



**"Bonaire's reefs got a break from divers' traffic in 2020." Alvin Clemencia.**  
Diver Malin Kaijser glides over the reef. Photo Julie Morgan

## Looking back at 2020 and forward to 2021, part II

In reaching out to individuals from various sectors of Bonaire for our end of year feature, Looking back at 2020 and forward to 2021, we received amazing, heartfelt and well thought out responses but they were a bit long. So, we decided not to edit but to run the carefully considered comments in full, therefore we present part II.



**Lt. Governor Edwin Rijna**  
(excerpts from New Years speech)

We are on the road to recuperation, but we are not done with the virus. In preparing for the vaccines, the exact date is still unknown when they will be here. We must show patience and continue to follow the rules. After the vaccines, we hope we will return to a somewhat normal life. The crisis demonstrated we are strong and have the capacity to recuperate. During the crisis people came up with new ways to work and stimulate economy: fishing, agriculture and new businesses...

More people should be taking the initiative to come up with new ways for Bonaire to go forward. We need more people to take initiative for our economy to grow. Looking forward to a more normal year. In our union is strength.



**Robert Bartikoski**  
Broker/Owner Remax Paradise Homes

For the real estate business the market for buying and selling houses was very slow in March/April when the island was "shut down," but the market picked up over the summer and fall driven by the extremely low interest rates in the Netherlands and the US, so we saw investors coming into the market and completing sales

of nice homes. As we move into 2021, we see continued strength in the Bonaire market as buyers from Europe and North America decide to spend more time in a place like Bonaire where you can live almost all of your life outdoors no matter whether you are reading a book, diving, walking, windsurfing or kite boarding. There is a lot to do here, and almost all of it is outdoors.

Rents trended lower this year, because we had both fewer tourists and fewer people working in HORECA and other tourist related businesses. At the upper end of the market, many properties that are usually tourist rentals became long term rentals and so the supply of rental units went up, and rental prices had to go down. Many landlords ended up discounting the rent for current tenants just to avoid having vacant homes and apartments.

We think Bonaire real estate will only increase in value in the coming years. Now is a good time to buy.



**Alvin Clemencia**  
Dive Flamingo instructor

Happy Renewal Year! It is with renewed hope that I stepped into the New Year 2021 after an obligatory long vacation in 2020 due to COVID-19. No divers in Divers Paradise, air and naval spaces were shut down so, some hotels had to shut down too. Financially it was a tough year for Bonaire, practically no visitors. And even though the reefs got a break from divers' traffic, they got hit with a serious case of bleaching. One positive thing I'm looking forward to for this year is the Reef Renewal Program. Helping the reefs I've been diving on for so many years is a great thing to do. So, let's look forward to a happier, healthier and prosperous 2021!



**Derchlien Vrolijk**  
Tourism Corporation Bonaire marketing

As 2020 comes to an end we reflect on a very peculiar year, with many opportunities for the future of Bonaire.

This year has been a culmination of reflection on what truly matters.

For individuals it could be a simple hug from a family member or friend and for a destination it would be the experience shared with travelers who choose your destination, accommodation, dive shop or restaurant as part of their holiday or retreat.

Many may want to work towards the 'new normal'; the outcome is far beyond the expression 'normal.' Bonaire has the opportunity to implement its vision of a sustainable Blue Destination now more than ever.

This pandemic is giving Bonaire the opportunity to evolve and transmute the destination to its vision at a rapid pace by applying the guidelines of the Strategic Tourism Master Plan (STMP) by merging with the Recovery Plan.

As Tourism Corporation Bonaire has a leading role in implementing the STMP and Recovery Plan, we are certainly very confident Bonaire will achieve its vision with the right communal mindset.

"TCB wishes our ambassadors, visitors and expats a 2021 filled with many positive encounters. We are hopeful to see you soon on our beautiful island of Bonaire. To our partners, stakeholders and local community we wish many positive opportunities to keep transforming Bonaire into a more sustainable Blue Destination".

**Looking at 2020 and 2021,**  
*continued on page 4*



# The BONAIRE REPORTER online

*news that has broken since the printed issue*



## Numbers January 26, 2021

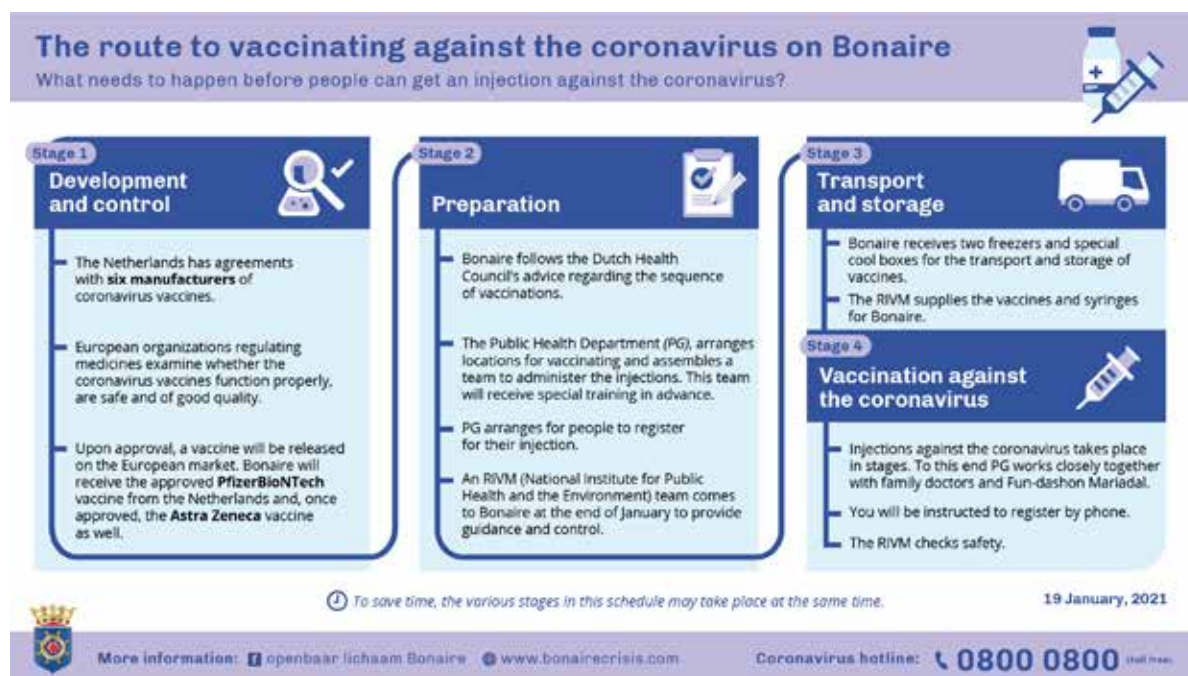
Bonaire has twenty-five active cases of Covid-19 on January 26, 2021. Four of the twenty-seven test results for Covid-19 are positive. Three more persons recovered. Four people are in hospital due to Covid-19, two getting special care.

Take a test if you feel sick. It can take a while before you get the result. It's important to wait the result in quarantine. Do not go outside before you get your result because you can infect other people. To bring these numbers down it's important to maintain the hygiene instructions, as keep 1.5 meter distance and wash your hands with water and soap regularly to prevent infection with the Coronavirus.

Do you have a fever, sore throat or other complaints related to Covid-19? Stay at home and call 0800-0800. Maintain the hygiene instructions. Eat healthy, exercise and get enough sleep. Take care of yourself and the people around you.



## PRESS RELEASE Communications Department of the public body of Bonaire Jan. 19



### Freezer corona vaccine Monday January 25 on Bonaire

Kralendijk - The two freezers for the storage of corona vaccines will arrive on Bonaire on Monday, January 25. For example, Joey van Slobbe of the Public Health department has announced that he is responsible for the preparations for vaccination on the island. Thursday, January 28, a team from the RIVM will arrive on the island. The members of the team check that things are well organized to start vaccinating in mid-February.

“One of the freezers is for the storage of the PfizerBioNTech vaccine. That vaccine should be stored at -70 degrees. The other freezer is suitable for the storage of the Moderna vaccine, this vaccine must be stored at -20 degrees,” said Van Slobbe.

“Bonaire will receive the Pfizer-BioNTech vaccine for the first phase of vaccinations. We do not yet know whether Bonaire will receive the Moderna vaccine or the AstraZeneca vaccine that has yet to be approved. Suppose we do get the Moderna vaccine, then we already have the freezer. This way we are well prepared for all possibilities.”

Vaccination takes place in stages on Bonaire. “In the first phase, people aged 70 and older are vaccinated and the healthcare personnel. Then it is the turn of the over-60s and people who are in a risk group. For example, people with cardiovascular disease, lung disease, diabetes. Later the healthy people from 18 years to 60 years are vaccinated.”

Photo: Freezers used in the Netherlands



## Measures have been extended until January 28th, 2021

### Stricter measures Saturday January 9th 2021



The number of newly reported COVID-19 infections has increased. Therefore, the measures are brought to risk level 4: Serious. It is important to adhere to the basic rules and measures in order to prevent the virus from spreading. Protect yourself and those around you.

#### The following measures apply:

##### Private meetings



Max. 2 households  
Advice:  
Vulnerable groups stay at home

##### Hospitality industry



- Max. 4 pers. per group (excl. children <13 years)
- Max. 50% capacity
- Obligatory registration and health check
- Fixed seating • Open until 22:00

##### Professionally organized events



- Max. 50% capacity and 25 persons
- Obligatory registration
- No singing/dancing

##### Essential shops



- Max. 2 pers. per group (excl. children <13 years)
- Mandatory cart/basket

##### Non-essential shops



Max. 2 pers. per group (excl. children <13 years)

##### Work



Work from home as much as possible

##### Churches



- Max. 50% capacity. No singing. Go home directly after service.
- Obligatory registration and health check

##### Sport



- Max. 50% capacity for indoor sports
- No restrictions on indoor sports for children and youth
- Obligatory registration, health check and no audience
- Outside only fleeting contact sports
- No competitions and go home immediately after exercise

##### Contact professions



Face mask

##### Nightclubs and adult entertainment



Closed

##### Gambling halls, casinos, and cinemas



- Max. 50% capacity
- Obligatory registration and health check
- Close at 00:00
- No food and beverages after 22:00

##### Saunas



- Max. 50% capacity
- Obligatory registration and health check



More information:

 openbaar lichaam Bonaire  [www.bonairecrisis.com](http://www.bonairecrisis.com)

Coronavirus hotline:

 **0800 0800**  
(toll free)

This is a message from the department of Public Health



## Speech By Dr. Marian Luinstra-Passchier January 15th

I would like to start by cautiously giving you some good news: in recent days we have seen a slight decrease in the number of positive cases. Today we received 81 test results, of which 7 were positive.

