



THE INFORMER

INFORMATION BULLETIN OF THE ISLAND GOVERNMENT OF ST. EUSTATIUS

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Dutch civil servants supporting transition

St. Eustatius– The Dutch civil servants of the Ministry of Traffic and Water Management visited their local counterparts on Tuesday September 8th 2009, to discuss Air Traffic Control, Air Space and Airport Development after the transition. One of the topics was the condition of the servicing of the landing strip. This point needs priority in the master plan. Another issue which has the attention is the airlift to and from the island. A market scan for airlift is in the making. During their visit they met with, Planning Officer, Mr Maldwyn Timber, of Planning, Mr. Ellis Schmidt, Airport Manager, and the Executive Council. The Airdrome will remain a responsibility of the Island Government. They discussed navigation aids, airspace and airport developments . The agreement with the Executive Council is to have an approved master plan for the airport development by year end. The planning bureau in collaboration with Traffic and Water Management of the Netherlands will prepare this plan. The delegation comprised of Mr. Ton Franssen, his area is international regulation with regard to air traffic, he



Photo by Mr. Siem Dijkshoorn

was accompanied by Mr. Rene Franken, who is an expert in air traffic control from the Netherlands. From left to Right: Mr. Ellis Schmidt Mr. Rene Franken, Mr. Maldwyn Timber, Mr Ton Franssen

Preliminary Design of Water Distribution Net Presented To Stakeholders

The activity towards the preparation of the water distribution system are in full swing. In the week of September 1st 2009 the consultants Witteveen & Bos presented the preliminary design to stakeholders on Statia. These are planning buro, Domain, Drob, Fire brigade, GEBE and Eutel. A discussion was held about the design but also the

scope of the works were discussed in relation to the available budget. The budget of the European Union 9-EDF is that which will finance this entire project. In general all densely populated areas will be supplied with waterlines, including Concordia Bay Brow, Golden Rock, Cherry Tree, Town Area, Princess, (continue on page 2)

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KNOW YOUR BONES

A bone scan reveals only part of your Osteoporosis risk

During the second interview with Dr. Sharda Baboe-Kalpoë she lightened up while sharing that which she enjoys, which is talking about Health. She explained the importance of a medical doctor keeping on top of things through upgrading. She wanted to tackle so many topics at the same time but choose to talk about **osteoporosis**. She hopes by talking about the different sicknesses people become more aware and knowledgeable.

WHAT IS OSTEOPOROSIS?

It is a disease that causes bones to become thinner. Thin bones can break easily. Most people think of their bones as being solid like a rock. Actually, bone is living tissue, just like other parts of the body, such as your heart, brain, or skin. Bone just happens to be a harder type of tissue. Bone is always changing. Your body keeps your bone strong and healthy by replacing old bone with new bone.

When asked if this disease is recognized on St. Eustatius. She explained, that statistic is not locally kept, however she acknowledged that a few people suffer of osteoporosis. She explained that osteoporosis is rather common in women after menopause.

What symptoms appear with osteoporosis?

At first, osteoporosis has no symptoms, but people with osteoporosis may develop loss of height and are more likely to break (fracture) their bones, especially the back (spine), wrist, and hip bones.

Who are at Risk for Osteoporosis?

Dr. Sharda Baboe gave an overall breakdown of factors which are significant to the question. women who are going through or who are past menopause (**change**); estrogen deficiency; people who are thin; low body weight; people who have a family member with osteoporosis; people who don't get enough

Monthly Health updates with Dr. Sharda Baboe-Kalpoë.



calcium or vitamin D; People who drink alcohol often; people who take bone thinning medicine like (prednisone) for a long time; people who do not exercise; and people who smoke. people with poor health; She explained that the bone density scans are the only tool available for detecting the disease, but shared that it is far from perfect. While it can spot the extremely porous bones that are hallmark of severe osteoporosis, they are not much help for detecting the fracture risk in people with borderline osteoporosis. The WHO (World Health Organization) developed the online calculator called FRAX, (it stands for "fracture risk assessment").

