



March 2008

Animal lover donates doggie oxygen masks

An animal lover donated critical animal life saving medical equipment to the Key West Fire Department this week for use during animal rescue calls.

The local, who wished to remain anonymous, gave the fire department four Animal Oxygen Recovery Mask Sets, which include masks that deliver oxygen to animals that are sick, injured or exposed to smoke in fires.

The specially designed oxygen masks compliment the department's supply of human oxygen masks, and greatly increase fire fighters' abilities to aid injured animals. Each kit contains a small, medium and large mask for use on different-sized animals. The

masks are reusable after they are disinfected.

"This is the second time in two weeks that anonymous donors have offered their support to our department," Fire Division Chief of Operations Mike Karash said. "Last week it was cash to purchase additional safety equipment for our fire fighters, and this week, life saving medical equipment for animal rescue calls.

"The ability to help our animal companions in their time of need is yet another source of satisfaction and pride for our department. In this difficult budget year, it is the generosity of private donors that make this possible." □



Fire Fighter Danny Galvan and Administrative Coordinator Molly Sawyer display the animal rescue masks along with a picture of the KWFD's beloved former mascot Jenny.

VIEW FROM THE TOP

Spring is here! Another season of winter visitors is drawing to a close. This is a good time to think ahead to the next season that requires attention, Hurricane Season. June 1st will be here before we know it so it is definitely time to get prepared. Craig Marston



City Manager Jim Scholl

will meet with representatives from every department to make sure the city's destructive weather plan is updated and complete.

But getting the city ready is only part of the preparation. Every person who lives in the Keys also must have a personal and/or family hurricane plan. If your job requires you to stay behind during an evacuation, a solid, unambiguous plan for your family is the only way you can personally be ready to do your job as an essential team member during a destructive weather event. If a general evacuation is ordered, the only safe option for everyone **not required** to stay behind is to leave the Keys for a safe haven on the mainland.

Everyone in the Keys needs to review all the options for evacuation. Mainland shelters, friends or relatives with room for temporary guests and hotels are all options to consider. And don't forget the pets! Many hotels are pet friendly, but you need to plan ahead for this too.

Being ready is easy if you plan ahead. It is very difficult if it is at the last minute, the house is not shuttered, the car is out of fuel, prescription medication supplies are low, and now you decide to go...

Be smart and plan ahead!

CITY OF KEY WEST

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City Manager
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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. This newsletter is a publication of the City of Key West.

Nine Fire Fighters pass promotional exam

Of the 10 Key West fire fighters who took promotional exams last month, nine passed and are now eligible to fill in as acting supervisors and drivers when the department is shorthanded.

The passing grade also makes them eligible to advance to the next step in their career within the Fire Department, should positions become available in their fields of expertise.

“The tests for promotion are professionally prepared for the Civil Service Board by an outside contractor,” explained Fire Division Chief of Operations Mike Karash. “They are extensive, and are prepared from a broad list of the most current editions of nationally recognized Fire Service Training textbooks.

“Passing the exam is an accomplishment that deserves great pride, respect and recognition.”

Greg Bringle, Jon Catena, Raul Franco, Benjamin Lowe and Ed Perez passed the Driver/Engineer exam on February 13, 2008.

Michael Budde, Joseph Hughes,

Jorge Galvan and Robert Malone passed the exam for Captain.

The test scores will be ratified and made official at the next Civil Service Board meeting, scheduled to be held in April.

“These tests are important for the department because they demonstrate a great knowledge of fire fighting practices,” Division Chief Karash said. “These nine fire fighters studied hard, and have demonstrated proficiency in the knowledge that is required to fulfill the duties of the next rank.”

Karash explained that the more people trained to do advanced jobs within the department, the better it is for the community.

“When a person is needed to fill that next rank up on a shift for a duty day, these qualifying candidates now have the ability to fill in as Acting Captain or Acting Driver/Engineer.

Overall, the more people we have trained at higher levels, the greater our capabilities as a department, which in turn allows up to provide a higher level of service to the community.” □

Revenue's Sharon Allen retires after 30 years

Donning in a purple tiara, Sharon Allen celebrated her retirement last month after 30 years serving the City of Key West.

Sharon started with the city as a Clerk Typist in the Finance Office in 1978. She was promoted to her role as Revenue Supervisor in 1983 and served in that position until her retirement last month.

