had about 30 volunteers who helped out with registration, selling raffle tickets and there were volunteers from local restaurants who helped with serving and bar-

tending," Cavanaugh said. "We had docents from Annaberg who volunteered and a wonderful group who volunteer at the store who came out. It was a really nice mixture of volunteers."

Cavanaugh has been organizing the event for months and was overjoyed that it went so well, she explained.

"We've been working on this literally for months so it was nice that it all went so well," said Cavanaugh. "I felt like a hostess and I really enjoyed seeing everyone enjoy

themselves. I kept saying, 'I'm smiling because everyone else is.'"

The development director received endless help from the Friends' Gala Committee consisting of Audrey Penn, Cid Hamling, Joy Stillman, Mary Bartolucci, Moriah Love, Debbie Hayes, John Fuller, Carl Pytlik, Teri Wine and Karen Vahling, she explained.

"I really could not have done this without the committee," said Cavanaugh. "It was one of those things that there was just really good energy around this whole event."

All that time planning the event truly showed off as the night was deemed a success by all, according to Cavanaugh.

"When the worse possible thing that could happen, doesn't happen, you know that you planned well," she said. "I would absolutely say that it was a smashing success, but it wasn't my success. This was the success of my phenomenal committee members and the volunteers."

Major sponsors of the event included Bellows and Diageo, S&P Fish and Merchant's Market, Cavanaugh added.

"Our sponsors are a major reason why we raised so much money," she said.

Not about to rest on their laurels, Friends officials are already looking ahead to next year.

"We're already talking about next year's gala and we're thinking of where to have it," said Cavanaugh. "If anyone knows of a great venue, call us."

The Friends of the VINP graciously thank all sponsors and volunteers who helped make the event a success.

For more details, call Cavanaugh at the Friends of the VINP office at 779-4940.

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Never Be Stumped by Discovery With *Tropical Trees* by T. Kent Kirk

By Jaime Elliott
St. John Tradewinds

Anyone who has ever been stumped trying to identify a tree they spot during a hike will be thrilled with a T. Kent Kirk's new field guide.

While Kirk has been visiting the Virgin Islands for 20 years, it was during a trip to St. Croix about six years ago that he and his friend Tom Miller tried to identify several trees they came across.

When the two — who both have forestry backgrounds — were unable to identify the trees, they looked for a field guide, but couldn't find one. So Kirk and Miller set out to create one of their own.

Although Miller eventually dropped out of the project due to health reasons, Kirk continued researching and photographing local trees and has since produced "Tropical Trees of Florida and the Virgin Islands," published by Pineapple Press in Sarasota, Florida.

Kirk, a professor emeritus at the University of Wisconsin, has compiled an easy-to-use field guide brimming with color photos and detailed information.

"We were trying to identify these trees we saw on St. Croix and we couldn't find any books that were user-friendly and informative," said Kirk. "We talked about it for a while and, since we both have forestry backgrounds, we decided to write a book of our own."

"We made a list of all the tree species we thought could be found down here and then came back to meet with experts," he said.

Kirk and Miller met with St. George Village Botanical Garden herbarium curator Margaret Hayes and other flora experts on St. Croix in 2004. With their help, the two revised the tree list and ended up with about 100 species to cover in the book.

Although Hayes was diagnosed with cancer and died before "Tropical Trees" was published in 2009, she edited the field guide and was a continuing inspiration for Kirk as he spent about four years making trips numerous to St. Croix, St. Thomas and St. John to photograph trees.

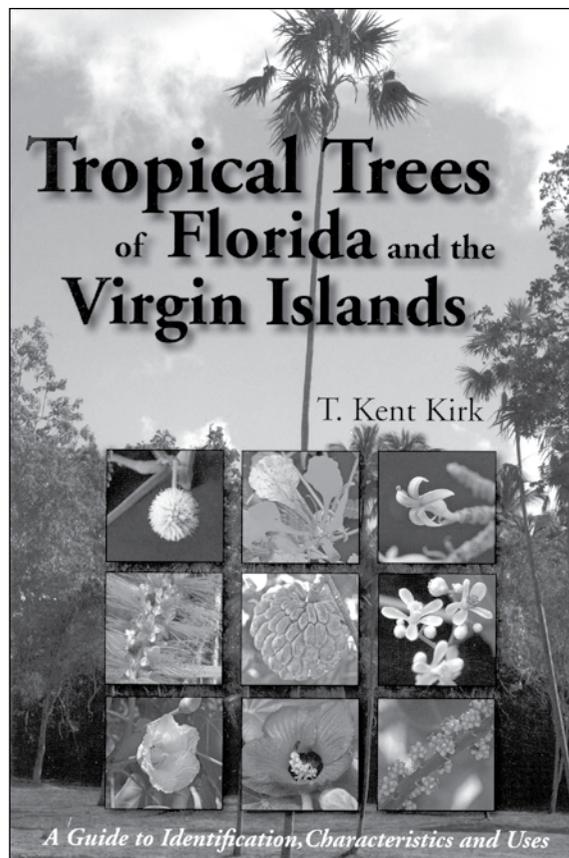
"I made a lot of trips down here over the next three to four years," said Kirk. "Most of the trees I photographed on St. John and St. Croix and just a few on St. Thomas. I spent a lot of money on the project between all the trips and everything, but it was a labor of love."

With the help of St. Johnian botanist Eleanor Gibney and several University of the Virgin Islands officials, Kirk was able to include trees found in the British Virgin Islands in the field guide.

"Eleanor told me how common these trees are in Tortola and Virgin Gorda so I was able to include that information," said the author.

The project expanded to include Florida at the urging of the publisher, Kirk explained.

"I originally intended for the book to just cover the Virgin Islands, but then I found a publisher, Pineapple Press," he said. "The publishing house is in Sarasota, Florida, and they specialize in books about Florida wildlife, shells, lighthouses and things like that. They



Book cover

thought they could sell more books if I included Florida in the title."

"It was all a marketing thing," said Kirk. "But many of the trees here can be found in southern Florida, so it wasn't too difficult."

What Kirk — who had published many scientific papers during his years in biochemistry at the University of Wisconsin — created is a user-friendly guide, designed to help anyone easily identify local trees.

The first step is to determine if the tree in question is cactus or palm, which have their own sections in "Tropical Trees." If the tree has leaves, then the next step is to identify which type of leaf it is, from a series of clear photographs — and that is basically the last step.

The leaf type will lead one to a section of the book, which is easily found by the color-coded pages. Each description includes color photographs of the entire tree and close-up pictures of the bark, flowers, leaves and fruit.

In addition to the scientific name, common tree names appear in English, Spanish and French. The descriptions also include key identifying features of the species, whether it is native or introduced, how common the tree is, descriptions of the form, favored habitat and local uses.

"A lot of these trees are used for curing a variety of ailments," said Kirk. "It makes you think how sick people must have gotten trying to figure out what

Continued on Page 16

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Expelling an Oil Company, “Sarayaku” Shares Amazonian Tale of Resistance

By Jaime Elliott
St. John Tradewinds

As ongoing development continues to change the landscape of St. John, residents will get a chance this week to learn about a community which chose to turn its back on what some called “progress” at the time.

In the second of their filmmaker series, St. John Film Society members are hosting a dinner with filmmaker Marta Bautis on Thursday, February 18, at La Plancha del Mar before the screening of her film “Sarayaku: Rivers of Corn.”

When Bautis made her first trip to the remote Ecuadorian Amazon Kichua community of Sarayaku, she had no idea she would spend the next five years telling the story of its people.

After making the five hour trek by motorized canoe from the nearest town of Puyo, Ecuador, during her second trip to the Amazon, Bautis was so moved by the Sarayaku people, she felt compelled to tell their tale.

What Bautis produced is “Sarayaku: Rivers of Corn,” a poignant 63-minute documentary detailing the struggles of an indigenous people who protected their ancestral land from being invaded by an international oil company in 2002.

“About five years ago, I had been reading more and more and becoming more and more concerned about the environment,” said Bautis. “I was fascinated also by the Amazon rainforest and I wanted to see the big trees before they all disappeared. So I started looking at how I was going to get there.”

“I went first with a tour and then the next year I went back with another tour called Global Exchange,” the filmmaker said. “I went to Sarayaku on my second trip and made connections there. I was so amazed that this community was five hours by boat down the river and yet they were so organized they were able to evict an international oil company.”



St. John Tradewinds News Photo Courtesy of SJFS

Marta Bautis on a foot bridge in Puyo, Ecuador.

During her first time with the Sarayaku people, Bautis was especially taken by the powerful women of the group, she explained.

“I was fascinated how the women were the leaders in the community and how they worked so hard and were so vocal,” said Bautis. “When they spoke up, people listened. I said, ‘I have to tell this story.’”

The seasoned filmmaker, who has produced eight films and teaches film at Ramapo College, returned to Sarayaku several times over the next year and let four women share their own takes on how they expelled the oil company in 2002.

“They actually have internet there thanks to solar panels, so I started to communicate by email with the group,” said Bautis. “It took me a year before they really started to open up to me. I went back and selected four women who really caught my attention.”

The women Bautis features in “Sarayaku” range from an 80-year-old matriarch of the 1,500-strong jungle river community to a 40-something-year-old aspiring lawyer. With a rough version in hand, Bautis returned again to the area to share her film with the community.

“We watched it on this little laptop and we had to wait until light during the day for the electricity,” said Bautis. “I showed it to the group and it was really great. They told me it felt like one of them had filmed it.”

“You see so many films about communities and you see the view from someone from the outside,” said the filmmaker. “It was a really big compliment and a great experience. I felt like I was part of the community.”

