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Photo compliments of Skyview Bonaire - Marcel van der Kamp

Spatial Development Plan is getting an update

In 2010 the Spatial Development Plan Bonaire (ROB) was created. The plan defined the areas for housing, businesses, hotels and Bonaire’s protected nature areas. That was 11 years ago and a new plan is set for completion in the first half of 2022.

Since the old plan was devised, Bonaire’s population has grown from 15,679 in 2011 to 21,745 in 2021. The boom in population has caused an overwhelming growth in construction. Even when many businesses were closed or in limited operation during the Covid-19 pandemic shut-down in 2020, construction continued.

Bonaire’s Tourism Plan 2017-2027 outlined updating the island’s inventory of hotel rooms to an additional 600 rooms in the next 10 years. That number has been realized, yet the building continues. Some of the proposed and completed construction has raised red flags in regard to placing Bonaire’s nature in jeopardy.

With the new development plan yet to be revealed, building permits in certain areas have come under question.

The properties Troca Suelte, Bolivia, Chogogo Beach, Ocean Oasis, Sunset property and the old Esmeralda Hotel all require much attention.

Policy advisor for Spatial Planning committee, Roland Bruijnesteijn said, “The purpose of the Voorbereidingsbesluit is to take a moment of reflection so that

possible new development, whether housing or for the tourist industry, will not conflict with the likely directions of the new zoning plan, thereby undermining it.”

The designers of the plan first evaluated the experience of the last 10 years and then defined the goals that they wanted to achieve with the new zoning plan, considering factors such as population growth and the new legislation regarding nature.

In creating the new zoning plan, the committee is trying to set policy that is best for the island with an overall intention of creating a balance. There could be exceptions to even the strictest rules. The

zoning plan is intended to be in use for the next five to 10 years.

“Ultimately it is of course the Bestuurscollege that decides on the actual content of the ROB. We could just listen to one side, such as STINAPA or Green Peace, or Van der Valk or Ocean Oasis, but we have to find some middle ground, in the interest of the island. I do think and I’ve said this over and over, if we want to stay relevant as a tourist destination, which is what we are, we have to focus on high quality and long-term assets and not try to be a little Curaçao or Aruba,” said Bruijnesteijn.

When the plan is finished, it will be

checked for legality. Announcements for town hall meetings island wide will be published on Facebook and in local newspapers. At that time discussions, questions and complaints will be heard. Once the public’s issues are taken into account, the new plan will be presented by the Bestuurscollege to the island council for recommendations or changes.

Bruijnesteijn said, “We can change policies but we can’t easily change people’s behavior. An important part of policy making is communication. Being a democracy, we try to gain support for what we are trying to do. For policies to be effective, people have to understand exactly why we allow or forbid certain activities. By having these hearings we hope that questions by skeptics who think we are allowing big business to take over will be answered. Still, we also want to win over people who really want to invest in the island.”

The current zoning map is broken up into different areas such as Nature, Open, Agriculture/Kunuku, Social/Cemetery, Salt Company and Residential.

Bruijnesteijn said, “All designations, every square meter on the island theoretically could change from one designation to another...nature might be considered

Spatial Development Plan Bonaire

Both this zoning map and the construction rules are scheduled to be revised by the first half of 2022.

Dark green - Nature

Pale yellow/green - Agricultural - Kunuku

Pink/lilac - Open Landscape

Magenta - Company - Salt extraction

Aqua Blue - Social - Cemetery

Bright yellow - Residential area

For a larger version of the map that is interactive go to:
<https://rho.maps.arcgis.com/apps/webappviewer/index.html?id=6c-c4a2397de445e9849b6de08614134d>

Spatial Development plan, continued on page 11

Kroon proposes to recycle BOPEC

Deputy James Kroon believes that BOPEC will never again be a petroleum transshipment facility. He proposes that BOPEC be torn down and the site be repurposed as "a new economic pillar" for the island. He has challenged "the creativity of the community," including the Central Dialogue, to actively think about a new future for the BOPEC area.

The official position of the OLB is still that a new owner could relaunch the BOPEC site as a petroleum transshipment facility. Kroon proposes an alternative plan that would mirror BOPEC'S original function. He suggests a container port could be constructed at the site. Large ships would unload containers which then could be reloaded onto smaller vessels to be transported to other destinations in the region.

A side benefit of a container port, Kroon says, would be to move Bonaire's own import activities from the downtown area to a safer site. He also suggests that a container port might be a collection point for clean recyclable materials from all the other islands. Consolidating reusable materials could provide larger economies of scale that might make recycling profitable.

Kroon says the chances are almost nil that BOPEC will ever be recreated as a petroleum transshipment site. Like the underutilized refineries on Curaçao and Aruba, it is rusting away. The rapidly evolving world energy market and the transitioning away from fossil fuels discourage the massive capital investment that would be required to revive BOPEC. He also points out that the human technology that kept BOPEC in operation for so long is fading away as former employees follow new careers on Bonaire.

"The Rutte IV cabinet announces in the coalition agreement that it wants to invest extra in the economy of the Caribbean Netherlands," Kroon pointed out. "I want to seize this offer with both hands by proposing that we examine, together with the experts from the ministries, how we can use the BOPEC site for the development of a new economic pillar, which will also make us a little less dependent on tourism alone." *DMR (Dossier Koninkrijksrelaties)*

Court of Auditors to be created

The island council voted unanimously in mid-December to set up an audit office. According to the adopted regulation: "The task of the Court of Audit is to conduct an investigation into the efficiency, effectiveness and legality of the policy and management conducted by the Executive Council." The Court of Audit will have two or three members. The council hopes to appoint members who have the needed expertise and independence from the island. *DMR (Bonaire.nu)*

Navy makes record drug interdictions

In eight months as the station ship in the region, the naval vessel *Zr.Ms. Holland* made a record catch of 6,600 kilos of drugs. It also handed 27 people over to U.S. authorities. It provided emergency aid to Haiti following the August earthquake as well.

Zr.Ms. Holland has returned to the Netherlands. Presently there is no station ship in the islands. But the *Zr.Ms. Friesland* is on its way and will be here before the end of the month. Its departure was delayed when too many crew members came down with covid, and a technical defect had to be corrected. *DMR (Koninkrijk.nu)*

New government will invest in BES

The new minister of finance, Sigrid Kaag, says the Rutte IV cabinet will invest an additional 113 million euros in the development of the Caribbean Netherlands through 2025. The money will be spent strengthening the labor market, tackling poverty, and developing the BES economy. The Ministry of Agriculture, Nature and Food Quality is allocating 35 million euros for nature during 2022, 2023, and 2024. *DMR (Dossier Koninkrijksrelaties)*

Golden Carriage mothballed



A close-up view of the central panel of the 1898 triptych. The painting on the side of the carriage is called *Tribute from the Colonies*. Pic: AP

The Golden Carriage, which traditionally carries the Royal Couple from their palace to the King's Speech on Budget Day, has not been used since 2015 and may not be used again. It underwent restoration, then was put on display in the Amsterdam Museum, and now seems headed for indefinite storage. Some people consider the Golden Carriage an icon for the racial exploitation practiced in the Netherlands' colonial past. Therefore King Willem-Alexander has suspended its use.

The imagery on the Golden Carriage has been causing controversy in the Netherlands for years. One panel, called *Tribute to the Colonies*, shows half-naked slaves offering their riches to the royal family. It is considered at least insensitive by some people, outright racist by others.

"All citizens of this country should be able to feel that they are equal and have fair opportunities," the King announced in a video message posted on social media. "Everyone should be able to feel part of what has been built up in our country and be proud of it. As long as there are people living in the Netherlands who feel the pain of discrimination on a daily basis, the past will still cast its shadow over our time, and it will not yet be over."

"Our history contains much to be proud of," the King said. "At the same time, it also offers learning material for recognizing mistakes and avoiding them in the future. We cannot rewrite the past. But we can try to come to terms with it together. This also applies to the colonial past."

The House of Representatives Committee on the Interior held a roundtable discussion on Dutch slavery on Thursday, January 13th in response to the report "Chains of the Past" of the Advisory Board Dialogue Group on Slavery Past. *DMR (NL Times, Dossier Koninkrijksrelaties)*

Covid-19 round-up

The CAS and BES islands have been inundated by omicron variant infections, as have many countries in the world. During the week of January 6 - 12, 2022, 14,064 people tested positive in the Dutch islands. Bonaire had the second highest incidence level, 3,759 cases per 100,000. Aruba reported the highest incidence level, 3,964 people per 100,000. Curaçao was a close third at 3,724 per 100,000, and Sint Maarten reported 3,135 per 100,000.

Saba reported 81 new cases and Sint Eustatius reported 76. The Netherlands has categorized them as high risk countries and is requiring more stringent testing for travel.

Bonaire's fatality rate has spiked as well. Of the 26 covid related deaths since the start of the pandemic, three occurred in the two weeks since the previous issue of The Bonaire Reporter.