Individuals can request through their physician to run their last bone density scan results through FRAX or do it yourself at shef.ac.uk/frax.

WHAT CAN WE DO TO PREVENT OSTEOPOROSIS?

It can be prevented and with proper therapy it can be treated; exercise; assessing the need for assistive devices (e.g canes, walkers);

Assuring appropriate foot wear and vision; eliminate medication that cause dizziness, if possible.

BURNING HEALTH QUESTIONS

You don't need to waste another second wondering and worrying. Dr Baboe will take you right to the bottom line Email your questions to: statiapublichealth@hotmail.com

NOTICE

Soon the doctors & nurses of the Q.B.M.C. will start with a diabetic

Foot Care Program.

This program will be carried out in the Q.B.M.C

Preliminary Design of Water Distribution Net Presented To Stakeholders

(continued from page 1) Rosemarylane/ The Farm and along the road to White Wall. The tender documents will be ready by year end, so that the tender procedures can start in January 2010. The project work includes, digging of trenches; installing pipelines and making house connection.

GEBE has already placed water pipes in the Historic Core, this area once execution of the project starts will give a certain sense of relief due to foresight of the electrical company. Domains participation in this project is to supervise that private property is not used. The Fire Brigade is involved to indicate where

they want to see fire hydrants installed. Drob as manager of public roads are involved to make sure that this process in not disrupted. The utility companies were informed and involved in the project so that they can make use of the trenches for installation of their cables. The Planning Buro is the coordinator of this project.

WORKING PERMIT PROCESS GUIDED THROUGH LTU

In an interview with Mr. Otniel Benjamin Deonicio of ACTS (Automation Consultancy and Technological Systems) we learned of the introductory programme ACTFMS (Foreigner Management System) presently introduced at the Census office. This project descended from the PVNA (Security Programme of the the Netherlands Antilles) instructed by the Minister of Justice. Mr. Deonicio is Project Leader but explained that an implementation team comprising of: Mr. Benjamin Candelaria, Mr. Benjamin Janga, Ms. Natasha Razack, Ms. Donnaly Anastacia and Ms. Lyssette van der Dijs will come to the island for the full training around Mid October 2009. After the trainings ACTS will commence with the trail period so



that the staff can become acquainted with the programme, after which they will become operational.

According to Mr. Deonicio they will

be giving support on location, but also from Curaçao. To accomplish the support the ACTS will utilize their helpdesk programme.

These trainings will be given on location, presently the bureau is at the census office, but other participating sectors are: Immigration, Labour, employees of the Governor's Cabinet and the Lt.

Governor. The last three sectors mentioned will acquire an overall view or demonstration of how the programme works, when the training starts. The purpose of this pro-

COMMISSIONER HOOKER IN REVIEW

gramme is to have a better control and a good flow of giving working permits to foreigners based on the LTU (regulation for admittance and expulsion) agreements. The Government Information Service questioned the need for the new training since we are in the process of going to a new status, but Mr. Otniel explained that by 2011 they will start with the WTU (the law for admittance and expulsion) it will apply for Bonaire, Saba and St. Eustatius , whereas the programme



Comm. Roy Hooker

In the Shedding light programme of October 7th 2009, Commissioner Hooker talked about the visit with the delegation from the Netherlands which comprised of Mr. Hans Brink-

man, Marten Hammerink, Kees

Maas and Robert Knoax. They talked with the Executive Council about the legal status, Pension Plan of Civil Servants and the plans including the APNA position.

Government talked to a number of delegates from the Netherlands on October 6th 2009. They also met with Mr. Ton Akkerman, Hayo Haan and Mrs. Marie Jose. They elaborated on issues regarding Agriculture and Environment.

