



Key West Fresh Fish

Key West, Florida

CHAMBER CHOWDER©

510 Greene Street ~ 1st Floor, Key West

www.keywestchamber.org

Keynote Speaker Pablo Orozco, Florida Department of Transportation



President Michael Morawski greets the program speaker Pablo Orozco from the Florida Department of Transportation.

At the October general membership meeting, the keynote speaker was Mr. Pablo Orozco with the Florida Department of Transportation presenting an update on the hot topic of the Cow Key Channel Bridge Project. Mr. Orozco began by stating that his department started by coming to us here in the Key West area early with the intention of having the least amount of impact and disruption to local businesses and daily lives. They have heard the concerns and have acted quickly to resolve issues that have arisen.

Originally, the timeline for completion was eighteen months, but thanks to the input of the Key West Chamber, and other local voices (government, police, emergency, and community members) expressing themselves at public meetings - that has been greatly shortened. Throughout his presentation, Mr. Orozco emphasized the fact that his department hates to create inconveniences and has worked hard to

reduce the impact this project will have on those who live, work, and vacation in Key West.

One step towards that came from monitoring current traffic patterns over the bridge. The Department of Transportation found that the greatest amount of travel into Key West happens before ten o'clock in the morning, so to accommodate this there will be two lanes available for inbound and one lane for outgoing vehicles. At ten o'clock that will switch to one inbound lane and two outbound lanes and will remain that way until the end of the day. To accommodate weekend travelers to the island, two inbound lanes will be open on Saturdays and two outbound lanes will be open on Sundays for the duration of the construction.

The estimate for the entire project is \$6.5 million dollars and will begin March 16, 2020 with a completion date of October 12, 2020 - just in time for Fantasy Fest. Pablo prepared a detailed timeline that

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Message from President Michael Morawski

As we approach the end of our festival season and transition into our seasonal visitors, who annually seek a temporary reprieve from their cold weather communities, I'd like to thank all the individuals that decades ago had the vision and foresight to turn Key West into a year-round destination.

Our winter weather along with our magnificent waterways served as the foundation used by Julius Stone Jr. in the 1930s, at the direction of then Governor David L. Sholtz, to reengineer our bankrupted economy into a self-sustaining economic engine built on winter tourism.

His plan worked and for the next four decades winter tourism, along with the U.S. Military's ebb and flow of economic stimulus into our community during times of world conflicts, put Key West on sound financial footing. However, in the early '70s, the U.S. government decided again to reduce its economic footprint and returned Key West to a seasonal economy.

We became a feast and famine economy. Our businesses were staffed to capacity during the winter months, then when Easter came businesses closed their doors and employees hit the Northeastern U.S. for summer employment. This was known as the employment circuit. While good for the young adventurer our community and its businesses needed stability. That stability took form through individual creativity along with community and business support.

Forty years ago, four local business men, Frank Romano and Joe Liszka, along with Tony Falcone and Bill Conkle decided to invite all to Key West for a Halloween celebration. Hotels, guesthouses, restaurants, bars, retail shops, and attraction owners contributed as participants in and financial sponsors of Fantasy Fest.

Our governmental leaders and business community (owners, managers, and staff) worked in partnership to

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Spotlight Shines on ... Alex Flores, Bank Manager of Centennial Bank's North Roosevelt Branch



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 Alex Flores, Bank Manager of Centennial Bank's North Roosevelt Branch.

If you don't find Alex Flores in his office as bank manager of the Centennial Bank on North Roosevelt Blvd., try looking next door at GFS where he may be buying supplies for the hotdog and hamburger wagon - or grilling at it out front.

"We want a connection and feeding people does it; like breaking bread," he says. "We have our regulars, hotdog no bun, and they are really appreciative. Each month the proceeds go to a different non-profit." Alex and his staff can be found also committing their time to those agencies as board members and mentors.

"In past banking jobs I had to explain that community events were a priority, but not here," Alex states, glad to be back in Key West. He grew

up here, but left to pursue his career in Atlanta and has recently returned. The job opportunity and family lured him back.

"The banking principles are the same, but done differently," Alex asserts. "Everyday I have a personal interaction with someone that makes my job more meaningful." Centennial Bank's customers can be heard saying how simple it is to bank there, how friendly. "You don't have to come shake my hand every time, you can just say, hello," one customer offers Alex. It's like Cheers, where everyone knows your name and he likens it to having a favorite restaurant where you feel welcomed like family. "It's the little things," he says often.

Alex decided to go into banking when his dad took him to open his first account at age fourteen. Four years later, he was working at that same bank with some of those same employees. "I try to go above and beyond. If I sell someone

a credit card without showing them how to use it, then I'm doing a great disservice." When you open an account at Centennial, it's an open door, too. "I encourage people to come in with questions. Even if it's not a service we provide, maybe we can help with ideas. Let's sit down, let's talk about it."

"We don't want you to have to go through a lot to get to someone." And even though Centennial is considered a small, community bank, they can do everything the big banks can. In fact, they just won the contract for the Monroe County School Board. "I have kids, so anything kid related, I take pride in," he adds.

Fond of going into Economics classes and teaching high school students about credit, Alex endeavors to help people put their finances in the same realm as brushing their teeth or putting gas in their car, "take the same time and care with your money."

REAL BANKERS | REAL PEOPLE | REAL RELATIONSHIPS

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2514 N Roosevelt Blvd.

Key West Old Towne:
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1229 Simonton St.

