



Heartbreak Hotel Fire Quelled Quickly

A fire that fully engulfed one Duval Street business and threatened several others was brought under control within a couple of hours. The blaze broke out at the Heartbreak Hotel at 716 Duval Street just after 1 a.m. on October 9th.

Key West Fire Department crews used pumpers and a ladder truck to contain the blaze. The Naval Air Station Key West Fire Department worked the back side, ensuring that the fire did not jump to any other of the city's historic structures.

There were no injuries to the hotel occupants or emergency responders. The state fire marshal was on the scene shortly after sunrise.

According to Key West Fire Marshal Danny Blanco, the city is still awaiting the results from the state forensics lab before determining the cause of the fire.

Ironically, October is National Fire Prevention Month, and Fire Marshal Blanco had just written an informative guest editorial for the local paper. That editorial can be found on the next page. Though we don't yet know the cause of the

Hearbreak Hotel fire, its a sad reminder that fire can happen anywhere at any time. Key West firefighters are spending a lot of time this month with local children, teaching the next generation how to avoid a dangerous conflagration.



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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.

Fire Prevention Month Should be All Year

This past summer a small Key West boy spent a month in a Miami burn center. He's home now and healing, but the scars on his five year old body will be a lifelong reminder of the devastation of fire.

October is National Fire Prevention Week, and it's a good time to look at our attitudes about fire. Most people don't think it could happen to them. But every emergency call that the Key West Fire Department rolls on is happening to someone - someone who probably didn't think it could ever happen to them.

The youngster who was burned this summer is an example of the fascination that many young children have for fire. That's why extensive outreach and education are pivotal in protecting the community and preventing tragedy. Each year, our firefighters and fire inspectors talk to over 2,600 children - in their schools and at the fire stations - teaching them basic safety.

But it's just as important for adults to be diligent when it comes to fire prevention.

Nationally, according to the nonprofit National Fire Protection Association (NFPA), one home structure fire was reported every 85 seconds in 2010. That added up to 369,500 home structure fires, which caused 13,350 injuries and 2,640 deaths. We also know that most fatal fires kill one or two people. However, in 2010, 19 home fires killed five or more people, resulting in 101 deaths.

The numbers are scary, but there is something you can do to help ensure your family's safety should a fire break out in your home: Have Two Ways Out!

The Key West Fire Department is teaming up with NFPA during Fire Prevention Week, October 7-13, to urge residents to "Have Two Ways Out!" This year's theme focuses on the importance of fire escape planning and practice.

Only one-third of Americans have both developed and practiced a home fire escape plan. And of the three-quarters of Americans who do have an escape plan, less than half actually practiced it. Fire is unpredictable. Seconds and minutes can mean the difference between life and death. We want to ensure that Key West residents know what to do if a fire breaks out in their home. Preparation is an important part of being able to deal with an emergency and it is crucial you take steps to prepare your family for the potential of a home fire by having an escape plan and practicing it.

Although preparing for the unexpected is difficult, reviewing the information below and taking action based on it to plan for a fire could save lives. We recommend the following tips for planning your family's escape, and be sure to include your kids in this important activity:

- Make a map of your home. Mark a door and a window that can be used to get out of every room.
- Choose a meeting place outside in front of your home. This is where everyone can meet once they've escaped. Draw a picture of your outside meeting place on your escape plan.
- Sound the smoke alarm and practice your escape drill with everyone living in your home.
- Keep your escape plan on the refrigerator and practice the drill twice a year or whenever anyone in your home celebrates a birthday.

But there's more to prevention than an escape plan. Be aware that cooking has been the leading cause of reported home fires since 1990. Space heaters and smoking are not far behind. Even unattended candles are dangerous, accounting for an average of 35 home fires a day, nationwide.

Electrical fires, caused by bad wiring, overloaded sockets and portable fans can also be a hazard. The Fire Marshal's office conducts several thousand inspections annually in Key West to ensure that this historic city is as safe as possible.

Finally, all children need to learn that fire is nothing to play with. We hope Key Westers will use this Fire Prevention designation to sit down with their families, find a safe route out in case of a fire and prevent any other children from spending their summers in a burn unit... or worse.

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:



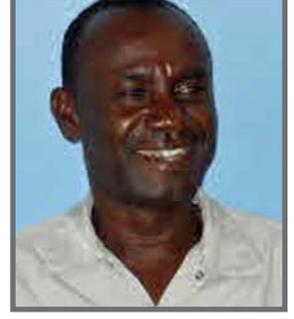
Frank Sauer
 Captain
 KWPD
 9/29/82
 30 years