(Continue on page 5)

ST. EUSTATIUS QUOTA CLUB TRAVELED TO ARUBA

St. Eustatius- The St. Eustatius Quota club was invited to the South Area district meeting held for the first time outside of the USA. The entire district 42 was invited and these comprise of all the Dutch speaking Caribbean islands, Suriname and Holland. The Statia Quota delegation comprised of: Mrs. Leonora Sneek-Gibbs, Mrs. Malvern Dijkshoorn-Lopes, Mrs. Monique Brown-James, Ms. Glenda

Courtar, Ms. Sharon Hassell, Ms. Ankie Bijl and Ms. Ingrid Whitfield. The women exchanged ideas about how they can bring about improvements in their respective communities. The Aruba club was awarded batteries for the hearing impaired. Aruba has a school for the hearing impaired. Moving forward the Statia club will pursue having the children tested for hearing.



Preparing Statia for a Smooth Transition

The Island Government is supported since September 1st 2009 by Mr. Peter van Dongen from the municipality Waalwijk. He is responsible for assisting the Executive and Island Council in a smooth transition. He will also render the necessary support to the civil service. Presently Mr. Van Dongen works along with the Island Secretary Mr. Willem Sanderse to accomplish their set goals. In the interview with the G.I.S. he explained that they hope to finalize their priorities during their stay on the island. These are: 1. The decision making process; 2. Personnel Affairs, all the departments and services which requires the necessary assistant for a better functioning; 3. Future plan of Organization, the idea is to develop a plan to give a recommendations how the civil core can and should look in the future. He calmly responds that the government needs to indicate



which issues demand their priority. For example there is still some discussion on the execution of tasks when the Central Government is dismantled in 2010. That needs to be resolved prior to the future picture of the organization of the civil service. Mr. Van Dongen has a lot of experience in government administration. He worked for 16 years in different municipalities, and was commissioner for approximately 2 years in Waalwijk. He is married, is a father of 2 children, a granddaughter and a grandson.

**Information By: Mr. N. Serphos,
Public Relation Officers Netherlands
Antilles**

Tremor felt on Sint Maarten !

Source: Meteorological Services Netherlands Antilles and Aruba

Early this afternoon, October 5th 2009 at about 12:28 hours (local time), an earthquake took place below the bottom of the Atlantic Ocean. This tremor was felt in many sections of the SSS Islands.

Data received from the United States Geological Survey indicates that this tremor took place at a depth of about 35 kilometers or 22 miles below the bottom of the sea with a magnitude of 4.5 on the Richter Scale. Its epicenter was located near 18.0 degrees north and 62.8 degrees west. This is about 33 miles east of St. Maarten.

SHEDDING LIGHT

Join us weekly on Wednesday morning, at 9 Am sharp, on the Government radio programme Shedding Light, for a day of self discovery, sharing information, reviewing developments in our community, questioning our elected officials about important issues. If you have ideas, suggestions contact the host, Malvern on 318—2745 or Malvern.gis@statiagovernment.com

Honour where Honour is due

We encourage Stadians and residents alike to submit names of persons in the community that do exceptional or outstanding services in the community. The information of this person can be submitted to the office of the Lt. Governor, Mr. H . y d e n G i t t e n s .
T e l . n r . : 3 1 8 - 2 5 5 2
Fax. 318 2324

Weekly Press Conferences

The Government information Service is hosting weekly press conferences at the V.A. Lopes legislative Hall. These sessions will be held every Tuesday from 9.30– 10.00 am .We encourage all the media to participate in these session.

**GOODNESS IS THE ONLY
INVESTMENT THAT NEVER
FAILS!!!**

Detention Center On St. Eustatius

The idea is to established a detention center on St. Eustatius

Mr. Maldwyn Timber and Siem Dijkshoorn met with Mr. Leo van der Meulen, Representative of the prison system in the Netherlands. They talked about the establishment of a prison on the island. They toured the island seeking for a possible location. In the Town hall meeting of September 15th Mr. Van der Meulen elaborated extensively

on this information. He talked about the pros and cons of the establishment of such a prison on the island. He said the intention is to have detention cells to house approximately 35 prisoners. The crowd's reaction was somewhat muttered about the amount of cells, however Mr. Vermeulen explained that detainees of each island should

remain detained on their respective islands for social and family contacts. This establishment also creates work possibilities for young Stadians living on the island and those living abroad that might want to come back home. Opportunities for trainings will be available according to Mr. van der Meulen.