In recent days, we have experienced some delays in the processing of the laboratory results. Because the results from several days were coming in at the same time, we would sometimes see a surge of up to 26 positive results per day. These laboratory problems have now been solved.

Our daily reports are based on the results that we receive that same day. We have now made an overview based on the test date and the first day of illness. This provides a clearer overall picture of the distribution of the infections. In diagram 1 the yellow bars indicate the first day of illness and the blue bars indicate the test date.

### Diagram 1: outbreak epi curve

As you can see from this diagram, the number of new cases is decreasing. To outline this development even more clearly, we have shown the average of the cases reported per seven days in diagram 2.

### Diagram 2: seven-day average of the number of new cases per day

The graph clearly shows a decline in numbers. This means that the number of new infections per day is dropping. Please note: the red line numbers may still rise slightly due to the results of new contact tracing.

As I said, cautiously, there is some good news, but we are not out of the woods yet!

As you are aware, measures were tightened from 9 January last week. The effect of which will only be seen between 15 and 22 January, 2021. We hope that the number of positive cases will decrease even more. To achieve this we need the cooperation of each and every one.

This is why we have advised the Lieutenant Governor not to change the measures we currently have in place. Obviously, we will continue to monitor the situation closely and if the Public Health Department concludes that the measures may be relaxed or should be made more stringent, we will immediately advise that specific course of action.

## Hoe is de verspreiding gegaan

Aantal COVID-19 cases Bonaire: 15/12/20 - 13/01/21



Meer informatie: [openbaar lichaam Bonaire](https://openbaarlichaambonaire.nl) [www.bonairecrisis.com](https://www.bonairecrisis.com) Coronavirus informatielijn: 0800 0800

## Het 7-daags gemiddelde van de nieuwe COVID-19 gevallen



Meer informatie: [openbaar lichaam Bonaire](https://openbaarlichaambonaire.nl) [www.bonairecrisis.com](https://www.bonairecrisis.com) Coronavirus informatielijn: 0800 0800

## Speech By Island Governor Edison Rijna January 15th

Dear Citizens,

Today I will be brief. Last week the Temporary Act COVID-19 was amended. This means, among other things, that the flight ban that was imposed on the BES islands has been lifted from tonight onwards. This is why flights from, for example, Canada and the US will be allowed to come to our islands again. The airlines, however, must adhere to the new legislation regarding checking of PCR tests. In practice, it will take a while before air traffic to Bonaire is fully underway again, so it will take some time before we will be welcoming our first flights from the United States and Canada.

Last week I also announced that the Supervision and Enforcement Directorate, together with the KPCN (Dutch Caribbean Police Force), would take

strict action should entrepreneurs in the hospitality industry not comply with the rules. At that moment I also stated that the time for issuing warnings was over. Last Tuesday inspectors from the Supervision and Enforcement Directorate, together with KPCN, penalized and shut down seven hospitality establishments. A total of 16 hospitality establishments were inspected that evening. Yesterday, on Thursday, checks were also carried out, but no fines were issued that day because everyone had complied with the rules.

The measures I announced last week remain in force. I am counting on all of you to abide by the rules. Together we can get the coronavirus under control if everyone does their part.



## Police Report January 11 to 13, 2021

### Control of the SGB

On Friday, January 8, the police, in collaboration with the Public Prosecution Service, carried out a check on fireworks in 18 classes of the Bonaire school community at Kaya Frater Odulfinus. This in response to the many complaints about fireworks nuisance. During the check, fireworks, hemp seeds, a Stanley knife, a lighter and a sharp pair of scissors were found. Everything was confiscated. The parents of the students where the items were found have been informed about this.

### Detention party organizer

On Monday, January 11, a man with initials N.M.E. of 61 years, in connection with a party held on December 26, 2020. The man broke several rules and did not comply with the then valid emergency ordinance. As a result, the OM has given permission to

arrest this man and to investigate the case further. Multiple arrests are not excluded.

### Several catering establishments closed after multidisciplinary inspection

The Caribbean Netherlands Police Force, in collaboration with the Supervision and Enforcement Department of the Public Entity, carried out a multidisciplinary check at various catering companies in the evenings on Tuesday 12 January. The audit focused on enforcing the valid emergency ordinance. The team has visited snacks, restaurants and ice cream parlors. A total of 16 sites were checked, of which 7 had broken one or more rules. All 7 branches were fined and closed immediately until it can be demonstrated that the rules can be complied with.

## Aruba must take over social aid

According to State Secretary Raymond Knops, a quarter of the Aruba population depends on food aid, and for a long time the government of Aruba has been avoiding covering its costs for welfare, social assistance, and special assistance. It has been passing on those costs to the central government, to the Red Cross, and to other aid organizations. Knops warned that by summer the government of Aruba must start bearing those costs itself.

The Red Cross reports that during the coronavirus crisis it provided Arubans with 75,000 warm meals and 8000 e-vouchers for shopping. It also paid for more than 100 visits to doctors visits. None of those costs were covered by the local government. All were paid by large donations the Red Cross receives from the Dutch government, over and above the millions the government paid Aruba directly for emergency aid. *DMR*

## Online tax services moving to new site

The recently created government online tax services site, [www.belastingdienst-cn.nl](http://www.belastingdienst-cn.nl), will be shut down at the end of the working day on Friday, January 16th. A replacement site, [www.MijnCN.nl](http://www.MijnCN.nl), will be in operation on Monday morning, the 19th. Users can log on and create a new account. The user's newly created account will then be operable in a couple of days. *DMR*

## Seven million euros pledged for CN research

The government is funding two multidisciplinary research programs in the Caribbean Netherlands (CN) that will strengthen how the decisions made for the region meet the challenges caused by climate change.

One program being funded is called SEALINK. It will build a broadly based body of social and scientific knowledge about the region's ocean ecology. The program will create the first comprehensive understanding of ocean pollution and coral reef health in the Dutch Caribbean. Researchers will follow water and pollutants (including sewage, fertilizer, and human pathogens) from land to sea, and track how water motion and marine organisms move and change these substances. They will measure coral reef growth in 3D. This information will be used in computer simulations to create new conservation scenarios with community input. The researchers will also study how community members use scientific information.

The second program being funded is called Island(er)s at the Helm. The program will bring together researchers and local partners to share technical, traditional, and contemporary knowledge practices. The objective will be to co-create sustainable and inclusive strategies for social adaptation to climatic challenges. In addition, a trans-Atlantic academic platform and regional expertise center will be developed to foster research-based education on climate challenges for the islands. *DMR (Besreporter)*

## BES Kadasters merged with Netherlands

Kadaster keeps a record of who has which rights in relation to all property, land and buildings. Effective 2021, the separate Kadaster functions on each of the BES islands have been incorporated into Kadaster Netherlands. All Kadaster records from the islands are now digitized and entered into the national registry.

Public access to Kadaster services is unchanged. Property owners, notaries, estate agents, banks, project developers, and other interested parties can still go to the local Kadaster offices for information. The contents of the registry are public. Both the procedures for registration and the registry itself will now be uniform, and the property market will be assured better transparency. *DMR (Besreporter)*

## Vaccinations to begin in February

The public body of Bonaire expects to start the vaccination program to combat the corona virus in February 2021. The more people vaccinated, the faster the virus can disappear from our daily lives and the sooner we can live without fear of becoming infected.

At the end of January, a team of experts from the RIVM will arrive to prepare and supervise the vaccination program. It will work with the Public Health Department, the general practitioners, and Fundashon Mariadal hospital. The vaccines must be transported and stored carefully. The necessary equipment will also arrive on Bonaire in January.

The first stock of vaccine will be available on Bonaire from February. The intention is to vaccinate every adult on the island. Vaccination is voluntary. The various vaccines now available have been extensively tested and found to be safe. They are already being used in many countries. *DMR*

## With infections skyrocketing, Phase 4 regulations kick in

Active covid cases have leapt to well over a hundred on Bonaire. With the island battling another marked acceleration in infections, the public prosecutor, the police chief, and the lieutenant governor have decided to take stricter action and begin enforcing Phase 4 COVID-19 regulations. The first arrest has already been made. A person identified as NE has been detained for holding a large party.

### See a poster of Phase 4 regulations in "breaking news."

Police no longer issue warnings. The Public Prosecution Service is immediately charging people, establishments, and companies that violate regulations by allowing large gatherings and parties where the rules are not followed. Offending activities will be shut down, fines will be paid, and serious violations may bring criminal charges under the BES Penal Code.

The public is encouraged to report parties or gatherings where more than the permitted number of people is present. People can call the KPCN at 717-8000 or the anonymous tip line at 717-7251. When companies violate the rules, Supervision and Enforcement (T&H) should be called at 715-5300 during office hours, at 796-4850 after hours, or can emailed at [T&H@bonairegov.com](mailto:T&H@bonairegov.com).

## Covid case at high school and in government

A teacher at the high school has tested positive for Covid -19. The SGB students and interns who were in contact with the teacher have been asked to stay home this week. EXTRA has reported that three members of MPB party have Covid: Tjin Asjoe, Ellis and Din Domacasse.

## Source tracing

According to Dr. Marian-Luinstra-Passchier of the Public Health Department, most covid cases are related to a few groups of infections, or clusters, where many people were infected. She said, "We know that until now most people have been infected during a shift or at a party. As long as the sources are known, we can keep the situation under control. When there are many cases with unknown sources, it is time to take more serious measures."

## WEB reopens

After one WEB employee was diagnosed for COVID -19, WEB Management out of an abundance of caution took the decision to close the main office for deep cleaning and thorough disinfecting on Thursday 7th and Friday 8th of January.

Now the WEB main office has reopened. Only a limited number of customers are allowed in at one time. They must wear a mouth mask and maintain a distance of 1.5 meters. WEB encourages customers to use a debit card rather than cash, and to do their business with WEB by email or telephone whenever possible.

## Hospital restrictions tightened

Fundashon Mariadal announced it is tightening precautions due to the recent increase in the number of COVID-19 infections on the island. Patients and clients in the hospital (Sentebibu), Kas di kuido and Ka'i Mimina are not allowed visitors for the time being. Visitors or attendants may enter the hospital only in exceptional cases. Visits are allowed only if the specialist or ward doctor gives

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## Covid-19 on Bonaire as of January 26, 2021

25 active / 4 new	4 hospitalized
332 recovered	3 deceased
360 positive	4100 tested
3740 negative	49 in quarantine

For breaking covid news go to the online Reporter <https://bonairereporter.com>



# SueArt exhibits at Terramar



thing to say. Artists have strong opinions and I try to have a balance between the two,” said Sue.

