



Love City Livin'

More than a library



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The Elaine I. Sprauve Library and Museum of Cultural Arts, before it was rebuilt in the late 1970s, is depicted in a painting by Jean Whitman.



A painting of the library's namesake, Elaine Ione Sprauve, hangs inside the library. The plaque includes her nickname, "Auntie Laine."

Once burned-out estate house has a storied history

By **ANDREA MILAM**
St. John Correspondent

Countless children, families, and community members have passed through the doors at the Elaine I. Sprauve Library and Museum of Cultural Arts, located right in Cruz Bay.

But many may not realize the building that houses the library today has a long and rich history, evidence of which can still be seen on the grounds.

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CONNECTIONS OF ST. JOHN

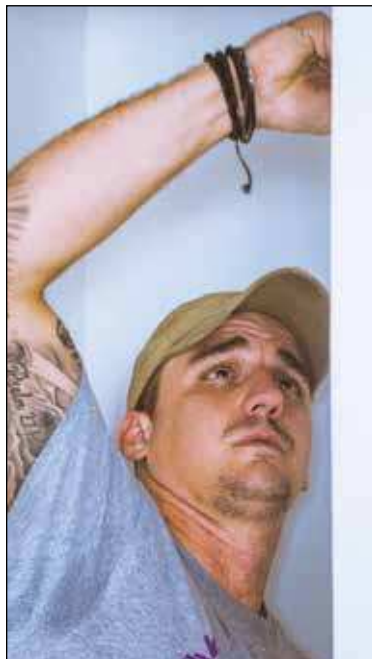
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All Hands & Hearts to raise funds with paddle-a-thon



Matt Raymond applies a fresh coat of paint to a volunteer project.



Christine Simik wears a respirator to clear debris from a home.



All Hands & Hearts workers Brant Whaley and Zosha Womack clear vegetative debris, above.

Armed with a chainsaw, Andy Hail cuts bush.

Photos by
ALL HANDS & HEARTS



By **ANDREA MILAM**
St. John Correspondent

All Hands & Hearts volunteers have been working hard on St. John since late September, when they arrived to help with the hurricane rebuild, but this weekend, they'll take to the water for a different kind of work effort — raising funds to help with their continued presence on the island.

Approximately 20 All Hands & Hearts staff and volunteers are expected to kayak along the island's north shore for a 24-hour period beginning Saturday at 9 a.m. The group will take off from Honeymoon Beach on kayaks donated by V.I. Ecotours, and they're asking for donations in conjunction with the paddle-a-thon.

"We were looking for something to do to commemorate the one-year anniversary of the storms, something that was relevant to St. John," said All Hands & Hearts volunteer engagement coordinator Ki Thornberry.

The money raised will go to the nonprofit's USVI Hurricane Program, helping to pay program costs like food, shelter, fuel, and aspects of project management. All Hands & Heart's St. John team is currently staying at Caneel Bay Resort.

The USVI Hurricane Program is set to end Dec. 31, but Thornberry said the team has just transferred into its rebuilding phase and they will find out next month if their time on island has been extended.

All Hands & Hearts was founded with the mission of addressing immediate and long-term needs in communities affected by natural disasters. On St. John, they've performed sanitation and debris removal, and volunteers are currently helping rebuild two homes on island. They also assisted with renovation work at Kidz First day care and the Giff Hill School. Those on island still in need of rebuilding assistance can call the nonprofit's hotline at **508-317-2733**.

"There's absolutely still a need for us to be here," said Thornberry. "We have people in line to receive assistance and we're assessing buildings that we think we can rebuild."

Thornberry plans to participate in Saturday's fundraiser, she said.

"All the support we've received from the community has been huge, and we're grateful to be here," she said. "We want to keep the program running here, so anybody willing to chip in or donate would be much appreciated."

Donations to the All Hands & Heart's USVI Hurricane Program can be made at <https://give.allhandsandhearts.org/campaign/usvi-hurricane-recovery/c145034>.

Love City Happenings

Friends of VINP to celebrate International Coastal Cleanup

The Friends of the Virgin Islands National Park is hosting a beach cleanup at Drunk Bay on Sept. 28, at 8 a.m.

The cleanup is being held in honor of the Ocean Conservancy's International Coastal Cleanup. Volunteers are asked to meet at 8 a.m. at the Salt Pond parking lot with water, sun-protective clothing, sturdy shoes, and hat. The Friends will provide gloves, bags, and tally sheets to record trash collected.

Residents can also adopt their own beach as part of the cleanup effort.

For more information, contact Karen Jarvis at kjarvis@friendsvinp.org or call **340-779-4940**.

Love City Car Ferries essay contest for sixth- to eighth-grade students

Love City Car Ferries announces their essay contest for sixth-, seventh-, and eighth-graders who attend school on St. Thomas or St. John.

The topic, "My Virgin Islands. My Future," should focus on the student's favorite person or event in Virgin Islands history. There will be one winner per grade, with a prize of \$150 for the sixth-grade winner, \$225 for the seventh-grade winner, and \$300 for the eighth-grade winner.

All entries must be postmarked by Sept. 30, and can be submitted to P.O. Box 12209, St. John, VI 00831 or emailed to info@lovecitycarferries.com with the subject line "Contest." For more information, visit www.lovecitycarferries.com.

Carolina Corral fun day Oct. 13 will offer events for whole family

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 content

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.

Rotary Club seeking volunteers for Thanksgiving dinner Nov. 22

The Rotary Club of St. John is seeking volunteers for its annual Thanksgiving dinner on Nov. 22 in the Frank Powell Park. Last year, they partnered with the St. John Community Foundation to feed more than 700 people.

