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County Engineer Details Palm Avenue Bridge Repairs



Key West Chamber of Commerce President Greg Sullivan thanks Monroe County Engineering Director Judy Clarke for briefing chamber members on repair plans for the Palm Avenue Bridge this summer.

Nothing lasts forever, and after 52 years, Key West's Palm Avenue bridge needs some work. Summertime repairs to the 177-foot-long span are tentatively scheduled to begin in June, but officials may not solicit bids, select a contractor or start the project until the Florida Department of Transportation approves the plans, which were submitted to the state in January 2016.

During their February 22nd luncheon, Key West Chamber of Commerce members heard details of the \$1.8 million road construction project from Judy Clarke, Monroe County's Director of Engineering. She explained that Palm Avenue and the bridge are maintained by Monroe County, and not the City of Key West. As a result, county officials will be working with FDOT representatives throughout the estimated six months it will take to make repairs to the top and underside of the bridge.

Those six months may be inconvenient at times, but certainly not impossible, Clarke said, as the audience breathed a collective sigh of relief that they were not facing another North Roosevelt Boulevard overhaul, which stymied traffic throughout the city for two years.

"We're not anticipating any traffic jams," Clarke assured the audience at the start of her presentation. She explained that the most disruptive part can be completed with overnight work on eight separate nights.

The project involves repairs to the deck, or top, of the bridge, to the sidewalks that line the length of the span, the support beams under it, the navigational lights that are attached to it and the roadway that approaches it.

Some of the work underneath the bridge will require the use of a barge, Clarke said, and contractors may need to close the boat channel a few times, although it would be done with at least a week's notice and plenty of input from local boat captains.

Local fishing Capt. Rich Gomez reminded Clarke that the local charter fishing fleet needs access to the channel that passes under the bridge. Gomez said the boats

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Message from President Greg Sullivan



The Key West Chamber is off to a busy start working for our members on many fast-moving issues. I know your e-mail boxes have been filled with info as we are monitoring what is going on in Tallahassee with Visit Florida funding. While we mainly think locally, Florida is very dependent

on tourism and competition for tourist dollars is a worldwide playing field. We need to make sure that our advertising continues to be the best to insure our economy continues. I ask you keep up on the e-mails sent out and follow up with political leaders letting them know your concerns as they make decisions that will have a direct effect on us.

Locally there is a question to change how some of our TDC dollars are allocated which would decrease some advertising spending. While some may argue that we are reaching maximum capacity, as mentioned above we need to let visitors know we are here and what our product is. Diverting funds from what has helped our success could prove to have negative impacts in the future.

As we have just learned that the Navy chose Jacksonville for the Triton project. We certainly appreciate everything our local military

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Key West Chamber of Commerce Expands Social Media Campaign to Spread the Word and Share the Love

Click, post, snap, swipe, pin, share, like, love, follow.

The Key West Chamber of Commerce is doing it all. The business organization that exists to help its members – and Key West’s tourism economy – in recent months has significantly expanded its reach, voice, and presence on a number of social media platforms.

A popular and engaging Facebook page with thousands of friends and followers is no longer the singular measure of social media success. There are Pinterest pages, idea boards, and Instagram image-sharing, in addition to the tried-and-true original, Facebook.

Lynne Tejeda, chair of the chamber’s Image Committee, explained the social media expansion during the February 22nd membership luncheon at the Marriott Beachside Hotel.

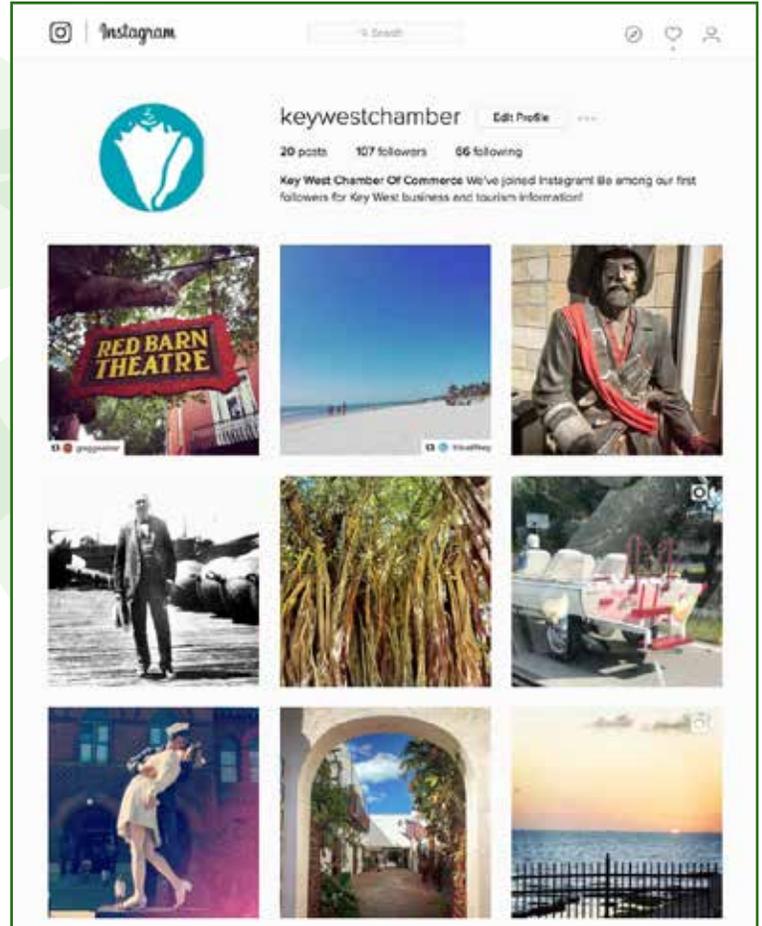
“We want to both encourage people to shop locally while obviously promoting our destination,” she said. “We have more than 6,000 Facebook fans and this month our Facebook engagement, meaning the number of posts that have been read and shared, has swelled to 749 hits this month alone, which means people are actually reading our posts and passing them on.”