The hypervirulent omicron delta variant is rapidly overtaking the delta variant as the dominant covid infection on Bonaire and is infecting far more people. Omicron infections are expected to peak before long, but the total number of omicron infections will be far more than delta infections. Although people infected with omicron show milder symptoms, and although far fewer require hos-

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The Reporter Online also gives you Covid-19 breaking news and more

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Covid-19 on Bonaire

totals as of JANUARY 18, 2022

845 active	8 hospitalized
5305 total	26 deceased
86.1% have had 1st vaccination	

For up to date covid news go to the online Reporter <https://bonairereporter.com> or FB Government site is <https://www.bonairecrisis.com/en/>

The lottery, Fundashon Wega di Number Bonaire, is 30 years old

FWNB (Fundashon Wega di Number Bonaire) celebrates 30 years on May 22, 2022. In commemoration, FWNB kicked off a campaign January 17 to show their appreciation and thanks to Bonaire. Clients will be able to win some great prizes including a cell phone, computer, iPad, cash and even a Nissan Kicks automobile with the purchase of a raffle ticket.

In the second quarter of 2022, FWNB will go digital making it even easier to play. Clients will be able to buy their number anywhere or anytime by registering on the FWNB website. Winners will not have to visit the office to pick up their winnings as they will be automatically transferred to their bank account. Online number sales are for Bonaire residents only.

For many years FWNB has shown their support to the community by funding various Bonaire causes. This year they are going all the way by organizing cultural events (covid situation allowing) and supporting 10 organizations that benefit Bonaire. They will be actively involved in Bonaire's biggest volunteer event, BonDoet. FWNB is giving a major boost to Bonaire's sports activities through sponsorship of the PONY League Baseball Championship to be held June 28 - July 3.

The championship on Bonaire has invited eight youth baseball teams to compete in the contest. Twenty-one teams with some 230 kids from Bonaire, Curaçao, Aruba, St. Maartin, Columbia, Panama, Santa Domingo, Puerto Rico, and Venezuela are scheduled.

According to coach Kumar Piar and coach and Wolf



Celebrating FWNB 30 year anniversary are James Kroon, Andy Ignacio, Anna Marie Kroes, Ludo Nicolaas and Kumar Piar. Photo Julie Morgan

Pack president Andy Ignacio, the kids will win baseball themed prizes in the competition. But the ultimate prize to the winning team will be an opportunity to compete at the PONY World Series Championship in the United States.

This is just another way FWNB is contributing to the Bonaire community.

For more information about FWNB visit <https://www.bonairelottery.com>.



Story & photos Julie Morgan

FOR SALE Bonaire Oceanfront Apt. #11 Unobstructed Ocean Views!



- Location : On the boulevard, close to downtown
- Living area : 82 m2 / 883 sq.ft.
- 2 bedroom / 1.5 bathroom

- Communal swimming pool with sundeck
- On site rental agency and dive shop

Virtual 3D tour



Asking price \$395,000 US Dollar

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f <http://www.facebook.com/REMAXBonaire>



POLICE REPORT

Property crime

Jan. 15. Between Jan. 14 and 15 two black, ladies bicycles were stolen from the yard of a tourist accommodation on Kaya Mgr Nieuwindt.

Jan. 6. A red bicycle was stolen from a restaurant on Wilhelmina between 4:55 and 6:30 pm.

Arrested/held in custody.

Jan. 13. A man, 36, was arrested at a house on Kaya Inglatera for threatening and assaulting a person with a machete.

Jan. 12. A man, 53, was arrested on Kaya Korona for violation of the BES Firearms Act when he threatened someone with a weapon.

Traffic accidents/violations

Jan. 16. The driver fell off his scooter when his scooter and a car just missed each other on Kaya Macario (Cai) Sint Jago. He was treated on the spot by paramedics.

Jan. 14. Around 10:45 pm, a pick-up and a car collided at the intersection of Kaya Maximiliana Rosaria and Kaya Internashonal when the pick-up did not give way to the car. The driver of the car was treated at the scene by paramedics. The driver of the pickup was found to be under the influence of alcohol. He was arrested and taken to the police station for a breath analysis. His driver's license was suspended until his case is heard. The pick-up was taken into custody to be picked up by the rightful owner when the owner shows a valid driver's license. The fire brigade came to throw sand over the oil spilled onto the road.

Jan. 9. At about 12:25 am on Kaya Grandi the driver of a car collided with the rear tire of a scooter causing the driver to fall. The driver of the scooter was taken to hospital by ambulance.

Jan. 8. Around 2:30 pm, two cars collided on Kaya Nikiboko Noord. The driver of one of the cars was helped at the scene by paramedics.

Jan. 7. In the afternoon a scooter had a single vehicle accident on Kaya Grandi. The driver was taken to hospital by ambulance.

Fire

Jan. 16. In the early morning hours on Kaya Libertador Simon Bolivar the fire

brigade extinguished a fire in a power box. Because there were high-voltage cables, WEB employees also came on site. No one was injured.

Jan. 12. The fire brigade extinguished a fire in the meter cupboard at a house on Kaya Amsterdam. No one was injured.

Jan. 6. At around 6:15 pm, the police station received a fire report at JICN (detention center and prison). A detainee in solitary started a fire which was quickly extinguished. The detainee in question was taken to hospital by ambulance for a medical examination and then returned to the institution. Later in the evening, a second fire alarm went off in another department, but it was a false alarm. It is not yet known exactly how the detainee was able to start the fire.

Jan. 6. At about 9:30 pm the fire brigade extinguished a fire in a car parked in the yard of a home used as a business at the intersection of Kaya Neerlandia and Kaya Jean B.F. Vitte. No one was injured.

Public order

Jan 14 -16. Last weekend police enforced emergency ordinance measures regarding covid-19.

At a beach, a group of more than 10 people was approached about violation of the emergency ordinance. They were also informed that from now on they must carry the \$25 Stinapa tag to be on the beach.

The owner of a bar/restaurant on Bulevar Gobernador Nicolas Debrot was charged with violating the emergency ordinance as they were still open after 10 pm. The owner of a catering facility on the Kaya Bonaire also received a police report because the location was still open after 10 pm.

Jan. 4. A total of 18 car wrecks on Kaya Corantijn were provided with a sticker so that Selibon can remove them. KPCN, the Supervision and Enforcement Directorate of the OLB and Selibon are working together to clear up car wrecks on the island. If the car wrecks belong to someone, the removal of the car wrecks will be discussed with the owner. The owner must then sign a statement giving permission to have the end-of-life vehicles removed by Selibon. If someone refuses or does not cooperate with the removal, a fine may be handed out.

Did you see anything suspicious? Call 911 or 717 8000 or the anonymous tip line 717 7251.

Public Health Department asks Bonaireans to be proactive in isolating or quarantining themselves.

The omicron variant has overwhelmed the department's resources. They can no longer monitor exposed people individually.

People who experience complaints or have close contact with someone who turned out to be infected should get themselves tested (call 0800 0800 to make an appointment). If they test positive, they will receive an email explaining how to self-isolate and the requirements for ending their isolation on their own. They will also be asked to notify others they may have exposed. Then those people should get tested.

People who do not experience complaints but know they have had close contact with someone who turned out to be infected should also get themselves tested (call 0800 0800 to make an appointment). If they test positive, they should self-isolate. If they do not test positive, they should self-quarantine. They will receive an email explaining how to self-quarantine and the requirements for ending their quarantine on their own.

[Author's note: The preceding may not be entirely accurate. It's my best interpretation of the written information released by the health department.] DMR

Ask Kate & Jean

Bonaire real estate advice

Can I make an offer that has a contingency? Thanks, Anita

Hi Anita,

You didn't mention which type of contingency, but two common contingencies on Bonaire are an inspection contingency and a financing contingency. An inspection contingency is usually for 14 days from the date of the signed purchase agreement, which gives you time to schedule an inspection and receive the report. The buyer and seller agree on the dollar amount of required repairs (as determined by the inspector) before the inspection. If it is at or under this amount, the buyer is obligated to continue with the sale and pay for any repairs. If it is over that amount, the buyer has the option to cancel the purchase or ask the Seller to pay the amount over the agreed upon price.



L-R: Jean and Kate

A financing contingency is usually for 60 days, to give you time to apply for and receive mortgage approval. If you are talking about a contingency other than these (such as needing to sell your home in another country before buying here) that is extremely rare here and unlikely to be accepted. Best of luck in your home search.

*Kate and Jean, your Bonaire team
Re/Max Bonaire*

If you have a real estate question or want to buy or sell property, email us at kate@bonairehomes.com.

The Hague preps for governing with a rogue neighbor

The new Rutte government has declared its intention to develop a coherent regional security policy for the Caribbean part of the Kingdom. According to the announcement, "Due to the proximity and historical ties between Venezuela and the Caribbean parts of the Kingdom, the impact of the ongoing crisis in Venezuela is significant [and] security is at stake due to regional instability and the resulting smuggling of drugs, weapons and people.... The Netherlands, together with the international community and the EU, will continue to actively contribute to finding a political solution to the ongoing crisis in Venezuela."

Interdepartmental working groups are preparing even for the possibility of needing to take military action against Venezuela, including the evacuation of Dutch nationals.

The most pressing problem for the Netherlands is the refugee exodus triggered by Venezuela's corrupt, failed economy. In 2019 Venezuela was second only to Syria on the list of countries that were producing the largest number of refugees. An estimated five million Venezuelans left the troubled nation that year. A disproportionate number of those refugees have ended up on Curaçao and Aruba, straining the economies which had already been impacted by the covid pandemic.

