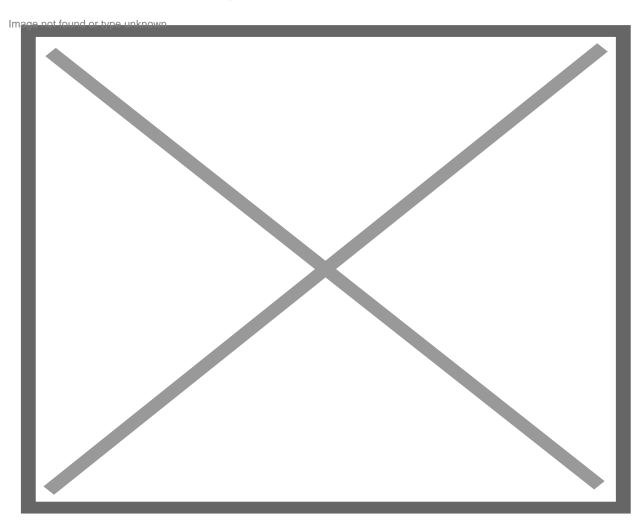
## Bryan's Toy Giveaway and Children's Christmas Party Brings Cheer to Youngsters, Coincides With 'Deck the Palms' New Tradition at Veteran's Drive

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A collage of Governor Bryan's toy giveaway event at the Havensight Hall in St. Thomas on Thursday, Dec. 9, 2021. By. GOV'T HOUSE

Governor Albert Bryan held his annual toy giveaway and Children's Christmas Party at the Havensight Mall on Thursday, bringing joy to youngsters of the district during the holiday season. Selfsame events are planned for St. John (Thursday, Dec. 16) and St. Croix (Sunday, Dec. 19).

Coinciding with the annual event was a new tradition which saw the 90 palm trees along the newly finished Veterans Drive road project being lit by 10,000 solar-powered fairy lights.

The "Deck the Palms" Veterans Drive waterfront spectacle is a gift to the community from the Office of the Governor and Oriental Bank, which engineered and funded the solar light display aided by the Department of Public Works, according to Gov't House.

"As we help Santa distribute toys to our children on St. Thomas, the Veterans Drive holiday lights are our 'holiday card' to the rest of our community as well as to the visitors to our islands," the governor said. "The display also heralds many future celebrations with completion of Phase 1 and the start of Phase 2 of the four-lane Veterans Drive roadway."

Oriental bank co-sponsored the holiday lights extravaganza, which extends from Yacht Haven Grande to the Federal Building on the St. Thomas waterfront.

"The Veterans Drive waterfront has become a wonderful gathering and exercising promenade for St. Thomas. We wanted to create a little holiday magic for our community to lift spirits and make the season bright," said Oriental USVI Regional Manager Attallah Bertrand-Rogers.

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