Keith Sellers
 Driver/Engineer
 KWFD
 9/23/97
 15 years



Kuniko Keohan
 Officer
 KWPD
 9/2/02
 10 years



Saintfort Hyppolite
 Maintenance Worker
 Community Services
 9/6/02
 10 years



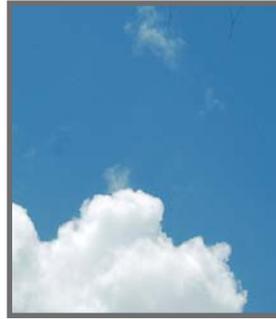
William Albury
 Maintenance Worker
 Community Services
 9/16/02
 10 years



Robert Franco
 Fireman
 KWFD
 10/28/02
 10 years



Deborah Millett-Fowley
 Legal Analyst
 Code Compliance
 10/22/02
 10 years



Keith Kline
 Telecommunicator
 KWPD
 9/10/07
 5 years



Keith Hernandez
 Fireman
 KWFD
 9/19/07
 5 years



Jean Abellard
 Janitor
 Key West Bight
 9/24/07
 5 years



Maria Valdez
 Janitor
 Key West Bight
 9/24/07
 5 years



William Gardner
 Parking/ Security
 Key West Bight
 9/25/07
 5 years



Marie Charles
 Parking Enforcement
 Parking
 10/22/07
 5 years



Belin Diaz
 Telecommunicator
 KWPD
 10/24/07
 5 years

City Commission Honors Key West High School Students



Key West High School students Elizabeth Czerwinski, Jordan Mannix-Lachner, Aaron Doughtry, Sawyer Redding, Griffin Saunders, Cara Michaud, and Savannah Robinson are presented plaques by Key West Mayor Craig Cates in recognitions of their outstanding achievements.

Key West Mayor Craig Cates, during an October City Commission meeting, honored several of the city's most promising young citizens.

Elizabeth Czerwinski was awarded the Key West High School Academic Achievement Award. She is a member of the National Honor Society, Beta Club and she has been a dedicated member of the school's cross country and track teams since her freshman year. She receives straight As while holding a part-time job.

Jordan Mannix-Lachner also received the Key West High School Academic Achievement Award. She immerses herself in extracurricular activities and volunteer work and an active member and officer of multiple clubs at the high school. Mannix-Lachner volunteers her time for local organizations like Green Living and Energy Education (GLEE) and Fair Insurance Rates in Monroe (FIRM), as well as with national organizations such as the Appalachian Trail Conservancy. She is the current editor-in-chief of Key West High School's newspaper, The Snapper.

Aaron Doughtry was awarded the Key West High School Outstanding Achievement/Unsung Hero Award.

Doughtry plays the clarinet and tenor saxophone and has been a member of the Key West High School band since his freshman year. He has been an honor roll student throughout his school years and he continues to excel academically at the high school level. He was voted president of the high school's Interact Club. For the past two years he has worked part-time at Winn Dixie and he anticipates a promotion soon which will benefit him as he plans to continue working for the company while he attends college.

Sawyer Redding, too, was honored with the Outstanding Achievement/Unsung Hero Award. He maintains a rigorous curriculum consisting of advanced placement and honors courses, works part time and has amassed over 400 hours of community service through volunteer work at his church and through his extracurricular involvement as a member of Beta Club and the National Honors Society. He was nominated to attend Boys State this past summer at Florida State University. This prestigious camp is hosted by the American Legion and provides young men the opportunity to engage in the political process through mock campaigns and elections as they learn how government works from the city to the state level.

Griffin Saunders was also honored with the Key West High School Outstanding Achievement/Unsung Hero Award. He is an honor student who has been a member of the choir program since he was a freshman, and excels in his Advanced Placement Music Theory class. By auditioning this year he earned a spot on the prestigious American Choral Directors Association Honor Choir. An avid athlete, Saunders has been a member of football, baseball, soccer, tennis and swim teams, earning four varsity letters. In addition he trains in Taekwondo and plays soccer with an adult league every Sunday.

Cara Michaud received the Key West High School Award for Excellence in the Visual, Performing, and Vocational Arts. She has had great success in chorus and band. She began singing in pre-kindergarten as a member of the Grace Lutheran choir and she has continued on this path, taking voice lessons and singing in school's Chamber Choir and the performing singing group, the Misty's. She has been a band member since middle school, playing both the alto saxophone and the bass clarinet. Michaud maintains a rigid academic course schedule.

Savannah Robinson was also awarded the honor for Excellence in the Visual, Performing, and Vocational Arts. She is recognized as one of the top high school musicians in the state, earning superior ratings for her county and state competitions. Robinson earned the first chair flute position in the school's Wind Ensemble Band for three years and this year she is a drum major for the Key West High School band. She successfully juggles extra-curricular involvement and academics, and is a member of the tennis team, president of Mu Alpha Theta, vice president of Z Club, a member of the National Honor Society and Spanish Club.

The City of Key West is honored to have students of such caliber and dedication as part of our community.

30 Year Veteran Retires Key West Police Department

After 30 years of dedicated service, Capt. Frank Sauer is retiring from the Key West Police Department. At Tuesday's City Commission meeting, Chief Donie Lee, along with Capt. Sauer's colleagues and his wife Roseanne took a few minutes to honor that service and thank him for his contributions to the community.

