

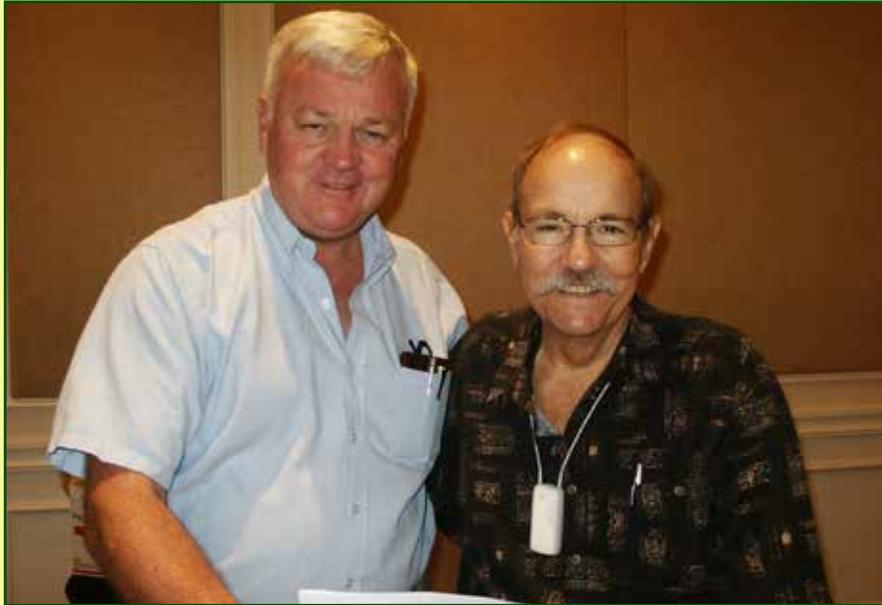


CHAMBER CHOWDER©

510 Greene Street ~ 1st Floor, Key West

www.keywestchamber.org

Chamber Members Get Answers from City Commission Candidates



Key West Chamber of Commerce Vice President Greg Sullivan thanks former Keynoter publisher Wayne Markham for moderating the Chamber's City Commission candidate forum during its August membership luncheon at the Marriott Beachside Hotel.

The Key West Chamber of Commerce has long championed the idea that an informed citizenry makes for a successful community, and the business organization does its part every election season to question candidates about important local issues.

The Chamber hosted its first candidate forum during the August 26th membership luncheon at the Marriott Beachside Hotel, where six candidates vying for three City Commission seats introduced themselves and answered questions about topics ranging from homelessness and affordable housing, to taxes, transient rentals and Truman Waterfront.

Chamber members had previously submitted questions for the candidates that were vetted and selected by the Chamber's Candidate Forum Committee before moderator and former newspaper publisher Wayne Markham posed them to the candidates, Chamber Vice President Greg Sullivan explained to the lunchtime audience that included about 150 members.

City Commission seats in Districts II, IV, and V are up for grabs in a campaign that includes one incumbent commissioner, a former mayor, a retired judge, an attorney, and two community activists.

Commissioner Tony Yaniz wants to keep his seat in District IV, but faces a challenge from retired Judge Richard Payne. In District II, former Mayor Morgan McPherson wants to fill the seat being vacated by Commissioner Mark Rossi, who will not seek re-election. McPherson is running against local attorney and homeless advocate Samuel Kaufman. Community activist Mike Mongo and former mayoral candidate Margaret Romero want to represent District V in the seat currently held by Commissioner Teri Johnston, who is not running for re-election.

To start, Markham gave each candidate one minute to describe the two most pressing issues facing the city of Key West.

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Message from President Nicki L. Will



I would like to remind everyone to place the "Showcase of Key West Businesses" Trade Show on your calendar for Wednesday, September 16th at the Key West Marriott Beachside. The Key West Chamber of Commerce and Waste Management will present the 27th annual trade show from 3:00 PM to

7:30 PM. There will be a break at 5:00 PM to prepare for the *members only* Business After Hours sponsored by the Key West Marriott Beachside. It should be a great afternoon of networking and if previous years are any measure, the trade show is generally sold out. You are welcome at any time and Chamber members are encouraged to stay for the *Business After Hours*.

The various chamber committees and board members have been quite busy this year working on some new initiatives that are very excited for the Chamber, our business community, and our community in general.

A group of board members at the direction of the board, chaired by Claude Gardner, has been working on prizes for the annual October parade.

The Key West Chamber of Commerce is announcing an award program and prizes for local float entries into the annual parade that culminates the events at the end of October each year. The new program will reward the best overall local float participant of the parade \$7,500, with

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Spotlight Shines on ... Kim Works, Pirate Radio



Each month, the Chamber of Commerce spotlights a business or professional person whose business card is drawn at the Business After Hours. This month's winner is Kim Works, Pirate Radio.

Kim Works has come full circle, and is glad to be back where she belongs — on the air.

The Keys media mainstay started her communications career at a Kentucky radio station 35 years ago.

