

City of

KEY WEST

May 2011

Hurricane Prep

City of Key West Community Services crews are doing their part in preparation for hurricane season, and an important aspect is making sure that excess water has



somewhere to go in order to avoid flooding.

This week crews found themselves concentrating on a narrow canal behind Stadium Trailer Park. The waterway is a

vital component of the drainage system for the Searstown Shopping Center.

Dragging a skiff

along to carry away the debris, the crew cleared brush and trash out of the waterway, ensuring an effective runoff system.

Crews have been cleaning out storm drains throughout the city, trimming trees -- all the preparations that residents and business owners should be doing at the beginning of hurricane season.

And if all goes well, it's nothing more than an exercise in preparation!



Tadeusz Szewczyk, Jean Riche, Commissioner Mark Rossi, Mark Bacon, Saintfort Hyppolite, Tony Boza, and Rollie Diaz.



View From the Top

As we roll into another hurricane season, it's time to take a good hard look at your personal hurricane plans.

Although we've seen a couple storms look our way, it's been a full six years since Key West has been impacted with a storm. And, as Bill Read, Director of the National Hurricane Center, said at a recent seminar, it's been much longer since we've taken a real hit.

That means it's easy to become complacent. It's human nature. But we live in an extremely vulnerable location. The highest spot on our island is lower than high tides rise in some coastal areas.

Here in City government, we're gearing up to be prepared for any situation, because we are responsible for the safety and welfare of our residents. But while we're readying for storm season, it's a good time to be doing your own preparation.

It's time to take out your family hurricane plan and reassess it. If you don't have one, it's time to make one. Stock up on water and supplies. Pick up an evacuation reentry sticker. But, more importantly, review your options in case an evacuation is called for.

Where will you stay? Are your important documents on hand and easy to take with you? Do you have pets? Is there gas in the car? What about cash? Are your shutters ready for easy installation? If you consider all the factors now, you'll be ahead of the game if a storm heads our way.

So be ready, and hopefully in November we can look at all those batteries and canned goods in the closet and grin with a sigh of relief.

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.

Jewel of a Pool



Community Services Superintendent Richard Sarver and Foreman Antonio Boza give a first look at the entryway artwork crafted by artist Sandy Rico.

Crews are working diligently to get the Martin Luther King Community Pool finished and open to the public by the Fourth of July.

The upgrades are turning what had been an average municipal swimming pool into a showcase. The pool's old fiberglass liner is being replaced with Starbright stucco, highlighted with cobalt blue tile. Two regulation size steps will make access easier than the single step it once had. Lap lanes that have faded with sun and age are being repainted.

The pool deck has been transformed from painted concrete to natural stone pavers laid out in a herringbone pattern. Bright new aluminum handrails are replacing the chain link fence that once surrounded the facility.

In addition, the entire lower level is being revamped with new plumbing and stucco. Glass entry doors will allow natural light to flow into the entrance, and will also highlight the undersea murals, hand painted by local artist Sandy Rico.

"This is going to be the centerpiece of what will eventually be the cornerstone of the community," said Community Services Director Greg Veliz. "As we redo the surrounding parks it will be a highlight of the entire community."

The pool and its surrounding parks are practically contiguous with the Truman Waterfront, where the city will be enhancing several acres of open green space that looks out onto Key West Harbor.



Employee Service Awards

The City of Key West has a hard-working and dedicated group of people whose service ensures city residents and visitors a clean, safe community. The following City staff hit some important milestones in the month of May:



Alfredo Vazquez
Lieutenant
KWPD
5/20/91
20 years



Diego Torian
Firefighter
KWFD
5/29/96
20 years



Doug Bradshaw
Senior Project Manager
Engineering
5/17/01
10 years



Arthur Bakala
Maintenance Tech
Community Services
5/12/06
5 years



Larry Erskine
Asst. City Attorney
City Attorney's Office
5/8/06
5 years



Brandon Ward
Firefighter
KWFD
5/22/06
5 years



Robert Bulnes
School Resource Officer
KWPD
5/18/06
5 years

Brushed by Kindness

Sometimes life can be overwhelming. But Key West is the kind of community that won't let someone go under if there's anything that can be done.

A Key West woman recently lost both of her parents within months of one another. This disabled homeowner suddenly found herself inundated with her parents' belongings and her own. Lost in a sea of grief, things just seemed to get worse, and the clutter in her yard appeared to take on a life of its own. As the yard got worse, she found herself facing City code violations. But instead of trouble, this woman found hope... and help.

Over a period of two days, volunteers came in and helped her clear up the yard, organizing valuable mementos and removing the clutter.

"It was an amazing show of human kindness," said Key West Code Compliance Officer Bonnita Myers.

Volunteers from Waste Management, Mosquito Control, the U.S. Coast Guard, Habitat for Humanity, Keys Energy and the Anchors Aweigh Club came together to solve the problem.

The homeowner now has a clean, uncluttered yard and the chance to catch up with her life. And most of all, she also has a sense of why the city's motto is "One Human Family."



The students at the Montessori Elementary Charter School had a treat in May when all three Key West Police horses visited the school. The Mounted Unit came to the school to accept a \$160 donation from the kids. The students sold lemonade in a fundraiser for the popular equestrian trio.



Fire Department Promotions and a Farewell



Division Chief/Fire Marshal Craig Marston, Capt. Danny Blanco, Fire Chief David Fraga, Driver/Engineer Greg Gerez, Division Chief/Fire Marshal Marcus Del Valle.

Key West Fire Chief David Fraga is proud to announce the promotion of two members of the Department. Lt. Danny Blanco is being promoted to Captain, and firefighter Greg Gerez is being promoted to driver/engineer.

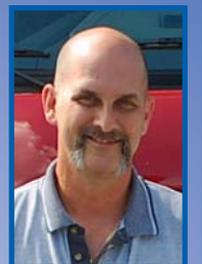
"Of course, it's with mixed emotions that we make these promotions," said Fraga, "because we're saying goodbye to a dedicated member of our team with the retirement of Capt. Peter Malott. But Danny Blanco is a good choice to fill his shoes."

Capt. Malott is retiring after serving over 25 years with the Fire Department.

Blanco started with the Fire Department in June of 1992, working as a firefighter until his promotion to driver/engineer in 2006. In 2008 he became a fire inspector in the Fire Marshal's office. In 2005 the Key West Chamber of

Commerce recognized Blanco as the Firefighter of the Quarter. He is a member of the Urban Search and Rescue Team as well as the Department's Dive Team. His role as a diver proved crucial in 2007 when he rescued a woman trapped underwater in her vehicle. He had to dive several times in order to free the woman, and if it hadn't been for his selfless determination, she may not have been pulled out of the water in time.

Greg Gerez joined the Fire Department in January of 1997. He is an EMT and a certified Fire Inspector.



Capt. Malott