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

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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 St
Key West, FL 33040
305-294-1136

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

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

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

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



"Pablo Orozco" cont. from page 1 ▶

shows the first thirty days from March 16th until April 15, 2020 as set-up and to advance some work before the heavy work begins. During that time, it will basically be business as usual with all four lanes of traffic open at all times during the day. Only night closures are allowed between the hours of 10pm and 5:30am.

Then, after Easter, the 180 days of bridge work begins with three lanes of traffic open at all times during the day and occasional lane closures at night time. That brings us to October 12th and begins the 80 days of roadway restoration, during which all four lanes of traffic will again be opened at all times during the day and only nighttime closures are allowed. That's a total of 290 days of construction, finishing on October 12, 2020, just in time for Fantasy Fest. Around the clock operations are allowed and there are incentives offered at various milestones. If the October 12th goal is met then there's another \$800,000 earned and that amount decreases by \$17,500 per day for each day after October twelfth. There's also a \$100,000 incentive to complete the roadway restoration on time and that decreases \$2,000 every day past November 21, 2020.

There have been talks with and consideration for area hoteliers to help lessen the impact to their business. "We work together to be a success," Pablo says, "there have been many public meetings to inform those affected but also to help the DOT adjust for the least amount of inconvenience."

The project timeline is as follows:

- ▶ October 3, 2019 - mandatory pre-bid meeting
- ▶ October 31, 2019 - letting date
- ▶ April 15, 2020 - bridge construction starts
- ▶ October 12, 2020 - bridge completion (before Fantasy Fest)
- ▶ November 21, 2020 - project completion (before Thanksgiving)

Avoiding high season traffic is a priority. Other project enhancements include: the safest MOT option available, incentive to reduce bridge construction duration to 180 days, emergency response access to the hospital to have minimal impact, evacuation lanes remain available during the hurricane season, smart work zone system, and law enforcement presence to avoid blockage of the intersections.

A Smart Work Zone System includes

active monitoring of the work zone via CCTV cameras, travel time monitoring through the Regional Integrated Transportation Information System (RITIS), installation of five Bluetooth devices to supplement RITIS data; updating signal timing and signal coordination to reflect current MOT phasing; traveler information which uses variable message signs to post travel times and weekly travel updates through the Public Information Officer.

Mr. Orozco fielded some questions from chamber members. When asked why the bridge failed, Pablo stated it was a certain model of jet skis with the rooster tail that shot water at the same height as the bridge span and was like a pressure washer that corroded and eventually snapped the bridge supports. They are being replaced with carbon steel which won't corrode. The remaining spans will be coated to avoid the same fate. The DOT has been doing consistent repairs, to the tune of a million dollars, that didn't disrupt traffic and lasted a few years.

When asked about boat traffic, Pablo answered that there will be a lane open - maybe a different lane than now, but a lane nonetheless. The suggestion of a temporary overpass to get pedestrians and cyclists through the triangle was offered and Mr. Orozco said he would look into that possibility. Additional adjustments will be made for Memorial Day, Fourth of July and Labor Day.

The light at the West College Road crossing will stay green and those wishing to make a left turn onto AIA will need to go up to East College Road where a light will be installed.

For those wanting more information and input, there are a couple of ways. A workshop planned for the beginning of February to come together and learn about the project and subsequent traffic patterns. And for further questions contact the Community Outreach Specialist for DOT, Rodolfo Roman in his office at (305)470-5477 or on his cell (786)519-7160 or via email at RODOLFO.ROMAN@DOT.STATE.FL.US.

The good news is the other spans of the bridge show no sign of suffering a similar fate, so this should be the end of work on the bridge for many years to come.

President's Message cont. from page 1 ▶

encourage, market, fund, along with creativity that would highlight our structural assets with our environmental blessings. Michael Whalton captured the conch spirit with Conch Republic Days. He themed fun along the side of a tongue and cheek rebellion force that mirrored the actions of local leaders as they challenged the U.S. border patrols checkpoint, which stopped and searched all vehicles entering or exiting our chain of islands. Our independent spirit and individuality remains at the core of this event.

A young bar owner would join his other boating friends out on the waters, diving for lobsters, and after a day filled of sun and diving the group would gather back at the bar. He, his friends, and other locals out on the weekend nights would sit around the big grill out in front of Rick's and Dirty Harry's, cooking lobster, drinking beverages, and listening to good ole rock and roll. This local fun is now enjoyed by tens of thousands of our locals and visitors during the event named Lobster Fest. Thank you, Mark Rossi. Another individual who worked within the bar business by the name of Michael Whalton decided to have a birthday party. This wasn't his birthday, it was for the establishment's well-known patron, Ernest Hemingway. Michael wanted this event to celebrate Hemingway's spirit of life, along with his extraordinary literary talents. He partnered with Carol Shaughnessy and Hemingway Days Festival will be celebrating its 40th anniversary next year. A local Harley Davidson motorcycle owner, Mike Horn, saw the changing dynamics within his business and believed that the "new" motorcycle owner was a perfect match for the Key West visitor. He used his resources, both business and civic, to fill hotel room and allow these proud owners to park and showcase their toys along Duval Street. Other visionaries that have fostered events that showcase our community through their lenses of like and imagination were Charley Bauer with the Song-Writers festival. Our need for speed John Carbonell and Larry Bleil, have our beautiful waterways along with our special features shown nationally on ESPN sports network.

