



CHAMBER CHOWDER®

510 Greene Street ~ 1st Floor, Key West

www.keywestchamber.org

Talk Saves Lives - An Introduction to Suicide Prevention



Past President/Secretary Greg Sullivan with Keynote Speaker Ms. Tara Sullivan, Regional Manager for the American Foundation for Suicide Prevention.

Ms. Sullivan began by thanking City Commissioner Mary Lou Hoover for her work in support of suicide prevention these past years, helping bring the issue to the forefront of the Key West community.

The goals inherent to the presentation: that we become more aware of who it affects and what we can do about it as well as becoming more comfortable talking about suicide because, as Tara states, "When we talk about it, we save lives." It becomes less stigmatized. The key? Having open, honest conversations about it.

She gave some great language do's and don'ts. Don't say "committed suicide," say instead, "died by suicide," or "ended his/her life" and don't say, "failed" or "successful" when referring to suicide attempts, refer to them as "suicide attempts" or "death by suicide."

She shared the scope of the problem: "Globally, over 800,000 people die by suicide each year, according to the World Health Organization, but it is likely being underreported. This means someone dies by suicide every 40 seconds. In the United States, suicide is the 10th leading cause of death," Tara informs us. And for every death by suicide 25 others attempt.

We lost 44,965 people to suicide in the United States in 2016; that's 3,187 lives in

Florida with twenty deaths by suicide here, in Monroe County.

The more we talk about it, the less we stigmatize it and the more comfortable we will become at having those critical conversations. Because, as we learned today, the most important thing you can put between a suicidal person and their way of ending their life is time.

Suicide has an economic impact of \$69 billion per year in the U.S. The loss of one life by suicide profoundly affects many. It affects families, children, co-workers both emotionally and socially; it is estimated that the majority of Americans will be affected by suicide in their lifetime.

"Suicide is a health issue and just like other health issues, say cardiac arrest, there are warning signs and risk factors that can help aid in the prevention of this health crisis," Tara tells us.

Research has only begun in the last two decades to try and answer the question, Why do people take their own lives? It's been finding that there is no single cause but rather multiple intersecting factors. Several stressors and health issues converge to create extreme feelings of hopelessness and despair. Research has consistently shown that the large majority of people who die by suicide have a mental health condition contributing to their death.

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Message from President Michael Morawski

Wishing all a Happy 4th of July. As we all collectively enjoy a day to celebrate our independence, our economic committee is scheduling meetings with our governmental entities to review their upcoming budgets. For many, the decision made by these boards or commissions will determine if one will continue to call the Florida Keys home.

We've all seen the studies showing the fiscal vulnerability of our workforce from inflationary pressures. As a nation we're enjoying a long run of insignificant inflation on our core products. However, here in our community our individual budgets year after year must factor in the upward expenses associated with our housing cost. While these increases occur on all properties, those who reside and have an owner-occupied status enjoy certain protections i.e.; homesteaded properties that will moderate the upward movement within these expense categories.

For those who own commercial housing units (defined as four or more units) or single-family properties as second homes or investments; these protections are non-existent or greatly diminished. In Monroe County close to 70% of the properties on the tax role are under this classification and are not homesteaded. Those dwelling units are the ones most of our residents call home.

These property owners have an emotionless attachment to these structures. Their purpose, for each and every owner, is to provide a return on capital. When cost infringe on return strategies are modified and the first one to feel the impact of these strategic modifications are the tenants who resides within their falsely assumed residency. Such modifications include, eliminating this specific asset from their portfolio or increasing revenue. Both of these outcomes leave our workforce competing with each other and searching for that needle in the haystack, a place to live.

When cost start to exceed revenue investor's look for another strategy. In our market place, it's been the conversions from low annual rental market rates into the lucrative transient rental market rates. This strategy (when implemented illegally) displaces

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Spotlight Shines on ... Sharon Hirsch, Community Outreach Coordinator for Wesley House Family Services



Each month, the Key West Chamber of Commerce spotlights a business or professional person whose business card is drawn at the Business After Hours. This month's winner is Sharon Hirsch Community Outreach Coordinator for Wesley House Family Services.

Sharon Hirsch, originally from Long Island, started her career as a social worker in New Jersey. After moving to Key West with her husband, volunteering at Wesley House seemed like a natural fit. That led to a new beginning at the beginning of this year when she stepped into the Community Outreach Coordinator position where she connects with the local business community to help meet the mission of Wesley House.

"I've kind of come full circle," Sharon says, laughing.

Wesley House's mission is to promote and enhance the safety, well-being and development of children by educating, supporting and meeting the needs of families. They accomplish this through:

- The Inez Martin Child Development Center which is a Voluntary Pre-Kindergarten program; a Gold Seal certified center - the highest recognition you can get. There, they not only help with preparation for a smooth academic entry but also wrap around the

family with a Backpack Program that sends food home for each child and his/her siblings at the end of every week.