Mrs. Dagmar Oudshoorn, president of Amnesty International, visited Curaçao and Aruba and criticized both islands for shocking treatment of illegal Venezuelans who have fled their country. Some have been imprisoned in foreigners' barracks in Aruba and Curaçao. And in Aruba a refugee shanty town has grown around the Parkietenbos landfill. Oudshoorn charges the illegal immigrants are left hungry, homeless, and without

medical care. The governments deny them protection, separate families, even imprison and deport refugees as criminals.

The refugee crisis is sometimes exacerbated by the petty recalcitrance of the Maduro government. Just before Christmas 289 Venezuelans in Curaçao had prepared for voluntarily repatriation. They had quit their jobs and moved out of their living accommodations. At the last minute, Maduro canceled all three flights. Apparently he was retaliating against the Netherlands for refusing landing permission at Schiphol for an unscheduled flight by the Venezuelan state airline Conviasa.

In February, 2019, Maduro closed the border between Venezuela and Aruba on the pretense of preventing "the smuggling of copper and gold." Recently he proposed the border be reopened. The Aruban government of Evelyn Wever-Croes refused, saying it wants to curb the growing immigration of Venezuelans. An estimated 16,000 Venezuelans are living on Aruba (population nearly 112,000). Many have disappeared into the local economy.

Outgoing State Secretary Knops reacted to the Amnesty International report by freezing the last part of a promised financial contribution to Curaçao. He said Curaçao's treatment of Venezuelan refugees fails to satisfy international standards the island has agreed to. Venezuelans are said to be humiliated and held in inhuman conditions and in some cases, children are sent back separately from their parents. So far, there has been no response from the island government about the report. Amnesty also published a similar statement in 2018. At the time, the government said it would adhere to international laws and agreements. DMR

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.

Revoking old permits

Dear Editor:

Several weeks ago, Wilma Nijland wrote a letter to The Reporter in which she pointed out that there was a significant loophole in the recent Government Resolution designed to balance resident needs with the needs of those interested in recreational projects and vacation homes. The resolution, as enacted, calls for a temporary moratorium on the issuance of permits for recreational projects and vacation homes but fails to address what it intends to do about the old permits for such projects that could be activated at any time. She recommends that the Government cancels these permits. Her recommendation is "spot on" as many of these old permits, if relied on to build today, would destroy Bonaire's designated protected areas.

There is no way of knowing how many old unused permits exist. However, past advertisements in a real estate magazine suggest that there are several old ones just waiting to be relied on for future projects in the Lac Ramsar site. The company's most recent magazine advertises yet another one. The recent advertisement involves a resort that was built at least 20 years ago in the Lac Ramsar site. (How the owner of the resort managed to get a permit to build a resort in a protected area is anyone's guess but that's not the issue.) The owner wants to sell the resort along with a permit for expansion. According to the advertisement, the building permit would allow the construction of "32 apartments in two buildings and also a division into 44 apartment rights." The advertisement concludes by stating "this makes this resort a very interesting investment." Nowhere does the advertisement mention that the property for sale is located in the Lac Ramsar site.

If a new owner were obligated to submit a permit application for the ex-

pansion of this resort rather than being in possession of an old permit, the application should be denied because the expansion would be in the Lac Ramsar site, a protected area. Although the new owner could argue in its permit application that what he was seeking was merely an expansion of a property that already had the right to build in a protected area, this argument was rejected by a Court involving a similar case in 2007. Therefore, it is unlikely that such argument would succeed today. But, if the new owner were to claim the right to build under a yet to be relied on old construction permit which was possibly issued more than 20 years ago, who is to say what would happen.

Instead of worrying about the imminent threat that these old construction permits would have on Bonaire's environment, Wilma Nijland suggests get rid of them.

The government has the express authority under the law, to nullify a permit which has not been used within 1 year of its issuance. Once a permit is revoked, the permit holder could reapply. Then the Government could impose permit conditions that conform to present day laws and regulations.

There is no question that the permit holder would be inconvenienced by the need to reapply for a permit. Yet when this inconvenience is balanced against the need to protect Bonaire against dangerous and perhaps, unlawful development, the decision to revoke the old permit clearly is right. Moreover, if the Government is serious about its resolve to balance resident needs with the needs of those wanting recreational developments and vacation homes, its revocation of permits that are old, unused, and likely unlawful in today's environment is an easy step for it to take.

Ann Joseph

Slower economic recovery in the region predicted for this year

The economies of the Latin America and Caribbean region averaged a growth rate of 6.2% in 2021, but growth will decelerate to 2.1% in 2022, according to the report of ECLAC (Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean). Eleven of Latin America's 14 developed countries succeeded in recovered their pre-pandemic growth rates during 2021, and the remaining three will catch up in 2022. Those developed economies are projected to grow at 4.2%. Emerging economies are expected to grow by 5.1% in 2022, but they will not recover their pre-pandemic growth rates until 2025.

As economies in the region attempt to

recover from the crisis unleashed by the COVID-19 pandemic, wide disparities in growth rates will appear because of significant asymmetries in the capacity of different countries to implement fiscal, social, monetary, and health and vaccination policies. *DMR*



Covid-19, continued from page 2

pitalization, the sheer volume of omicron cases threatens to overload the island's healthcare capacity.

Full vaccination, although it provides less than total protection, is an important defense against omicron. Studies indicate that even people who have both shots plus the booster are only 65-75% protected against infection. However, 80-90% of the fully vaccinated will not need hospitalization. They experience less severe symptoms. People who have not yet obtained the booster shot can call the free number 0800 0900 to make an appointment.

People needing testing or vaccinations should avoid the morning rush at the call center. The numbers 0800 0800 and 0800 0900 are busiest between 8 and 10 o'clock in the morning. The call center is open Monday to Saturday from 8 am to 12 noon and from 1 to 8 pm, and on Sundays from 8 am to 12 noon.

The self-test on arrival and PCR test on the fifth day are no longer required for travelers from high-risk countries. The purpose of those tests was to delay the arrival of the omicron variant.

Fully vaccinated travelers from high-

risk countries still must have a PCR test 48 hours before departure or an antigen test 24 hours before departure. Unvaccinated or not fully vaccinated travelers must have a PCR test 48 hours before departure. Travelers who have recently recovered from corona and are not yet able to submit a negative test result must provide proof of recovery.

A bar in the Center area was closed by inspectors from the Supervision and Enforcement Department the evening on January 7. The bar staff working that night had been quarantined because a colleague of theirs was found to be infected previously. The bar had also been closed early in 2021 when an inspection uncovered a major source of contamination.

The police asked customers to leave the Little Havana because the new required 10 pm closing time was approaching and the cafe was still full. The cafe closed on time. The 10 pm closing in the catering industry is being criticized on social media. People complain that it will revive illegal, uncontrolled parties. They say the catering industry provides control of the those in their establishments. *DMR*



CRUISE SHIP RATING

Carnival Liberty visited Bonaire on January 12 bringing 1400 passengers. The ship has a capacity for 2,974 and is under yellow covid status*, which means the U.S. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) has investigated and the ship remains under observation.

According to Friends of the Earth, when it comes to cruise ship crimes against the environment, the clear worst offender is the Carnival Corporation. They are the corporate parent for 10 major cruise lines including Princess, Holland America and Costa. And they are still under federal probation for crimes that began in 2017 in which they were made to pay a \$40 million fine for illegally dumping oil at sea and then hiding it from regulators. In 2016 they pleaded guilty for regularly falsifying records to hide illegal discharges from U.S. authorities. They were fined heavily for exceeding plastic air pollution quotas too.

The 2021 report card gives Carnival an F – sewage treatment/ D- air pollution reduction / F- water quality compliance / F – transparency giving them a 2021 final grade of F.

*According to CDC's website: "When a cruise ship notifies CDC of suspected or confirmed cases of COVID-19 on board, CDC determines whether an investigation is needed. The threshold for investigation ... was developed based on several factors, including the need for transparency while acknowledging that cruising is not a zero-risk activity." For the details and color criteria (from least risk to most: Green, Orange, Yellow and Red) see: <https://www.cdc.gov/quarantine/cruise/management/technical-instructions-for-cruise-ships.html#green-ship>

Windsurf champs stalled by paperwork

World class windsurf champions Taty and Tonky Frans have a plan and a dream. Since 2014, in between their windsurf touring competitions, the brothers have applied time and time again for the permits to establish a proper windsurf school in Sorobon. In late 2018 they were able to open Frans Paradise and have since operated out of a container. Though the school is very successful, the brothers hope to build a simple wooden structure, as is currently allowed within Bonaire's spatial planning parameters on a Ramsar site.

The Frans brothers are windsurfing naturals, but it came with a lot of hard work and determination. They first learned to windsurf in 1995, when Elvis Martinez gave Tonky a board, sail and a few instructions. The 11 and 12 year-old brothers worked diligently and within two years were winning championships. First Aruba, Curaçao, Miami and then on to Vancouver winning in junior and men's categories in the same competition.



Windsurfing champions Taty and Tonky Frans at their current windsurfing school.