As a community, whose economy flourishes year around due to the success of our event driven economic model, we all must remain vigilant as advocates, contributors, and institutional resources.

The event model is fragile; it is built for the collective. Its fiscal solvency is dependent on the collective body. During our time of summer closures, we all shared in the economic stagnation. As events prospered hotels rented empty room, bars and restaurants had more patrons, attractions had groups tours, government had more sales tax, gas, and infrastructure revenue; all budgets enjoyed the stimulus produced. As the cycle evolved and successes grew, some began to focus on the singular; while ignoring the fiscal principles associated with this economic model.

Event tourism producers and organizers cannot sustain their fiscal solvency without our participation as a collective. One for all, all for one.



Key West Chamber of Commerce Honors Extraordinary Educators



President Michael Morawski and Education Committee member Angie Walterson and Chairman Billy Spottswood bestow plaques and gift bags as part of the Teacher Recognition Awards to Kim Burnett, Heather Durden, Chris Ledbetter, Caitlin Sullivan, Dana Sassman, and Maureen Wales.

As part of its ongoing commitment to education and the future of Key West, the chamber regularly honors the area's best and brightest teachers.

These individuals are nominated by their peers and school principals because they are touching the lives of their students in a way that leaves a lasting impression. Extraordinary educators make a difference in the classroom and that ripples out into the community, contributing to a better world for everyone.

Each honoree receives a commemorative plaque and a gift bag as an expression of appreciation. Chamber members wishing to show their support of teachers give gift certificates, merchandise, or cash donations. The plaques are sponsored by Local Awards and Engraving, and their lunch is sponsored by Royal Furniture and Design.

The chamber is proud to honor the following Key West teachers for their unwavering dedication to the island's youngest residents:

► **Robert Revercomb, Somerset Island Prep**

Robert Revercomb, lead teacher and science teacher at Somerset Island Prep has an energy and positive attitude that consistently radiates through his classroom and throughout the entire school. "He regularly goes above the line of duty and is always contributing to the growth of students and the school," Principal Thomas Rompella proudly states. After sixteen years of teaching, Mr. Revercomb was selected by the principal for this honor because of his dedication, professionalism, and mastery of content at the highest level. He truly is preparing youth to succeed in life in whichever direction they may choose.

► **Dana Sassman, Horace O'Bryant**

Dana Sassman is a new teacher to the middle school side this year after having taught a few different elementary grade levels at HOB. "She was obviously born to teach this group and hit the ground running from day one," according to Principal Christina McPherson. Her strategies are relevant to working with today's middle schoolers, and her excitement is contagious. "She has created and fostered relationships with many students but specifically with a few students who need her love and support both academically and emotionally," Principal McPherson adds. "Dana is a perfect asset to the developmental age range she now works with this school year and we are proud to recognize her."

► **Chris Ledbetter, Key West High School**

Chris Ledbetter, Science teacher, was selected by her colleagues for her enthusiasm, teaching skills and ability to make Biology come alive for her students. "Her attention to detail and organization as well as the efforts she makes to constantly improve her craft make learning engaging and a fun process in her classroom," according to her fellow teachers. She fosters strong relationships and the positive climate allows students to explore the world of science through labs, technology and centers which allows them to

be academically successful as evident from her Biology End of Course exam scores. And after fifteen years of teaching she is still, "dedicated to our mission. She sponsors an after school club and participates in school activities. She is a tremendous asset to our school," her colleagues proudly state.

► **Maureen Wales, The Basilica School at Saint Mary Star of the Sea**

Principal Robert Wright is acknowledging Maureen Wales, a first grade teacher, as "an exemplary educator with a zeal for teaching children of all ages and diverse levels of learning." He continues, "Her unique teaching style engages students to fulfill their greatest potential." With a background of serving as a national consultant instructing teachers across the country, "she is a valuable asset to both our novice and veteran teachers. She is greatly admired by parents, students, faculty and staff alike," Principal Wright beams.

► **Heather Durden, Poinciana Elementary School**

"Heather Durden is a passionate teacher who positively impacts academic achievement for all of her students within her class," says Principal Dr. Larry C. Schmiegel singing her praises. According to the STAR Assessment, all of her students made significant growth during the 2018-19 school year. "This year, Ms. Durden agreed to loop to first grade with her students. Heather has served as our BLPT representative and currently serves as a mentor for a beginning teacher," Principal Schmiegel further asserts.

► **Caitlin Sullivan, Gerald Adams Elementary School**

Principal Fran Herrin wants to acknowledge Caitlin Sullivan as a "natural-born educator with a humble, tireless work ethic that results in an educational experience for her fourth grade students that is both targeted and interactive." Her camping-themed classroom as an ELA teacher is fitting because each day her students embark on a learning expedition that is upbeat, challenging and fun. "Though she is already a leader among her colleagues, Mrs. Sullivan's desire to grow professionally is a sign of even greater things to come," Principal Herrin applauds. "We are lucky to have such an influential educator at GAE!"

► **Kim Burnett, Sigsbee Charter School**

Kim Burnett joined the Sigsbee staff last year as an elementary science teacher and the Gifted Program Coordinator. "She hit the ground running," Principal Elisa Jannes appreciates, "drawing students and adults into her passion for science and environmental conservation." Ms. Burnett impacts large numbers of students in part because she teaches across multiple grade levels, and also by sponsoring environmental clubs, introducing new computer science initiatives and leading students through the District STEM fair. "She can be found in the certified monarch butterfly garden that she established and installed around campus, showing off her softer side. And then, as if in contrast, she created Sigsbee's official Shark Club and it has a ferocious following!" Principal Jannes boasts.



