

The HeART of Turtles

Continued...

The turtle sculptures will be auctioned off in February 2021 with net proceeds going to Project Promise and Jr. Scientists in the Sea (JSIS).

The public is invited to the hatching ceremony on November 9 at Sand Castle on the Beach hotel from 4:00 p.m. to 8:00 p.m. This event will be the only time that all of the sculptures will be together in one location before they go to their new homes around the island. There will be live music, drink specials and a silent auction. Details are on the St. Croix Walls Project's Facebook page.



Photo by Cathy Booth

Artist Cathy Booth with her mosaic turtle.



TASTE OF TWIN CITY

Experience culture, history and food with VI Food Tours

Do you know what a “doubles” is? How about the main ingredient in bush tea? Whether you’re a visitor or a local, it’s easy to take the mystery out of the island’s favorite dishes when you experience the Taste of Twin City Food Tour with Virgin Islands Food Tours.

Guests can take a culinary tasting trip featuring the best of Crucian cuisine. Each stop on the tour features a small plate or snack as your guide explains the significance of the dish and how it fits into the island’s cultural history. It’s not all about eating, though. In-between stops point out some of Christiansted’s notable buildings, unique architecture and fun facts about the island.

After spending over a decade in Miami, St. Croix native Anquanette Gaspard returned home and started Virgin Islands Food Tours in 2016. The tours have been so well received that she gets many repeat guests, including residents who bring visiting friends and family.

The six tastings reflect our island’s melting pot of cultures that make St. Croix one of the most delicious destinations in the Caribbean. The tour moves at a relaxed pace through Christiansted and allows plenty of time to enjoy the food at each stop.

From Crucian staples to sweets, the Taste of Twin City Food Tour with Virgin Islands Food Tours is a fun outing that any foodie will enjoy. Experience your favorite dishes from a new perspective, and discover new ones – made all the more enjoyable with a local guide who is passionate about St. Croix!





celebration at their home with German friends for years. Over time, the party grew into a public event and eventually moved to the Agricultural Complex. Ziggy's owner Mike Ziegler and

FUN FACT: In 2015 the Honorary Consul of Germany, Eric Stubbe, was on-hand at Ziggy's to assist with the ceremonial tapping of the first Oktoberfest keg.

former business partner David Hilkes, who is from Hamburg, invited the Beckers to move the event to Ziggy's in 2011. David's wife Traci still manages the Oktoberfest kitchen that includes authentic bratwurst, spaetzle and more.

We can't name many places in the Caribbean where you'll see men in lederhosen and women in dirndl other than Oktoberfest at Ziggy's Island Market. This year's event drew hundreds of people from across the island to celebrate German culture, food, beer, and games.

Billed as the largest Oktoberfest in the Caribbean, the party on St. Croix's East End unofficially marks the end of summer and the beginning of the winter season. This year was the eighth Oktoberfest at Ziggy's although the event's tradition on St. Croix goes back even further. Residents Dieter and Robyn Becker had hosted a private

Oktoberfest has expanded every year since, partnering with other island businesses like Leatherback Brewing Company who contributed a special Ziggybrau brew. Ziegler says that this year's event drew over 500 people. If you've never been, be sure to add Oktoberfest to your must-do list of island celebrations! *Prost!*

CONFESSIONS OF A HOUSE-AHOLIC: ESTATE CANE GARDEN

By Corinne King

Preserving historic homes to their former glory was a passion for the late Richard Hampton Jenrette, and it was fortunate for St. Croix that his passion led him to the iconic Estate Cane Garden located on the south shore.

As a self-proclaimed "house-aholic," Dick Jenrette often admitted that he had seen *Gone With The Wind* too many times in his youth, influencing his love of classical architecture. In his book, *Adventures With Old Houses*, Dick Jenrette tells of his personal account of acquiring and preserving over a dozen historic properties, including Cane Garden. In a conversational and entertaining manner, Jenrette recounts how his passion led to this unconventional odyssey resulting in an internationally recognized collection of classical historic houses. HRH The Prince of Wales wrote, "No wonder some of his admirers have described Dick as a one-person National Trust for Historic Preservation." He was gracious and warm and I was lucky to have visited with him during his many years on St. Croix. He certainly lived up to the *New York Times's* description of



him... "he was the last gentleman on Wall Street," where he had an impressive career as co-founder and Chairman of securities investment bank, Donaldson, Lufkin & Jenrette, and Chairman and CEO of The Equitable Life Assurance Society.