After arriving in the Keys in 1985, Works worked her way through the ever-changing world of media and advertising. She managed two radio stations, directed sales for television, radio and newspapers in the Florida Keys, and now does both.

Works is the director of sales and an on-air personality at Pirate Radio.

"I never realized how much I missed being on the air until I was back in the booth at Pirate

Radio," she said. "My college major was in radio broadcasting, and I'm thrilled to be back where it all began."

With her headphones in place and microphone properly positioned, the veteran of Keys communication wakes up the working world with co-host Jack Smith on the Pirate Radio Morning Show, weekdays from 6 to 11 a.m.

The show features a mix of news, weather and music, with local commentary and community spotlights.

"Plus we do a live remote broadcast every Friday from Two Friends restaurant from 9 a.m. to 11 a.m., and at 10:30 Friday mornings we always highlight a local musician performing live on the air."

After years of using the showbiz alias of Janet Planet on the air, Works decided recently to use her real identity on the radio.

She still sells advertising for Pirate Radio, and fills her rare free time with plenty of other community activities.

Works has served on the Key West Chamber of Commerce board of directors since 1989 and was its president in 1996. She co-chairs the Membership Committee, is a past recipient of the Athena Award and in January received the Chamber's highest honor when she was inducted into its prestigious Hall of Fame, having been limited in prior years only by her age.

Works, a former Fantasy Fest queen, is currently serving her third year on the Monroe County Tourist Development Council's District Advisory Committee for Key West, which helps determine which events and projects receive funding from the county's hotel bed tax for District I.

"And I'm in my third year as president of the board of Red Barn Theater," she said. "It's been an amazing run and I'm thrilled to be back in radio and on the air."

Catch up with Kim from 6 a.m. to 11 a.m. weekday mornings on Pirate Radio, 96.7 FM or 101.7 FM or call her at 305-304-2404 for advertising options.

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The Chamber Chowder Heartily Thanks These Businesses for Their Generous Support of this Issue of the Newsletter

Ernest Hemingway House Museum
907 Whitehead Street
Key West, FL 33040
305-294-1136

La Concha Crowne Plaza
430 Duval Street
Key West, FL 33040
305-296-2991

YP.com
9850 NW 41st St.
Doral, FL 33178
305-482-2601

Porter Allen Insurance Company
513 Southard Street
Key West, FL 33040
305-294-2542

Old Town Key West Development
201 Front Street, Suite 301
Key West, FL 33040
305-294-3225



"Candidates ..." continued from page 1 ▶

Most candidates mentioned taxes as one issue of concern, while Mongo also blamed illegal and unlicensed transient rentals for taking money and housing away from the city.

Romero, who describes herself as a community watchdog, called for smarter spending of taxpayer money and transparency in government.

"Is affordable housing also important? Absolutely, it's what got me started going to City Commission meetings in the first place."

Kaufman encouraged voters to look closely at a white paper he drafted about the city's challenges with regard to housing, affordability and homelessness, while McPherson deemed "essential city services and taxes" as the two top issues, saying, "We need to redefine our budget and goals as a city."

McPherson would later emphasize his belief that the city's coffers should not be a significant funding source for local nonprofits and other charities to the detriment of its working families and other taxpayers.

Yaniz called for "balance without frivolous spending, so we can make sure our children can afford to live here."

His challenger's answer was not too different, as Payne emphasized his belief that, "We need to roll back taxes, and replace the workforce housing that has been lost over the years."

When asked their opinion about the allowance of transient rentals at the 20 new condominiums being built on Simonton Street, McPherson was the only candidate who said he would support the transient rental rights.

"I'd vote yes," McPherson said. "Times change and I think that's a great project."

Others were in agreement with Romero's and Kaufman's statements that "just because the developers made a bad investment doesn't mean the city has to bail them out" after their presentation to the city specifically stated there would be no transient rentals among the new units.

"The developers should have to live with that promise," Kaufman said to applause.

Markham next asked some of the candidates whether they would support a 24-hour homeless shelter that has been proposed by Mayor Craig Cates.

After reminding voters that he has chaired the board of the Florida Keys Outreach Coalition for the Homeless for the past 15 years, Kaufman said he does not support a 24-hour shelter.

"Because every state institution in Florida, from prisons to mental health facilities, will be

telling their clients about the new shelter in Key West," Kaufman said, adding that he also opposes using Land Authority money to fund a homeless shelter.

McPherson similarly opposes the expanded shelter services, and said the city should "leave things as is at KOTS (Keys Overnight Temporary Shelter).

Yaniz called for "basic services at KOTS," but said he would rather see city funds prioritized for working families and senior citizens.

The city's purchase of Peary Court was next, and all but McPherson expressed skepticism at the proposal.

"This is an opportunity we can't overlook," McPherson said. "Surely the numbers do work."

Mongo answered first a question about improvements to Duval Street, suggesting an annual parking fee for residents, who could then park downtown without putting money in meters or pay stations.

McPherson chastised the city for spending too much money studying ongoing issues.

