



Class 14 Graduates

More than 20 people joined the ranks of citizens who call themselves Key West City Ambassadors when, in May, Class 14 of the Ambassadors Academy matriculated.

The academy has initiated dozens of interested residents in the processes involved in city government. The program was begun in 2003, and volunteer coordinator Dave Oatway has been coordinating the program since 2006. Oatway says he is grateful for a crew of volunteers who assure the details are accounted for including Lois Songer, Roger McVeigh, Jenny Wolf and Bee Christiansen. Stephen Muffler, executive director of the Citizen Review Board, also provides support and NOAA's Craig Wanous graciously provides classroom space at the Florida Keys Eco Discovery Center.

The class is focused on the concept of building a stronger community through an educated citizenry. The next session will begin in July.



New Look for City Buses

Within the next week or two, residents will notice a whole new look for Key West buses. It may look like an exciting new paint job, but what you'll really be seeing is a cost-saving "wrap" that revitalized the existing buses and saves the city tens of thousands of dollars.

"When we began looking into sprucing up our buses, we were seeing quotes as high as \$12,000 for each bus," said Transportation Manager Myra Wittenberg. "These wraps are bright and beautiful and the cost is only \$2,200 per bus."

About half the fleet is being outfitted with the new look now. The other half will likely be done in the fall.

At right, Myra Wittenberg and DoT Superintendent Ben Gibson show off the colorful new wrap as it nears completion.



CITY OF KEY WEST

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District 4: Barry Gibson

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District 5: Teri Johnston

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District 6: Clayton Lopez

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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 Alyson Crean at acrean@keywestcity.com. This newsletter is a publication of the City of Key West.

Going Paperless



IT staffer John Padron and IT Director Patti McLaughlin (both standing) help (left to right) Mayor Craig Cates, Commissioner Barry Gibson and Commissioner Billy Wardlow get familiar with their new touch-screen agendas.

On May 18, the Key West City Commission took its first few steps toward becoming fully automated. By the June 15 meeting, City Clerk Cheri Smith says the proceedings will be completely paperless, a change that will save thousands of dollars and bring the City a step closer to its environmental goals.

Instead of reviewing each item on the agenda in a gigantic binder full of paper, the Commissioners were able to read the material on line. Each position at the dais is fitted with a touch-screen monitor, and the agenda -- along with all the necessary background for each agenda item - is just a touch away.

According to Smith, an average commission meeting uses about 2,000 sheets of paper. With an average of 21 meetings per year, that's 42,000 sheets annually. And that's just the City Commission. There are numerous other boards and committees that convene at Old City Hall, including the Planning Commission and the Citizen Review Board. And although some of their background packets may be smaller, that means thousands and thousands more sheets of paper are being used each year.

The new system also makes the agendas and background information easier to use for the average citizen. Linked to the city's home page, the new system allows access to all of the background for every item the commission might consider and vote on with just a couple clicks of the mouse.

The goal, says Smith, is to have the City Commission paperless for its June 15 meeting. In the meantime, people are encouraged to take a look at the new system on line. Just click on the "City Commission Legislative Agendas" bullet near the center of the city's home page.

"This new system makes the entire agenda easily accessible," said City Clerk Cheri Smith, "It's much more user-friendly."

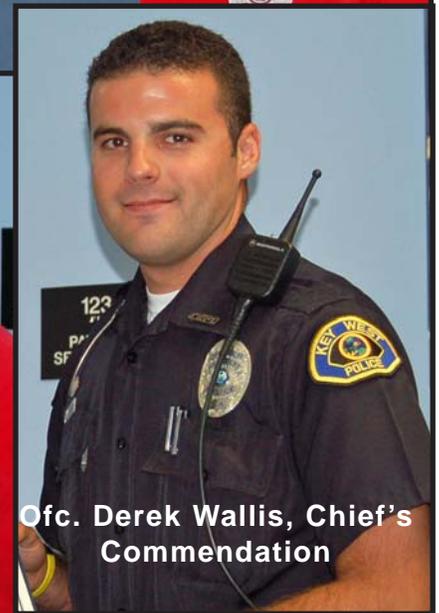
Commendations at the Key West Police Department



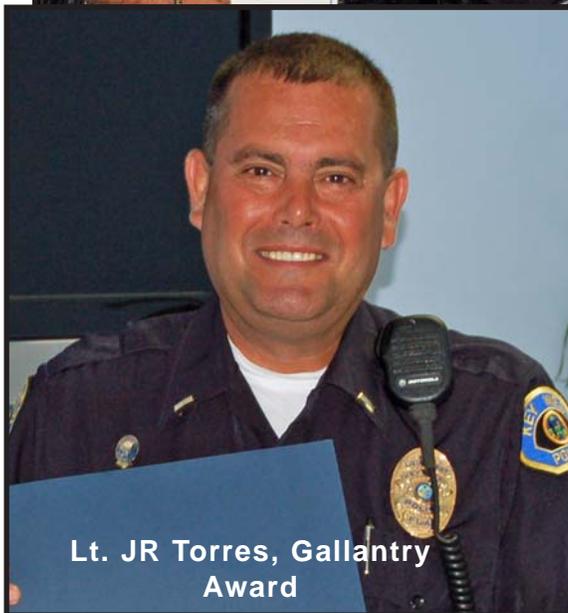
Lt. David Smith and Lt. Alfredo Vasquez
Distinguished Service Awards



Ofc. Wes Barlow, Chief's
Commendation



Ofc. Derek Wallis, Chief's
Commendation



Lt. JR Torres, Gallantry
Award



Ofc. Carter Sims,
Life Saving Award



(left) Amy Pesola, Civilian of 1st Quarter, (right) Sgt. Areaka
Jewell, Officer of 1st Quarter. Sponsored by Dave Taylor,
owner of the Cypress House Guesthouse.

Call for Summer Campers

The thermometer is climbing fast and the school year is diminishing. What better time to make your child's camp plans?

The Key West Police Athletic League is hosting the second PAL Youth Summer Camp starting June 14th and ending Aug. 13th.

The camp is for kids in Kindergarten through 5th grade. The camp cost is \$ 100.00 a week (with sibling discounts) and will be based out of the Key West High School campus.

Some of the activities we are planning for the kids this summer are swimming, gymnastics, field trips, picnics, arts & crafts, movies, sports, music, sing-alongs, dance, reading, games, and making friends.

Space is limited so reserve a spot for your child/children now.

You can fax your completed registration form to the Key West Police Department at 809-1047.

For additional information click on to the Police Athletic League link on the KWPD web page at www.keywestcity.com.



Key West City Commissioner Clayton Lopez awarded Suburban Propane the District VI Good Neighbor Award Tuesday during the May 4th City Commission meeting, and urged his fellow commissioners to recognize some of their constituents for similar efforts.

John Acquaviva accepted the award, which was bestowed for "bringing harmony to the neighborhood's aesthetics along with making a contribution to the city's carbon-neutral goal."



It's a dirty job, but it's got to be done. The city's Public Works department - with the help of some of the trustees at the Monroe County Detention Center - is fixing holes in the liner at the landfill on Stock Island known locally as Mount Trashmore.

The landfill, which has not been used for trash disposal in many years, has a protective plastic liner to ensure no hazardous materials are exposed. The liner, covered with a layer of soil, is giving way in spots, and the only way to repair it is by hand. The crew, armed with shovels, digs down through the top layer to the plastic, puts down a new layer of plastic, then replaces the soil on top.

Officials who routinely monitor the area suspect the holes may have been caused by iguanas that burrow in the soft topsoil.