



## *Tropical Storm Isaac Serves as Practice Run*

Emergency Management got a good practice run as Key West came under a hurricane warning in August with the threat of Tropical Storm Isaac. Though the storm just made a glancing blow, it was enough to bring a contingent of media to the Island City. In the photos below (clockwise): Cleanup crews from contractor CrowderGulf removed the huge wrack of seaweed washed ashore by the storm, which remained a tropical storm; County Administrator Roman Gastesi, Mayor Craig Cates, and Commissioners Billy Wardlow and Tony Yaniz spoke at a press conference on Duval St.; stormwater systems were working well, but the storm still brought some flooding to the island, including this region on Reynolds St.; City Manager Bob Vitas was interviewed by CBS network reports at the height of the storm just outside the Key West Police Department, which houses the City's emergency operations center. Though we lucked out, the storm was not without costs. Schools and government offices -- as well as many businesses -- were closed. Many tourist made a voluntary evacuation, and the city's beaches has some serious erosion.



# CITY OF KEY WEST

Mayor

**Craig Cates**

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Commissioners

District 1: **Jimmy Weekley**

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District 2: **Mark Rossi**

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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

**Bob Vitas**

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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.

## 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 August:



**Schavawn Yarber**

Budget Analyst

Finance

8/17/92

20 years



**Jorge Galvan**

Captain

Key West Fire Department

8/17/92

20 years



**Victor Zapata**

Equipment Operator

Community Services

8/19/02

10 years



**Todd Stevens**

Detective

Key West Police Department

8/5/02

10 years



**Areaka Jewell**

Sergeant

Key West Police

Department

8/5/02

10 years



**Raider Ortiz**

Transfer Station Operator

General Services

8/4/07

5 years



**Erlienne Etienne**

Maintenance Worker II

Key West Bight

8/22/07

5 years

# Orchid Auction Highlights Kids' Handiwork

The first ever Orchid Auction to benefit the Love Fund raised over \$6100 for the non profit fund that provides an emergency net for officer and their families in times of dire need.

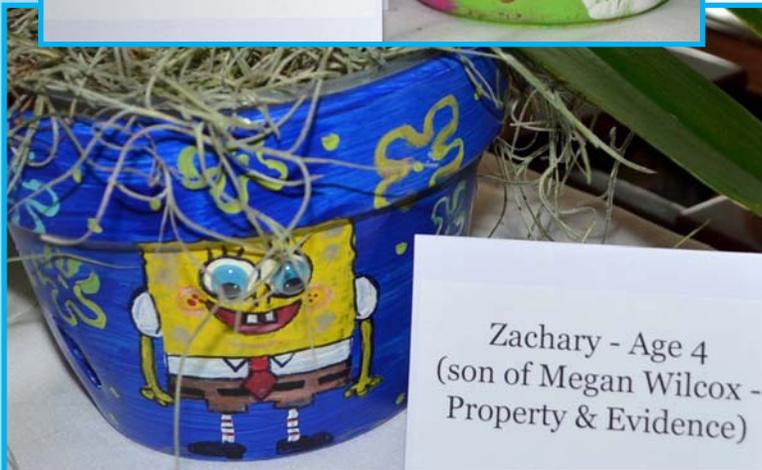
Michael Stewart, owner of Square One Restaurant and his staff were instrumental in this success. The MARC House orchids were put into pots that were hand decorated by members of the Key West Police Department and their children. Home Depot donated the pots.

Jean Zeman (left) served as organizer and auctioneer extraordinaire. Mike Roth, of MARC was among the dozen or more volunteers that made the whole event fun for everyone.

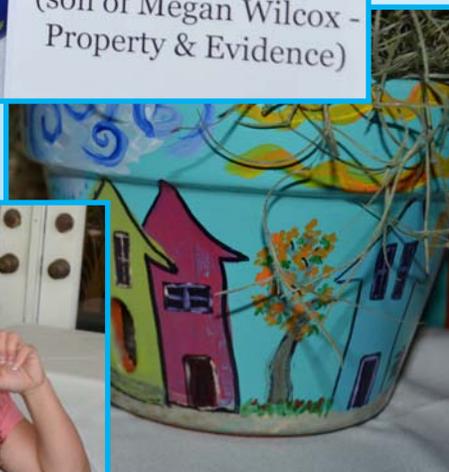
The auction is the prelude for the Love Fund Ball in September, which has traditionally been the primary fundraising event.



