

From JMB / SXM Weekly News 11/14/22: Full Airport Reopening Delayed Another 7 Months; AA, UA Pilots Reject Contract Proposals; Delta Pilots Take Strike Vote; Major New Hotel/Waterpark for Cruise Area; Front Street Infrastructure Issues; Last Week's Street Flooding in "Usual Spots"; Marco Ferrante Leaves Isola; "Hot Chocolate" From Cheri's Cafe is Back; Tom Ford's Vision Comes to SXM [Issue #1371 -- 46 Top SXM News Stories for Tourists]

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Vol. 4, #1371 ---- Monday, November 14, 2022
News From Sint Maarten / Saint Martin / SXM

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St. Maarten & St. Martin "SXM" Weekly News

*St. Maarten & St. Martin's Most Relied-Upon Source
of Tourist-Oriented News & Information*

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From: www.jmbcommunications.com

Weekly News is part of JMB's St. Maarten / St. Martin website: www.everythingsxm.com

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This is Jeff Berger's / JMB Communications' St. Maarten & St. Martin / SXM Weekly News, published every Monday (Tuesdays during most holiday weeks). *You are receiving St. Maarten & St. Martin "SXM" Weekly News because you subscribed to it and/or are a [JMB Website Supporters Island Discount Program](#) member.*

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TOP STORIES IN THIS ISSUE:

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Each week JMB randomly picks timeshare condominiums for rent and for sale in SXM from the huge selection at http://everythingxsm.com/sxm/timeshare_rent_sale/index.shtml and features them here.

To rent out or sell timeshares you own in SXM or anywhere else worldwide, for no ad charge or commission, join JMB Website Supporters. Visit http://everythingxsm.com/sxm/about_sxm/paypal.shtml for info. Membership now delivers a growing list of about 300 St. Maarten and St. Martin-focused travel benefits -- and your membership subscription helps keep these weekly SXM newsletters coming.

SXM Timeshare (or Condo) Rental of The Week:

RENTAL 1/7/2023 1/14/2023 Week 1 Simpson Bay Resort & Casino (Formerly The Pelican Resort) Spacious One Bedroom, Sleeps 4, with King bed (semi-ensuite) and 2 living room Murphy beds. Located in the Lower B building beside the B pool. Large private eat-out patio with spectacular views of Simpson Bay. Fully equipped kitchen, wi-fi. Multiple bars, 5 Pools, 4 tennis courts, beach (with bar and snack service), kiddie pool and playground. Excellent on-site spa and restaurants. Gym facilities in the Marina Building. Arrange excursions at the Simpson Bay Marina, On-site Hollywood Casino, Red Piano Bar, mini mart and more. Off-site restaurants and shops within walking distance. \$50 weekly utility fee. \$1.425.00 Lynn 1-416-540-8013 lynnrkay@gmail.com

See them all at http://everythingxsm.com/sxm/timeshare_rent_sale/index.shtml

SXM Timeshare (or Condo) Sale of The Week:

SALE 1/22/2022 2/12/2022 Week 4, 5, 6 **Belair Beach Hotel 2 BR, 2BA unit at oceanfront resort on Dutch side.** Located on Little Bay Beach. **Fully equipped kitchen, dining and living room w/sleeper sofa. King size bed in Master, double bed in 2nd bedroom. Sleeps 6. TVs in living room and MB. Washer/dryers onsite. Free wifi. Free beach chair & umbrella reserved for your entire stay and free beach towels daily. Free daily maid service. Private balcony overlooking beach / Caribbean. Restaurant/bar, pool on site. Poolside BBQ Mondays. Entertainment at bar or pool. Small grocery and rental car on site. Gated with security. Walking distance to Philipsburg. Lots of restaurants and casinos nearby. US\$ accepted. \$9,000 per week + closing costs Gail 703-455-5365 GDT9512@VERIZON.NET**

See them all at http://everythingxsm.com/sxm/timeshare_rent_sale/index.shtml

Villa Rentals Now Offered On Our Site Too:

St. Maarten / St. Martin Homes, Villas, Businesses, Commercial Properties, and Residential Properties for Sale (NEW): [Click to access our recommended real estate agents](#)

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<https://www.facebook.com/groups/mysxm>

"Like" Our All-New ["Everything St. Maarten / St. Martin / SXM" MeWe Group](#)

<https://mewe.com/join/jeffbergerseverythingsxmmewegroup>

Search the *SXM Weekly News* Archives:

Current Archives (Since 4/2014) in PDF Format:

http://everythingxsm.com/sxm/free_newsletters/sxmweeklynews.shtml

Archives prior to April 12 2014 (old format):

<http://everythingxsm.com/cgi-bin/dada/mail.cgi?flavor=archive;list=sxmweeklynews>

Get a growing group of about 300 SXM-focused island discounts and other SXM-related benefits through JMB Website Supporters membership:

http://www.everythingsxm.com/sxm/about_sxm/paypal.shtml

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Visit <http://www.everythingsxm.com/secret> , the *secret* site for JMB Website Supporters members only, for low fares to SXM from cities across the USA, Canada, and Western Europe, plus a growing list of 300+ additional major travel benefits.

Not a member yet? See http://everythingxm.com/sxm/about_sxm/paypal.shtml . Cost: \$59 for one year, or \$99 total for three full years. Other durations available. Join us today...

All JMB Newsletters Read *From JMB*

This newsletter and mail from JMB Website Supporters to members read *From JMB* in the subject area so you won't misinterpret them as spam.

THIS WEEK'S STORIES:

Stories are numbered; scroll down for stories of interest.

SECTION 1: Getting Here: Flights, Airlines, Airports, Cruises, Covid, & Weather; Etc.

GETTING HERE:

BULLETIN: Airport Renovation Won't be Finished Until 2024; Some Parts Still to Reopen in 2023

Completion of renovations to SXM Airport has now been delayed until 2024, although some parts of the completely renovated SXM Airport terminal will start opening incrementally next year. That's the gist of an announcement made this week by SXM Airport; here is that announcement in full:

PJIAE N.V. and Ballast Nedam International Project announce new planning timeline for Airport Terminal Reconstruction Project

This week the Managing Board of the Princess Juliana International Airport Operating Company N.V. (PJIAE) informed its stakeholders, the Council of Ministers, the Steering Committee, the National Recover Project Bureau (NRPB), and the World Bank about the adjusted planning for the Airport Terminal Reconstruction project, as a result of unexpected additional works.

During the demolition of the terminal building, Ballast Nedam International Projects (BNIP) discovered that the fire retardant paint, on the interior steel structure, due to extended water exposure after the hurricanes in 2017, consequently started to peel and deteriorate. All steel beams have to be prepared and painted with a new fire retardant paint. This repair is an essential safety element for the airport terminal and part of the building code to protect the passengers and employees in the facilities. The Managing Board of PJIAE and BNIP have therefore developed a new project plan.

*Based on this new plan, **the departure hall will be finished before the start of the 2023 - 2024 season. The new arrival and ticket hall will follow in Q2 2024.** The net impact of the substantially increased scope of repairs of the fire retardant paint, and the challenges of sourcing a sufficient workforce, is an expected 7-months extension towards the project's completion, based on a calculation done by BNIP. The extension and extra works have a price impact of USD 10 - 15 Million, representing 7 - 10% of the total budget of the USD 154.5 million reconstruction project of which the main contract is USD 89M. The equipment packages, along with administrative costs, make up the difference.*

Baris Haboglu, Project Manager BNIP: "We are incredibly pleased with the close cooperation with PJIAE. We have already accomplished a lot since the start of the reconstruction, but as it is with projects like this one, you sometimes run into big challenges during the execution. I am pleased that we have come to a solution, and we are convinced that this is the best option. We will do everything we can to deliver the new departure hall and terminal as quickly as

possible.

Brian Mingo, CEO of PJIAE: "We see and value the hard work; we see the many moving parts and we understand the complexity of this project. We need everyone to understand the importance of having this reconstruction completed correctly and safely. For that, we need all hands on deck to get this done as soon as possible and are fully committed to taking on this new challenge.

Comment: Why is Reconstruction Taking So Long?

Reconstruction of SXM Airport was severely delayed after hurricane Irma by the initial refusal of the insurance company to pay the Airport's enormous claim, which was in the area of \$100 million; tents had to be put up and arrivals and departures were held from those tents for roughly 18 months after the date of the 2017 hurricane.

The roof of the building was devastated by Irma so when Hurricane Maria struck a couple of weeks later, dirty water further devastated the interior of the building and everything in it. In addition to going to court to get its insurance money, the airport had to secure loans both to continue operating and to make commitments necessary to completely rebuild the roof and also to finish the terminal.

Politicians criticized the Airport for not getting renovation started faster, but the lack of funding was the reason and the airport had no control over actions of its insurance company. Politicians now are again criticizing the airport for this new delay that regards fire retardant paint on the main steel structure of the building that must be reapplied thanks to rust caused by all the water that was inside the building; politicians are charging that this situation was known in 2017, before Ballast Nedam, the Dutch company in charge of the project, bid on it: Ballast Nedam is charging the island several million additional dollars to remediate the steel superstructure and politicians are howling about whether any of that is justified.

As you read in the above notice, part of the completely renovated building will open toward the end of 2023 as originally announced, but the rest won't open until Q2 of 2024.

What About Preclearance?

There have been no recent mentions of preclearance for passengers bound for the US, which is another expensive proposition which Mr. Mingo has told us must be based on increased revenues from the current airport and which would require additional new major construction at the airport. As any news develops concerning preclearance, we will publish it here in *SXM Weekly News* as always.

1. AA, UA Pilots Reject Airlines' Latest Contract Offers

Airlines seem to recognize that pilots are entitled to far better contracts than they currently have, but they aren't displaying much evidence of that recognition in the contracts they have offered to their thousands of overworked pilots. Consequently, pilots at both American Airlines and United Airlines, both of which serve SXM, have overwhelmingly rejected the latest contract offers from their respective airlines.

Pilots at Delta Airlines had earlier taken a strike vote against Delta, though the pilots say they want to settle with the airline and not go on strike (see next story). Airline strikes are highly unlikely but not impossible. We believe the current situation with unions at all three top US airlines going after new contracts simultaneously may be unprecedented.

After many thousands of pilots took early retirement offers from their airlines at the beginning of the Pandemic, the return to normalcy during the past year -- much earlier than airlines had expected -- has left them with a severe pilot shortage. After many thousands of flight cancellations earlier this year left passengers in the lurch, transportation Sec. Pete Buttigieg stepped in and demanded that airlines align their flight schedules with the reality of pilot availability so the cancellations could be sharply reduced. That has happened but ticket prices have also skyrocketed for virtually all flights because of limited supply (caused by the pilot shortage) and high demand.

As we published before, some airline people are telling us that they expect ticket prices to moderate by mid 2023. However, at the same time, pilots want more pay and more time with their families and at the end of the day they will probably get both once these negotiations end and the contracts are finalized.

Airlines, though recognizing pilots needs, are playing hardball in negotiations but so are the pilots. We will keep you posted on the progress of these contract negotiations here in *SXM Weekly News*. If anything urgent happens related to contract resolutions or to any disruptions, we will post that information at once also in our [Everything SXM Facebook Group](#).

2. (Repeat) Pilots at Delta Authorize Possible Strike

Although most people think that a strike won't happen, Delta pilots nonetheless [have voted in favor of striking](#) if they don't get a contract worth accepting from Delta airlines management.

If there were a strike, it could occur toward the end of this year, in the middle of the peak holiday flying season.

We will continue to keep an eye on this story. The ability of visitors to fly to SXM is rather important to the audience of *SXM Weekly News*.