- The Healthy Families program has over 90 families and 163 kids that choose to make a 3-5 year commitment to in-home training and skill building aimed at preventing entry into the system. Because an ounce of prevention is still worth a pound of cure.
- The responsibility for all child protective services in Monroe County, helping troubled families with support and prevention services, like parent skills training; and full case management when there is a risk of harm to a child, "Whatever they need to feel like every other kid in the classroom," Sharon says, "whether that's eye glasses to read, team uniforms to play sports, or if they want to play music, we will buy them the instrument and pay for lessons." They also do foster and adoptive family recruitment, training, and support when it is necessary to remove a child from the home.

"For a child in protective services, if there is a need requested in the morning, the check will be there by afternoon," Sharon proudly states.

It's all about inclusion and that includes the community. "I can place a call that I need furniture and it will be here." You can hear the gratitude in her voice as she speaks.

Wesley House touches the lives of approximately 350 children each year.

This is accomplished largely through grants, foundations, and government funding but they need the community to fill in the gaps. "Without our community partnerships, we wouldn't be successful," Sharon asserts.

Events like the following are critical to continue the caring work of helping children and their families:

- The Valentine's Day Gala at Curry Mansion Inn
- The Lighted Bike Ride at Christmastime
- Mel Fisher Days (coming up July 11-13th)

"Seeing those kids as they graduate pre-K is the best part of my job!" Sharon beams. 🍀

REAL BANKERS | REAL PEOPLE | REAL RELATIONSHIPS



Key West Roosevelt:
305-676-3100
2514 N Roosevelt Blvd.

Key West Old Towne:
305-676-3140
1229 Simonton St.

Key West Whitehead:
305-676-3160
701 Whitehead St.

MY100BANK.COM | A Home BancShares Company | Member FDIC

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

Horan & Higgins, L.L.P.
608 Whitehead Street
Key West, FL 33040
305-294-4585

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



“Suicide Prevention” cont. from page 1 ▶

“Mental health issues are common, one in four people experience a mental health condition and most do not go on to die by suicide,” Ms. Sullivan states.

The brains of people who die by suicide differ from those who die from other causes in both structure and function, mostly in regard to stress response and impulse control.

“We’ve learned that most people who are suicidal are ambivalent about death, part of them wants to live and part of them wants to die,” Tara informs us. “Research has found key strategies that work by engaging the part of them that wants to live while helping to create distance from the part of themselves that wants to die. One way to help is to connect that person with reasons for living while at the same time decreasing the visibility of things around them that may solicit their desire to die.”

The perspective of a suicidal person:

- Crisis point has been reached
- Desperate to escape pain
- Thinking becomes limited

Tara invited us to think of a time when we were experiencing intense pain, “Maybe it was childbirth or a kidney stone or a broken bone. Could you think clearly in that moment? For a suicidal person, thinking becomes constricted at the moment of crisis, a state of tunnel vision where other options seem unavailable tends to occur. A suicidal person cannot think of a time when the unbearable pain will end.”

Key factors that can increase the risk of suicide:

- Health - most commonly, mental health issues such as depression, bipolar disorder, schizophrenia
- History - loss of a family member to suicide, past suicide attempts, history of abuse
- Environment - something going on in someone’s life, having access to lethal means

Research is helping us to fight suicide by looking to identify biomarkers in someone to help identify their risk for suicide, effective interventions as well as conducting clinical trials to find psychotherapies and medications that work to prevent someone from dying from suicide.

After giving us an understanding of the scope of the problem and key research findings, Ms. Sullivan went on to share prevention strategies that contain a number of protective factors. These include mental health care and self-care, family and community support, problem-solving skills, and cultural and religious beliefs “that encourage connecting, help discourage suicidal behavior and create a sense of purpose.”

“Mental health care is an important ingredient for preventing suicide,” Ms. Sullivan continues. “We need a culture where everyone knows to be smart about mental health. Getting effective treatment for mental health issues such as depression or anxiety

can prevent suicide. Less than half of those suffering from mental health issues seek treatment. Critical to suicide prevention is getting people to address their mental health issues the same way they do any other health issues. Taking care of our mental health is just as important as taking care of our physical health. Seeing a mental health professional is a sign of strength.”

The law now requires insurance plans to cover mental health services on par with physical health services. Being proactive about mental health means making mental health a priority: see a doctor or mental health professional, get an evaluation, discuss treatment options, and find what works best.

Tara makes the point that, “Just as we can find strategies that optimize our physical health, we can also find ones that optimize our mental health. Self-care strengthens mental health. Exercise, good sleeping habits, having a healthy diet, and learning effective stress management techniques all serve as protective measures against suicide.”

Research shows that suicidal thoughts are often temporary. They can pass within minutes or hours so keeping that person safe and helping them feel supported can get them through that critical time. There is evidence to show that time between a suicidal person and the means to take their own life can be that lifesaving action. That’s why it’s so important to know the steps to take to keep someone safe.

“Research has also shown that if access to the suicidal person’s primary lethal means is limited, they are unlikely to seek an alternative,” Tara noted.

What you can do:

- Have a caring, supportive conversation if you are worried about someone. It shows you care and gives you time to gain more information about their level of distress
- Watch for the warning signs in yourself and in others
- Talk about ending their lives, being a burden to others, feeling trapped
- Behavior that’s atypical such as increased use of alcohol or drugs, issues with sleep (too much or not at all), acting recklessly, and withdrawing from activity - “that’s a big one,” Tara warns.
- Mood: depression, apathy, rage, anxiety or an unexplained happiness.
- Reach out. “We tend to have conversations about others instead of to others,” Tara observes and encourages us, “I want you to assume that you’re the only person that’s reaching out to that person that’s struggling.”