Since wrapping up editing of the film, most of Bautis’ time has been taken up by teaching full time and starting an expansive new project. She is just getting “Sarayaku” distributed recently and will have copies of the film available for sale on St. John.

All proceeds from the sale of “Sarayaku” will go toward an alternative healing circle being established in the Kichua community. For more information on Bautis or her work, check out her website www.tiempoazul.org.

Join Bautis and St. John Film Society members on February 18 for dinner at La Plancha at 5:30 p.m. or just watch “Sarayaku” at 7 p.m. at The Marketplace. For reservations for dinner call 777-7333.

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Teachers Invited to Spend a Day Hiking and Writing on St. John

St. John Tradewinds

All teachers are invited to spend a day on St. John writing, hiking, and thinking of new ways to enhance their teaching skills in a workshop on Saturday, March 13.

V.I. National Park Ranger Laurel Brannick will lead participants in a three-and-a-half-mile hike down the Reef Bay Trail to a pool with ancient Taino Indian rock carvings.

At the end of the trail teachers will explore the ruins of the Reef Bay Sugar Factory. The trip culminates with a boat ride back to Cruz Bay.

Elaine Jacobs, a veteran classroom teacher and noted storyteller, will direct various writing activities and discussions about integrating field drip discoveries across the cur-

riculum.

Teachers of all grade levels and subject areas are welcome to participate in this free program. Registration is limited. Please call Audrey Penn at the Friends of the V.I. National Park at 779-4940 by March 5 to reserve a space.

Participants from St. Thomas will need to catch a 9 a.m. ferry from Red Hook to St. John and can plan to return on the 4 p.m. ferry.

Teachers must bring their own lunches and drinks and are also advised to wear good walking shoes and carry sunscreen, bug repellent, rain gear and a hat. Attendees should be prepared to wade in water up to their ankles in order to board a boat for the return trip from Reef Bay to Cruz Bay.

Gross Receipt Tax Amnesty Has Begun

The Virgin Islands Bureau of Internal Revenue announces that the Gross Receipts Tax Amnesty began on December 1, 2009. Gross receipts tax returns up until September 2009 are eligible. The amnesty ends on Thursday, September 30, 2010.

Royal Caribbean Looks at Voluntourism

By Andrea Milam
St. John Tradewinds

Most cruise ship passengers look forward to a week of rest and relaxation — of exploring new destinations; and of soaking up the sun on some of the world's most beautiful beaches.

But those who enjoy giving back, even while on vacation, could soon have an outlet for bettering the community during their call on St. Thomas.

Royal Caribbean hopes to partner with the V.I. National Park to offer its passengers the opportunity to be "voluntourists" on St. Thomas and St. John, and the idea could become reality by 2011.

The idea was born out of troubled times, explained VINP Superintendent Mark Hardgrove.

"Sometimes good things happen out of change," said Hardgrove. "With the economic downturn, I think they're looking for new ways of inspiring tourism."

Royal Caribbean representatives on St. Thomas have expressed an interest in offering excursions to Hassel Island, where its passengers would clean trails, beaches and ruins; and to St. John, where they would work on "front country areas," said Hardgrove.

The VINP already has a strong "voluntourism" program thanks to Jeff Chabot, who organizes volunteer crews weekly from Cinnamon Bay Campground and Maho Bay Camps to clear and maintain trails, ruins and overlooks.

The expansion of voluntourism on St. John would call for more volunteer leaders, and could bring in more money for the VINP and the local community.

"As it is now, cruise ship passengers are taken from inside the fence at the Creek to Trunk Bay and

back," said Hardgrove. "They don't get any time in town, and they don't hear much about the history of St. John."

Royal Caribbean passengers who choose to go on a St. John voluntourism excursion would be brought to Cruz Bay by tender, where they would meet their waiting taxi. After a safety briefing, they would be brought to a designated VINP site, where they would put in about four hours of work. They would then be brought back to Cruz Bay for lunch and to shop.

While it's hard to tell just how much money the program could bring to the VINP and the local economy, it will likely benefit local shops and taxi drivers, according to Hardgrove.

Volunteers gain more than just a good feeling from helping out the local community, explained the VINP superintendent, who was struck by the relationships formed between volunteers in Chabot's work party.

"What really impressed me is how these people form relationships when they work together and learn together," said Hardgrove. "They start planning other vacations and cruises together. We have almost a cult at Cinnamon, who come back together every year."

Hardgrove expects the combination of volunteering and tourism to take hold down island as the program becomes successful in the Virgin Islands. He urged those coming to St. John to consider volunteering.

"If you want to make a difference, feel great about how you spent your day, and learn something about yourself and your national parks, this is the place to do it," said Hardgrove.

For more information on the VINP's current volunteer program, contact the Friends of the VINP at 779-4940.



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Animal Care Center Ambassadors from St. John to Manhattan

St. John Tradewinds

When visitors from the mainland adopt homeless cats or dogs from the Virgin Islands, lives have been saved. These are the lucky ones to have found “forever” homes with responsible people. When a kitten from the Animal Care Center shelter or a cat living rough on St. John flies north with a compassionate family, one more companion animal has escaped from disease, abuse, or starvation.

Sometimes, a cat or dog from the shelter flies north with a courier or with a concerned resident to a vet’s office or a rescue organization dedicated to finding homes for abandoned animals from “saturated” cities or towns elsewhere.

A New England Example

An example is the Northeast Animal Shelter (NEAS) in Massachusetts that operates a routine courier service between San Juan,

Puerto Rico, and the NEAS in Salem. Their mission is to transfer “Satos,” a multitude of small homeless dogs that roam the streets of San Juan, to homes in New England.

This successful operation has already placed over 100 Satos in New England homes. So popular are the Satos as pets that several adoptive families have returned to NEAS for another Sato to be a companion to the first little immigrant.

This past summer, NEAS invited some of the San Juan women who gather the Satos to come visit Salem and meet the women at the other end of the rescue pipeline. They stayed at the homes of NEAS volunteers. Friendships were forged, and the little street dogs unwittingly became Ambassadors of Good Will between San Juan and Massachusetts.

St. John Ambassadors

Closer to home on St. John,

several kittens adopted from the ACC shelter have become Ambassadors for the island. Last August for example, “Gray” and “Tan” two sister kittens, were flown to New York City to be cared for by Dr. Rebecca Campbell in her veterinary center until adoption.

They flew north with a resident rather than with a visitor to the island. After only a few weeks of expert care and feeding, they were adopted by one of Dr. Campbell’s most faithful clients whose beloved elderly cat had just died.

The story doesn’t end there. Gray and Tan became “Pussy Willow” and “Tiger Lily.” They brought new energy to Nina Felshin’s remaining elderly cat, and they have become the joy of her life. As a gesture of appreciation, an ACC Board member sent a copy of the latest *St. John Magazine* to Nina, who has never been to the island.

The magazine was accompa-

nied by an invitation to come visit in St. John and discover the beauty here. Two formerly homeless kittens have become Ambassadors from St. John, and Nina is planning her first visit to St. John this winter.

Earlier in the year, “Peeper,” an injured, very sick kitten that ACC shelter manager Connie Joseph had admitted to the shelter, was flown to Dr. Campbell’s veterinary center. Peeper had to undergo a long period of medical and psychological rehabilitation. Clearly abused, she had developed the defense mechanism of biting, making her difficult to place.

A young friend of Dr. Campbell’s came into the clinic one day and saw Peeper, understood her problems and adopted her. In recognition of Peeper’s St. John heritage, Gina Galliano renamed her “Calypso.”

Calypso’s rehabilitation is being furthered by her association

with Gina’s other kindly cat. Calypso has now become the catalyst for Gina’s forthcoming first visit to St. John.

Unlikely Ambassadors as the Satos, Lily, Willow, and Calypso may seem, they have engendered ties between the mainland and the Virgin Islands that otherwise would not exist.

“During their stateside publicity campaigns, the U.S. Virgin Islands Department of Tourism might consider featuring these adopted companion animals as official representatives of the islands,” said Dr. Campbell. “Nothing could better convey the friendliness of the islands than these gentle, affectionate island-born creatures.”

In any case, the ACC and animal shelters on neighboring islands are grateful for financial assistance to care for kittens and puppies, some of whom may serve as island ambassadors.



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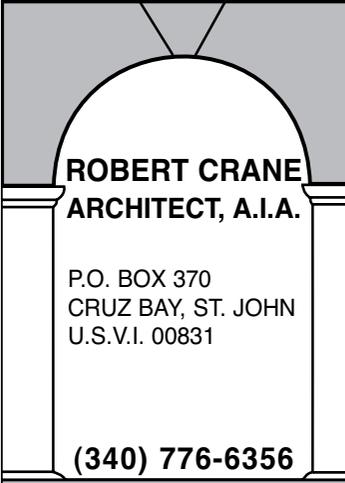
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Senator-at-Large Reports

By Senator Craig Barshinger

Solar Hot Water Program

St. John Tradewinds

The Solar Hot Water Program is up and running. Any Virgin Islands property owner can get a Solar Hot Water Heater (SHWH) at no up-front cost. Call the VI Energy Office at 774-3320 or 772-1082 for details on this amazing program, which has been aborning for all of 2009, and finally arrives for purchases after January 1, 2010. I have been openly critical of the abysmally slow launch of this program, mandated by Act 7075 which I cosponsored. But now the executive branch has come through and all faults are forgiven. I urge you to go forth and take advantage of free hot water from the sun.

You can call any solar installer, who will walk you through the process. Check the Yellow Pages, or call the Energy Office for a list of qualified vendors and installers.