Windsurf champs, to page 7

Shelter News

A TRIBUTE TO ONE OF OUR "FOUNDING MOTHERS" BARBARA VAN OLPHEN

Barbara's journey with the shelter began back in 1995-96 when the shelter was at a low point in funding. Established in 1983, Animal Shelter Bonaire was clearly a much-needed support system for the island and as the island grew, so did the number of animals who were abandoned or surrendered. By 1996, the Shelter was in crisis mode. Overwhelmed with homeless animals, having taken in 700 dogs and 100 cats as of November 1 of that year, the difficult decision was made to close the Shelter doors to further intake as there was only enough money to operate through the end of the year.

The monthly financial requirement to keep the shelter operating was \$3,932.00 per month. In late November, the government agreed that beginning in 1997 it would provide a monthly stipend to the Shelter of \$561.00 and from that amount \$337.00 had to be earmarked for the "dogcatcher". It wasn't nearly enough to meet the monthly costs, so the volunteers and board members got busy with fund raising activities.

During this crisis time, Barbara took over as board chairman and besides shoveling gravel and building kennels, she also stepped up the fundraising efforts. One of the major events she organized was a dinner dance at Plaza Resort that raised much needed funds. With the



Barbara and her rescue dog, Benny

support of Captain Don, she also established the Animal Shelter T-shirt sales at the weekly happy hours at Habitat (and later also at Buddy Dive), which continue to this day. Her fundraising efforts saved the shelter from certain death in the late 1990's.

Barbara was also the guiding force for establishing the

initial concept of free sterilization of pets for those who could not afford it. The success of that original idea has resulted in the free sterilization of 7,326 companion animals since 2004 when record keeping began.

After stepping down as chairman in 2001, Barbara continued to "man" the happy hour tables selling our t-shirts, taking donations and raising awareness among tourists and locals about the important work we do at the shelter. She did this for almost 25 years raising funds that kept the Shelter going.

And, of course, Barbara couldn't resist adopting numerous dogs from the Shelter. She always chose those least likely to be adopted and then spoiled them rotten with multiple home cooked daily meals.

Barbara, from all of us at Animal Shelter Bonaire... and most importantly from all the shelter animals you have helped save...our deepest thank you for all you have done for us. We wouldn't be here if it wasn't for you...Animal Shelter Bonaire stands on your tiny but powerful shoulders! *Jane Disko*

Barbara van Olphen passed away peacefully on January 14, 2022. This article was posted on Facebook on January 13 and Barbara was able to read it, along with the many loving comments and hundreds of reactions that followed. When she left us, she knew how much we loved her. Rest in peace, dear Barbara, while your legacy lives on.

Barbara's many friends sent photo memories which can be viewed on our Facebook page.



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Parrots and People!

by Rayshantaly Coffie



Studying Echo's reforestation project.

Over the last five months at Echo, interns Sanne van Roekel and Natanja van Schaalkwijk have been collecting and analyzing data for Echo's reforestation project. They were able to access and collect data from six of the exclusion areas. When they located the remaining tree tags, they found surviving trees ranged from 37% to 76% of those planted. Some exclusion areas proved to be a lot more successful than others because of their environment. In many cases the tallest trees reached over 2 meters in height, which is a great sign that they are doing well. The interns were also able to put together a list of recommendations to improve future monitoring of the reforestation project.

In addition to these recommendations, Natanja carried out a project to find and configure a mobile app that will significantly improve the method of data collection to monitor the reforestation on Bonaire. To do this, she created a list of apps that could potentially be used for data collection, did pairwise comparisons, field tested the apps, and finally wrote a manual on how Echo interns and volunteers can use the app to help Echo monitor reforestation success. She settled on the app "Kobo collect" because it was easy to use and works well with Excel spreadsheets. The app is compatible with most platforms (Android, iOS, Microsoft, and others) and users can easily download forms that Echo uses and sub-

mit data that will automatically populate into an Excel database. This method of data collection is efficient and so easy to use that school children can be taught to participate! The hope is that future reforestation monitoring will be faster, easier and more efficient.

If you are interested in learning more about data collecting and volunteering with Echo please email the team at info@echobonaire.org

Planting trees on private land

Additionally, another approach that Echo uses to help regrow the Lora habitat on Bonaire is to partner with local businesses and private property owners to plant native fruit trees on their property. Such trees benefit both the people and the parrots by providing edible fruits. During her internship with Echo, Sanne carried out a project to study which trees will survive best in conditions typically encountered on such properties, such as being located next to other larger plants and therefore shaded from the sun. She analyzed three species: Kenepa, Shimaruku, and Kohara. Sanne studied their growth and survival under these conditions. The Shimaruku were the most likely tree to survive (46%), but all trees had better survival when planted in less shaded areas.

Reach out to Echo if you would like to plant some native trees in your garden or support reforestation and adopt a tree on www.bonairetree.org!

Windsurf champs, from page 6

By 2002 the guys went 'pro' competing under the Bonaire flag worldwide bringing accolades to the island.

In the last five years the windsurfing champions have submitted the necessary paperwork to Ruimte and Ontwikkeling (R&O) several times.

Taty explained, in 2016 they were told it was possible to build but no paperwork crossed hands and nothing happened.

They requested the use of two containers in 2020 and were told no. In a meeting with Lt. Gov. Rijna and commissioner James Kroon, the officials approved of the idea but said the correct paperwork must be submitted and even though the paperwork was done, once again nothing happened.

Taty recently met with R&O director, Marion Martina, who said they were still waiting on approval from other people.

Most recently the brothers were approached by a Dutch couple wanting to invest in the business.

Taty said, "They are trying to pay for everything. I don't want to lose this. This is what me and my brother built here. This is not about the money; it is about the paper to build the school. That is all I'm asking for."

The plan is to create a beach sports area with the windsurf school, beach volleyball and other beach activities.



Temporary plan for the new beach sport area. Photo Julie Morgan

The school structure will be partitioned off but everything else is public.

Taty said, "Why are you telling a child of Bonaire he can't build a simple structure, when these places like Chogogo are building these huge structures on the beach? Things are happening in other places without permits and you are fighting your own children."

Taty appealed to the Facebook community on Jan. 11 in hopes of gaining some momentum in his appeal for a permit for the school. Over 1,400 people liked the post and it was shared 455 times.

Story and photos, Julie Morgan

Congratulations to the Digicel winners



(L-R) Digicel's Grace Winkler and Candy Rasmijn with winner Humphrey Welvaart

Three very lucky Digicel customers won big in the Shake and Win game on their phones during the Christmas promotion.

The winners were announced in a small press conference at Trocadero on January 18 with Digicel's Grace Winkler and new Digicel marketing director Candy Rasmijn.

Winning the big prize of \$5000 was long time Digicel customer and constant Shake to Win player Humphrey Welvaart.

"I had a call from an Aruba number and they told me I was a winner but didn't tell me what I won. I met with Grace at Digicel and when she told me I said, 'Are you serious?'"

Humphrey plans to enjoy the prize money with his wife and three children on a trip once covid is under control.

Second place prize of a one-minute shopping spree at Van den Tweel market was awarded to Francis R Ravine. Third place prize of a post paid Digicel plan for a family of four including unlimited international calls, free calls and 30g of data per month for a year went to Elbert P Mercera.

For more information about Digicel and the Shake to Win app visit <https://digicelgroup.com>. Julie Mogan

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Oyster world tour yachts visit Bonaire



Trevor and Judy Hill aboard their Oyster *Intrepid*. Photo Julie Morgan

ranee. They crossed the Atlantic in 2019, sailed the Caribbean and found themselves stuck in St Maartin for three months when covid hit. Leaving the boat there, they returned to their home in Austin, TX only to come back to St Maartin to get the yacht out before hurricane season. Sailing back to the US they charted a course down the eastern seaboard hitting every port and finally landing in West Palm Beach for a while. In 2020 they gained even more experience sailing visiting Turks and Caicos, the Bahamas, Exumas, US Virgin Islands and back to St Maartin. At the end of April 2021, the Hills joined the Oyster pre-rally in Palma, Spain to prepare for the world journey.

In total, the Hills crossed the Atlantic three times, sailed a total of 30,000 miles and have now embarked on another 27,000 mile trip. Both Trevor and Judy have yacht master ocean certification and the crew has all the necessary certifications required by Oyster for the rally.

Trevor said, "In the Oyster world less than 100 boats have ever done this. We

start with 25 but some won't finish because they stop because it is too much, don't have the time or the sufficient resources. Just to finish, it will be a feat, a real prize to get the accomplishment of doing it on your own. We'll be doing this [sailing] for five years when we are finished. We will have finally made it."

The *Intrepid* has a five-member crew including the owners.

The Oyster World Rally destination map includes stops in Panama, Galapagos, Marquesas, Tahiti, Bora Bora, Tonga, Fiji, Vanuatu, Mackay, Whitsundays, Cairns, Darwin, Southern Indonesia, Cocos, Mauritius, Reunion, Durban, Cape Town, St Helena, Salvador, Grenada and back to Antigua.

Oyster's first rally was in 2013 to commemorate the 40th anniversary of the Oyster brand and was followed with a second tour in 2017. For all the around the world dreamers, Oyster has a rally live link to follow along on the rally website <https://oysteryachts.com/oyster-world-rally/>.