As for a medium, surprisingly, the artist uses Bonaire’s Krioyo water base wall paint for all her work, whether it is a portrait, an abstract or a wall mural.

If you haven’t noticed, her murals and street art around Bonaire are at the hospital, Kas Chuchbi, Trans World Radio, Bon Kordo, Deviate Design, WEB and on the wall along Sabadeco Road. Just look for her signature – SueArt.

“The Colors of Life on Bonaire” will be at Terramar Art Museum from now to January 31, Thursday and Friday 1 pm-6pm, and Saturday and Sunday 10 am-5pm. Most days you can meet Sue and see her working on one of her paintings.

(Admission is \$5, for the benefit of the museum). *Story and photos, Julie Morgan*



A new exhibit “The Colors of Life on Bonaire” at Terramar Art Museum features the work of Solveig van Wijn-gaarden or Sue. Her colorful murals and street art seem to be everywhere around Bonaire lately. Now you can see her work up close and personal till January 31.

The amazing thing about Sue is she has only been making a living as an artist since 2017 and, to top that she has only been on Bonaire for a year.

Originally from The Hague, Netherlands, Sue didn’t come to Bonaire to dive or windsurf, she came because her family is here and to make art.

Sue has been drawing and painting

since she was a kid but didn’t begin to take it seriously until recently.

“I sold a piece and decided I want to try this to make money,” said Sue.

Her academic studies were in musical theater and marketing. Now she has put a few of those skills to use in her art career.

The show at Terramar is the result of a Facebook project began last September 7. Sue posted an ad on Durftevragen Bonaire Facebook asking locals to send or post a photo of themselves for her to paint with no cost involved. She received over 180 images and painted 10 portraits that are the main focus of the Colors of Life on Bonaire show.

On January 3, the 10 people and guests were invited to attend the “Colors” opening to see their likeness brought to life in one of Sue’s paintings.

Sue said that the main thing she loves about Bonaire are the many nationalities and backgrounds of the people on the island and hence the title for her exhibit. In her selection for the paintings she tried to have a nice mix of the different cultures and personalities.

The show also features some of her less commercial work or fantasy work.

“Sometimes I have something in my mind and want to step away from the commercial. Sometimes I have some-

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**Doug Searle, Pastor  
International Bible Church**

2020 has been a year to bear in mind the words of the ancient prophet: "Though the fig tree should not blossom, nor fruit be on the vines, the produce of the olive fail and the fields yield no food, the flock be cut off from the fold and there be no herd in the stalls, yet I will rejoice in the LORD; I will take joy in the God of my salvation. GOD, the Lord, is my strength; he makes my feet like the deer's; he makes me tread on my high places." (Habakkuk 3:17-19)

At International Bible Church, this challenging time has been a reminder that our hope is not in the circumstances of this world, but in our Savior Jesus Christ, who gave his own life to give us life in him. We have seen his goodness and his faithfulness to us in many ways this year. We look forward to the coming year and the ongoing adventure of following Jesus, not because we expect our situation to improve, but because we know he will be with us whatever the situation. We pray that everyone in Bonaire will truly see the grace of God in Christ in 2021.



**Floris van Loo  
Rum Runners**

In between fear and strength!

Many say a year to forget ASAP. I don't agree!!

It's been a year with lots of challenges. That's a fact, of course.

Doing business on Bonaire always has its challenges but 2020 brought a new dimension for sure. Bonaireans and the peo-

ple who choose to live their life on this beautiful island have always been willing to give one another a hand. But the past year was simply amazing: from simple initiatives involving little helping hands to really big organized groups helping large numbers of people with the support of the government. People, businesses and organizations that used to be competitors (to say it politely) rose up together....for those who needed it more. This made my love for this Island and respect for the people living here even more this year (even after being a Bonairean for 20 years).

So, let's not FORGET the bounds, plans and ideas to help the community of Bonaire. Let's always REMEMBER how big a small island can be. Let's go into 2021 and the rest of the future going forward with more tolerance and respect. Never forget how beautiful life on Bonaire is.

Whatever the future will bring for tourism on Bonaire!!! Together BONAIRE will be up against the challenge. Of course I hope we will see you all A LOT in all our local bars and restaurants. Also, they can use your support!!!!



**Grace Winklaar  
entrepreneur**

2020 was a year filled with lessons learned. It taught us to look at our world as a whole, with different eyes. The eyes of our hearts. For me this year has been a year filled with blessings.

Allow me to elaborate, I have my health and financial issues like most of us do. However, 2020 made me search deep



## Ask Kate Bonaire real estate advice

**Question: Do you expect vacation rentals to return to pre-COVID levels on Bonaire once there is a vaccine? Wondering if I can still make a profit if I buy a house there. Dan**

Hi Dan,

We can't predict rental performance, since even past performance is no guarantee of future performance. We encourage clients to buy a home they can afford even if they receive no vacation rental income. The COVID crisis in the past year has shown us the wisdom of that advice. Depending on the property, some owners do break even or make a profit, but we have always advised our clients not to buy a home with these expectations, especially if they have a mortgage on the property.

If you prefer more stable income, you might be interested in mid or long term

rental (a few months to a year or more) to people who live on the island. Although long term rentals rent for less than vacation rentals, they don't have many of the expenses associated with vacation rentals, such as check-ins, cleaning, laundry and utilities. Many long term renters pay some or all of their own utilities, cable and internet.

All the best,  
*Kate Butler and Jean Searce  
Re/Max Bonaire*

**If you have a real estate question or want to buy or sell property, email us at [kate@bonairehomes.com](mailto:kate@bonairehomes.com).**

within, and it made me realize more than ever, how blessed I am:

1. The personal realization of "my" truth of "my" health. I had to make choices that affected me financially, and yet these same choices added substantial value to "my" quality of life.

2. From a professional perspective, 2020 made us more aware of the strength and weaknesses of our businesses and lives. In essence, it prepared us and made us more resilient for whatever 2021 brings.

3. As a community, I can say that we now find ourselves in a much healthier place, while forming part of a much

stronger "People of Bonaire."

Now that we have surpassed the growing pains and the child illnesses, we have arrived in a position to put our differences aside and keep this amazing little Island, prosperous, free and pleasantly safe.

I am so thankful and proud to be part of the community of Bonaire.

2020, provided us with everything we need to enjoy 2021 to the fullest, without any resolution lists. Thanks to all the lessons learned in 2020.

Happy New Year and 2021 you are welcome.

# POLICE REPORT

## Property crime

Between Wednesday December 30 and Thursday December 31 a red / white Honda motorcycle, with license plate MF-88, was stolen from the yard of a house in Punt Vierkant.

Between Wednesday, January 6, and Friday, January 8, a petrol vibrating plate was stolen.

A kiteboard was stolen Saturday, January 9 between 5 and 6 pm, from the beach at a kite beach.

On Saturday, January 9, between 2 and 10 am, a purple Gilera scooter, model Runner, with registration number MF-268, was stolen. The scooter was parked on a sidewalk behind a house in Amboina, but was not locked.

## Arrests

At around 6 pm on Wednesday December 30, police confiscated a bicycle from a 16-year-old rider on Kaya C.E.B. Hellmund. The driver was cycling on the rear wheel (a wheelie) for a long time, endangering himself and other traffic.

On Friday, December 1, a man, 49, was arrested for public intoxication at a bar on Kaya Patachi. The suspect refused to pay and after being asked to pay several times, he was arrested.

In the early evening hours on Friday,

January 1, a man, 24, was stopped for riding a moped without a helmet. During the routine check, police found that the suspect was in possession of a firearm. The firearm and moped were confiscated. Subsequently, a house search took place in a house in the Nort Saliña district.

At around 1:20 am on Sunday, January 3, a car was stopped for inspection because it had headlights that changed color, which is confusing for other road traffic. The driver did not have a valid driver's license or insurance certificate. The car did have new number plates, but these did not belong to this car. The driver received a police report. Because the driver has already been fined several times for driving without a driver's license, the car was also impounded.

On Tuesday, January 5, a man, 35, years old was arrested for threats and destruction of the RCN government building (Rijksgebouw) located on Gobernador Nicolaas Debrot.

On Wednesday, December 6, a patrol on duty encountered a brawl at Kaya L.M. Pourrier. The two men were engaged in a fierce fight in which a man was beaten with a metal tube and knifed. A man, 52, was arrested for attempted manslaughter and assault and the other man, 62, was arrested for assault. The metal tube and the knife

were confiscated. Both suspects were taken by the ambulance to the hospital.

On Friday morning, January 8, a 24-year-old woman was arrested for theft. The declarant stated that the woman had stolen his bank card and had withdrawn money.

On Friday, January 8, around 8 pm, the police station was notified that a woman had stabbed a man at a house on Kaya Kerkrade. The woman, 33, was arrested. The man was taken to hospital by ambulance.

At around 2:15 am, Sunday, January 10, a man, 23, was arrested for assault.

## Traffic accidents and violations

On Friday, January 1, a little after 7 am, a car hit the wall of a supermarket located on Kaya Nikiboko North. The driver was taken to hospital by ambulance.

During the past period, several drivers were fined during regular traffic checks for driving without valid insurance papers, driver's license or number plate. Fines were also issued for driving without a seat belt, using the phone while driving and driving without a helmet on the scooter. KPCN would like to draw the attention of everyone to have the necessary documents as mentioned above in order. The amount of a fine for the above violations varies between \$30 and \$225.

In the early evening hours, around 7 pm, a moped on Kaminda Lagun was confiscated. After a report of road racing, a number of mopeds were stopped and checked. One driver did not have a driver's license or in-

surance documents with him. After showing the mentioned documents and paying the towing costs, the owner can pick up the moped at the police station. The fine for driving without a license and insurance is \$ 225.

On Sunday, January 10, around 1 am, the driver of a scooter was fined for driving without a helmet, not complying with a police order to stop, driving above the maximum speed limit in built-up areas, driving without a driver's license or insurance documents. The scooter was also impounded.

In the late afternoon on Sunday, January 10, a unilateral collision took place on Kaminda Gurubu. The driver of a car, lost control of the wheel in a sharp turn and drove off the road. The ambulance took the driver to the hospital.

## Emergency ordinance

The police, in combination with Supervision and Enforcement of the Public Entity, are checking for compliance to the rules of the emergency ordinance.