The energy office is administering the program, which promises a rebate of up to \$2,500 for a SHWH system, with the other half financed through your WAPA bill as a loan at 1% interest (yes!). Essentially, the loan will be paid out of the monthly savings you obtain by heating with the sun rather than electricity. The electrical savings is generally \$25 to \$50, depending on how much hot water you use. When the loan is paid off automatically through your WAPA bill after three years, suddenly your bill will drop by that \$25 to \$50, and stay that way for the life of the SHWH (decades). You will be Solar Powered, and will reap the rewards.

Your legislature has fought hard to make this program a reality, particularly I and Senator Hill. We have exercised our oversight responsibility over Act 7075 which is a nice way of saying we have been vigorously pressuring Energy Office to actually deliver. Isn't it time that government actu-

ally give you something of value, and leave you satisfied rather than disappointed? It won't cost you anything to explore it further, so get a quote from a vendor or installer, and see if it makes sense to you to accept this fantastic offer that will give you free hot water and move you into the 21st century in style.

Speaking of Senator Hill, he has hired Bonny Corbeil, who is a passionate community activist, to be his St. John liaison. Several people have asked me whether this is a political slight, as I am "the St. John senator." The answer is "absolutely not!" Senator Hill is a district of St. Thomas-St. John senator, and he is doing what all seven should be doing, and that is paying attention to St. John's particular needs. I welcome Senator Hill and Bonny. I spend a lot of time on St. John issues because I am the only senator who lives on St. John. But I need the support of all seven district senators to help me, the senator-at-large, fight for the things St. John needs.

That leads me naturally to a particular issue for St. John: I have a request of you. The governor vetoed my section of recent legislation which redefined the St. John Capital Improvement Fund. I will move to override his veto on March 8. Before that date, I need you to make telephone calls to all 14 district senators, and particularly those from St. Thomas-St. John. We need 10 votes for an override. It's a numbers game at this point.

My legislation stated that the money in the St. John Capital Improvement Fund must be used for "capital improvements." It may no longer be used for hauling trash. Money is deposited periodically to the fund, and it should be available for capital projects like road improvements and schools. Instead, most of it is siphoned off to haul our trash to

St. Thomas. What kind of "capital improvement" is that? It leaves our Capital Improvement Fund impoverished, unable to fund the improvements that St. John needs and deserves.

The language that the governor used in his veto message was so unworthy of his administration that I will not repeat it here. If you want a copy, call our office at 693-8061 and come by to pick one up. I not accustomed to overriding the governor's vetoes; in some cases his vetoes are on-point. In this case he is way off base. St. John deserves a Capital Improvement Fund that is devoted to capital projects. Our trash hauling can be paid for by the Waste Management Authority, just like it is on St. Thomas and St. Croix.

The override will succeed with your help, and will not succeed without your help. You can find senator's addresses online at leg-vi.org, or come by to our St. John office for a printout. We'll be glad to put you in touch with your government.

In my next report, I will tell you about a significant victory won this week for St. John in terms of our property tax crisis. The legislative majority met with the governor and we have agreed to issue the 2006 tax bills at the 1998 rates. This will be a great relief for St. Johnians, who were facing crushing tax bills after the flawed "revaluation." But the fight to stabilize and craft a long term solution to our property tax dilemma is not over.

I will close by thanking all who have dropped off crutches for Haiti to offices. My acting Chief of Staff Carol, who is also an Emergency Medical Technician, volunteered for a week of hard duty in Haiti, and arrived home this week full of stories and news about how the people of Haiti are getting on. Let us continue to reach out and keep them our prayers.

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Letters to St. John Tradewinds

Rolf

Moonlight blankets the night like a lover's smile
Wings whisper, hearts flutter, he's been gone two days now
his scooter quiet, his cap still
his wicked drop shot a fearless memory

and all the tools of his many trades yearning
for those amazing hands that could fix just about anything
the red legged stilts, delicate as lace, lilt across the pond
tree frogs trill among the stars

and still the moon keeps on rising
brighter and fuller than most
yet barely touching the dunes and the waves
and the sugary mountains of Moorea where they met

she's tall for a Japanese, he thinks, as he beckons her over
to where he sits, knowing he'll have no trouble opening
the can of Campbell soup with which she's struggling
two days becomes a three year romance

filled with exotic places and epic postcards
which in turn becomes a lifetime nothing short of magic
moonlight thick as fog, moonlight hollow as old bones
and still its light holds us to it no matter

which side of the Earth it shines as if it is saying
see as well the beauty in my darkness, as if it is saying
no matter how he trims or reefs or sets his course
its light will be with him wherever he sails

— Beverly Melius, 1-29-10

AA Leadership Violates Tradition

I got sober on St. John almost eighteen years ago and to this day attend Alcoholic Anonymous meetings in Cruz Bay. As one of our primary purposes is to be sober and to help other alcoholics to get sober, there are a number of rules and guidelines in Alcoholics Anonymous (AA) to help facilitate the organization; one of those is Tradition Two which states "For our group purpose there is but one ultimate authority—a loving God as he may express himself in our group conscious. Our leaders are but trusted servants, they do not govern."

Another guideline is intended to make an individual feel safe if she or he is to attend an AA meeting: "whom you see here, what you hear here, when you leave, let it stay here. "Here" meaning within the walls of the actual AA meeting.

However, my experience since I've been living on St. John has been that only a few individuals "run the show" in Cruz Bay AA as they dominate the leadership, overtly violate the safety measures that are in place and bend the rules to suit themselves and their close friends.

Several months ago the most dominant figure in Cruz Bay AA suggested that we allow non-AA announcements to be made at the end of the meeting to allow a little more leeway to the recovery venue: it was a good move. A few weeks ago, central leadership figures began announcing non-AA related recovery functions, one of which is resulting in the profit for an ordained minister. "AA is not allied with any sect [nor] denomination"—AA Preamble; and, "AA should remain forever non-professional. We define professionalism as the counseling of alcoholics for fees or hire."—Tradition Eight. Nevertheless, Cruz Bay, as a group, decided that we would have non-AA announcements at the end of the meeting.

Recently I, too, began having a non-AA announcement about a fundraiser for disabled veterans in the spirit of step twelve, helping others and "practicing these principals in all our affairs", and although initially it went over well, a man who has been allowed to become an authoritarian and dictate to the group what is permissible, told me that I could no longer make the announcement about the fundraiser because it was "endorsing an outside enterprise". The AA Preamble forbids this.

I knew in my heart of hearts that this was true: I was raising money for an outside organization in an AA meeting. However, I ignored him and continued the announcements for the following reasons:

1. he was making the decision solely by himself as he so often tries to do.
2. his personal friends within AA are having a function where money is being raised for group counseling by a minister
3. other people have solicited monies for causes before such as Race for The Cure and it was never stopped. (Incidentally, I was the only one who showed up from St. John AA for The Race on St. Thomas during a Saturday night with a \$100.00

check donated by a local business.)

But these three reasons weren't my biggest problem: the dominant figure to whom I am referring was organizing business meetings outside of AA with his friends so when an actual AA meeting and vote took place, a pre-arranged decision had already been made. This is a big AA no-no and needless to say, very controlling. Everything and anything to do with AA must start within the walls of AA which makes perfect sense because if somebody has dissent, they will have a voice. Remember, "Whom you see [there], what you hear [there], let it stay [there], within the confines of the rooms.

The last time I made the announcement about the fundraiser, this one man called a non-scheduled business meeting (seemingly last minute) with those people he had made pre-arrangements and disallowed my fundraising efforts. Furthermore, I was attacked by this clique of people in supposed recovery as being "egocentric, narcissistic and 'patting myself on the back'" for having the fundraiser. Who are they to say what my intentions are? Right now there is a wounded vet back in the states who was completely blinded in combat and who's wife left him because she could not deal with his disability. He lives alone in housing for the disabled and I can only imagine the terror and isolation he must go through daily. You can bet your bottom dollar that this man contemplates suicide. How am I being selfish when I wish to bring people like this to paradise and let them know that people care?

The three basic tenets of AA are:

1. clean house (make restitution to those you harmed)
2. trust God
3. help others

The reason why this core group of AA members has put a stop to my attempt of helping others is because one controlling person has instigated its prohibition as it wasn't his idea.

More people than not have avoided St. John AA because of personalities; this means that more people leave AA than stay, much more; and time and again I hear it's because of the controlling behavior of this core group of people, particularly this one man.

Lastly, the people referred to in this article know who they are and will clamor that I violated Tradition Eleven: not true, Tradition Eleven protects personal anonymity and I mentioned no names. I maybe engaging in controversy, and even seemingly guilty of what I criticize, however the core group of Cruz Bay AA has left me no choice but to respond in this way as I am totally defenseless against their tactics; I am going to defend the AA recovery program by any means necessary.

Very Sincerely,
Ted K

(It is against AA guidelines to use last names; this is to protect the program in case somebody relapses)

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Letters to St. John Tradewinds

Not In Our Backyard, Senators!

There is startling information within the Information Packet submitted by Alpine to the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) that must be discussed.

This particular concern has flown under the radar and probably for good cause. Or because the other components of the Alpine Project are so alarming that we didn't tackle this issue; however, it is about time that this issue comes front and center.

The major concern is what will be done with the ash substance from the pet coke fired plants. Ash is as problematic as wastewater discharge, air quality concerns, and lack of transparency.

Ash management is going to be a huge problem. A few senators along with WAPA executive director Hugo Hodge and Paul Chakroff visited a pet coke fired plant in Jacksonville, Florida. Even though the pet coke fired plant appeared to be operating in compliance, it was reported to this writer by several of the members of the group, that they saw a pile of ash the size of a pyramid!