In order to embrace and better utilize the ever-emerging cyber-social options, the chamber recently hired local photographer and social media specialist Karrie Porter Bond as its first-ever Social Media Director.

“I’m excited about the possibilities that are out there for an organization like the Chamber of Commerce in a place as scenic and surprising as Key West,” Bond said. “We’re taking a two-pronged approach to the chamber’s social media presence. We want to help promote our members, local businesses and the tourism industry, and we also want to help our visitors explore and identify some of their best options for places to eat, stay, shop, and play while they’re here.”

Bond has been posting on the various platforms some of what she calls “welcome to Paradise-type of photos,” to show off the island’s surroundings while also sharing relevant and positive posts and photos from chamber members and Key West visitors.

“For example, a play that’s opening at Red Barn Theater appeared on Instagram recently,” she said. “So I found a cool photo of the Red Barn Theater that a Key West visitor had posted. I’ll share that photo, and the visitor will share our post. It’s a great and efficient way of sharing the love and spreading the word about who we are and what we offer.



Bond said she also has been walking around town shooting little videos of some of the unique sights around Key West. Videos are the most important tool for online engagement in today’s world.

Another popular post was a photo that showed some of the sidewalk poetry that’s been carved into the cement at Whitehead and Greene Streets.

“I tagged the author in my post and she then reshared the post with all of her friends, some of whom may not have otherwise ever seen anything from Key West,” Bond said.

Bond said she is currently focusing her efforts on Facebook and Instagram, and will soon work on expanding the Pinterest presence as well as other platforms.

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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

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



“Bridge Repairs” continued from page 1 ▶

leave early in the morning, and often return at noon, 2:00 p.m., 4:00 p.m., and 4:30 p.m.

Clarke assured Gomez that the contractors will hold pre-construction meetings with all affected stakeholders before the work begins.

“Construction projects are never convenient,” she said. “But we are not insensitive to your needs.”

“The roadway and deck work will be done at nighttime. We’re anticipating over the entire six months, crews will need eight nights of single lane closures on the bridge,” she said, adding that crews will only close one lane at a time, and will only be allowed to do so between 9:00p.m. and 6:00 a.m. and with plenty of notice. Traffic will be rerouted onto nearby Eisenhower Drive during the lane closures.

“We’re anticipating getting the bulk of the work done between May and September,” Clarke said, adding that the contractors will not be allowed to work or close lanes during holidays or special events, such as lobster mini-season in July.

Clarke also said that the project plans call for the base layer of the bridge surface to be replaced with asphalt instead of limerock, which is currently there.

“By replacing the limerock with asphalt, crews are able to lay the asphalt at night and drivers can drive on it the very next morning,” she said, adding that the upcoming repairs, which are being funded mainly with a \$1.4 million grant from FDOT, should add 15 to 20 years to the life of the bridge, which was built in 1965.

Key West Chamber of Commerce President Greg Sullivan asked Clarke whether the construction contract will include an incentive for early completion, but it will not, Clarke said

before announcing the next project that will appear on the county’s roadwork radar.

“Monroe County has budgeted \$22 million for road repairs over the next five years,” she said, adding that the roadway around Bertha and First Streets will be the county’s next Key West project. “We’ll be designing the Bertha and First Street area this summer for the next repairs.”

In addition to the county construction projects, the Key West Chamber of Commerce will soon try to alleviate a daily headache for lower keys motorists coming into Key West.

Virginia Panico, Executive Vice President of the chamber, was asking members to describe the issues they’re experiencing with the traffic lights on Stock Island. Drivers have reported travel times of 30 to 45 minutes to get from Stock Island and Big Coppitt to downtown Key West.

The three traffic lights on Stock Island are not timed to allow a sufficient number of cars to pass, drivers said.

“One light will be green, but the next one is still red, so you can’t go anywhere and end up waiting through five or six light cycles,” Kerry Baker, the chamber’s membership director, explained at the luncheon.

Panico pledged to get on the phone with FDOT officials, using some of her former contacts from the North Roosevelt Boulevard replacement. She also said she will make a call to the Monroe County Sheriff’s Office to ensure that a traffic officer is stationed near the light on Big Pine Key in the coming weeks of high tourist season.

“We’ll get on the horn and see how we can get this fixed,” Panico told the chamber membership, before thanking Clarke for her update about the Palm Avenue Bridge. ♡

President’s Message cont. from page 1 ▶

operations do for us in economic and volunteer situations yet a business decision was made not to move the project to the Keys. We are blessed with great weather and large amounts of close range training areas that hopefully will keep NAS Key West a top training location. Additionally, our geography lends itself to the US Coast Guard as an extremely important and busy base. We also have the only Army special forces dive training school.