"We need to stop doing studies and actually do something," McPherson said. "Duval Street changes are something we've overstudied. We need to get input from the merchants and locals, and make a decision."

The one topic that drew consensus from all candidates was about increasing density allowances and height restrictions to provide housing.

"It would depend on where it was and by how much," Romero said, receiving nods of agreement from the other candidates, while Yaniz emphasized that he would support no such increases "near the water or in Old Town."

The event closed with a one-minute statement from each candidate and a reminder from Markham to everyone to vote on October 6th.

Virginia Panico, executive vice president of the Key West Chamber of Commerce, also explained the absence of Utility Board candidates from the day's forum.

Though the Chamber had initially planned to include the Utility Board, the candidate roster of 13 made their participation in the one-hour forum impractical.

"With 13 candidates and just one hour of time, it just wouldn't be practical given our format," Panico said. "Each candidate would end up getting to answer only one question."

The city election takes place October 6th. For campaign and candidate information, visit www.keys-elections.org.

President's Message continued from page 1 ▶

the runner up local float awarded \$2,500. In addition, the Chamber will be sponsoring a "Championship Trophy" to the winner of the float contest which it intends to pass on from year to year to the next overall winner. "Think of this as the "Stanley Cup Trophy" of the parade said Nicki Will, President of the Key West Chamber of Commerce. "The goal is to initiate some healthy competition with financial rewards, and bring some passion back to the parade". "We hope to see hotels, guesthouses, restaurants, bars and retailers putting in the time and effort to be able to hoist the "cup".

The Chamber has closely followed the recent concerns about the parade and a perception of dwindling local participation. The new program will have eligibility requirements where only local participants qualify for the contest award and will have decency standards. "While we cannot eliminate all concerns about the conduct of people attending the event, we believe we can provide incentive to improve the parade itself which could lead to increased local participation and pride in the city's signature and most recognized event." said Will. The Chamber Board is also in talks with local businesses and property owners to create a staging area in Key West for floats to be assembled.

For more information about participating in the Chamber's contest please contact the Key West Chamber of Commerce office at 305-294-2587.

The other chamber committee that has been very busy is the **Image Committee** chaired by Lynne Tejada. The **Image Committee** is working on a very exciting project that will take place over the next few months and culminate with the Board Retreat, where your directors will gather to solidify next year's plans and ideas for the future. Therefore, if your phone rings and we are asking questions or if you receive an email asking for you to participate in a survey - please take a moment to help us. Your opinion is important and we wish to hear from you. This is your Chamber.

Thank you for your continued support of the Chamber. Please let me know how we may better serve you. 



The Key West Chamber of Commerce & Waste Management present the 27th Annual "Showcase of Key West Businesses" Trade Show

Wednesday, September 16, 2015

The Public is invited as our guest from 3:00p.m. to 5:00p.m.
Our *Members Only Business After Hours* is from 5:30p.m. to 7:30p.m.
at the Key West Marriott Beachside – 3841 No. Roosevelt Blvd.

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First State Bank of the Florida Keys	Marcial De Gomar's Emeralds Int'l, LLC
Florida Keys Aqueduct Authority	NAS Key West MWR
Florida Keys Community College	Ocean ATM
Florida Keys Media	Ocean Walk Apartments
Florida Keys Mosquito Control	Our Keys
Florida Restaurant and Lodging Association	Spencer's by the Sea
Gary's Plumbing & Fire	Take Stock in Children
Horan, Wallace & Higgins LLP	TEM Environmental
Key West Chamber of Commerce	The Law Office of Julio Margalli
Education Committee	The Weekly
Key West Citizen	USA Health
Key West Seaplanes	Vacasa
Keys Imaging	Waste Management, Inc.
Keys Medical Group	Waterway Wireless
	Zonta

For more information contact Kerry Baker at 305-294-2587 or visit www.keywestchamber.org

Welcome New Members!



The Key West Chamber of Commerce welcomed eight new members during its August membership luncheon. Pictured left to right: Brian Ritchie of Royal Plus Disaster Kleenup; Dr. Bruce Lieske of White Street Chiropractic; Jennifer Averett of Special Olympics Florida; Tim Lorber of Key West Local Luxuries; Liana Pyne of Special Olympics Florida, and Membership Committee Co-Chairs Joyce Benavides and Kim Works. (Additional new members who are not pictured include: Deep Space Apparel, Key West Premier Helicopters, The Margalli Law Office and IMKA: Internal Medicine & Kidney Associates.)

Deep Space Apparel

3330 Northside Drive, #216
Key West, FL 33040
843-377-5582

www.deepspaceapparel.com

Retail Sales Online
Contact: Mr. Roland Strozier

IMKA- Internal Medicine & Kidney Associates

1111 12th Street, Suite 203
Key West, FL 33040
305-293-5015 - Medical Office
Contact: Taweh D. Beysolow, M.D.