## Law and order

In recent days, the police station has received many complaints about fireworks.

On Saturday, January 9, a police report was issued for someone who insulted an official in office.

## Contact the police

911 (rush or red-handed)  
717 8000 or 715 8000 (no emergency)  
717 7251 (anonymous tip line)

# Letters & Opinions

The opinions, beliefs and viewpoints expressed by the various authors and forum participants do not necessarily reflect the opinions, beliefs and viewpoints of The Bonaire Reporter.

## **Wearing masks** **Laura Reese**

Hello and Happy New Year,

As my husband and I sail Bonaire since 20 years for 2-4 weeks I feel very much heartily connected with this very special Island with its friendly and relaxed people. In this hard times ( and this since nearly 40 years) I work as a husdokter in Germany and what I had to do in 2020 is to cure people with Influenza-like infections and to help my patients and friends to deal with their fear to get seriously ill and perhaps die with this special pneumonia (could happen).

I read that a person wants the guests to wear masks all the time, and guests should do that. Therefore I write email because it is evidence based data which say that wearing masks is no benefit for no one and it disturbs the immune system in its skills.

Now in Holland-Mainland ( same thing in Germany ) it is winter-flu-season, but here the sun is shining in a very different way because here in Bonaire we are near the aequator, and the UV-2 makes virusses die within 30 sec outside. So wearing masks can generate health problems, as bacteria, virusses and fungus multiply in the humidity of the masks and people are breathing them into their lungs, which can make them seriously ill.

In Kansas USA the government did not decide to make masks mandatory, but they gave the decision free for the counties. If you make a research you will see, that in the counties where people did not wear masks, less people were ill and less people died, so that the CDC 's bulletin said, that wearing mask often or all the time makes no sense.

<https://thefederalist.com/2020/10/29/these-12-graphs-show-mask-mandates-do-nothing-to-stop-covid/#.X5sLxOGQMwY.twitter>

If you are interested in more scientific-based and evidence-based information I would be happy to give more information, that people do not have fear , but get information how to do things to improve the skills of the immune system which really is the place where the fight against any virus takes place in the body of every single man, woman or child or animal.

Sincerely, Laura Reese  
s/y Shambala II

## **Wearing masks** **Dabney Lassiter**

To the editor:

As Covid numbers are rising higher on Bonaire Lt Governor Rijna is again requiring smaller gatherings to keep people from coming together in large groups and spreading the virus. Has it occurred to anyone in the government that 50 percent of people gathering in a church or meeting rather than the usual 100 percent can still spread Covid if they are not wearing masks? These orders are pointless unless the government MANDATES MASK WEARING. Why is the concept of masks so difficult for the government to grasp? An example: Two people per basket in the grocery store is useless if unmasked people are breathing, coughing, or sneezing on other shoppers. Social distancing in stores is not being observed so our only protection is wearing a mask.

Please read the information below from The World Health Organization.

"It's a race against time," said Marion Koopmans, a Dutch virologist and a member of a World Health Organization working group on coronavirus adaptations.

"The vaccine alone will not be enough to get ahead of the virus: It will take years to inoculate enough people to limit its evolution. In the meantime, social distancing, mask-wearing and hand-washing — coupled with aggressive testing, tracking and tracing — might buy some time and avert devastating spikes in hospitalizations and deaths along the way. These strategies could still turn the tide against the virus, experts said."

Also of interest is this report from the CDC in America.

**"Since many covid-19 cases are asymptomatic, is taking someone's temperature at a business, dentist's office, county tennis facility, etc., really a good indicator of a possible infection, or does it give one a false sense of security?" — Janie in New Mexico**

It is a false sense of security. The CDC now estimates that around 60 percent of all infections are transmitted from someone who isn't showing any symptoms. The study concluded that 35 percent of new cases come from people who eventually show symptoms, but didn't have them at the time of transmission, and 24 percent from people who never develop any symptoms at all.

We've generally known this to be true

(or at least we assumed it was a significant factor) for several months. Health experts told The Post the confirmation from the CDC research team is more evidence that we absolutely need to wear masks and avoid gatherings, even if we aren't sick."

Dabney Lassiter

## **Bonaire's roads** **Pam Teitel**

Bonaire has expressed an interest to attract a high quality clients rather than mass numbers. Of course, we all know the atrocious condition of the roads does not match the expectations of these clients, nor that of ANY tourist or resident of the island.

The repairs have begun, under the guise of improving the infrastructure. This year we have seen long closures to rebuild a few roads. In fact, this is not an improvement in infrastructure, as a road without holes is what is to be expected. The fact that all roads have been left without maintenance to beyond their breaking point should not mean that putting them back to the way they should be is an improvement.

As they began with a clean slate around the schools of Kaya Amsterdam, I have watched with great anticipation for the big plan unfold. One newly paved road up the hill has no sidewalks the other they seem something on each side, maybe one side is to be for walking (pavers) and the other for biking (tar) but it is not clear yet the intention. The plan for Kaya Amsterdam has been shown to have bike paths, but no sidewalks. So, Kids at Leseo can ride to school, but not walk? Kids from Papa Cornes can be dropped off at the bottom of the hill and walk up as that is the only sidewalk? Kids from Pelican that need to go to the sport hall will have to continue to take the dirt path behind the school as there is no sidewalks. There is mention of a turn off lane at Pelican, but not for Leseo and the sport hall?

Can anyone explain why we cannot make a consistent commitment to infrastructure and put both sidewalks and bike paths where space is available then make a consistent plan where space does not permit. It may be a long term plan to get them everywhere, but if we do not start now, we will never reach that goal. Though it may seem by the congestion on the roads, everyone has more than one car, but in fact there are still people that walk and bike. We cannot forget them, especially not around the schools.

Pam Teitel

## **All about masks** *in the context of COVID-19*

Masks should be used as part of a comprehensive strategy of measures to suppress transmission and save lives; the use of a mask alone is not sufficient to provide an adequate level of protection against COVID-19.

If COVID-19 is spreading in your community, stay safe by taking some simple precautions, such as physical distancing, wearing a mask, keeping rooms well ventilated, avoiding crowds, cleaning your hands, and coughing into a bent elbow or tissue. Check local advice where you live and work. Do it all!

Make wearing a mask a normal part of being around other people. The appropriate use, storage and cleaning or disposal of masks are essential to make them as effective as possible.

Here are the basics of how to wear a mask:

- Clean your hands before you put your mask on, as well as before and after you take it off, and after you touch it at any time.
- Make sure it covers both your nose, mouth and chin.
- When you take off a mask, store it in a clean plastic bag, and every day either wash it if it's a fabric mask, or dispose of a medical mask in a trash bin.
- Don't use masks with valves.



**World Health Organization**

When should masks be worn by the general public?

In areas where the virus is circulating, masks should be worn when you're in crowded settings, where you can't be at least one metre from others and in rooms with poor or unknown ventilation. It's not always easy to determine the quality of ventilation, which depends on the rate of air change, recirculation and outdoor fresh air. So if you have any doubts, it's safer to simply wear a mask.

You should always clean your hands before and after using a mask, and before touching it while wearing it.

While wearing a mask, you should still keep physical distance from others as much as possible.

For indoor public settings such as busy shopping centers, religious buildings, restaurants, schools and public transport, you should wear a mask if you cannot maintain physical distance from others.

If a visitor comes to your home who is not a member of the household, wear a mask if you cannot maintain a physical distance or the ventilation is poor.

When outside, wear a mask if you cannot maintain physical distance from others. Some examples are busy markets, crowded streets and bus stops. JM

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# Tax/customs office temporarily closed

The office of the Belastingdienst/Douane (Customs) on Bonaire is temporarily closed from the 6th of January up till and including the 24th of January due to quarantine measures. The port Customs office on Bonaire will remain open.

## Fast customer service

In order to serve customers fast and better, the Belastingdienst stays accessible via email: [Balie@belastingdienst-cn.nl](mailto:Balie@belastingdienst-cn.nl).

You can go to this email address with any questions you would have liked to visit the counter of the Belastingdienst with, such as:

- Questions about all types of declarations;
- Requests, such as: DIGI-D, Crib number, income statements, legal aid statement, payment arrangement and deferment of payment;
- Changes, such as: reporting a change of bank account number and / or change of address;
- For all your Customs questions.

The Belastingdienst kindly requests customers to choose one contact channel. So either send an email or call. It is not necessary to use different contact channels at the same time. Customers will be helped at once by email or on the phone.

## Submitting tax returns online

Residents and companies can easily, safely and quickly submit their tax returns for ABB, LH and the Verzamelloonstaat (Collective Wage Sheet) online to the Belastingdienst.

If they need additional help logging in, the help desk will be happy to help. The e-mail address [helpdesk@belastingdienst-cn.nl](mailto:helpdesk@belastingdienst-cn.nl) remains available for this purpose; only for questions related to ICT and online returns.

## Physical submission

For the physical submission of documents, one can also deposit them on Bonaire in the letterbox next to the main entrance of the office of the Belastingdienst. You will receive a confirmation email of the submitted documents with a stamp from the Belastingdienst as soon as possible. If BCN has not registered anyone's e-mail address in the system, the documents will be sent by post.

It is also possible to scan the tax return and email it to [Balie@belastingdienst-cn.nl](mailto:Balie@belastingdienst-cn.nl). Submitting tax returns online via the website <https://www.belastingdienst-cn.nl/> is much faster.

# STCB extends thanks



STCB (Sea Turtle Conservation Bonaire) volunteers spent 3,875 hours of their own time dedicated to the protection of sea turtles in 2020. They provided 27 transect-count survey days on the west coast, five weeks of net-capture surveys in Lac Bay, 540 nest monitoring patrols on Bonaire's nesting beaches, clean-ups, presentations and educational activities. None of this would have been possible without the ongoing support of STCB's enthusiastic and passionate volunteers. On behalf of STCB's staff and the Board: thank you!

In addition to the volunteers, STCB extends their gratitude to their supporters. These companies and families adopted 33 nests during the 2020 nesting season. And the local vendors – VIP Diving, Dive Friends Bonaire, Mangrove Center and Harbour Village sold STCB's merchandise and donated their retail services so 100% of the profits would go directly to sea turtle conservation. We thank the main funders including WWF-NL, Stichting DierenLot, the government and all the individual donors who supported the organization.

One of the highlights of this year was the deployment of the 26th satellite transmitter. With the support of ContourGlobal Bonaire, STCB fitted a transmitter on an adult female hawksbill turtle, named 'Flappie'. STCB has been able to track her to her foraging home in the Miskito Cays, Nicaragua. The transmitter, which was deployed in August, is still working and STCB will continue to provide updates on 'Flappie's' whereabouts via their social media.