They were "deeply concerned" by what they observed. Why would a pile of ash, the size of a pyramid, in Jacksonville, Florida, cause deep concerns? This writer does not believe there is a structure the size of a pyramid in the Virgin Islands, so if the size of the pile of ash "was cause for concern," we are in for a rude awakening.

In addition to the 30 acres of fragile coast line that is currently under consideration by the 28th legislature for this project, Alpine will need additional acreage to facilitate the "temporary and permanent storage sites" for this venture.

Where can Alpine place a storage container that can store 3,000 tons of ash in the Virgin Islands? Mr. Hixon, Mr. Beach, Mr. Hurd and the other managers of Alpine along with the executives at WAPA should come clean with the residents of our beautiful territory and fully report every aspect of the pet coke burning plants and tell us where they plan to place the "temporary and permanent" storage sites for the ash before the lease agreement is discussed anymore!

Committee members Craig Barshinger, Michael Thurland, Samuel Sanes, Louis Hill, Shawn Malone, Neville James and Nellie O'Reilly analyze the section above and do not approve this lease which might place one of these sites in your constituencies backyard and you will never hear the end of your decision.

Each resident that is not in favor of having a "temporary ash silo or a permanent disposal site" placed in your backyard, community or anywhere in the Virgin Islands — contact the senators listed above ASAP at 340-774-0880, which is the phone number of the legislature, and demand that the lease

planned for St. Thomas be terminated!

In addition you can also write to the Senators at: 28th legislature P.O. Box 1690, St. Thomas U.S.V.I. 00804. We must call and write starting today because the final hearing for the Alpine lease agreement will be scheduled between March 6 and March 12, on the island of St. Thomas.

Encourage your family, friends, co-workers and grassroots organizations to join in and participate with us.

To my many wonderful friends who live on St. John and St. Croix and cares about the health of the people, the health of the environment, and social justice, show your full support for our endeavor and participate.

The Alpine lease agreement is not a St. Thomas problem, it is a Virgin Islands problem! We are well within our rights as tax paying, free residents of this territory.

These projects are bigger than the proposed plan and our community needs to see the entire scope of this project, in its entirety. There is no way our community can effectively examine this project without all of the information in front of us.

The Alpine project will continue to be the focus of our attention as long as legitimate questions are left unanswered.

Clarence Payne
St. Thomas resident

Thanks from Kazumi and Tiareh

Dear Purple Hair Fund/St. John Revolving Fund,

I tried to express my feelings at the time of Rolf's memorial.

Since Angels with wings held his hand, I realized

that I was surrounded by Angels on Earth all along.

Thank you very much for your kind support.

Sincerely,
Kazumi and Tiareh

A Cause for Celebration

I have just read, with great interest and cautious optimism, the quote in last week's paper from EPA Regional Administrator, Judith Enck.

She states, "...the V.I. needs a comprehensive recycling program. It's crazy to be burying recyclable and reusable materials, especially ones that have value."

Of course, we've all known this for many years but to hear a top U.S. government official say this is cause for celebration. But only if she follows through.

A major reason we have not had a comprehen-

sive recycling program is because of the economics of shipping it all off island to an appropriate facility. Perhaps now we will get the needed subsidization from the federal government to accomplish this on an on going, forever basis.

Indeed it would be a day to celebrate when the Virgin Islands can join the rest of the US in the 21st century with a complete recycling program. Then maybe we won't "need" that pet coke plant.

Deborah Ramsay

St. John Tradewinds Keeping Track

2009 TO-DATE

Homicide: 1
Solved: 0

Shootings: 0
Under Investigation: 0
Solved: 0

Stabbings: 0
Under Investigation: 0
Solved: 0

Armed Robberies: 5
Under Investigation: 5
Solved: 0

Arsons: 0
Under Investigation: 0
Solved: 0

1st Degree Burglaries: 6
Under Investigation: 6
Solved: 1

2nd Degree Burglaries: 17
Under Investigation: 16
Solved: 1

3rd Degree Burglaries: 70
Under Investigation: 66
Solved: 4

Grand Larcenies: 67
Under Investigation: 64
Solved: 3

Rapes: 1
Under Investigation: 1
Solved: 0

2010 TO-DATE

Homicide: 0
Solved: 0

Shootings: 0
Under Investigation: 0
Solved: 0

Stabbings: 0
Under Investigation: 0
Solved: 0

Armed Robberies: 0
Under Investigation: 0
Solved: 0

Arsons: 0
Under Investigation: 0
Solved: 0

1st Degree Burglaries: 0
Under Investigation: 0
Solved: 0

2nd Degree Burglaries: 2
Under Investigation: 2
Solved: 0

3rd Degree Burglaries: 6
Under Investigation: 4
Solved: 2

Grand Larcenies: 9
Under Investigation: 7
Solved: 2

Rapes: 0
Under Investigation: 0
Solved: 0

St. John Tradewinds' Keeping Track data comes from the V.I. Police Department's Leander Jurgen Command Incident Log, an unofficial record of calls to the station, reports and arrests on St. John.

Alcoholics Anonymous Meetings

Alcoholics Anonymous meets as scheduled: Sundays, 9:45 a.m. at Hawksnest Bay Beach; Closed meeting for alcoholic only at Nazareth Lutheran Church at 5:30 on Tuesdays; Open meetings on Mondays, Wednesdays and Fridays at 6 p.m. at Nazareth Lutheran Church in Cruz Bay; Tuesdays, Thursdays and Saturdays at 6 p.m. at Moravian Church, Coral Bay.

Narcotics Anonymous Meetings

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

Al-Anon Meetings

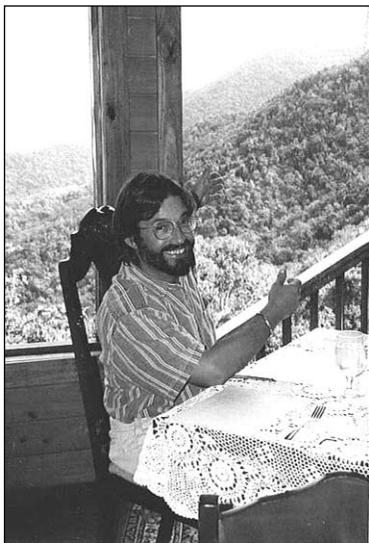
Al-Anon meets on St. John every Tuesday at 1 p.m. at the picnic table at the VINP ball field, and every Thursday at 5:30 p.m. at St. Ursula's Multi-purpose center.

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.

Obituary

Frank Tucker



Twenty year St. John resident Frank Tucker passed away January 30, 2010, in a Des Moines, Iowa hospital after contracting pneumonia.

During his first years on the island (arriving right after Hurricane Hugo), he worked in construction, then began to write very successful Apple computer software programs for island retail businesses. He also did computer repairs, and CAD drafting of many construction projects. He is survived by his brother Steve and his mother Mary Ann Tucker, both of Des Moines, and many St. John friends.

Julius E. Sprauve School Gala Is April 10 at Caneel Bay Resort

St. John Tradewinds

The 13th Annual Julius E. Sprauve School Benefit Gala will be on Saturday, April 10, at Caneel Bay Resort.

The theme this year "Building a Brighter Tomorrow by Caring, Nurturing and Education our Children." Funds raised at the gala will benefit the school's fitness center, marquee, elementary school playground and annual scholarship fund.

As usual, raffle tickets and silent auction prizes will be available for purchase. Any businesses or organizations interested in donating products, services or merchandise should contact Clemeana Duncan or Ivy Scatliffe at JESS at 776-6336.

Princess/Prince Contestants Sought

The Festival and Cultural Organization of St. John is seeking couples interested in vying for the title of St. John Festival Prince and Princess 2010-2011.

Contestants must be 7 to 11 years of age, have a 2.5 academic average and be residents of the St. Thomas/St. John district. Interested couples can pick up applications at the St. John Tourism Office. For more information call 626-0785.

Festival Organization Seeking Miss St. John Contestants for 2010

The Festival and Cultural Organization of St. John is seeking young ladies interested in vying for the title of Miss St. John Festival Queen 2010-2011.

Contestants must be 16 to 21 years of age, have a 2.5 academic average, a resident of the St. Thomas/St. John district and never been pregnant. Interested young ladies can pick up applications at the St. John Tourism Office. For more information call 626-0785.

Tune Into Flames Radio at 1340 AM

Feel the warmth and share the love from Love City St. John with Flames Radio, which airs on Tuesdays at 6:30 p.m. on WSTA 1340 A.M..

Hosted by Quiz and Dr. Monica Boyd-Richards, the show covers health, education, crime, current events, globalization, government and more. Call in at 774-1340 to join the discussion. For advertising information call 998-1054 or 774-5110.

Cultural Diversity Grants Available

St. John Tradewinds

The V.I. Humanities Council announces its deadline of March 1 to apply for a new offering of cultural diversity grants available to non-profit organizations.

Applications examining the theme, "Building Community, Celebrating Diversity," will take preference above all others during the council's regular January and March grant cycles.

A total of \$18,000 will be awarded. Mini-grants up to \$3,500 and major grants up to \$7,500 are due March 1. Mini-grant projects must be completed by May.

"Building Community, Celebrating Diversity" is an initiative the council is launching to provide a forum for dialogue amongst our diverse population on how disciplines within the humanities and social sciences can help to unify and rebuild our society.

Guidelines and application forms are available online at www.vihumanities.org. For more information call 776-4044.