Key West Local Luxuries

515 Fleming Street Key West, FL 33040
305-304-9001

www.KeyWestJewelryBar.com

Retail Jewelry Boutique
Contact: Barb Grob

Key West Premier Helicopters

3491 So. Roosevelt Blvd.
Key West, FL 33040
717-676-8745

www.keywestpremierhelicopters.com

Helicopter Tours
Contacts: Kayla and Tyler Sigel

The Margalli Law Office

1010 Kennedy Drive, Suite 307
Key West, FL 33040
305-295-9382 - Attorney
Contact: Julio Margalli

Royal Plus Disaster Kleenup

625 US HWY1, Suite 105
Key West, FL 33040
305-849-9783

www.royalplus.com

Contractor- Emergency Services

Contact: Brian Ritchie

Special Olympics Florida Monroe

PBM #175, 1200 Fourth Street Key West, FL 33040
305-304-0809

Non Profit Organization

Contact: Ruth Holland

White Street Chiropractic

1217 White Street Key West, FL 33040
305-292-7222

www.wschiro.com

Chiropractic Physician's Office

Contact: Dr. Bruce Lieske

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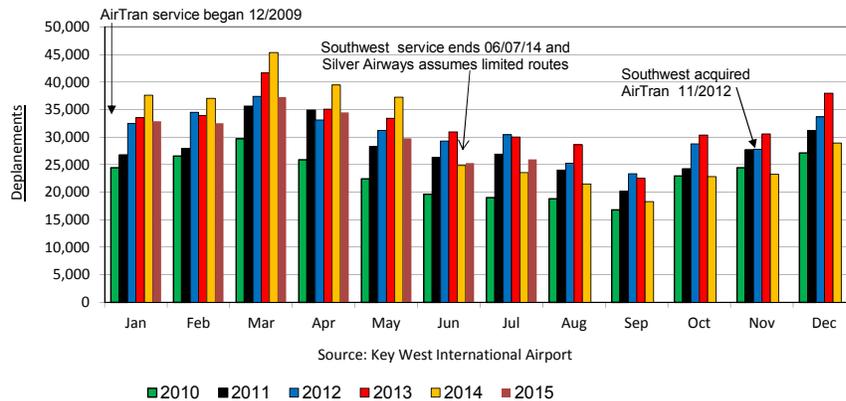
REACHRESORT.COM

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*A minimum of 35 guests required.



Key West International Airport Arrivals
January 2010 - July 2015

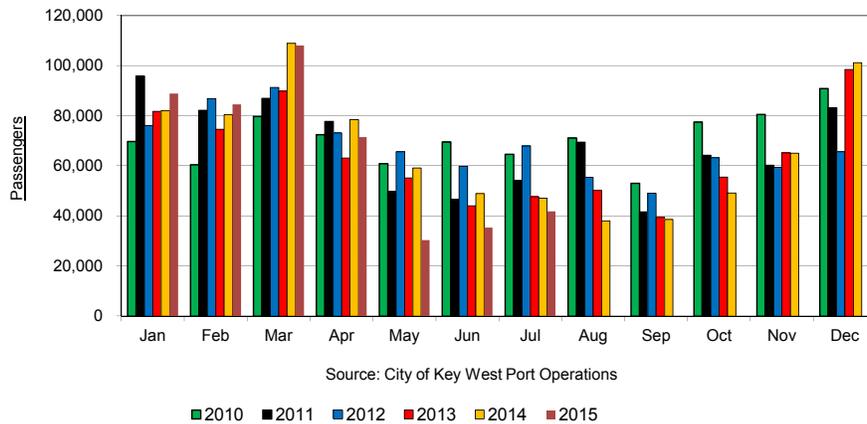


Passenger arrivals to Key West International Airport in July 2015 totaled 25,994. **This is an increase of 10.2% when compared to July of 2015.**

Total passenger arrivals for the first seven months of 2015 were 218,351. That is a 11% decrease over the same period in 2014. However, this is similar to the arrivals seen before Southwest began service. Our monthly arrivals closely mirrored 2012 for January thru May, and we are only 4.5% behind the arrivals to date in 2012.

Losses from Air Tran & Cape Air have largely been picked up by American & Silver, with Delta & US Air contributing.

Key West Cruise Ship Passengers
January 2010 - July 2015



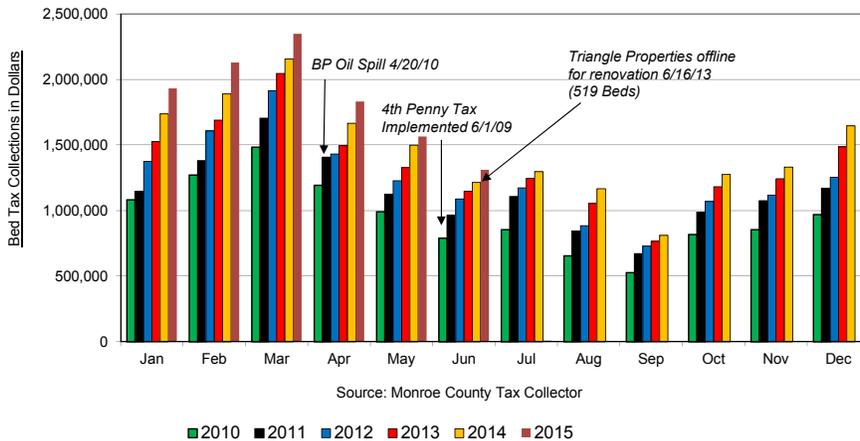
A total of 41,821 cruise ship passengers disembarked in Key West during July 2015. **This was 11.3% lower than July 2014**, which saw 47,138 passengers disembark.

