



September 2007

Key West Goes Green

City launches new environmentally-friendly initiative

On a national and even international scale, lately everyone seems to be talking about environmental issues. Global warming, electric cars and recycling are all popular topics of conversation.

The City of Key West is doing more than just talk - it's taking action.

This month, the city launched a new environmental initiative, a multi-faceted approach aimed at making the island a cleaner, greener community.

The new initiative started with the installation of 33 debris trapping inserts in stormwater drains along Duval Street. The sediment, trash and petroleum traps will reduce stormwater pollution, and subsequently, reduce near shore water pollution as all of Key West's stormwater drains to the ocean.

Before the installation of these new inserts, which are meant to catch debris and filter chemicals before they run to the ocean, no pre-treatment was provided for the Duval Street runoff prior to discharge through outfalls within 30 feet of shore.

The inserts were provided through a Coral Reef Conservation Fund grant awarded to the city through the National Fish and Wildlife Foundation.

The city is field testing two types of stormwater drain inserts and will then decide which one works best for Key West's needs.

The first is a sponge from ABTech that has an antimicrobial agent in it to reduce fecal coliform and enterococcus. The other

inserts are from Suntree Technologies.

For more on these units, and for pictures of what has been installed in Duval Street drains, visit www.abtechindustries.com/UUF.html and www.suntreetech.com/curb_inlet_basket1/page3.html respectively.



"These inserts are needed because some of the island coastal waters of Key West are deemed impaired with nutrients and low levels of dissolved oxygen," explained Deputy Assistant City Manager Annalise Mannix, who is spearheading the environmental initiative. "This happens when phosphate and nitrogen pollution occur, sometimes in the form of leaves, fertilizers, trash and pet waste.

"The Duval Street stormwater system is heavily impacted by daily tourist and recreational activities that leave excessive discarded trash on the road, sidewalks and in storm drains," she added. "Immediately offshore is a habitat of seagrass and patch reefs of hard and soft corals which are adversely affected by poor water quality.

"Our water quality will improve with the installation of these pollutant-removing systems, which will further reduce degradation of the reefs from this source."

These 33 stormwater inserts will remove about 260 cubic yards of debris from stormwater runoff annually, debris that would otherwise outfall to the beaches and shore.

In conjunction with the new trash-
see story on page 2

VIEW FROM THE TOP

Three months have gone by quickly for me since starting this job.

I continue to be impressed with the city team. Thank you all for your dedication and your responsiveness to our residents. The numerous positive comments I receive on your behalf are a good indication that we are on the right track.



City Manager
Jim Scholl

The budget process was challenging, but with thoughtful, deliberate cuts in operational expenses we've achieved a balanced budget that provides cost of living raises for all of the city employees. We accomplished this without a reduction of staff.

The budget challenge is not over however, and the execution of this year's budget will require a disciplined approach to spending throughout the year.

As city employees we are also members of our Keys communities, and we all have the opportunity to share a valuable resource, our time.

Please look at your personal priorities and consider dedicating some of your time to volunteer work. Use your talent where it fits best to be a volunteer coach for a youth athletic program, or mentor in one of the many school or after-school programs.

Boy Scouts, Girl Scouts, Big Brothers/Big Sisters, Habitat for Humanity and many, many others are constantly looking for volunteers, and the time you give will be more rewarding than you ever thought possible. I believe volunteering is a critical aspect of any healthy community. Please give it some thought. □

CITY OF KEY WEST

Mayor
Morgan McPherson
mayor@keywestcity.com

Commissioners
District I: Bill Verge
bverge@keywestcity.com
District II: Mark Rossi
mrossi@keywestcity.com

District III: Dan
Kolhage
dkolhage@keywestcity.com

District IV: Harry
Bethel
hbethel@keywestcity.com

District V: Jose
Menendez
MenendezKeyWest@aol.com

District VI: Clayton
Lopez
clopez@keywestcity.com

City Manager
Jim Scholl
jscholl@keywestcity.com

Questions? Comments?

If you have information for the next City Newsletter or want to see something added to the publication, please contact Christie Phillips at cphillip@keywestcity.com. This newsletter is a publication of the City of Key West.



