

City of

Key West

September - October 2011

Inaugural Ceremony

The City Commission chambers were filled with smiles and optimism on October 11th as City Clerk Cheri Smith swore in the newly elected and reelected commissioners. City Manager Jim Scholl welcomed a crowd of about 70 who came to the midday event, and Pastor Ruben Velasco provided the invocation.

Wilhelmina Lopez-Martin performed her moving *a cappella* rendition of the national anthem.

The oaths of office began with the members of the Utility Board: Barry Barroso (Group I), Mona Clark (Group IV), and Charlie Bradford (Group V). Smith then swore in the newly elected District IV City Commissioner Tony Yaniz, followed by Teri Johnston, who was unchallenged for her reelection for the District V seat. District II Commissioner Mark Rossi was also unchallenged in his reelection; however he was unable to attend the inaugural ceremony.

Mayor Craig Cates was sworn in for his second term as mayor, and after repeating his oath of office, he gave the inaugural address.

The ceremony was topped off with the formal seating of the newly configured commission. District I Commissioner Jimmy Weekley, along with Rossi, was unable to attend the event.



CITY OF KEY WEST

Mayor

Craig Cates

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Commissioners

District 1: Jimmy Weekley

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District 2: Mark Rossi

mrossi@keywestcity.com

District 3: Billy Wardlow

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District 4: Tony Yaniz

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District 5: Teri Johnston

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District 6: Clayton Lopez

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City Manager

Jim Scholl

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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.

Cooperation Equals Residents' Safety

A handful of residents stood on the dock and waved a thank you to the Coast Guard Aids to Navigation Team. It was their second day working off the Trumbo Point homes, installing the last of the No Wake signs. "It's already slowed 'em down," said one man through a grin.

This is a story of teamwork and interagency cooperation that began just about a month ago. Residents

in the military housing along the waterfront at Trumbo noticed that some of the original No Wake signs had disappeared. The residents, spearheaded by LCDR Rory DuPont called the City of Key West's Port Director Jim Fitton.

Fitton started looking into the situation and found that, nearly a year ago, the Coast Guard had removed the antiquated day board pilings along the channel, some of which bore No Wake signs, which were installed by the County. The signs were never replaced.

The channel in that area runs right along the shoreline where a number of small docks point out into the water. Patios and even homes are situated close to the water, and it's not unusual to see small children and even adults swimming off their waterfront properties. It was getting dangerous, because boaters, coming out of Garrison Bight, would rev their boats up on a plane as soon as they cleared the narrow mouth of the Bight. They went whizzing past the homes on a full plane, sometimes with kids in the water, according to the residents.

Fitton contacted the City's David Hawthorne, who oversees the marina, and Hawthorne noted there was a chance that Monroe County that would pay for the signs. There is a fund that all Florida boaters pay into, that is divvied up among the state's 67 counties for boating improvements.

County officials said they would pay for the signage. To expedite the response, Fitton had the City purchase the signs, and will seek reimbursement from the safe boating funds.

Because the pilings are steel, installation was beyond the capability of City staffers. So Fitton contacted BMCS Scott Kahle, of the Coast Guard's Aids to Navigation unit, and he agreed to get the job done.

On the second day of installation, a Key West Police boat went past the installation crew toward a boat that was readying to set up on a plane. The officers pointed out the signs, and another boater was enlightened about the new signs.

It took less than a day and a half on the water to ensure that swimmers in this neighborhood are safe. It took less than a month for local, state, and federal agencies to work together to make sure the issue was solved.



Petty Officer Randall Dzatlik, Petty Officer Daniel Rynard and Petty Officer Robert Lester install the final No Wake sign protecting the homes along Trumbo Point.

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 months of September and October:



W. John Bringel
Shift Commander
Key West Fire Department
9/29/81
30 years



Calixto Garcia
Captain
Key West Fire Department
10/8/86
25 years



Edward Cisneros
Captain
Key West Fire Department
10/8/86
25 years



Edward Sanchez
Fireman
Key West Fire Department
10/8/86
25 years



Joseph Hughes
Driver/Engineer
Key West Fire Department
9/19/91
20 years



Oscar Landino
Foreman
Community Services
9/17/01
10 years



Randall Hartle
Officer
Key West Police Department
9/17/01
10 years



Vicente Rodriguez
Assistant Transit Supervisor
KWDOT
9/12/06
5 years



James Young
Senior Manager
Code Compliance
10/1/06
5 years



Jordain Mera
Fireman
Key West Fire Department
10/23/06
5 years

Smoke Detectors a Must for Safety

Andy Strunk, owner of Strunk Ace Hardware in Key West recently donated 100 smoke detectors to the Key West Fire Department. Smoke detectors are a vital part of every home, and this donation makes it possible for the Fire Marshal to provide them to households that do not have this important alarm.