Connor - Age 3  
(son of Ofc. Curtiss  
Richardson & Denise)



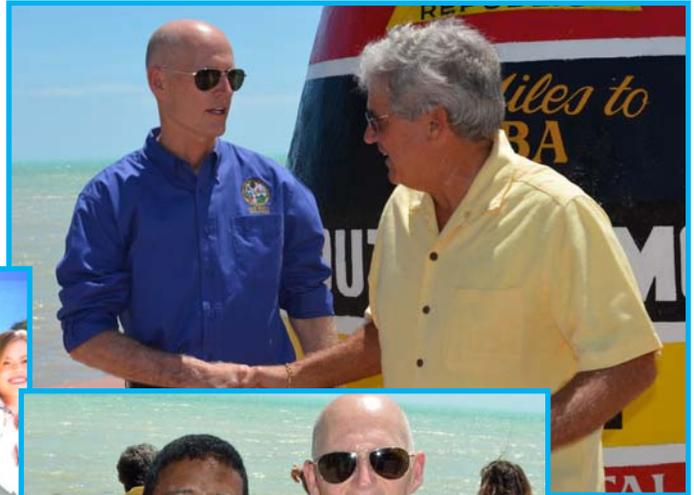
Zachary - Age 4  
(son of Megan Wilcox -  
Property & Evidence)



# Governor Rick Scott Pays a Visit

Florida Governor Rick Scott took an afternoon to tour Key West and send out the message that the Keys are open for business. He met with Mayor Craig Cates (right) and Commissioner Clayton Lopez (below right) at the Southernmost Point.

Gov. Scott arrived at the Key West airport (below) and was greeted by City Manager Bob Vitas and Police Chief Donie Lee.



## Ambassador Class 19 Meets Smoke and Cyress

Class 19 of the Key West Ambassadors Program enjoyed one of the unique sessions that each class participates in: the official dog and pony show. After learning about the various units within the department, they were treated to a demonstration of the unique and wonderful relationship between animals and law enforcement. On the left, officer Chris Delsante shows how the Mounted Unit plays a vital role for crowd control as well as a great opportunity for officers and the public to interact. Officers Tommy Anglin and Curtiss Richardson, with the help of K9 officer Cyress, showed just how closely a human officer and his canine partner work together. Officer Richardson and Cyress recently

graduated three months of training, and together they make up one of two K9 Units. Officer Anglin and his partner Ferro make up the other.

Both units are part of the Department's community policing initiative aimed at forging closer ties between the community and its police force. A Bicycle Unit is another means of getting officers out of their cars and into the community.



# *Residents and Visitors Asked to be Patient as North Roosevelt Boulevard is Rebuilt*

Key West residents are learning to work around the major road reconstruction project that has converted most of North Roosevelt Boulevard to two lanes of incoming traffic only. Those who commute off the island have worked out new routes home.

The Florida Department of Transportation continues to urge anyone leaving Key West to use South Roosevelt Blvd. Most of the commuter traffic is concentrated on Flagler Avenue, and using So. Roosevelt Blvd. could ease that some. In addition, they are urging visitors to “go South to go north,” in hopes that they’ll take the scenic route and alleviate pressure on Flagler.

Changes to traffic patterns also included adding turn lanes to ease wait times. Where Flagler Avenue meets So. Roosevelt, both outgoing lanes can now turn left. However, the right lane still allows an optional right turn for those who want to head toward the Grand Key Resort and the surrounded neighborhood. At the Triangle, FDOT has adjusted the lane that formerly only allowed cars to go straight. Now the inside lane heading out can take a right at the light, another move that should keep the congestion down.



But the real key is to slow down and relax. This work is estimated to take a good two years. When you consider that most mainland communities deal with much worse congestion on a daily basis, it’s nice to know that our little island community can slow down, let the other guy in and stay safe.

Once it’s done, the new boulevard will have lanes wide enough for modern vehicles, a smooth and uncracked promenade and that million dollar view. Most of the palm trees were moved in August, relocated to the Triangle until its time to return them to the promenade.

## *Solid Waste Master Plan Unveiled*

The City of Key West, with the help of its consultant Tampa-based Kessler Consulting, Inc. developed a plan to put the City on a pathway to zero waste. The plan is the culmination of a one and a half year project that included a 2-season waste composition study, commercial waste generation study, and analysis of the City's solid waste operations and service contracts.

The plan recommends a set of policies to pave the way for sustainable, cost-effective recycling programs.

Specific program recommendations are included, many of them broken into phases. Recycling carts and separate yard waste collection are just two recommended changes for residential service. Lower recycling fees and single stream recycling (all recyclables in one container) top the list of recommendations to improve commercial recycling.

The plan also supports diverting yard waste and food waste, which currently comprise 27 percent of the waste stream, from disposal. Lack of infrastructure in the Keys to process these organic materials is a challenge and may require a public-private partnership solution.

