



Winter 2013-2014

Police and Fire Departments Working with Students



Key West High School students are working with the Key West Fire and Police Departments to ready for careers in those fields.

Seven students, all juniors and seniors, are participating in the Key West Fire Department's Fire Fighter Academy. Six other are Explorers with the Key West Police Department. The two-year fire academy trains future firefighters while they're attending their final two years of high school and provides them, upon completion, the equivalent training of a Certified Firefighter I, which puts them halfway through the training required to become a Key West Firefighter.

The Key West

Police Department Explorer's program can provide a route to a career, but it also provides a strong interactive relationship between students and the department. The program, which is affiliated with the Boy Scouts of America, introduces the students to the role of police in the community. *In the photos: Above: Fire cadets learn to handle hoses in full turnout gear. Right: Detective Janeth Calvert gives Key West High School students a hands-on lesson on lifting latent fingerprints.*



Be the Change

The Key West City Commission proclaimed March 10th Be the Change Day. The program, headed by Heidi Golightly, strives to provide every child in the community the resources, skills and motivation to survive and thrive in school and in life.

"The City of Key West believes that students from birth through 12th grade should have access to prevention programs as well as leadership development opportunities," says the proclamation. "The City of Key West is committed to supporting programs that improve academic success and build social competence by building developmental assets in individuals, communities, peers, families and schools.

Be the Change has been partnering with the community and the schools to provide these fundamental building blocks through mentoring and other programs. Recently, Key West police officers have been mentoring Key West High School students as part of Be the Change.



CITY OF KEY WEST

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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.

Police Member Recognitions



Key West Police Chief Donie Lee named Officer Frank Duponty Officer of the Year. He has been with the Department since 1995. In his current role as a homeless outreach officer, he continues to serve the community with sensitivity and professionalism. On a daily basis, he deals with the difficult issues of the down and out with compassion and respect while ensuring that the overall community's quality of life is preserved.

Public Information Officer Alyson Crean was named Civilian of the Year. Crean has been with the City since 2008, serving as PIO for the City as well as the Key West Police Department. Crean treats her fellow employees, as well as the citizens of Key West, with courtesy and respect, says Lee, reflecting the Key West Police Department's highest standards.

Telecommunicator Nick Smith was named Civilian of the First Half for his professionalism and poise as he relayed lifesaving instructions to a caller whose baby has stopped breathing.

Detective Randal Smith was named Officer of the First Half. His dedication resulted in the dismantling of one of the most prolific cocaine and pill selling organizations in Key West. The six-month investigation that ultimately yielded multiple arrests. In April, a search warrant effectively ended the drug operation, and led to the recovery of several guns, thousands of dollars in cash and the seizure of drugs and vehicles. Detective Smith was commended for his tenacity, work ethic and willingness to put a long and difficult investigation above all else.

In the photos: Top: Chief Donie Lee, Officer Frank Duponty, PIO Alyson Crean, and Keys Federal CFO Scott Duszynski, sponsor of the award. Left: Telecommunicator Nick Smith. Right: Detective Randal Smith.

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 November, December, January and February:



David Fraga
Fire Chief
Key West Fire Department
11/7/73
40 years



Wayne Owen
Fire Captain
Key West Fire Department
2/22/89
25 years



Kenneth Wardlow
Captain/ Inspector
Key West Fire Department
1/17/94
20 years



Omar Garcia
Firefighter
Key West Fire Department
1/24/94
20 years



Douglas Bryan
Maintenance Tech
Community Services
1/25/99
15 years



Bolivar Iguales
Tipping Floor Attendant
General Services
11/3/03
10 years



Anita Woods
Customer Service Rep
Parking
12/8/03
10 years



Jessica Strader
Communications Administrator
Key West Police Department
12/1/03
10 years



Carolyn Haia
Grant/ Project Manager
Department of Transportation
12/18/08
5 years

Employee Service Awards (continued)



Brandon Kocis
Firefighter
Key West Fire Department
12/18/08
5 years



John Wilkins
Parking Manager
Parking Department
12/29/08
5 years



Kyle Williams
Firefighter
Key West Fire Department
12/21/08
5 years



Nicholas Smith
Telecommunicator
Key West Police Department
1/26/09
5 years



Carolyn Sheldon
Grants Administrator
City Manager's Office
2/17/09
5 years

Forty Years of Service

Several former fire chiefs were among the many praising Key West Fire Chief David Fraga for his 40 years of service to the city during a November City Commission meeting.

"I'm very proud of David," said retired Chief Eddie Castro. "Of all the people I've known, he deserves every bit of praise he receives tonight."

Fraga began as a firefighter in 1973, worked his way up through the ranks and became chief in 2006. This month Fraga hits his 40-year milestone, but he's not ready for retirement, he says.