How to reach out

- Talk to them in private
- Listen to their story
- Express concern and caring
- Ask directly about suicidal thoughts: “Are you thinking about suicide?”

• Encourage them to seek mental health services
“Avoid minimizing their feelings. Avoid trying to convince them that life is worth living. Avoid advice to fix it,” Tara cautions. “Don’t be afraid to ask about suicide, you’re not going to put the idea in someone’s head. Asking that question lets them know that you are someone who cares and is open enough to have that conversation.”

If you think they might make an attempt soon

- Stay with them (if that puts you at risk, leave and call 911)
- Help them secure or remove lethal means or if they’re in a dangerous area, remove them
- Escort them to mental health services

Tara gave us some good resources to have in our phone

- Suicide Prevention Lifeline 1-800-273-TALK
- Crisis Text Line Text TALK to 741741
- 211 Referral line for resources in the area. 🍷

President’s Message cont. from page 1 ▶

our workforce while permanently eliminating a workforce housing unit from our housing stock. This is why your chamber advocates for the targeting and strict enforcement against those that violate our transient rental ordinances. In addition, we call for monetary fines along with criminal penalties that would serve as fiscal and criminal deterrents instead of the current fine structure that calculates into a nominal cost of doing business. Such changes will modify the rate our workforce is being evicted from current workforce housing stock. This is a small but valuable tool for addressing workforce housing stock.

While the lack of workforce housing units is a critical contributor that must be addressed, the ratios of one’s income to housing cost require immediate attention. As a community where the majority of residents pay 50% or more for housing, and 42% are living paycheck to paycheck, any rent increase is the same as an eviction notice. For this reason, chamber leadership is always fixated on governmental budgets. As previously stated, a single family or multi-family property as an investment within our market is already at a price-point at the top end and is well above the thirty percent of income to cost ratio for proper fiscal budgeting for individuals and families. Therefore, any adjustments made singularly or collectively within these budgets have a direct dollar for dollar correlation within our rental market pricing. Water, energy, law enforcement, school operations, mosquito control, property assessments, and millage rate; along with windstorm plus flood premiums, all act as pass throughs from investor to tenant. Once these increases are enacted investors adjust rental rates or modify investment strategy, either way, the community and tenant loses.

Over the years leadership within these entities have shown fiscal discipline. However past history shouldn’t be any indication of future actions. We will keep you informed as the meetings proceed.. 🍷



The Greater Key West Chamber of Commerce and Waste Management

Present the 31st Annual

“Showcase of Key West Businesses” Trade Show at the Key West Marriott Beachside Hotel

Co-Sponsored by: *Kanner & Pinaluga, P.A. Property Damage Attorneys
and OMI/Jacobs*

Tuesday, September 17, 2019

Open from 3:00p.m. to 5:00p.m. to the General Public. Members only Business After Hours
continuing from 5:30p.m. to 7:30p.m.

Listen for our future promotions of the show on the radio and in print!

The Key West Chamber of Commerce offers you an opportunity to showcase your business during the Business Trade Show at the Key West Marriott Beachside Hotel. Last year as in previous years this highly successful show was sold out with more than 400 people attending making it a fun day for all. This year's trade show hours will be 3:00 p.m. to 7:30 p.m. with a ½ hour break at 5:00 p.m. to prepare for the **members only Business After Hours** sponsored by the **Key West Marriott Beachside Hotel**.

We encourage you to participate in this year's trade show to display the products and information your business offers. As an exhibitor you will receive maximum exposure from residents and members of the business community who look forward every year to this show. Don't forget to provide giveaways as an added attraction resulting in a greater marketing exposure for your business.

Booth Sizes Available:

- **Oversized Corner Booths**

Located in the four corners of the room, ideal for oversized displays. The booth space includes a six foot draped table:
\$600 SOLD OUT

- **Standard Wall Booths**

Located along the outside perimeter of the room, ideal for back drops and free standing displays. The booth space includes a six foot draped table, all displays cannot be wider than six feet, and not to extend beyond one foot from the wall: **\$475.00**

- **Extended Wall Booths**

A limited number of wall spaces with extended space on both sides are available.

**Please contact the Key West Chamber for details and pricing.*

- **Center Room Booths**

Located in the inside perimeter of the room and ideal for table top displays no higher than four feet: **\$375.00**

For more information or to reserve your space contact: Kerry Baker at the Key West Chamber of Commerce
305-294-2587 | membership@keywestchamber.org | 510 Greene Street, 1st Floor | Key West, FL 33040

Presented by: **Waste Management**; Co-sponsored by: **Kanner & Pinaluga, P.A. Property Damage Attorneys**

and **OMI/Jacobs**



SUPPORT OUR LOCAL EDUCATORS AND STUDENTS THROUGH THE TOM SAWYER FIVE STAR PROGRAM

*HOW MANY STARS WILL YOU EARN FOR THE
2019/2020 SCHOOL YEAR?*

*Businesses that earn 5, 4 and 3 stars will be presented with an award at a General
Membership meeting.*

Earn a Star by donating to the Teacher Recognition Program.