The chamber recently surveyed our membership with one simple question, “do you support ride sharing programs” the results were overwhelming in favor. We shared this information with our elected officials so that as they move forward on making decisions to hopefully allow ride sharing with safeguard regulations. This hopefully will improve our transportation issues and have the potential to relieve some traffic issues. I would like to thank everyone that took the time to share with us your opinion.

Finally, the chamber is reaching out to FDOT to ask them to review the four traffic signals on US 1 on Stock Island and to include the triangle. It seems that the triangle & College Road are considered city signals and Cross Street & McDonald Ave are county signals. For any of us that travel in that area it is obvious the lights are out of sync and doesn’t allow traffic to flow sufficiently. We are also in the beginning stages of asking FDOT to put an overhead cross walk at the triangle from the Marriott Beachside to the opposite side by the Naval Hospital allowing pedestrian traffic to cross with no interference of inbound and out bound traffic which now is constantly interrupted with folks using the push button so they can cross which further disrupts signal timing of the other signals.

Don’t forget our Golf Tournament and the \$10. tickets for a cash prize of \$2,500. To purchase tickets give Monica a call at 305-797-0725. ♡



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“Social Media” continued from page 2 ▶

“It’s so interesting to see the things that people like, and the things they tend to gravitate to,” she said.

But that’s also tough to predict, so social media is always something of a moving target. Fortunately, it’s also easily adapted to ensure users are getting what they want and “like.”

Bond also wants to make sure the chamber’s social media isn’t just a predictably boring introduction to an organization that few outsiders really care about.

“For example, if we’re going to put out messaging about why the Key West Chamber of Commerce exists, then we have to make it relevant to something people will actually enjoy, like photos and discussion of our Fantasy Fest float contest that encourages creative and local participation in the annual parade,” Bond said.

Virginia Panico, Executive Vice President of the Key West Chamber of Commerce, explained that the impetus for the social media campaign came directly from the members.

“The board of directors wanted to reach out to the members of the chamber and the residents of the community to inquire about how the chamber was perceived,” Panico said, adding that the organization issued an RFQ for consulting companies that could survey the membership.

“We received 11 proposals and shortlisted six of them before making our decision,” Panico said. “We wanted to know if the members thought we were doing a good job and were relevant to their needs. This was done through a phone and email survey to our 500 or so members.”

Panico, too, reads all the articles that warn chambers of commerce that refuse to reinvent themselves in order to remain relevant are at risk of extinction.



As it turned out, the Key West Chamber of Commerce need not have worried.

The survey showed that “The Chamber holds a vital place within the Key West community,” Panico said. “Despite technological displacement, competition from other organizations, tougher economic times and while confronting difficult, divisive issues facing the community – it continues to be well-regarded among residents, businesses and members.”

The survey also found that 89 percent of members rated the organization favorably while a strong majority have high expectations for it.

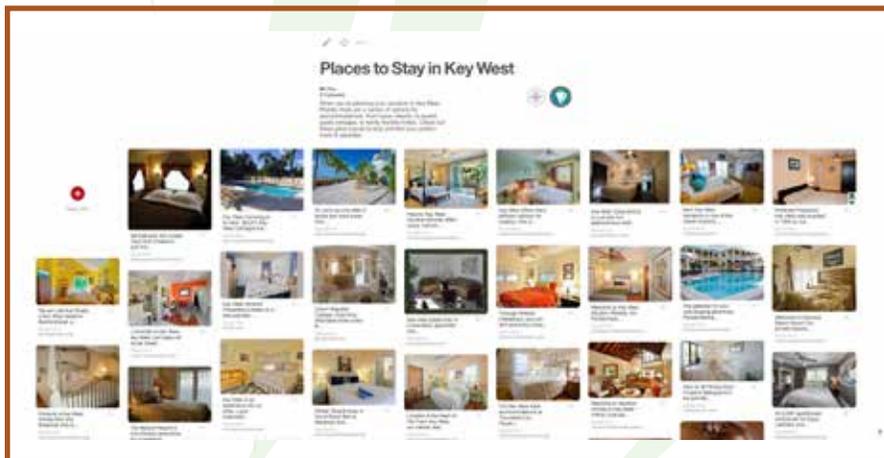
“Eighty-two percent said the Chamber is meeting or exceeding expectations to generally promote and support local businesses. Overall the membership is generally quite pleased with the Chamber and shows it with significant intensity, on several different measures including favorability, satisfaction, and willingness to recommend the Chamber,” Panico said, quoting from the survey results.

“So we felt it was time to move forward with expanding our social media beyond just Facebook, since our members stated that

communications stand out as one of the chamber’s key strengths,” she continued. “Eighty-five percent of members rated communication with members positively and social media is seen as the most effective promotional tool. More than 70 percent of respondents think social media should be used for chamber advertising and promotion directed at the community/visitors, and/or tourism development and promotion. Social media is also seen as a valuable, two-way, communications tool for discourse between the chamber, members and community and all permutations they entail.”

As Social Media Director Karrie Porter Bond continues to further the chamber’s reach on multiple social media platforms, the Key West Chamber of Commerce will continue to exceed its members’ expectations while remaining an integral agency that’s both relevant and responsive to its members and its destination community.

For more information about the Key West Chamber of Commerce or its social media expansion, visit www.keywestchamber.org or call 305-294-2587.