For Both Member & Non-Member Businesses In Key West!

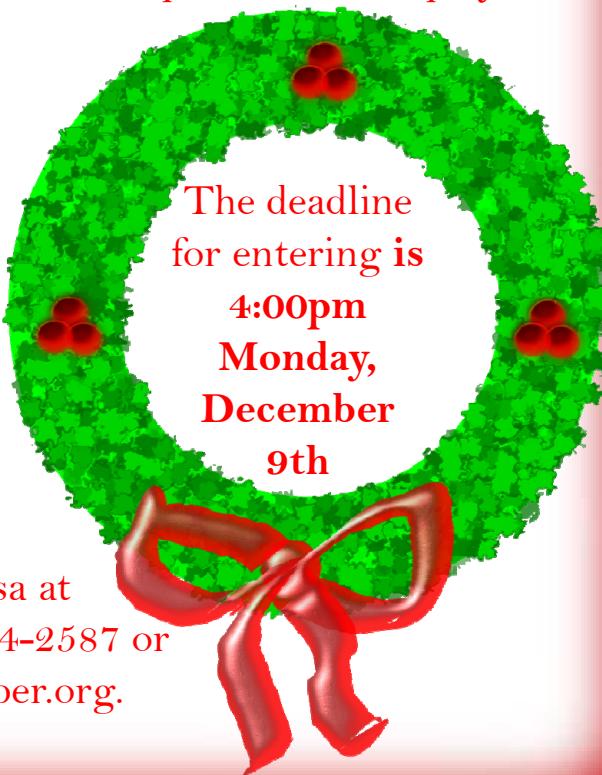
It's time to pull out your decorations for our annual holiday decorating contest!

The "Island of Lights" holiday decorating contest offers businesses the perfect opportunity to demonstrate their holiday cheer and enhance our island with Greetings of the Season for the citizens and visitors of Key West. Awards will be presented for first, second, and third place in two categories:

- small business outdoor or single window display.
- large business outdoor or multiple window display.

**There
is no
entry fee!**

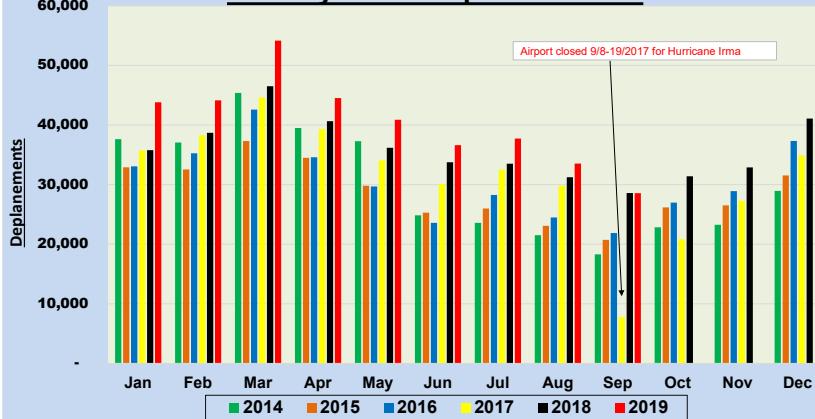
To enter contact Melissa at
the chamber office at: 305-294-2587 or
email: info@keywestchamber.org.





Key West, Florida

Key West International Airport Arrivals January 2014 - September 2019



Source: Key West International Airport

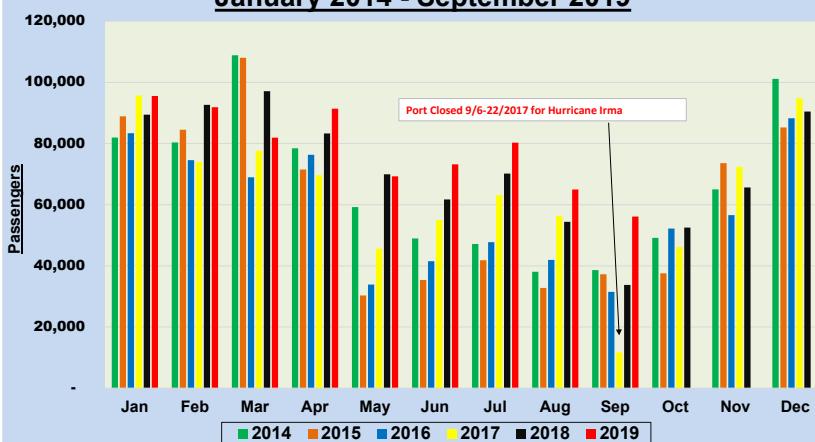
Passenger arrivals to the Key West International Airport in September, 2019 totaled 28,558. This is a decrease of 0.1% when compared to the September of 2018 number of 28,589.

The 363,963 deplanements for the year 2019 thus far is 12.0% more than the 324,908 passengers that arrived to Key West in the first nine 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 seasonal service Chicago O'Hare. Silver Airways provides direct non-stop service to Fort Lauderdale, Orlando, and Tampa.

September, 2019 saw 588 planes land at Key West International Airport which is 5.0% more than the same period in 2018. The year to date total number of landings 6,241, is 4.6% less than the 6,544 planes that landed during the first nine months of last year.