Sharon said she is looking forward to traveling with family and friends before returning to Key West to spend some quiet time with her dog.



New bus to be added to fleet next month

The City of Key West Department of Transportation is pleased to announce plans to add a third shuttle bus route in the Lower Keys area no later than May 1, 2008.



Department of Transportation office at 627 Palm Avenue, as well as on all city buses.

The department recently imparted a minor schedule adjustment to

the Lower Keys Shuttle bus service in an effort to improve service to its customers.

The revision is necessary to allow adequate time for driver changes and vehicle fueling in Key West and Marathon.

Current revised schedules will indicate a revision date of February 2008 at the bottom of the front panel.

For more information, call the Department of Transportation at 305-809-3910. □

The additional bus will enhance time and frequency of service levels in the Key West and Big Pine Key area.

This added route will operate as an additional commuter bus service, running on a Monday through Friday schedule. Expected hours of operation are tentatively set as 5:45 a.m. until 8 p.m.

Revised Lower Keys bus route schedules are available on the city's website at www.keywestcity.com or at the

City General Employee Pension

The following information is printed to keep city employees informed on current pension statistics and figures and will be provided quarterly as the information becomes available.

Total Return Summary, Quarter Ending Dec. 31, 2007

	<i>Current Year</i>	<i>One Year</i>	<i>Five Years</i>
<i>Starting Value</i>	\$35,080,245	\$31,701,660	\$18,403,057
<i>Ending Value</i>	\$34,933,265	\$34,933,265	\$34,933,265
<i>Difference</i>	(\$146,981)	\$3,231,605	\$16,530,208
<i>Net Contributions/(Withdrawals)</i>	\$163,528	\$583,953	\$2,136,961
<i>Gain/(Loss) from Investments</i>	(\$310,508)	\$2,647,652	\$14,393,247

Total Return	-0.88%	8.30%	74.57%
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Annualized Total Return	11.79%
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APRIL

BIRTHDAYS

Jean Luc Prophete - Public Works - April 1
 Kathryn Watts - Internal Auditor - April 2
 Myra Wittenberg - Transportation Dept. - April 2
 Avery Gardner - Parks & Rec - April 3
 Saintfort Hyppolite - Public Works - April 4
 Scott Standerwick - Police Department - April 5
 John Woodson - Building Department - April 5
 Jean Eugene - Police Department - April 6
 Charmette Valdez - Police Department - April 6
 Christie Phillips - City Manager's Office - April 7
 Derwood Stewart - Building - April 7
 David Simons - Police Department - April 8
 Jose Klepaskis - Parks & Rec - April 9
 Annalise Mannix - Environmental Programs - Apr. 9
 Jim Benkoczy - Police Department - April 10
 Ernest Fernandez - Solid Waste - April 10
 James Brush - Engineering Services - April 11
 Frank Lalama - Police Department - April 12
 Luis Sanchez - Police Department - April 12
 R.B. Havens - Public Works - April 13
 Alina Soros - Risk Management - April 13
 Rachel Black - Police Department - April 14
 Karen Olson - Engineering Services - April 15
 Allison Shaw - Engineering Services - April 15
 Victor Zapata - Transportation Dept. - April 15
 Robert Allen - Police Department - April 17
 Areaka Jewell - Police Department - April 17
 Eric Biskup - Police Department - April 21
 Randy Sterling - Parks & Rec - April 21
 Humberto Bustillo - Ferry Terminal - April 22
 Benjamin Gibson - Transportation Dept. - April 22
 Mabel Sanchez - Public Works - April 22
 Tara Smith - Police Department - April 23
 Ashley Clevenger - Police Department - April 24
 Christine Coker - Police Department - April 25
 Mayquel Otero - Public Works - April 25
 Kim Pita - Building - April 25
 Tamie Wood - Police Department - April 25
 Frank Betz - Police Department - April 27
 Jean Cine - Mallory Square - April 28
 Acacia Johnson - Key West Bight - April 28
 Christopher Garry - Project Construction - April 29
 Sarah Goodwin - Park & Rec - April 29
 David Ray - Building Department - April 29