For the six months of 2015, cruise ship arrivals saw 460,493 passengers disembark from 197 port calls. While port calls are down 5.7% so far for 2015, passenger counts are down 8.8% over the same period in 2014.

The cruise ship schedule for September to November 2015 compared to the same three months in 2014 is shown below:

	Number of Ships	
	2014	2015
September	15	14
October	20	16
November	29	30

Key West Bed Tax Collections
January 2010 - June 2015



Reported Bed Tax Collections for Key West were **\$1,312,257 for June 2015, an increase of 7.9% compared to June 2014.**

According to Smith Travel, **June 2015 occupancy was 85.4%, a 1.1 percentage point decrease from the June 2014 occupancy rate of 86.5%.**

The Average Daily Rate (ADR) was reported at **\$241.15 for June 2015, an increase of 3.3% from the ADR of \$233.48 posted for June 2014.** This ADR of \$241.15 is the highest recorded for the month of June. This continues the record of 65 months where the ADR has been higher than the previous year. In fact, **the last 51 months are all-time records for each month.**



Chowder Trends Special Focus: Key West Property Tax (Part I I)

TRIM Notice: Florida's Oxymoron

it's Millage and not Mileage
...but don't worry, it really doesn't matter, because they will tell you how much to take out of your pockets come November...

Property values in Key West increased citywide by 7.5% this year, while the inflation index has held Homesteaded property increases to less than a percent at 0.8%. With about only 17% of Key West properties Homesteaded, the vast majority of property owners could see 10% or more in their valuations. Yet because of the complexity in our property taxes, generalities rarely will tell you what to expect will be taken from your pockets and how all the municipal budget processes will hit home for you. That is why the TRIM notices go out this time of the year, so that you can see what your specific bottom line is and choose to get involved before it is too late. Remember, you can lower your property tax bill.

Understanding Your TRIM Notice

The TRIM Notice will list both Taxable Value as well as the respective Tax Rates for each of the taxing authorities that collect taxes on your property. The TRIM Notice provides three sets of numbers: the amount of tax levied last year, how much your taxes would (or could) be at a rolled back rate, and what they will be if the budgets of each taxing authority are approved as proposed. The Property Appraiser provides a tax estimator tool on their website (www.mcpafl.org) that can be helpful in considering what affects your tax bill, including where the property is located, the property value and all the possible exemptions including the Portability amendment that allows you to carry your "Save our Homes" benefit when buying a new home. If you have questions about your Taxable Value, contact the Monroe County Property Appraiser. If you have questions about the proposed tax rates, contact the respective taxing authority and plan to attend their Public Hearings to make your voice heard.

While an increase in the Tax Rate (millage) increases your tax bill, the same is true of your property's Taxable Value. Your tax bill equals **(Millage Rate/1000) x (Taxable Value)**. Taxable Value does not mean Market or "Just" Value; and two identical homes with the same Market Value could have very different Taxable Values and therefore significantly different tax bills. While all property owners are taxed at the same rate, Taxable Values will always be lower than Market values by differing amounts depending on exemptions owners receive and when they began receiving the particular exemptions. This is true not only because exemptions reflect the 'exemption' of a certain dollar amount of your property's value from being taxed, but also since those properties with Homestead exemptions and now certain commercial properties are afforded protections under State law ("Save Our Homes") which slow or "cap" the rate of increase in value. So even though Market values may rise based upon market forces, the Property Appraiser can only raise your Homestead property value by the lesser of 3% or CPI, and your qualified commercial property by 10%. This creates what is called Assessed Value, from which the exemptions are subtracted to determine that portion of your properties value that is subject to taxation (Taxable Value).

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 or simply
 Check in !**

KWCity | CityofKeyWest-FL.gov

find budget information under Finance Department

MC | MonroeCounty-FL.gov

find budget information under Budget & Finance Department

MCSD | KeysSchools.com

find budget information under Finance Department

FKMCD | KeysMosquito.org

call for budget information

FCAA | FCAA.com

find budget information under Reports

KES | KeysEnergy.com

find budget information under Financial Information from the About KEYS menu

September

Locations: L-Key Largo, M-Marathon, W-Key West

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
		1	2	3 5 @L - MC 1st Hearing	4	5
6	7	8 5 @M - FKMCD 6 @W - KWCity 1st Hearing	9 5 @M - MC 2nd Hearing	10	11 5 @W - MC Final Hearing	12
13	14 5 @M - FKMCD Final Hearing	15 6 @W - MCSD Final Hearing	16	17	18	19
20	21	22 6 @W - KWCity Final Hearing	23	24	25	26
27	28	29	30			

Legislative Calendar



Quarterly Economic Environment & Outlook

The Key West Chamber of Commerce continuously monitors, compiles, and analyzes economic data; generating local economic data through surveys of its over 500 members.

www.KeyWestChamber.org

Key West Business Environment vs. Florida & the U.S.