Concerns on Self Governance, Parking and More

Continued from Page 3

explained Tapia. The DPNR director of environmental enforcement estimated 65 percent of boats in Coral Bay would leave the territory once the new rules come into effect.

St. John resident Steve Black raised his concern over Governor John deJongh's recent veto of the portion of the omnibus bill which would have removed solid waste collection and disposal from the authorized uses of the St. John Capital Improvement Fund.

Hill, Barshinger and Senator Patrick Simeon Sprauve encouraged the audience to call their senators urging them to override the veto.

"Call every senator," said Barshinger. "We'll override this."

Under questioning by residents, DPNR Commissioner Bob Mathes divulged information on the new St. John planner, including his name - T. Stuart Smith.

"The St. John planner will be on island in the next two weeks, and he expects to hit the ground

running," said Mathes. "He was thoroughly vetted as it relates to his experience. I hope and pray everything will work nicely."

Smith is a young single man from North Carolina who is both personable and very hands-on, Mathes added.

Also present at the meeting were Department of Education Deputy Commissioner Donna Gregory, St. John Administrator Leona Smith and Housing, Parks and Recreation Commissioner St. Clair Williams.

Crossword Answers — Puzzle on Page 18

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Tropical Trees Book by T. Kent Kirk

Continued from Page 9



Author Kent Kirk

works and what doesn't. I got most of the information on medicinal uses from government and university organizations so it should be accurate."

"But I do not advocate trying any of the folk uses," Kirk said.

The whole point of the book is to make it easy for anyone to use, Kirk added.

"We wanted the average person be able to easily identify a tree in five to 10 minutes and I think

we've done it," he said. "The book definitely fills a void in the Virgin Islands. I don't think there has ever been an attempt to compile this information in such an easy-to-use format."

"The book is both technically accurate and entertaining to read," said Kirk.

"Tropical Trees of Florida and the Virgin Islands," will be available on St. John at Papaya Cafe soon, or check for it at any major online bookseller.

Almost \$19 Million in DPW Capital Projects on St. John

St. John Tradewinds

More than a half-dozen capital improvement projects are on schedule for the island of St. John, according to Department Public Works Commissioner Darryl Smalls.

"There is a lot of work taking place on St. John by several agencies and a number of these projects are ready to be launched," Smalls said in a press release. "Several of these projects have been dormant for many years and my goal is to ensure that each project moves forward in an efficient manner."

St. John Market and Parking Facility

The Department of Planning and Natural Resources, the V.I. Port Authority and the Office of the St. John Administrator have coordinated the development of the St. John Fish Market. One CZM application will be filed for the development of both the interim parking solution and the fish market.

The design, which will include plans and specifications, is being finalized and readied for submission to the CZM and for public bidding. Construction is slated to begin in the third quarter of this year and a total of \$2.2 million is available for both projects. Remaining funds will be utilized for architectural and engineering services towards the development of a permanent parking facility.

Revitalization of Frank Powell Park

The Department of Public Works in collaboration with the St. John Administrator has completed the final review of plans and specifications for the revital-

ization of Frank Powell Park. Advertisements for bids will take place shortly for this \$300,000 project.

Bordeaux Mountain/Bethany/John Heads Road

By the end of March, DPW will commence work on Bordeaux Mountain Road. This work is estimated at \$1.2 million. Additionally, in the third quarter of this year, work will commence on both the Bethany Road and the Kings Hill Road. Both projects are estimated at just over \$1 million.

Route 104/Development of Bus Shelters

In September 2009, DPW broke ground for the first ARRA funded project in the territory. This project, on Route 104 in St. John, includes road construction, overlay of the pavement, drainage improvements, installation of guard rails and new signage on 2.8 miles of Route 104.

A contract was awarded in the amount \$3.5 million of which \$940,000 of the total cost is being allocated to seven local contractors who qualify under the Disadvantaged Business Enterprise program.

Four bus shelters on St. John will be renovated through funds received from ARRA-related grants. Stone Masonry, Inc. was selected to perform this work at a cost of \$150,000. Work will commence by the end of March.

Cruz Bay Round About

The project in Cruz Bay is about 90 percent completed. The federally-funded project began in August 2008. At a cost of \$6.9 million, Island Roads is slated

Continued from Page 21

Crime Stoppers USVI Crimes of the Week

St. John Tradewinds

Crime Stoppers is asking the community's help to solve the following crimes. Even the smallest bit of information may be just what law enforcement needs to solve these cases.

St. John

Sometime after 9 p.m. on February 3, a burglar(s) entered a home in Fish Bay while the occupants slept, stealing an iPod. Please help police identify and arrest the individual.

St. Thomas

Police need additional information to identify the killer(s) of a male who was shot to death in the area of PMP basketball court on December 19, 2009, at about 5:40 a.m.

St. Croix

VIPD needs the community's help to identify the person(s) involved in the homicides of 20-year-old Akeem Lee, who was shot on King Street in Frederiksted on January 4; 31-year-old Gary Gonsalves and 16-year-old Charlesworth Gonsalves Jr. who were shot at Mutual Homes on February 3.

Please help law enforcement to solve not only the four homicides above, but any of the other unsolved homicides in the territory. The community's

help will provide closure to the victims' families while sending a message to the lawless element that we no longer tolerate crime in the USVI.

Community members can submit tips to Crime Stoppers USVI at 1-800-222-TIPS (8477). The tips are completely anonymous, and the stateside operators are bilingual. Tipsters can also submit tips online at www.CrimeStoppersUSVI.org or by texting "USVI" plus the message to CRIMES (274637).

If a tip leads to an arrest or the recovery of stolen property, illegal drugs, or weapons, the tipster receives a cash reward to be paid according to their instructions. Only anonymous callers to Crime Stoppers are eligible for these cash rewards.

Crime Stoppers is pleased to report they have recently authorized three rewards totaling \$3,177. Anyone who submitted a tip, should check to see if they are entitled to a cash reward, as unclaimed rewards expire six months after the award date.

Crime Stoppers USVI is run entirely by volunteers and is financed by membership dues and sponsor contributions. To join them in the fight against crime, please visit their web site at www.CrimeStoppersUSVI.org and become a dues-paying member.

St. John Police Report

Saturday, February 6

(Omitted) 10:15 p.m. – Shamba James of Estate Grunwald requested the help of the police. Police Assistance.

Sunday, February 7

00:07 a.m. – One George Johnbaptiste was present and reported he was assaulted by an adult female at W&W in Cruz Bay. Simple Assault.

No Time. (07:00-15:00) – Woman reported that her villa home was broken into. Second Degree Burglary.

6:52 p.m. – Enighed man reported an auto accident in the area of his residence.

8:37 p.m. – Tyler Edgar Batten of Est. Fish Bay under arrest and charged with driving under the influence. Bail was set at \$1,000 by order of the court. He was later remanded to the Bureau of Corrections upon failing to post said bail. DUI.

Monday, February 8

9:08 a.m. – Police assistance requested with an individual at Sloop Jones. Disturbance of the Peace.

10:12 a.m. – Police assistance requested in the area of Public works. Damage or tampering with a vehicle.

12:56 p.m. – Robert Tis Jr. of Cruz Bay present and reporting he lost his wallet with important documents, area unknown. Lost Wallet.

12:56 p.m. – Glen Marsh called to report she was assaulted in the area of Love City Mini Mart in Coral Bay.

(Omitted) 3:22 p.m. – Central Dispatch called and stated that someone was motionless in the water over at Privateer Bay. Coral Bay. DOA.

Tuesday, February 9

8:34 a.m. – Man called to report that on February 1 he found a ziploc bag containing an unknown substance. Recovered Narcotics.

9:36 a.m. – Christopher Wagener present retrieving some ammunition at Jurgen Command. Police Assistance.

8:57 p.m. – Woman of Es-

tate Enighed present to report that her brother entered into her home. Burglary 3 (DV).

10:59 p.m. – Woman of Estate Grunwald reported a disturbance in her home. Aggravated Assault and Battery.

Tuesday, February 9

1:36 a.m. – Peter C. Laurencin of Estate Grunwald under arrest and charged with Aggravated Assault and Battery (DV). No bail was set. He was later transferred to the Bureau of Corrections for detention. Aggravated Assault and Battery.

1:38 a.m. – Bianca Laurencin of Estate Grunwald under arrest and charged with Assault and Battery (DV). No bail was set. She was later transferred to the Bureau of Corrections for detention. Assault and Battery (DV).

Wednesday, February 10

7:54 a.m. – Central Dispatch called to report an auto accident in the area of Starfish Market.

8:00 a.m. – Kenneth Louis of Estate Grunwald reported a problem at the Cruz Bay Taxi Stand. Police Assistance.

Thursday, February 11

3:02 p.m. – Concerned citizen called to report an auto accident in the area of Zootenval.

Friday, February 12

2:31 a.m. – Citizen reported a male was stabbed at The Quiet Mon Pub. Third Degree Assault.

2:16 p.m. – Man from Caneel Bay Resort Gift Shop reported a customer destroyed items in the store and refused to pay for same.

9:15 p.m. – Badge 255 present with Trevor Warner of Estate Enighed under arrest and charged with Third Degree Assault. Bail was set at \$25,000 by order of the court. He was later remanded to the Bureau of Corrections.

Saturday, February 13

1:12 a.m. – Nurse at Myrah Keating Smith Community Health Center called and reported an assault.

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, February 16

Department of Tourism Commissioner Beverly Nicholson-Doty will be the guest speaker at the St. John Chapter of the St. Thomas/St. John Chamber of Commerce's meeting on Tuesday night, February 16, at the Cruz Bay Battery at 5:30 p.m.