3. Reminder: Entry Requirements Go Away

As we've reported multiple times here in *SXM Weekly News*, entry requirements to visit SXM went away effective November 1, 2022. All visitors need now are their valid passports and return tickets.

If you want to see this in writing, [go here](#).

4. Winair, jetBlue Set Up Codeshare Agreements

Here is WINAIR's official news release:

WINAIR is pleased to announce it has entered into an interline agreement with US-based JetBlue. This agreement will be available to our mutual customers after November 10, 2022 and will further enhance the travelers experience allowing seamless connectivity. When you book routes that include WINAIR destinations on jetblue.com and their app, a seamless travel experience is just the beginning!

Customers traveling through PJIAE/ SXM Airport will be able to check their luggage to their final destination, use transit facility at PJIAE and proceed directly to their departure gate for their connecting flight.

WINAIR enjoys eleven interline/codeshare agreements providing seamless connectivity enhancing PJIAE's role as the regional hub in the Northeast Caribbean.

WINAIR currently serves twelve destinations in the Caribbean providing safe and reliable services with PJIAE as our hub. WINAIR is proud to include JetBlue as our airline partner. "The interline agreement between WINAIR and JetBlue demonstrates the confidence and vision both airlines share in St. Maarten and the surrounding region, and will provide growth for PJIAE and the region" stated Michael Cleaver, President & CEO of WINAIR.

COMMENT: The agreement basically means that people flying to Winair destinations from the US through JetBlue can make complete reservations through jetblue directly, and their baggage will be checked through to their final destination despite the interline connection in SXM. This will facilitate flights from the US to and from Winair cities throughout the Caribbean. Consult the airlines directly for more information.

5. MEDICAL EVACUATION COSTS SOAR; Got \$45,000++? You May Need It, In Cash in Advance, to Get a Medevac Jet Home in a Medical Emergency

\$45,000 or more payable in cash in advance could be what you must pay out-of-pocket should you need emergency medical evacuation while traveling anywhere in the USA, Canada, Mexico, Bermuda, the Bahamas, or anywhere in the Caribbean. By contrast, SkyMed Takes You Home® for zero dollars when you become critically ill or injured in any of those countries *if you are a SkyMed member. All it takes is one phone call and SkyMed does everything. That \$45,000 you might have to spend without SkyMed assumes that you can make all the arrangements, find and hire the jet, make sure it is properly outfitted for the specific medical problems you face, staff it with appropriate medical professionals who are cleared to travel back home to the US or Canada, and take care of customs, immigration, and loads of other paperwork including Ambulances and getting your records to your Destination hospital.* By contrast, SkyMed does all of that and its members pay \$0 for the evacuation or ambulances.

Setting up medical evacuations sounds complicated because it is and having to do all this in a medical emergency is a daunting task for anyone who has never done it. For about \$1.64/day for an annual or multiyear SkyMed membership. SkyMed will do all of this stuff once you make that single quick phone call.

For more information, call us today at 508-591-3483 or Jeff.Berger@skymed.com. Include your phone number and

time zone so we can call back and get all your questions answered. We can also take your application by phone in roughly 10 minutes.

SKYMED's EXTRA-WEEKS BONUSES WITH PURCHASES END 12/31, SO GET SKYMED NOW FOR THEIR BEST OFFERS! SEE NEXT STORY:

6. *ABSOLUTELY ENDS 12/31: 22 Additional Weeks FREE From SkyMed with Ultimate Global 5-year Medevac Memberships*** (Act Quickly If You're Planning a Trip Across the Pond or to Asia, Africa, Australia, or South America)**

The 22-week **FREE MEMBERSHIP BONUS** for buying SKYMED's best GLOBAL membership, the SkyMed 5-yr. Ultimate, **ENDS 12/31**. *If you travel beyond the USA, Canada, Mexico, Bermuda, the Bahamas, and all the nations of the Caribbean, this is the BEST and LEAST EXPENSIVE product SkyMed sells on a cost-per-day basis: it will pay you to get these bonus 22 free weeks while they are still offered. Email me at jeff.berger@skymed.com with your phone number and time zone or call us USING WHATSAPP (free) 721-588-4188 or text or phone us at 508-591-3483.*

Available only to Americans, Canadians, or both living as xPats in the countries noted above. DO IT NOW WHILE IT'S FRESH IN YOUR MIND....SKYMED TAKES YOU HOME® when you become seriously ill or injured while traveling for pleasure or on business!

7. What To Do If Your Flight is Canceled or Delayed...

What should you do if your flight is canceled or delayed as happens fairly often now due to weather or staffing shortages?

This [article](#) gives you answers.

Etc./Weather

8. Rainy Weather from Nascent Nicole Goes Away; Mosquitoes Possible

If you've been paying attention to Caribbean weather over the last week, you were aware of a large area of disturbed weather in the Northeast Caribbean that ultimately became a tropical storm and then hurricane Nicole well north of Hispaniola, the storm that traveled through the Bahamas, struck Florida, then headed Northeast throughout the US southeast and beyond.

While this system was developing in the northeastern Caribbean, it dumped quite a bit of rain on SXM; more on its effects on the island is in our main news section. Government officials have said that the copious rain could increase the number of mosquitoes here, though so far from our vantage point near SXM Airport we have seen none of that. Mosquito milk, the popular local mosquito repellent, has been available locally as are other commercial repellent products.

Get your SKYMED MEMBERSHIP *BEFORE* you need it. Air ambulances are now more costly than ever: when you become seriously or critically ill or injured while traveling, SKYMED TAKES YOU HOME® to doctors and hospitals you know & trust. Otherwise you must pay tens of thousands of dollars in cash in advance to get a medevac jet -- if you can even do it (NOT easy or fast if you don't know how). SkyMed annual or multiyear memberships are only about \$1.64/day, and they're guaranteed renewable regardless of age or medical condition at renewal and they are PRICE GUARANTEED FOR LIFE. Why wait? CALL today 508-591-3483 or email us at jeff.berger@skymed.com; include your callback number & time zone please. Protect your family NOW with SkyMed®!

9. Where to Find The Latest SXM Weather Information

Although hurricane season officially begins June 1, nonetheless it's best to be prepared before then. In recent years, tropical activity has begun around mid-May. Stay in touch with any or all of these sources of tropical weather information...

Here are SIX sources of current SXM weather info:

- 1) [Crown Weather Services](#) whose very inexpensive subscription service is, we feel, the best in the business.
- 2) Our "Weather Center / Hurricane Center" at www.everythingsxm.com -- it has current satellite images and radar loops 24/7/365 and now all the latest NHC weather forecasts, outlooks, and advisories as well. There are now also active weather widgets on the site's home page. *That page also includes real-time or near-real-time satellite images and radar loops.*
- 3) Our [Everything SXM Facebook Group](#) publishes the latest advisories, watches, and warnings when SXM is threatened by any storms.
- 4) **On or off the island, listen to Island 92** -- 91.9FM or see www.island92.com. They report island warnings at once so you'll know exactly what's going on. You can listen on the web anytime through live streaming.
- 5) For a quick look at weather radar exactly where you are or where you're going, try the My Radar phone app or My Radar for Windows -- excellent programs.
- 6) Get a quick, current satellite look at the Atlantic basin anytime: <http://www.goes.noaa.gov/GIFS/ATWV.JPG> .

N. B.: *Again...Never rely on any website if you're in the path of a storm; always heed warnings from local authorities.*

In addition, when storms form or pass near SXM, we expect to run the latest forecasts, watches, warnings, and observations in our [Everything SXM Facebook Group](#), and we will post all of that material directly in the weather center of our everything SXM website, www.everythingsxm.com.

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and Sign Up Your New One
for your SXM Weekly News subscription
Quickly and Easily
at our Site: www.sxmweeklynews.com**

SECTION 2: Accommodations: Hotels, Resorts, Timeshares, Villas Etc

10. Major New Hotel / Waterpark in "Vision Plan" for Cruise Port Area

SXM has become known as a place where major announcements are made of new developments some of which never happen — Marriott Constellation Resort, Planet Hollywood, Hard Rock Hotel and Casino, China Pearl, and others -- as was the case with all of the projects noted here.

This week, local SXM media carried an announcement of a new hotel/waterpark that is part of a "vision plan" for the cruise port area. Whether it will actually happen or will just be marked permanently as "a vision" remains to be seen. What appears below is a heavily edited and condensed announcement of this project. What we are publishing are facts that a government minister included in the announcement. We certainly do hope it happens, though of course, there needs to be true traffic mitigation as part of the planning — though it's something that SXM isn't known to plan or accomplish.

Here is the text, with some emphasis added by us to key points; anything [in brackets] was editorially added by us in condensing the original text:

The Minister of TEATT Announces Vision for Waterpark and Boutique Hotel Development Near Port St. Maarten

– The Council of Ministers recently approved the vision plan known as the Quarter Development [regarding] construction of the largest waterpark in the northeastern Caribbean and a boutique hotel on the adjacent property to the Dr. A.C. Wathey Cruise & Cargo Facility. The anticipated US\$100 million development will take approximately 18 months to construct and will complement other destination enhancements such as the marketplace in Philipsburg.

Acting Minister of Tourism, Economic Affairs, Transport and Telecommunications, Omar Ottley said "... The Quarter Development will take us to the next level while revitalizing Philipsburg and increasing touristic activities on the Dutch side of the island. The project will enhance the local labor market with up to 500 new job opportunities upon completion and around 600 construction jobs during the construction period.

"I look forward to making this vision not only a reality but a success."

Using renewable energy, the water park with its thrill rides, lazy river and boutique-type hotel will contribute to destination appeal and will include conference facilities catering to the niche market of the tourism industry, MICE (meetings, incentives, conferences & exhibitions). Port St. Maarten Group (PSG) Chief Executive Officer (CEO) Alexander Gumbs said on Tuesday that he was elated with the approval of the vision. "There has been much discussion for more than 12 years with respect to the property adjacent to the port. The Government of St. Maarten, locally based Platinum Harbor Holdings, Royal Caribbean Group and the Port over the past months have been working diligently to align our ideas and concepts for the property, and this has culminated into a renewed vision for the area."

We'll keep you posted.

By the way, the property on which the **Planet Hollywood** complex was to be built, where the Irma-destroyed Sonesta Great Bay hotel had been located, is still totally empty with zero signs of any construction activity years after that announcement was made.

11. Reminder: New USD\$250-Million Luxury Hotel Coming to Indigo Bay/Cay Bay

Altree and Indigo Shores to begin construction of sale center later this month. (From the Government of Sint Maarten).

PHILIPSBURG – Indigo Shores Development will break ground with a 250-room five-star Resort and Condominiums complex this month. On Wednesday, Altree Developments and Indigo Shores, based in Toronto and St. Maarten respectively, met with the Interim Minister of Tourism, Economic Affairs, Transportation & Telecommunications (TEATT), the honorable Omar Ottley.

Minister Ottley welcomed the developers and thanked them for their initiative. "St. Maarten has been a preferred destination for tourists for decades. With tourism as our number one economic pillar, we welcome developments like this new Resort. It will boost economic activity and increase employment opportunities on the island. The goal is to provide employment opportunities in all sectors, from the ground-breaking to the opening and provide world-class hospitality through our local hotel sector workers " said Ottley.

The Minister visited the site of the luxury boutique hotel "Vie L'Ven," which sits a few steps from the beautiful beach of Indigo Bay. It covers some 21 acres of oceanfront land and, on completion, will include a Luxury Spa and fine dining.

The developers confirmed they would work with as many local contractors as possible to complete their project. They also intend to work with the St. Maarten Tourism Bureau on the sales and marketing of the facility. They are already committed to bringing in a professional film crew in January to generate content from the island and project for their worldwide marketing and promotion of the island and Resort in collaboration with the St. Maarten Tourist Bureau (STB).