But, unfortunately, it wasn't all great. Due to the pandemic, STCB had to cancel several (volunteer) activities, including Fishing Line Clean-ups at the North & South Pier and research on the Bonaire's east coast. With very few tourists visiting the island, merchandise sales and donations dropped drastically. On the positive side, Stichting DierenLot provided a generous loan to cover the gap and with the help of their volunteers, STCB was able to complete their most important monitoring work: the nest monitoring patrols and in-water research on the west coast and in Lac Bay.

And there is more positive news... In 2021, STCB will be celebrating their 30th anniversary! In January, staff and volunteers will start the new survey season on the west coast, going out three days a week to get a better insight in the number of foraging turtles in this area. In May, the first nesting females are expected to lay nests on Klein Bonaire and in June STCB will return to Lac Bay to continue their net-capture surveys. All of this will be possible due to STCB's volunteers & supporters – our sea turtle superheroes!

*Sea Turtle Conservation Bonaire (STCB) is a non-governmental research and conservation organization that has been protecting sea turtles since 1991.*

*Contact person: Kaj Schut, Manager; Sea Turtle Conservation Bonaire, +599 717-2225, [stcb@bonaireturtles.org](mailto:stcb@bonaireturtles.org)*



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# Ask a Geek

by Brian Niessen



## Call us...

Whahooo... You've finally made the jump and moved to Bonaire! Congratulations! You beat the odds, sold your house up north, cancelled all the utilities and phone service, flew in thru Curaçao under the wire, and managed to secure a hotel room online. Welcome to the Bonaire lifestyle!

Now you have to go through the immigration, residency, internet service, telephone service, power and water service signup, and bank account setup fiascos - but they are outside the scope of this column.

So, with the assumption that you are now cozy and

quarantined in your temporary home for the next 14 days, you sit down in front of your laptop to see what's happening in the Great White North.

First thing you want to do is check your bank account to make sure you received your \$2000 check from the Government.

Bank of America Website: Username: DIVER  
Password: \*\*\*\*\* 2FA Code: ?

Uhhhhhh... Checking my cell phone to see if I got the 2FA sms text... nope. Argh, it was sent to my USA phone number, which is now disabled. Hmmm... what to do, what to do....

Gonna call the bank... Dialing... @#@\$ how do I dial to the USA? +1 xxx xxx xxxx Where is the PLUS sign on my phone... Ahh, hold down "0" for two seconds... there we go.... Ringing... Answered... "The number you are calling does not accept international calls. Please call from a USA based number. CLICK!"

OK... Now you are stuck.... What are the options? I can't instantly solve this issue for you, but I can give you direction on how to fix it properly long-term.

You can get many different VOIP (Voice Over IP) services like Skype, Vonage, MagicJack, etc, etc. But the only one that seems to allow SMS 2FA (2 Factor Authentication) consistently is MagicJack.

And if you do it before you leave to come here, you should transfer (port is the technical term) your existing phone number to the MagicJack and use it there until you travel. Then you just plug it in here, plug a phone into it or use the app on your mobile phone and BINGO - you have a USA landline that accepts SMS and Voicemail.

If you haven't done it before you came, you can buy MagicJack online, ship it down here, set it up, pick a phone number in just about any city in the USA or Canada, and away you go. You will have to contact your bank and tell them you have a new phone number using your new number.

I hope this helps alleviate some of the stresses of Living in Paradise.

PS. You can buy it at MagicJack.com or on Bestbuy, Amazon, Ebay or other retailers. Unfortunately nobody on-island sells it.



## Reef Glimpses Release the Ray (and the Adrenaline)

The extremes of diving can go from:

- The joy of experiencing tranquility and weightlessness, pretty much a given for us here on Bonaire, to
- Having an adrenaline-rush dive, say, seeing whales or sharks. It's usually a short but exhilarating experience, and we don't have a lot of them on Bonaire.

My dive off Playa on January 6th changed in an instant from tranquil to exciting.

At the end of the dive, I had seen a spotted eagle ray stirring up the sand at the reef's edge. Later, as I started toward shore, my attention was caught by movement in midwater: the spotted eagle ray, doing a sort of flip. By the time I focused in, the flip -- or whatever it was -- was done and the ray was swimming normally, still in mid-water over the sand.

I headed toward shore again, and something else caught my eye: a single strand of fishing line, moving straight across my line of vision. Without thinking I grabbed the fishing line and began swimming along with it and gathering it up. Once I got that procedure under control, I finally looked ahead -- and realized the line was attached to the spotted eagle ray! The ray was pretty far ahead of me, but it was cruising along at a speed I could easily match.



Photo Larry Stern

"What if the ray bolts?" I thought suddenly, and decided to cut the line so that if the ray zoomed off, at least the line would be shorter. I gathered and cut two more times, sawing away with a 2" (5 cm) -bladed mini-knife. The final cut was close to the ray; as I held the line the ray turned on its side (in the same motion that had caught my attention earlier), and I could see the line disappear into the ray's mouth. Trying to get closer would surely distress the ray, so I hung back and released the line.

With what seemed like a parting grin and with only 5' (1.5m) of line trailing, the ray continued on its way.

I swam to shore, thoroughly exhilarated and busily disentangling myself from what turned out to be 83' (just over 25 m) of fishing line!

And no, I didn't break my arm despite all the time I spent patting myself on the back. Just got a little sprain and bored my friends.

Any one of us would have wanted to free that spotted eagle ray from that line. The prerequisite would be a line cutter, since it's pretty much impossible to break fishing line. So, consider carrying an easily-accessible knife,

shears, or other line-cutting tool on dives, just in case. My mini-knife was perfect: I only needed to yank it out of the sheathe that was hanging from a ring on my BCD.

The next challenge is to grab the line. When you're in the middle of 83' (just over 25 m) of line that's passing 6" (just over 15 cm) from your mask, this is no challenge. More often, the line is shorter and the hooked fish is extra-wary. Chasing the fish to grab the line is usually futile.

What happens if we can't catch the line and help the fish?

Bad case scenario: the line becomes entangled, limiting the area in which the fish can move (and forage or hunt). Eventually the hook rots out or the fish rips itself free, but it could become too weak to survive.

Good case scenario: the fish is able to continue its life despite the hook and line. Eventually, the hook rots out -- but there's at least one healthy-looking yellowtail snapper on Bonaire who has passed the fishing line through its digestive system and has been trailing about a yard (1 m) of algae-covered fishing line for years.

That spotted eagle ray and its fishing line brought me a great beginning for 2021. You'll recognize me these days by the big grin on my face and the sling on my arm...

*Dee Scarr*

*Dee has been guiding divers on Bonaire since 1982. She's written about her undersea experiences in her books, Touch the Sea, The Gentle Sea, and Coral's Reef (for children); in Dive Training Magazine from 1990 to 2000, with "Coral Glimpses" in the Bonaire Reporter, and now with "Reef Glimpses". The Bonaire Reporter is delighted to bring "Reef Glimpses" to you free of charge. Dee's books are available for purchase at the Carib Inn on Bonaire or through touchthesea.com.*



## Bonaire's sky park

Mercury; The Wolf Moon

### Magnificent Mercury

Greetings, fellow star gazers -- I'm Trace and I'm here to help you find the teeny planet of Mercury -- which is in its greatest elongation right now!

Head outside after sunset, and keep a sharp eye out for a tiny speck of light about a fist-width above the horizon -- that's about ten-degrees. That speck should follow the sun as it sets, and then disappear beneath the horizon too. That speck is lil' sun-soaked Mercury!

Throughout the year, each planet hits Elongation or their furthest distance from the sun as seen from Earth. Mercury finished its Great Western Elongation in November 2020, crossed in front of the Sun, and will hit its

Eastern Elongation on January 24th! Then it'll swing behind the sun for its next Western elongation on March 6.

Because Mercury orbits closer to the sun than us, it can be tough to spot -- zipping back and forth around our nearest star, but now that you know where to look, you can say hello to my little friend, and keep lookin' up!

*Source: Trace Dominguez-Star Gazers website: <https://www.stargazersonline.org>*

### Wolf Moon - naming the full moon

This year's first full moon, also known as the Wolf Moon, will occur on Jan. 28 at 3:16 pm in Kralendijk.

In previous times, it was common to track the changing seasons by following the lunar month rather than the solar year. Native Americans and Medieval Europeans named the months after features they associated with the Northern Hemisphere seasons, and many of these names

are very similar or identical. Today, we use many of these ancient month names as full moon names. (Some years have 13 full moons which makes one of them a Blue Moon.)

Both Europeans and Native Americans called the January full moon the Wolf Moon perhaps because they thought wolves howled more at this time of year as there was less food. The scientific community has no indication that the moon phase plays any particular part in the calls of the wolf, but wolves are nocturnal animals. And wolves do howl in the direction of the moon; they point their faces toward the sky for better acoustics. Projecting their howl upward carries the sound farther.

*(Source: January: Wolf Moon; By Vigdis Hocken <https://www.timeanddate.com/astronomy/moon/wolf.html>)*



# BAG IT UP!

keep Bonaire clean...

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# Prepare for road detours in Playa

Water –en Energie Bonaire (WEB) will resume construction of the irrigation water pipeline at Julio A. Abraham Boulevard.

Dates: Thursday, January 7 to  
Tuesday, January 26, 2021  
Time: 8 am to 4 pm

By January 26 WEB expects to restore normal traffic to Julio A. Abraham Boulevard, where vehicles must detour, and to Kaya Betico Croes, where transportation companies are temporarily allowed to drive against the traffic. The disruptions are caused by excavation work for the renewal of the irrigation water pipeline. The accompanying map shows the areas affected. *DMR*

## Work area and alternative routes

The map is marked in green where the work is taking place. The area between the green shading and the red diversion route (Julio Abraham Boulevard) is also part of this work. Until January 26, traffic has the following alternatives:

- Traffic from Divi Flamingo Beach Resort & Casino towards Kaya Grandi: drive via Kaya International and take the roads between Kaya Gresia and Kaya Gilberto F. Croes.
- Freight traffic from the south pier: drive in the opposite direction on Kaya C.E.B. Hellmund (red on the map) to Kaya Betico Croes.



- Through car traffic on Kaya C.E.B. Hellmund is diverted to Kaya Betico Croes (blue on the map) via the parking lot of the Administrative Office near the Customs Office.



# Time to buy your tag



SCUBADIVING is only \$45 for a whole year and \$25 for other water activities. For more information contact STINAPA .