Wednesday, February 17

V.I. Delegate to Congress Donna Christensen is hosting a listening session on St. John on Wednesday, February 17, at the Cruz Bay Legislature building from 6:30 to 8:30 p.m.

Thursday, February 18

St. John Film Society will welcome visiting filmmaker Marta Bautis on Thursday, February 18, at The Marketplace in Cruz Bay, with a screening of her film "Sarayaku: Rivers of Corn," at 7 p.m.

Saturday, February 20

The St. John Historical Society will host a benefit aboard the historic 110-foot steel schooner Silver Cloud on Saturday, February 20. Tickets are \$90 per person, which includes a catered picnic lunch and complimentary soft drinks and water all day. Meet at the dinghy dock in Coral Bay, behind Skinny's at 9:30 a.m. Tickets are available at Connections.

The St John Film Society, in conjunction with Janet Cook-Rutnik and William Stelzer, will present the V.I. Productions Mini Film Festival on Saturday, February 20, at the St. John School of the Arts starting at 8 p.m.

Saturday, February 27

An incredible lineup of local bands will rock the Winston Wells ballfield starting at noon on Saturday, February 27, in support of Haiti earthquake relief efforts.

Myrah Keating Smith Community Health Center is offering free cervical cancer screenings on Saturday, February 27, from 9 a.m. to 3 p.m.

Saturday, March 6

The Virgin Islands Audubon Society's annual plant sale will be on Saturday, March 14, from 9 a.m. to 1 p.m. in the Frank Powell Sr. Park in Cruz Bay.

Saturday, March 13

Giff Hill School's 24th Annual Dinner Auction will be Saturday, March 13, at the Westin Resort.

The Reichhold Center for the Arts continues its 2010 season with the conscious sounds of the United Kingdom's award winning reggae band Steel Pulse on Saturday, March 13, at 8 p.m.

March 17-21

Steve Simon's eighth annual blues festival will rock St. John from March 17 through 21.

Saturday, March 20

The Coral Bay Yacht Club is hosting the almost annual flotilla to benefit Guy Benjamin School on Saturday, March 20, at Miss Vie's Campground on the East End.

Saturday, April 10

Julius E. Sprauve School Fundraising Gala will take place on Saturday, April 10, at Caneel Bay Resort.

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PREMIER Crossword

By Frank A. Longo

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	17	18	
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HAPPY

VALENTINE'S DAY

ACROSS

- 1 Chinese chef's pan
- 4 Makes calm
- 10 Printing mistakes
- 16 Touch gently
- 19 "Joyful Girl" singer DiFranco
- 20 Classic baseball-themed poem
- 22 "You — here"
- 23 The ACLU works to protect them: Abbr.
- 24 Danielle Steel's work
- 25 Male, e.g.
- 26 Track-and-field event
- 28 Stop along a bus rte.
- 29 Big name in small planes
- 31 False earnestness
- 32 Ewe's partner
- 35 Giant conflict
- 38 Fake identity
- 39 Record producer Brian
- 40 Smooth shift
- 42 Stand for a painting
- 44 Punch-in-the-gut response
- 45 Livid
- 46 Wet impact sounds
- 47 "Ars — artis" (MGM motto)
- 49 Negative responses
- 51 Shirt part
- 52 Super-suspenseful
- 54 "... or — thought"
- 55 Gun lobby org.
- 56 First full mo. of fall

- 57 Dresses of India
- 58 Spy gp.
- 59 Potato chip brand
- 60 Cartoonist Browne
- 61 Leave — (reward the waiter)
- 63 "That's right"
- 64 Carnival shelter
- 65 Wizards' org.
- 66 Night before a holiday
- 67 1957 Mickey & Sylvia hit
- 70 Small dollop
- 71 Glorify
- 73 Quietude
- 74 Eyebrow curves
- 75 Corridor
- 76 High peaks, to François
- 78 Move out of the way
- 82 Card game expert
- 83 Sounds of relief
- 85 In a brainy way
- 86 Recreation
- 87 Bend, as light
- 91 Defendants' opponents
- 92 Italian port
- 96 Actress/model Angie
- 98 "7 Faces of Dr. —" (1964 film)
- 99 Sharp-toothed reef dweller
- 100 Richard of "Mr. Jones"
- 101 Toronto Maple —
- 103 Bright night lights
- 105 Ran, as dye
- 106 Food writer Rombauer
- 107 1970 Julie Andrews musical film
- 109 Helps
- 110 Fermented beverages
- 112 Motion sickness medi-

- cine
 - 113 Cub Scout leader
 - 114 Cosmetics magnate Lauder
 - 115 Citrus drinks
 - 116 Tear down
 - 117 Gawk
 - 118 First garden
 - 119 Loch —
 - 120 That is, to Cato
- ### DOWN
- 1 Hospital sections
 - 2 Not a late touchdown
 - 3 End a fight, as spouses
 - 4 Rugby play
 - 5 Resort in New Mexico
 - 6 Doctrine
 - 7 Untilled field
 - 8 Actress Jodi — O'Keefe
 - 9 Pouchlike body parts
 - 10 Sicilian erupter
 - 11 Pi's follower
 - 12 Amp (up)
 - 13 "Honest" president
 - 14 Soft powder
 - 15 Offshore
 - 16 Two weeks before Easter
 - 17 Indoor contact sport
 - 18 El Paso site
 - 21 — offensive
 - 27 — -Magnon
 - 30 — -mo
 - 32 Kinsmen
 - 33 Culture base
 - 34 Mongrels
 - 35 Contorts
 - 36 PDQ cousin
 - 37 Reserved quality
 - 40 Record producer Phil

- 41 Elia works
- 42 Vain one
- 43 Inside layers
- 45 Nelson of South Africa
- 46 Sandbank site
- 48 Striped marble
- 50 Fairly large
- 53 "— bien!"
- 62 Nuisances
- 64 Late
- 68 Particulars
- 69 Train track components
- 72 Start of a columnist's reply
- 75 Like some glazed hams
- 77 Persian king
- 79 "You Can Call Me Al" singer
- 80 Zone
- 81 Samson or Hercules
- 82 Luau dance
- 84 Burn with steam
- 86 Iranian language
- 87 Forms of government
- 88 Very high peak
- 89 "Hold this note" musical symbol
- 90 Foot pedal
- 92 Having no male offspring
- 93 Ease up
- 94 Syringe tips
- 95 Seasoned sailor
- 97 Topped with paving gunk
- 99 Des —, Iowa
- 102 Sweetheart
- 104 Slur over
- 108 Indian bread
- 111 Set eyes on
- 113 Old foe of Frazier

Classifieds

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Ferry Schedules

CRUZ BAY TO RED HOOK	
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Every hour on the hour from 6 a.m. to 12 a.m.	
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8:45 a.m.	10 a.m.
11:15 a.m.	1 p.m.
3:45 p.m.	5:30 p.m.

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Almost \$19 Million in DPW Capital Projects on St. John

Continued from Page 17

to complete work by the end of June, ahead of schedule. About \$1.3 million or approximately 20 percent of the total construction cost went to local contractors under Disadvantaged Business Enterprise program.

Ferry Boats

During this month, DPW will publicly advertise for the design and construction of two new passenger ferryboats. Funding has been realized through a grant award in the amount of \$3 million. The new vessels are expected during the latter part of this year.

St. John School

The Virgin Islands Government received a \$200,000 grant award from the Department of Interior for the development of a new school on St. John. The funding will go towards establishing program and schematic designs for the school. DPW will advertise for bids this month.

St. John Ambulance Boat

The Department of Health has solicited bids for a state-of-the-art ambulance boat. This vessel will have the capacity to perform in all types of weather and off-shore conditions. This vessel will reduce response time while improving on rescue operations, maneuverability and will have the capacity to access shallow bays and various inlets along the St. John coastline. A vendor should be selected by the end of March 2010.

St. John Recreation Center

The Department of Housing, Parks and Recreation is presently developing plans and specifications for the development of the St.

St. John Capital Projects

- St. John Market and Parking Facility \$2,200,000
- Revitalization of Frank Powell Park \$300,000
- Bordeaux Mountain/Bethany/John Head's Road \$2,200,000
- Route 104 \$3,500,000
- Bus Shelters \$150,000
- Cruz Bay Roundabout \$6,900,000
- Ferryboats \$3,000,000
- St. John School \$200,000
- St. John Recreation Center \$250,000

Total \$18,700,000

John Recreation Center. About \$250,000 has been allotted for this project.

Smalls also said last week that almost daily work is continuing on the patching of Centerline Road, improving overall traffic safety and making road shoulder repairs. A couple of the scenic vistas on St. John have been reopened, he added.

"The deJongh-Francis administration has undertaken more than \$18 million in capital projects on St. John and I intend to update the community, especially the residents of St. John, on these various projects that will be taking shape in the next few months," Smalls said.

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NEW LISTING



● **2.1 WATERFRONT ACRES ON LOVANGO!** 420 feet of waterfront! Ultra private location and unobstructed panoramic views from St. John, across Pillsbury Sound to St. Thomas. Currently sub-divided into 3 lots, can be 4 lots. TREMENDOUS VALUE! \$1,300,000

NEW LISTING



● **Great opportunity!** Great value! Fantastic, panoramic water views from this home high above Fish Bay in private location. Use as single family two level 4BR 2BA home or split into two units of 1BR 1BA upstairs and 3BR 1BA downstairs. Expansive decks. Cool breezes. Just \$675,000

HOMES

● **Reduced!** Income producer! Two homes with panoramic views of the Caribbean to Virgin Gorda. 1BR 2BA and 1BR 1BA. Now just \$750,000.