In an interview with Commissioner Julian Woodley, G.I.S. asked him to elaborate on the latest developments in the Constitutional negotiations. He confirmed the visit of the Island Government to Curacao in the week of September 29th 2009 to be present in the meetings with State secretary of Kingdom Affairs, Mrs. Bijleveld-Schouten as observers. The discussions were: about the dismantling of the Netherlands Antilles by 2010 and about the police for country St. marten, Curacao, Bonaire, Saba and St. Eustatius.

One of the issues that I hope to tackle within short is to activate or improve the Constitutional Committee. I need people that are dedicated have a vast knowledge of experience and efficient in bringing over information *(after participating in the*

negotiations abroad) to the general public. For too long we allowed the process of a dormant constitutional committee to prevail. Moving forward I hope to continue organizing Town Hall meetings along with a panel (comprising of experts in this area) regarding the Constitutional developments. Thus far we have done a pretty good job of hosting town hall meetings. We cannot give information that we do not have, there are still a number of issues that are still pending. Although the Dutch will take over education, the island Government still has to make a decision on the language of instruction on secondary level. Within short a decision will be made after discussions are held with the various stakeholders. The Old Age pension is another issue we need to re-negotiate with the Dutch.

Monthly updates with the Commissioner of Constitutional Affairs, Mr. Julian Woodley



We encourage our people to continue participating in the discussions.



State secretary of Internal Affairs and Kingdom Relations, Mrs. Ank Bijleveld held discussions in Curacao around September end 2009 with the Prime Minister of the Netherlands Antilles Mrs. Emily de Jong-Elhage.

Never Lose a Chance at Saying a Kind Word!



St. Eustatius Quota Club participating in S.A. district meeting in Aruba



NOTICE

The Island Territory of St. Eustatius

The Census Office is informing the General Public that

A new Dutch passport has been introduced since September 21st 2009, containing finger prints and scanned photo of bearer.

(Continued from page 3)

To be able to have a clear picture of the Island's vision in these specific areas. The contribution of Stenapa to the environment was also discussed. The delegation met with stakeholders such as Mr. Duiverman, Gershon Lopes, and Mr. Joshua Spanner.

NOTICE

The island Government is offering its employees the opportunity to upgrade through a number of ongoing trainings, through the Administration Academy of the Netherlands. These trainings are about policy making, the ability to link department plans to the budget and other financial information. Mr. Marco Kramer is the trainer.

UNVEILING CARIBBEAN HISTORY OF AVIATION AT ST. EUSTATIUS



By Walter Th. Hellebrand

Commissioner for St. Eustatius, Saba and Bonaire, Mr. Henk Kamp, and Mr. Hyden Gittens, St. Eustatius' Governor, were amongst the special guests who opened the curtains for glimpses of the fascinating history of aviation in our corner of the Caribbean. They were joined at F.D. Roosevelt Airport by representatives of St. Maarten, St. Martin and St. Barth's to unveil a historical display illustrating the thrill of the early days of flying between the islands. The colorful saga unfolds in twelve panels with almost 150 photographs and illustrations, telling the story from the free-spirited start in 1946 on Flat Island (or Tintamarre, off the north coast of St. Martin) to the founding of Winair in 1962 and subsequent opening of the airport in Saba the next year. One of the last remaining pioneers of the earliest beginnings on Flat Island, Louis Richardson, was present to unveil the two panels recounting those adventurous days. Henkie Rivers, ex-colleague and protégé of the well-known 'Captain Pipe' (the late aviation pioneer and long-time St. Eustatius resident José Dormoy), brought to light a panel with some unique cartoons (including one featuring himself!).