Military Volunteer Appreciation Pictures



The Key West Chamber of Commerce and the Key West Military Affairs Committee and representatives from Joint Interagency Task Force – South honored James Sechler as volunteer of the year from JIATF – South. Pictured, left to right: CMC Chief Shawn Marchinek of the U.S. Coast Guard; CDR Lisa Morris of the U.S. Navy; Capt. Meg Schult of the U.S. Navy, retired Capt. Pat Lefere of the U.S. Navy, and honoree BUC (SCW) James Sechler of the U.S. Navy.



The Key West Chamber of Commerce and the Key West Military Affairs Committee joined the men and women of Naval Air Station Key West in honoring ET2 (IDW/SCW) Socorro M. Dennis as the air station's volunteer of the year. Pictured left to right: retired U.S. Navy Capt. Pat Lefere; ET2 Socorro Dennis of the U.S. Navy; Capt. Bobby Baker, commanding officer of Naval Air Station Key West.



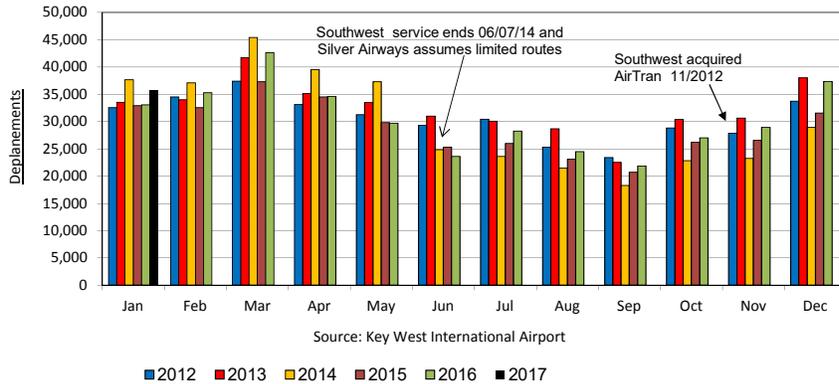
The Key West Chamber of Commerce and the Key West Military Affairs Committee joined U.S. Coast Guard Sector Key West in honoring SK2 Ryan M. Alderman as the Coast Guard's volunteer of the year in Key West. Pictured left to right: BMCN Jeff Egelston of the U.S. Coast Guard; Command Master Chief Capt. Jeff Janszen; retired U.S. Coast Guard Sector Key West Commander Capt. Pat Lefere of the U.S. Navy; Coast Guard Volunteer of the Year SK2 Ryan M. Alderman and CWO Chadwick Turner of the U.S. Coast Guard.



The Key West Chamber of Commerce and the Key West Military Affairs Committee joined the Special Forces Under Water Operations team in honoring LTC Michael Arnett as volunteer of the year for his tireless commitment to the Key West community. Pictured left to right: Capt. James Blackburn, executive officer of the Special Forces Under Water Operations; retired U.S. Navy Capt. Pat Lefere; honoree LTC Michael Arnett of the U.S. Army; and Maj. James Copp, commanding officer of the U.S. Army Special Forces Under Water Operations in Key West.



Key West International Airport Arrivals
January 2012 - January 2017

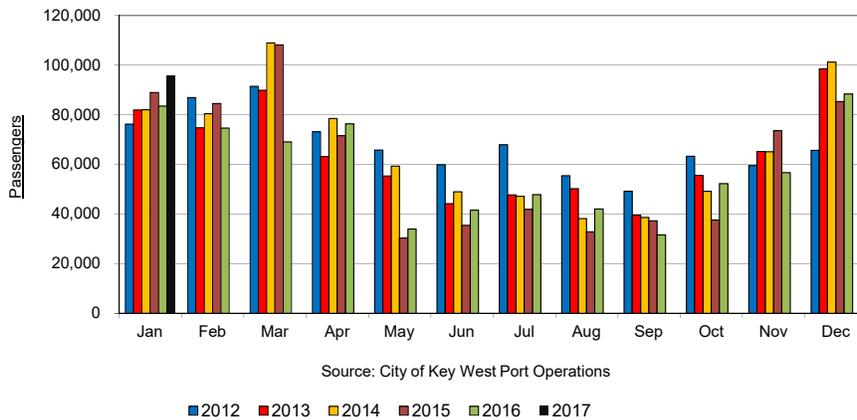


Passenger arrivals to Key West International Airport in January 2017 totaled 35,735. **This is an increase of 8.1% when compared to January 2016.**

Total passenger arrivals for the one month of 2017 was 35,735. That is a 8.1% increase over the same period in 2016.

With last year's airport arrivals producing marked highs and marked lows, January's deplanements marked a seventh straight month of steady year over year increases; beginning the year producing the second highest deplanements on record for January.