A simple smoke detector can and does save lives. As many as two thirds of the lives lost nationally in fires occur in homes without smoke alarms. To ensure your family's safety, check your detector monthly and replace the batteries annually.

If you need a smoke detector, call the Key West Fire Marshal's office at 809-3933.



Key West Fire Chief David Fraga (left) and Fire Marshal Marcus DeValle thank business owner Andy Strunk for donating smoke detectors to the city.

USS Spruance (DDG 111) Commissioned

Key West enjoyed the unequalled honor this month of hosting the commissioning of the Navy's newest state-of-the-art warship.

The preparations took the better part of a year, and were spearheaded by the Navy League. Just before the vessel arrived, Mayor Craig Cates proclaimed USS Spruance Week.

On October 1st, the Outer Mole was filled with an estimated 4,000 people who witnessed the manning of the ship.



The Key West Wildlife Center got a facelift, thanks to hard work by Navy volunteers. Many of the Spruance crew volunteered around the community during their leave time.

Students Honored by City Commission



Ryan Wagner, Marlee Gil, Katelyn Garcia, Robyn DeRoche, John Koenig, and Mayor Craig Cates.

Mayor Craig Cates, during Tuesday's City Commission meeting, recognized some of the best and brightest students from Key West High School.

John Koenig was honored for receiving the school's award for Excellence in the Visual, Performing, and Vocational Arts. Koenig has blossomed as a pianist since he took it up at the age of six. He's been a band student for four years and is considered one of the top instrumentalists in the program. He maintains a straight A average and intends to teach piano or direct bands at the collegiate level.

Robyn DeRoche was honored as the winner of the Key West High School Academic Achievement Award. She maintains a rigid academic schedule, yet finds the time to participate in extracurricular activities. She has donated more than 100 hours of volunteer service to her community. DeRoche has been playing soccer since she was six years old, and she is currently a member of the varsity soccer team. She intends to pursue a degree in engineering.

Katelyn Garcia is also the recipient of the Key West High School Academic Achievement Award. She is a varsity cheerleader, a member of the National Honor Society, the Executive Board and the Spanish Club. Her impressive academic schedule includes classes at the Florida Keys

Community College, and she still finds the time to tutor fellow students. Garcia hopes to attend Duke University to study journalism and communications.

Marlee Gil was honored as the winner of the Key West High School Outstanding Achievement/Unsung Hero Award. She is a sixth generation conch who genuinely appreciates her community and all the opportunities it provides. Gil is a member of the cross country team, the Student Council, the National Honor Society, the wakeboard club, the track team and the fashion club.

Ryan Wagner was also honored for winning the school's Outstanding Achievement/Unsung Hero Award. He is a three-sport athlete who moved to Key West from Japan prior to his junior year. Wagner played basketball in order to make friends and ease his transition to a new school, and when classes began, he made the basketball team as the starting point guard. His athletic talents have earned him a spot on the all-Monroe County basketball team, a trip to regionals for the track team and recognition as one of the top three runners on the cross country team. Wagner maintains a rigid academic schedule, and plans to pursue a career in sports medicine.

"You all make us so proud," Mayor Cates told the students.

Motor Challenge

The Key West Police Department's Motor Unit recently received new traffic cones, motorcycle lights and mounting brackets by participating in the 2011 Motor Unit Challenge, a grant program sponsored by the Florida Department of Transportation.

The FDOT Motor Challenge benefits the community in a number of ways, as it encourages law enforcement participation in life-saving programs like Click It Or Ticket, an annual event that reminds motorists of the importance of seat belts. It rewards agencies for their enforcement efforts to improve traffic safety and reduce injuries on the state's roads and highways.

In the photo, Officer Deglys Chavarria (left) accepts delivery of the new traffic cones.



Ambassador Program Graduates Class 17



Class 17 of the highly popular Key West Ambassadors Program finished 14 weeks of scrutinizing City government with a round table discussion with the City Commission.

On October 18th, they received their pins and certificates and became members of a knowledgeable and active group of citizens who play many roles in this city. Perhaps not coincidentally, each of the elected officials that sits as the City Commission and the Mayor are all graduates of the program. Commissioner Tony Yaniz, the newest member of the Commission, graduated with Class 17!