"We intend to return St. Maarten to its rightful place as the number one tourism destination in the Caribbean. The construction of Vie L'Ven five-star boutique hotel will play a major role in boosting the destination's swift return to the number one position in the region," said Ottley.

According to the developers, the sale center construction will begin this month, with the total completion of the hotel scheduled for 2027. Minister Ottley met with the President and Chief Executive Officer (CEO) of Altree Developments, Zev Mandelbaum, along with the Head of Construction Management, Troy D'Ambrosio, and the Senior Manager of Finance Developments for Altree Developments.

Marc van de Bilt, Director of Indigo Shores Development, says a phased media release is being planned internationally, which will roll out over the coming months regarding the project. Altree Developments, based in Toronto, Canada, has consistently developed high-end projects for many years, with a critical focus on providing a turnkey solution for its clients.

With an investment expected to surpass USD 250 million and a combination of hotel rooms and condominiums for private ownership, the new five-star boutique hotel aims to be the preeminent luxury hotel in the region.

COMMENT: Sometimes on both sides of SXM, projects are announced (with much hoopla) that never happen. Among them have been Hard Rock Hotel, Planet Hollywood, Marriott Constellation, Mandara, China Pearl, and a number of others. In this case, Atree Developments of Toronto appears to be a highly reputable company, and Marc van de Bilt, Dir. of Indigo Shores Development, has been in SXM for many years and has done everything he promised in developing the Indigo Bay property — so we think there is ample reason to believe this project will actually happen.

We hope that the government gets commitments from all concerned parties regarding all necessary upgrades to local infrastructure to ensure that the movement of traffic through the area is accelerated after this project has been completed, as opposed to the opposite. Residents and visitors deserve that as tangible evidence of the commitment of all concerned to make SXM better as a result of this project, which opens the opportunity for substantial incremental economic development here on SXM. --SXM Weekly News

12. For SXM Condo Buyers, Some Critically Important Advice

Moving to the Caribbean requires a multi-step procedure that involves different citizenship programs. While territories in the Caribbean region have made relocation to the Caribbean easier for people, it's still a meticulous process. It's best to go through the application with seasoned immigration consultants.

Our partner [BrightPath Caribbean](#) is an expert immigration agency that has helped countless people move to their slice of paradise in the tropics. Investors, retirees, and skilled workers who were assisted by the BrightPath team now enjoy life in the land of sun, sea, and sand.

By working with BrightPath's immigration consultants, you don't have to deal with the nitty-gritty of the complicated immigration process. Plus, you avoid delays and increase your chances of approval.

Moving, retiring, and opening a business in Sint Maarten (country abbreviation SXM) all involve complicated, multi-step processes. So leave the nitty-gritty to professionals who are well-versed in immigration and the business climate in this Caribbean country.

BrightPath Caribbean makes your move to Sint Maarten smooth-sailing and fuss-free. You no longer have to deal with complicated paperwork or complex immigration, incorporation, or retirement procedures. Our consultants in Sint Maarten will oversee everything so that you can focus on the important thing -- your new life in paradise.

Moving to St. Maarten

BrightPath Caribbean provides various services to prepare for your relocation, retirement, or venture in Sint Maarten.

Immigration Services

Our team handles immigration matters for individuals who want to relocate to St. Maarten. Moving to this country is no easy task, but the effort is more than worth it. Its beautiful beaches and scenery make it seem like you're on vacation all year round.

BrightPath immigration consultants in Sint Maarten:

- Walk you through the various immigration avenues in Sint Maarten, including investment, employment, family reunification, cohabitation agreements, and more
- Collect required documents based on the avenue for immigration and review them for completeness and accuracy
- Oversee the entire application process and guide you every step of the way

Business Incorporation Services

Our business incorporation consultants see to it that you start your company on the right legal footing. You'll get expert-level guidance in:

- Business License. Our experts deliver reliable advice about the right business license for your company if you haven't applied for one yet. We also guide you in applying for the license in St. Maarten.
- Name Search. BrightPath consultants check if your chosen business name is available. If not, we can work with you to form a cleared name.
- Preparing the Articles of Incorporation. Our team prepares and makes sure the paperwork is complete and error-free. We'll also be the ones to file the articles of incorporation.

Business Banking Services

Our team opens bank accounts for existing or planned businesses in SXM to make sure your company starts on the right financial footing. You'll be assisted as you:

- Choose Your Bank. Our consultants review your business banking needs, as well as your in-person and online banking preferences, to help you choose the right bank. Our goal is to find a bank that provides scalable solutions and day-to-day banking convenience.
- Gather Requirements. Our team helps you collect the required documents and review them for accuracy and completeness. We'll also be the ones to submit them and set an appointment with your chosen bank in Sint Maarten.
- Sign Forms. You simply attend the appointment and sign the forms.

Retirement Planning Services

You'll develop a personal retirement planning strategy that takes into account your personal financial goals, the financial risks you face, and the kind of life you want to lead during your golden years in the Caribbean. Our retirement service consultants in Sint Maarten:

- Help you set clearly defined goals for your retirement in St. Maarten
- Improve tax efficiency and help you maximize your benefits
- Plan your legacy in case you want to leave something to your grandchildren or a charitable institution

Sint Maarten Awaits:

There's more to Sint Maarten than beautiful beaches and breathtaking landscapes. The culinary scene is rich and diverse, representing over 100 nationalities, including French cheeses and Mediterranean wines. The shopping experience is divine, and the festivals are spectacular.

If you're eyeing St. Maarten for your retirement or new venture, then you've made the right choice.

13. Buying a Condo in SXM: Important Procedural Help

A while ago, working with Arun Jagtiani of Island Real Estate Team, we put together and conducted an SXM Relocation Seminar for dozens of attentive attendees at Emilio's Restaurant at the Emilio Wilson estate near Philipsburg.

Many of you have asked whether it would be possible for you to see video we made of our relocation seminar.

Although we do intend to put on future relocation seminars, the video of our November '18 seminar is available online to anyone interested in buying on SXM, whether for a vacation home, retirement home, income property, or anything else. Lots of outstanding info was communicated during this excellent seminar, and another is now in the early planning stages.

See the video [here](#). (Link is being updated).

Please check this link to [BrightPath Caribbean SXM](#), a company that can help provide very deep and expeditious help in completing residency requirements for people buying a second home, income property, or a new business in SXM, or relocating there. They're located in the Puerta del Sol building opposite Avantika, Simpson Bay, Dutch side. Tell them you heard about BrightPath through Jeff Berger's *SXM Weekly News*.

14. Realtors to See for SXM Condos & Villas

The following list of our sponsor realtors tells you how to contact SXM's best sources of condos and villas across the island:

VILLA RENTALS / RENTAL COMPANIES:

If you're interested in making a villa reservation (doing it with close friends can be fun and more economical than you'd imagine), contact our top recommended Villa rental/sale partners at [Island Real Estate Team](#). Call the number that follows and ask to speak with the agent who handles villa rentals: 1 721 520 7284. Please let the agent know that you're interested in a rental and you were referred by Jeff Berger's *Everything SXM Facebook Group*. Hundreds of villas are now online.

[Jennifer's Vacation Villas](#) has also joined us as a villa rental partner. *Jennifer's Vacation Villas* is a licensed

management, real estate and villa rental company specializing in the rental of private villas and condos on both French and Dutch St. Maarten. Its proprietor, Jennifer, is a New Yorker who has been residing in St. Maarten for 40 years and whose goal is to provide guests with personal attention and to ensure that their vacations are memorable. Jennifer's Vacation Villas also does Weddings, Private Events, and any additional services including massages, boat trips, and private catering. Their aim is to make your vacation stay as comfortable, accommodating, and easy going as possible. Call 1 (721) 544-3107 | +1 (631) 546-7345. When you contact them, please tell them you were referred by Jeff Berger's *Everything SXM Facebook Group*.

Candie Billant does condo and villa rentals and sales. You will find her at **#Caribbean Estate Agency N. V.**

[GoBeach Vacations](#)

[Sunshine Properties](#)

[Monte Verde / Belle Vue](#)

Villa Acropole:

www.acropole-stmartin.com

Villa Vijoux:

<https://www.facebook.com/VillaVijoux>

Villa Steel Magnolias (new 1/22)

40Weeks SXM Vacation Rentals (new)

Villa En'sea 5 bedroom Villa, overlooking Philipsburg bay (new)

Villa Kimon

Daffodil Villa

15. Some SXM Timeshare Condo Rentals Still Available for '22, and Tons for 2023

Dozens of new listings of timeshare and other condominiums for rent and for sale for both 2022 and 2023 have been added to our timeshare sales / rental page in our main SXM site, www.everythingsxm.com. If you're looking for a place to stay, that's where to find it. All of our listings are from members of our JMB Website Supporters island discount program so you deal directly with timeshare owners -- there are no middlemen or agents or anyone else charging commissions. *Usually, timeshare owners charge close to their actual annual maintenance fee costs.*

Dozens more new entries were posted over the last couple of weeks.

16. Reminder: JMB Members May Now Advertise Both Timeshare Weeks They Own and Privately Owned SXM Condominiums On Our Site

We are now accepting advertising for both timeshare resort condominiums as well as privately owned condominiums on the island directly from their owners who are members of our JMB Website Supporters Island Discount Program. This is effective immediately and includes weeks from both 2022 and 2023. Submit your ads through the members-only "Secret" website.

Not a member? Join us by clicking the page curl on our main site, www.everythingsxm.com. All the details you need are there.

17. How To Rent Out Or Sell Your Timeshare Units

If you own timeshare weeks that you would like to rent out or sell on our main everythingSXM.com website, you can do it once you become a member of our JMB Website Supporters island discount program. For all the details, go to our main site, everythingSXM.com and click on timeshare rentals in the navigation bar. You'll find the details about posting

there.

For information about joining JMB Website Supporters, click the page curl on all pages of everythingSXM.com. As a member, you will have access to a growing package of about 300 discounts and other benefits including the ability to post up to 10 ads per year in our rental pages at everythingxsm.com.

The ability to post timeshare rentals on our site is limited to JMB Website Supporters members only, and is not available to any others at any price.

18. SkyMed TRAVEL Guarantees Big-Time Savings on Hotels, Cruises, Car Rentals

We're now giving JMB Website Supporters members and *SXM Weekly News* readers access to a private, "members only" travel wholesale club that offers incredible prices not only on airfares but on travel reservations and packages worldwide.

SkyMed Travel offers exceptional pricing on everything and almost invariably beats everyone else's pricing. We have found their pricing excellent across the board and their 15% low rate guarantee on hotels and car rentals is real news.

Normally, SkyMed Travel charges \$99 to join plus \$99 annual renewals. But for our JMB Website Supporters members and now for Weekly News readers, the cost to join is zero as will be the cost for renewals. Join the Club by going to <https://www.skymedtravel.com/register>, sign up, and provide the requested information. Complete the first sign up item (SkyMed Membership Number or Representative ID) by entering the code 391330; doing that ensures that you pay nothing for your SkyMed Travel Club membership. No code, no free entry to the club's phenomenal pricing. *If you are a SkyMed Member, however, enter your SkyMed Membership Number there to get the absolute greatest possible discounts.*

You won't be disappointed.

Not a SkyMed member? Learn more about it at www.skymed.com/jmb, then call us with questions or to sign up. Call 508-591-3483 (NEW NUMBER) any weekday. Thanks.

