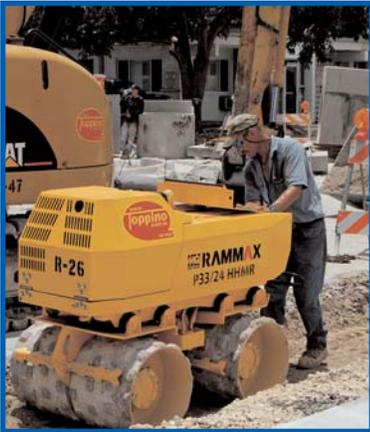




August/September -- 2009

## Flagler Sidewalk Installation Under Way!



Work on Flagler Avenue is rolling along right on schedule, which means the important Key West artery should be reopened by the end of the year.

Motorists are being diverted to Atlantic Blvd. while crews install sidewalks and upgrade crosswalks, signage and paving.

Flagler is currently closed between the intersection at Bertha Avenue to White Street, though residents that live along the corridor are being accommodated.

Part of the project will improve the Bertha/Flagler intersection, making it safer and easier to navigate.

## View From the Top

It's late August. That means several things for the City. First, we are half way into hurricane season. So far so good. But we must keep our guard up and be prepared if a storm decides to develop and cause us to activate our heavy weather emergency management plans. It's perfectly understandable to hope that a storm does not come our way, but it is our collective responsibility to be thoroughly prepared with good response plans in case mother nature does send a storm our way.

Late August also means we in the front office along with all the directors and managers are putting the final details on the proposed budget for next fiscal year. The fiscal 2010 budget must be prepared and adopted by the City Commission for implementation on October 1st. It's been another challenging year to try to balance proposed revenues and expenses. The general fund budget, where the majority of the City's employees receive their salary and benefits, remains the hardest to balance. Why? It is because we use ad valorem (property) tax, which is the largest revenue input to the general fund. It is also

subject to variation after the budget has been adopted. Any shortfalls in tax collection from the budgeted revenue stream causes the City to react by reducing expenditures during the fiscal year to make up the difference in lost revenue. We've worked hard to put together a reasonable budget. Once adopted, the budget execution must be carefully managed to make sure we get the best value for the money we spend.



Autumn is around the corner. School is starting. Football season is upon us. Enjoy this time of year here in Paradise. Please be safe at work and at home. Take the time to remember good safety habits - buckle your seatbelt, drive defensively, if you ride two wheeled transportation, wear a helmet. Trust me, these ounce-of-prevention measures are much better than the pound of cure option...

Thank you again for all that you do to keep our City clean, safe and healthy.

The \$1.044 million project, funded by the Florida Department of Transportation, has been vetted with the neighborhood through a series of community meetings. It's aimed at not only making the region safer for foot traffic, but also enhancing the neighborhood's res-

idential ambiance.

Residents have patiently awaited these changes on this thoroughfare, changes that will help make Key West an even better place to live!

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

# Interns Provide a Helping Hand

Six interns are learning all about the city of Key West from the inside out, and city staffers are grateful for the extra hands. One of those helpers is Arielle Marchan, who is volunteering at the Key West Cemetery sexton's office.

"Arielle has been providing a valuable service in the ongoing task of updating our records," said Jane Newhagen, cemetery archivist.

Marchan will be a senior at Key West High School this year. The internship will provide her with some of the necessary requirements for graduation, since all students must complete 80 hours of volunteer work for graduation.

Gerald Poitier is helping out in the Building Department. He's already graduated from high school, and he plans to attend Florida Keys Community College in January. In the meantime, he said, he is pleased with the experience the internship offers.

Shaquila Ashe is currently a nursing student at FKCC. Her internship gives her experience in the budget and risk management offices.

John Montsalvage will be a junior at Key West High School. He says that his internship in information technology and in the revenue department gives

him experience that could come in handy. However, the baseball star says that sport is his main focus and he hopes it will take him to the University of Florida or Santa Fe.