To volunteer at this year's event, contact Teri Mandemaker tmandemaker@hotmail.com.

LIBRARY

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The building's Danish-style welcoming arms staircase hints at its history as one of the first buildings of its kind on the island, likely constructed in the 1700s.

Peter Oxholm's 1790 map of St. John denotes John Wood, an Englishman who arrived on island by way of Saba, as the owner of Enighed Estate, where the library is located today.

When arriving at the library, head to the right as you're facing the stairs and you'll come upon a graveyard, where Wood's father William Wood, who died at the estate in 1757, is buried, along with 11 other unidentified individuals.

The estate remained in the Wood family, and was a major source of sugar production throughout their ownership and later under George Hassel and Co., which took ownership of Enighed Estate in 1791.

By 1803, Enighed consisted of 225 acres — 110 of which were planted with sugar, with 15 acres devoted to pasture and provisions, according to historian Dr. George F. Tyson's extensive historical survey of the estate.

As the 1800s progressed, however, the estate's success declined and it

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changed hands many times during this period.

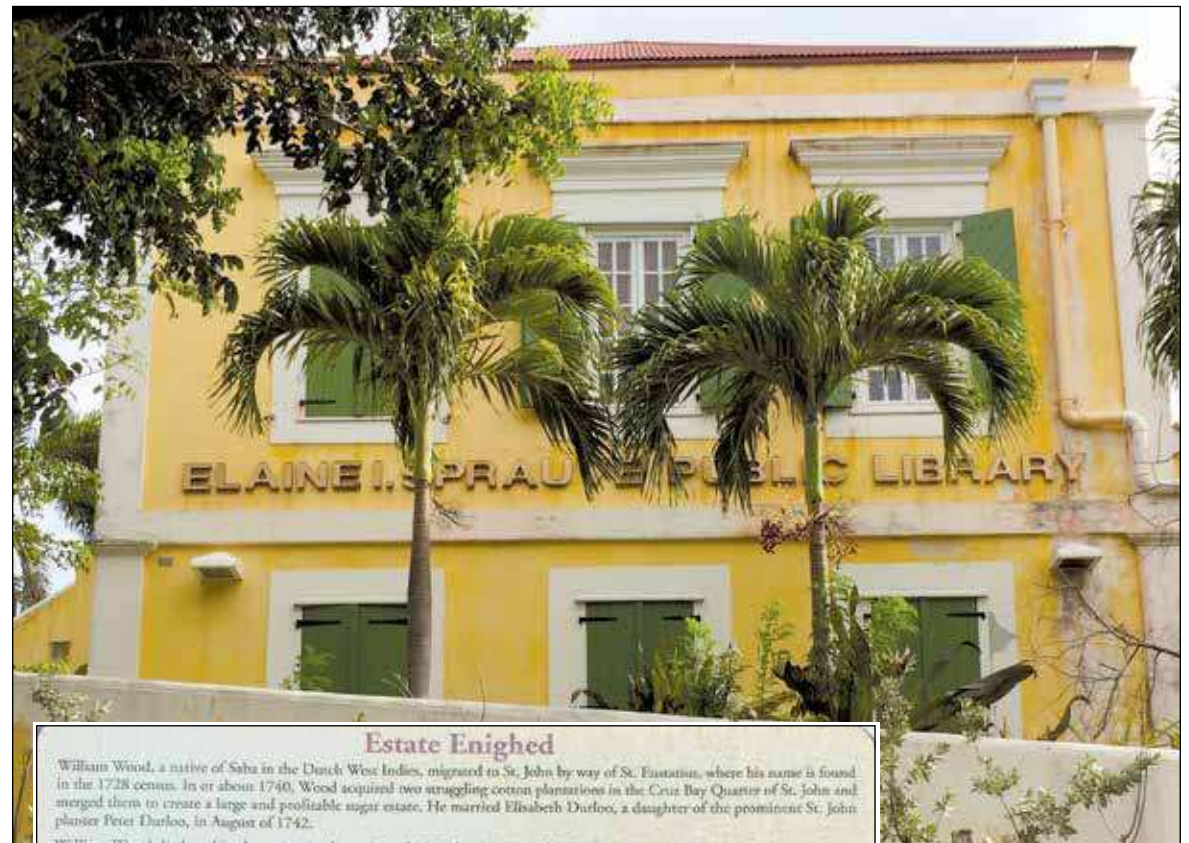
Enighed was purchased from the Danish State, which seized the property in the 1850s due to non-payment of its mortgage, by Judge Jorgensen in 1899 for just \$270.

Not long after Jorgensen's purchase, the estate suffered a fire and the building where the library resides today remained an uninhabited, burned-out ruin for decades.

It served to scare island youngsters as the rumored home of jumbies until July 1, 1976, when the Enighed Estate house was admitted to the National Register of Historic Places.

By June of 1979, reconstruction of the building had begun, and on Feb. 7, 1980, the 13th Legislature of the Virgin Islands voted to honor Elaine Ione Sprauve, a teacher who was known for her dedication to the island, by naming the new facility the Elaine I. Sprauve Library and Museum of Cultural Arts.

This designation was a poignant one, as oral tradition holds that one of the two stonemasons who worked on the reconstruction of the estate house after a devastating 1837 hurricane was John Bernadine Sprauve, the man from whom all St. Johnian Sprauves are descended, and Elaine Sprauve's own grandfather.



The Elaine I. Sprauve Library and Museum of Cultural Arts, above.

A sign donated by the St. John Historical Society, inset, is placed at the entrance to the cemetery adjacent to the library. The sign gives a brief history of William Wood, whose gravestone is the only identifiable burial at the site.

Daily News photos by ANDREA MILAM

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