Key West Cruise Ship Passengers January 2014 - September 2019



Source: City of Key West Port Operations

A total of 56,117 cruise ship passengers disembarked in Key West from 27 ships during September, 2019. This is 66.2% more than September, 2018 which saw 33,763 passengers visit Key West. The 704,703 passengers in the first nine months of 2019 is 8.0% more than 2018 year to date. The 294 total port of calls is 5.0% more than the 2018 year to date number of 280 ships.

Both the number of passengers and the number of cruise ship port of calls are higher this year when compared to 2018. The current numbers are higher than every year going back to 2002 and 2003 when Key West greeted more than a million passenger in both years. Last year was the most passengers since 2006, and this year is expected to be even better.

The cruise ship schedule for November thru January compared to the same three months in 2018, 2019, and 2020 is shown below.

	Number of Ships		
	2018	2019	2020
November	32	37	
December	43	53	
January	47	42	55

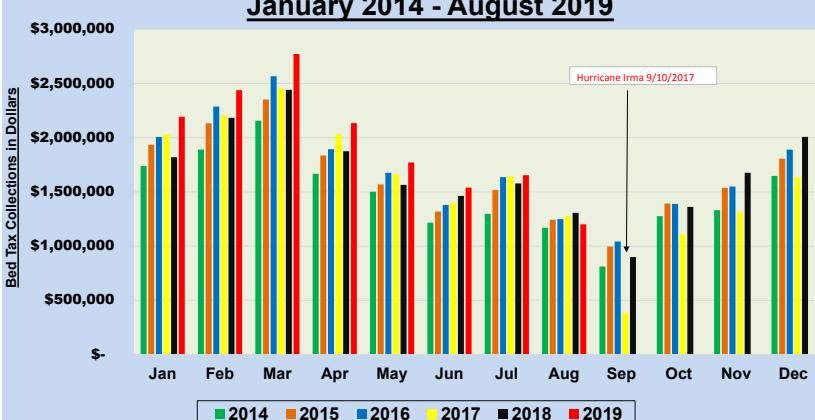
The reported Bed Tax Collections for Key West for August, 2019 were \$1,201,117, 8.0% lower than the same period in 2018. The year to date Bed Tax Collections total \$15,704,888 and represents a 10.3% increase over the same period last year.

The August, 2019 "occupancy rate" for Key West was 78.9% according to the Smith Travel Report. That is a 1.5% decrease over the 80.1% reported in August, 2019.

The Average Daily Rate (ADR) was reported at \$217.11 for August of 2019. That is a 1.0% decrease from the ADR of \$219.26 posted in August, 2018.

For the year 2019 thus far, Key West has seen an increase of 0.7% in occupancy rates, a 3.8% increase in revenue per available room (RevPAR), as well as a 4.0% 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.