Responses from KWCC BEO conducted June 25-July 15, 2015; NABE BCS conducted June 17-July 1, 2015; UF-BEBR CSI conducted July 1-26, 2015*

The soft market first noticed in February became more visible, producing a weak second quarter for Key West even though we ended the season with a strong Memorial Day celebration. Port calls dropped significantly for the quarter, with only 50% of last year's passenger volume disembarking in May; leaving the second quarter cruise ship passengers 26.5% lower than last year and our year-to-date volume 8.6% lower.* And while Florida continued to see unprecedented growth in tourism, we have had little available capacity in which to grab our share. But with the second quarter seeing the first two of the triangle hotels re-open, we are showing signs of our occupancy rate potentially easing.

Memorial Day Sales

USCGC Eagle blew in with a batch of young cadets and the best sales of the quarter. With 6 miles of rigging to heights of 147.3 feet, it can produce speeds of 17 knots under sail yet only 10 knots under power, reinforcing an appreciation of the economic effect of our community's events.



Down
9 pts
to +28%
Second Quarter Sales balance

- With 56% of Key West businesses reporting increased revenues during the second quarter 2015, this was better than national survey results of 46%
- Floridian's Consumer Sentiment declined to 89 in July, down 4.3 points from January's reading

Key West Business Outlook

Key West expectations ease, while still strong for a positive year.



Down
11 pts
to +73%
Twelve month Expectation balance

- National survey sees average growth to be 2.4% for 2015, and 2.9% for 2016
- Floridian's confidence in the U.S. economy declined 10.3 pts in Q2 to 81.5

Compensation & Wages



Up
9 pts
to +48%
Second Quarter Wages balance

- With 48% of Key West businesses reporting increasing wages during the second quarter 2015, this is now greater than national survey results of 42% (National results are down from 45% in April, while Key West results are up from 39% in April)
- U.S. Personal disposable income adjusted for taxes and inflation rose 1.5% compared with 3.8% in the first quarter
- U.S. Personal savings as a percentage of disposable personal income was 4.8% compared with 5.2% in the first quarter
- U.S. Consumer spending increased 2.9% compared with 1.8% in the first quarter
- U.S. Prices of goods and services increased 1.4% in the second quarter, after decreasing 1.6% in the first quarter (Excluding energy and food, prices increased 1.1% in the second quarter and 0.2% in the first quarter)

Fueling Wind

It seems any remaining sentiment that oil prices would rise, was extinguished as six global powers agreed in July to phase out UN, EU and US economic sanctions on Iran. The anticipated surge in supply should force prices to remain low and improves expectations for long term price stability, freeing up disposable income and strengthening the wind in the sails of the global recovery.*

Macro-Economic Impacts



Two-thirds nationally say the economic slowdown in China has had no material impact on their businesses.

51% nationally say that the lower oil prices have not had a material impact on their businesses, while the remainder are split fairly evenly between positive and negative impacts.

54% nationally say that the strong Dollar has not had a material impact on their businesses, while 38% indicated a negative effect.

World Economy - Caribbean

The Global Economic Conditions Survey Report: Q2, 2015 provides regional analysis from 950 businesses in 180 countries*

Caribbean tourist destinations benefitted in the second quarter from a strong US dollar and the increased spending power of Americans. While rising tourism and cheaper oil imports will lead to most parts of the Caribbean growing faster in 2015, the IMF still predicts that the area will see growth slow for the fifth consecutive year in 2015 to 0.9%. Investments in capital and staff rose significantly in the second quarter and confidence for the region has improved at an accelerating rate over the past three quarters.

0.9% in '15

Balance figures represent the percentage reporting increases minus the percentage reporting decreases (+ reflects expansion and - reflects contraction, and change is from prior quarter)

Sources: NABE, Business Conditions Survey; University of Florida BEBR, Consumer Sentiment Index; City of Key West; IMA/ACCA, Global Economic Conditions Survey Report; Bureau of Economic Analysis



BUSINESS AFTER HOURS | WEDNESDAY, AUGUST 5TH, 2015

Sponsored by: Key West Woman's Club - Hellings House Museum - 319 Duval Street



ATHENA Award Recognizes an Outstanding Professional Woman

The Key West Chamber of Commerce is taking applications to honor a woman who exemplifies leadership in her profession and industry by presenting her with the much-coveted ATHENA TM award.

The ATHENA TM award is a high honor given to a professional woman who demonstrates excellence in business or profession and provides valuable service to the community. The recipient will have exhibited initiative and creativity enhancing the efficacy of her business or profession and the stability and improvement of the community. Lastly, the recipient will have demonstrated support of the goals of professional women and have provided unselfish assistance on their behalf.