Above, volunteers from the Clean Key West Task Force and Love Your Island Campaign help students from Mrs. Weidner's 5th Grade Class paint environmentally-friendly slogans above stormwater drains on Duval Street. Below, one of the stencil slogans.

Continued from page 1
trapping inserts, Duval Street is also the sight of a new environmental awareness campaign.

Take a walk down the popular street and you'll see new, catchy slogans with cute pictures painted above the stormwater drains.

The environmentally-friendly slogans were thought up by Mrs. Weidner's 5th Grade class at Poinciana Elementary School, the group that then got to paint them on the sidewalk as a reminder to visitors and locals that their pollution has a negative impact on our oceans.

The students came up with such phrases as "Dolphins will die in you let trash by," and "One man's trash is not a fish's treasure."

"Stormwater pollution is one of the leading causes of water quality problems," Mannix said. "And it's all the little things like cigarette butts, lawn fertilizers, pet waste and small fluid leaks in vehicles and from trash pails that can be easily cleaned up.

"Or people can learn not to pollute."

The stencils are meant to teach people better habits by making them aware of the damage they are causing.

"We are going to mark stormwater



inlets with signs that remind people that what goes down the drain goes to the ocean and beach," Mannix said. "If residents don't understand the problem, they won't change their behavior."

The fifth-graders took a city bus to Duval Street this month for the project, another lesson in being eco-friendly, teaching them to use alternative forms of transportation that reduce fuel usage.

Members of the Clean Key West Task Force and Love Your Island Campaign helped the students paint.

For more on these and other steps the city is taking to be more environmentally-friendly, visit www.keywestcity.com or log on to www.loveyourisland.com. □

City cemetery archivist publishes first novel

City cemetery archivist Jane Newhagen celebrated the release of her novel, *Sand Dollar*, with a signing at SoDu Gallery on Duval Street last month.

The novel is Newhagen's first, a long-awaited accomplishment for the seasoned writer.

"I can't remember when I didn't like to read and write," Newhagen states with conviction. "*Sand Dollar* is my first novel, but not my last."

Newhagen first started working for the City of Key West in 2003 after she took the city's popular Ambassador class and learned that the cemetery needed volunteers.

"One thing led to another and now I'm the 'archivist,' which means I try to document where everybody is buried and put the information on the computer," she explained.

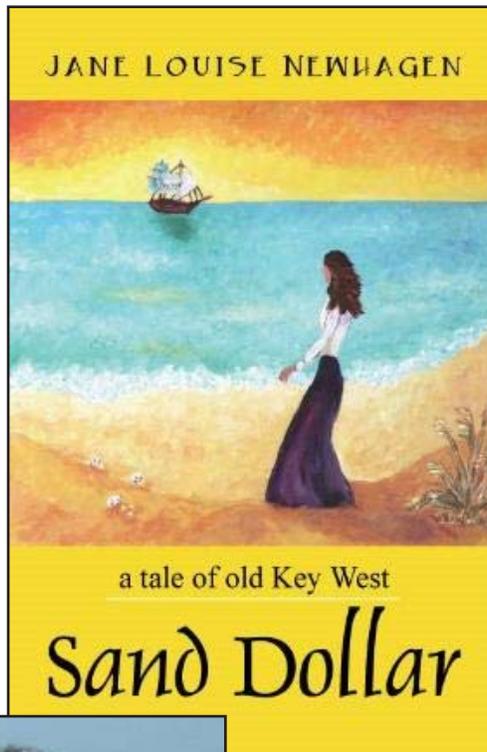
"Over the years, groups and individuals have worked to do just that, and their efforts have ended for one reason or another. I believe that by using the equipment we now have and integrating those previous efforts, the job can be done once and for all."

Born and raised in Denver, Colorado, and a graduate of Brown University in Providence, Rhode Island, Newhagen has lived up and down the East Coast and even spent five years living in Paris, France.

She has lived in Key West for the past seven years.