SECTION 3: JMB Member Discounts & Benefits

19. Updated Contact Information for JMB Website Supporters and SkyMed Sales Inquiries (UPDATED 10/17/22)

Updated Contact Information for Everything SXM / JMB Communications / JMB Website Supporters Membership Services and SkyMed Sales:

Because of volume, email is not the best way to reach us. Here's what's best: First, a Suggestion: **Get the free WhatsApp app.** It lets you make free phone calls (including video calls) worldwide and send free texts, all for zero cost. It is very widely used around the world.

1. **SkyMed Answers to Questions or to Sign Up by Phone:** If you're interested in learning more about SkyMed, contact Jeff Berger at jeff.berger@skymed.com. Leave your phone number and time zone and he'll return your call. SkyMed is sold only to Americans, Canadians, and xPats. **If you prefer, phone Jeff at 508-591-3483 and leave a message; that is a NEW NUMBER** on which you can also leave text messages
2. **JMB Membership Questions/Issues -- JMB Website Supporters:** Use WhatsApp to send questions to Membership Services; use Jeff Berger's WhatsApp phone number, 721-588-4188, **but call or TEXT (texting is preferred) from within the WhatsApp application ONLY.** Membership Services at our headquarters in Massachusetts handles all these calls. **INCLUDE YOUR EMAIL**, since all responses are made by email. You may also phone Membership Services directly at 508-591-3483, which also takes texts.
3. **Our new email is jmbcomms@gmail.com; use it freely for JMB Website Supporters membership questions.** Thank you.

SECTION 4: Island News, Info, & Features

20. ABSOLUTELY ENDS 12/31: Get Up to 22 Bonus Weeks FREE When You Buy SkyMed---

Up To 22 Weeks FREE (PLUS Military/First Responder Free Weeks) with New Multiyear SkyMed Purchases === Only \$1.64/day, Our LOWEST RATE, Gets You Guaranteed Renewable, Price-Guaranteed-Forever SkyMed Annual or Multiyear Medevac Protection

THIS UP-TO-22-FREE-WEEKS OFFER MUST END 12/31!

MAKE YOUR MOVE TO SKYMED NOW AND GET 22 WEEKS FREE WITH YOUR NEW PURCHASE OF A FIVE-YEAR SKYMED ULTIMATE, OUR LOWEST-COST-PER-DAY, MOST FEATURE-RICH MEMBERSHIP!

IF YOU HAVE EVER THOUGHT ABOUT SKYMED, *NOW* IS THE TIME TO ACT

SkyMed Routinely Never Does Bonuses -- Except Right Now (ENDING 12/31):

Only \$1.64/day - *LESS THAN A CUP OF COFFEE* -- gets you annual or multiyear SKYMED MEDEVAC protection for virtually all of your upcoming trips.

Buy it NOW, *BEFORE* you need it -- just like fire insurance.

For info see the links below, for answers to questions or to sign up by phone call 508-591-3483 (you can text to that number & leave voicemail 24/7) or email jeff.berger@skymed.com. NOTE: My prices for multiyear memberships ARE MUCH LESS THAN YOU WOULD PAY ONLINE.

.....SKYMED's BEST BONUSES EVER MUST END 12/31/22.....

BONUSES

For ALL NEW MEMBERSHIPS in 2022:

22 FREE weeks added to all new 5-year ULTIMATES*

12 FREE weeks added to all new 3-year ULTIMATES*

22 FREE days added to all new Annual memberships*

ALL THESE BONUSES GO AWAY 12/31/22!

=== PLUS ===

"Thank YOU for Your Service"

**Bonuses for US & Canadian Military Veterans
& FIRST RESPONDERS:**

6 FREE months added to all new 5-year ULTIMATES*

3 FREE months added to all new 3-year ULTIMATES*

***What are "Ultimates"? See next story.**

*****These MILITARY benefits are IN ADDITION TO the
benefits for all new members!*****

21. SKYMED DETAILS: Only \$1.64/day Gets You Guaranteed Renewable, Price-Guaranteed-Forever SkyMed Annual or Multiyear Medevac Protection:

WHAT IS SKYMED? WHERE DOES SKYMED WORK?

SkyMed is a medical evacuation membership company. "SkyMed Takes You Home®" when you become seriously or critically ill or injured when traveling anywhere throughout the USA, Canada, all the nations of the Caribbean, Mexico, Bermuda, and the Bahamas. Global protection is also available. SkyMed members pay nothing for SkyMed-arranged medical evacuation flights that would cost non-SkyMed members \$45,000 and up *payable in cash, in advance*. Why risk that? Of course, you must get your SkyMed membership *before* you need it -- just like fire insurance. You'll find an overview of all SkyMed Services [here](#), and you'll find Frequently Asked Questions [here](#).

WHAT ARE "ULTIMATES"?

SkyMed Ultimates are SkyMed's best memberships and also its LEAST EXPENSIVE on a cost-per-day basis (about \$1.64/day for family protection). They offer a suite of 18 services and protect you worldwide -- almost everywhere. They are offered in monthly-pay (minimum payment period two years), three-year, and five-year versions.

LOW GROUP PRICING *LOWER THAN THE PRICES ON THE SKYMED WEBSITE*:

All of the SkyMed memberships we sell go to either members of our JMB Website Supporters Island Discount Program, to members of our various online SXM groups, or to readers of *SXM Weekly News*. **The prices we charge for all multiyear Ultimate memberships are SUBSTANTIALLY LESS than the retail prices you will see online from SkyMed's website. Call or email us DIRECTLY (contact info below) for details on all of our major-league savings on SkyMed Ultimate multi-year membership prices.**

- **LIFETIME PRICE GUARANTEE / GUARANTEED RENEWABLE MEMBERSHIPS:**

All existing SkyMed memberships and new SkyMed membership purchases of one-year or longer are now price-guaranteed for life. The price of your membership will not increase if you buy during 2022 or if you already are a SkyMed owner of any annual or longer membership: this applies as long as your renewals are paid on time. SkyMed annual and longer memberships are also Guaranteed Renewable when annual or multiyear fees are paid on time -- guaranteed renewable regardless of advancing age or declining health.

- **HOW TO CONTACT US: Phone us ANYTIME at 508-591-3483 (new number, where you can also text us) for answers to questions or to sign up. When you call us directly, we get credit for the sale. You can also email us directly through SkyMed at jeff.berger@skymed.com.**

My SkyMed website: <http://www.skymed.com/jmb>. **But please CALL ME DIRECTLY with questions or to sign up - that way I get credit (number above).** Or jeff.berger@skymed.com

- **When and Where SkyMed Protects You:**

Basic SkyMed short-term and annual memberships protect you throughout the USA, Canada, Mexico, Bermuda, the Bahamas, and all the nations of the Caribbean. In that SkyMed universe, SkyMed *Takes You Home*® when you become critically ill or injured. Optional protection covering most of the rest of the world is provided by GETS, Global Emergency Travel Services, a SkyMed company.

- **Key Differences Between SkyMed Short-Term & Annual Memberships:**

Many people who buy SkyMed memberships first request short-term protection. Is that the best solution for most people? That's a decision you have to make, but before you do, here's some important info. **First, short-term memberships** are available only for a specific defined short term. They protect you with SkyMed *Takes You Home* membership that applies throughout the United States, Canada, Mexico, Bermuda, the Bahamas, and all the nations of the Caribbean including Cuba. Short-term protection cannot be upgraded or renewed since you buy it for a specific trip; it's temporary protection. There is no waiting period for benefits. When you want protection for another future trip, you must make a separate application for it. **Although at \$15/day per couple SkyMed short-term protection is the most expensive product SkyMed sells on a cost-per-day basis**, short-term protection is economical if you seldom travel and take brief trips. The cost is \$9/day per individual, or a maximum of \$15 a day per family (parents and kids 21 or younger). **We always tell people who are 50 or over about the most important advantages of SkyMed annual and multiyear memberships. The single most important benefit is that SkyMed annual and multiyear memberships are guaranteed renewable, regardless of advancing age or declining health.** Details are in SkyMed's Member Services Agreement. We currently have members who are still traveling and are in their upper 80s and 90s. **The cost of annual memberships per family is far more economical than the \$15/day per family for short-term coverage -- it's now only about \$1.64/day total.** Multiyear memberships also have more features; contact me for full information about features of each type of SkyMed membership. **Ultimate memberships protect you worldwide.** I can answer all your questions by phone in minutes, and can also take your application by phone (that way I get credit). Phone anytime at 508-591-3483 (NEW NUMBER). That's a direct line to Jeff Berger that also accepts text messages. *Updated 6/20/22.*

- ***What is the SkyMed Ultimate?**

Again, the Ultimate is SkyMed's best - and least expensive (on a daily cost basis) form of medical evacuation membership. With SkyMed "Takes You Home"® services in the USA, Canada, Mexico, Bermuda, the Bahamas, and all the nations of the Caribbean, plus Global Emergency Travel Services (GETS) almost everywhere else worldwide, the Ultimate is for people who visit Europe, Africa, Asia, and almost anywhere else your wanderlust takes you. It also delivers 18 critically important travel-related services as opposed to 12 with SkyMed annual memberships. **You'll find an overview of all SkyMed Services including those provided with Ultimate memberships [here](#).**

- **[SkyMed Frequently Asked Questions / FAQ](#)**

Feel free to contact me via Facebook Messenger as well or now WhatsApp, 721-588-4188 (through WhatsApp ONLY), or use our new office line, 508-591-3483. Or email me at jeff.berger@skymed.com (SkyMed inquiries only please). You can also send texts to that 508 line and leave voice messages. Please include your phone number, time zone, and email address.

--Jeff Berger
10/17/22

22. Answering Your Questions: What Exactly Does SkyMed Do? --- from Jeff Berger

We've always said SkyMed **TAKES YOU HOME**® when you become critically ill or injured -- home to doctors and hospitals you know and trust, and home where your health insurance works. In recent weeks as many of you have decided to resume traveling, you've asked us for examples of what SkyMed does. Several examples are right here:

*For answers to questions or to sign up, email me at jeff.berger@skymed.com or call me at 508-591-3483. Open to Americans & Canadians & xPats only. Based in Scottsdale, Arizona, for the last 33+ years, SkyMed **TAKES YOU HOME**® when you become critically ill or injured while traveling anywhere in the USA, Canada, Mexico, Bermuda, the Bahamas, or all the nations of the Caribbean. Global protection is available. Cost for family membership is as little as \$1.64/day on annual and multiyear plans. IMPORTANT: Buy directly through me: our pricing for multiyear memberships is much lower than SkyMed's pricing published on the web.*

Here are specific examples of how SkyMed works for its members:

On a recent Thursday at Mullet Bay Beach, a woman at the edge of the water fell and accidentally knocked down her friend, standing close by. The friend felt pain in her leg as she got up, went to a hospital, and was told she had a "soft tissue injury" and should relax in the sun. Pain continued. Next day she went to the Maho Clinic for another opinion since she couldn't put any weight on the leg without pain. The doctor there sent her to the French Side for a new x-ray. That diagnosis came back - broken leg and she had to be medically evacuated back to the US for surgery. A few days before, the woman had bought short-term SkyMed medevac protection for her short trip to SXM. Cost, under \$100. She was sent home by jet by SkyMed. The charge for the jet: \$0. Without SkyMed, had she needed a medevac jet, the \$26,000 (approx.) price of that jet home would have had to be paid in cash in advance; with SkyMed she was home and in the hospital of her choice the next day for \$0 out-of-pocket.

Mary Beth and her partner Don were vacationing in SXM when Don fell and broke his hip -- only about a month after they had bought SkyMed. SkyMed flew them home on a medevac jet for the hospital care he needed. Flight cost to the patient: \$0. Savings: over \$35,000.