"I never thought I would last for 40 years," he said following a standing ovation from the commissioners and the packed house. "But the truth is I consider myself extremely lucky. I never kept track of my time in years. I always thought of them in terms of different fires, different stories and different events that I associated with my career. I never considered going to work as working. I am sure that many people would give anything to say that about their chosen profession. I am truly blessed.

"Yes," he continued, "a lot has changed in the Key West Fire Department during the last 40 years. But one thing hasn't changed: the commitment of the Key West Fire Department and the dedication of our firefighters to fulfill its mission of Serving the Southernmost City. So, after 40 years, I stand here tonight very grateful for this recognition and extremely proud to be a member of the Key West Fire Department."

In the photo: Fire Chief David Fraga looks on humbly as the City Commission and everyone in the packed chamber of Old City Hall gave him a standing ovation



HOLIDAY PARADE WINNERS

Though every entry into this year's Holiday Parade was a winner the moment it brought a smile to a child's face, four entries earned special recognition from the judges. They were (left to right): Best Commercial: Florida Keys Aqueduct Authority, Best Non Profit: Basilica School of Key West, Honorable Mention: Bling, Bling, DJ Services, and Best Youth Group: Boys and Girls Club - Big Pine. The City of Key West wants to thank the community for this amazing effort. In addition to the hundreds of people who volunteered their time to participate, City officials particularly want to thank Joe Mather, Nancy D'Amato, Lenny Whitley and Rusty Ennis for their tireless help as well as the City staffers who donate their time to ensure a truly magical parade.



Transportation Employee of the Quarter

Gustavo "Gus" Rojas was honored as Bus Operator of the Fourth Quarter by the Key West Department of Transportation.

Rojas has worked for the City of Key West Transit for over a year. He exemplifies true meaning of hard work, dedication, leadership and has shown us that "safety is no accident" with zero accidents. Rojas looks forward to coming to work every morning and providing great customer service, timely travel and a safe ride to our patrons.

Clean Marina

February was Water Quality Awareness Month and Conch Harbor Marina is the first privately owned marina in the city to become Clean Marina Certified by the state of Florida.

Two City-owned marinas have maintained that recognition for several years. Part of the City's comprehensive plan is to have all marinas certified by 2015 and all boatyards by 2020. Because Key West is dependent on the health of our ecosystem, it's vital that we maintain clean water. Clean Marina Certification shows that vessels are pumping out and keeping the nearshore waters clean.



Key West Kids: the Pride of Our Island

Two travel teams shone over the winter season. The Key West Conchs All-Star Team came back from their mainland victory to a proud and happy community. After winning the 2013 Orange Bowl All Star Championship, the team was lauded by the City Commission during a recent meeting.

This is the first Orange Bowl Championship in any age group in the history of the Key West Junior Football League. Facing some teams with much larger players, this group of local young heroes showed determination, courage and resiliency.

Not only did the team have the opportunity to play in the Orange Bowl – a full-fledged professional stadium, but they managed a win after in a dramatic no-time-left-on-the clock fumble recovery and run back of over 100 yards.

After traveling nearly 4,000 miles during the 20013 season, the Key West Lady Conchs 8/9U Softball Travel Team ranked



9th in the nation. Mayor Craig Cates and Commissioner Teri Johnston proclaimed February 6th as Key West Lady Conchs 8/9U Softball Travel Team Day.

“These impressive young women are an example of what can be accomplished with hard work, teamwork, sportsmanship and dedication,” reads the proclamation.

City Attorney Shawn Smith, himself one of the coaches and a parent to two team members, commended the other coaches and parents for the dedication and work it took to support the children through a long and grueling travel season.

“On behalf of the entire City of Key West, we applaud and commend these young athletes for their achievements and wish them much continued success,” he said.



Dr. Randy Becker Commended



The Key West City Commission, the Bahama Village Redevelopment Advisory Committee, the City Clerk’s Office, City Manager’s Office and the Planning Department joined together in commending the Reverend Dr. Randolph W.B. Becker for his outstanding service as a founding member of the Bahama Village Redevelopment Advisory Committee.

“Dr. Becker’s unwavering commitment to excellence and his ability to lead and to compromise was demonstrated consistently during his tenure on this Committee,” reads the commendation.

“Dr. Becker is a leader and he’s been able to bring this group to common ground,” said Commissioner Teri Johnston, who appointed him to the committee five years ago.

Becker noted that the committee moved from a “sudden-assembled body” without a lot of internal guidance to a fully professional committee.

“We’ve gone from a home town back lot operation to a first class national organization,” he said, adding that the growth has allowed the committee to consider each decision fairly and thoroughly in ways that truly benefit the community and respect the individuals involved.

In the photo: Commissioner Clayton Lopez, Mayor Craig Cates, Rev. Dr. Randy Becker, Commissioner Teri Johnston.