How to earn your Star:



A donation of 22 gifts from your company with a minimum value of **\$25.00** each (for a total value of **\$550.00**), or a **cash donation of \$550.00**.

These are combined into gift bags that are awarded three times within the school year to a total of 22 outstanding Key West teachers.

Gifts or cash donations should be made to the chamber. Our first teacher awards will be given out at our October 23, 2019 General Membership Meeting. We will accept gifts until the end of the calendar year.

For more information on how you can donate to the **Teacher Recognition Program**, or about the **Tom Sawyer Five Star Program**, contact any member of our Education Committee:

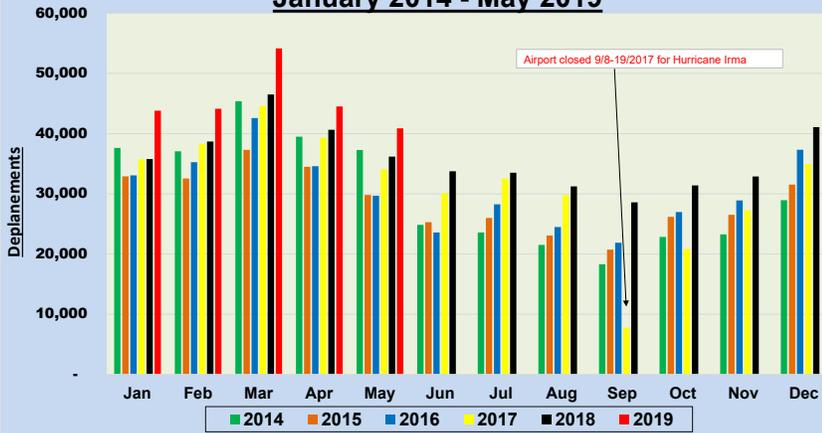
Chair: Billy Spottswood, Spottswood, Spottswood & Sterling
Co-Chair: Suzanne Moore, Suzanne Moore Real Estate Services
Jennifer Barrios, Monroe County School District
Chuck Licis, Take Stock in Children
Brittany Snyder, Florida Keys Community College
Yvette Talbot, Appraisers of the Keys
Angie Walterson, First State Bank of the Florida Keys
Don Whitehead, Wicker House
Maria Wilson, Appraisal Company of Key West
Julie Cuneo, Volunteer
Kay Miller, Honorary Member
And **Virginia A. Panico**, Key West Chamber of Commerce

Or

Contact the Chamber offices at 305-294-2587.



Key West International Airport Arrivals January 2014 - May 2019



Source: Key West International Airport

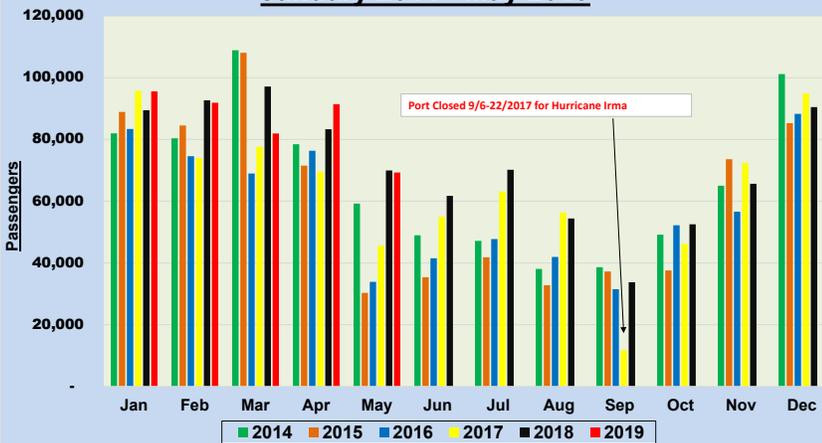
Passenger arrivals to the Key West International Airport in May, 2019 totaled 40,882. This is an increase of 13% when compared to the May of 2018 number of 36,181.

The 227,534 deplanements for the year 2019 thus far is 15% more than the 197,814 passengers that arrived to Key West in the first five months of 2018.

Currently, American Airlines is providing service to Miami, Dallas and Washington National, and seasonal direct non-stop service to Charlotte, Chicago, and Philadelphia. Delta is offering service to Atlanta and seasonal service to LaGuardia which started March 9th. United Airlines is offering seasonal direct non-stop service to Newark and Chicago O'Hare. Silver Airways provides direct non-stop service to Fort Lauderdale, Orlando, and Tampa.

May, 2019 saw 697 planes land at Key West International Airport which is 6.9% less than the same period in 2018. The year to date total number of landings 3,855 is 5% less than the 4,059 planes that landed during the first five months of last year.

Key West Cruise Ship Passengers January 2014 - May 2019



Source: City of Key West Port Operations

A total of 69,289 cruise ship passengers disembarked in Key West from 27 ships during May, 2019. This is 1% less than May, 2018 which saw 69,965 passengers visit Key West. The 430,112 passengers in the first five months of 2019 is 0.6% less than 2018 year to date. The 183 total port of calls is 7.1% less than the 2018 year to date number of 197 ships.