Key West Cruise Ship Passengers
January 2012 - January 2017



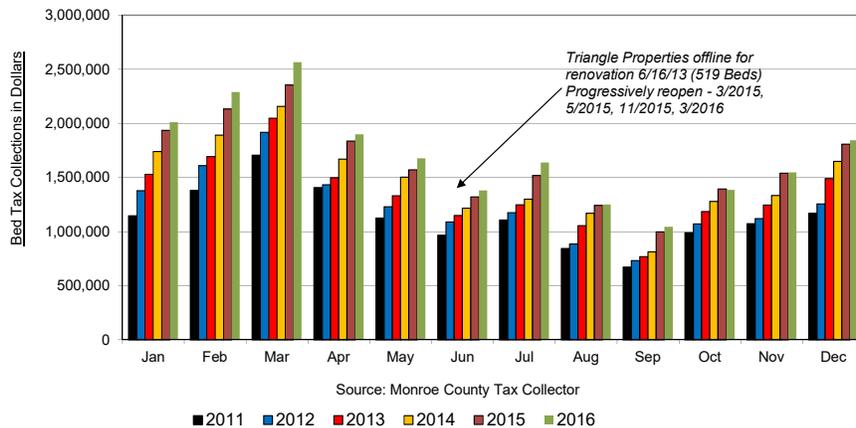
A total of 95,732 cruise ship passengers disembarked in Key West during January 2017. **This was 14.8% higher than January 2016**, which saw 83,391 passengers disembark.

For the one month of 2017, cruise ship arrivals saw 95,732 passengers disembark from 47 port calls. While port calls are up 9.3% so far for 2017, passenger counts have jumped up 14.8% over the same period in 2016.

The cruise ship schedule for March to May compared to the same three months in 2016 is shown below:

	Number of Ships	
	2016	2017
March	33	41
April	34	32
May	13	18

Key West Bed Tax Collections
January 2011 - December 2016



Reported Bed Tax Collections for Key West were **\$1,842,535 for December 2016, 2.0% higher than December 2015.**

According to Smith Travel, December 2016 occupancy was 83.3%, a 2.4 percentage point increase from the December 2015 occupancy rate of 80.9%.

The Average Daily Rate (ADR) was reported at \$314.47 for December 2016, a decrease of 4.0% from the ADR of \$327.66 posted in 2015.

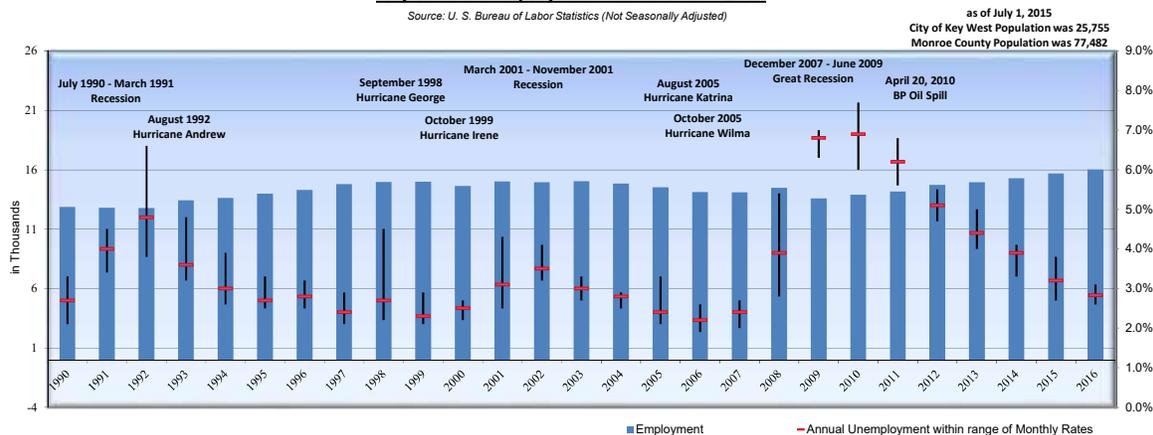
February 2016 broke the six year trend in which the monthly ADR had been higher than the previous year. With the number of rooms available increasing by about 10% from the low beginning the 2015 season, occupied room nights have begun the climb back to historical levels.



Workforce Labor Market in Review

Key West Unemployment Rates 1990 - 2016

Source: U. S. Bureau of Labor Statistics (Not Seasonally Adjusted)



61.1%

Participation rate

while the nation's as a whole was 62.7%

- that's 15,742 of its 25,755 residents were employed

- + Supporting 3,250,000 visitors
- + with some 6,000 transient rooms
- + and a seasonal resident swell, some say doubles the population

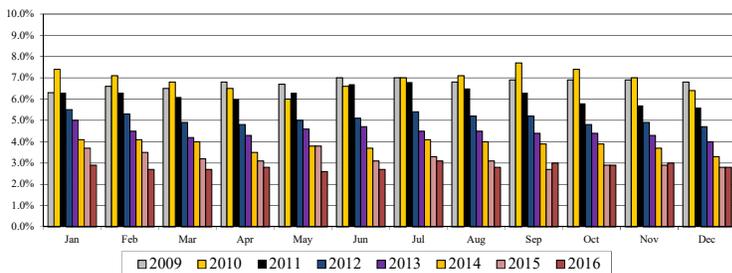
For Key West

= 1.6%, meaning 412 less people contributing

"every 85 visitors to our state adds another job for our families" - Rick Scott

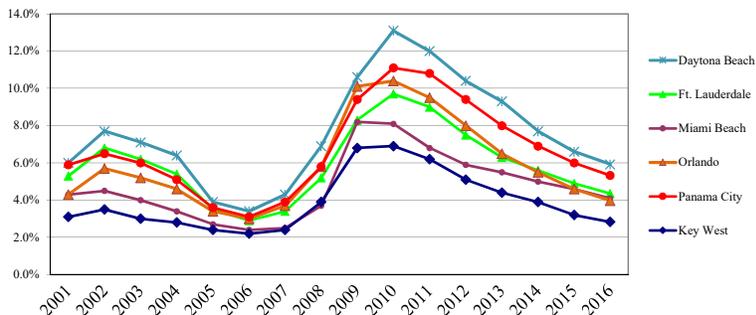
Key West Monthly Unemployment Rate January 2009 - December 2016 Monthly Rates

Source: U. S. Bureau of Labor Statistics (Not Seasonally Adjusted)



Key West Unemployment vs. Selected High-Tourism Cities 2001-2016 Annual Rates

Source: U. S. Bureau of Labor Statistics (Not Seasonally Adjusted)



Key West unemployment rates continued to settle below 3% during 2016, after first seeing them in 2015, and tracked throughout the year at levels seen back in 2004, 1996 and 1990.

