

City of KEY WEST

July/August 2010

Turtle Hatch

A turtle nest hatched on Smather's Beach during a hot July night, giving a graphic reminder that lights near the beach need to be turtle-safe or off during hatching season. Volunteers spotted about 50 tiny turtle in the bushes, facing lights across South Roosevelt Blvd.

In addition, they found eight turtles in the road - three alive and five dead.

The volunteers went out the next night to release the survivors.

"While we were waiting, a second nest hatched," said Annalise Mannix, the City's environmental programs coordinator and a turtle watch volunteer. "We were lucky enough to watch 101 turtles walk to the water."

It's vital for everyone to help in any way possible to help these wondrous creatures make it to the sea where they can grow up to become part of this delicate, intricate ecosystem.

Make sure lighting and reflective surfaces are not directly visible from the beach. Replace any bulbs that cannot be removed with yellow so-called bug lights. Cover windows so that interior lighting is not visible from the beach. Let's do all we can to be sure these little guys have a fighting chance.



Pourin' the Pave



Bayview Park is on its way to becoming the city's showcase park, and public works crews worked hard to have the most recent upgrade completed before school reconvened. The playground was resurfaced with an innovative new material that combines safety, low maintenance, environmental protection and good looks.

The deep green Flexipave is made of recycled tires. Its spongy consistency provides a protective surface for kids to play on. Water seeps through it instead of forming puddles. And it's easy to clean, keeping up that new look for many years.

The playground is the most recent in a number of upgrades to the park. Last year the bandstand was renovated, the tennis courts have been resurfaced, and the pro shop improved. A citywide grant for new lighting will provide better lighting for the ball field.

Flexipave is being used in a number of places around town. It was first used to replace the grates surrounding trees along Duval Street. Now it's also been poured at the Key West Cemetery as a perfect pathway that is safe for visitors and allows the water to seep through.



CITY OF KEY WEST

Mayor

Craig Cates

ccates@keywestcity.com

Commissioners

District 1: Jimmy Weekley

jweekley@keywestcity.com

District 2: Mark Rossi

mrossi@keywestcity.com

District 3: Billy Wardlow

bwardlow@keywestcity.com

District 4: Barry Gibson

bgibson@keywestcity.com

District 5: Teri Johnston

johnston@keywestcity.com

District 6: Clayton Lopez

clopez@keywestcity.com

City Manager

Jim Scholl

jscholl@keywestcity.com

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.

Smith Hits 20 Year Mark



City Manager Jim Scholl presented Captain Scott Smith a gold watch for his 20 years of service with the Key West Police Department. Smith was joined at the podium by his son Kyle, Nicole Malo, and Chief Donie Lee.

Seeking National News Help to Find Missing Gold Bar



A CNN crew interviewed Key West Police Chief Donie Lee about the theft of a gold bar at the Mel Fisher Museum. Video footage of the crime provided a good long look at the two men who broke into the clear case and walked away with the valuable artifact. The museum is offering a \$25,000 reward for information leading to the recovery of the gold bar. Anyone with information can call KWPD Criminal Investigations at 809-1015 or 1-800-346-CRIMESTOPPERS.

Trauma Cam Grant May Save Lives

Key West Rescue now has an added tool for providing the best possible care for accident victims: a trauma cam. Working with a grant obtained by Ryder Trauma Center in Miami, Key West Rescue now has the ability to send a live video feed directly to a doctor in the Ryder emergency room and get immediate feedback.

“This will help us make even better medical decisions,” said EMS Chief Steve Simonaitis. “With the help of this unit, we can get a doctor's advice even before a patient is extricated from a crash scene.”

The immediacy of the camera promises to be helpful in a number of ways. It could even be used to monitor a patient once they are en route in an ambulance, allowing a trauma physician to see firsthand the minute-to-minute health during what the medical field calls "the golden hour," that first hour after an injury on which the survival of an accident victim hinges. Under some circumstances, it might be used to show a doctor the nature of a victim's injuries while they're still trapped in a crash, giving a better standpoint to decide on the best strategy. It would also allow a physician to see a fresh injury before it's bandaged, which could be another way to provide even better care.



