



March 2010

Driver Goes That Extra Mile

Key West bus driver Elizabeth "Margarita" Mann was awarded the City Manager's Extra Mile Award for a quick response which might well have saved the life of one of her passengers.

On Feb. 5, a passenger on board the bus Mann was driving was having trouble breathing.

Not only did this fast-thinking, dedicated driver call for assistance, but she cleared the other riders off the bus in order to make it easier for the medics to get to the distressed passenger. Within seven minutes, Mann had her riders back on the bus and back on the road.

When City Manager Jim Scholl presented the award, Mann accepted it wearing her signature sunglasses because, she said, that's how everyone in the community knows her.

"Elizabeth is the type of bus driver that the public looks forward to seeing each morning as she always has a helpful word and a smile on her face," said Scholl. "She doesn't mind doing those little 'extra' things that make the difference to the passenger."

Mann's quick response to the medical emergency earned a thank you from the passenger's spouse: "A big thank you to Margarita the bus driver who calmly, graciously called in the emergency, cleared the bus, and helped my wife through that awkward time. She truly is a community treasure."



Margarita Mann

KWPD Undergoes Important Assessment

State assessors say they will recommend that the Key West Police Department be reaccredited by the Commission of Florida Law Enforcement Accreditation when the department's reaccreditation comes before them in June.

A team of assessors spent three days in Key West scrutinizing all aspects of the Police Department to ensure that it meets the state's level of best practice standards.

Accreditation is an effective means of retaining a high level of professionalism within a law enforcement agency. It's a voluntary process that allows the department to measure up to a set of standards established by its peers. Though the assessments occur every three years, accreditation is a daily part of every officer's career. It keeps them familiar with the department's policies and ensures the most professional department possible.

Overall, the assessors said they were impressed with the department's level of professionalism. The Key West Police Department has been accredited since 2003 and was reaccredited in 2006. It's due again for reaccreditation.

The assessors were Ana Guerra of the Key Biscayne Police Department, Lt. Rick Hawthorne of the Gulf Breeze Police Department and Deputy Robert Carroll of the Sarasota County Sheriff's Office.

In the photo, the assessors gathered in Chief Donie Lee's office following their on-site assessment. Shown are: Deputy Carroll, KWPD Lt. David Smith, Chief Lee, KWPD Accreditation Manager Areaka Jewell, Guerra and Lt Hawthorne.



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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.



The City of Key West has a surprising small staff in one of its most crucial offices - that of the City Clerk. Three people are able to maintain every vital document connected with city government, in part, because these dedicated women continue to enhance their education on a professional level.

Sue Harrison, the city's senior deputy clerk, recently earned the designation of Certified Municipal Clerk by the International Institute of Municipal Clerks.

This hard-won achievement is bestowed upon municipal clerks who "complete demanding education requirements, and who have a record of significant contributions to their local government, their community and state," according to Institute President Mary Lynne Stratta.

"Your city can take immense pride in Susan's educational accomplishments and achievement of this milestone," Stratta wrote in a letter to City Manager Jim Scholl.



It's a team effort: the City of Key West provides signage and equipment and Waste Management picks up the trash. But the most important part of the equation is the volunteers from the Hyatt who clean up their adopted stretch of beach every month.

This is part of the City's Adopt an Area program one of many efforts to work towards a greener, cleaner community.

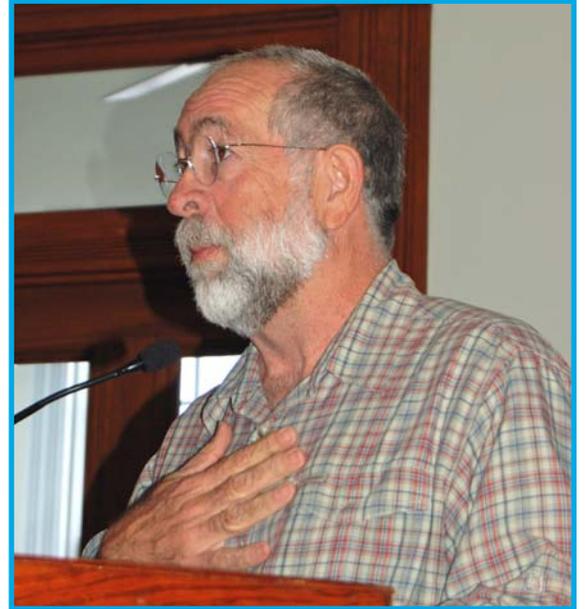
Two Retire After 20 Years of Service

He's seen some significant achievements during his 20 years with city government, but retiring Director of Port Operations Raymond Archer says he's ready to take it easy. Archer's retirement -- and his 20th anniversary with the City - were recognized at the March 16 City Commission meeting. City Manager Jim Scholl presented Archer with a plaque and a gold watch in honor of his service.

Archer has a thorough knowledge of the City, in part because he's overseen several departments over the years. He started in 1990 as the chief building official. Later, he was promoted to deputy director of Engineering and Facilities, then promoted again to director of that department. In 1993, Archer was named director of transportation.

Archer has served as the City's port director since 1998, facing some of the biggest challenges this waterfront town has dealt with, including enhancing security after the September 11 attacks on the World Trade Center and recovering from two severe hurricane seasons back-to-back in 2004 and 2005.

