

KEY WEST POLICE DEPARTMENT

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Protecting Paradise

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Happy Holidays from the KWPD!

The Key West Police Department would like to wish everyone a happy and healthy holiday season. Members of the department have spent the past month getting in the holiday spirit by volunteering at the city's Holiday Parade and attending the city's annual Christmas Party. Clockwise from top left: Administrative Coordinator Crystal Bravo and Assistant to the Chief Brittany McGaughan-Shirley; Property & Evidence Technician Angie Rodriguez with the KWPD's Santa's helpers; Santa and Mrs. Claus with their helpers; Det. Randy Smith and Lt. Kathleen Ream; Captain Frank Sauer and his wife Rosanne, Chief Bill Mauldin and his wife Terri.



KWPD ends another great year

KEY WEST — As 2007 comes to an end, the Key West Police Department would like to take a brief moment to look back on the many successes the department and its members had throughout the year.

The Special Operations Unit set the bar pretty high when it started 2007 with the largest warrant sweep it has ever conducted on the island.

Operation Clear the Block was the culmination of three months of undercover work in which detectives gathered intelligence on several suspects and conducted numerous drug buys around town. In total, Special Ops obtained 51 warrants for charges ranging from the sale of marijuana to selling crack cocaine.

Shortly after that bust, the department created its Special Operations Tactical Unit, a group of road patrol officers who are specially trained to aid Special Ops in certain maneuvers and scenarios.

Since its inception in late February, SOTU has proved invaluable in several drug operations and continues to be deployed as needed.

In March the department handled another year's Spring Break activities. Though officers were busy, many reported a drastic reduction in disorderly activity this year. Overall, police arrested 60 people during Spring Break 2007, with

15 of those being for disorderly conduct. Thirty four of them were Marchman Acts.

In April, numerous members of the department participated in the 2007 Law Enforcement Torch Run for Special Olympics. The run is an annual event to show law enforcement's support of and to raise awareness for the Special Olympics.

Weeks later, the police department's Honor Guard had its time in the spotlight as it served as the primary ceremonial Honor Guard for the Florida Fraternal Order of Police Memorial Service in Tallahassee. The Honor Guard performed admirably and represented the city well in the state ceremony.

Also in May, Chief Bill Mauldin instated a department-wide CompStat program. CompStat, a program originally launched in New York City, is a system used to ensure quality throughout the department by tracking and improving effectiveness and efficiency.

Its format keeps people accountable for their work and their employees, and has served the department well so far, opening up paths of communication and relaying important information in a timely manner.

In June the department really came together, first to raise money for Ofc. Tommy Anglin, who was battling cancer, and then to celebrate all

its hard work at the Second Annual Policeman's Ball.

Ofc. Anglin's benefit raised \$16,000 for the K-9 officer, who only recently returned to active duty after having battled cancer for many months, his second brush with the disease since 2003.

In July, the department's detectives had the unfortunate job of having to handle a case involving the rape of a 72-year-old woman.

Showing their worth, the detectives arrested Antonio Chapman, 26, within 11 hours of the heinous offense, charging him with aggravated battery on a person over 65 years old, false imprisonment and sexual battery.

August saw the creation of the department's Youth Division, a proac-

tive move by Chief Mauldin to address local juvenile crime and its causes. The department is partnering with the Florida Department of Juvenile Justice on this effort, and the division has already handled several juvenile cases.

In September, the department launched an anti-burglary initiative in response to an increased number of break-ins in the Casa Marina area.

Through high-profile patrols and with the help of the residents, who were asked to always lock their doors and to report any suspicious activity, police arrested two known burglars shortly after that rash of break-ins started.

In October the department handled another year's Fantasy Fest, reporting that this year

was busier than recent years, and that the crowd was rowdier than usual.

In November, officers were busy with an increased number of calls for service marking the start of season in town.

Now in December, the department is gearing up for a successful holiday season and New Year's Eve in Key West.

"I want to thank everyone for the wonderful work they do every day for this city," said Chief Mauldin. "This year has been a monumental one in terms of the new programs we've started and the way we've really come together as a department.

"I want to wish everyone a happy and healthy holiday season, and I look forward to the opportunities the new year holds." □



Congratulations Carter

Ofc. Carter Sims and his wife Riella welcomed their daughter Kallisto Danae into the world on Oct. 29, 2007. Kallisto is Greek for "one who is most beautiful" and Danae was the mother of Perseus in Greek mythology. Both mother and daughter are doing well, and Ofc. Sims is a little overwhelmed with fatherhood, but couldn't be happier.