

AGENDA

ST. EUSTATIUS

Police Station 182333
Emergency 111
Hot Line 108
Fire Department 120
Hospital 182211/182371
Landsradio 182210
Post Office 182207
St. Eustatius Historical
Foundation Museum 182288
Winair Office 182362
Lions Club meets every 1st and
3rd Wednesday at the "Den"
next to the Airport
Drug Prevention Foundation
meets every Tuesday 5:30pm at
the Golden Era Hotel.
Coastguard NA&A 113
St. Eustatius National parks:
Gallows Bay: 318 2884

SABA

Police Station
The Bottom, tel. 4163237
Emergency 111/112
Hospital
The Bottom, tel. 4163288/4163289
Fire Department Airport
Flat Point tel. 4162210
SATEL
The Bottom, tel. 4163211
WINAIR, Airport
Flat Point, tel. 4162255/2713
Taxi Service Airport
Flat Point, tel. 160
Administration Building
The Bottom, tel.
4163311/4163312/4163313
Tourist Office
Windwardside, tel. 4162231
Harbour Office
Fort Bay, tel. 4163294
Saba Marine Park
Fort Bay, tel. 4163295
Nature & Hike Guide
James Johnson
The Bottom, tel. 4163307
Service Club
Saba Lions Club general
meeting every 1st and 3rd
Tuesday 8:00 p.m. at Eugénus
A. Johnson Center.
Coastguard NA&A 113
Red Cross
General meeting every last
Monday, 6 p.m. Eugénus A.
Johnson Center.

ANGUILLA

EMERGENCY
Police 911
Fire 911
Ambulance 911
Police Station 497 2333
Hospital 497 2551
Dental clinic 497 2343
Radio Anguilla 497 2218
Tourism Department 497 2759
Crimestoppers 0800 777777
AIRLINES
American Eagle 497 3501
Winair 497 2748
Liat 497 5000
Air Anguilla 497 2643
Trans Anguilla 497 8690
COURIER SERVICE
DHL 497 3400
Federal Express 497 2719
UPS 497 2239
SERVICE CLUBS
Rotary Club of Anguilla
Meets at Da Vida every
Thursday at 6.00 p.m.
Soroptimist International
Day Care Centre
4.30 p.m. 2nd Tuesday
in each month Tel: 497 3509
Lions Club meets every
1st and 3rd Tuesday at 5.30 p.m.
at the Arts and Craft Centre
Tel: 264 235 1280
Interact Club of Anguilla
Meets every Friday at 3.15 p.m.
at the Albena Lake Hodge
Comprehensive School
Toastmaster Club meets every
2nd and 4th Saturday at 6.45
p.m. at La Vue, South Hill

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Police hear witnesses on death of student

SABA--The investigation into the cause of death of a young woman who was found dead in her apartment in The Bottom around 10:00am Wednesday continued on Friday.

The investigating team, which consists of local officials strengthened with detectives and other law-enforcement officials from Bonaire, was engaged mainly with tracing and speaking with witnesses who could provide personal information about the 24-year-old student of Saba University School of Medicine, or about her whereabouts before Wednesday, April 15, and the circumstances of her death.

These enquiries are somewhat complicated, because the study semester for medical students in Saba has come to an end, Government Information Service RCN said in a statement late Friday afternoon.

"Many students are leaving the island for a stay with their families. Fortunately, the detectives are encountering much cooperation from the witnesses," the statement read.

Two house searches were carried out on Thursday. The investigation is focussing on determining the cause of death and the conditions under which the woman died. Her name and nationality have not yet been released officially, nor has it been confirmed whether her family has been informed already.

Thus far, Island Government and Med School officials have not made any public statements about the tragic incident. Saba University School of Medicine's dean informed students on Wednesday.

Adventure, history, nature key to St. Eustatius tourism

ST. EUSTATIUS--Adventure, history and nature; these are three key areas St. Eustatius can use for touristic marketing, said consultant Wil van Bussel of Dutch senior expert volunteer organisation PUM.

Plans and proposals to improve tourism on the island have already been there for years, but have never been acted upon, Van Bussel said in presenting his findings to stakeholders at Gertrude Judson Public Library.

The consultant was asked by St. Eustatius Tourism Development Foundation (STDF) to devise a framework for a tourism master plan.

Van Bussel advised that goals need to be set and that St. Eustatius should aim at doubling employment in the tourist sector from the current 150 to 300 jobs in 2020.

The consultant said that tourism needs to be recognized as a major money maker and that, for example, decisions of the Island Governor to close the restaurants for Easter have no place in this strategy, as was brought forward by several persons in the audience.