Last year in 2018 Key West greeted 861,192 passengers from 379 port calls. Port calls were up 11.1% for the year and passenger counts were up 13% over the same period in 2017. The 861,192 was the most passenger visits since 2006, and the 379 port calls were the most since 2007. This year is slightly behind last year's pace but a strong fall schedule could make up the difference.

The cruise ship schedule for July thru September compared to the same three months in 2018 is shown below.

Number of Ships

	2018	2019
July	25	28
August	21	26
September	14	33

The reported Bed Tax Collections for Key West for April, 2019 were \$2,135,251, 13.9% higher than the same period in 2018. The year to date Bed Tax Collections total \$9,374,770 and represents a 12.7% increase over the same period last year.

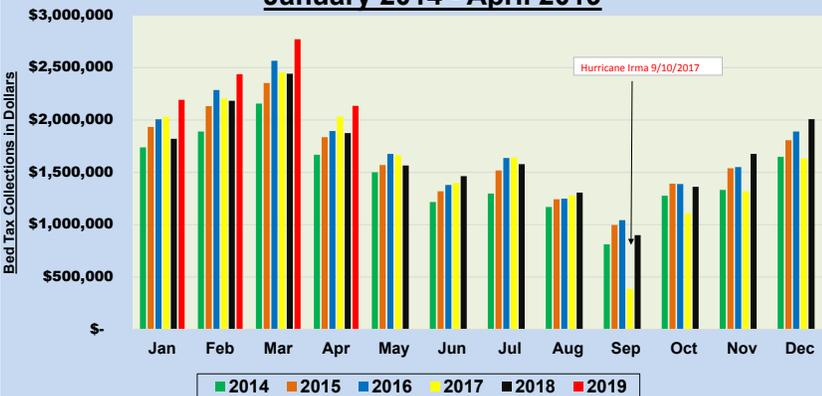
The April 2019 "occupancy rate" for Key West was 90.1% according to the Smith Travel Report. That is a 0.3% increase over the 89.9% reported in April, 2018.

The Average Daily Rate (ADR) was reported at \$327.16 for April of 2019. That is a 4.1% increase from the ADR of \$314.41 posted in April, 2018.

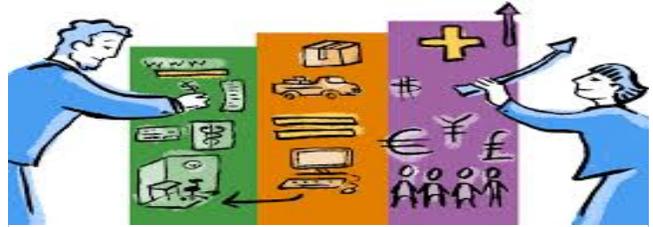
For the year 2019 thus far, Key West has seen an increase of 2.2% in occupancy rates, a 7.1% increase in revenue per available room (RevPAR), as well as a 4.8% increase in ADR year to date compared to the same period in 2018.

Since Hurricane Irma passed on September 10, 2017 and caused damage to some hotels, the number of rooms available had declined. Key West saw 145 more rooms open up in recent months, but witnessed another hotel close 48 rooms for long-term renovations.

Key West Bed Tax Collections January 2014 - April 2019



Source: Monroe County Tax Collector



A LOOK *at the* BUDGET

Most public entities are still working on their 2019/2020 budgets. While the finished products are still a work in progress below are some highlights of the topics that have been either proposed or discussed thus far.

CITY OF KEY WEST

Director of Finance Mark Finigan along with city management has recently concluded meetings with each department to assess their needs for the upcoming year. The bulk of the city budget is comprised of salaries and benefits. A big issue that really cuts into the budget from many departments is the issue of overtime. Several departments, including parking, parks and recreation, police, fire, and EMS have had significant overtime expenditures in the past. Proposals have been made to limit the cost of overtime, but shortages in staffing and either unbudgeted or unpredictable events continue to be a challenge. The city almost certainly needs to purchase a number of large vehicles for various departments such as fire trucks, ambulances, and busses. The city is also trying to identify ways to increase streams of revenue. The areas of opportunity most discussed has been raising the costs of sewer, solid waste, and parking.

MONROE COUNTY

A little over a month ago the county staff unveiled a proposed budget for discussion at a meeting in Key West. The county is still awaiting the property value assessments that will determine their revenue as well as a definitive timeline on when they will receive funds from FEMA for the Hurricane Irma cleanup. Despite those uncertainties the proposed budget included a \$13 million increase in spending along with a request to hire ten more full time employees. The proposed budget also included salary increases for almost 423 employees totaling over \$2.7 million.

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

FKAA | FKA.com

find budget information under Resources/About Us/Reports

KES | KeysEnergy.com

find budget information under About KEYS/Financial Information



IMPORTANT BUDGET DATES!

City of Key West:

Budget Workshop Meetings:

Wednesday, July 24th

Thursday, July 25th

Friday, July 26th

(All meetings at City Hall beginning at 9 a.m.)