The Oyster fleet in Antigua. Photo Oyster



Oyster gave participants a World Rally 2022-23 course map. Photo Julie Morgan

Though sailing around the world remains just a dream for many, the crews of 25 Oyster yachts are living that dream in the third Oyster World Rally 2022-23. The sailing yachts embarked on a 16 month, 27,000 mile world adventure from base port Antigua on Jan. 9.

The British-made blue water sailing yachts will make 25 designated stops on their journey with many in-between ports of their own choosing.

The next major stop is an 1,180 mile sail to Panama, where all 25 yachts will meet on Feb. 7. From now until then the Oysters will visit many different islands of their own choice and take different routes to get there.

Eight of the 25 'Oysters' chose to make their first stop in Bonaire: Nikaia 57', Irish Blessing 65', Infinity 60', Adalia 260', Juno 58', *Intrepid* 72', Black Lion 62' and Skye III 63'. Each yacht is striking to view with its own style. One can usually spot an Oyster by the eyebrow type window on the deck salon.

The rally is fully supported and organized by an Oyster shore team and preparation and training of yacht owners is extensive. The personal stops not on the

schedule are handled by the individual yachts.

Like most of the Oyster owners, Trevor and Judy Hill of the *Intrepid*, have spent the last three years getting ready for the rally.

Originally from Vancouver, Trevor grew up sailing and dreamed of someday sailing around the world.

"I used to look at the Oyster boats and dream. I kept looking and finally chartered one in Croatia and then in the BVI's," said Trevor.

From the charter experience they made the decision to purchase the *Intrepid* a 72' Oyster yacht and then invested a bit more to personalize the boat. If you are wondering, a new Oyster is approximately £5 million (\$7 million).

Two major environmental personalizations were adding a water maker and a solar generating bimini top with 12 '200' amp lithium batteries.

Trevor said, "We have engines but try to limit that. The battery banks generate an enormous amount of power that run all our shipboard load."

As they had never done blue water sailing, in 2018, the Hill's hired a full-time crew to train them in the Mediter-

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Making Bonaire Accessible

by Ria Evers-Dokter

What can you do?

fireworks get rid of all negativity and bad spirits. The old folks used to burn sage for the same effect.

Quite a few of our citizens passed away and many of them were quite well known. Because of the Covid situation people could not or dared not attend their funerals. And, that is a shame, because that is what we do on Bonaire. We pay respect to the dead and comfort the living. Losing a loved one is hard and mourning together makes it easier to bear. Sharing the grief makes you feel better, loved.

And then you move on and that is important. You have to learn to live with the loss, share fun moments of memories, talk about your loved ones and make plans for the future.

So... what will this new year bring us? Will we be able to visit our family members in the assisted care facilities again? Will we be able to talk and visit with friends again? Will we be able to travel easily again?

Is acting as if nothing is wrong the right way? Is pointing fingers appropriate?

How did people act when many years ago we had a pandemic called "Kabouter" (Gnome)? Many people died because of it and then suddenly it stopped. Nobody knows why. Could it be that Covid will behave the same way?

It surely shows us that nothing is forever. Everything has a beginning and an end.

So let's not despair. Stick together, help each other, do what feels right and what is right. Do not fight the authorities and start making plans carefully.

Maybe not go shopping, but instead form a club, order in and share the delivery bill.

Order lots of travel guides, get together with the family or go on online with friends and check out the possibilities. Maybe you cannot go now, but you can have just as much fun planning it.

Form different groups and come up with wonderful,

tasty and easy, but healthy and affordable recipes. Think up illustrations, fonts and small anecdotes and make a cookbook.

But whatever you do, never forget the elderly, people with limitations and those who are ill. They need company and people that show them they care.

We will get through this together and it will make us stronger and better people. We all need people and need each other.

On the little Dutch island where I grew up, there was an interesting tradition on New Year's Day. All the children went out and formed groups of relatives that would visit their families and loved ones. We would visit for a while, have a glass of lemonade, a chocolate wreath and we wished them "a happy new year" or "lots of salvation and blessing. We received a few coins and went on our way to the next relatives.

So, I wish you all lots of salvation and blessings. And the money you receive could be donated to MiVaBo.

Ria Dokter is living happily on Bonaire, where she also used to work as a director at the FKPD and started Special Olympics Bonaire. She took care of her husband (R.I.P) for many years and feels that accessibility is the most important issue on our island.



Did You Know?

that this year STINAPA hired their first female rangers in the history of Washington Slagbaai National Park?

by Jilly Sarpong, WSNP new woman terrestrial rangers

Did you know that this year STINAPA hired their first female rangers in the history of Washington Slagbaai National Park?

Of course we already had quite a few women working in different departments within the organization, including the marine park, but not as terrestrial rangers making this a special milestone for us as an organization and island.

Globally it is estimated that only between 3% to 11% of park rangers are women. While many factors could be contributing to these numbers, one thing is clear. Not only are women eager to work in the field, it's been shown that women's empowerment closely correlates with environmental sustainability. Why, you may ask? Well let's take The Black Mambas for example. No, not the venomous snake, but the (almost) all female ranger team working in the Balule Nature reserve in Greater Kruger National Park in South Africa. This group of women provide security and protection against wildlife poaching, primarily for the rhinoceros. Did you know that three out of the five rhino species are classified as critically endangered?

By monitoring and surveillance The Black Mambas protect these rhinos during their daily patrolling. The rangers create a first line of defense in the field which helps reduce poaching, snaring and property break-ins.

Now you may wonder what all of this has to do with women working in the field of conservation. The Black Mambas are a perfect example of breaking the stereotype that women aren't qualified for this physical type of work. Women often bring different skill sets and approaches to the job at hand, which not only increases capacity, but offers opportunities for different perspectives that ultimately benefit conservation efforts. Just like all things in nature, there should be a balance. We believe that every gender has its own qualities and sets of skills which could uplift and stimulate the other.

Let's take a look at Washington Slagbaai National Park: a nature sanctuary with a surface area of 4.286 hectares. That is almost 18% of Bonaire's total surface area! Pretty big right? Well, you can imagine that it's quite a task to manage and to conserve this area. While



Jilly Sarpong



Jessy Olbina

some tasks require physical strength, it does not mean that women aren't capable of doing those tasks. Women bring a different set of skills to the table which might bring new solutions. They will probably tackle the problem by looking at it from a different angle.

STINAPA believes that promoting equality in conservation work will not only help nature, but could also help the community to get more involved. If we look back in time, women have always played a vital role in their communities. Why should they not be able to contribute to nature conservation?

By hiring women we not only divide the workload, but we can also create jobs and opportunities for them, their families and for our community as a whole.

By seeing these ladies at work, not only do we break the stereotype that rangers are always men, we also give younger generations strong female role models to look up to.

This happened to me. I witnessed first hand how incredible women such as Mabel Nava, Elsmarie Beukenboom and Jessica Berkel used their skills, education, confidence and pride in working in nature to benefit conservation. They inspired me to switch majors and dare to start and finish my biology degree. I even got the opportunity to have worked with these ladies out in the field and to give back to the islands. I truly believe that seeing these women at work has made a positive impact on me as a woman.

So, let's pave the way for many more female rangers to come. Promoting gender equality benefits us all and just maybe it could result in the incredible things such as seen in South Africa.

Jilly Sarpong - Washington Slagbaai Park Ranger and Project Assistant. Connecting People With Nature



Spatial Development plan, from page 1

agriculture or the other way around. This is of course highly unlikely, but some borders could change... We try to make the rules work for the goals (ultimately set by the Bestuurscollege) we want to achieve.”

According to Bruijnesteijn, designation for ‘open’ land doesn’t mean there is no owner, it simply means there is no (more) detailed designation. Owners might think they can do whatever they like because it is zoned as open. This is not the case. But if the designation of a property is re-defined owners may protest or demand compensation

Designations for height of buildings and distance from the sea will be updated and might be more liberal in some areas than others. Waste management is considered in building too close to the sea.

An example of the challenges for the authors of the plan is how to adopt a concept used in the Netherlands that allows a family to build a separate apartment for a grandparent, so they don’t have to live alone or go into a retirement home. To allow the building of two houses on one plot of land in Bonaire could signal a commercial venture to opportunistic people.

Bruijnesteijn said, “We are looking into a way to make this arrangement possible in the zoning plan. This is a difficulty in every field of lawmaking. We want to achieve certain goals with regulation. To do that without the goals working against it is often a challenge.”

Many of the original island residents have land with old permits which create a conflict with the new zoning.

Bruijnesteijn said, “Land with a permit has value. Old permits can still be used. We can’t revoke old permits but we can kindly ask them to observe certain rules.”

The government are planning to make use of existing facilities for tourism without adding much new construction.

In that regard, Bruijnesteijn said, “Most likely, there will be no more big hotels. There are a couple of possible sites in Hato and Sabadeco for buildings and a plot allocated for a large hotel next to Ocean Oasis in the current zoning plan. Other than that there are no possible locations for large developments in the tourist sector. There are some plans, but they are in the preliminary stage. That is the only major location set for development.”

BOLIVIA

When Meine Breemhaar purchased Bolivia from Bonaire Properties NV in 2019 there had been no environmental studies done on the open designated land.