Employment in Key West has remained remarkably consistent for the past twenty-five years. While the population hit a peak of 29,312 in 1970, the city's modern numbers have floated between 24,500 to 25,500. Even with the City dipping below 24,000 in 2005, it hit 25,755 in 2015. Key West's workforce is capped along with its population, as an Area of Critical State Concern. Key West is also continuing to see an aging demographic shift. While the nation is drifting to 1 in 5 ratio of senior citizens, Florida is drifting to 1 in 4, with certain areas drifting to 1 in 3. This impacts not only the workforce but also housing availability for them. So while Key West's participation rate is about 61%, the nation as a whole hit over 67% in the late 1990's and had been above 66% for two decades before 2009. This historical participation rate is four points higher than it is right now at 62.7%. 1,520 less people

While Key West consistently reflects a seasonal unemployment trend seen in monthly rates, the City continues to see rates favorable to those of other Florida destinations as can be seen compared with selected high-tourism cities in the lower chart. Key West's unemployment rate has historically been lower than these other destinations, so while all are settling back to their average jobless rate, Key West did not experience as severe of a shock in 2009. The gap between unemployment rates that widened in 2009 has continued to remain with Key West being lower than Miami Beach by 1.3 points, Orlando by 1.2 points, Ft. Lauderdale by 1.6 points, Panama City by 2.5 points, and Daytona Beach by 3.1 points. Though not shown on this chart, Key West is also below the State of Florida and the nation as a whole which were both an average of 4.8% for 2016.

Remember, that while all these tourist destinations experienced a gradual decline from the high in 2010, the nation as a whole saw rates remain high during the first years of the recovery. This perhaps evidences the unique transient nature of these areas' workforce.



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 December 28, 2016-January 19, 2017; NABE BCS conducted December 22, 2016-January 11, 2017*

Tourism picked up as Key West ushered in the winter season, while the support industries showed contraction. The increase in port calls continued with a slight increase in disembarkments; leaving cruise ship visitors still 4.1% lower for the year.* Air passenger numbers finished strong, increasing 10.7% and leaving passenger arrivals at a 5.8% increase for the year.* Occupancy rates which have been favoring lower levels, began ushering in lower Average Daily Rates, and the sharing of guests with new hotels pinched historical profits.* The forecasted headwinds from 2016 seem to be tropical breezes as the 2017 season kicked off, while the politics of trade and immigration mount concerns.

Plugging in the Sales

Wreaths hung the length of Duval again and plugging in the lights led to some fabulous after sunset sights around the island this holiday season. Along with decorations, came the tourists and the sales and a chance to celebrate.



- With 46% of Key West businesses reporting increased revenues, this was the same as national results of 46%
- Floridian's Consumer Sentiment rose in Q4 to 97.8 in January, up 7.8 points from October 2016's reading

Key West Business Outlook

Key West expectations rise, as uncertainty decreases.



- National survey sees average growth to be over 2% in 2017
- Floridian's confidence in the U.S. economy rose 12.2 pts in Q4 to 96.6

Compensation & Wages



- With 41% of Key West businesses reporting increasing wages during the fourth quarter 2016, this is lower than national survey results of 59% (National results are up 14 points from the third quarter, while Key West results are up 23 points)
- U.S. Personal disposable income adjusted for taxes and inflation rose 1.5% compared with 2.6% in the third quarter
- U.S. Personal savings as a percentage of disposable personal income was 5.6% compared with 5.8% in the third quarter
- U.S. Prices of goods and services increased 2.0% in the fourth quarter, after increasing 1.5% in the third quarter (Excluding energy and food, prices increased 1.4% in the fourth quarter and 1.7% in the third quarter)

Inflation

Prices are rising nationwide, with 22% of firms increasing prices during the fourth quarter and 35% expecting to adjust their prices upward during the first quarter of 2017; jumping up significantly as the tide of rising costs continues to grow, being seen by a five year high of 41% of firms during the close of 2016.

Macro-Economic Impacts



Nationally, firms see opportunities in increased **infrastructure** spending, corporate **tax** reductions, and **deregulation**.

Nationally, firms see risks in restricting **immigration**, renegotiating **trade** deals, and implementing **border** adjustment taxes.

World Economy

Protectionism

The Global Economic Conditions Survey Report: Q4, 2016 provides regional analysis from 1500 businesses in 180 countries*

Global confidence dropped as political and economic risks rose; government expenditures declined to even lower levels, as companies' concern over declining incomes remained high. While US confidence rose slightly, globally capital spending and investments are still slowing and the majority of firms are considering staff cuts or freezes. As the world sees the economic situations in Brazil, Russia, China, and India looking better, currency and political volatility are still creating an uncertain landscape for the future.