An MD from Florida who always visits SXM was on a cruise vacation to the Greek Islands with his wife when he broke his femur aboard the ship. He was rushed to the hospital in Corfu but called SkyMed which arranged and paid for an emergency medevac flight to Athens for urgent surgery. A few days later SkyMed evacuated him again, with an excellent male nurse, all the way home to Florida, where an ambulance took him home for recovery. Required flight cost to the patient: \$0. Savings: huge.

A Summer trip ended in disaster when a child visiting her grandmother in Grand Case was bitten in the head by the grandmother's bulldog, imperiling the girl's eyesight. She was flown to Miami in a medical evacuation jet for emergency eye surgery that saved her sight. Flight cost to the patient: \$0.

A woman from Virginia shopped at an island grocer and headed back to her car carrying two bags of groceries. She tripped and fell on a curb and knew at once she had fractured her hip. After being stabilized locally, she was flown home on a medical evacuation jet from SkyMed where she had the surgery she needed. Flight cost to the patient: \$0.

Two men were riding their horses on a hill in Cay Bay when a car backfiring spooked one of the horses, which threw its rider. The other rider got off his horse to check his companion when the car again backfired, spooking the horse again which led it to kick its dismounted driver in the head, luckily causing "only" a severely dislocated jaw. The local hospital had no ability to solve that problem so the victim was airlifted by SkyMed back to Pennsylvania for surgery. Flight cost to the patient: \$0.

A member of the clergy fell down cement stairs and broke her leg. She too was airlifted home by SkyMed for surgery. Flight cost to the patient: \$0.

Not all trips end well: anything can happen when you travel. Being a member of SkyMed was the common thread in all these cases. SkyMed takes its members home when serious or critical injuries occur in the "SkyMed universe" , usually in a private, ICU-equivalent medical evacuation jet -- home to doctors and hospitals the patient knows and trusts -- and home where their health insurance works. That's just one of up to 18 benefits received by SkyMed members for about \$1.64/day for annual or multiyear memberships.

All this is why we always recommend SkyMed. Call Jeff Berger 24/7 at 508-591-3483 and leave your name, phone number, and time zone. Jeff will call back at a mutually convenient time and answer all your questions. He can also take your application by phone in about 10 minutes. *You're eligible to apply regardless of your age or health if you are a U.S. or Canadian citizen or an American or Canadian ExPat living in SXM or certain other countries.*

Anything can happen anywhere: Do it now, BEFORE YOU NEED IT. To learn more, visit www.skymed.com/jmb. JMB members get big discounts off SkyMed's online pricing for all multiyear memberships, the BEST memberships for most people age 50 or over. More contact info is above.

Thanks for reading this.

23. "Public Works" Lags in Fixing Dutch Side Roads (But High Season Matters)

Most tourists visiting SXM, according to the results of polls we have taken of members of our [Everything SXM Facebook Group](#), come for the weather, beaches, the food, the shopping, and the people — nobody says anything about the roads, which ought to be smooth, inviting, and well-designed as well as well-signed so "getting there" is easy and not an adventure without instructions or directions. They aren't any of those things and by this time every year there are a number of potholes especially on Dutch side roads left unattended.

It's not fair to compare SXM to the US, but we'll do it anyway. In the US, potholes may exist for a few days, then are attended to with fixes that last. Here in SXM, potholes seem to be left until near the end of the year, when they are "fixed"— but in many cases, the same potholes reappear year after year, getting worse on an annual basis.

Beacon Hill Rd., which takes thousands of tourists every week during high season to Maho beach to watch the planes, has had, unfixed, cavernous, teeth-jarring potholes for years. Sometimes locals toss beach sand or gravel into them hoping that will help — but it never does. The temporary fixes made by the government never last either, annoying area residents as well as those thousands of tourists per week who come on buses every day to see the planes, but bounce around in the buses as they go through the potholes to bring the tourists to the beach bar or the beach at Maho.

There are other areas that also defy logic from a public works perspective.

In downtown Philipsburg, crews have been digging up Front Street sidewalks to install fiber-optic cable for a private company expanding its network — an action which inconveniences tourists and makes them wonder why those responsible aren't paying more attention to the comfort and coddling of valuable tourists -- and locals must endure the inconvenience too.

Almost a year ago, with much fanfare, politicians promised to fix some of the worst moguls on the Front Street cobblestone pavement. The fix was delayed many times, then high season came and the "fixing" disruptions began. If you drive down Front Street now from one end to the other you'll find the results a bit less than perfect: it's still an uncomfortable road to drive.

More on drivability appears in other stories in this section.

24. For the Disabled and Everyone Else, Some Inconvenience on Front Street Has Become Routine

Although parking is prohibited on much of Front Street, that fact isn't obvious when you drive down Front Street. Both M and P Dutch-side registered cars are parked *on sidewalks* in large numbers, impeding the flow of visitors and worse, making it almost impossible for those with crutches, canes, baby carriages, or in wheelchairs to get around town to go shopping.

Although the Dutch side has become somewhat more handicap accessible than it once was, the improvement is a

matter of degree — it is nowhere near as accessible for the disabled as it needs to be. And the on-sidewalk parking and installation of fiber-optic cables by a private company in Philipsburg now, as high season begins, aggravates the situation. The uneven cobblestone street also doesn't help.

SXM should provide equal opportunity to everyone to benefit from everything it has to offer – but the current situation makes that impossible, especially for people who are disabled.

One final point: SXM has gone out of its way to attract families to the island — including people with very young children aboard Disney ships. We have seen many people with baby carriages trying to maneuver them on the brick sidewalks. That has always been problematic and it is now even worse because of this temporary project from Flow, the company that is installing fiber-optic cable in the sidewalks during high season, which is a patently bizarre and highly counterproductive idea. None of this helps the tourism product that SXM is trying to promote....

25. Street Flooding Continued Early Last Week in All The Usual Areas

As a result of the large rainstorm that affected the island for several days last week and earlier (see story in this issue), the Dutch side Department of Communications issued a note for people to be aware of street flooding *at all the usual places*. Street flooding was particularly bad on the road through Mullet Bay, from the Maho area to Cupecoy. There, misguided trench digging by a private company interacted with drivers trying to go through deep puddles who wound up with cars hopelessly stuck in the trenches, which weren't even visible thanks to the size of the puddles.

It's another company that, like Flow, seemed to ignore the consequences of its actions on the island economy and the well-being of its people. This was a rainstorm — not a tropical storm, not a hurricane, though it probably did drop several inches of rain over a period of days.

Our opinion: instead of announcing areas to avoid during flooding episodes, fix those areas to prevent further flooding and potential disruption of the ability to serve residents with emergency vehicles such as police, fire, and ambulances. It's a matter of public health and safety and it should be a high priority.

26. Cupecoy Restaurants Close for a Couple of Days as Road Through Mullet Bay Flooded

Multiple well-known restaurants in the Cupecoy and Porto Cupecoy areas had to close during the rainstorms last week or the prior weekend thanks to the flooding and the trench problem along the road through Mullet Bay. It was impossible for motorists to go between Simpson Bay and Cupecoy to meet dinner reservations because of the flooding of the road and the lack of safe driving through the flooded area — an area which has seen substantial flooding during rainstorms for many years. The problem has been worked on but never solved.

27. What Does "GEBE" Stand for? Dependable Electricity is NOT The Answer

People often wonder what the term GEBE stands for. One thing it clearly doesn't stand for is dependable electricity, since there have been at least three power failures in various parts of the system over the last week.

To be sure, most visitors never notice the problem, since most major timeshare resorts and hotels have backup generators which take over immediately when there is any blip in power: thankfully, those people are unaffected by power outages and don't even experience them.

But everyone else does.

GEBE has a lot of problems and everyone hopes it will successfully navigate through them and solve them — once and for all. But the problems have been in existence for many years and GEBE doesn't seem to be capable of making much progress at any kind of long-term effective solution. Indeed, its advertising on local radio is never positive — it always concerns how quickly it imposes late fees or some other punitive measures it takes against its users, including restoring power only after 5 PM.

GEBE is the Dutch side's electricity and water company. GEBE, the acronym, stands for this: **Gemeenschappelijk**

Electriciteidsbedrijf Bovenwindse Eilanden -- in case you were wondering.

28. Marco Ferrante No Longer at Isola & Hollywood Casino

Marco Ferrante sent this message last week to many friends and business associates; we thought you would like to be aware of the situation:

Dear friend,

You are receiving this message because in one way or another you know me or we have been in touch in the past, I'm Marco Ferrante and I have been the general manager and operator of ISOLA authentic Italian restaurant and Pizzeria in Pelican key by Hollywood Casino, since the beginning of 2017 up to October 2022.

This message is to inform you that I'm no longer managing that establishment and consequently not related to ISOLA restaurant or HOLLYWOOD CASINO any longer and in any form, this is because, I'm pursuing a new adventure entering a brand new chapter of my life.

Life is good and full of blessings.

Do not hesitate to be in touch if you might have any questions!

29. How's The Surf & Sand on The Beach You Plan to Visit?

One of the most frequently asked questions in our [Everything SXM Facebook Group](#) is how's the surf and sand on a particular beach you plan to visit.

As experienced visitors know, beach conditions can change over a few hours and certainly over a few days. If you ask about the status of a particular beach today, you might get an answer that still applies when you visit that day. But if you're asking about beach conditions before you leave on your vacation, the answer you get will be 100% irrelevant. Currents change, weather changes, distant storms can have impacts. Many locals know what's going to happen a day or two ahead but few tourists have that information.

We just want you to be aware that conditions can change quickly and you shouldn't rely on today's conditions to plan tomorrow's activities.

30. Tom Ford's Vision Gives You Watches That Clean Plastic from the World's Oceans

If it hasn't happened already, it certainly will: Tom Ford will become a genuine American hero.

His company is helping to clean the world's oceans of plastic and use that plastic to create beautiful watches -- and those watches are now offered by Majesty Jewelers here in SXM.

Here is the full story:

Tom Ford, (born August 27, 1961, Austin, Texas, U.S.), American fashion designer and film director who was credited with reviving the fashion house Gucci during his tenure as creative director (1994-2004). He started an eponymous line in 2005.

Tom Ford is among the most highly respected and successful designers today. The Winner of numerous design awards he is widely credited for reviving fashion houses GUCCI & YVES SAINT LAURENT.

Tom Ford has long been passionate about timepieces and has set out to create watches with the perfect combination of fine Swiss Horology & Innovative design.

As a devout watch collector, Tom Ford's first foray into creating timepieces began only a few years ago, in the spring of 2018. The 001-a Swiss-made stainless steel watch-was the perfect accompaniment to his collections of smartly tailored suiting and cosmopolitan party pieces, and it spoke to Ford's built-to-last design ethos. Tom Ford's 001 watches are marketed as 'Made in Switzerland' and carry the legend 'Swiss Made' on their dials.

But so much has changed since his first watch just four years ago. And with a global climate crisis, came Ford's growing commitment to sustainability in the fashion industry-where the designer held court, as the former head of the Council of

Fashion Designers of America (CFDA).

You might say that Ford's launch of the TOM FORD Ocean Plastic Timepiece collection was his call to arms. The 002, launched in 2020, coincided with the ongoing Tom Ford Plastic Innovation Prize announcement-the first global competition solely focused on scaling design alternatives to thin-film plastic (of which a staggering 14 million metric tons sit on the ocean floor).

The N.003 features elements that portray both structure & elegance. The Style is a progression of the simplicity from the N.001, translated into Sport-inspired aesthetic. Now in his third installment of the Ocean Plastic series, Ford introduces his N.004 Timepiece with a minimalist rectangular face (ideal for petite wrist sizes) and an interchangeable monochrome braided strap. Its lightweight design makes it the perfect companion alongside breezy linens (it's also waterproof up to 30 meters), but it's substantial enough to stand up to colder weather's sweater-and-coat pairings.

