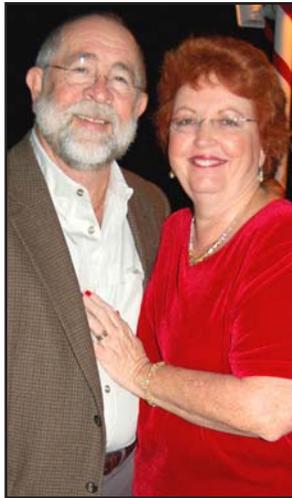




December 2007



## VIEW FROM THE TOP

Happy Holidays! As you can tell by all the pictures in this month's newsletter, the City of Key West has been busy celebrating the holiday season, starting with the annual Christmas Tree Lighting Ceremony at the end of November and working our way through the City Holiday Parade and the Children's Holiday Festival.



**City Manager  
Jim Scholl**

I want to thank everyone who volunteered their time to make all of this year's holiday events a success. The city celebrated its hard-working employees at this year's employee Holiday Party at the Westin, which was well attended. The party gave me the chance to show my appreciation for everyone who helps this city run as well as it does.

As we all take time to celebrate the season with loved ones, I would like to take this opportunity to remind everyone to make safety a priority. Many of you will be traveling out of town to visit relatives and friends, so please be vigilant in staying safe so that we can all move forward into the new year together.

I look forward to working with each and every one of you in 2008. The new year holds a lot of promise for the City of Key West, and I am proud of the direction in which we are going and the steps we are taking daily to make this both a better city in which to live and work.

Enjoy the holidays, and I will see you in all in the new year. □

## Happy Holidays!

The City of Key West recently hosted its annual City Holiday Party, to great success. Pictured clockwise from top: Commissioners Mark Rossi and Dan Kolhage, Assistant to the City Manager Portia Navarro and Commissioner Bill Verge; Port Operations Director Raymond Archer and his wife Barbara; firefighters Jake Perry and Greg Bringle; Assistant City Manager John Jones and his wife Ruth Rose; Assistant to the City Manager Melissa Larmel, Mayor Morgan McPherson and Assistant to the Mayor Vivian Perez.



# 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 Christie Phillips at [cphillip@keywestcity.com](mailto:cphillip@keywestcity.com). This newsletter is a publication of the City of Key West.



 Pictured clockwise from top left: Transit Supervisor Eduardo Herrera and Computer Systems Support Analyst Ryan Salazar; City Engineer Roland Flowers and his wife Kimberly; Valerena Candy and Environmental Programs Manager Annalise Mannix; Deputy Director of Community Services Greg Veliz and his wife Teri; Trish Gibson, City Clerk Cheri Smith and Senior Deputy City Clerk Sue Harrison.





The City's Holiday Parade was a success this year, thanks in part to the hard work spent planning and coordinating the event. Pictured at top are the parade planners and monitors, from left, City Clerk Cheri Smith, Assistant to the Mayor Vivian Perez, HR Administrator Stephanie Johnson, Executive Assistant to the City Manager Maria Ratcliff and Assistant to the City Manager Melissa Larmel. At right, Mayor Morgan McPherson. Below right, Commissioner Clayton Lopez. Below left, Marine Patrol Sgt. Robert Allen and General Services Administrative Aide Jay Gewin.