In 1980, the ATHENA TM awards program originated in Lansing, Michigan when Martha Mayhood Mertz, owner of her own real estate company, was asked to join the Lansing Chamber of Commerce Board of Directors. Mertz realized she was the only woman on the board and that the Lansing Chamber had recognized only one woman in its 75 years. This realization was the driving force in establishing the ATHENA TM foundation. Thus the first ATHENA TM award was given in 1982 to recognize an outstanding businesswoman and celebrate her achievements in community service and profession. Since its inception, the ATHENA TM award has grown into a national and international tradition with thousands of recipients in cities all over the country as well as in Moscow, Russia, and Canada, China and The United Arab Emirates, and the United Kingdom.



The ATHENA TM Foundation is a non-profit organization that is dedicated to providing leadership opportunities for women and recognizing those individuals who have given outstanding service to their profession and community. The foundation has been underwritten nationally by Oldsmobile Division of General Motors since 1985. National City Bank and Pontiac GMC, GM, and Buick are underwriters as well.

Each year, the ATHENA TM recipient receives a beautiful statue designed by sculptor Linda Ackley of Tampa, Florida. The statue represents Athena, the wise daughter of Zeus, in bronze. The head of the statue is a multi-faceted crystal ball and each statue has a protective acrylic coating and walnut base. Ackley has uniquely made each and every one of the ATHENA TM awards since 1982.

The 2014 Key West Chamber ATHENA TM award recipient was Rita Irwin. Past recipients include Diane Schmidt (2013), Joy Smatt (2012), Sandra Higgs (2011), Diane Gibson (2007), the late Merili McCoy (2005), Melissa Kendrick (2004), Elmira Leto (2003), Phyllis Allen (2002), the late Sharon Moore (2001), Amy Culver-Aversa (2000), the late Connie Rice (1999), Kim Works (1997), Sandra Taylor (1995), CeCe Roycraft (1992), the late Wilhemina Harvey (1991), Linda O'Brien (1990), Dee Von Quirolo (1989), the late Terry Horton (1988), Sue Barroso (1987), and Virginia Panico (1986).

The community is highly encouraged to nominate local individuals for the ATHENA TM award or to receive a nomination form, contact Kerry Baker at the Key West Chamber at 294-2587 or via email to kbaker@keywestchamber.org. The Deadline to submit an application is Friday, October 16, 2015.



Monroe County Supervisor of Elections Joyce Griffin and members of the Key West Chamber of Commerce Election Committee counted the votes that determined five directors of the Chamber's board. A nominating committee will appoint the remaining directors. Vote counters, L to R: Robin Lockwood, Nicki L. Will, Greg Sullivan, Jim Wilson and Melissa Kendrick.

Community Calendar

September 2015

- 9/3-7 6th Annual Key West Brewfest info@keywestbrewfest.com; 800-354-4455
- 9/10-13 Key West WomenFest, www.womenfest.com 305-294-4603
- 9/11-13 Southernmost Light-Tackle Anglers Masters (SLAM) Celebrity Tournament, 305-664-2002 Contact Gary Ellis www.redbone.org
- 9/14-20 43rd Annual Poker Run, www.petersonskeywestpokerrun.com Jerry Sanders 305-294-7050
- 9/16 27th Annual "Showcase of Key West Businesses" Trade Show at Beachside 305-294-2587
- 9/25-26 Conch Scramble "On the Water" Charity Golf Tournament 305-481-5857
- 9/26 ReMARCable "Tour de Keys" Century Bicycle Tour 305-393-2466



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Cruise Ship Schedule

September 2015

09/01	Ecstasy	7:30am-1:30pm
09/02	NO SHIPS	
09/03	Majesty of the Seas	9:30am-6:00pm
09/04	NO SHIPS	
09/05	NO SHIPS	
09/06	NO SHIPS	
09/07	Carnival Freedom	10:00am-7:00pm
09/08	Ecstasy	7:30am-1:30pm
09/08	Carnival Dream	8:00am-5:00pm
09/09	NO SHIPS	
09/10	Majesty of the Seas	9:30am-6:00pm
09/11	Carnival Victory	7:00am-2:00pm
09/12	NO SHIPS	
09/13	NO SHIPS	
09/14	NO SHIPS	
09/15	Ecstasy	7:30am-1:30pm
09/15	Carnival Magic	10:00am-6:00pm
09/16	NO SHIPS	
09/17	Majesty of the Seas	9:30am-6:00pm
09/18	NO SHIPS	
09/19	NO SHIPS	
09/20	NO SHIPS	
09/21	NO SHIPS	
09/22	Ecstasy	7:30am-1:30pm
09/23	NO SHIPS	
09/24	Majesty of the Seas	9:30am-6:00pm
09/25	Carnival Victory	7:00am-2:00pm
09/26	NO SHIPS	
09/27	NO SHIPS	
09/28	NO SHIPS	
09/29	Ecstasy	7:30am-1:30pm
09/30	NO SHIPS	

SAVE THE DATE!