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, Outlook/Business Conditions survey; UF BEBR, Consumer Sentiment Index; City of Key West; MC TDC; IMA/ACCA, Global Economic Conditions Survey; Bureau of Economic Analysis; Florida Chamber, Florida Small Business Index



BUSINESS AFTER HOURS | THURSDAY, FEBRUARY 23, 2017

Sponsored by: **Key West Local Luxe; 515 Fleming Street**





The Waste Management, Inc. & The Key West Chamber of Commerce

A TIGER IN THE WOODS

APRIL 23 2017



Interested in Sponsorship?
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KEY WEST
CHAMBER OF
COMMERCE

APRIL 23
2017

THE CAT'S OUT OF THE BAG...

And he'll be prowling around in the woods and on the greens during Key West's most enjoyable golf tournament with tons of raffle prizes. Sponsored by the Key West Chamber of Commerce.

CALLING ALL AMATEURS, PROS & FUN LOVERS

A TIGER IN THE WOODS GOLF TOURNAMENT

To be held: Sunday, April 23, 2017

at the Key West Golf Club on College Road

Tee Time: 7:30 AM Registration begins at 7:00 AM

Enter individually or choose your own team of four players.

To register to play please call (305) 294-2587.

Advanced payment is required to confirm registration. *

Minors 15 years or older permitted to play with Parent/Guardian. *No Refunds after Sunday, April 9th or due to weather.

Enjoy a day on the greens and
compete for over \$18,000 of prizes:

- 1st, 2nd & 3rd place in each flight
- PRIZES on every hole
- Closest to the Hole Prizes
- Longest Putt

Prizes to include:

- PAR 3 Closest to the Pin Contest
- \$500 Prize on holes #5, #8, #13 & #16
- PRIZES ON EVERY HOLE

GOLF TOURNAMENT COMMITTEE

Greg Sullivan & John Anderson
Co-Chairmen

www.keywestchamber.org

510 Greene Street, 1st Floor - Key West, FL 33040 Phone: 305.294.2587 Fax: 305.294-7806



Community Calendar

March 2017

3/1-18	Red Barn Theatre Presents: I Do, I Do!, \$25 - 45 at 8pm, 305-296-9911	3/17-18	Annual House Tours (4 of 4), www.oirf.org 10am-4pm, 305-294-9501
3/4	17th Annual Schooner Wharf Open Air Art & Music Affair 9:30 - midnight, 305-292-3302	3/21	KW Theatre presents: Get the Led Out (7pm) 8pm, 305-985-433
3/5	Annual Conch Shell Blowing Contest, www.oirf.org/conch.htm 12pm FREE, 305-294-9501	3/25	American Cancer Society's Diamond Gala of the Keys, 305-292-2333 X 4905
3/11	Key West Botanical Speaker Series 1:30pm, 305-296-1504	3/26	Key West Impromptu Classical Concerts presents: Imani Winds St Paul's 4pm
3/12	Key West Impromptu Classical Concerts presents: Intersection Trio St Paul's 4pm	3/28-4/15	Red Barn Theatre Presents: Camping w Henry & Tom, 305-296-9911
3/12	The Black Magic Ball-FBO Red Barn Theater - East Martello 6-9PM, 305-296-9911	3/24	Florida Keys SPCA Spring Social at Key West Golf Club 6:30pm 305-294-4857
3/13-16	March Merkin Tournament Key West Harbour davidhorn@gmail.com	3/25	Key West Historic Cemetery Stroll 9:30am, 9:50am 10:00am 305-340-1453
3/18	Annual St. Patrick's Day Bar Stroll, www.stpatricksdaysbarstroll.com, 305-766-0239		

Cruise Ship Schedule

MARCH 2017

3/1	No Ships	
3/2	Enchantment	9:30a.m.-6:00p.m.
3/3	Eurodam	8:00a.m.-5:00p.m.
3/4	Disney Magic	7:00a.m.-5:00p.m.
3/4	Rotterdam	8:00a.m. - 5:00p.m.
3/5	Balmoral	7:30a.m.-6:00p.m.
3/5	Eurodam	8:00a.m.-5:00p.m.
3/6	Marina	8:0a.m.-5:00p.m.
3/7	SS Explorer	7:00a.m.-2:00p.m.
3/7	Carnival Victory	7:30a.m.-1:30p.m.
3/8	Empress	7:00a.m.-6:00p.m.
3/8	Marina	8:00a.m.-5:00p.m.
3/9	Norwegian Pearl	7:00a.m.-5:00p.m.
3/9	Enchantment	9:30a.m.-6:00p.m.
3/10	Carnival Sensation	7:30a.m.-2:00p.m.
3/10	Empress	8:00a.m.-8:00p.m.
3/11	N. Amsterdam	8:00a.m.-5:00p.m.
3/12	Brilliance	11:30a.m.-5:25p.m.
3/13	No Ships	
3/14	Carnival Victory	7:30a.m.-1:30p.m.
3/14	Carnival Dream	8:00a.m.-4:00p.m.
3/15	Summit	8:00a.m.-5:00p.m.
3/16	No Ships	
3/17	Summitt	8:00a.m.-5:00p.m.
3/17	Empress	9:00a.m.-5:00p.m.
3/18	Disney Magic	7:00a.m.-5:00p.m.
3/18	Oosterdam	11:00a.m.-6:00p.m.
3/19	Empress	8:00a.m.-5:00p.m.
3/20	Norwegian Jade	10:00a.m.-5:00p.m.
3/21	Carnival Victory	7:30a.m.-1:30p.m.
3/21	Veendam	8:00a.m.-4:00p.m.
3/22	Azamara	8:00a.m.-7:00p.m.
3/23	Enchantment	9:30a.m.-6:00p.m.
3/24	Carnival Sensation	7:30a.m.-2:00p.m.
3/24	Eurodam	8:00a.m.-5:00p.m.
3/25	N. Amsterdam	8:00a.m.-5:00p.m.
3/26	Eurodam	8:00a.m.-4:00p.m.
3/26	Brilliance	11:30a.m.-5:30p.m.
3/27	No Ships	
3/28	Carnival Victory	7:30a.m.-1:30p.m.
3/28	Carnival Breeze	10:00a.m.-6:00p.m.
3/29	No Ships	
3/30	Enchantment	9:30a.m.-6:00p.m.