Monroe County:

Thursday, September 5th
at 5 p.m. in Key Largo

Tuesday, September 10th
at 5 p.m. in Marathon

Friday, September 20th
at 5 p.m. in Key West



Don't miss this exciting opportunity to reach the Key West Visitor!



The 2019/2020 *Key West Chamber of Commerce* Visitor Brochure and Map will be the fulfillment piece used by the Key West Chamber of Commerce to promote Key West

as a premier destination to prospective visitors. The brochure and map is full color and will showcase the character and activities that make Key West unique. The brochure allows Key West businesses the opportunity to feature information on your accommodations, attractions, restaurants, museums, shopping, entertainment and professional services to visitors and will be a valuable resource referred to over and over by visitors before and during their stay.

150,000 Copies

Distribution beginning October, 2019

Extremely Targeted

The Brochure and Map is the exclusive fulfillment piece for the Key West Chamber of Commerce and also for all visitor and newcomer inquiries received via telephone and email requests from the Monroe County Tourist Development Council.

The visitor brochure is distributed along the information plazas on the Florida Turnpike, with an expected distribution of 90,000 copies this coming year, as well as handed out at numerous travel and trade shows promoting Key West.

The brochure is available in the lobby of our official visitor information center located at 510 Greene Street, 1st Floor which is open seven days a week, as well as at the Lower Keys, Marathon, Islamorada and Key Largo Chamber of Commerce Visitor Centers, and distributed to the passengers of Key West Express.

Did You Know...

From the NOAA Study "Linking the Environment and Economy of the Florida Keys and Key West," a question was asked to help gauge the influence of the Key West Chamber of Commerce Visitors Center with the following outcome. "Almost 23% of overnight visitors to the Keys reported having used at least one of the five visitor's Information centers with **47.8% of those visiting the Key West Chamber of Commerce Visitor Center. Resulting in visitors extending the length of their stay on an average of three days, this translates into overnight visitor spending averages of \$42.6 million. Key West generates 59% of all the business in the Florida Keys and Key West which would equate to approximately \$25 million more dollars spent by visitors after visiting our Visitor Information Center when in Key West.**"

Publication Specs

The map/brochure is 24" wide x 18" tall, full color both sides, folding to 4" x 9" to fit in envelopes and rack card holders. 150,000 copies printed and distributed annually!

For More Information on which spaces are available contact:

Denise Higgins, Phone: 954-648-2931

Email: AnnH1031@yahoo.com



BUSINESS AFTER HOURS | WEDNESDAY, JUNE 19, 2019

Sponsored by: **Lucy's Retired Surfers Bar**, 221 Duval Street

Lucy's Retired Surfers
BAR & RESTAURANT





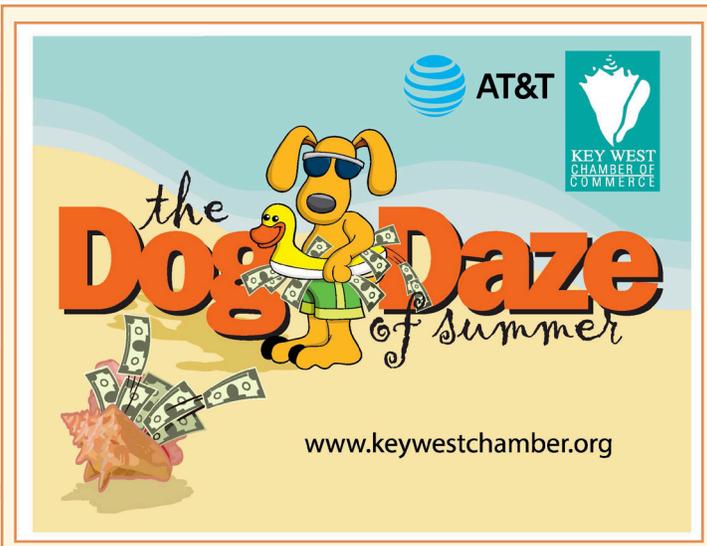
Do you use Social Media to market your business?

The Key West Chamber of Commerce would like to help you promote your business and we need your help. As a member of the Key West Chamber of Commerce you receive a complimentary listing and link on our website www.keywestchamber.org. With your listing you can also have links for your various social media outlets so visitors and potential customers can go directly to your page.

Please email membership@keywestchamber.org with the full URLs for your public pages so we can add to your listing. Currently we can list links for Facebook, Twitter, LinkedIn, Pinterest, Instagram, YouTube, Flickr, Yelp, Open Table, Google+, Tripsmarter, Houzz, Four Square and Angie's List.



For more information please contact the chamber offices at 305-294-2587 or email this from to membership@keywestchamber.org.



Shoppers Have It Made in the Shade with the "Dog Daze of Summer" Savings Program

Like that first frosty blast of air-conditioning on an August afternoon, the Key West Chamber of Commerce and AT&T will again offer retail relief in those "Dog Daze of Summer."

Sponsored by AT&T and the Key West Chamber of Commerce, "Dog Daze of Summer" promotes the businesses that provide shoppers with special summertime savings advertised on social media, and our website www.keywestchamber.org.

Member businesses may post – FREE of charge – coupons or other incentive offers next to their listing on the chamber's website, then easily track the responses the promotion receives. Members may design their own coupons, or just send in their logo and let the chamber staff create eye-catching coupons.