EMS Chief Steve Simonaitis and Fire Marshall Marcus del Valle demonstrate the small but powerful new tool that will link an emergency scene to and emergency room over 100 miles away for real time advice.

Simonaitis says that the camera will be operated by a supervisor on a scene in order to assure that emergency responders are doing what they do best - caring for emergency victims.

Key West Rescue is the first ground-based EMS in the country to use this technology. Key West Rescue and Lifenet will both be using the live link technology as part of Ryder's grant.

During a demonstration in July, Ryder Research Associate Dan Rojas at Ryder

was linked live with Simonaitis and members of the Key West Fire Department. Lieutenants Alan Averette and Danny Blanco, as well as Fire Marshall Marcus del Valle were excited about the emergency response implications of the system. The tiny camera plugs into a small portable laptop, and the two-way image was sharp and clear.

“It works in low visibility,” said del Valle. “That could have some very important rescue implications.”

The Gelman



It's not often that rescue tools bear the name of an accident victim, but this moniker honors not only the man for whom it's named, but the friends and family whose effort made it a reality. On August 12, Key West Fire Chief David Fraga announced that a donated hand-operated hydraulic rescue jack would henceforth be known as the Gelman in honor of Andrew Gelman, the jeweler who was crushed under a huge safe. The fatal accident occurred last September when the safe was being moved out of Gelman's downtown store.

This jack will give emergency responders the ability to better deal with similar situations.

Skip Fleet and Lou Perdomo were instrumental in organizing the effort to gather donations to purchase the potentially life-saving tool. Both men have store adjoining Gelman's Duval Street shop. According to Fleet, more than 100 donors sent money from all over the country.

On Thursday Fleet and Perdomo, along with Gelman's wife Franny Gelman and her friend Anne-Margaret Swary, presented the new tool to the Key West Fire Department in honor of Andrew Gelman.

Upcoming City Meetings Broadcast Live on Channel 77

Code Enforcement Hearing: Sept. 1
 Duval Street Committee: Sept. 1
 Bahama Village Redevelopment Advisory
 Committee: Sept. 2
 Truman Waterfront Advisory Board: Sept. 3
 City Commission: Sept. 7
 Strategic Planning Committee: Sept. 8
 Special City Commission: Sept. 14
 HARC: Sept. 14
 KW Bight Mgmt District Board: Sept. 15
 Planning Board: Sept. 16
 City Commission: Sept. 21
 Strategic Planning Committee: Sept. 22
 DRC: Sept. 23
 Special City Commission: Sept. 23
 Art in Public Places: Sept. 27
 HARC: Sept. 28
 Code Enforcement Hearing: Sept. 29



Key West Mayor Craig Cates and Commissioner Clayton Lopez, during the July 6th City Commission meeting, awarded Brenda Kee Johnson the District VI Good Neighbor award for her love and dedication to her community.

Johnson has organized the neighborhood -- children and adults - to clean up the streets.

Lopez noted that she even provided the added incentive by making the kids a big breakfast after they were finished cleaning up the streets.

“Mrs. Johnson, along with her husband, have made their neighborhood business a location to disseminate information to the community,” said Lopez. “Mrs. Johnson’s influence has encouraged others, especially young people, to get involved.”

The award was accepted for Brenda by her mother, the Rev. Sandra Kee.

Donation Benefits Mounted Unit



First State Bank of the Florida Keys helps the Key West Police Department’s Mounted Unit with a donation. L-R: First State Bank EVP/Retail Market Executive Tony Romano, AVP/Key West Winn Dixie Branch Manager Karen Mendez, Key West Police Department’s Chief of Police Donie Lee, “Smoke” and First State Bank AVP/ Branch Manager Brian Barroso.