REDUCED



● **Drastic reduction!** This popular 3br, 3ba vacation villa with great Caribbean flair has amazing panoramic water views. Now only \$895,000.

REDUCED



● **"Sibella" SOLD!** 5BR 5BA Solid masonry Villa in gated community. Reduced to \$1,800,000.

● **REDUCED! Bonus!** Private well maintained home in Coral Bay with an EXTRA LOT! Only \$382,500.
 ● **Lower Peter Bay** 4br, 4.5ba villa exceptionally furnished with large pool just steps away from a secluded white sandy beach. \$6,000,000.
 ● **Fish Bay** Great value with this 4BR 2BA home. Use as 2 units or keep as 1 home. Large decks w/panoramic views. Only \$675,000

CONDOMINIUMS

● **REDUCED!** Sunset Ridge-1st floor masonry 1BR 1BA unit with fantastic views and breezes. Pool access. Only \$254,500

UNDER CONTRACT



● **Must see!** Reduced to sell! This 2br, 1.5ba unit is just one mile from Cruz Bay. Amazing sunset water views, oversized veranda and huge pool. \$450,000.

REDUCED



● **NEW LISTING!** Conch Villas-2 bedroom 1 bath w/ocean & sunset views. Walk to town. Just \$289,000!
 ● **REDUCED!** Why rent? Penthouse 1BR 1 BA unit with vaulted ceilings, views & breezes. Only \$274,500

LAND

● **REDUCED!** Two lots 0.50+/- acres each. One boasts 150' of sand/coral beachfront and adjacent lot maintains its own deeded beach path access. Only \$899,000.
 ● **Bargain!** Lowest priced parcel in Chocolate Hill! Water view, 0.74 acres. Plans and expired permits. Just \$125,000.

● **Sub-divisible** parcel near Cruz Bay. Water view over Pillsbury Sound. \$380,000.
 ● **18 acres** and 29 sub-divided lots. Reticulated with most road paved. Call in for details.
 ● **Waterfront!** A rare opportunity in Privateer Bay. A Deal at \$875,000.

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"Coyaba" means heavenly in the Arawak language & this newly constructed 3 bedroom home is just that. On a flat one acre lot, this home offers water views of the Caribbean & the bay below. The large open-style great room, kitchen & dining area plus 3 bedrooms are on one level. Enjoy the sounds of the surf together with breezy trade winds from your pool deck. Includes deeded beach rights. Priced to sell **\$4,413,000**



"Adeste" - A beautiful new vacation rental home with great views to East End, Hurricane Hole & Coral Bay. Tradewind breezes & spectacular sunrises enhance this beautifully built mission style home. Features include extensive covered decks on all levels, 3 private bedrooms with marble tile baths, private access to a owner/caretaker/ apartment, & a large pool with spacious sun deck. **\$1.75M**



"The Castle" is a one-of-a-kind property with a startling vista that few homes can match. A secluded enclave bordering National Park lands, this villa was lovingly hand-built by the designer over eight years. Since it's completion in 1995 this treasure has become a popular rental. Words nor pictures can describe the other-worldly feeling of romance, spirit and magic that is St. John's little castle. **\$1,485,000.00**



"Fish Beach" - New Mediterranean Style 2 bedroom luxury pool villa located in Cocoloba Beach Estates, an intimate & private neighborhood with community beach parcel & dock bordering the National Park near Reef Bay yet close to all the amenities of Cruz Bay. Villa features premium finishes including travertine floors, tile roof, antique brick & coral patios, cook's kitchen with stone countertops & stainless steel appliances and luxurious baths. **Unbeatable value at only \$995,000**



"Southern Cross" - The location of this traditional Danish style stone home is about as good as it gets, offering the utmost privacy yet only a ten minute drive to Cruz Bay Town. Features include large covered porches, beautiful custom mahogany cabinets and built-in bar, exposed concrete beams and window sills and tile floors - all combine to create an elegant atmosphere. Cooling breezes and water views on an almost level lot with room to add a pool or spa. **\$1.395M**



Shopping Center - Business opportunity in this 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.



"Mango Terrace Condos" - Michael Milne designed condos just completed in Cruz Bay. 2,3 & 4, bedrooms available, A/C, walk to Frank Bay beach and town. Water views, high quality appliances. These are some of the most spacious condos on St. John. Only 20% down. Fantastic views from St. Thomas to St. Croix and the St. James islands. Just six units in the complex. Special pre-construction prices: **\$825,000 to \$1.35M** Contact Islandia for details. **Time is now for a great buy!!**



"Seashore Allure" - New waterfront condos that set a higher bar for quality on St. John. Just completed, these are a "must see". Features include travertine tiles, hardwood floors, native stone work, graceful arches framing water views, custom cabinets, spa jet tubs, high end appliances, & twice fired Brazilian clay roof tiles. Sounds of the surf, easterly breezes & beachfront location make a tropical dream come true.

"EAST END POINT" - The eastern most point of St. John is now for sale. This estate sized lot is over 5 acres and has several natural building sites and unlimited views to the British Virgins from Tortola to Virgin Gorda, Fallen Jerusalem, Salt, Cooper, Ginger, Peter and Norman Islands. Located within **"THE POINT AT PRIVATEER"** St. John's newest upscale subdivision with minimum lot sizes of 1 acre, paved roads and underground utilities. **\$4.5M**



"ZOOTENVAAL COTTAGES" A unique St. John property with 850' of waterfront, including a white powder sand beach. Almost 5 acres at pristine Hurricane Hole, a National Marine Monument, on beautiful Borck Creek. There are 4 short term rental cottages on the property. Cottages are masonry construction and in excellent condition. One is right on the beach. **\$12M** Adjoining 20 acre parcel is also available.

NEW LISTING - Large lot in Upper Carolina with panoramic views of the British Virgins, Hurricane Hole, Coral Bay, and the Caribbean Sea. High elevation, cool tradewind breezes and a downhill build. Paved road access and deeded beach access at Johnson's Bay. Priced to sell at **\$199,000**

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

CBR HOME LISTINGS

LUMINARIA - Luxurious ridge-top villa with incredible views of North shore and down island. Large pool with waterfall, 3 bedroom/ bath suites, 4 car garage, gated entry, beautiful furnishings and landscaping, vacation rental history. \$2,495,000.

PERELANDRA - Excellent 2 bd/2 bath rental villa high above Cruz Bay. Stunning water views, privacy, lovely pool set in lush gardens. A good buy at \$1,050,000.

CHOCOLATE HOLE - Masonry 2 bd/2 bath home w/ carport/workshop, on an absolutely gorgeous 0.86 acre lot with panoramic views. End of the road privacy. \$975,000.

CALYPSO del SOL - Very successful rental villa w/ excellent views of Chocolate Hole Bay & St. James islands. Newer masonry home with 3 bedrooms / 3 baths, large screened porch, A/C, beautiful pool & hot tub. \$1,950,000.

NAUTILUS - Dramatic WATERFRONT setting on Maria Bluff. 3 bd/2 bath masonry villa w/ large wraparound veranda, spa, sunrise to sunset views, 1.25 acre, tile roof, circular drive. \$1,495,000.

SEASCAPE - Fantastic location on Bovovoap Pt! Spacious 2 bd main house w/ lap pool, plus a separate caretaker's cottage. Panoramic sunset views, privacy. \$1,495,000.

AURORA - Luxurious 4 bd/4 bath masonry villa on Contant Pt. Enjoy 180° views from Great Cruz Bay to St. Thomas, great privacy, pool, multiple outdoor areas, excellent vacation rental history. \$1,995,000.

VILLAROMANCE - Brand new, lux 4 bd pool villa, features exquisite design, craftsmanship, tile roof, coral flooring, columns, fountains & sunsets over Chocolate Hole Bay. \$2,999,000.

WATERFRONT WITH DOCK - Concrete 3 bd/2 bath home, on large, flat 1 ac. flat lot, with direct access the bay at your door step. Now only \$1,250,000.

CHEZ SHELL - Charming 3 bd / 3 bath, w/ gorgeous sunset views, & prime Great Cruz Bay location. This beautifully decorated, & maintained rental villa has marble floors, A/C, custom cabinetry, inviting spa & excellent floor plan. \$1,295,000.

TESSERACT - Popular 3 bdrm / 3 bath rental home w/ fantastic lap pool & views. Multiple decks, privacy & extensive landscaping. \$1,200,000.

STONE HOUSE - Unique native stone 3 bd/3 bath villa w/ covered rotunda, freeform pool, and spectacular Coral Bay views. \$1,800,000. With adjacent parcel \$2,100,000.

PLUMB GUT - 1 bd/1 bath home w/ adjacent 1X1 cottage. Lush setting on eastern side of Bordeaux. \$574,000.

BAYVIEW - Private villa bordering Natl. Park, minutes to Maho Beach. Traditional masonry design with 2 bldgs connected by pool, decks & patios. 280° views overlooking Francis Bay & North Shore + Coral Bay. \$1,695,000.

CAROLINA - Small, poured concrete, home with lovely covered wraparound deck. Flat 1/2 ac. fenced lot. \$349K.

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

WINDSONG - Stately Boatman Pt. villa, w/ separate cottage, situated on a 1ac parcel w/ panoramic views. 6 bdrms., 7 baths, huge pool, fully furnished. \$3,495,000

BORDEAUX MT. - Family home w/ 3 bd./2 baths, large porch, water view, 1/2 ac. lot w/ large trees. \$575,000.