Bruijnesteijn said, “Bolivia was considered open land because the original owners wanted that... We couldn’t designate it for nature without investigation and it was highly unlikely that it could be used for any agricultural activity except for the goats.”

Since then Breemhaar has funded research on the cliff area and all 3000 hectares of Bolivia. He is reportedly proceeding with an official environmental MER study.

Regarding a social media post, Bruijnesteijn denied that there was an agreement with Breemhaar and the government regarding any future development. But he did acknowledge that there are talks of

some future development.

“They are going to investigate agriculture, wind or solar energy... and they are going to improve the nature that is there, but there is no agreement,” said Bruijnesteijn. “For me, obviously Bolivia is the major possible development for the next few years. If and when something is going to happen, then it is going to be big.”

Bruijnesteijn meets with either the owner or a representative every two to three months regarding legal and other questions. He says both parties intend to follow all the procedures and are aware of the sensitive issues surrounding Bolivia.

OCEAN OASIS

According to Bruijnesteijn, they partly used existing permits, but there are discussions about a change in building policy in regard to nature. It is a complex issue and we are looking into it. There are plans for some development south of Ocean Oasis. No permits have been applied as of yet, and we are therefore still in the informal stage.

ESMERALDA

Likewise, the ruin near Lighthouse Beach could be the site of a major development. Some legal questions exist from well before the current zoning plan was in effect. This will be settled before new construction begins.

TROCA SUELTE

Five lots with one existing house built in 2008 were sold on a Ramsar site off Sorobon road. One lot is only partially within the Ramsar preserve. The existing house was built before the 2010 zoning plan. The property is zoned as Agriculture/Kunuku but new owners have applied for building permits. According to Bruijnesteijn the existing house cannot be used as a precedent for building on other lots with a different designation.

SUNSET PROPERTY

Permits were applied for building a resort in Oct. 2021 on the remaining land between Eden Beach and Chogogo Resort.

CHOGOGO

Wrapped in controversy regarding building a beach without a permit the resort is now open. The government fined the resort owners \$1.2 million for the violation. It is unknown whether the resort has paid the fine. Julie Morgan

Thanks to Roland Bruijnesteijn for his assistance with this article. Roland Bruijnesteijn has worked for the OLB since April 2020 and has a background in law and management studies. He likes his work and living on Bonaire very much. Bruijnesteijn would like to remind readers that his personal opinions may not always reflect official policy and that the process of a new ROB is definitely teamwork.

Updated Timetable

Meeting in work groups - mid Feb

Concept ROB2022 - end Feb

Public consult - Mar/April

Final concept - May

Formal procedure (hearings) - June,

July, August

Formal decision - fall

(Taking into account BC/Island Council agenda, schedule and court)



ESMERALDA.
Julie Morgan



BOLIVIA
Julie Morgan



CHOGOGO
Julie Morgan

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Activities, Events & Meetings

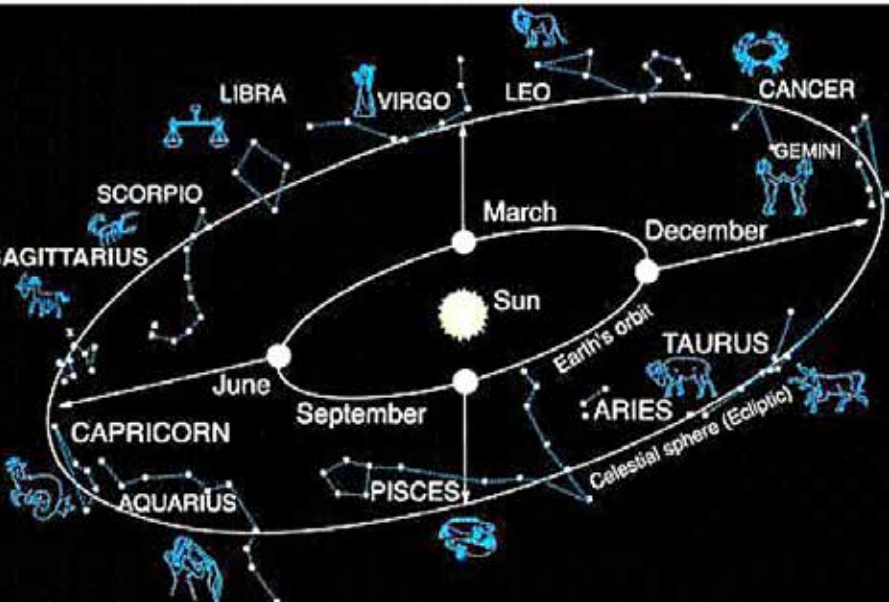
Open meeting Alcoholics Anonymous Every Thursday, 7 - 8 pm. International Bible Church Kaya Papago 104 in Hato (Behind Bon Bida Spa and Gym and Bon Bida apartments) All welcome, regardless of primary addition or no addition at all.

12 steps meeting: Every Wednesday evening 7:15 pm to 8:30 pm
Address: Bonaire Basics, Kaya Korona 47 (in the yellow building)

Beach Tennis Bonaire can now be found at its new location, the Kaminda Djabou (direct left from Kaya Neerlandia --behind Budget Marine). It is open daily until 10 pm. People can play for free or register for training and tournaments for a fee.

BONAIRE SKY PARK

Astrology and astronomy



Because Earth orbits in a flat plane around the sun, we see the sun against the same stars – the constellations of the zodiac – again and again at regular intervals. Image earthsky.org via Marcia Rieke, Regents Professor of Astronomy at the University of Arizona.

Christopher Crockett, writing for earthsky.org:

“You might think that dates in a horoscope correspond to when the sun passes through each constellation. But they don’t, much of the time, because astrology and astronomy are different systems.

“Bottom line: You might associate the word zodiac with astrology, but it has an honored place in astronomy, too. The zodiac is composed of the 12 constellations that lie along the annual path of the sun across the sky. While the zodiac may not be a great predictor of love, fortune, and health, it is a great tool for better understanding the motions of the sun, the Earth, and even the cultures that have come and gone on our little planet. The zodiac signs, derived from the constellations along the sun’s path in the sky, track the orbit and wobble of Earth and remind us of astronomy’s humble roots.

“The signs aligned, more or less, with their corresponding constellations when people defined the modern Western zodiac about 2,000 years ago. But in the intervening centuries, the slow wobble of the Earth’s axis has caused the solstice

and equinox points to shift roughly 30 degrees westward relative to the constellations. At present, signs and constellations are about one calendar month off. In another two thousand years or so, they’ll be about two months off.

“To complicate matters more, the constellations – unlike the astrological signs – are not of equal size and shape. The stars that make up a constellation are not, for the most part, physically related. They’re just based on patterns that our ancestors saw as they gazed skyward and tried to make sense of it all.”

Trace Dominguez of Stargazersonline.org adds: “The sky tells us more about the past than the future, but astronomy and astrology are good friends - one’s a science; the other is powerful stories. We both use the same stories, we just look at them a little differently.”

Find Crockett’s complete article at: <https://earthsky.org/astronomy-essentials/what-is-the-zodiac/>

What’s Happening

Bonaire Library: Mon. 12-5; Tues. to Thurs. 8-5; Fri. 8-4:30; Sat. 8-12. With a subscription from the library, members can also find books online outside opening hours and request information. More than 20,000 Dutch and English novels and informative books can be found on www.onlinebibliotheek.nl

Cultural Park Mangazina di Rei in Rincon: Tuesday - Friday 9-4

Washington Slagbaai: Open every day. 8-5 (entry up to 1 pm)
STINAPA headquarters: Mon-Fri 8-4. +599 717 8444. +599 777 8444.

Animal Shelter: Open with reduced hours. Mon-Fri 1-3:30 pm. Sat. 1-2:30 pm. phone/ whatsapp: 7014989 or 7174989. Masks required. Four visitors at a time. Please ring the bell for entry. Email: animalshelterbonaire@gmail.com

Pakus di Pruga (Shelter flea market. Central Kralendijk): Market closed due to covid regulations.. Donations can be dropped off Saturdays from 8 - 4. Masks required.

Saturday January 29	Annual Lora Roost Count 6-8 am. To volunteer phone Echo +599 701 1188.
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STINAPA Nature Fee

The 2021 Nature Fee expires on Jan 1, 2022. However, a grace period makes your nature fee valid until January 14, 2022. The 2022 Nature Fee became available for purchase on December 16, 2021. It will be valid through the rest of 2021 and 2022. Pay at <https://stinapa.bonairenaturefee.org>

Commemorative tags for 2022 are available at Stinapa, Washington Park and participating dive shops.