Scholl commended Archer's role in helping Key West's economy by working closely with the cruise ship industry. Under his tireless leadership, said Scholl, Key West has grown into a significant port of call for many cruise lines.



Raymond Archer



Rosemary Ganem

Also recognized during the March 16 meeting was Rosemary Ganem, who received a gold watch and plaque in recognition of her 20 years of service to the city of Key West. She, too, has retired.

Ganem started in 1990 in the Finance Department as an accounting clerk and a payroll clerk. After five years she was promoted to the position of administrative assistant in the Port Operations Department, and was later promoted to Operations Supervisor. She held that title until her final day of work on March 12th.

During her time with the city, she received Employee of the Quarter in April 1992. She worked hard to be a good public servant, and has received countless letters recognizing her friendly dedication.

"Thank you for your dedication to our City and for all of your hard work over your 20 years of service," said Scholl.

Employees Earn Accolades for 20 Years of Service



Lt. Jim Benkoczy

City Manager Jim Scholl presented Key West Police Lt. Jim Benkoczy a gold watch in honor of 20 years of service to the city. Lt. Jim Benkoczy started work with the City of Key West as a code enforcement officer in 1990, and was sworn in as a police officer in 1993.

Among his many commendations over the years, Lt. Benkoczy received the Key West Police Department's Life Saving Award and the City Manager's Extra Mile Award for his role in an operation that nabbed 51 drug dealers in 2004. This year, the Community Foundation of the Florida Keys honored Lt. Benkoczy as one of the community's Unsung Heroes and Volunteer of the Year.

"Lt. Benkoczy has dedicated his career to serving not only the community but his fellow officers," said Scholl, noting that the officer has played a major role in raising money to help fellow officers in dire need.

"Lt. Benkoczy has served the City for 20 years with honor and dedication," said Scholl, "and we are proud to have a man of his caliber as part of our team."

The City of Key West is greener than it was 20 years ago, and one woman has played a large part in that progress. At the March 16 City Commission meeting, City Manager Jim Scholl has the opportunity to thank Annalise Mannix for dedicating the last 20 years to making the city a better place.

Mannix started as a building inspector, and has managed the Engineering Department, Stormwater Utility and now Environmental Programs. Her recent work and endless enthusiasm on climate change issues has drawn together over 100 people to help create plans for the future of our community. She was a driving force in the creation of a four-county South Florida Regional Climate Summit, ensuring our small city is well placed to obtain federal and state funding. Her environmental work has been recognized with awards from ICLEI, Last Stand, and GLEE. Her volunteer corps has saved the City over \$75,000 with clean ups and other community ventures.

"Annalise has helped secure over 50 million dollars in grants for the City of Key West," Scholl noted. "Her work with the Community as Board Member of AYSO Soccer, and FIRM and as a member of GLEE allows the community to witness city staff who give back to their community."



Annalise Mannix

Detective Earns Bachelors Degree -- with Honors -- While Working Full Time

Detective Todd Stevens is celebrating this week, having completed his Bachelors Degree in Criminal Justice with Ashford University.

Det. Stevens, who has been with the Key West Police Department since 2002, worked full time while pursuing his degree. Despite the workload, he was able to graduate with honors and a 3.93 GPA. "It's something I've always wanted to do," said Det. Stevens. "I did this to better myself."

Ashford University is one of the top accredited on-line universities in the nation. Based in Clinton, Iowa, it offers on-line programs in a number of fields, including criminal justice.

But just because it was on-line doesn't mean the work load is any lighter than any other coursework. Det. Stevens notes that he has dedicated his evenings and weekends to school for the last year and a half.

"It's become so routine to write essays over the weekend that I'm not sure what I'll do with myself now," he said.

Channel 77 Meeting Schedule

- April 1 Bahama Village RAC
- April 6 City Commission
- April 13 HARC
- April 15 Planning
- April 27 HARC
- April 28 Code Compliance



Key West Police Officers Joseph Stockton, Gary Celcer, Deglys Chavarria and Matthew Johnson joined forces with several members of the Monroe County Sheriff's Office to undergo training with laser radar devices. Just another way the Key West Police Department is working to keep Key West safe!

First Quarter Budget Reviews Shows Good News for Reserves

Despite difficult financial times, the City of Key West General Fund is holding its own, according to a review of the first quarter of fiscal year 2009-2010, which started in October. There is more cash reserve than the originally anticipated 37 days - enough to sustain the city's general government operations for 60 days. Cost control measures instituted last fiscal year account for the higher reserve days.

Major revenue sources for the General Fund are tracking with revenue projections. State shared revenues, building permit fee revenues and parking revenues are improving slightly after two down years.

The only source of revenue that came in below the budgeted level was the money collected from cruise ships. Though port calls and passenger counts exceeded expectations at Pier B and the Outer Mole, construction at Mallory Square cost the port 15 ships, causing a \$116,000 loss in the first quarter.

In the meantime, City management is working to keep expenditures below their budgeted levels so that, by September, the reserves will be stronger than they are now. Cash reserves are vital if a hurricane affects the city.

For a more detailed summary of the first quarter, go to the City's web site at www.keywestcity.com.