

St. John Properties Newsletter

Information, Facts & Trends

WINTER ISSUE 2010



St. John Back Time



Easter Rock, located above Hawksnest Bay on North Shore Road, is said to journey down to the bay the eve before Easter to drink and be back in place before the first car passes by on Easter morning. Today, we believe that the explosive volcanic action in Pillsbury Sound between St. John and Tortola spewed this massive, egg-shaped rock onto the hillside of St. John. A few million years later, we enjoy speculating as to why the rock is wet Easter morning.

Current Events:



Our visitors to St. John will have new treats in store for their taste buds. The Stone Terrace restaurant closed and has been reopened as Cactus Blue, a Mexican grill and margarita bar. Nile and Courtney Wright are bringing their Texas heritage to St. John to create good, traditional Mexican food as well as giving some dishes a Caribbean flare. Their bar will feature margaritas with an addition of a 'Mexican martini.

The Lone Star Shrimp is a popular favorite. Courtney's favorite is the Flank Steak. She says the Hummus appetizer is made right there in the kitchen, fresh and yummy. Changes will occur as popularity grows but St. John can expect better and better from this new addition to our cuisine choices.

Island News Watch:

Coral Bay, once the largest town on St. John and the heart of the sugar plantations shipping industry, is undergoing new development. More and more people are moving across the mountain from Cruz Bay. They are wanting and needing more services. Starting with expanding the Love City Mini-Mart, there are many new businesses planned for the area around the current market. There will be space for vendor kiosks as well as space for sports activities such as a tennis court and a basketball court.

Alton Adams Jr., the architect for the project, and Genevieve Marsh Thomas, president of The G. E. Marsh Legacy Development and Holding Group Inc. informed the attendees of the St. John Coastal Zone Management Committee that they will develop the 4.9 acres of her family's property around the Mini-Mart and Domino gas station.

Concern was expressed that the infrastructure be in place before the development starts. Also, the property is in a flood zone and much of the land is environmentally or archaeologically sensitive but the developers believe that by working with the V.I. State Historic Preservation Office, the V. I. Public Works, CZM committee members and the V. I. Department of Planning and Natural Resources these issues will be addressed appropriately. Vice president of the Holding Group, Chanda Roberts, commented on the personal ties they have with this land unlike others that may come from off island to develop St. John.



Featured Listing:

Staff Update: *Liz Lowe*



Liz Lowe recently joined St. John Properties as Villa Manager Assistant. Although her academic degree is in Animal Behavior in Anthropology, she discovered her true passion is cooking. After culinary school in Paris, Liz has enjoyed several positions using her skills including owning her own bakery/cafe. Liz' state-side home is in Vermont where she travels each summer. Gardening and fishing occupies her time while she's there.

ANNABERG HOME

3 BEDROOM/3 BATH HOME OVERLOOKING LEINSTER BAY WITH VIEW OF MARY'S CREEK AND TORTOLA. WALK TO FRANCIS BAY BEACH. \$2,650,000.



Calendar:

December 25, 2009

Christmas Day: Many restaurants and bars will be open. Frequently, fine dining establishments will have scheduled seatings during the evening. Call ahead for reservations. Government offices, banks, and schools will be closed.

January 1, 2010

New Years Day.

February 15, 2010

Presidents' Day.

March 14, 2010

Daylight Time begins.

March 17, 2010

St. Patrick's Day parade downtown Cruz Bay.

Featured Vacation Rental: *Swogjan's Dragon*

One of the most overlooked treasures on St. John is a comfortable, family style villa located about in the center of the island. Only a 10 minute drive from Maho Beach, Swogjan's Dragon offers two bedrooms upstairs and one bedroom below, a large kitchen/dining/living area and many amenities. The swimming pool and spa provides extra fun. The vista includes miles and miles of ocean as well as the lush valley below. Come stay, relax and soak up the sunshine!



Special Kudos



Philomen Richards was BJ Harris' first employee when she opened her business in the mid 1980's. She moved to various positions within the business starting as an assistant until currently she is a housekeeper for several of St. John Properties' villas.

Philomen is a valuable part of St. John Properties but more than that she is a very special friend to BJ and to all who know her. BJ was honored to have her serve as Maid of Honor at her wedding. In a recent interview, Philomen proclaimed, "she would do anything for BJ. Any time of night, she would always be there for her. BJ has a heart of gold and I love her very much."

A highlight for Philomen this year was the celebration of her 60th birthday. Many of her family flew in to spend time with her and stay on for the Christmas Holidays, too. They hosted a party for her at Sputnik's in Coral Bay. It included food and drink, dancing, fire dancing entertainment, gifts, and laughter and many, many friends.

Market Watch

2009 closed with 461 properties on the market. Though not a boomer year, there was still some activity island wide.

SOLD: 21 Homes

12 were under \$1,000,000

6 were under \$1,500,000

3 were under \$2,000,000

1 sold for \$6,500,000

5 Condos sold, 4 of which were in Grand Bay.

SOLD: 18 piece of bare land.

14 were under \$201,000

2 were under \$501,000

1 sold for \$825,000

1 sold for \$3,500,000

Contact Us



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St. John Properties
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