Tentative cruise ship schedule January 2022

DAY & DATE:	MM/DD	CRUISESHIP	TIME	CAPACITY & LINE
Wednesday	01-19	Marella Discovery	1300-2000	1830 Marella
Thursday	01-20	NCL Epic	0600-1300	4100 NCL
Thursday	01-20	Freedom	0800-1600	2980 Carnival USA
Saturday	01-22	World Voyager	0800-1600	200 Nicko Cruises
Saturday	01-22	Mein Schiff 2	0730-1900	2894 TUI Germany
Sunday	01-23	Costa Deliziosa	0800-1600	2000 COSTA
Monday	01-24	AidaPerla	0800-1800	3300 Aida Cruises
Tuesday	01-25	CEL Equinox	0800-1900	2858 RCCL/CEL
Wednesday	01-26	Horizon	0800-1600	3954 Carnival USA
Thursday	01-27	Aida Sol	0700-2100	2194 Aida Cruises
Friday	01-28	Nieuw Statendam	0800-2300	2650 Holland American
Friday	01-28	Explorer OTS	0700- 1600	3114 RCCL/CEL
Monday	01-31	Brittania	0700- 1800	3647 P&O

Direct flights to Bonaire

KLM -Amsterdam	2022: Daily
TUI -Amsterdam	2022 Daily
Delta - Atlanta	Jan. 4 to April 9, 2022: 4 weekly flights: Mon. Wed Fri.
American -Miami	From Jan 3, 2022: Weekly flights Mon. Wed Sat.
United - Houston, & Newark	Beginning Nov. 6, 2021 Saturday flights from both Houston and Newark. Arriving at 1:30 pm and 5:30 pm. Return flight on Sunday

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A Garden? Just Do It!

by Angliet, Nature Lover

Okra

plants in an old wheelbarrow with a mix of black and red dirt, rotten leaves, goat manure and charcoal. The plants grew fast, became fat and after some months the first flowers appeared and soon after the okras. There is also another type of okra that grows on a big branch with bigger pods that look like fingers. It is known as lady's fingers or gumbo and it's a beloved vegetable in the Caribbean. Locals used to make all kinds of stews and soups with it. It can be eaten fresh in salads, or dried, pickled, fried, sauteed, roasted or boiled.

Preparing okra: Cutting and cooking okra in moisture releases a slimy juice that increases the thickness of soups and stews. When you don't enjoy the gummy texture of okra, cook the whole pod quickly to avoid this. Okra seeds: roast and grind to make a non-caffeinated coffee substitute.

Tips for choosing and using okra:

- pick okra that is taut and firm to touch
- avoid pods that are shriveled, soft or



dark on the ends

- keep okra dry and store in a paper bag to stop it from becoming moldy
- don't wash it until you are ready to use it; use within three to four days.

Many parts of the plant are used in other countries: the fresh leaves, buds, flowers, stems and seeds.

This vegetable is a source of a high nutrition. It contains protein, carbohydrates,

fiber, vitamin K, potassium, vitamin C, sodium, thiamine, magnesium, calcium, vitamin B6, vitamin A and folate. It also provides some iron, niacin, phosphorus, copper and antioxidants.

Benefits:

- the mucilage of okra may help remove toxins from the body (good to start the year with an okra detox).
 - heart health okra has high fiber which lowers the risk of heart diseases, obesity and diabetes.
 - osteoporosis- vitamin K plays a role in bone formation and blood clotting
 - gastrointestinal health - its dietary fiber helps prevent constipation and helps maintain a healthy digestive system. Its fiber protects against irritation and inflammatory gastric diseases.
- So knowing all this information should make you consume a lot of this rare vegetable, picked, of course, from your own garden.
- Just do it now.



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.

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.

New Year's Resolutions...

Reflection For Today

"A new year is like a yet to be written book with 12 chapters, 52 paragraphs, and 365 pages. So go ahead, write a good one." - Unknown

Tip For Today

"It's that time of year again, Chichi.", said Swinda, smiling at her best friend.

"Yep, I know exactly what you mean, Swinda. You've set ambitious goals for this new year, you were excited and motivated at the beginning yet somehow after a few weeks, your spark has faded or has completely disappeared."

This was not what Swinda had in mind. She was thinking about restarting their Malecon Sunset Power Walk after the

holiday break, not a personal accusation from her bestie.

But after thinking about it for a few moments she realized that there was some truth hidden in Chichi's personal attack...

Losing that New Year resolution spark is something that happens to us, more often than we would like it to.

A study conducted by researchers at the University of Scranton found that 23% of people quit working on their resolution just two weeks into the new year. And only 19% of resolution setters stuck to their goals over the long haul.

According to Chichi, here's what Swinda (and you too) can do to recapture that New Year's resolution spark...

1. **Consider specific goals.** Replace "I'll exercise more this year" with "I'll work out three times a week".
2. **Consider a cue-based plan.** "I'll

meditate on weekdays" is too vague. "I'll meditate at work on weekdays during my lunch break" is much better.

3. **Consider a penalty clause.** You can make a bet with a friend that you'll stick to your New Year's resolution or pay. And it doesn't have to be money, be creative

Remember...

Successful people set specific goals and use various tactics to boost their chances of sticking with their New Year's resolutions

Affirmation For Today

Today I am intentional about achieving my New Year's resolutions. 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."

Poem for Today

New Year's Resolutions by Aditya Chattopadhyay

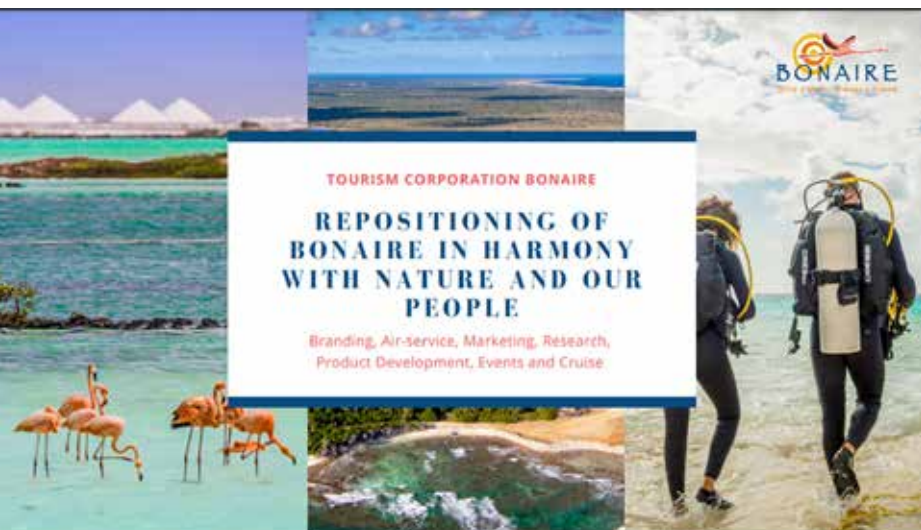
*Here comes the New Year,
And it's time to make resolutions.
For I promise to be sincere
And bring in me a revolution.*

*In class, I'll talk less.
In studies, I'll surely progress.
All my lies I'll confess.
I'll go to play with egress.*

*To my friends, I'll be kind,
Have my character refined,
To a helper of mankind
With a sound mind.*

*I'll follow my teacher's advice.
Regularly I'll exercise.
My mother I'll idolize.
Beyond doubt I'll civilize.*

*These are my resolutions
To bring in me an evolution.
To follow them, I'll try my best.
Until then, I'll not rest.*



TCB Marketing Plan 2022

On Monday January 17th, 2022, Tourism Corporation Bonaire (TCB) Kicked off the year with its Virtual Marketing Week and presentation of its 2022 Marketing & Action Plan as part of our Tourism Recovery Plan.

Bonaire's Tourism Strategy led by TCB in partnership with its stakeholders shared four (4) main objectives for 2022:

1. **Community inclusion:** Expand the benefits stemming from tourism development to a broader segment of the Bonaire population.
2. **High-value, low-impact tourism:** Re-define Bonaire as a unique premium destination, especially as the world looks

for a way to get away from the COVID stress.

3. **A cohesive Regenerative strategy:** Practice this to attract the right type of tourists and increase revenue and profitability. Focus on the active and affluent customer that is looking to experience an authentic product. Goal: Leaving Bonaire better behind.

4. **Elevate the tourist experience:** Highlight Bonaire's culture, culinary arts, and the variety of land and sea adventures. Improved supply chain inclusion and spreading of activities/expenditures, crowd management.

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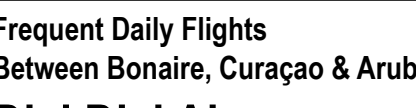
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Pets of the Week

If you would like to meet **Inky**, or **Otis and Osha**, please come to Animal Shelter Bonaire, Kaminda Lagun 26A. The Shelter is open Monday till Friday 10 am to 1 pm and 2-3:30 pm, Saturday 10 am till 3 pm nonstop. You can also call 7014989 or 7174989 to make an appointment to see them, via whatsapp, facebook messenger and email animalshelterbonaire@gmail.com



Inky

This pretty girl is Inky.

She's a female cat about two and a half years old and came to the Shelter when she was about four months old. She's a friendly and pretty girl. Look at her striking hairstyle and her beautiful eyes! She's such a remarkable personality too.

Inky is a cat that likes to sit next to you on the couch and enjoys getting pets now and then. She's not a lap cat but she really wants to be your pal. If she thinks she had enough petting, she just walks away... to look for another spot to lie down!

Inky is looking for a home and a job. As soon she's comfortable in her new home, she will hunt for mice or other little creatures to help you keep your house clean! Inky is spayed and chipped, has all her vaccinations and is ready to go. She's been waiting a long time for her fur-ever home and would be so happy if it was with you!

