



Key West Community Services crews worked hard at the Truman Waterfront, moving forward with the necessary water lines to keep the future green space green. Already, they've mulched and sodded a large area under the huge banyan tree at the entrance where a park bench offers a shady place to rest. More park furniture will be added as the park progresses.

The City Commission and its Truman Waterfront Advisory Board recently approved moving forward with creating the park area on the parcel of land that was excessed by the Navy and transferred to the City as part of the 1998 Base Reuse Act.

In the photo: Brandon Druckemiller, Richie Pazo, Lars Pedersen.



View from the Top

Public service is an honorable profession. At times we can find ourselves presented with opportunities that may appear to be an appropriate recognition of our position or a reward for our public service. As public servants I would like to remind all who work for the City of Key West that we have a responsibility for adhering to ethical standards that are clearly spelled out in our city policy's code of conduct. Please take time to review the importance of these standards in the context of upholding the public trust.



As public servants, each of us employed with the City or elected by the citizenry has a clear responsibility to behave honorably and to be accountable for all that we do, both on the clock and off. As public servants, we cannot accept gifts or special services that are not generally available to everyone in the community. If an offer or a situation seems questionable, take the high road. And always remember when you're out and about in the community, that you represent the City, you work for the taxpayers, and wear that badge honorably. Many times an offer of a deep discount or "complementary" tickets to an event is offered as a kind gesture in recognition for our hard work. However, as a public servant, it is not appropriate to accept. Thank the person making the offer and politely decline. It will prevent any perception of, or any real improper action by a public servant.

Finally, as the City staff prepares to transition into new leadership this summer, it's vital to remember that we must continue on our mission to serve the public health, safety and welfare. Continue to work with the professionalism that has earned and maintained that confidence and respect of our community. I am certain Key West will continue to set the example for all of Monroe County. Thanks!

CITY OF KEY WEST

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Questions? Comments?

If you have information for the next City newsletter or would like to see something added to the publication, please contact Communications Manager Alyson Crean at acrean@keywestcity.com. This newsletter is a publication of the City of Key West.

Employee Service Awards

The City of Key West has a hard-working and dedicated group of people whose service ensures city residents and visitors a clean, safe community. The following City staff hit some important milestones in the months of March and April:



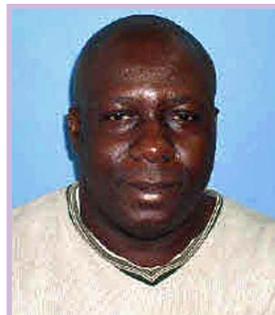
Brian Dunlap
Driver/Engineer
Key West Fire Dept
4/8/87
25 years



Carolyn Walker
Chief Licensing Official
Building
4/22/87
25 years



Sean Brandenburg
Sergeant
Key West Police Dept
4/1/02
10 years



Renel Nelson
Bus Driver
Key West DOT
3/5/07
5 years



Ricardo Rojas
Parking Enforcement
Supervisor
3/28/07
5 years



Andy Harris
Fireman
Key West Fire Dept
4/10/07
5 years



Rogelio Hernandez
Asst. Transit Supervisor
Key West DOT
4/16/07
5 years



Frank Duponty
Detective
Key West Police Dept
4/23/07
5 years



Charles Burns
Maintenance Worker II
Key West Bight
4/25/07
5 years

Dedicated Employee Retires



After 29 years poolside, P. Lee Thompson is retiring. The Pool Facilities Supervisor at the newly renovated Martin Luther King Jr. Community Pool says it was a hard decision, but that it's time.

Thompson started as a volunteer with the summer swim program. When a position opened up in 1983, she took it and has worked at the pool ever since.

At the end of March, Community Services Director Greg Veliz awarded her a plaque in honor of the many years she's served the City during a small staff luncheon -also appropriately poolside.

"Today it's rare to see anyone who takes on this level of commitment," Veliz said, "and to find someone who leaves their stamp on a facility the way she's left her stamp on this facility. We will miss her."

Police Chief Names Officer and Civilian of the Year



Key West Police Chief Donie Lee is proud to announce that Officer Bradley Lariz has been named the Officer of the Year for 2011.

Officer Lariz has served with dedication and a true commitment to the community since he started as a patrol officer in 2002. His outstanding level of service has been reflected over the years by other recognitions for his work ethos. He has twice been the recipient of a Unit Commendation when he worked in the Special Operations Unit. He has also been honored by a Chief's Commendation for his work to curtail drug operations in Key West.

Recognition for his fine work also pours from the neighborhood in which he works. Officer Lariz has become an integral part of Bahama Village and, over the years, the residents have continued to praise him for his hard work and dedication to the community. During Thursday's awards ceremony, Chief Lee noted that Officer continually goes above and beyond in his dedication and professionalism.

Officer Lariz has honed his skills through the years with special training classes. He has served in Special Operations, patrol, and as a bicycle officer. He has distin-

guished himself by holding fast to the Department's core values of Respect, Integrity, Fairness and Service. He embodies the ideal of true community policing, always going that extra step.

Chief Donie Lee also announced that Jean Zeman has been named Civilian Employee of the Year for 2011. Zeman started with the Key West Police Department in May of 2010 as a telecommunicator, and in September of that year transferred to property and evidence where she serves with dedication and enthusiasm.

Zeman's incredible ability to deal with the public in a variety of situations likely stems from the 37 years she worked as a flight attendant. She is a graduate of the Key West Ambassadors class and was named Zonta Woman of the Year in 2005. The North Carolina native works well with her colleagues as well as the public. Chief Lee noted in an awards ceremony Thursday, that Zeman has always gone the extra mile, including her voluntary involvement in many civic charity events.