# WEB delivers Christmas



Water –en Energie Bedrijf Bonaire N.V (WEB) delivered Christmas packages to 50 families in Bonaire. WEB colleagues prepared all the packages and distributed them on December 17th. The project was designed to give back to the community, acknowledging that: “It’s Christmas in the heart that puts Christmas in the air. WEB N.V wishes that the people of Bonaire will find 2021 a year full of positivism, faith and hope that everything will return to normal.

Freedom | Comfort | Royal Treatment

# Majestic

Comfortable banking

**Comfortable banking**

Orco Bank is your personal banker in Curaçao, Bonaire and St. Martin. Entrust all your banking needs to us and be sure to receive the most courteous and competent of services available. With ample experience operating in the international arena, we offer expert advice and the perfect platform to design a mortgage tailor-made to your needs.

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# Did You Know?

**that lionfish can survive for up to three months without food and lose only 10% of their body weight?**



**A local certified lionfish hunter removes one of the invading fish from Bonaire's reefs.**

**(According to Bas Noij of VIP Diving, divers must be certified at a local dive shop and then they can either go on hunting dives accompanied by a local dive guide (guided dives) or apply for an ELF tool at STINAPA. Only residents will be approved.)**

This means that a single female could make millions of babies in a year. While lionfish seem to be capable of reproducing year-round, a study done by the University of Florida, suggests that Florida lionfish are more likely to reproduce in March and April, and June and August. In general, it seems that spawning is more likely to occur during or right after the months with the highest or lowest water temperatures for the year.

Lionfish are highly adaptable animals. This, plus the apparent lack of natural predators, gives them a huge advantage when they invade new habitats. They are voracious predators, eating anything from small fish to

mollusks and crustaceans. Because of their incredible reproductive potential, and no natural enemies, it is up to us to control their populations. Besides being delicious, lionfish are also quite a healthy fish to eat. They tend to have lower concentrations of heavy metals than other fish species, while also having high concentrations of omega-3 fatty acids that are good for our cardiovascular health. So, go ahead and enjoy that lionfish ceviche; it's good for you and for the reef!

*Roxanne-Liana Francisca. STINAPA Biologist. Connecting People With Nature. Photo by Julie Morgan*



*A Garden?  
Just Do It!  
New Year's cleansing.*



**Aloe is common on Bonaire**

Many deal with the use of herbs and medicines made of alternative ingredients other than what we use to heal nowadays. And, slowly people are seeing the importance of using herbs and other alternative remedies to keep body and mind healthy. It is nice to share this knowledge with each other.

Here on Bonaire, there are a lot of herbs one can use for a good body cleansing and skin cleansing baths. You don't need to go far, as just around the corner there are trees and plants to start with.

One of them is the tamarind tree; a fruit with very high vitamin C, a blood cleanser and a very good stimulant for the toilet. It cools off the body when it's very hot and adding the leaves to a hot bath is a good cleanser for the skin. Just make one litre of a concentrated tea with a bunch of leaves and add this tea to a tub of hot water for a bath.

You can do the same with neem tree leaves. Neem is a

good cleanser for skin and scalp and also itching.

The island has Aloe Vera and it works miracles on various skin problems, like burns and wounds. And it is a perfect cleanser for the inside of the body. Mix the white part from inside an old aloe with fresh orange juice for a few days and then drink. During a full moon, the aloe is most powerful in its working and healing. A hair mask from fresh aloe once a week, gives hair all ingredients to grow healthily.

There are wild plants along the road, such as Basora kora. This is also a very good blood cleaner and fights against high blood pressure. Ask the locals which plant it is; it's very popular here. Ginger grows here easily in pots and is a liver cleaner, blood cleaner and helps against dizziness.

When you look for facial herbs, the wild chikitu cucumber is very good as a mask. It smoothes the surface of the skin and makes it look vital again. Also, skin of a watermelon is very good to hydrate your face and give it a boost. Tea from the leaves of soursop (sunsaka) and from the leaves of passionfruit are very good for a good night rest and soursop brings blood pressure down.

All herbs that one can grow here easily on Bonaire like lemon grass, basil, Mexican mint, lipia alba (locals calls this oregano), yerbi hole, aloe, ginger and way more should be in your garden, because they are all very healthy and useful as body cleaners.

This is just a handful of herbs for a new years cleansing. You can have them all in your yard and with this rain in a few weeks some of them will be bushes.

So start your own beauty salon in your garden, just do it now. *Angliet, Nature lover*

*The Bonaire Reporter Jan 13 - Jan 27, 2021*



# BAG IT UP! Big Bag Campaign Caribbean Homes



Pictures courtesy of Casper Douma Photography

## Why is Caribbean Homes starting a clean-up campaign?

Bonaire is our home and just as we take care of our personal homes, we want to help keep the island we all call *home* clean as well. We believe that Bonaire can be much cleaner to better represent the “Blue Destination” that we strive to be.

Bonaire was much cleaner in the past and by working together, we can achieve a beautiful, clean island once again. We are aware there are very good initiatives already on our Island and we like to add our **BAG IT UP!** campaign to that list.

## Please tell us what this **BAG IT UP!** campaign is all about

Well, we have the impression that as Bonaire has grown, so has the issue with litter. Some is accidental such as unsecured garbage from construction sites and truck beds; some is intentional dumping and carelessness. Bonaire’s trademark winds make it important to effectively secure garbage. Because there are not enough trashcans in many areas, we think our reusable Big Bags can be used to collect and secure garbage in your own car/garden/construction-site. Each Big Bag is 45cm x 45cm x 45cm and can handle a whopping 500 kilos!

## When is the campaign starting and how can people get a Big Bag?

See our ad in this Bonaire Reporter.

We will start on Thursday morning January 14th from 9-12 am. And after you can get your Bag from Monday-Friday 9-12 noon & 4-5 pm.

When you find the ad, cut out the coupon, fill it in and bring it to our office. Or you can fill in a form at our office to get your FREE Big Bag. We are at: Plaza Reina Juliana 6, opposite of the big Yellow Church, San Bernardo at the roundabout in Playa.

## Enter to win!

Send us a picture of yourself with a full bag when you put it in your own trash bin (kliko), deliver it to the Land-fill or at the Selibon Waste and Recycling Disposal at the Kaya Industria (next to Warehouse).

Each month we will select three winners who will receive a dinner voucher of US\$50, to be used at your choice from a selected list of restaurants.

And.....remember to Like and Share on Facebook

Keep an eye on our Special Facebook page: Bag-It-Up-Caribbean-Homes-Bonaire for more information.

Participation from 18 years. COVID-19: we take into account the current covid measures.



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# What's Happening

Friday, January <b>23</b>	<b>Dive Friends Quarterly Clean-up Dive</b> We start across the street from Karel's Beach Bar between 10am and 12 noon (reservations only). Reserve your spot by dropping by at any dive location, calling 780-2572 or emailing <a href="mailto:info@divefriendsbonaire.com">info@divefriendsbonaire.com</a> .
January <b>29</b> - February <b>12</b>	<b>Dive Friends PADI Open Water Instructor Course.</b> Are you interested in becoming a dive professional? Send an e-mail to Course Director Annie ( <a href="mailto:coursedirector@divefriendsbonaire.com">coursedirector@divefriendsbonaire.com</a> ) to receive all the information.
Saturday, January <b>30</b>	<b>Annual Parrot Count</b> Join Echo volunteers to count Bonaire's loras.
Sunday, February <b>14</b>	<b>Clean Coast Bonaire.</b> 4-6pm Piedra Pretu. Collect marine litter & data by donating your time working as a citizen scientist.

## Every Saturday

**Pakus di Pruga- Flea Market store** sponsored by the Animal Shelter from 8am till 4pm Open but with "social distancing" requirements

## Open

**TCB (Tourist Corporation Bonaire) front office** is open:

Monday - Thursday, 8-12; 1:30-5; Friday, 8-12; 1:30-4:30;

**Washington Slagbaai Park** Wednesday to Sunday. Hours: 8 - 5 (entry up to 1pm) (Some days closed because of bad weather--check STINAPA's FB page.)

**STINAPA HQ** Monday to Friday 8am to 2pm.

**Animal Shelter** is open to the public by appointment only during our regular business hours (Mon.-Fri. 9-12 and 3-5, Sat. 9-3 nonstop. Please call or Whatsapp 701-4989

## Clubs & meetings

**Open Alcoholics Anonymous Meeting.** Every Thursday, 7 - 8 pm. International Bible Church, Kaya Papago 104 in Hato (Behind Bon Bida Spa & Gym and Bon Bida apartments). All are welcome.

**12 Step Meeting** Wednesdays at Bonaire Basics, Kaya Korona 47. Meeting starts at 7:15pm. Info: [12stepsbonaire@gmail.com](mailto:12stepsbonaire@gmail.com)

## Registering for school

Children who will go to school for the first time in the 2021-2022 school year must be registered for primary education before April 1, 2021.

Registration at [www.aanverslag-Basisonderwijsbonaire.com](http://www.aanverslag-Basisonderwijsbonaire.com) is mandatory

for all children born between June 1, 2017 and May 31, 2018. On the website you will find all the necessary information to help your child to sign up properly. The website is available in Dutch, Papiamentu, Spanish and English.

If you do not register on time, there is a greater chance that there will be no more places at the schools you prefer.

## Team up to clean up

Dive Friends Bonaire is not only known for being your friendly dive shop or for always having a dive shop close by, but we are probably best known on Bonaire for organizing the underwater clean up event every quarter of the year.

As the biggest dive shop on Bonaire, we feel it is our duty to keep our Island just as good looking underwater as it is on the surface.

These quarterly clean up dives are very popular among divers on Bonaire, and as a reader of the Reporter you might have heard about it or even participated in one.

Because of the Covid-19 pandemic we were forced to reorganize our clean ups in a different way. We used to have a major gathering of divers (sometimes over 100) at the same time and a big afterparty with BBQ for all the volunteers and of course a great prize raffle. We are now forced to trim things down a little bit, but that does not mean that we stopped protecting our reefs and underwater world.

We had to find a way to make sure that we could do this while keeping everyone at safe distances and still take care of our ocean.

Dive Friends has had a few good clean up dives in 2020 and the results are visible on [ProjectAware.org](http://ProjectAware.org). We are now starting 2021 with a new clean up in the town centre!

On the morning of the January 23 we'll be hosting a clean up dive around Karels bar!

This means we are again looking for your cooperation to make the underwater

world a little more beautiful then it was before. So round up your dive buddies and get ready to jump in!