Story Monique Degenaar

Photo Yolanda van den Nieuwenhof



Otis & Osha

Dear dog lovers,

We would like to introduce ourselves, we are brother and sister Otis and Osha. We are about a year old and a very happy duo. Otis is a cuddle bug and loves attention, I, on the other hand, prefer to take it slow, and need time to get to know you. Once I do, I will come for cuddles. We are good listeners and well behaved. We also like to play with toys and run around with them. We are good with other dogs, as long as they are not too macho because that will scare me. We would like to find a forever home together, so if you are the one to give that to us we would love to meet you at Animal Shelter Bonaire. Please come and see us soon!

Story and photo: Sanne Attevelt



L-R: Jane Disko Sanne Attevelt Monique Degenaar Yolanda van den Nieuwenhof

Bonaire's Street Art competes for Best of 2021

Street Art Cites is asking you to vote for your favorite Street Art of 2021.

On the list of the 100 most popular artworks of 2021 is this little girl painted by Tymon De Laat when he was in Bonaire. De Laat was brought to Bonaire from the Netherlands by Street Colors Bonaire, a project designed to teach Bonaire's kids about street art.

Street Art Cites asks you to have a look at the 100 entries from around the world and vote. They suggest you can ask your acquaintances to vote too and so push your favorite to the top spot.

The voting ends on Sunday February 6th at 0:00 CET (Central European Time).

Go to:

<https://mailchi.mp/7d7158f4fd06/best-street-art-2021-vote-now?e=e0bbd824b2>



Mural by Tymon De Laat
Photo Julie Morgan



Creating optimal health

by Irene da Cunda Costa

Finding the sore point

We have been described as emotional animals who reason. Emotions are key in the survival of the individual and of the species. Emotions such as fear and anger are directly linked to the fight and flight responses to threats. They are also a source of information about the outside world and about ourselves. Emotions are neither good nor bad, but we can differentiate two groups of emotions: some mostly involve some type of joy and others come with some type of suffering. I am going to elaborate on the latter today.

It is important to listen and watch and feel our emotions in order to understand their message. Then we can manifest them into their best version. When we are dealing with painful emotions, we want to search for the origin of the pain. Many disturbing emotions mask pain. Sometimes we make a big fuss about situations that are irrelevant. When we don't understand where all our emotionality is coming from, we need to ask ourselves the right questions to reach a useful explanation.

For example, anger at a more superficial level tells us about some limit or right violated or threatened. Looking deeper we can find pain due to the frustration of an unfulfilled expectation, an unattended demand for affection or a basic need that has not been taken care of. Many times, that anger is the expression of an open wound that has not yet healed or an old conflict that has not been resolved. How can we access that information? Although some people would benefit from it, in general, it is not necessary to complete 30 years of psychoanalysis. Instead, we can try to connect with our emotions at a cognitive level, exploring our thoughts and internal dialogues and at a physical level by exploring our bodily sensations. This exploration can lead to some key questions.

At the cognitive level, we can start by exploring our internal dialogues when either an external or internal event triggers an emotion. For example, internal events are:

- the involuntary recall of a memory that triggers the emotion or
- the imaginary anticipation of certain event.

It is important to explore what words we use to describe ourselves. Do we use detrimental labels? Also, we have to pay attention to detect cognitive distortions such as polarization, generalization, mind reading, biases or universal inferences. We have to practice debating these dialogues and, if necessary, confront them to a reality test to debunk the biases. We can go as deep as desired.

Alternately, a body check comes in handy to detect changes in what we feel at the visceral level; where, how, what it is, how intense and if that physical sensation refers us to some other moment in our life. Many times, through the bodily sensations, we reach answers not accessible through cognition. We must complete our exploration, not only through rational debate, but also by considering what our guts have to tell us.

And remember, we should record our exploration in a journal. If we write down our conclusions, later we can go back to read them. We can find patterns, remember old findings and deepen our journey to self-knowledge.

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.

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Reef Glimpses

by Dee Scarr

Slipper Lobster Secret Surprise



This slipper lobster was exploring a pier piling when it posed for me. The sponges and orange cup coral around it are the same glorious color as Mama's eggs and babies.

My very first dive trip, in about 1973, was to Grand Cayman. When we asked our dive operator about a night dive, his response was something like, "Why dive at night? Whatever you want to see at night, I can show you in the daytime."

Even then, I realized that seeing a nocturnal creature in the daytime was different from seeing it at night. But all that divers knew about the reef at night was what they heard from fishers, and fishers were full of stories about fierce sharks stealing their catches.

So, my joy at possibly seeing a creature active at night was somewhat lessened by the thought that the creature might be a shark and its activity might be to hunt me.

And then National Geographic published an article about after-dark activity on Florida Keys reefs, and we got to see a night dive possibility other than being the focus of a shark feeding frenzy. The six or so of us on my first night dive began within a handspan of each other despite National Geographic, but once we turned our lights onto the reef, we discovered an unimagined difference between night and day.

Reef residents who are active at night include the slipper lobsters, al-

though their level of "activity" is pretty low. They aren't easy to see because of their short, flattened antennae; also, their brownish, bumpy bodies blend in with the reef really well, and they don't move much and rarely move fast. When it feels threatened, a slipper lobster will grab tightly onto rock or reef and trust its thick shell and strong grip. If that doesn't work, it can propel itself backwards with tail flips like its spiny lobster cousin, surprising and -- with a little luck -- evading a predator.

When they're not disturbed, slipper lobsters forage around the reef eating worms, small crustaceans, mollusks, and even plants. With daylight they move back into protected areas; one year I found the same shovelnose lobster resting in the same position under the same reef ledge every afternoon for weeks.

Because slipper lobsters are nocturnal, camouflaged, mostly solitary, not common, and secretive, mere terrestrial creatures like ourselves don't see much of their behaviors, even when we visit at night. They have separate sexes, so we know that at some time the boys have to get together with the girls, or at least one boy with one girl. After the male deposits its sperm with her, the female carries the

fertilized eggs for two to four months until they hatch.

Slipper lobster larvae go through several changes as they drift around with other plankton. About six months after hatching, they begin to resemble their adult form and settle to their low-profile lives on the reef.

So -- what's their secret?

It's here: "...the female carries the fertilized eggs ... until they hatch."

I never thought about the actual egg hatching of any lobsters, until I saw a photo of it in the Album 2020 in World-Shootout.org (look it up, you'll be glad you did). <https://www.worldshootout.org/album2020.pdf>

The surprising secret is that Mama Lobster doesn't simply stand by as her

babies are hatched; she stands on her head!

This amazing photo shows a slipper lobster, balanced in a headstand on her flat antennae and her forelegs. Her tail is straight up, so the eggs attached to its underside are raised, and the cloud of orange newly-hatched larvae stream out into the current. Mom's headstand gives her babies a safer beginning by releasing them as far away from bottom predators as she can get them.

Mama (and Papa) Slipper Lobster live inconspicuously, whether they're resting through the day or hunting at night. Once a year, though, Mama literally sacrifices her low profile for the benefit of her offspring.

That's something that's not going to happen in the daytime!



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2 columns of 4



Creating optimal health

by Irene da Cunda Costa

Purposes for the new year



A Garden? Just Do It!

by Angliet, Nature Lover

Yellow mombin



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.



Reef Glimpses

by Dee Scarr

All Because of a Horseshoe Nail



Making Bonaire Accessible

by Ria Evers-Dokter

Happy New Year wishes



BONAIRE SKY PARK

Happy Perihelion Day!



Reef Glimpses

by Dee Scarr

After a Gulf Stream Dive

Parrots and People!

by Rayshantaly Coffie



Did You Know? *that*

culture, once anirangutans, chimpanzees, dolphins and even some fish?

Box Jellies of Bonaire: Caribbean Cubozoans

by Bud Gillan, Educator & Researcher

bud.gillan@gmail.com

Meet the people in charge

by Ann Joesph

Blackwater Bonaire, Part 2

Creatures Here Below!

by Bud Gillan, Educator & Researcher

bud.gillan@gmail.com

1 column of 4



Reef Glimpses *Hermit Crabs*



Bonaire's sky park
Mercury
Helicopter on Mars



Bonaire's sky park



A Garden? Just Do It!

by Angliet, Nature Lover

Yellow mombin

Parrots and People!

by Rayshantaly Coffie

1 column of 3



A Garden? Just Do It!

by Angliet, Nature Lover

Urban Agriculture



Bonaire's sky park

Changing to the winter sky



Bonaire's sky park



Live Inspired Today!

by Malcolm Wilson

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Parrots and People

by Rayshantaly Coffie



Reef Glimpses

by Dee Scarr

Happy New Year!



Reef Glimpses

by Dee Scarr

Meet the people in charge

by Ann Joseph

Marlon Martina



Making Bonaire Accessible

by Ria Evers-Dokter

Vacationtime!



2 columns of 3



Creating optimal health

by Irene da Cunda Costa

Looking at a small history of human nutrition (2).



BONAIRE SKY PARK

It's the uncanny time of the year



Making Bonaire Accessible

by Ria Evers-Dokter

What can you do?

Blackwater Bonaire, Part 1:

What is that?

by Bud Gillan, Educator & Researcher

bud.gillan@gmail.com



Echo continues for parrots and people!

by Julianka Clarendia



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