

Buffalo fires head coach



St. Croix Avis



USVI 165th YEAR

WEDNESDAY, NOVEMBER 18, 2009, NO. 263

75¢

Return of recycling

Boys and Girls Clubs receives funds to reopen Anna's Hope center

SUSAN ELLIS

ST. CROIX — After a year with no place to put the 27 million cans shipped to St. Croix annually, recycling is returning to the island. On Tuesday, the Virgin Islands

Waste Management Authority presented a check to the Boys and Girls Clubs of the VI, who, in partnership with the Recycling Association of the VI, will reopen the recycling center in Estate Anna's Hope in February.

The \$36,625 Community Enrichment Grant awarded to the Boys and Girls Clubs will be used to purchase a "state-of-the-art" can densifier and other equipment, according to Colleen Sullivan, project leader for the

St. Croix chapter of the VI Recycling Association. The crusher will reduce 900 aluminum cans to a block about the size of a couple of cases of soda, she said. The densifier will compact the blocks to fit inside a 40-foot container with no

wasted space for shipment to a recycling location on the mainland. A magnetic sorter, signage, and site reconstruction/clean-up costs will also be with the

RECYCLING:

FROM PAGE 1

grant's funds. Sullivan said that if the equipment arrives on St. Croix sooner than expected, the center will open before the targeted date of February 2010. The center will only accept steel and aluminum cans and scrap metal at first and they won't be able to pay consumers for the cans unless they receive another grant, Sullivan said.

Using information from local distributors, Sullivan said an estimated 27 million cans are imported to St. Croix every year. She hopes to recycle at least five to 10 million of them.

"I challenge the community to bring so many cans we can't crush them fast enough," Sullivan said.

Between now and February, the grounds of the recycling center will be cleaned and the equipment will be installed. During that time, Boys and Girls Club members will be trained as "recycling ambassadors" said Emily Graci, development director for the Boys and Girls Clubs. Then they will take collection bins to public functions and educate the community about recycling. By the opening day, the RAVI hopes to have a plan for people who can't deliver their cans to the Anna's Hope location. They will either institute a pick-up program or designate five or six drop-off sites, or both, Sullivan said.

Once the recycling center is open, VI Recycling will load the compressed metal into trailers for shipping to the mainland.



Susan Ellis

The St. Croix Recycling Center in Estate Anna's Hope is scheduled to reopen in February 2010.

Kevin Ruffler of VI Recycling said they haven't chosen an exact location yet, but the company now sends cars and heavy steel to be recycled in Florida. The Boys and Girls Clubs and RAVI will co-manage the program by educating the community and coordinating delivery of used cans. They will also look for funding to expand and add collection sites, Graci said. Because the price of aluminum is low, the center will be "more of a service than a cost

center," she said.

"We're excited to embark on partnerships that will make it (recycling) stronger," Graci said.

May Adams Cornwall, WMA executive director said the authority was looking for other partners to work on recycling projects. She encouraged schools, government agencies, businesses and individuals to get involved.

"The only way we can preserve paradise is with partners," she said.

Community Enrichment Grants are available for other nonprofit organizations to expand the recycling program to include bottles, plastic, cardboard, paper and even composting, she said.

"We'd like to encourage everyone to start recycling. Our landfill will close at the end of the year and the St. Thomas landfill will be closed in five to seven years. With those challenges, we have to be aggressive with waste," Cornwall said.

Crime Stoppers

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The Virgin Islands Department of Justice, in its effort to combat public corruption, is investigating fraudulent activity within the Internal Revenue Bureau.

The Department of Justice, through Crime Stoppers, is offering cash rewards of \$1,000 to each tipster whose information leads to the arrest of any person engaged in possible criminal activity within or related to the Internal Revenue Bureau. If you think you have any information about any such illegal activities, please submit an anonymous tip to Crime Stoppers.

If your information leads to an arrest, but does not qualify for the \$1,000 reward mentioned above, Crime Stoppers will still pay our regular rewards of \$100 to \$2,500 for any information that leads to the arrest of anyone involved in any illegal activity in the territory. Even