Source: Monroe County Tax Collector

Key West

CHAMBER OF COMMERCE



Key West Fresh Fish

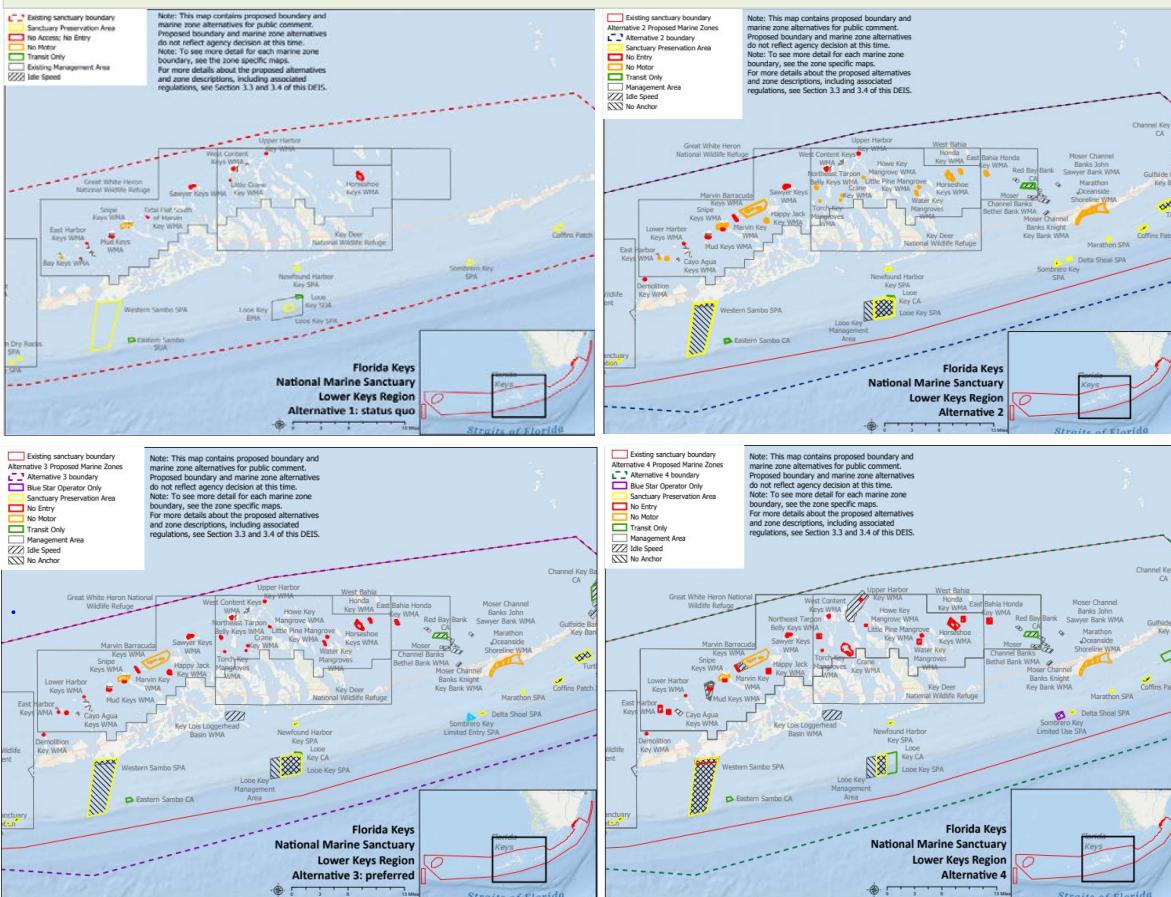
Key West, Florida

What is the Florida Keys National Marine Sanctuary?

The National Marine Sanctuaries Act (NMSA) was enacted in 1972. Under the NMSA the Secretary of Commerce is authorized to designate and protect areas of the marine environment with special national significance due to their conservation, recreational, ecological, historical, scientific, cultural, archeological, educational, or esthetic qualities as national marine sanctuaries. Day-to-day management of national marine sanctuaries has been delegated by the Secretary of Commerce to NOAA's office of National Marine Sanctuaries. The Florida Keys National Marine Sanctuary and Protection Act (P.L. 101-605) was signed into law on November 16, 1990 by President George H. Bush, thus subsuming Key Largo and Looe Key national marine sanctuaries that were designated under the NMSA in 1977 and 1981, respectively. In July 1997, a sanctuary management plan was implemented. The plan was revised in December of 2007, and today the FKNMS protects 2,900 square nautical miles of water. The sanctuary is administered by NOAA, and is jointly managed with the state of

The FKNMS is currently working on a new sanctuary management plan, and displayed below are four of the proposals they have suggested recently. Public input and interest is one of the primary reasons the Florida Keys National Marine Sanctuary is conducting its current review of sanctuary regulations. There will be additional meetings on November 4th in Fort Myers and November 6th in Marathon. Times and locations can be found at floridakeys.noaa.gov/blueprint and if you would like to view the interactive maps or make public comments you can do so by visiting floridakeys.noaa.gov/review/public-input.html online.

Source: sanctuaries.noaa.gov/about/legislation/leg_history.html



Sarah Fangman, Superintendent of the FKNMS will be addressing the Greater Key West Chamber of Commerce at the General Membership Meeting on Friday November 22nd. The event is by reservation only. For more information email info@keywestchamber.org or call the Chamber at 305-294-2587.



ATHENA™ Award Recognizes an Outstanding Professional Woman

Sponsored by:

NILES
sales & service
of the keys
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The Greater Key West Chamber of Commerce is accepting applications to honor a woman who exemplifies leadership in her profession and industry by presenting her with the much-coveted ATHENA™ award, sponsored by Niles, Sales and Service.

The ATHENA™ 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™ 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™ foundation. Thus the first ATHENA™ award was given in 1982 to recognize an outstanding businesswoman and celebrate her achievements in community service and profession. Since its inception, the ATHENA™ 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™ Foundation is a nonprofit 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™ 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™ awards since 1982.

The 2018 Key West Chamber ATHENA™ award recipient was Cara Higgins. Past recipients include Joan Leggett (2016), Piper Smith (2015), Brenda Donnelly. Past recipients include Cara Higgins (2017), Joan Leggett (2016), Piper Smith (2015), Rita Irwin (2014), Diane Schmidt (2013), Joy Smartt (2012), Sandra Higgins (2011), Diane Gibson (2007), the late Merili McCoy (2005), Melissa Kendrick (2004), Elmira Leto (2003), the late Phyllis Allen (2002), the late Sharon Moore (2001), Amy Culver-Aversa (2000), the late Connie Rice (1999), Kim Works (1997), Sandra Taylor (1995), CeCe Roycroft (1992), the late Wilhelmina 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™ award or to receive a nomination form, contact Kerry Baker at the Key West Chamber at 294-2587 or via email to membership@keywestchamber.org. The deadline to submit an application is Friday, November 15, 2019.

Welcome New Members!



Chairman Britt Myers and Committee Member Michael Williams welcome our new members Alexandria Suarez Law, Emily and Terry Jensen of All Keys Canvas, Inc., Liz Morin of Excel Chiropractic (represented by Raquel Crummit, her sponsor), Rebecca Horan of Keys Anchor Insurance Agency, Chris Griffiths with Right Sized Resources, and Sandra Swan of The Swan Team -KW Commercial.

Alexandria Suarez Law

27104 S. Dixie Hwy
Homestead, FL 33032
305-505-1475

www.asuarezlaw.com
Contact: Alexandria Suarez
Law Office (Family Law, Healthcare
Law, civil/business litigation)

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Key West, FL 33040
305-985-0433
www.keywestconcertseries.com
Contact: Kelly Norman
Promotions/Concerts

Right Sized Resources

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Longwood, FL 32750
305-697-4401
Contact: Chris Griffiths
Human Resources Outsourcing/
Payroll Outsourcing/
Commercial Insurance/Workers
Compensation/ Merchant Services

The Swan Team -KW Commercial

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Key West, FL 33040
305-563-0053
Contact: Sandra Swan
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Contact: Skyler Hunt
Health Products Dispensary

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www.keysanchor.com
Contact: Rebecca Horan
Insurance Agency
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Key West

CHAMBER OF COMMERCE



Key West, Florida

BUSINESS AFTER HOURS | THURSDAY, OCTOBER 10, 2019

Sponsored by: First State Bank of the Florida Keys 3406 North Roosevelt Blvd





Key West, Florida

Tis' the Season for Holiday Specials!