The watch's glossy dial makes a subtle statement with contrasting diamond-cut painted hands. A sapphire crystal with an anti-reflective coating tops the watch, and a stainless steel case back, coated in PVD that matches the case color, secures the Swiss quartz movement.

In Contrast to the sophisticated case design, N.004's dial is void of any numerals or indexing with pure surfacing that puts the focus back onto the case and allows the elegant yet minimal face to speak volumes.

The watch and packaging are made from 100-percent ocean plastic, using approximately 35 bottles of plastic waste from the ocean's coastline and landfills. He notes that each new Ocean Plastic installment is a new pledge to his commitment to the cause. Besides, "ethical luxury is the greatest luxury of all," says Ford.

Every 1000 Ocean Plastic Timepieces produced of Tom ford watches, it permanently remove and prevent 490lbs of plastic waste from entering the ocean. It is incredibly appealing to know that you are not only wearing high quality product, but by simply owning the product you are also taking direct action to improve the planet.

You can now own Tom Ford Watch in St. Maarten which is exclusively available at [Majesty Jewelers](#).

31. Remember "Hot Chocolate" from "Cheri's Cafe"? Hot Chocolate is Back

One of the most outrageous groups of entertainers ever to enthrall tourists and locals alike was Hot Chocolate, a group of local business people who put on rather outrageous costumes and entertained thousands of tourists at the old Cheri's Café in Maho.

Although Cheri's Café is gone and several new restaurants will soon debut at its old location, **Hot Chocolate** is back at the nearby Sunset bar where they will be entertaining multiple nights per week.

We thought many readers who had enjoyed Hot Chocolate at Cheri's Café would want to know.

32. Repeating: Watch Your Flights Very Carefully for Still-Common Changes

Despite the fact that in recent months there have been fewer flight cancellations and schedule changes in recent months from US airlines, they do still happen. SXM weekly news strongly urges all passengers to watch their flight reservations online at least once a week, and more so in the week before your scheduled flight. Changes can and do happen and the sooner you are aware of them, the better able you will be to solve any issues.

33. Make Your SXM Thanksgiving Reservations NOW

If you have ever been on this island during Thanksgiving, you know that it is one of the busiest weeks of the entire year here. **America's Home Town Plymouth, Massachusetts, does not have a monopoly on Thanksgiving festivities: everything you can enjoy anywhere in the USA on Thanksgiving you can also enjoy here in St. Maarten — much more on the Dutch side than on the French.** Full Thanksgiving dinners are offered from lunch onward by many Dutch side restaurants, and you will see lists of them published in our [Everything SXM Facebook Group](#) closer to the holiday.

Foremost among them is the Toppers restaurant run by Topper, Melanie, and Marni Daboul; Topper hails from Massachusetts and knows everything there is to know about Thanksgiving, which started there in 1627. The Topper Family will have dozens of turkeys, gravy, potatoes, stuffing, squash, cranberry sauce of course, and all the other fixins you're looking for plus lots of pies they've made especially for the holiday -- plus their legendary rum cake from the Toppers Rum Distillery.

Toppers Restaurant is now located at the site of the former Carousel, where the Toppers Rum Distillery is also located as is Toppers Gelateria and their souvenir shop with a huge variety of great souvenirs as well as many flavors of delicious award-winning rum. A separate article on them and the Indisu Dance Theater is above in this issue.

DO YOU HATE TURKEY? No problem, their full regular menu will also be available as always. Make reservations NOW to avoid disappointment.

34. You're Invited to Our SkyMed Member Appreciation Luncheon in SXM January 20

SKYMED MEMBER APPRECIATION LUNCHEON in SXM has been scheduled for Friday January 20 – we want you to join us even if you're not a member (yet) so you can meet SkyMed's top management and learn more.

SkyMed top executives Eleanore and Will Klein will be there to meet current SkyMed members and others interested in learning more. If you will be in SXM on Friday January 20 and want to learn more about SkyMed, email us now at jeff.berger@skymed.com with your names, email addresses, SkyMed member numbers (if you're members), **and the names & emails of others who you would like to invite to this SkyMed event (they're welcomed, but please MAKE SURE THEY ARE INTERESTED AND WILL BE ON THE ISLAND ON THAT DATE BEFORE INVITING THEM).**

Advance registration REQUIRED. We will contact everyone once formal invitations are ready to go -- during November.

35. Our Newest SXM Vacation Giveaway Is Updated: ENTER NOW

It was only at the end of July that we gave away six St. Martin vacations as part of the celebration of our SXM websites surpassing 10 million visits; the winners were announced in the last couple of editions of SXM Weekly News.

Although it's usually some time before we announce another giveaway, we can't deny the enthusiasm we all feel about the way St. Martin recovered this past season from the impact of the Covid Pandemic preceded by annoying weather events five years ago. It was clear that more than a million people wanted to celebrate life by returning to SXM last Winter, and return they did.

We decided that before the 2022-2023 high season begins in a couple of months, we want to do some celebrating of our own by giving away one more week of vacations here on SXM.

That vacation will be at beautiful **Villa Kimon** on your right just off the road high on a hill just to the west of downtown Philipsburg. As you follow the shore road westward out of Philipsburg and by the site of the former Sonesta Great Bay, you have passed **Villa Kimon** on your right. You'll get to spend seven days and 6 nights there.

We will also give away a couple of dinners for two to our winner; those will be announced shortly.

Everyone who entered our previous six vacation giveaway is already eligible to have their entry drawn in this giveaway. However, if you have not yet entered, you can do so now -- just follow these directions:

ENTRIES ARE NOW OPEN AND IF YOU RECEIVE YOUR OWN *FREE* COPY OF *SXM WEEKLY NEWS* DIRECTLY FROM US, YOU ARE ELIGIBLE TO WIN BUT YOU STILL MUST ENTER. [ENTER HERE](#). If you do NOT subscribe, you must go to sxmweeklynews.com now to subscribe FREE before entering this giveaway. **ENTRIES FROM NONSUBSCRIBERS ARE NOT ELIGIBLE TO WIN. PREVIOUS WINNERS ARE NOT ELIGIBLE.**

More stories are below.

Get your SKYMED MEMBERSHIP *BEFORE* you need it. Air ambulances are now more costly than ever: when you become seriously or critically ill or injured while traveling, SKYMED TAKES YOU HOME® to doctors and hospitals you know & trust. Otherwise you

must pay tens of thousands of dollars in cash in advance to get a medevac jet -- if you can even do it (NOT easy or fast if you don't know how). SkyMed annual or multiyear memberships are only about \$1.64/day, and they're guaranteed renewable regardless of age or medical condition at renewal and they are PRICE GUARANTEED FOR LIFE. Why wait? CALL today 508-591-3483 or email us at jeff.berger@skymed.com; include your callback number & time zone please. Protect your family TODAY!

36. 81% of Stayover Tourists Responding to Survey Stay on the Dutch Side

In an informal survey of members of our [Everything SXM Facebook Group](#), 81% of responding site members said their stayover accommodations are on the Dutch side.

One reason for this is that all the island's timeshare resorts are on the Dutch side and those loyal tourists are a large plurality of all SXM stayover visitors. The Dutch side is also responding to enormous demand for self-owned condominiums through permitting a number of condo projects, including the recently topped off second tower in the twin tower "Fourteen" project in Cupecoy.

37. Restaurant of the Week: Mario Bistro

What/Where: Mario Bistro at The Cliff, Cupecoy beach, Dutch side

Particulars: One of the most special restaurants you will ever have the great fortune to visit. It's nominally French but owner Mario Tardif hails from French Canada. The gorgeous open-air setting overlooks beautiful gardens and the Caribbean, a perfect complement to the always artistic presentation of everything on their menu. Their experienced waitstaff knows their stuff, and Mario's creations are flat out phenomenal. Order fish (the special Wahoo sashimi appetizer we had Saturday night was spectacular and will be in our minds forever) and the salmon encrusted with baked pistachios on a delicious bed of greens with butternut squash and garlic mashed was amazing. Ilene's appetizer was incredible crab cakes, pure crabmeat (NOT hidden in filler), plus tender string beans almondine and she had a spicy version of the salmon special. Dessert: their legendary thin sliced pear tartlet served with caramel ice cream. Mario's as always has our HIGHEST recommendation. Advance reservations are essential. See them atop our list of recently visited restaurants, below. Don't forget the roasted garlic!

Here are recently featured SXM restaurants:

Mario's Bistro at the Cliff, formerly Mario's Bistro www.mariobistrot.com/en/ 11/14/22 Mario's is one of the most spectacular culinary experiences you'll ever have -- here in SXM or anywhere else. Go. Phenomenal dining. Formerly on the plaza at Porto Cupecoy, Cupecoy Beach, they are now at the Cliff. Open every day but Monday, they serve both lunch and dinner six days a week. Traditional and highly creative Continental dinners, with Tapas and other selections at lunch. Do not miss it. Reservations essential. They do not use an answering machine, so call when they are open and let it ring.

IZI Ristorante Italiano, www.izisxm.com (featured 11/7/22). Open for dinner starting at 5pm except Mon., when they're closed. Fantastic food from one of SXM's absolute best restaurants. Fun atmosphere, too.

Avantika Thai www.avantikasxm.com (featured 10/31/22) Avantika is flat-out wonderful; SXM's best Thai; Delicious food artfully presented and reasonably priced, backed by seasoned service. Consistently excellent. Go...you'll become a regular.

Mama Pizza, Porto Cupecoy & Oyster Pond, (featured 10/24/22) Big, outstanding pizza, and sizable portions plus reasonable prices on numerous other delicious Italian specialties. They also have fresh fish entrees you should not miss. On the plaza at Porto Cupecoy, Cupecoy Beach, and on the main drag through Oyster Pond, French side. <https://www.facebook.com/Mamapizzaisthebest>

Jai's Contemporary Fusion Cuisine (featured 10/17/22), **Simpson Bay** Leave your preconceptions behind! A 15-second walk to the opposite side of the building from Top Carrot. Outstanding dinners (and lunches a few days weekly) in Jai's, a fun new contemporary fusion restaurant operated by two young SXM graduates of the Culinary Institute of America (CIA). Super creative, artfully presented, phenomenally executed selections spanning an ever-growing spectrum of flavors, aromas, textures, and tastes. You gotta try Jai's! Highest recommendation. See <https://www.facebook.com/jaisxmresto>

Pineapple Pete, www.pineapplepete.com (featured 9/12/22) Known for great lobster Thermidor and lots, lots more. Generous portions, reasonable prices. Huge variety. Games for kids & their parents.

Wasabi Charlie Japanese Restaurant (9/12/22) now combined with Pineapple Pete at the Pineapple Pete location, opposite IZI Ristorante Italiano in Simpson Bay. GREAT sushi rolls and sashimi and much more.

Isola next to Hollywood Casino at Simpson Bay Resort, (featured 8/29/22). Italian food, many choices (pizza too

though that may go away), busy, good specials. Lively; busy; entertainment some nights. Many folks from Simpson Bay Resort dine here as well as many locals and lots of casino high-rollers. www.isolaristorante.com

Astra Steak & Seafood (featured 7/25/22) is the newest creation of the organization that also operates Avantika and Movida in the same area of Simpson Bay. It's new, gorgeous, constantly evolving, and has highest-quality written all over it. We go often and love it. See <https://www.astrasxm.com/>

Bold Buddha Bar/Restaurant, 49 Front Street at Horizon View Hotel, Philipsburg (featured 7/5/22) Cool new place with seasoned service, very good tapas / Caribbean / Asian and other food, a superb location, and a perfect concept. Highly recommended; something new and different. Ideal place to cool off with a delicious drink and make your taste buds happy.