Estate Cane Garden's history is rich and its buildings reflect its storied past. The estate was once a sugar cane plantation owned by three generations of the McEvoy Family, who were Scotch-Irish planters in what was then a Danish colony. Cane Garden was extensively remodeled in the 1820s in the newly fashionable classical style, with columns added on both the front and back sides of the home. Cane Garden's similarity to the White House might not be totally coincidental. Dr. William Thornton, one of the architects of the White House and a close friend to Thomas Jefferson, was a native of the

Virgin Islands. He returned for a visit about the time that Cane Garden was built and could have served as a consultant or taste arbiter on the project.

In the early 20th Century, Cane Garden was burned, leaving only the massive coral block walls as a shell of the original structure. It stood as a romantic ruin for at least 40 years until it was rebuilt by the Howard Wall Family of Portland, Oregon shortly after World War II. Purchasing the house from the Walls' estate in 1985, Dick Jenrette embarked on a plan to return Cane Garden to its original look, to the extent it could be ascertained. Fred Gjessing, a Danish architect working in St. Thomas, and William Taylor, a St. Croix architect, led the efforts to recreate the original. They were aided by extensive photographs of the ruins after the fire as well as other evidence they were able to gather in St. Croix and Copenhagen. As a result, the present house is a replica incorporating what was left of the original house. The house today consists of an impressive six-bedroom great house with a swimming pool, three additional cottages, several outbuildings and historic ruins.

THIS MONTH'S FEATURED PROPERTIES

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3 & 10 SHOYS | MLS 18-1591 | \$2,595,000

A spectacular beachfront luxury property situated on over 2.5 acres of tropical gardens, located in the gated community of Buccaneer Bay Estates and directly on sandy Shoys Beach. Step inside and enjoy the professionally designed and decorated grand dining room, living room and comfortable media room. These spacious areas are full of natural light, opening onto the 40 foot covered porch which is a spectacular area for dining and lounging any time of day. The sparkling pool and deck area invites a swim and private Caribbean sunning. Radiating from the charming fountain courtyard are 5 large bedroom suites each recently renovated with gorgeous bathrooms.

Listing courtesy of Isabel Brady

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172 WHIM | MLS 19-1418 | \$595,000

Enjoy the sounds of the waves and over 200 ft of beautiful shoreline. This waterfront home is on a flat 2.3 acre lot. The main house boasts a spacious living/dining area perfect for entertaining. Sliding glass doors open to a grassy lawn and sandy beach. Large screened atrium, built-in mahogany Fletcher Pence pieces which give this home a special flare and tropical feel. The large master suite includes a king-size mahogany headboard that is literally a work of art. Each of the 3 bedrooms includes a bathroom. Much of the roof on the main house is new. A generator is housed in the large concrete shed. The guest house is 2BD and over 1000 sq. ft. Good income property!

Listing courtesy of Diane Burns



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423 THE REEF | MLS 19-35 | \$255,000

This gem of a 2BD, 2BA unit is situated on the end corner with perfect positioning! Unlimited potential to design to your own wants and needs. Original clay tile floors, hand painted murals and attractive open room design. On the East End with Beautiful Buck Island and mountain views. Privacy from neighbors and attractive landscaping. Complex has pool and tennis.

Listing courtesy of Kelly Odom

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14 UNION & MT. WASHINGTON | MLS 19-1483 | \$33,500

Excellent building site in South shore neighborhood. Build your dream home and enjoy the beautiful colors of the Caribbean Sea. The property is 0.63 acres. Power poles are on the boundary line.

Listing courtesy of Sanni Craft



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17 & 17A QUEEN ST. | MLS 19-829 | \$215,000

A great location in the heart of Frederiksted. Ruins of two buildings and courtyard area. So many possibilities with this corner lot that needs renovation. Just two short blocks to the waterfront. Newly paved road. The potential of this property once restored would be amazing!

Listing courtesy of Diane Burns

ST. CROIX REAL ESTATE MARKET WATCH

CLOSED SALES COMPARISON :10/31/17-10/31/18 VERSUS 10/31/18-10/31/19

	2017-2018 SOLD	AVERAGE DAYS ON MARKET	MEDIAN SOLD PRICE	2018-2019 SOLD	AVERAGE DAYS ON MARKET	MEDIAN SOLD PRICE
Home Sales	190	297	\$287,000	203 ↑	257	\$270,000
Condo Sales	109	223	\$170,000	134 ↑	183	\$180,000 ↑
Land under \$39,999	51	369	\$25,000	75 ↑	319	\$28,500 ↑
Land over \$40,000	52	476	\$87,500	74 ↑	382	\$78,250
Commercial	13	614	\$625,000	18 ↑	421	\$465,000

The Good News...
23% MORE CONDOS SOLD

Information from the St. Croix Multiple Listing Service * The average sales price and the average days on market could be skewed greatly by only one sale or because of the small number of annual sales.

Through this October, compared to the same period last year.