In addition to the free online coupon, the chamber will also distribute "Dog Daze of Summer" decals to be displayed in participating store windows, letting customers know they'll find summer savings inside.

For more information or to get underway, call Carla at the Key West Chamber of Commerce at 305-294-2587 or visit keywestchamber.org and look for the "Dog Daze of Summer logo."



Community Calendar

June 2019

- 7/4 Annual 4th of July Fireworks, 9pm White Street Pier
- 7/4 Annual Rotary Club 4th of July Picnic – Casa Marina Resort – 5:00pm
- 7/4-7 7th Annual Key Lime Festival; lizlovekw@gmail.com; <http://www.keylimefestival.com/>
- 7/5-7 Key West Mermaid Festival - www.keywestmermaidfestival.com; 305-304-1988
- 7/7 Songwriter Speakeasy Series: Chad Burtch, Adrienne Z, Michelle Dravis; 305-985-0433; 7:00pm – Key West Theater
- 7/7 Locals Day at Key West Botanical Gardens; 305-296-1504
- 7/7 Historic Tours of America Locals Day; 305-293-7249
- 7/8 Trivia Night Fundraiser – KWHAS – at Hard Rock Café – 5:30pm-7:30pm; 305-295-6616
- 7/9 The Happy Dog: Dead Floyd – Live Recording! 7:00pm – The Key West Theater 305-985-0433
- 7/11-13 Mel Fisher Days; 305-296-6533
- 7/13 Underwater Music Festival 10am-2pm Looe Key Reef
- 7/13-16 Del Brown Invitational Permit Tournament www.delbrown.com; 305-360-6969
- 7/16-21 39th Annual Hemingway Days
- 7/17-20 Key West Marlin Tournament – www.keywestmarlin.com; 305-680-8513
- 7/20 Key West Botanical Gardens Native Plant Sale – 9:00am-Noon; 305-296-1504
- 7/18-21 Hemingway Days/Look A Like - Sloppy Joe's; 305-304-0578
- 7/20 Hemingway Days Caribbean Street Fair on Duval–10:00am-10:00pm – Duval; 305-304-0578
- 7/20 30th Annual Hemingway 5K Sunset Run & Paddleboard Race; 305-240-0727
- 7/20 Hemingway Caribbean Street Fair 10:00a.m.-10:00p.m.; 305-304-0578
- 7/21 Key West Botanical Gardens Native Plant Sale 9:00-Noon; 305-296-1504
- 7/24-25 MINI Lobster Season; 305-743-2437
- 7/27 Key West Art & Historical Society presents: Donovan; 305-295-6616 x 114
- 7/28 Those People feat. Kathy Gilmour, Landon Bradbary, Pony Charvet and Joe Madaus (Back Stage Listening Room) The Key West Theater; 305-985-0433

Cruise Ship Schedule

JULY 2019

7/1	Grandeur of the Seas	8:00-5:00
7/2	Carnival Victory	7:30-1:30
7/2	Norwegian Sun	1:00-8:00
7/3	NO SHIP	
7/4	NO SHIP	
7/5	NO SHIP	
7/6	NO SHIP	
7/7	Armonia	7:00-6:00
7/8	Empress	8:00-5:00
7/9	Carnival Victory	7:30-1:30
7/9	Carnival Freedom	11:00-7:00
7/9	Norwegian Sun	3:30-10:00
7/10	NO SHIP	
7/11	NO SHIP	
7/12	Carnival Sensation	7:30-1:30
7/12	Majesty	7:00-6:00
7/12	Insignia	7:30-5:00
7/13	NO SHIP	
7/14	Celebrity Equinox	7:00-5:00
7/14	Majesty	9:00-7:00
7/15	NO SHIP	
7/16	Carnival Victory	7:30-1:30
7/16	Carnival Glory	8:00-5:00
7/16	Norwegian Sun	3:30-10:00
7/17	NO SHIP	
7/18	NO SHIP	
7/19	NO SHIP	
7/20	Norwegian Sky	8:00-3:30
7/21	Armonia	7:00-6:00
7/22	Carnival Freedom	11:00-7:00
7/22	Empress	8:00-7:00
7/23	Carnival Victory	7:30-1:30
7/23	Norwegian Sun	3:30-10:00
7/24	Majesty	8:00-7:00
7/25	NO SHIP	
7/26	Carnival Sensation	7:30-1:30
7/26	Celebrity Equinox	12:00-7:00
7/27	NO SHIP	
7/28	Celebrity Equinox	7:00-5:00
7/28	Majesty	9:00-7:00
7/28	Empress	8:00-7:30
7/29	NO SHIP	
7/30	Carnival Victory	7:30-1:30
7/30	Norwegian Sun	1:00-8:00
7/31	NO SHIP	

Mark Your Calendar for our Monthly After Hours!

Chamber Members and their staff are invited to attend these members only networking events each month

“Christmas in July”

Business After Hours

Date: Tuesday, July 16, 2019

Time: 5:30 p.m. – 7:30 p.m.

Sponsored by: Hard

Rock Café Key West

Location: 313 Duval Street

*All attendees are asked to bring a new unwrapped toy.

