



Love City Livin'



Lorraine "Miss Pat" Richards, left in the pink shirt, instructs children to line up at the start of the backpack giveaway.



The Dynamic Dancers perform.



Katana Liburd poses with Minnie Mouse.

For the kids

More than 200 St. John children and their families came together at the Frank Powell Park in Cruz Bay during the weekend for a fun day and back-to-school giveaway.

This was the second annual backpack giveaway orchestrated by Lorraine "Miss Pat" Richards, who coordinated with several other island organizations to put on the event. Children enjoyed a bouncy house and mask making with the Arts & Culture Recovery Committee of St. John, and they were treated to free food and drinks, along with performances by the Dynamic Dancers and the Love City Pan Dragons.

"I just want the kids to have fun and enjoy themselves and get the school supplies they need," said Richards, who estimated that 285 backpacks were given out at the Saturday event.

Those who participated or supported the fun day include Dynamic Dancers, St. John Youth Organization, St. John Community Foundation, Show Me Love for the Virgin Islands, Love City Pan Dragons, St. John Kids, The Westin Resort, Just Play, The S.U.N. Project, Tropical Jewels of Perfection #11, and the Perfect Ashlar Lodge #766.



Adrian Davis helps his son, Ari, fill his new backpack with school supplies.



Darianny Santana mixes colors for her mask.



St. John children climb into the bouncy house.

Daily News photos by ANDREA MILAM



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Love City happenings

Francis Bay Fives on Sunday

The St. John Land Sharks will host a runner's choice event on Sunday at 8 a.m. starting at Francis Bay beach. Choose from a 5K or 5-mile road and trail route, both of which start and end at Francis.

Registration is \$5 and the event will be capped at 100 entrants. Walkers are welcome to participate in the 5K event, and runners are encouraged to carpool. For more details, email stjohnlandsharks@gmail.com or visit www.stjohnlandsharks.com.

Coral Bay Labor Day celebration

The Festival and Cultural Organization of St. John will host Labor Day celebrations in Coral Bay on Monday. The day will start with the fourth annual Love City Car Show at 9 a.m. on the Coral Bay ball field.

The annual Labor Day parade will begin in the Oasis parking lot at 11 a.m. and finish in the ball field, where the first 100 St. John students will be treated to free school supplies.

At noon, there will be a Coral Bay Come Back Ceremony at the basketball court, and the day's events will be rounded out with DJ entertainment and food and drinks for sale. For more information, contact **340-690-3692** or **340-626-0785**.

CD release party Sept. 6

The public is invited to attend the Love City Rise Up! CD release party on Sept. 6 from 7:30 to 9 p.m. at High Tide. Come mingle with the artists, who will be on hand to share their experiences making the song, which is a heartfelt tribute to St. John and its people's resiliency. All proceeds from sale of the song, written by frequent visitor Dean Doeling, will be donated to nonprofit organizations on St. John that have helped in the hurricane recovery effort. CDs will be for sale at the party, or can be pre-ordered at <https://lovecityriseup.bigcartel.com/products>.

Carolina Corral fun day Oct. 13

The Carolina Corral will host a free back-to-school fun day on Oct. 13 from 9 a.m. to 1 p.m. with a variety of games including balloon toss, egg and spoon, chicken races, and a donkey obstacle course.

There will be crafting activities and a contest to see who can take the best selfie with a Carolina Corral resident, along with food, drinks, and pony or donkey rides.

Free transportation will be provided between Cruz Bay and Coral Bay.



The America Hill Great House looks out over Maho and Francis beaches in the foreground, and Tortola beyond.



The America Hill Great House's red-tinted coral lime plaster facade stands out boldly among the island's natural blues and greens.

St. John places America Hill

By **ANDREA MILAM**
St. John Correspondent

If you've ever spent time at Maho Bay, you might have noticed the remains of a building perched high up on the hill of the southwestern ridge that frames the bay.

This is the America Hill Great House, and the sweeping views you can see from here are as fantastical as the site's history.

The great house, cook house, and cistern are believed to date back to the early 18th century, and the great house was used as a guest house for island visitors into the early 1900s.

It is said that Dominican Republic dictator Rafael Trujillo was one of the guests at America Hill, and the site is known to have been used

as a lookout point for rum runners during the days of prohibition.

The guest house is unique among other Danish ruins on the island, with its red-tinted coral lime plaster facade, and the views over Maho and Francis beaches and out to Tortola are stunning.

Hurricane Hugo took the remains of the estate house's roof, but some of the neoclassical detailing remains.

GET THERE: The trail head is across the road from the Cinnamon Bay parking lot, and it's less than a mile hike up the Cinnamon Bay trail to get to the America Hill great house. The trail starts off at a pretty steep incline, but the trek up the hill is worth the experience.

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Readying for a new year

All Hands and Hearts volunteer Tyler Hart works to replace ceiling tiles in a Giffit Hill School lower campus classroom to help the private school prepare for the start of a new year on Wednesday.

All Hands and Hearts, which has been in the territory since Sept. 23, has helped homeowners with debris removal, mold-damaged interiors, clearing with chainsaws, and other post-hurricane tasks. As the need from homeowners wanes, the volunteer group is looking for other ways to help in the community.

Daily News photos by ANDREA MILAM



Giffit Hill School interim head of school Paul Johnson, center on the ladder, works with volunteers from All Hands and Hearts at the school's lower campus.

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All Hands and Hearts volunteer Steven Ulm paints lockers at Giffit Hill School's lower campus.