

City of

Key West

Fall 2013

New Fire Station #2 is Under Way



On October 11th, the Key West Fire Department conducted a groundbreaking ceremony for the new Key West Fire Department Station #2. Construction will begin shortly, and the new facility should be completed next fall.
Left to right: DL Porter VP Marshall White, Architects Michael Ingram and Anthony Sarno, Regional Fire Marshal Holt, Division Chief Alan Avarette, Fire Marshal Danny Blanco, Division Chief Michael Davila, Fire Chief David Fraga, Mayor Craig Cates, Commissioners Billy Wardlow, Jimmy Weekley, Teri Johnston, Clayton Lopez, Tony Yaniz, and City Manager Bob Vitas.

City Beautifying Neighborhood Parks

City officials and contractors gathered in August in Nelson English Park for the ceremonial groundbreaking of the new parks. Over the next few months, Willie Ward and Nelson English parks will be completely renovated. The renewed parks will reflect the community's input and requests, and will be a perfect surrounding to the newly renovated Martin Luther King, Jr. Community Center.
In the photo: Community Services Director Greg Veliz, City Manager Bob Vitas, Project Coordinator Elizabeth Ignaffo, City Commissioners Tony Yaniz and Mark Rossi, Mayor Craig Cates, Commissioners Clayton Lopez and Billy Wardlow, David Martinez and Buddy Montgomery, both representing Burke Construction Group, Inc.



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.

Energy Efficient Lighting Thanks to Grant



City Commissioners, the Mayor and City staff gathered at Old City Hall in September to celebrate the new, environmentally friendly lighting downtown that will provide better safety and major cost-savings.

The City was awarded an energy grant of \$250,000 in July as part of the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act. The funding allowed the City to replace 166 lights that consumed far too much energy. The old lights burned between 120 to 150 watts of power. These new L.E.D. fixtures use only 48 watts.

Additionally, if the electricity goes out at night, a battery back-up in each fixture allows the lamp to operate for an hour and a half at 50 percent brightness, ensuring the best in public safety.

The Facilities Maintenance Team along with other crews from the Community Service Department performed the retrofit in an astounding fast two weeks.

This project is part of the City's climate action plan's goal of reducing municipal operation emissions by 15 percent by 2015 through energy conservation.

In the photo: Community Services staffers Jaeck Witczak, Al Phillips and Brett Wright, City Commissioners Teri Johnston, and Billy Wardlow, Community Services Deputy Director Rod Delastrinos, Mayor Craig Cates, Commissioner Jimmy Weekley, Community Services' Lars Pedersen, Commissioner Jimmy Weekley and Community Services staffer Argelio Alayon.

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 August, September and October:



Mark Tait
Marina Manager
City Marina
8/20/98
15 years



Roberto Llgastera
Pool Facility Supervisor
Community Service
8/20/98
15 years



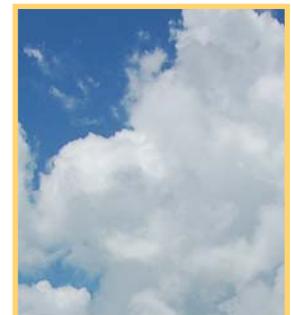
Alan Averette
Captain/ Inspector
Key West Fire Department
9/22/98
15 years



Dave Black
Lieutenant
Key West Police Department
9/14/98
15 years



Dedrick Bethea
Foreman I
Key West Bight
9/18/98
15 years



Daniel Galvan
Driver/Engineer
Key West Fire Department
9/22/98
15 years



Diane Cooper
Tenant Administrator
Key West Bight
9/2/03
10 years



Terrence Richardson
Electrical Inspector
Building Department
9/2/03
10 years



Steve Gardner
Construction Inspector
General Services
10/1/03
10 years

Employee Service Awards (continued)



Charlie Smith
Construction Inspector
General Services
10/1/03
15 years

Not Pictured:

Paul Cassidy
Maintenance Tech II
General Services
10/6/03
15 years

Jo Bennett
Administrative Assistant II
Planning
9/20/08
5 years

Ralph Major Sr.
Maintenance Tech II
Community Services
10/9/08
5 years

Randall Sterling
Recreation Facilities Manager
Community Services
10/1/08
5 years



Enid Torregrossa de la Rosa
Historic Preservation
Planning
9/19/08
5 years



Christina Hepworth
Administrative Specialist
Community Services
10/15/08
5 years



Alyson Crean
Public Information Officer
Key West Police Department
10/6/08
5 years

Outstanding Employee!

Community Services's Tony McDowell saved a vacation for these folks! He found their unattended pack containing electronics, passports and a large sum of cash, where they had left it behind near Simonton Beach. When these Romanian visitors were reunited with their belongings, they were thrilled that Tony saved their vacation!



CHANGING OF THE GUARD

City Manager Bob Vitas, during the October 16th City Commission meeting, introduced some of the people who have moved into management positions in the City of Key West. Now about a year and a half into his tenure with the City, Mr. Vitas initiated some organizational adjustments to better serve the community. That, coupled with the retirement of several key employees, brought about the following announcements.



Samantha Farist, Human Resources Director



Doug Bradshaw, Marine Services Director



John Paul Castro, Deputy Director, Marine Services



Norman Whitaker, Department of Transportation Director



Nancy Gibsont, Finance Director



Mike Vieux, Senior Construction Manager

Election Winners Sworn In

Three Key West City Commissioners and the Mayor were sworn in for new terms on October 7th at Old City Hall. Officiated by City Clerk Cheri Smith, the freshly seated commission is comprised of incumbents Jimmy Weekley, Clayton Lopez, Billy Wardlow and Craig Cates as well as Commissioners Teri Johnston, Mark Rossi and Tony Yaniz.

Utility Board Member Peter Batty was also reelected, and was sworn in.



Little Conch State Champions Day



Key West Mayor Craig Cates and Commissioner Billy Wardlow commended the Key West Little Conch Baseball 12-U All-star team at the City Commission meeting last night, proclaiming September 17th as 12-U Little Conch State Champions Day. The 12-U team won the Cal Ripken State Tournament this summer.

"The Little Conch team played flawlessly, winning four games and losing only one," said the Mayor in the proclamation. "This was accomplished with great pitching, hitting and stellar defense. It was a total team effort!"

Commissioner Wardlow noted that the positive sportsmanship displayed by the entire team displayed to other teams and parents throughout Florida and North Carolina the exceptional character of Key West youth.

The sport, according to the proclamation, relies on many adult volunteer coaches, managers and parents to facilitate the youth sport program.

The City of Key West recognizes Head Coach Sean McDonald, assistant coaches Steve Vinson and Daryl Mayor and League President David Niles for their tireless effort and commitment which helped lead the team to their victories, reads the proclamation.

Victim's Advocate Honored at Police Ball



The Key West Police Department in September honored Victim's Advocate Elaine Woodson during the 8th Annual Love Fund Ball at the Westin. The Love Fund Board members and the Police Athletic League presented Woodson with a plaque thanking her for her selfless dedication to the community. The entire department thanks her for her service and sacrifice, "and tireless energy having saved countless members of our community."

The ball was the annual fundraiser for the Love Fund, which fills a special need and comes to the aid of any Department member when no other resources are available in times of extreme hardship. The KWPD Love Fund is a federally recognized charitable organization.

In the photo (left to right): Love Fund Board member Officer Danyle Gray, Board Chair Sgt. Areaka Jewel, board member Sgt. Robert Allen, Victim's Advocate Elaine Woodson, PAL President Officer Donny Barrios.