Vesna Taverna, www.vesnasxm.com (featured 6/13/22). Now open every day but Monday for B/L; dinner is offered Tuesday through Saturday. Outstanding dining, reasonable pricing.

La Rosa Restaurant, Maho Plaza, (featured 5/23/2022): Loved the relaxing vibe, attentive service, GREAT food, reasonable prices, and BIG portions. www.larosarestaurant.com/index.html

Melange International Grill, Port de Plaisance (next to Princess Casino entrance). (featured 4/18/22) A spectrum of delightful offerings from Europe, the USA, and South America. One of the most eclectic menus on SXM. Delicious dining.

Mandarin Pan Asian at Port de Plaisance Resort off the Union Road, Cole Bay, (featured 3/21/22). Excellent selection of palate-pleasing offerings from Japan, Thailand, and China. Highly recommended.

La Patrona, Simpson Bay Resort (featured 2/28/22) La Patrona is SXM's only truly authentic Mexican restaurant. Highly recommended: great food, great service, not to be missed.

Bovin Steakhouse at Simpson Bay Resort, Marina Plaza next to la Patrona (featured 2/21/22) Upscale restaurant offering sumptuous dining, outstanding service, and more than just steak (though we expect lots of steak lovers will flock here.

Spiga, www.spiga-sxm.com (featured 2/7/22) Chef-co-owner Ciro Russo & Lara Russo haven't missed a beat here as Spiga continues to be simply the best restaurant of any kind in Grand Case, where it has a lot of competition. Incredibly irresistible food, great staff, service, and beautiful ambiance. Everything is great, appetizers are out of this world. Absolutely not to be missed.

SkipJacks Seafood Grill, Bar, and seafood Market (featured 1/31/22) is one of the largest seafood restaurants on the island, located in a remarkable site overlooking Simpson Bay Lagoon and many megayachts. With many types of fresh fish cooked to order, SkipJack's is best known for lobster, both the local spiny variety and even some flown in from Maine. Pick your own and have it prepared as you like it. Lots of other choices too for all kinds of appetites. Classic attentive service and delicious everything. It's a must.

Emilio's at the Emilio Wilson Estate, Dutch Side, <https://emilios-sxm.com/>. [Featured January 2022] Truly fine dining in one of SXM's most well known and respected restaurants. The property is rich in history, the owners and Chef Sidney are culinary perfectionists, and you will kick yourself if you don't go here early in your trip so you have time to come back. Sunday Brunch is a must but requires reservations as does dinner. Not to be missed.

The Coffee Lounge, (featured 1/3/22) **Simpson Bay next to Domino's and in Philipsburg at the head of town**. Great freshly roasted coffees, pastries, and sandwiches. Don't miss it.

Topper's <http://www.sxmtoppers.com/> (featured 10/11/21) One of SXM's oldest and busiest restaurants, now in a beautiful new over-water setting at the Carousel building on Simpson Bay lagoon. Lunch, dinner, and late dining. Karaoke. Co-located with Toppers Rhum Distillery so have some rum (rhum is the French spelling) and rum cake when you dine. Open until late night. Sports on TV. From cops to billionaires, everyone loves Toppers.

Blue Bitch Bar www.bluebitchbar.com, formerly Taloula Mango's Blue Bitch Bar, is THE bar/restaurant to visit on the Boardwalk in Philipsburg. (featured 8/9/21) Great open-air atmosphere, outdoor dining/drinking, entertainment. Their menu is extensive with excellent food, fun atmosphere, and beautiful ocean views. Located on the beach, at the Boardwalk...

Pure Ocean Restaurant at Divi Little Bay Resort, Dutch side (featured 3/1/21) Fine new beachside restaurant serving breakfast, lunch, and fine dining dinners. Excellent choices for everyone, innovative menu, beautiful presentation, and downright delicious. Great #Caribbean ambiance on their open-air beachside deck. Attentive service and responsive staff.

Freedom Fighters ITAL SHACK Rasta Restaurant, www.sxmfreedomfighters.com/restaurant 4/15/19. Just go....

Dany's Smooth Cupecoy Beach Bar (on Cupecoy beach); follow the road toward Shore Pointe and turn near Shore Pointe to get there. (Featured 1/20/2019) Parking, drinks, chairs and umbrellas, lolo-type food, and an all-over tan. What could possibly be better?

Enigma C3 luxury Catamaran, www.sailstmaarten.com (featured 8/7/17). Neil's new boat is as big as Celine Too was and it has now entered service. Neil is known for amazing cooking on board his boats.

You will find hundreds more restaurants from both the Dutch Side and French Side listed in the Files area of our [Everything St. Maarten / St. Martin / SXM Facebook Group](#). Our thanks to our Admin there, Contessa Aiello, who edited the restaurant entries on that site..

38. Enormous Library of SXM Information is On The Web (Updated)

Regardless of what kind of SXM information you need, our sites deliver it.

Here are three examples:

- a) Our [SXM Weekly News PDF archives](#) include every edition of SXM Weekly News since 2014 -- 9 years of editions and hundreds of thousands of words of SXM information. Our PDF archives are searchable by keywords to make it easy for you to find whatever information you seek quickly and easily on your computer.
- b) Our [Everything SXM Facebook Group](#) is a repository for an enormous amount of SXM information posted during its more than 10 years of existence. You can search all posts ever allowed, for any SXM topic -- and you will find hundreds of posts on virtually any specific topic. If you don't find what you're looking for, you can always post a question on that site that will tap the brains of nearly 35,000 members, not counting their friends and spouses. The vast majority of our members are tourists who have spent years visiting SXM and have a wealth of information available.
- c) We have a **Files** area in our [Everything SXM Facebook Group](#) with another enormous reservoir/library of island information. Our files are also searchable directly from our Everything SXM Facebook Group. They are also frequently updated by our admins and moderators, particularly Contessa Aiello who has written most of them.

Take advantage of these resources -- and don't forget to thank those who have made them possible.

39. Flying Next Winter? Here's Something Else You Should Know

If you are traveling anywhere this winter, there is a way you can inject tremendous peace of mind into your travels.

For the first three months of any new SkyMed annual or multiyear membership, SkyMed excludes coverage of pre-existing conditions; after three months, those conditions are covered in full. **So...to AVOID ANY IMPACT on your travel plans this Summer or Fall, buy your new SkyMed annual or multiyear membership NOW, at least three months ahead of your planned travel -- then the 90-day exclusion period for preexisting conditions will end before you travel...**

Why get annual or multiyear memberships? SHORT-TERM family memberships (for a week or two) are \$15/day, while guaranteed renewable for life, price guaranteed for life annual and multiyear memberships are only about \$1.64/day -- less than a cup of coffee. Call me at 508-591-3483 or jeff.berger@skymed.com for answers to questions or to sign up by phone.

Available exclusively to Americans and Canadians. SkyMed TAKES YOU HOME(R) when you become seriously ill or injured while traveling in the USA, Canada, Mexico, Bermuda, the Bahamas, and all the nations of the Caribbean. Global protection is also available through GETS, Global Emergency Travel Services, part of the SkyMed group.

40. Getting Answers to All Your Questions About SXM

Regardless of what questions you have about SXM, you can find the answers to any questions either in the files area of our [Everything SXM Facebook Group](#) (where we post our current Guide to Entry Requirements) that answers many questions) or you can simply post a question on our site.

We have over 33,000 members, more than other active SXM Facebook sites combined. Our site is also a unique news and information portal, not typical social media where people post pictures of smiling cats, monkeys standing on their heads, and other pointless items. Our SXM site is strictly SXM focused with no drivel. Join it today at www.facebook.com/groups/mySXM.

41. Important Updated Contact Information for Everything SXM / JMB Communications / JMB Website Supporters Membership Services and SkyMed Sales (UPDATED):

Because of volume, email is not the best way to reach us. Here's what's best: First, a Suggestion: **Get the free WhatsApp app**. It lets you make free phone calls (including video calls) worldwide and send free texts, all for zero cost. It is very widely used around the world.

1. **SkyMed Answers to Questions or to Sign Up by Phone**: If you're interested in learning more about SkyMed,

contact Jeff Berger at jeff.berger@skymed.com. Leave your phone number and time zone and he'll return your call. SkyMed is sold only to Americans, Canadians, and xPats. **If you prefer, phone Jeff at 508-591-3483 and leave a message; that is a NEW NUMBER.**

2. **JMB Membership Questions/Issues -- JMB Website Supporters:** Use WhatsApp to send questions to Membership Services; use Jeff Berger's WhatsApp phone number, 721-588-4188, **but call or TEXT (texting is preferred) from within the WhatsApp application ONLY.** Membership Services at our headquarters in Massachusetts handles all these calls. **INCLUDE YOUR EMAIL**, since all responses are made by email.
3. **Our new email is jmbcomms@gmail.com; use it for JMB Website Supporters membership questions.** Thank you.

42. Who Our Sponsors Are, & Why You Should Patronize Them (Updated 11/14/22)

Our JMB SXM Web Media Sponsors help make it possible for us to research, write, produce, and email you *SXM Weekly News* every week. They also enable us to spend lots of hours making sure our [Everything SXM Facebook Group](#) fulfills its mission to be SXM's only authentically managed [by a seasoned journalist] interactive conversational SXM news and information portal on Facebook. And their help makes our JMB Website Supporters members-only Island Parties possible (resuming next year) as well as all the working going into enhancing our Island Discount Program now for its thousands of loyal members. Thank You for patronizing our Sponsors! (JMB Communications is based in Massachusetts, USA).

ARTISTS

Roland Richardson
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AUTHORS/NOVELISTS

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Jacky Rom

BAKERIES / DINE-IN & TO GO

Le Sucriere, Dutch side near Fedex (new 11/22)

BARS

Juggie's "The Smallest Bar In The World," Philipsburg

BOAT TOURS / BOAT CHARTERS

[Celine Charters](#) (Enigma)

Luxury Private Catamaran Charters:
www.sxmstmartincatamarancharters.net

Rumbelly Boat Charters Pleasure boats, motorized and catamaran

BOUTIQUES

En Vogue, Billy Folly Road opposite Atrium Resort

BREWERIES & DISTILLERIES

Toppers Rhum & Vodka Distillery

Caribbean Brewing

CAR RENTALS:

[Leisure Car Rental](#)

[Sax Car Rental](#)

Exclusive Car Rental

Tropicana Car Rental

Dollar/Thrifty Car Rental

SixT Car Rental

CHILD CARE & MORE FOR VISITORS

Alisha Brookes

COFFEE / PASTRY & MORE (NEW):

Coffee Lounge & More: Head of town in Philipsburg and Simpson Bay near Domino's

COVID TESTING:

Medcare (near Avantika in Puerto del Sol)

Test-to-Fly (new 1/22)

CUBAN CIGARS:

[Cigar Mack](#)

[SXM Cigars](#)

DOLLAR STORES

[All in One Place](#) (Near Carrefour and now in Simpson Bay near Domino's)

DUTY-FREE SHOPPING

Great Deals on Watches, Bags, Wallets, Sunglasses and Fashion Jewelry:

<https://www.facebook.com/buy.sxm>

EMERGENCY MEDICAL EVACUATION MEMBERSHIP PROGRAMS:

[SkyMed International](#) (Covers the entire USA, Canada, Mexico, Bermuda, the Bahamas, and all the nations of the Caribbean; Global protection available. Sold only to Americans, Canadians, and X-Pats living in these countries.)