Janessa Simmons, a student at FKCC is helping out in planning as that department updates the city's land development regulations. Keith McLeod and William Funnye are spending their summer internships outdoors, helping the crews in community services.

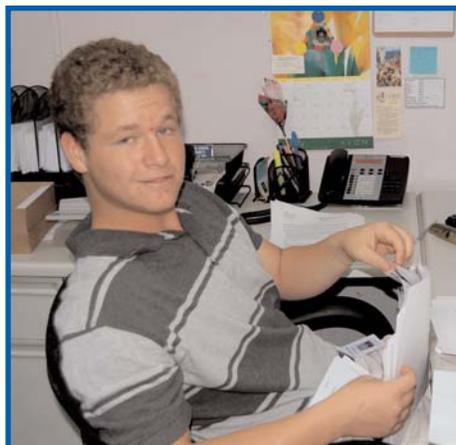
The internships are a program organized by the South Florida Workforce Program, and funded through state grants. Combined, the city will receive 120 hours of service through the program.



Arielle Marchan



Gerald Poitier



John Montsalvage

# PAL Kids Do It All At Camp!

Keys kids are lucky with the number of options available for summer camp, especially considering Key West is a rather small community. One of the fun-filled summer camps is sponsored by the Police Athletic League, or PAL. During the several weeks of summer that the camp convenes, participants enjoy learning about the Key West Police Department. It comes as no surprise that the kids especially love the K9 demonstration and meeting the horses of the Mounted Unit. Camp Coordinator Taz Waters worked hard to assure that the kids had plenty of interesting challenges during their break from school.



Summer campers with the Police Athletic League's Island Life Summer Camp spent a day with the Key West Police Department's Mounted Unit, learning about the extensive care that horses need. They also learned what a wonderful addition the animals are to the community and to the department.



Community Service Aide Angie Rodriguez, Police Chief Donie Lee and Lt. Kathleen Ream answer questions about the equipment used by police officers.

Below: The kids participated in a bicycle rodeo, which helped them learn the rules of the road while perfecting their biking skills.

Nothing like a big messy bowl of spaghetti after a hot beach cleanup! The kids were treated to a tasty lunch at Salute, thanks to the owner, after picking up over 1,000 cigarette butts from the sand of Higg's Beach.



# Recycle Education Goes Door-to-Door



*Mayor Morgan McPherson, Commissioners Teri Johnston, Clayton Lopez and Bill Verge, along with volunteers Christine Russell and Monroe County Mayor emeritus Shirley Freeman all helped clarify volunteer questions with a skit that left everyone laughing.*

Residential recycling rates should climb now that an all-volunteer effort is taking the message door to door. Volunteers are handing out three-part packets that will help convince people just how easy and accessible and smart it is to recycle household goods.

The packets include a hang-tag that you can keep around the house which tells what can and cannot be recycled. It has an information sheet, and a sticker that allows any bin to be transformed into a recycle bin.

One of the most important messages they hope to get out is that Key West's single stream recycling means you can put all your recyclables into one bin. Then its transported to the mainland where state-of-the-art machines sort it all out.

What could be easier!?

## Key West Recycle Rates

2008: **5.7%**

May 2009: **7.75%**

June 2009: **6.91%**

*Rate reports run a month or so behind, but volunteer efforts are expected to help raise these numbers.*

## TELEVISED

## PUBLIC MEETINGS

City Commission: August 4

HARC: August 11

Planning Board: August 20

HARC: August 25

Code Compliance: August 26

City Commission: Sept. 1

HARC: Sept. 8

City Commission: Sept. 15

Planning Board: Sept. 17

HARC: Sept. 22

Code Compliance: Sept. 30

## Potential Firefighters Compete for Position



More than 100 candidates turned out for agility testing in June, vying for just two openings at the Key West Fire Department. Despite the grueling heat, many of the candidates did well, and the positions were filled. New hires Wesley Jones and Andrew Perez are now part of the Key West Fire Department family.