The Key West Chamber of Commerce Presents

Stress & Time Management,

a Seminar Featuring Elisa Levy

Key Westers work overtime so the island's visitors can relax and escape the stress of "real life."

But what's your escape plan? How can you avoid becoming one of the 100 million Americans who suffer from stress-related illnesses every year? How do we manage our time to ensure there's enough of it?

The Key West Chamber of Commerce, in partnership with world-renowned speaker, author and leadership facilitator Elisa Levy will present a "Stress & Time Management" seminar from 8:30 a.m. to 11:30 a.m. on Wednesday, March 29th at the Doubletree Grand Key Resort.

Levy will teach participants easy-to-use skills to manage time and reduce stress in both mind and body. Attendees will learn: 1) Organizational tips; 2) Time-management techniques that will keep others from wasting our time; 3) Tools for calming the body with the mind and calming the mind with the body; and 4) Why stress causes physical illness.

The price of the seminar is \$72 for chamber members and \$96 for nonmembers and includes a continental breakfast.

Space and enrollment are limited, so registration forms and payment must be received by the Key West Chamber of Commerce by noon on Friday, March 24th. Click [HERE](#) for a registration form.

Or email committees@keywestchamber.org

or call 305-294-2587 for information, registration, and payments.



CHAMBER CHOWDER®

510 Greene Street ~ 1st Floor, Key West

www.keywestchamber.org

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Cindy Jefferson
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Key West Chamber Calendar of Events

March 2017

General Membership Meeting
Wednesday, March 22, 2017
Time: Noon
Speaker: David Clay, Chief Executive
Officer, Lower Keys Medical Center
Location: Key West Marriott Beachside
Please RSVP to the Chamber
at 305-294-2587 or
Email: info@keywestchamber.org

Business After Hours
Date: Thursday, March 23, 2017
5:30 p.m. – 7:30 p.m.
Sponsored by: Key West Institute
for Plastic Surgery
Location: 3140 Northside Drive Bldg. A
Members Only Networking Event

April 2017

Business After Hours
Date: Thursday, April 13, 2017
Time: 5:30 p.m. – 7:30 p.m.
Sponsored by: Key West Golf Club
and Waste Management, Inc.
Location: 6450 College Road
Members Only Networking Event

General Membership Meeting
Date: Wednesday, April 26, 2017
Time: Noon
Speaker: Roman Gastesi, Monroe
County Administrator
Topic: State of the County and Residence
and Business Strategic Plan Survey
Location: Doubletree Grand Key Resort
Please RSVP to the chamber
at 305-294-2587 or
Via email: info@keywestchamber.org

Welcome February, 2017 New Members!



The Key West Chamber of Commerce welcomed six new members to its ranks during the Feb. 22nd luncheon at the Marriott Beachside Hotel. Five of the six newcomers were unable to attend the luncheon, but Lourdes Torbisco of Sunset Key Cottages, pictured with Key West Chamber of Commerce President Greg Sullivan and Membership Co-Chair Kim Works, received her welcome packet. (New members not pictured: A1A Spice & Tea Exchange, Jane Gardner Interiors, Keys Seaplanes, Key West Theater and Treasures in Travel.)

Jane Gardner Interiors, LLC
328 Simonton Street, Key West, FL 33040
312-914-7546; www.janegardnerinteriors.com
Interior Design & Retail Showroom
Contact: Jane Gardner
Sponsored by: Joyce Benavides, Cayo Hueso Resorts

Keys Seaplanes
3491 S. Roosevelt Blvd., Key West, FL 33040
305-304-7907; www.KeysSeaplanes.com
Seaplane Charter
Contact: Nikali Pontecorvo

Key West Theater
512 Eaton Street, Key West, FL 33040
305-985-0433; www.theaterkeywest.com
Non-Profit Community Theater
Contact: Michael Marrero

Sunset Key Cottages
245 Front Street, Key West, FL 33040
305-292-5300
www.sunsetkeycottages.com
Hotel/Restaurant
Contact: Lourdes Torbisco

The Spice and Tea Exchange
431 Front Street, #4k Key West, FL 33040
305-453-6894; www.spiceandtea.com
Retail – Food Specialties
Contact: Autumn Walden

Treasures in Travel
PO Box 5722, Key West, FL 33041
305-923-9078; www.treasureintravel.com
Travel Agency
Contact: Capt. Linda Ann Luizza