We will set up shop at the old La Guernica restaurant on the corner of Kaya Bonaire and Kaya J.N.E. Craane (the ocean side boulevard)

Because we are still under strict Covid-19 restrictions we do ask you to reserve a time slot up front for check in, fill in necessary paperwork and pick up your mesh cleanup bag. We charge \$5 fee for a tank or bring your own.

After checking in, make your own dive around Karel's Bar and pick up as much trash as you can fit into your mesh bag and return to us.

Everything gets counted and submitted to Project Aware and we then post the results online!

During check in, everyone gets a raffle number to possibly win a great prize. The numbers will be drawn and the winners posted online. Winners can then pick up their prize at a specific dive shop.

For more information or reservations on our quarterly clean up dives please visit our website [www.divefriendsbonaire.com](http://www.divefriendsbonaire.com), on Facebook

[www.facebook.com/divefriendsbonaire](http://www.facebook.com/divefriendsbonaire), send us an email [info@divefriendsbonaire.com](mailto:info@divefriendsbonaire.com) or just drop by one of our dive shops for the information.

If you can't make this clean up the next events will be: April 17th 2021; July 24th 2021 and October 16th 2021

We'll see you soon underwater!  
*Pieter de Groot*

## Making Bonaire Accessible

### *The best of 2020.*



Every year-end there are organizations that appoint somebody "the best of that specific year".

Personally I have always waited for the day that a Special Olympics athlete would be that person of the year. After all, they train hard, travel abroad, compete and give their best and come back to Bonaire with many medals and ribbons.

On Bonaire there are so many foundations and NGOs that work for the best interest of persons with mental retardation, visual handicaps, physical impairment; and for those suffering from cancer, heart-disease, Alzheimer's disease, etc.

Their board members are all volunteers and they work very hard, are very motivated and do so for many years. They never get a medal or a commendation.

There are parents associations, peer groups that care and brothers and sisters who take care of a loved one when a parent needs help.

Several organizations are committed to ensure the elderly are not lonely anymore. They organize meetings where elderly teach the young people.

All these people deserve recognition and commendations for their efforts: MiVaBo, Fundashon Alzheimer Bonaire, FKBO, Hofi Kultural, Special Olympics Bonaire, Hartstichting, Kas Flamboyant and more, many more.

The NGO-platform organizes a special evening every year. They could change their tradition and organize a television-show. Commendations designed, lists made, invitations sent to all those

who care. The work of all the volunteers could be shown in short spots or tic-toc's, artists could join the fun and play a part and everybody on Bonaire could enjoy and admire. It could become a yearly event on TV everybody looks forward to.

And at the end of the year it would be wonderful for the gezaghebber to organize a huge reception, where all these charitable people and organizations are invited and receive a personal recognition.

I know that all the volunteers do what they do because they really want to mean something to their community. They do not aim for recognition. They love it when their work is appreciated. A big smile and a big "thank you" is all the attention they really want.

A hug from an athlete, a kiss from an elderly person, a "boks" from a blind person. These are the real rewards.

Nowadays there are a lot of special days to celebrate. These days can be used to give special attention and appoint the persons of the year.

And you do not have to wait for a special day to tell somebody that she or he is special. Just sit down at your computer and make a beautiful card that says: "You are very special to me." If you do not know how to, you can buy a card or have somebody help you. Buy a flower, something sweet and a little gift and give that to the person you think is very special. I bet you are going to get hugged very hard. And THAT makes YOU feel special.

*Ria Evers-Dokter*

## Clean Coast Bonaire

Make your New Year's Resolution to work on clean coasts for Bonaire and the rest of the world. Collect marine litter and data by donating your time working as a citizen scientist for only two hours per month. Here's the schedule for 2021.

 <b>2021 Clean Coast Bonaire Schedule</b> <b>2nd Sunday of each month</b>		
<b>January 10th</b>	<b>Boka Onima</b>	<b>4:00-6:00 PM</b>
<b>February 14th</b>	<b>Piedra Pretu</b>	<b>4:00-6:00 PM</b>
<b>March 14th</b>	<b>Te Amo Beach</b>	<b>8:00-10:00 AM</b>
<b>April 11th</b>	<b>Boka Onima</b>	<b>4:00-6:00 PM</b>
<b>May 9th</b>	<b>Piedra Pretu</b>	<b>4:00-6:00 PM</b>
<b>June 13th</b>	<b>Te Amo Beach</b>	<b>8:00-10:00 AM</b>
<b>July 11th</b>	<b>Boka Onima</b>	<b>4:00-6:00 PM</b>
<b>August 8th</b>	<b>Piedra Pretu</b>	<b>4:00-6:00 PM</b>
<b>September 12th</b>	<b>Te Amo Beach</b>	<b>8:00-10:00 AM</b>
<b>October 10th</b>	<b>Boka Onima</b>	<b>4:00-6:00 PM</b>
<b>November 14th</b>	<b>Piedra Pretu</b>	<b>4:00-6:00 PM</b>
<b>December 12th</b>	<b>Te Amo Beach</b>	<b>8:00-10:00 AM</b>



Father of Bonaire Diving, Captain Don Stewart, needs his own day. Captain Don landed on Bonaire May 21, 1962 and since then, people began diving and visiting Bonaire for its beautiful coral reefs and nature. He set standards for conservation and protection of the reefs and animals that everyone observes today worldwide. Please sign the petition to be submitted to the government of Bonaire to make May 21 – Captain Don Day. [https://www.petitions.net/captain\\_don\\_day\\_may\\_21\\_in\\_bonaire\\_na](https://www.petitions.net/captain_don_day_may_21_in_bonaire_na)



## Creating optimal health

by Irene da Cunda Costa

### Breathe out

Breathe out all what you want to get rid of in 2020 in order to make room for all the good things to come in 2021.

Known as the Western Hemisphere yoga grandmother, Indra Devi tells us about the importance of exhalation. She describes the exhalation in some of the exercises she recommends:

“In deep breathing, exhalation is as important as inhalation, since this is what removes harmful matter. The exhale is not as passive as the inhale. A very slight pressure must be exerted to expel the air. Using force during inhalation is absolutely wrong. It should be done smoothly, without tension or effort.”

When we are told to “take a deep breath”, the first thing we do is inhale to the fullest to fill our lungs. But we forget that to fill, you must first empty. To allow the oxygen-rich air to enter the alveoli, it is necessary to remove as much of the oxygen poor air that has already been used.

Sometimes we feel that we need to take an extra breath

## Covid-19 roundup, continued from page 2

permission, and such visitors will be carefully screened.

### The new covid strain

Dr. Luinstra-Passchier and Island Governor Edison Rijna confirmed during a press conference that so far Bonaire does not have the ability or equipment to test for the worrisome so-called UK-strain of covid which is turning up worldwide. Testing for this strain is relatively complex.

### Tax and customs office closed to public

The office of the Belastingdienst/Douane (Tax/Customs) on Bonaire is closed to the public through the 24th of January due to quarantine measures. You can contact them via email (*See details on page 6*).

The tax and customs offices can be contacted during the closure at [www.belastingdienst-cn.nl](http://www.belastingdienst-cn.nl) until the end of

the working day on Friday, January 16th; and at a new site, [www.MijnCN.nl](http://www.MijnCN.nl), from Monday morning, the 19th, onward. From January 16 up to 18 it is not possible to log into the online environment of the Belastingdienst Caribisch Nederland. The port Customs office on Bonaire will remain open.

### Curaçao no longer requires visitor quarantine

Curaçao has lifted the visitor quarantine obligation. Arriving passengers now have to submit only a negative PCR test. Direct flights are arriving from Miami, Newark and New York JFK. Curaçao has also lifted the 20,000 limit for the number of tourists allowed on the island at one time.

Passengers flying from Curaçao to the Netherlands no longer need to submit a mandatory negative PCR test. *DMR*

as if all the air in the world is not enough. This sometimes brings a feeling of agony and restlessness and although we inhale deeply we cannot satiate that hunger for air. Sometimes yawning is a sign of lack of oxygen too. Many times this is because we have been inhaling deeper than exhaling. The air that has already been used remains in the lungs and although we inhale with effort and sometimes even exaggeratedly, the new air does not reach the alveoli where the real gas exchange occurs. This shows the importance of knowing how to breathe and learn breath control.

During exhalation the intercostal muscles relax, yielding to the force of gravity. Exhalation and relaxation are governed by the parasympathetic nervous system, which is the one we want to be dominant when we want to calm down. Also, while we exhale, the heart rhythm slows down. If we want to generate relaxation, we should focus on exhalation. When we want to achieve good oxygenation, we must also focus on exhalation.

The exercise that will help us raise awareness in this regard is very simple. Lie on the floor with bent legs and begin doing abdominal breathing. First, just observe your breath, then start lengthening your exhalation until you are able to count double when on exhalation then on inhalation. Although it may be necessary to put minimal effort into exhalation at first, neither inhalation nor exhalation should be forced. During exhalation we slowly deflate the lungs, but without actually squeezing them.

During inhalation, we simply let the air enter the lungs, without forcing it. If we force inhalation we can cause hyperventilation, which is not the idea of this exercise. Both inhalation and exhalation will be done through the nose, although, on certain occasions, when we are particularly distressed, exhaling slowly through the mouth, narrowing the lips as if to pronounce the letter “u” while visualizing the weight of the stress leaving our body.

We can now begin to put into practice this important and useful exercise. Indra Devi passed away at the age of 102 and enjoyed excellent health since she first began practicing yoga. She did not take medication and radiated happiness and serenity through her life.

Breathing, as stated in my previous article, is the magic bridge between autonomic and voluntary nervous systems. Practice brings mastery. We need to get rid of what we don’t want in our lives to make an imaginary clean slate. In fact, every morning when we wake up, is a re-birthing and a new beginning. Let’s exhale negativity, jealousy, envy, selfishness, greed, unnecessary suffering and breathe in gratitude, forgiveness, compassion, candor, empathy, generosity. All this together, believe it or not, will improve the performance of your immune system.

*Irene is passionate about health, neurosciences and personal growth. Originally from Uruguay, she is an Integrative Psychotherapist (PNIE), Life Coach (ICF), Master in Nutrition(IUSC) and Yoga Instructor.*



## Live Inspired Today!

by Malcolm Wilson

Ignite your daily success with a *Reflection For Today* to stimulate your thinking, a *Tip For Today* to equip you and an *Affirmation For Today* to empower you.

