



GOVERNMENT OF THE VIRGIN ISLANDS OF THE UNITED STATES

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**DEPARTMENT OF PLANNING AND NATURAL RESOURCES**

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**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

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**DPNR CELEBRATES “READ ACROSS AMERICA DAY”**

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Commissioner Jean-Pierre L. Oriol of the Department of Planning and Natural Resources is pleased to announce that the department will celebrate **READ ACROSS AMERICA DAY**, on Sunday March 3<sup>rd</sup>, with an extraordinary literacy event: ***THE 2024 COMMUNITY CONNECTIVITY: CULTIVATING A LOVE FOR LITERACY ONE BOOK AT A TIME***, from 11 am – 3 pm at the TuTu Park Mall. The Division of Libraries, Archives and Museums will also present “STORYTIME” for the youngsters from 1- 2 pm.

On St. Croix, the Book Mobile will visit the Lew Muckle Elementary School on Friday, March 1<sup>st</sup> at 9 am to sign up students for their Library Card.

Also in celebration of the Read Across America initiative, the Charles W. Turnbull Regional Library staff will be in the center court of the Tutu Park Mall beginning Monday, March 4<sup>th</sup> and every Monday, Wednesday, and Friday of March from 10 am – 6 pm to sign up new Virgin Island Public Library System patrons. Please walk with a picture ID with proof of residency and mailing address to fill out the application and to get your VI Public Library Card. This card grants access to Library services 24 hours a day on HOOPLA, the online digital library. Anyone with an active library card can utilize the Hoopla services, free of charge.

“Today, let’s celebrate the joy of reading and the magic that books bring into our lives. Whether you’re diving into a thrilling adventure, exploring distant galaxies, or learning something new, books have the power to transport us beyond our wildest imaginations,” concluded Commissioner Oriol.