"I once lived in a house that was brought to Key West from the Bahamas in the 1800's," Newhagen explains on her website, www.janewhagen.com. "The thick heart pine walls were so hard they bent nails. At the kitchen doorway, old wood cupped beneath a new sill. I knew there was dust in the cracks that dated from the original owners."

"I put a pencil and paper in the attic in case there was a spirit presence that had something to say. There wasn't. I gave up on



Above, city cemetery archivist Jane Newhagen's new novel *Sand Dollar*, a tale of old Key West. Local artist Fran Decker painted the cover picture for Jane's novel. At left, Jane Newhagen.

that, but I never lost the sense of the people who lived there before me. These were the seeds of *Sand Dollar*, a tale of old Key West."

Newhagen says that the basis for the book is historical, but that the story is "pure imagination."

Newhagen's book is available from the publisher at outskirtspress.com, on amazon.com and barnesandnoble.com, or if you're in Key West, the author can sell you a copy herself and sign it.

Newhagen's work has previously been published in the 2006 Florida International University Key West Writers Conference Anthology and in *All My Good Habits I Learned from Grandma*. She can be reached at jane@janewhagen.com. □

SEPTEMBER BIRTHDAYS

- John Cardona - Police Department - Sept. 1
- George Villareal - Police Department - Sept. 1
- Martha Arencibia - Port Operations - Sept. 2
- Edward Gates - Fire Department - Sept. 2
- Chawana McDowell - Police Department - Sept. 2
- Pavel Theinert - Public Works - Sept. 3
- Jean Abellard - Key West Bight - Sept. 4
- Eric DeFilippo - Police Department - Sept. 4
- Gary Addleman - Code Compliance - Sept. 5
- Calixto Garcia - Fire Department - Sept. 7
- Bill Rieck - Public Works - Sept. 8
- Gerald Smith - Fire Department - Sept. 8
- Gwendolyn Sommers - Parks & Rec - Sept. 8
- George Stemmer - Transit Systems - Sept. 8
- Noel Diaz - Police Department - Sept. 9
- Arthur Perkins - Fire Department - Sept. 9
- Robert Harrington - Key West Bight - Sept. 10
- Julio Gomez - Police Department - Sept. 11
- David Zarate - Fire Department - Sept. 12
- Artur Bakala - Public Works - Sept. 13
- Bruce Campbell - Public Works - Sept. 14
- David Fraga - Fire Department - Sept. 14
- Carl Allen - Parks & Rec - Sept. 15
- Roland Flowers - Engineering Services - Sept. 15
- Luis Gonzalez-Vazquez - Parks & Rec - Sept. 15
- Michael Lummis - Police Department - Sept. 16
- Craig Marston - Fire Department - Sept. 17
- Julio Avel - City Manager consultant - Sept. 18
- Ernest DeLoach - Police Department - Sept. 18
- Wayne Owen - Fire Department - Sept. 19
- Paul Williams - Transit Systems - Sept. 19
- Alan Averette - Fire Department - Sept. 20
- Antonio Boza - Parks & Rec - Sept. 20
- Kurt Stephens - Police Department - Sept. 21
- James Milstead - Engineering Services - Sept. 22
- Jean Bernard - Dept. of Transportation - Sept. 23
- James Knowles - Garage - Sept. 23
- David Kouri - Police Department - Sept. 23
- Alice Parker - Human Resources - Sept. 23
- Bonnita Myers - Code Compliance - Sept. 25
- Schavawn Yarber - Human Resources - Sept. 25
- David Hawthorne - Garrison Bight - Sept. 26
- Shawn Smith - City Attorney - Sept. 27
- Jean Vertus - Public Works - Sept. 27
- Reinaldo Diaz - Parks & Rec - Sept. 28
- Glenn Sage - Transit System - Sept. 29

SEPTEMBER SERVICE AWARDS

Frank Sauer - Police Department
25 years of service from his start
date on Sept. 29, 1982

Keith Sellers - Fire Department
10 years of service from his start
date on Sept. 23, 1997

Lucretia Monroe - Building
10 years of service from her start
date on Sept. 22, 1997

Kuniko Keohane - Police Dept.
5 yeras of service from her start
date on Sept. 2, 2002

Auguste Joseph - Police Dept.
5 years of service from his start date
on Sept. 5, 2002

Saintfort Hyppolite - Public Works
5 years of service from his start date
on Sept. 6, 2002

William Albury - Parks & Rec
5 years of service from his start date
on Sept. 6, 2002



Fire Marshal Pat Pelletier welcomes grandson

Manuel Pichardo and Christina Pelletier, daughter of city Fire Marshal Pat Pelletier, celebrated the arrival of their son Caden Thomas on Friday, August 31 at noon. Caden arrived on time, at a healthy 8 pounds, 10 ounces and 21 inches. Congratulations Grandpa Pat!



