

Recycling comes to STX

Agency teams with local business to recycle cardboard

STEPHANIE HANLON

ST. CROIX — The Recycling Association of the Virgin Islands' St. Croix Chapter has joined forces with Cost-U-Less to now offer cardboard recycling.

RAVI recently constructed and painted two large bins that now sit in the Cost-U-Less parking lot for collection of the cardboard.

Individuals can recycle their cardboard in two ways. Cardboard boxes can be brought right into Cost-U-Less and placed in the caged area across from the check-out, which will be reused by customers.

And, individuals can bring flattened cardboard to the newly constructed recycling bins in the parking lot of Cost-U-Less. These pieces of cardboard should be clean and flattened, and all paper, food, bags and Styrofoam should be removed.

The Recycling Association voted to buy the materials and build the bins as part of its ACTION program. Volunteers included Scott Johnston, Jeff Lawlor, and Colleen Sullivan.

Cost-U-Less will be bailing and shipping all the cardboard for recycling in the states.

Cost-U-less purchased its cardboard bailer specifically for recycling when it opened its new store. We are really focused on being a good corporate citizen, so offering recycling and partnering with the Recycling Association seemed natural," RAVI quoted store manager Scott Ramsey as saying.

In addition to recycling, reusing cardboard is also positive for the environment, proclaims RAVI.

"Every time you and your neighbors drop off cardboard in the Cost-U-Less bins, the entire community benefits by diverting cardboard from the landfill," said RAVI volunteer Colleen Sullivan.



Volunteers with the Recycling Association of the Virgin Islands constructed cardboard recycling bins at Cost-U-Less.

Submitted photo

Sullivan said it is difficult for anything to biodegrade in a landfill so anything that can be kept out will benefit the environment. She said since Cost-U-Less already had a cardboard bailer this initiative seemed natural and a simple way to recycle and reuse.

The organization is reaching out to other businesses and individuals who also may have a creative approach to reusing or recycling items, said Sullivan. She said RAVI is currently working with the Boys and Girls Club of the Virgin Islands in order to open an aluminum can recycling center. They hope to open the center by the end of the year.

Overall, she said RAVI is attempting to promote a more sustainable St. Croix and they are asking the whole community to get involved.

"We're all one community, one island and anything we can do to reuse and recycle items and redistribute items that aren't needed by any particular person now is helpful," said Sullivan.

The organization meets the second Tuesday of every month at 6 p.m. in the Florence Williams Library in Christiansted. She said they need a variety of volunteers to help the cause.

"We know we need recycling but the steps to make it happen are many," she said. The Recycling Association is a project under the non-profit organization the Virgin Islands Resource Conservation and Development Council. To find out more about the Recycling Association and how you can help, visit their Web site at www.usvircd.org/RAVI/.

Briefs

Gunman robs C'sted business

ST. CROIX — Police are looking for a male suspect who robbed a Christiansted business at gunpoint on Monday, officials said.

St. Croix Deputy Police Chief Christopher Howell said a masked gunman entered Remesa Popular, Inc., located at 9 Western Suburb around 11:45 a.m. and took an undisclosed amount of money from the proprietor.

Howell said the business conducts financial transactions, but he did not know if any patrons

were inside the establishment at the time of the robbery.

No shots were fired and no one was injured, he said.

Following the robbery, Howell said the suspect — described as a Hispanic male, was observed fleeing the area on foot.

No description of the suspect was given other than he was wearing a white shirt over his face, according to Howell.

Police urge anyone who has information on the incident to contact the Major Crime Bureau at 340-712-6077 or 340-712-6037 or Crime Stoppers at 1-800-222-TIPS.

Man faces theft, drug charges

ST. CROIX — A Frederiksted man, suspected of stealing a vehicle and changing the vehicle identification number (VIN) to register and insure it in his name was arrested Friday and charged with possession of stolen property and possession of crack-cocaine with intent to distribute, a police official said.

St. Croix Deputy Police Chief Christopher Howell said 30-year-old Jamal Lynch, a resident of 13-A Queen Street, Frederiksted, was arrested around 3:15 p.m.

on Friday after police found him operating a Sports Utility Vehicle that was reportedly stolen in July of this year.

The vehicle's original license plate and the VIN had both been changed to avoid detection, according to Howell.

Further, according to Howell, the suspect appeared to have transferred the VIN and the license plate from a crashed vehicle in order to register it in his name.

Officers who traffic stopped the vehicle also recovered two bags containing cocaine that were hidden in the side door, he said.

Police investigators were able to identify the vehicle as the one stolen in July by using secret information provided by the dealership. The vehicle was subsequently returned to the female owner, he added.

Bail for Lynch was set at \$10,000 and he was remanded to the Golden Grove Adult Correctional Facility pending further court action.

Police urge anyone who has information on the incident to contact the Major Crime Bureau at 340-712-6077 or 340-712-6037 or Crime Stoppers at 1-800-222-TIPS.