The Key West Chamber of Commerce

presents:

Ready, Set, COLLEGE!

For high school students,
parents, and teachers

Co-Sponsored by: Florida Keys
Community College

Wednesday, October 14, 2014

FKCC Key West Campus

5:30 - 7:30 p.m.

Library – Building A

5901 College Road

Support Our Local Teachers through the Teacher Recognition Program

Dear Valued Chamber Members,

We are genuinely grateful for all of our members who contributed to the Tom Sawyer Five Star Teacher Recognition program for the 2014-2015 school year. Businesses who donated this last year are listed below.

Gifts from Chamber members allow this program to flourish and demonstrates your support of our schools! At this time, we are reaching out to our chamber members for your support for the 2015/2016 school year through a donation of 22 gifts with a minimum value of \$25.00 each (for a total of \$550.00 – or cash option available) from your company for 22 outstanding teachers. These are combined into gift bags awarded three times within the school year to outstanding Key West teacher.

By recognizing teachers who are performing highly, it encourages other teachers in our community to provide superior education to our students, which paves the way for the future of our economy.

The Key West Chamber of Commerce would like to thank the following business for their 2014/2015 donations to our Tom Sawyer Five Star Program for Teacher Recognition.

- **Royal Furniture and Design**
Donation of Teacher Lunches
- **Local Awards & Engraving**
Donation of Recognition Plaques

Gifts:

- A&B Lobster House - \$25 Gift Certificate
- Alan Maltz Gallery - \$25 Gift certificates
- Centennial Bank - \$25 Gift Card
- Danger Charters Corp - \$25 Gift Certificates
- Dion's Quik Mart - \$25 Gift Certificates
- Ernest Hemingway House – "To Have and Have Not" Hardcover Book
- Fausto's Food Palace - \$25 Gift Card
- First State Bank of the Florida Keys - \$25 in coins and a reusable pouch and bag
- Fishbusterz - \$25 Gift Certificates & Salt Scrub
- Florida Keys Community College - FKCC will cover your classroom for one morning or afternoon
- Fury Water Adventures – Excursion Certificates for 2
- Keys Energy Services– Energy Saver Items
- La Naturelle, Inc. - \$25 Gift Certificates
- Marriott Beachside /Tavern-N-Town - \$25 Gift Certificates
- Mel Fisher Maritime Heritage Museum – Admission Tickets
- Monroe County Teachers Federal Credit Union– Folio, pen set, monthly planner, Post It notes, memo pad, mug & reusable shopping bag
- Rick's/Durty Harry's Complex - \$25 Gift Certificates
- Saltwater Angler - \$25 Gift Certificates
- Salute on the Beach - \$25 Gift Certificates
- Sebago Watersports – Sunset Sail or Snorkel Trip for One
- Sheraton Suites Key West – \$50 Lunch Gift Certificates
- Stock Island Marina Village –\$25 Gift Certificate or (2) \$12.50 Gift Certificates
- Sunset Watersports - AM Snorkel trip
- The Studios of KW - \$25 Certificates toward a class
- WeBeFit – Books on Key West, Alaska & Salt Lake City & Washington DC
- Westin Key West Resort & Marina – Bistro 245 Lunch for two \$110 Value

Monies (\$550.00 each) donated from the following businesses:

- Horan, Wallace, & Higgins
- Trepanier & Associates, Inc.



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www.keywestchamber.org

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Key West Chamber Calendar of Events

27th Annual Key West Chamber of Commerce "Showcase of Key West Businesses"

Community and Business Exposition Trade Show

Wednesday, September 16th

Location: Key West Marriott Beachside 3841 North Roosevelt Blvd

Presented by: The Key West Chamber of Commerce

Sponsored by: Waste Management, Inc.

Co-sponsored by: OMI/CH2M

3:00 p.m. - 5:00 p.m., Open to the Public

September 2015

Business After Hours

"Showcase of Key West Businesses"

Community and Business

Exposition Trade Show

Wednesday, September 16th

Time: 5:30 p.m. - 7:30 p.m.

Sponsored by: Key West Marriott Beachside

Members Only Networking Event

General Membership Meeting

Date: Wednesday, September 23rd

Noon

Candidates Forum for Keys

Energy Utility Board races

Moderator: Mr. Wayne Markham,

former publisher of The Keynoter

Location: Key West Marriott Beachside

Please RSVP to the Chamber

at 305-294-2587 or

Email: info@keywestchamber.org

October 2015

Business After Hours

Date: Wednesday, October 21st

Time: 5:30 p.m. - 7:30 p.m.

Sponsored By: Keys Federal Credit Union

Location: 3022 North Roosevelt Blvd.

Members Only Networking Event

General Membership Meeting

Date: Wednesday, October 28th

Noon

Speaker: John Underwood

Topic: Tinsley Advertising

Location: Key West Marriott Beachside

Please RSVP to the Chamber

at 305-294-2587 or

Via email: info@keywestchamber.org

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