GOLDEN DRAGON - Beautiful stone villa w/ exceptional craftsmanship. 4 bds./4 baths, infinity pool, multi patios & decks, lush gardens, Pt. Rendezvous location. \$2,195,000.

CBR CONDO LISTINGS

BETHANY CONDO - Spacious, free-standing 2 bd/2 bath unit w/ amazing views, new common pool. \$495,000.

GALLOW'S POINT CONDO - Waterfront, 1/bd/1 bath condo in resort setting. Pool, restaurant, swimmable beach, hotel amenities. \$695K.

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

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DITLEFF POINT - Extraordinary sites on magnificent peninsula w/ sandy beach, gated entry, beautiful landscaping, and incredible views. Prices start at \$895,000.

KLEIN BAY - Small upscale neighborhood, gorgeous views, commonly owned beach. \$799K & \$995K.

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CRUZ BAY TOWN - Walk to Frank Bay, R-4 zoning. \$249K.

CHOCOLATE HOLE - Water views, 1/2 ac. \$299K & \$379K.

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POINT RENDEZVOUS - Outstanding views. \$375K & \$415K.

LEINSTER BAY - 2 lots on Johnny Horn Trail. \$225K & \$329K.

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

GREAT CRUZ BAY - 1.05 acre site w/ fantastic harbor views & architectural plans. Walk to dingy landing. \$895,000.

FLANAGAN'S PASSAGE - 2 beautiful sites. \$299K - \$350K.

ESTATE FISH BAY - Many parcels to choose from, starting at \$165K. Call US for a complete list.

ESTATE CAROLINA/EMMAUS - Time to buy. Affordable lots, with water views, \$95K and up.

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<p>"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.</p> <p>\$1,275,000</p>	<p>"COCONUTS" 3X3 GIFFT HILL VILLA impressive water views to St. Thomas, good breezes, Caribbean style with center courtyard & pool, large covered gazebo, lush landscaping and a flat yard!</p> <p>\$995,000</p>	<p>"LITTLE PLANTATION" IS A BEST BUY! 4 bedroom private rental home awesome down island & Coral Bay views! Turn key! Originally \$1,700,000 now priced to sell.</p> <p>\$899,000</p>	<p>"FISH BAY" 4X2 INCREDIBLE VALUE! Huge panoramic views and a quiet, private, breezy location that borders Nature Conservancy property make this home a must see!</p> <p>\$425,000</p>	<p>"CONCH VILLAS": Why pay rent? Opportunity to own a 2br, 1ba &/or a 1br, 1ba condo close to Cruz Bay! Purchase one for yourself and stop throwing money away on rent or purchase both for additional income.</p> <p>\$225,000 & \$240,000</p>	<p>UNIQUE OPPORTUNITY to own an ENTIRE YEAR at the Westin in a deluxe 2 bdrm townhouse unit. This turn-key investment opportunity has a proven rental history.</p> <p>\$1,150,000</p>

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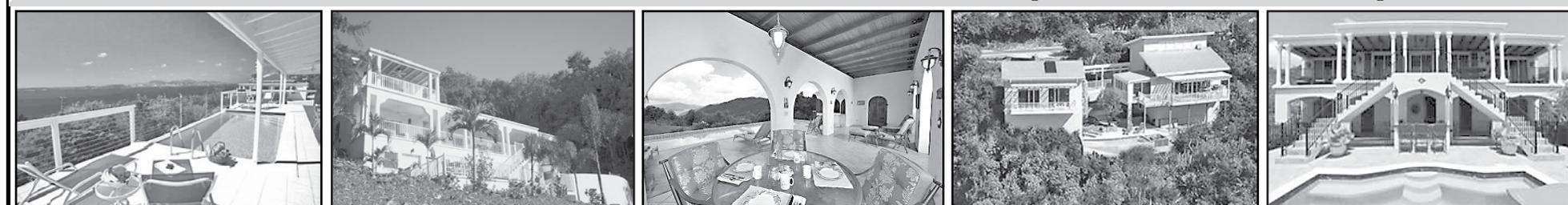
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Wooden Cat *Kekoa* Sails on Despite Rough Waters

By Mauri Elbel
St. John Tradewinds

It hasn't been a story of continuous smooth sailing for the 50-foot wooden catamaran marked by black sails and silver hulls that sleeps in the calm waters of Little Cruz Bay.

Instead, *Kekoa's* is a story of recovery and resilience, craftsmanship and love, struggle and triumph — an epic journey that she has already managed to acquire in her short life span.

Kekoa, the truly remarkable more than two-year project crafted by shipbuilding brothers Jamison and Ryan Witbeck — was designed much like their first hand-crafted 50-foot cat *Allura* they spent five years chartering around St. John waters.

"With *Allura* we learned a lot, so went back and built a better boat for day charters with some really cool features," Jamison Witbeck said.

A step up from her beautiful sistership, *Kekoa* is crafted primarily of Okume plywood laminated with epoxy and features a glow-in-the-dark deck the brothers made by adding a powdered substance to the paint which allows the non-skid sections of the catamaran to sparkle blue after it has been exposed to sunlight.

But on her first voyage from her birth place of Charleston, South Carolina, to her home in the Virgin Islands, *Kekoa* was nearly lost within 48 hours after being entrusted to a delivery company whose captain and crew set sail despite bad weather forecasts on December 10, 2008, and then abandoned ship 275 miles from the North Carolina coast.

"They got whacked by a storm with 30-foot seas, 50-knot winds, just awful nasty cold sea spray, hail, lightening — complete craziness," Witbeck said, recalling the devastating broken satellite call he and his brother received at 7 a.m. the morning of December 12. "The captain decided that he wanted to get off the boat and abandon it 275 miles from the shore. We were totally shocked."

With everything at stake for the Witbeck brothers — the previous two years of work, their future years operating the vessel and be-



St. John Tradewinds News Photos Courtesy of *Kekoa*

Kekoa sailing on the waters off St. John.

ing the builders/owners of a nearly \$1 million catamaran now lost at sea — they tirelessly contacted salvage companies to rescue their boat, the first four of which turned them down due to bad weather conditions. Finally, they found a fifth company that took advantage of a 48-hour weather window to launch the recovery effort and allowed the Witbecks to come along.

"Our boat is missing and I am just looking at my kids and thinking I owe somebody almost \$1 million dollars and I don't have anything to show for it," Witbeck recalled. "It was so scary being knocked down like this in a bad economy."

Five days after *Kekoa* was abandoned by the delivery company, the Witbeck brothers boarded the salvage boat with a crew out of North Carolina.

After 12 hours charging out, Witbeck said they found *Kekoa* adrift in the eddies of the north bound current 103 miles through the Gulf Stream's outer wall and were able to bring the vessel back under its own power by using a beanbag as a temporary patch in a hole in the underwing.

"*Kekoa* had sailed itself back all those miles, and I am not really sure how," he said. "We turned on the engine and just drove it in instead of towing it."

With a lengthy five-page report outlining the damage — including holes in the underwing caused by the loose anchor chain slapping against the vessel in heavy seas for an entire night — the brothers had a total of \$275,000 of repairs and four months of restoration ahead of them in order to get *Kekoa* back to her original condition.

On April 15, the Witbecks set sail again, launching the 20,000 pound catamaran a half mile from their temporary boatyard in the same unconventional fashion as *Allura* — using boards to create skids and tow the vessel heavily lubricated with 160 pounds of rotten bananas.

And this time, the Witbeck brothers delivered *Kekoa* to the Virgin Islands themselves, along with their other brother Kyle, their sister, Ashleigh, and a handful of crew members.

"We handled the next delivery — we weren't going to trust anyone else to do it," Witbeck said. "It took us eight days to go from Beaufort, North Carolina, to St. Thomas and we had no problems. We were determined to make it without any mishaps."

While the Witbecks may have sailed the boat to the Virgin Islands safely, rough waters were still ahead for the brothers. After the financing was rescinded on the original \$900,000 contract to purchase *Kekoa*, the would-be buyers entered a lease purchase while they tried to secure financing.

"My brother and I were working for these guys as their captain but it wasn't really working out," Witbeck said. "They went bankrupt in the middle of the summer so after all the other stuff that had gone on, they couldn't buy the boat from us."

The Witbecks have since legally cleared themselves from the would-be buyers and the 90-passenger Coast Guard certified *Kekoa* is currently for sale.

This time around, the brothers are selling *Kekoa* as a fully-functioning business that would allow

someone to start making a profit on a truly unique Caribbean endeavor immediately.

"They have really set themselves apart from everyone else down here," said Katie Zaytoun, a crew member on *Kekoa*. "The fact that they built a wooden boat from scratch, and their stories about what they have gone through is such a unique experience. It is not the typical booze cruise — if you wanted to have an authentic, moving experience, it is on this boat."

With *Kekoa's* bookings quickly filling up for the season, Witbeck feels it won't be long until the business consumes all of his time and energy.

"We really would like to find someone who wants to sail into a working retirement," Witbeck said. "The boat is capable of grossing over a million a year in this operating area, and although that would be nice for us to enjoy, I guess we feel that we have more journeys to undertake."

Their current journey: developing and building Lost Trades, at www.losttrades.com, their newest venture consisting of adventure-based individuals that want to bring about positive social and environmental change.

The Lost Trades team is currently undertaking projects and developing films that meld environmental concerns with job skill training and real-world entrepreneurial challenges.

"The reality is that we are young enough — sitting at the helm of the boat is the best job in the world, but we still want to do more stuff," Witbeck said. "We simply can't do both — we can't run the boat and do more projects."



Brothers Ryan and Jamison Witbeck.