(From left to right Mr. Louis Rochardson and Mr. Walter Hellebrand)

The display in the waiting room of the airport is an initiative of the Aviation Pioneers of the Caribbean Foundation. The collages have been put together by its founder Elly Delien, partner of many years of the late José Dormoy. 'Pipe' is still remembered on St. Eustatius and

Saba – not only for his bravura but also for never saying “No” whenever he was called upon for an emergency airlift, even at night when car lights had to light the runway. When he passed away in 2007, Elly was left with a virtual treasure trove of documents, information and images relating to the early days of aviation in the Windward Islands. She decided to share this with everyone and therefore set up the Foundation. **One of its goals is the establishment of a flying school in St. Eustatius.** The idea was enthusiastically endorsed to the audience (including Commissioners Roy Hooker and Julian Woodley) by St. Maarten politician and business man Michael Ferrier. Together with Jan Beaujon (Managing Director of Windward Islands Bank) he unveiled the two St. Maarten panels. The author of this article assisted with the research and writing of the information for the exhibition and for the title of the St. Eustatius panels he chose *“The Prized Connection”* – because of the crucial role the island played in the commercial viability of the first local airlines, including Winair. A flying school could revive that function - in the field of aviation training.

Another goal is to keep alive the history of aviation in the Caribbean and the chairman of the Foundation, Mr. Terrance Rey (managing director of Air St Maarten, a company offering private charters throughout the Caribbean), thanked Alida Francis, the management of the F.D. Roosevelt Airport, the St. Eustatius Tourism Development Foundation, the Windward Islands Bank and Mr. Ricardo Fortin for their contributions to make that possible. The Foundation relies on donations to realize its projects which include education material for schools and a TV documentary. Donations can be made via the US\$ account of the Aviation Pioneers of the Caribbean Foundation nr. 105805306 at the Windward Islands Bank. Also, checks can be mailed to the treasurer, Elizabeth M. Delien c/o Mazinga Gift Shop, Mazinga Square, St. Eustatius.

Anyone with stories or images relating to the history of aviation on our islands is



invited to bring them to the attention of the Foundation. Copies can then be made in order to make the account of this history as comprehensive as possible. You can contact the Foundation through its website <http://www.aviationpioneers.info> or through [wal-ter@aviationpioneers.net](mailto:walter@aviationpioneers.net). And if you are not in a position to visit Statia or the airport, many of the illustrations can also be found on the above website.



A single engine Stinson, both aero planes belonged to the fleet of C.A.A. The Stinson landed on Statia already in 1946.

A Kingfisher in a seaplane version.



STATIA DEVELOPMENT PLAN SOON A REALITY

The consultant buro RBOI representatives visited the island in the week of September 21st 2009. The RBOI was contracted because they are specialized in the preparation of zoning plans. This project is financed through the SEI (Social Economic Initiative.) The RBOI met with a variety of stakeholders: Tourism, Statia Oil Terminal, SECAR, Historical Foundation, STEBA, Stenapa, Dive Schools, Harbor Master, Airport Mananger, Mr. Ellis Schmidt; The Hotels; Utility companies; Regional Service Center, The School of Medicine, NGO in agriculture representative, Mr. Laurens Duiverman, Mr. Gershon Lopes; DROB; Domain and the Executive Council. During the sessions with the various stakeholders the SWOT concept (Strength, Weaknesses Opportunities and

Treats) Analyses was applied. In the Press conference with the Lt. Governor, Mr. Hyden Gittens in the week of September 22nd 2009, he explained that the SWOT analysis is essential to get a clear picture how to move forward. The SWOT analysis will help the island to look for development opportunities.

The RBOI buro will be responsible for the preparation of a Strategic and a Spatial Development plan for the island. Governor Gittens indicated that the strategic plan should be ready in February, while spatial development will be ready in June 2010.

The preparatory resolution which was adopted by the Executive Council in December 2008, this puts devel-

opment on hold pending the spatial development plan. The consultant from RBOI will be back on the island to present their preliminary findings and proposal by the end of November 2009. Which will be discussed with stakeholders and the public in general.

December 2010 this development plan should be ready according to Governor Gittens.