Wrigley Archer

The newest addition to the Archer clan, Wrigley, can sometimes be found visiting his dad, Port Operations Director Raymond Archer, at the Outer Mole where Wrigley spends his days greeting visitors and taking naps.

City Hall closed for Columbus Day

The City of Key West will be closed for Columbus Day, October 8, 2007. Regular business hours will resume October 9.

Medical coverage open enrollment: Sept. 19 – 28

The City of Key West's Human Resources department announces open enrollment for health insurance flexible spending accounts Sept. 19 through Sept. 28.

Anyone who wants to make changes to their current dependent healthcare coverage or wants to start a pre-tax flexible spending account for medical expenses or dependent child care expenses should contact Stephanie Johnson in HR at 305-809-3711. Appointments should be made to consult with an HR representative during open enrollment.

Commissioner Bethel retires after 16 years



Commissioner Harry Bethel accepts a plaque honoring his service to the city on the occasion of his retirement from Department of Transportation Director Myra Wittenberg.

District IV Commissioner Harry Bethel is retiring this month after 16 years of service as a City Commissioner.

“A lot has happened in 16 years, and I’m so glad that I got to be a part of everything,” Commissioner Bethel said. “I have always tried to do what was best for this city and I think I’ve done that, so I’m happy with the time I’ve spent on this commission.”

Commissioner Bethel said it was just time for him to retire from this form of civic service.

“It’s time to move on,” he said. “Being a commissioner is hectic.”

Over the years, Commissioner Bethel has served as Vice Mayor; Liaison Commissioner to the Utility Board, Key West Housing Authority and the City of Key West’s General Employees Pension Board of Trustees; Tourist Development Council representative; and chairman of the Monroe County Housing Authority.

“I’m going to miss the people, the wonderful staff we have in the city, the issues and the challenges,” Commissioner Bethel said. “You can’t satisfy everybody or make everyone happy all the time, but you do the best you can. You try to follow your heart to

do what’s best for the community. Key West is my home, and I think I’ve help make it a better place over the past 16 years.”

Commissioner Bethel said he sees his greatest accomplishment as the fact that he honored his first campaign promise to the citizens of Key West.

“I made a commitment to lower taxes, and I have succeeded in doing so,” he said. “I am quite proud of that accomplishment.”

In addition to always keeping a firm eye on the city’s budget, Commissioner Bethel said he has found the work he has done for children and families to be the most rewarding.

“I have taken great pleasure in the things I have done for children, like the holiday parade and facilitating the development of the new skate park. Those accomplishments have been very personally satisfying for me.”

Commissioner Bethel leaves wishing his colleagues the best in the upcoming years.

“We have some great challenges ahead, but I think the city is moving in a good direction.” □

PUBLIC MEETINGS OCTOBER 2007

Oct. 3: City Commission
Old City Hall, 6 p.m.

Oct. 4: Board of Adjustment
Old City Hall, 6 p.m.

Oct. 6: Key West Citywide Cleanup
Bayview Park, 8 a.m.

Oct. 8: Clean Key West Task Force
City Hall, 12 p.m.

Oct. 8: Community Housing
Committee
City Hall, 5:30 p.m.

Oct. 16: City Commission
Old City Hall, 6 p.m.

Oct. 17: Code Enforcement
Hearing - HARC Appeal
Old City Hall, 1:30 p.m.

Oct. 22: Clean Key West Task Force
City Hall, 12 p.m.

Oct. 22: Community Housing
Committee
City Hall, 5:30 p.m.