FASHIONS FOR WOMEN

En Vogue, Billy Folly Road, Simpson Bay, opposite Atrium Hotel.

FISHING CHARTERS

Taylor Made fishing charters, Captain Dougie. Full day or half day Call WhatsApp # 721-524-7510

Immigration (SXM Residency) / Relocation / Business Formation / "Papers" Consulting Companies

BrightPath/Caribbean is posting in our [Everything St. Maarten / St. Martin / SXM Facebook Group](#)

JEWELERS:

[Zhaveri Jewelers](#) in Philipsburg.

[Caribbean Gems](#)

Oro Diamante

[Majesty Jewelers](#)

[Ray's Jewelers](#)

[Alpha Jewels](#)

[JN Jewelers \(Maho under Jax, open late\)](#)

Jewels & Beyond (Maho)

[Shoppers Haven](#)

Royal Jewelers

Kay's Fine Jewelry

Joe's Jewelry International

Ballerina Jewelers

LIVE MUSIC

Hole in the Wall, Maho Plaza, Dutch side

MAPS (SXM MAPS and others in the Caribbean)

[Kasprowski Publisher](#)

MASSAGE see Spas

PARFUMERIE / PERFUME

Tijon Parfumerie, Grand Case, www.tijon.com

PHARMACIES

Simpson Bay Pharmacy

Orange Grove Pharmacy

REAL ESTATE COMPANIES: (See also VILLA RENTAL COMPANIES, below)

[Island Real Estate Team](#) is widely regarded as SXM's top real estate organization. A long-time JMB Sponsor, they offer both residential and commercial real estate in every price range. Call the number that follows and ask to speak with the agent who handles what you seek: 1 721 520 7284. Please let the agent know that you were referred by Jeff Berger's *Everything SXM Facebook Group*.

Jennifer's Vacation Villas

Century 21 St. Maarten

Sunshine Properties

Candie Billant does condo and villa rentals and sales. You will find her at **Caribbean Estate Agency N. V.**

BrightFuture Realty

[My Net Immo](#) (French Side, **Muriel Lemoine**)

40Weeks SXM Vacation rentals

RESORTS:

Baker's Suites

Belair Beach Hotel

Simpson Bay Resort

Azure Hotel & Art Studio

Mary's Boon Beach Hotel

RESTAURANTS, BARS, & BEACH BARS (see also BAKERIES)

[IZI](#) (See their new website)

[SPIGA](#)

[VESNA TAVERNA](#)

ISOLA

Mandarin Asian Bistro (Port de Plaisance)

Melange (Port de Plaisance)

Pelican Bistro

Soggy Dollar Bar

Topper's Restaurant, Gelateria, & Rhum Distillery

LA PATRONA (Simpson Bay Resort)

MARIO'S BISTRO (Porto Cupecoy)

NAVY BEACH

BOVIN STEAKHOUSE

Pineapple Pete Restaurant / Wasabi Charlie Japanese Restaurant

Emilio's

Taloula's Blue Bitch Bar

Nowhere Special

ROXXY Bar / Restaurant

LA ROSA

NONNA ROSA

LAZY LIZARD

RANCHO del SOL

SUNSET CAFE (Grand Case)

AVANTIKA

MOVIDA

ASTRA

JAI'S CONTEMPORARY FUSION CUISINE

COFFEE LOUNGE & More, Head of town in Philipsburg & Simpson bay near Domino's (**new**)

BOLD BUDDHA Restaurant, Great bay beach Promenade at Horizon View Hotel (new)

BUCCANEER BEACH BAR

NAVY BEACH

BAMBOO HOUSE (new 5/16/22)

LE PERLE BLEU Restaurant Simpson Bay (Welfare Road) (new 11/22)

FLEUR DE SEL Hope Estate / French Side (new 11/22)

RESTAURANT ORDERING ONLINE

Orders.sx

SOUVENIRS

Flamboyant on The Boardwalk, Philipsburg (new 1/22)

SPAS

Sunset Spa, Simpson Bay Resort (11/21)

Patty's Healing Hands Massage (7/22)

STAR WARS / YODA GUY MUSEUM

[Nick Malley, Front Street](#)

VILLA RENTALS / RENTAL COMPANIES:

If you're interested in making a villa reservation (doing it with close friends can be fun and more economical than you'd imagine), contact our top recommended Villa rental/sale partners at **[Island Real Estate Team](#)**. Call the number that follows and ask to speak with the agent who handles villa rentals: 1 721 520 7284. Please let the agent know that you're interested in a rental and you were referred by Jeff Berger's *Everything SXM Facebook Group*. Hundreds of villas are now online.

[Jennifer's Vacation Villas](#) has also joined us as a villa rental partner. *Jennifer's Vacation Villas* is a licensed management, real estate and villa rental company specializing in the rental of private villas and condos on both French and Dutch St. Maarten. Its proprietor, Jennifer, is a New Yorker who has been residing in St. Maarten for 40 years and whose goal is to provide guests with personal attention and to ensure that their vacations are memorable. Jennifer's Vacation Villas also does Weddings, Private Events, and any additional services including massages, boat trips, and private catering. Their aim is to make your vacation stay as comfortable, accommodating, and easy going as possible. Call 1 (721) 544-3107 | +1 (631) 546-7345. When you contact them, please tell them you were referred by Jeff Berger's *Everything SXM Facebook Group*.

Candie Billant does condo and villa rentals and sales. You will find her at **#Caribbean Estate Agency N. V.**

[GoBeach Vacations](#)

[Sunshine Properties](#)

[Monte Verde / Belle Vue](#)

Villa Acropole:

www.acropole-stmartin.com

Villa Vijoux:

<https://www.facebook.com/VillaVijoux>

Villa Steel Magnolias (new 1/22)

40Weeks SXM Vacation Rentals (new)

Villa En'sea 5 bedroom Villa, overlooking Philipsburg bay (new)

Villa Kimon

Daffodil Villa

Wedding Planners / Wedding Venues

[Fawnette Scott-Angelides - Azure Hotel and Art Studio](#) (Fawnette is a minister and she owns Azure, a venue on beautiful Simpson Bay Beach, where beach weddings are her specialty)

Sint Maarten Marry-Me Destination Weddings (new)

Updated 11/7/22

43. First Responders Now Get Platinum-Status JMB Discounts

If you're U. S. Military with a DD214, you're able to get a Platinum-Status Military JMB Membership for \$16.99/year, the lowest we ever charge anyone. You get instant Platinum Status which is permanent as long as you're a JMB member plus 300+ SXM discounts and other benefits. All you do is pay for four years to start and renew in four-year increments (\$67.96). Nobody else pays so little -- our small way of expressing how grateful we all are for your service.

And now we're adding police, firefighters, EMTs, and nurses to our just-renamed Military / First Responder Memberships in recognition of their sacrifices for the rest of us every single day. We just need you to send us documentary proof (ID) that you're one of America's very best. To sign up or upgrade your JMB membership to Military / First Responders, visit everythingxsm.com and click the page curl to sign up for your JMB military membership (the page still says Military). We'll also need a DD214 (or other police / fire / nursing ID) with your SS# obliterated for security. We'll be delighted to welcome you all to our new best-of-all JMB Website Supporters Platinum Memberships.

44. Want to See Back Issues of SXM Weekly News? Here's How

Our *SXM Weekly News* PDF archives enable you to download any issue of Weekly News published since Spring 2014, including our amazing *2018 April Fools' Day parody* and many Special Editions.

Check it out [here](#). It has just been thoroughly updated. Each week's newsletter is usually added within a few days after mailing of that issue to its subscribers completes (Monday).

[Get The Current Low Price](#)
[on SkyMed's Best 5-Year Ultimate Membership](#)

Ask Jeff for details -- call him at 508-591-3483. More info? See skymed.com/jmb or email Jeff at jeff.berger@skymed.com. **SkyMed is the Principal Sponsor of JMB SXM programs.**

See the [rundown of all SkyMed Features & Benefits](#)

Got a Radio While You're in SXM?

Want to Listen to SXM While You're Home?

Tune In Island92 at 91.9 FM

or On Your Internet-Connected Device

at island92.com ...

and hear Jeff Berger LIVE on the air most Mondays

between about 9:45am and 10am island time

on "Fresh Air in the Morning" with Dr. Soc.

45. SXM Business Owners: How To Increase Foot & Web Traffic

SXM Weekly News, our everythingSXM.com website and its Hurricane Center, and our [Everything SXM Facebook Group](#) along with our many Vacation Giveaways and hundreds of benefits of JMB Website Supporters membership *are all made possible through our partnerships with our JMB Website Supporters members and our Sponsors.*

Our **JMB SXM Web Media Sponsorships** enable SXM businesses to present their products or services to a huge, responsive audience of tourists from around the world, but primarily the USA and Canada. (Our site is based in the U. S. and is focused on the needs of tourists traveling to SXM.) If you own an SXM business and want to look into and take advantage of this unique marketing opportunity, please email susank@jmbcommunications.com with the subject "JMB Sponsorships". *Or PM us on FB for an even faster response.* We'll get complete information to you quickly. (Or again, just PM Jeff Berger on Facebook Messenger or phone us / text us on WhatsApp at 721-588-4188.)

Tourism is returning in a big way and with it, plenty of opportunity to bring more tourists into your business not only in the short term, but especially as tourist business increases in the months ahead. Contact us today for more information.

St. Maarten / St. Martin Homes, Villas, Businesses, Commercial Properties, and Residential Properties for Sale (NEW):

[Click to access our recommended real estate agent, Arun Jagtiani, featured on HGTV.](#)

Rent Out or Sell Your Timeshare (both SXM and Worldwide)-- Frequently Updated

JMB members can run up to 10 free ads on our website per 12-month period to rent out or sell St. Maarten / St. Martin timeshare weeks they own -- or any timeshares, anywhere worldwide. If you're not a member, learn more about

membership here: http://everythingxsm.com/sxm/about_sxm/paypal.shtml .

Want to rent or buy a week?

"2022 St. Maarten / St. Martin Timeshare Weeks For Rent or Sale" are posted at http://everythingxsm.com/sxm/timeshare_rent_sale/index.shtml Listings are now updated weekly. Ads are free (no commission) but are accepted from our JMB Website Supporters members only.

SECTION 5: For Members Only

A. **Where to Get Member Info:** www.everythingsxm.com/secret

B. **Password Recovery Info:** Your username is the email address you have registered with JMB Website Supporters. If you forget your password, click "forgot / change password" in the orange login box near the masthead at www.everythingsxm.com. To change your password, click that same link.

C. **How To Submit Rental or Sale Ads or Update the Price in an Ad:** See www.everythingsxm.com/secret .Your username and password are required.

SECTION 6: Background Information for Travelers (For New Readers) Updated 7/2017

See www.everythingsxm.com.

About Email Address Changes / How To Unsubscribe (Updated 4/17/17)

To unsubscribe, go here: www.sxmweeklynews.com. You **CAN NOT** unsubscribe either by replying to this email or, if you are an AOL user, by clicking the "spam" button on AOL.

To change your email address, visit www.sxmweeklynews.com; unsubscribe your old email address and subscribe your new one. *JMB Website Supporters members should notify Membership Services of the new email address for continued Secret Site access.*

Get Your Own Free Copy Of St. Maarten and St. Martin Weekly News:

<http://www.everythingsxm.com/cgi-bin/dada/mail.cgi?>

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Our email headers also contain subscribe / unsubscribe / address change links.

Our main St. Maarten / St. Martin website:

www.everythingsxm.com .

Privacy Policy http://www.everythingsxm.com/sxm/privacy_policy/index.shtml (Updated 5/25/18)

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