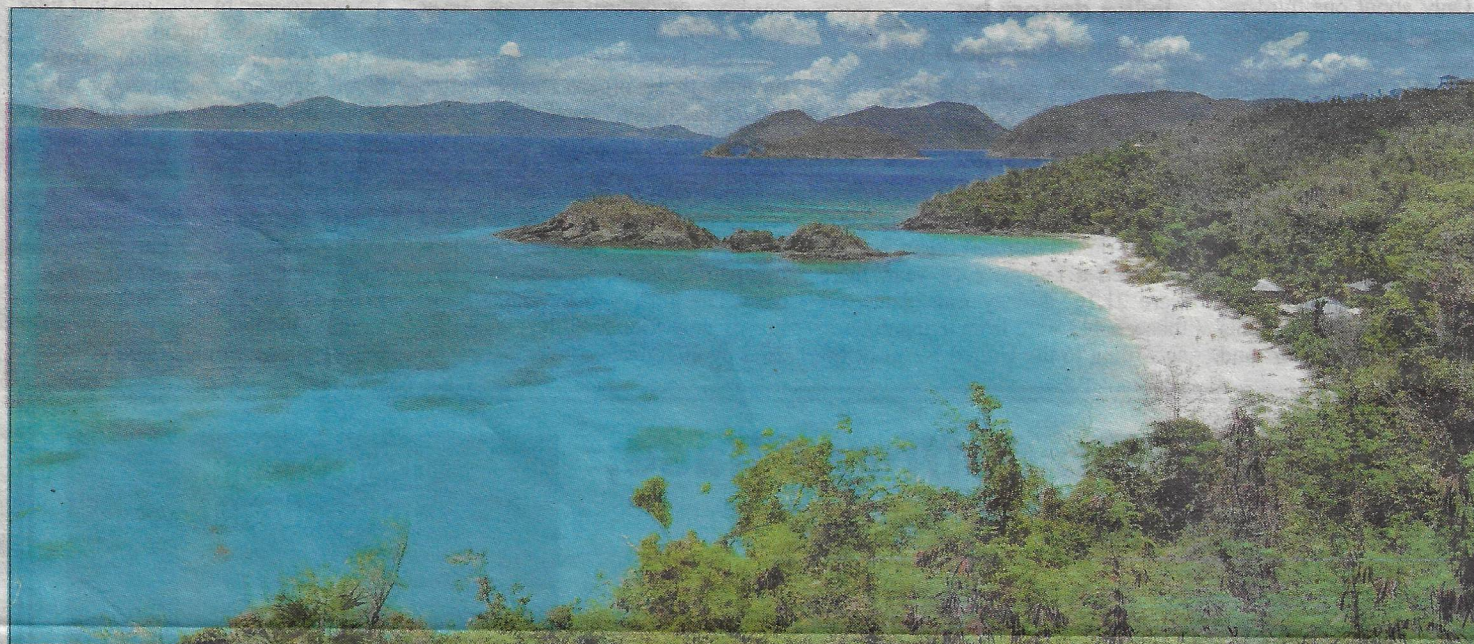




Love City Livin'

V.I. earns top spot on best Caribbean beaches list



Daily News photo by ANDREA MILAM

By ANDREA MILAM
St. John Correspondent

The U.S. Virgin Islands ranked number one on U.S. News & World Report's Best Caribbean Beaches list, released earlier this month.

The rankings "are based on an analysis of expert and user opinions" for an unbiased approach that "makes our rankings more useful than simply providing our editors' personal opinions," according to the multiplatform publisher.

The story recommends Magens Bay on St. Thomas, but notes that visitors will have to contend with crowds. For a more peaceful beachgoing experience, U.S. News & World Report recommends heading to "dreamy Trunk Bay" on St. John. Neighboring British Virgin Islands falls fourth on the list, with the Bahamas, Turks & Caicos, Anguilla and the Cayman Islands taking second, third, fifth and sixth, respectively.

The ranking was widely shared in V.I.-related Facebook groups by proud residents and frequent vacationers.

U.S. News & World Report has ranked the V.I. as having the best beaches in the Caribbean, specifically mentioning Trunk Bay on St. John, above.

Coral Bay council seeks donations to match grant for children's programs

By ANDREA MILAM
St. John Correspondent

The Coral Bay Community Council is seeking donations to match a \$25,000 grant the nonprofit received via Global Giving, a platform that connects nonprofits, donors and businesses in nearly every country in the world.

With the grant and additional donations, the council hopes to assist Coral Bay children with attending programming in the summer and into the school year.

The council is asking supporters to consider donating on July 18, Global Giving's Bonus Day, when donations submitted online at <https://www.globalgiving.org/donate/61129/>

coral-bay-community-council/ will be matched as follows:

- Donations less than \$100 will not be matched
- Donations of \$100-\$499 will be matched at 15%
- Donations of \$500-\$749 will be matched at 30%
- Donations of \$750-\$1,000 will be matched at 50%
- Donations more than \$1,000 will be matched at 50%, for the first \$1,000

Additionally, new Global Giving recurring donations up to \$200 per donor per project will get a 100% match on their initial donation as long as it remains active for

a minimum of four payments.

Funds are already being used to transport the Dynamic Dancers to field trips and performances, and it's anticipated some of the grant money will be used for Dynamic Dancers costumes, children's gardening program, other summer program field trips and scholarships for children's pottery classes.

CBCC has looked into setting up a taxi van transportation program to bring children to and from various summer camps in an attempt to remove barriers to full participation. Additional funds, including a \$10,000 contribution from an anonymous donor, may be used on facilities like putting the finishing touches on the Guy Benjamin Community Center in cooperation

with the V.I. Education Department.

"Through our partnership with the Global Giving web fundraising platform, CBCC is reaching out to new donors who have a special affinity for supporting children's programs," said council President and Executive Director Sharon Coldren.

"These are the kinds of programs that will be supported, and more is possible if nonprofit children's program leaders work in partnership with the CBCC. We're delighted to become a partner with the Global Giving platform to expand the reach of our fundraising efforts to new donors who want to support the Virgin Islands' long-term recovery and support of our youth," said Coldren.

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340-776-6922
stjohnconnections@gmail.com