Do you have a special promotion going on during the holidays?

Key West Chamber Members want to know!

Purchase our Membership List, Advertise through Blast Emails and the Chamber's Weekly Newsletter

The Chamber Chatter[®]!

Here's how:

Membership List:

- Want to reach our members by mail?
- Our Membership List can be obtained in hard copy, labels, or an electronic file.
- Contact us directly for rates at 305-294-2587 or email: info@keywestchamber.org

Blast Emails:

- Want to reach our members quickly and directly?
- We can send out an E-mail blast to our members for \$65.00. (*Flyers in PDF or JPEG cannot exceed 600kb*)

Chamber Chatter[®]:

Our weekly newsletter is a perfect way to get your message out. We have space available (50 words or less – no images) for you to advertise to our members about what's happening in your business!

One Time: \$15.00

Two Times: \$25.00

Four Times: \$40.00

Emails received by over 930 individuals!

Cruise Ship Schedule

NOVEMBER 2019

11/1	Carnival Sensation	7:30-1:30
11/1	N.Amsterdam	8:00-5:00
11/2	No Ship	
11/3	Celebrity Equinox	7:00-5:00
11/3	Empress	7:30-6:00
11/3	Majesty	9:00-7:00
11/4	No Ship	
11/5	Carnival Victory	7:30-1:30
11/5	Carnival Glory	8:00-4:00
11/6	Harbor Closed - Boat Races	
11/7	Navy Pier Closed - Boat Races	
11/7	Veendam	8:00-5:00
11/8	Harbor Closed - Boat Races	
11/9	Navy Pier Closed - Boat Races	
11/9	Serenade Charter	8:00-7:00
11/10	Harbor Closed - Boat Races	
11/11	No ship	
11/12	Carnival Victory	7:30-1:30
11/12	Norwegian Sky	8:00-6:00
11/13	Majesty	8:00-5:00
11/13	Serenade	8:00-7:00
11/14	Empress	7:00-5:00
11/15	N. Amsterdam	8:00-5:00
11/16	Empress	7:00-6:00
11/17	Celebrity Equinox	7:00-5:00
11/17	Majesty	9:00-7:00
11/18	No Ship	
11/19	Carnival Victory	7:30-1:30
11/19	Brilliance	11:00-7:00
11/20	Norwegian Sun	6:30-2:00
11/21	Silver Whisper	7:30-4:30
11/22	Norwegian Sky	7:00-4:00
11/23	Crystal Symphony	7:30-4:00
11/24	Empress	7:00-4:00
11/24	N. Amsterdam	8:00-5:00
11/24	Rhapsody	11:00-6:00
11/25	Celebrity Edge	7:00-5:00
11/26	Veendam	8:00-5:00
11/26	Brilliance	11:00-7:00
11/26	Carnival Freedom	11:00-7:00
11/27	Majesty	8:00-7:00
11/27	Disney Wonder	8:45-2:45
11/28	No ship	
11/29	Celebrity Infinity	7:00-5:00
11/29	Carnival Sensation	7:30-1:30
11/30	Crystal Symphony	7:30-5:30
11/30	N.Statendam	8:00-5:00

Key West CHAMBER OF COMMERCE



Key West, Florida

Lower Keys Fluffers Wins 1st Prize for Their "The Off Key-Thedral" Float in The Key West Chamber Of Commerce Competition

In a competition created and sponsored by the Key West Chamber of Commerce to encourage local participation in the parade, the Lower Keys Fluffers parade float "The Off Key-thedral" took first place among twenty-two other locally designed floats.

At first glance this Key-thedral seems to be like any other, but once you step inside the lights go down, the curtain is raised, and the Ringmaster and the Madam arise from the shadows giving these devout parishioners a touch of seduction, romance, glitz, grandeur and glory!

The chamber was pleased to award the Lower Keys Fluffers the top prize of \$7,500 and a place of honor on the championship trophy on display in the chamber offices.

The second-place winner of the chamber's challenge receive \$2,500 and this year it was awarded to 40-foot Sharpie, with their creative and colorful float honoring His Royal Purpleness - Prince. Forty is the new twenty so they are partying like it's 1999 in celebration of Fantasy Fest's 40th anniversary. They were getting their Let's Go Crazy on while being pulled by a Little Red Corvette.

This is the second year the competition had a walking group category and there were eight entries. Participants are required to have a minimum of ten entries in their group to compete for the cash prize of \$1,000. And the winner this year is...WeBeFit & Theme Runs for their Willy Wonka Fantasy Factory float. The Oompa Loompa's secret formula for enjoying Fantasy Fest is 93% perspiration, 6% electricity,

4% evaporation and 2% butterscotch ripple. Sure that equals 105% but so what? "We're the Oompa Loompas WE DO WHAT WE WANT!"

The Key West Chamber of Commerce competition and the judging is separate from the official Fantasy Fest parade float judges, as the chamber's contest is only available to entrants from the Florida Keys and Key West. Funding is provided by the golf tournament revenues.