The new police station is scheduled to open on November 5th 2009. This is a milestone we definitely need to celebrate because so many years and so many people were involved in making this project a reality. Lt. H. Gittens

PRINS BERNARD FONDS NEEDS PLAN OF ACTION

Statia NGO's not utilizing the funds to the fullest

During the press conference with the Lt. Governor, Mr. Hyden Gittens, he expressed the importance of NGO's on the island becoming more familiar with the process of requesting funds through PB funds. He will create a plan of action to stimulate the NGO's to become more active in utilizing these funds. He made a comparison with the Antillean Coast Guard which also applies to creating awareness and knowledge about a particular



area. Many Statians for years were not signing up to the Antillean Coast Guard because they were lacking information. The Governor encouraged this organization to visit Statia and talk about the conditions and positive environment to the Statia youth at the Gwendolyne van Putten School. After the marketing through promotional videos, discussions and activities and trainings by the (continue on page 8)

Social Housing Spatial Planning and Environment

Introduction visit

The Dutch civil servants of the Ministry of Social Housing Spatial Planning and Environment (Vrom) visited the island and met with the Planning officer Mr. Maldwyn Timber. The Dutch delegation comprised of two gentlemen. They are Mr. Ton Ouderhuizen, co-ordinator for Bonaire, Saba and St. Eustatius em-



ployed for Vrom in The Hague and Mr. Rick Reijtenbagh, a student at the Technical University in Delft, is doing research of drinking water on Bonaire, Saba and St. Eustatius. The purpose of the visit was to get acquainted and exchanged information in their area of social housing spatial and environment.

The Informer, is the St. Eustatius Government Information Bulletin

It is a monthly publication of the Island Territory of St. Eustatius. The objective is to inform residents of St. Eustatius about the developments that are taking place within Government and social matters on the island.

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Layout by D. Simmons

Queries should be directed to the Office of the Lt. Governor, Mr. Hyden Gittens, under which he has the responsibility of Bureau Kabinet, St. Eustatius.

Tel: 318 -2552 Fax: 318-2324



**NEVER LOSE A CHANCE
AT SAYING A KIND WORD!**

JOB OPPORTUNITIES

The Labour Department hereby makes it known that petitions have been submitted by employers to obtain work permits for foreigners in the functions mentioned below.

- **Full time Administrative clerk**

The applicant should be able to work with Quick books, Internet Explorer, Taxation forms, book keeping, write and read Dutch language.

- **Part Time Administrative Clerk**

The applicant should be able to speak English and being able to articulate in Spanish is a plus.

To acquire more information about these vacancies you may contact the Labour department by phone 318-2881 to make an appointment.

Email: statia.labour@yahoo.com

The Island Government of St. Eustatius, Personnel Affairs Department acknowledged that there are a number of vacancies within the Government Administration that is presently vacant. These vacancies are:

- Head of Welfare Department
- Head of Sport Department
- Head of Economic Affairs Department
- Head of Port

For more information regarding the conditions for each vacancy applicants are advised to contact the Head of the Office of Personnel Affairs. Ms. Florence Marlin.

Tel.nr.: 318 2931

E-mail: HR.goveux@gmail.com

PRINS BERNARD FONDS NEEDS PLAN OF ACTION

Antillean Coast Guard, 8 young men signed up on Statia, Many young Statians were encouraged to sign up. Although a number of NGO's on Statia like Stenapa and St. Eustatius Historical Foundation frequently use PBF successfully, we believe that the other NGO's are apprehensive to the complex application forms. As a result thereof, Saba, Statia and St. Maarten are not really making use of the Prins Bernard Funds. Within short Carla Duinkerck, the local representative will have the Action Plan in a booklet form available for NGO's. We encouraged the NGO's to follow up after submit ion of their respective products. Through consistency and follow-up the Summer fest received some funding of Nafl. 5.000,00.

**IF YOU THINK EDUCATION IS
EXPENSIVE TRY IGNORANCE!!!**