Along with a plaque, both were presented with a check by Scott Duszynski, the chief financial officer for Keys Federal Credit Union, the sponsors of the award.



City Honors Outstanding Students



Kennedy Brester, Natalie Castaldo, Kelly Rosch, Tabitha Cervantes and Shelbi Swanson are presented plaques by Key West Mayor Craig Cates.

Key West Mayor Craig Cates, during Tuesday's City Commission meeting, honored several of the city's most promising young citizens.

Kennedy Brester received the Key West High School Outstanding Achievement/Unsung Hero Award. As a military dependent, she has traveled across the United States and Europe, attending nine different schools. Despite the transitions, she has adjusted quickly, welcoming cultural diversity and new friendships. She studies theater, art and music, and gymnastics. Additionally, she is a volunteer mentor to younger students. Kennedy is an honor roll student and a member of the KWHS Competition Cheerleading Squad. She plans to attend college with the desire to become a pilot in the U.S. Air Force and aspires to attend NASA's Astronaut Training Program.

Natalie Castaldo received the Key West High School for Excellence in the Visual, Performing, and Vocational Arts. An impressive dancer, actor and singer, Natalie has performed in over twenty Keys Kids Productions. She sings with the Mistys and the select choir and her beautiful singing voice earned her a coveted spot on the All-State Girls' Choir. She is the co-captain of the KWHS Conchettes and performed with them at the Cotton Bowl. She maintains a straight A average in a rigorous academic schedule. Natalie plans to pursue musical theater in college with the hope of one day making it to Broadway.

Kelly Rosch is the winner of the Key West High School for Excellence in the Visual, Performing, and Vocational Arts award. Music has been a central part of Kelly's life since she was in the 6th grade. She has taken lessons with Ken Fradley, a Broadway lead trumpet player, marched with the Coates Brass Band in the New York City St. Patrick's Day parade and performs often with local groups. Kelly has retained first chair in both the Wind Ensemble and Jazz bands at KWHS for the past two years. In her role as head music librarian at KWHS, she has utilized unprecedented leadership skills as she has taken on the daunting task of managing and restoring a 70 year old collection of sheet music valued at more than \$100,000.00. In addition, she maintains a 4.5 weighted grade point average in a most rigorous curriculum.

Following her studies in college, Kelly aims to teach at the university level while performing on the weekends.

Tabitha Cervantes received the Key West High School Academic Excellence Award. Born and raised in Key West, she maintains a rigid academic schedule of Honors and Advanced Placement classes. Tabitha balances a part-time job, academics and her extra-curricular activities of French club, Beta club and Varsity Cheerleading. Tabitha hopes to attend FSU following her graduation from high school and eventually study in France. The City of Key West is honored to have a student of such caliber and dedication as part of our community.

Shelbi Swanson is the winner of the Key West High School Academic Excellence Award. This well rounded, exemplary student maintains a weighted 4.2 GPA in a schedule of Dual Enrollment, Advanced Placement and Honors courses. She loves sports, the arts and school. She plays varsity volleyball, sings in the all-girls performing choir, the Mistys, is a member of the Art Honor Society for drawing and painting, is involved in academic and community service clubs at KWHS and also holds a part-time job. As a student ambassador, Shelbi traveled to South Africa for five weeks last summer to teach English and during spring break she visited Haiti on a humanitarian trip with Key West's "Art for the World" program. After graduating from high school, Shelbi aspires to earn a degree from a Florida university and pursue a graduate degree outside the state with the hopes of studying abroad.

The City of Key West is honored to have students of such caliber and dedication as part of our community.



Key West Sewer and Wastewater Efforts Win Award



The City of Key West, in its efforts with CH2M Hill/OMI, has earned a top state honor for its sewer and stormwater utilities: the Florida Water Environment Association's 2012 Operational Performance Excellence Award. This top honor is an important recognition of a clean and efficient sewer and stormwater system that assures Key West's nearshore waters are clean and protected.

"Key West is known for its waters," said Utilities Manager Jay Gewin. "This City is proud to be recognized for the long-term dedication it has to installing wastewater and stormwater utilities that protect those waters."

The Operational Performance Excellence Award showcases the City and its partner CH2M Hill/OMI as a leader in wastewater and stormwater management by an organization committed to preserving and enhancing the global water environment. The award will be presented on May 1st at the Florida Water Resources Conference in Orlando.

In the attached photo: CH2M Hill/OMI workers Bob Fiorile, Marlon Lyons and Ernesto Balsouto clear out one of the storm drains in the city. These closed systems trap water and debris that runs off the roadways, keeping pollution out of the nearshore waters. Crews circulate throughout the city, cleaning the drains so that they remain 100 percent efficient. This is just part of what earned the City and its partner recognition for performance excellence.

15 Year of Service in the Keys for the Boys and Girls Club!

Mayor Craig Cates, during the April City Commission meeting, proclaimed April 15-23rd as Boys and Girls Club Week in honor of the organization's 15th year of service to the Keys.

The Boys and Girls Clubs of the Keys area provides services to more than 400 young people annually. The program is at the forefront in staving off substance abuse, helping with academic tutoring and providing vital life skills. It ensures that our youth have access to cultural enrichment, recreation, day-care and literacy programs.

In the attached photo, Executive Director Dan Dombrowski is joined at the podium with a handful of the more than 400 kids who are active in the Boys and Girls Club. The kids handed out recyclable shopping bags to the commissioners to commemorate the week.