# JANUARY BIRTHDAYS

- Carter Sims - Police Department - Jan. 1
- Dedrick Bethea - Key West Bight - Jan. 2
- Gregory Bringle - Fire Department - Jan. 2
- Jake Perry - Fire Department - Jan. 2
- Marie Hoddinott - Transfer Station - Jan. 4
- Abraham Baker - Public Works - Jan. 5
- Tammy Briggs - Engineering Services - Jan. 5
- Sue Snider - Finance - Jan. 5
- Marcus Delvalle - Fire Department - Jan. 7
- Jean Ducasse - Garisson Bight - Jan. 7
- Jay Gewin - General Services - Jan. 7
- Dan Jones - Police Department - Jan. 8
- Donald Downing - Transportation - Jan. 10
- Jerry Farrell - Public Works - Jan. 10
- Alvin Scott - Transportation - Jan. 11
- Helen Baer - Mallory Square - Jan. 13
- Meghan Baker - Planning - Jan. 13
- Stephanie Lake - Police Department - Jan. 13
- Mark Rauken - Police Department - Jan. 13
- Kia Perri Scott - Parks & Rec - Jan. 13
- Roberto Llagostero - Parks & Rec - Jan. 14
- Thomas Bliss - Public Works - Jan. 16
- Doris Daniel - Building - Jan. 16
- Rosemary Ganem - Key West Bight - Jan. 16
- William Roberts - Transportation - Jan. 16
- Gilbert Noda - Parks & Rec - Jan. 18
- Diane Nicklaus - Building - Jan. 19
- Fred Ball - Transfer Station - Jan. 21
- Keith Valdez - Parks & Rec - Jan. 21
- Edward Harry - Transportation - Jan. 22
- Auguste Joseph - Police Department - Jan. 22
- Jean Metellus - Public Works - Jan. 22
- Janet Muccino - Engineering Services - Jan. 23
- Ian Willis - IT - Jan. 23
- Richard Pazo - Project Construction - Jan. 24
- Margaret Cook - Transportation - Jan. 25
- Greg Gerez - Fire Department - Jan. 25
- Greg Schemer - Police Department - Jan. 26
- Brian Dunlap - Fire Department - Jan. 27
- Omar Garcia - Fire Department - Jan. 27
- Janeth Del Cid - Police Department - Jan. 27
- Damell Sealey - Police Department - Jan. 27
- Elaney Vestal - Police Department - Jan. 28
- Stewart Andrews - Fire Department - Jan. 29
- Jimmy Lamberson - Garage - Jan. 29
- Crystal Bravo - Police Department - Jan. 30
- Vivian Perez - Mayor's Office - Jan. 30
- Valot Delius - Parks & Rec - Jan. 31
- Jessica Pita - Key West Bight - Jan. 31
- Randall Smith - Police Department - Jan. 31

# DECEMBER SERVICE AWARDS

Robert Allen - Police Department  
20 years of service

Dave White - IT  
5 years of service

# PUBLIC MEETINGS JANUARY 2008

Jan. 2: City Commission  
Old City Hall, 6 p.m.

Jan. 7: Community Housing  
Committee  
City Hall, 5:30 p.m.

Jan. 14: Clean Key West Task Force  
City Hall, 12 p.m.

Jan. 15: City Commission  
Old City Hall, 6 p.m.

Jan. 22: Community Housing  
Committee  
City Hall, 5:30 p.m.

## Co-workers show their support



Executive Assistant to the City Manager Maria Ratcliff, center, holds the gingerbread house that was auctioned off during a bake sale to raise money for her upcoming surgery. Pictured with her are the high bidders who donated nearly \$1,000 altogether.

Executive Assistant to the City Manager Maria Ratcliff, who has served the city in that position for nine years, was diagnosed with kidney failure in February of 2006. Since that day she has been on routine dialysis, going through three-hour sessions three times a week just to stay healthy.

A few months ago, Maria found out that her brother Jaime Garcia was a good match for a kidney donation, and after much consideration and weighing all the options, he offered to donate one of his kidneys to his sister.

The surgery was set for October 25, 2007. On October 22, the city's Building Department hosted a bake sale to raise money for Maria and her family for expenses related to the upcoming surgery. What followed was an outpouring of support for a woman who is always there to help her coworkers and her city.

Members of many departments contributed baked goods and members from almost every city office stopped by throughout the day to make a purchase or donation.

Things got even more fun when Fire

Department Division Chief of Operations Mike Karash and his wife contributed several plates of baked goods, including a gingerbread haunted house. A bidding war was started between Fire Marshal Pat Pelletier and Information Technology Director Patti McLaughlin, and the gingerbread house ended up selling for nearly \$1,000 contributed by Patti, Port Project Manager Doug Bradshaw, Network Analyst Ryan Condella and the Fire Fighters Union.

That money, added to the rest of the bake sale, totaled \$2,300 for Maria and her family.

Unfortunately, Maria received bad news two days later, when doctors found blood in her brother's urine during routine pre-surgery tests. The surgery was immediately canceled while her brother underwent more tests.

With that setback, Maria is now on the national list for a cadaver kidney and is hopeful she will get a call soon that there is one available for her. In the meantime, she would like to thank her fellow employees for all their support and prayers during this difficult setback. □