City management to be restructured next month

MARCH SERVICE AWARDS

Marcus Delvalle - Shift Commander, Fire Department
25 years of service

William Stafford - Supervisor, Frederick Douglass Gym
15 years of service

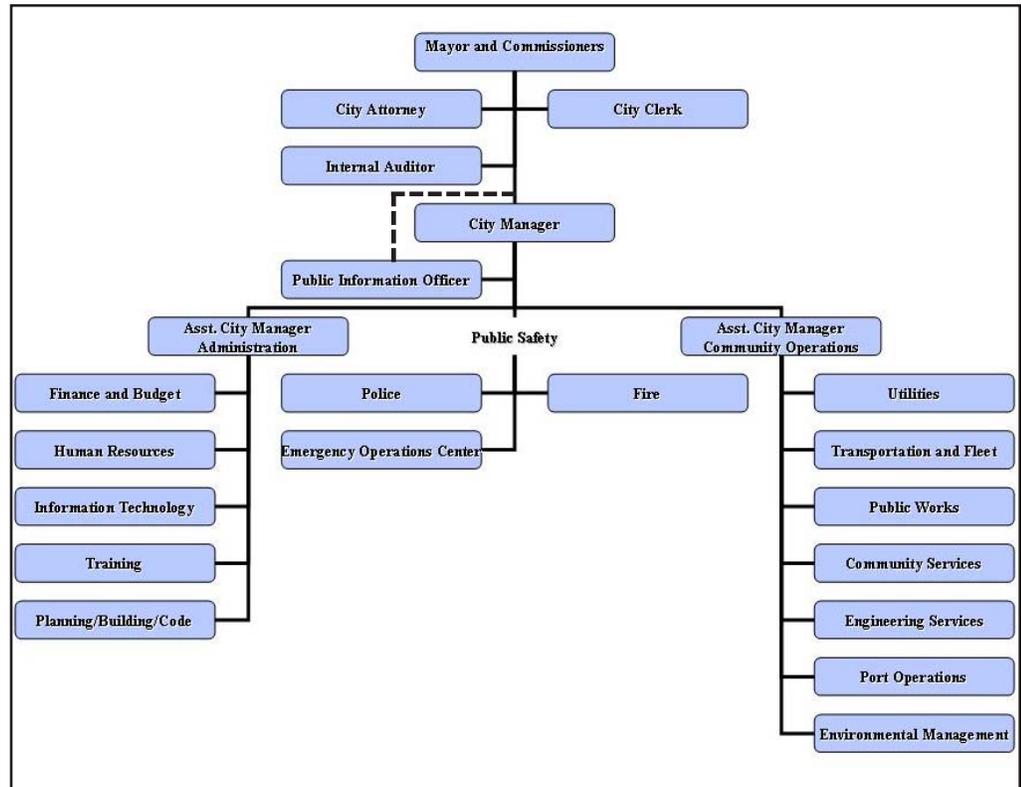
Charles Major - Coordinator, Parks & Rec
15 years of service

William Sykes - Lead Mechanic, Department of Transportation
5 years of service

Arthur Perkins - Fire Fighter
5 years of service

St. Tilien Louis - Groundskeeper, Department of Transportation
5 years of service

Joe April - Engineering Director
5 years of service



As current Assistant City Manager John Jones prepares to retire, effective at the end of April, City Manager Jim Scholl was tasked with finding an apt replacement for the man who has spent the past 14.5 years dealing with a variety of city issues.

With the blessing of the City Commission, City Manager Scholl has announced that he will be hiring two Assistant City Managers to fill the vacant slot.

“It just makes more sense to have the city set up with two different branches, one focused on the administrative side of running a city and the other focusing on the outreach programs and services that we offer the citizens,” City Manager Scholl said.

In keeping with that thinking, City Manager Scholl has chosen Asst. City Manager candidate Mark Finnegan to serve as the Administrative Asst. City Manager, and he has proposed promoting current General Services Director David Fernandez to the position of Community Operations Asst. City Manager.

Though salaries have not yet been

determined, City Manager Scholl has said that some of the money to fund the extra position can come from the city’s Enterprise Funds and from savings through more efficient use of resources.

“As I see it, this is all about span of control,” City Manager Scholl said. “I believe this organizational change will make the city more effective and efficient, and make us better able to serve the public.

“We often find ourselves in a reactionary mode,” he added. “I am hoping that with this change we will be more able to work proactively on initiatives and planning, and subsequently be better able to guide the future of the city.”

Finnegan is set to start with the city on April 21, 2008, and Fernandez will be promoted at about the same time to execute a smooth transition for the General Services Department. City Manager Scholl has not yet decided who will take over Fernandez’s current position. □