### Hindsight Your 2020 with 20/20 hindsight.

#### Reflection For Today

*“We do not learn from experience.*

*We learn from reflective experience”- John Dewey*

#### Tip For Today

“5, 4, 3, 2, 1...Felis Año Nobo!” (Happy New Year!) Chichi, Swinda and some other loved ones were enjoying the panoramic view at one of their favorite lookout points of Paradise (also known as Bonaire)...the monumental cross at Seru Largu. This is their spot to ring in the new year and enjoy the fireworks all over the island.

This end of and change of year were very different though because of the pandemic. “We can still enjoy ourselves, guys! I know it feels like an inconvenience but for our own safety and the safety of others, we must continue to behave responsibly, use our common sense, and adhere to our government’s guidelines and mea-

sures.” Chichi was speaking to all yet focusing on one. She knows her best friend very well – she sometimes cuts corners and slacks off. So she frequently reminds Swinda about how they can practice staying safe and healthy, be responsible, and use common sense in practical situations.

A few hours earlier, the two best friends were at the same location, by the cross at Seru Largu...

“Wow, what a beautiful sunset, Swinda.” They were once again enjoying the panoramic view of the island and the sun disappearing behind the horizon prompted our dynamic duo to reflect on last year which then, like the setting sun, was coming to an end.

Swinda had a sad expression though, she was thinking about the biggest news of 2020 – the Covid-19 pandemic. Not only because of its global impact, she was sharing with her best friend how it had affected her and her family in a personal way as well.

Chichi offered some words of encouragement. “Swinda, life is 10 percent what happens to us and 90 percent how we respond to it! Let’s reflect on our personal year so we are better able to respond to what life throws at us.”

Here are the helpful tips that our dynamic duo used (and so can you) to look back at the year 2020.

1. **Ask yourself reflective questions.** Here are some of my favorites: What were my highlights and low-lights, and why? What goals did I hit and miss, and why? What did I learn? How did I grow? How did

I add value to others? Knowing what I know now, what would I have done differently? What am I grateful for?

2. **Make a list.** Write down all answers that come to mind and highlight your top three answers to each question.

3. **Keep things in perspective.** In the moment, (small) things may seem important. Taking time to reflect can allow you to see them in the bigger picture. Reflection also allows worries and concerns to be processed in a constructive way.

Remember...

When successful people reflect, they look back in a way that helps them move forward.

#### Affirmation For Today

Today I am reflecting on my 2020, learning from my experiences, and making progress in life.

So...

Think, be equipped, feel empowered, and...

**Live Inspired Today!**

*Malcolm Wilson is an inspirational speaker, success coach and certified John Maxwell speaker, coach and teacher. Born and raised in Bonaire, his purpose in life is to inspire, equip and empower students and adults to be successful in school, at work and in life. Success is a journey and Malcolm defines success as “Living your purpose, growing into your potential and serving people.”*



# At Your Service


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The New Year 2021 has begun and Animal Shelter Bonaire, just like the rest of the world, is hoping for improvement over the difficulties of 2020. Despite the economic impact of the Covid pandemic on the island, we have managed to survive.

So many of our supporters, both on island and off island, have generously donated to help us keep going. We were able to continue with our work in our fourth decade of caring for unwanted animals and educating our community about companion animal care and the need for sterilization. Looking back on 2020, the numbers indicate that the Shelter's mission continues to meet with success despite the odds. The Shelter thanks all our supporters who made 2020 a good year for our dogs and cats! We couldn't have done it without you and look forward to seeing you in the year ahead.

#### Another record year for sterilizations

In 2020, through the Shelter's Free Sterilization Program, 620 pet owners had their dog or cat sterilized! This number does not include all the pet guardians who sterilized their animals with their own means or the Shelter animals that were sterilized as part of adoptions. The effect of the last two years of record sterilizations is reflected in the numbers of unwanted animals being brought to the Shelter. In 2019, the Shelter took in 102 MORE abandoned/surrendered animals than the year before and in 2020 the shelter took in 198 FEWER animals than in 2019. Continuing education about the Shelter's free sterilization program, increasing the numbers of sterilizations and obtaining financial support for the program are critical. We need your help! Contributions to assist us in with the

Shelter Sterilization Fund can be made to: Maduro & Curiel's Bank (Bonaire), Swift code : MCBKBQBN, Account name: Stichting Dierenasiel Bonaire, Account Number: 10237800.

#### Adoptions:

Loving homes were found for 202 shelter residents in 2020. While those lucky dogs and cats found their fur-ever homes during the year, there are still plenty of healthy, loving animals that need one. Please call the Shelter at 701-4989 or message us on Facebook to set up an appointment if you are thinking about adding a pet to your family.

#### Returned to owners:

Thanks to the pet micro-chipping program and the Facebook page "Pet Alert Bonaire", 24 animals that were lost and brought to the shelter were reunited with their rightful owners. The owners of both cats and dogs should take advantage of the microchip process to ensure a speedy reunion in the event their pets become lost. Have your pet micro-chipped and please register the chip number and your contact information with Animal Shelter Bonaire and/or any of the veterinarians or other Bonaire animal welfare groups.

Animal Shelter Bonaire wishes everyone a very happy and HEALTHY New Year! We hope you make a New Year's "resolution" to visit us and maybe lend a hand as a volunteer or supporter of one of our many programs.

NOTE: Due to the recent surge in Covid cases on the island, Animal Shelter continues to receive visitors by appointment only. We ask that when you are on property you maintain the proper distance and mask wearing is encouraged.

Story by Jane Disko

L-R:  
Jane Disko  
Sanne Attevelt  
Travis Sullins



## Flotsam & Jetsam, continued from page 2

### Knops gives OLB mixed reviews

When questioned by the press at the end of his recent visit to the island, Secretary of State Knops praised the progress the Public Entity (OLB) is making in fulfilling some of the agreed goals under the administrative agreement. He said he is disappointed, however, by the slow progress in the area of the financial policy.

"If you look at the roads you really see progress," Knops said. He also commended the efforts of Maurice Adriaens and his team in the Agriculture, Livestock and Fisheries (LVV) department.

Various members of the local media raised questions concerning the effectiveness of Danny Rojer, program manager of the administrative agreement. Knops defended Rojer, pointing out that "He cannot do it alone, but is also dependent on the cooperation he receives from others and the civil servants." He added that Rojer was working for two bosses: his own Ministry and the OLB.

Knops acknowledged that the covid crisis had made governance of the island more complicated. He also said that new people have been hired who will help speed up improvements in financial policy. *DMR (Bonaire.nu)*

### Curaçao refinery to restart

The Isla refinery on Curaçao, dormant for almost two years because US sanctions shut off its feedstock of Venezuelan oil, is going to be reactivated under new management. It will start refining

oil from Brazil, Nigeria and Russia. The refinery has been taken over by the Corc group, which works together with Petra Energia and the Brazilian Grupo Dislub Equador. Sinopec (China Petroleum & Chemical Corporation) will be involved, providing technical expertise and advice to Corc. *DMR (Antilliaans Dagblad)*

### Correction

*The Reporter* has been informed of an error of fact in a story in our last issue about the newly formed organization, Primary Care Caribbean. We called it "an independent GP organization," as our source did. We understand it should be called "an organization of independent GPs." *DMR.*

### Continuing BES local air service assured

EZ Air plans to add larger aircraft to its existing fleet of two 19-seater Beechcrafts and a 9-seater Britten-Norman Islander, and the Netherlands is providing Winair a conditional loan to assure continuing air connections to Saba and St. Eustatius from St. Maarten.

EZ Air has continued to operate with reasonable success during the covid pandemic, thanks to opportunities for charters and cargo flights. It expects to serve approximately 10 regional destinations when the new aircraft are in service.

The government loan will save Winair from bankruptcy. The loan will be secured by a mortgage on Winair's airport building on St. Maartin. The airline will not be allowed to pay out bonuses to employees or managers until the loan has been repaid. *DMR (bonaire.nu)*

## Pet of the Week: Carl

Carl is a very handsome, long-legged gentleman who loves human affection and attention.

We estimate that he is somewhere between five and seven years old. Carl likes to "talk" with you and loves sitting in your lap or being held.

Ginger cats have wonderful personalities and he proves that to be true. While Carl will "tolerate" other cats, he really would prefer a single cat home where he can be "king of the jungle".

Adopting an older cat has great advantages. What you see is what you get and you know exactly what kind of furry friend you will have for life.

If you are interested in a loving, calm and very friendly feline companion, Carl is the one for you. Please make an appointment to come and have a "talk" with him. Call or whatsapp 701-4989.

Story: Jane Disko  
Photos: Glenn Doeze





# Tropical Nature opens store

Tropical Nature, the all natural, safe for the reef sunscreen (the one in the little pink tubes) has opened their first store on Bonaire. The store is unlike any on the island or possibly in the Caribbean because you can see the products being made. And now, cosmetologist and owner, Dorian Zavala Guzman will even customize her line of facial, skin and hair products just for you.

Dorian first learned about making skin care masks from her mother back in Ecuador. She attended cosmetology school in Guayaquil, Ecuador and expanded her knowledge of natural ingredient based products in online classes from Spain.

Dorian and husband Francisco moved to Bonaire 11 years ago. They were ready to start a family but were unable to conceive and enlisted the help of Bonaire's health department. After a successful IVF treatment they had their first

child, a boy. Dorian told us that on a trip to the beach her son didn't like the commercial sunscreen she applied so she made her first natural batch of sunscreen.

"My mom said you have to sell it, it's good... so my business began, said Dorian, "I wanted to give back to Bonaire so I started to make this product for the skin and the reefs."

Tropical Nature products include: sunscreen, lip balm deodorant, soap bars, shampoo bars, body cream, face cream, hair treatments, hand lotion, mascara and even mosquito repellent. There is no harmful oxybenzone in the sun products. Dorian uses only natural ingredients and environmentally safe packaging for all her skin care line.

Workshops will be held once a month to see how Dorian makes her products, and fun afternoons will be held for girls to learn how to make facial masks and lip balm. Check the Tropical Nature Facebook page for the schedule.

Currently Tropical Nature is only available on Bonaire but they hope to expand throughout the Caribbean to help keep the reefs safe from harmful products.

Tropical Nature is open Monday-Saturday 10am to 6pm nonstop in Lourdes Shopping Mall. Appointments are available through WhatsApp 7708911 or on the Tropical Nature Facebook page. *Story & photos Julie Morgan.*



Dorian at work in her lab making a custom skin care product



In the new store: Francisco, Analu', Cisquito and Dorian Zavala Guzman.



## COVID-19 MEASURES & TO MINIMIZE VISITS & INTERACTION:

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