Other key factors mentioned by Van Bussel to improve tourism were diversification, more competition in airlift, transport by boat, hotels and cooperation between all stakeholders.

In addition to STDF, the island government, St. Eustatius National Parks STENAPA, Monuments Foundation, Historical Foundation, Chamber of Commerce, Caribbean Netherlands Science Institute, dive shops and restaurants were represented at the presentation.

Van Bussel works for PUM on an expenses-only basis, and is regularly sent out to different parts of the world to assist organisations with limited means and budget with their strategic marketing plans.

In St. Eustatius, he spoke with no less than 50 organisations that all play a role in the make-up of the island's tourism product. He used the outcome of these discussions to sketch a sense of direction for the touristic marketing of the island.

The discussion that followed the presentation centred on raising the level of professionalism in the tourism sector and on the accuracy of figures regarding tourists visiting the island.

Tourism Director Charles Lindo said that from when the Dutch government "took over" after October 10, 2010, obtaining accurate figures has been "a struggle."



From left: Hannah Madden (STENAPA), Javier Gomez and Rodney Vrijtig (Public Health), Teresa Leslie (ECPHF), Joseph Wagman (BVBC), Johan Stapel (CNSI) and Andre Brissett (Public Works).

Early-warning system to predict Dengue, Chikungunya outbreaks

ST. EUSTATIUS--Vector biologist and public health consultant of Belize Vector Biology Centre (BVBC) Dr. Joseph Wagman is in St. Eustatius for two weeks to assist in developing an early-warning system to predict outbreaks of dengue and Chikungunya.

He was invited to the island by Dr. Teresa Leslie of Eastern Caribbean Public Health Foundation (ECPHF).

There are currently no vaccines to prevent outbreaks of these viruses, and treatment also has its challenges. "To fight these diseases, community involvement is important. In addition to this, we must have input from other departments, and interested local, regional and global stakeholders," Leslie said.

Dengue and Chikungunya are vector-borne diseases that are spread via the bite of an infected *Aedes aegypti* mosquito. There are a range of other viruses, bacteria and parasites that have different vectors that may potentially be introduced, or are currently circulating on the island. Improving surveillance is considered the first step toward prevention and control.

In 2014, 25 countries in the Caribbean had recorded cases of Chikungunya, which is caused by the same vector as dengue fever; namely the *Aedes aegypti* mosquito.

The circulation of these two viruses has proven to be a serious health challenge in the Caribbean. St. Eustatius is currently working on measures to prevent and control these diseases. Assisting the Public Health

Department Vector Control Unit are Hannah Madden of St. Eustatius National Parks STENAPA, André Brissett of Public Works and Director Johan Stapel of Caribbean Netherlands Science Institute (CNSI).

"It is important to have a collaborative approach combining practical and scientific knowledge," said Leslie, who is a consultant for the Public Health Department and is charged with developing effective strategies to aid in combating infectious diseases.

"The problem with many of these diseases is that they are caused by environmental agents and most symptoms are cross-reactive. In other words, based on clinical symptoms. It is difficult to distinguish them from each other," she said.

Naturalis Biodiversity Centre in the Netherlands is currently gathering data on all terrestrial and marine biodiversity on St. Eustatius. According to Leslie, "the information gathered from this survey can assist in identifying which vectors exist on the island. Knowing what

vectors are present allows us to predict which agents may potentially circulate."

Wagman understands the significance of knowledge transfer. "Working in this collaborative capacity, we have the opportunity to facilitate a practical knowledge exchange transfer within the region, while laying the groundwork for more long-term research activities. It's exciting on several different levels."

Stapel is pleased with the role his institute is playing in the project. "CNSI fosters scientific curiosity and supports research, capacity building, knowledge development and dissemination, addressing issues and questions relevant to the sustainability of tropical small island economies."

Stapel stated that the prevention and control of infectious disease is very important. "CNSI is excited about engaging in these discussions and networking opportunities with relevant institutions in the Caribbean and beyond that can work to improve the public's health."

Central Committee to meet on Thursday

ST. EUSTATIUS--The Central Committee of the Island Council will be holding a public meeting at V.A. Lopes Legislative Hall at the Government Administration Building on Thursday, April 23, at 2:00pm.

On the agenda of the meeting, which will be chaired by Island Councilman Reuben Merkman, are the fourth implementation report 2014, the ordinance and protocol for the accountant's control of the financial statement of the public entity St. Eustatius, and the basis and criteria for assignment of a tender for an accountant.

The Central Committee is also to discuss the ordinance governing the legal position and remuneration of officials, as well as the ordinance governing the office of the Secretary-General of the Island Council.