Capt. Sauer started as a patrolman in 1982, working his way up through the ranks and serving as a detective who later commanded the Detective Division. His exemplary career stems in part from his love of Key West and its people.

One of his outstanding contributions has been a keen ability to garner grant funding for the improvement of the Department and its services.

"Capt. Sauer was instrumental in obtaining and managing millions of dollars in grant funding," said Chief Lee. "These funds have provided both manpower and new technology. Capt Sauer has been an essential part of our team for the last 30 years. He will be greatly missed."

Capt. Sauer's dedication was illustrated when, after accepting the honor, he told the commissioners that he would be continuing on as a reserve officer with the Key West Police Department. He noted that he is happy to retire his rank and continue serving the community as a reservist.



Three Promoted at KWPD

Family and colleagues gathered at the Old City Hall, during the Octo 2nd City Commission meeting to witness an official pinning ceremony and swearing in, recognizing the promotion of three department members.

The first was the promotion of J.R. Torres from Lieutenant to Captain. Capt. Torres started out as a patrol officer in 1995, and moved back and forth between the detectives and patrol. He was promoted to Sergeant in 2003 and to Lieutenant in 2010. During his tenure with the Department, Capt. Torres has continuously expanded his skills through training, and serves as a training officer for many aspects of officer preparedness. Also during those years, Lt. Torres worked with a K-9 partner, Balou. Capt. Torres serves as the Department's hostage negotiator. Throughout his years of service he has garnered many awards and commendations from both the Department and the community, including medal of gallantry for distinguished bravery.

Sean Brandenburg was promoted from Sergeant to Lieutenant. Lt. Brandenburg has been a law enforcement officer since 1990, serving his first 12 years in Indiana and joining the Key West Police Department in 2002. Lt. Brandenburg has been involved with the Special Response Team and Mounted Units and most recently served as the Detective Sergeant in Special Ops Unit. He received the Life Saving Medal on two separate occasions in his time with the Key West Police Department. In addition, he served as unit coordinator for the department's K-9 Unit. His canine partner Wind was retired a year ago.

Officer Eric Biskup was promoted to Sergeant. Sgt. Biskup worked with the Department from 1995 until 2005, working his way from Officer to Sergeant. He returned in 2007 as an officer. His career has included several commendations for his lifesaving efforts, and he has been awarded the medal of gallantry for distinguished bravery. Sgt. Biskup founded the Department's Mounted Unit. He has mentored many new recruits and is active in the training programs.



Green Lighting Saves Big Bucks

The Key West Department of Transportation and Keys Energy Service are pleased to announce that a move toward greener lighting at the City Garage/ Park and Ride has resulted in some serious savings.

By replacing a portion of the standard fixtures in the parking garage with LED lighting, electricity use was reduced by nearly 43,000 kilowatts over six months. That translates into a savings of close to \$6,000 for just six months.

Key West's Pedestrian Action Committee members, serving as a lighting task force assisted the City and Keys Energy in evaluating the vendors and bids for the project.

The second energy saving phase of installations will begin in the new fiscal year.

In the photo (left to right), Key West Port and Transit Director Jim Fitton was joined by Key Energy Services electrician Neil Mellies, who installed the lighting. Transit Manager Myra Wittenberg and Pedestrian Action Committee member Joan Langley were also on hand to appreciate the new lighting.



Key West remembered the tragic events of September 11th, 2001 by gathering at the Key West Firehouse Museum on Virginia Street. At 8:46 and again at 9:03 the historic bell sounded, marking the times that the World Trade Center towers were hit by two commercial flights hijacked by terrorists.

Mayor Craig Cates spoke of the honor of those who gave their all on that fateful day. Last year, to commemorate the 10th anniversary, the New York Fire Department presented Key West with two pieces of the World Trade Center. The artifacts are a somber reminder of the brotherhood of first responders, a kinship that all firefighters from Key West to California share with the more than 340 firefighters who died on that fateful day. One piece stands in front of Station #1, the other is housed at the Museum.

Feds Help Rebuild Keys Beaches after Tropical Storm Isaac

Key West and Monroe County dodged a bullet in August when a potential hurricane landfall took it easy on the island chain. But, although we were spared the brunt of a hard storm, the winds and rains from Tropical Storm Isaac took a fierce toll on Keys beaches.

In October, President Obama declared federal disaster assistance for Monroe and nine other counties in Florida. That declaration, which only applied to reimbursing for government infrastructure, will provide the much needed funding to repair the serious damage that Isaac wreaked on Key West beaches. In all, the beach erosion repair is expected to cost over \$1 million. In addition, the declaration will reimburse the taxpayers for the \$86,000 that it cost to have city crews work long hours while the storm was threatening. It will also provide another \$100,000 for debris removal costs that were incurred.

