

# A sigh of relief

## St. Thomas spared brunt of Hurricane Omar

TAMIKA THOMAS

ST. THOMAS — Business owners on St. Thomas breathed a sigh of relief Thursday after Hurricane Omar passed by St. Thomas, leaving relatively no damage.

Only a few businesses opened in the areas of Havensight, downtown and Subbase areas on Thursday.

The businesses on Main Street that did open did so just to see if customers would be interested in shopping on Thursday.

House of Diamonds Owner Hiren Ved said that originally he had not planned to open, but saw other stores open and decided to take chance.

"We were lucky," he said of the near miss from Hurricane Omar. Ved said that he had to close on Wednesday and miss out on a day when three ships would have been in and on Thursday, when one ship would have been in the harbor.

However, he was pleased with the limited damage.

Royal Dane Mall Owner Raj Makhrajani also decided to open. He said he had originally come to the store to remove a sealant that is used to keep water out of the store.

Makhrajani said that when he came down, he saw other store owners open and decided to open for a few hours.

There were customers roaming around on Main Street Thursday.

Andy Chavez, who is visiting the territory from Seattle, Washington, walked along the Main Street as he waited for his wife to do some jewelry shopping.

Chavez said he had never experienced a hurricane, but was not really worried about it. He said he

stayed at the Best Western Emerald Beach Resort until the storm passed. Chavez plans to attend his son's beach wedding on Saturday in St. John.

He was in good spirits Thursday, as he waited outside the store while his wife ran back and fought to get his opinion on the jewelry she wanted.

In the Havensight area, the vast majority of the stores were closed. Only Gourmet Gallery, a small grocery store that specializes in items not found in regular grocery stores, opened its doors.

Gourmet Gallery Manager Phillip Raveneau said that he may have been the only store that was open, because the Water and Power Authority was unable to turn back on the power as of 3 p.m. on Thursday.

Raveneau said that the store closed at 6 p.m. on Wednesday because the power went out at that time. He said that they were using generator power to stay open.

He said they re-opened at 11:15 a.m. after Gov. John de Jongh lifted the curfew at 11 a.m.

Raveneau said that business had been good over the last couple of days. He said many of his customers flocked to store to stock up, just in case storm conditions



Main Street employees re-hung their store front signs Thursday after Hurricane Omar blew the signs to the ground. Tamika Thomas

took a turn for the worse.

In the Subbase area, many of the business in Nisky Center were open and doing businesses.

Customers were shopping or buying food in Max Mart, Island Video,

Wok Express, Dominoes and Radio Shack.

Radio Shack manager Joanne Bell said the store fared well. She said that they removed all of the inventory that had been on the floor before they closed at 3 p.m.

on Wednesday.

By 11:30 a.m. on Thursday they had reopened their doors and were serving customers.

Bell said they were waiting for people to really get back into the flow of things.

### COMMISSIONER DARRYL A. SMALLS, PE



It's Boss's Day, and your territorial staff at the **Department of Public Works** find it fitting to publicly express our love, deep sense of gratitude and our appreciation of your exceptional qualities. Furthermore, we also want to commend and tell you what your leadership means to us. It simply means that:

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- You are approachable and maintain an excellent sense of rapport, humor and fun with your staff.
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- You remain a person of unimpeachable integrity.

With all these fine qualities under your belt, no wonder we unanimously wish you "**Happy Boss's Day**" and hope you enjoy your special day.

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### ANNOUNCES

that, due to the imminent arrival of Omar, the St. Croix Chamber of Commerce After-Hours Event

## Oktoberfest

has a NEW Date and Day:

Wednesday, October 22

5:30 ~ 8:00 pm

Raffle Drawings • Entertainment  
Catered by Salud Bistro • Chamber Cash Bar

At our showroom:

4040 La Grande Princesse, Christiansted, St. Croix

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