Business After Hours Joint

Mixer presented by the

Greater Key West Chamber

of Commerce and Key

West Business Guild

Date: Thursday,

August 29, 2019

Time: 5:30 p.m. – 7:30 p.m.

Sponsored by: Royal

Furniture and Design

Location: 3326 North

Roosevelt Blvd. (Seastown

Shopping Center)

“Showcase of Key West Businesses”

Chamber Members Business

Exposition Trade Show

Tuesday, September 17, 2019

Time: 5:30 p.m. – 7:30 p.m.

Sponsored by: Key West

Marriott Beachside Hotel

Location: 3841 North

Roosevelt Blvd.

Business After Hours

Date: Thursday,

October 10, 2019

Time: 5:30 p.m. – 7:30 p.m.

Sponsored by: First State

Bank of the Florida Keys

Location: 1201 Simonton

Street – Main Branch

Business After Hours

– November, 2019

Date: Thursday,

November 7, 2019

Time: 5:30 p.m. – 7:30 p.m.

Sponsored by: Keys

Medical Group – New

Primary Care Office

Location: Seastown

Shopping Center – No.

Roosevelt Blvd.

Holiday Business

After Hours

Date: Thursday,

December 5, 2019

Time: 5:30p.m. – 7:30p.m.

Sponsored by: Ricks/

Durty Harry’s

Entertainment Complex

Location: 202 Duval

Street, Downstairs

CHAMBER CHOWDER®

510 Greene Street ~ 1st Floor, Key West

www.keywestchamber.org

EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

Michael Morawski, President
Hemingway Home/305-294-1136

Billy Spottswood, First Vice President
*Spottswood, Spottswood, Spottswood,
& Sterling/305-294-9556*

John Toppino, Second Vice President
Monroe Concrete/305-296-5606

Joe Caso, Treasurer
Caso & Company/305-453-6378

Greg Sullivan, Secretary
Waste Management/305-434-9140

Suzanne Moore, Past President
Truman and Co. Real Estate/305-292-2244

Cara Higgins, Appointee
Horan & Higgins, LLP/305-294-4585

Melissa Kendrick, Appointee
Mel Fisher Maritime Museum/305-294-2633

Mark Rossi, Appointee
*Rick's/Durty Harry's Entertainment Complex
305-296-5513*

Virginia A. Panico, CCE,
Executive Vice President
*Key West Chamber of Commerce
305-294-2587*

CHAMBER STAFF

Virginia A. Panico, CCE
Executive Vice President

Edward Dawicki, III
Director of Research

Suzanne Pearce
Executive Assistant/Bookkeeper

Kerry Baker
Membership Director/Special Events Coordinator

Dorothy Schmida
Administrative Assistant

Carla Noss
Office Assistant/Tourist Information Operator

Gladys Clarks
Tourist Information Receptionist

Virginia A. Panico
Newsletter Editor

Cindy Jefferson
Art Director

Jennifer Juniper
Newsletter Writer

Karrie Bond
Social Media Director

Key West Chamber Calendar of Events

July 2019

"Christmas in July" Business After Hours

Date: Tuesday, July 16, 2019
Time: 5:30 p.m. – 7:30 p.m.
Sponsored by: Hard Rock Café Key West
Location: 313 Duval Street
Members Networking Event!
**All attendees are asked to bring a new unwrapped toy.*

General Membership Meeting

Date: **Wednesday, July 17, 2019**
** Please note change of date*
Time: Noon
Location: Doubletree Grand Key Resort
3990 South Roosevelt Blvd.
Speaker: Lt. Dave Black, Key West Police
Department, Special Operations Division
Topic: "What would you do in an Active
Shooter Situation?"

August 2019

General Membership Meeting

Date: Wednesday, August 28, 2019
Time: Noon
Location: Key West Marriott Beachside
3841 No. Roosevelt Blvd.
Speaker: Richard Strickland,
Director of Airports
Topic: Update on Key West International
Airports, Present and Future

Business After Hours

Joint Mixer presented by the Greater Key West Chamber of Commerce and Key West Business Guild
Date: Thursday, August 29, 2019
Time: 5:30 p.m. – 7:30 p.m.
Sponsored by: Royal Furniture and Design
Location: 3326 North Roosevelt Blvd.
(Searstown Shopping Center)
Members Networking Event!

Welcome New Members!



Chamber Membership Chair Britt Myers introduced the new members in attendance. Pictured left to right Britt Myers, new members Rick Haskins, broker; and Bryan Rea of Vacasa Real Estate, Membership Committee member Mike Williams, new members Lauren Schaefer and Margret Garner of Kanner & Pinaluga, P.A. and Past President/Secretary Greg Sullivan.

Kanner & Pinaluga, P.A.

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Miami, FL 33126
305-705-2514
www.HurricaneDamage.com
Contact: Derick Rosenwald
Property Damage Attorneys

LMCPays

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Contact: Kristen and
Chris Carroll
Merchant Services

Vacasa Real Estate

1001 Whitehead Street
Key West, FL 33040
305-296-6607
www.buyingthekeys.com
Contact: Richard Haskins
Real Estate