The chamber will join Fantasy Fest officials in presenting parade awards and prizes at a special event on November 22nd, 2019.

For more information about the contest for next year, contact the Key West Chamber of Commerce at 305-294-2587.



"The Off Key-thedral" took first place among twenty-two other locally designed floats.



The second-place winner is 40-foot Sharpie.



WeBeFit & Theme Runs for their Willy Wonka Fantasy Factory float wins for the walking group.

SAVE THE DATE

Saturday, January 25, 2020

Marriott Beachside Resort

Black Tie Invited

Complimentary Cocktail Hour 6:00 p.m.

Dinner 7:00 p.m.

Please RSVP by Friday, January 17, 2020

Following dinner, please join us for music and dancing.

You are cordially invited to join us for the Installation of Officers at the Annual Awards Dinner of the Greater Key West Chamber of Commerce

For more information or to make reservations contact the chamber at 305-294-2587 or email: membership@

keywestchamber.org

Special Appreciation to our Cocktail Hour Sponsors:

Appelrouth & Farr Family

Appelrouth, Farah & Co. P.A.



Key West Fresh Fish

Key West, Florida

CHAMBER CHOWDER©

510 Greene Street ~ 1st Floor, Key West

www.keywestchamber.org

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- 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
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- Greg Sullivan, Secretary
Waste Management/305-434-9140
- Cara Higgins, Appointee
Horan & Higgins, LLP/305-294-4585
- Melissa Kendrick, Appointee
Mel Fisher Maritime Museum/305-294-2633
- Mark Rossi, Appointee
Rick's/Dury 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
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Director of Research
- Suzanne Pearce
Executive Assistant/Bookkeeper
- Kerry Baker
Membership Director/Special Events Coordinator
- Dorothy Schmida
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- Melissa Gauldin
Office Assistant/Tourist Information
- 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

November 2019

Business After Hours

Date: Thursday, November 7, 2019

Time: 5:30 p.m. – 7:30 p.m.

Sponsored by: Keys Medical Group Primary Care (Searstown Office)

Location: 3224 North Roosevelt Blvd.

Members Networking Event!

General Membership Meeting

Date: Friday, November 22, 2019*

Time: Noon

Location: Key West Marriott

Beachside Hotel

3841 North Roosevelt Blvd

Speaker: Ms. Sarah Fangman, Superintendent

Topic: National Marine Sanctuary

*Please note change of date

December 2019

HOLIDAY Business After Hours

Date: Thursday, December 5, 2019

Time: 5:30 p.m. – 7:30 p.m.

Open Bar & Buffet

Sponsored by: Rick's/Dury Harry's

Location: 202 Duval Street, Downstairs

Members Networking Event!

General Membership Meeting

Date: Tuesday, December 17, 2019*

Time: Noon

Location: Casa Marina Resort

1500 Reynolds St.

Annual Awards Program

*Please note change of date

Community Calendar

November 2019

- 10/31-11/2 28th Annual Parrot Heads "Meeting of the Minds" Andrew.talbert@gmail.com 305-292-1435
- 11/1-2/9 Key West Art & Historical Society celebrates the "Literary History of Key West" 305-295-6616 Exhibit opens with special reception on 11/1/19. Time-6:00pm-7:00pm. Bryan Gallery in the Custom House Museum 281 Front St.
- 11/2 27TH ABC 5k walk/run – Salute at Higgs Beach - www.zontakeywest.com
- 11/3 Locals Day at Key West Botanical Gardens; 305-296-1504
- 11/3 Historic Tours of America Locals Day; 305-293-7249
- 11/3 The Informer by Bertolt Brecht – Waterfront Playhouse; 305-294-5015
- 11/3-10 Race World Offshore www.raceworldoffshore.com 305-800-RACE
- 11/4 The Informer by Bertolt Brecht –Waterfront Playhouse 305-294-5015
- 11/4 Acoustic Alchemy 8:00pm The Key West Theater; 305-985-0433
- 11/7 Lee Brice- Key West Amphitheatre-Truman Waterfront 7:00 pm; 305-985-0433
- 11/8 Justin Hayward – Key West Theater 8:00pm; 305-985-0433
- 11/11 Veterans Day Parade 4pm Starts at United and Duval, goes down Duval to Greene
- 11/13 The Wizards of Winter – 8:00pm – Key West Theater; 305-985-0433
- 11/10 Who's Bad: The Ultimate Michael Jackson Experience 8:00pm The Key West Theater
- 11/10-11 The Informer by Bertolt Brecht Waterfront Playhouse 305-294-5015
- 11/14 60th Annual OIRF Kick-Off Party- The Oldest House Museum 5pm- 7pm; 305-294-9501
- 11/15-16 The Smart Ride 16 - Bike Ride from Miami to Key West https://thesmartride.org
- 11/15 South Florida Symphony presents Masterworks I- Beethoven, Mahler and Barber at the Tennessee Williams Theater; 305-296-1520
- 11/16 Key West Botanical Gardens Native Plant Sale – 9:00am-Noon; 305-296-1504
- 11/16 Discovery Saturday- Feathered Friends of the Keys- Eco-Discovery Center 305-809-4750; Truman Waterfront Park 10:00-11:00am
- 11/20-24 8th Annual Key West Film Festival www.kwfilmfest.com; 877-722-2829
- 11/22-25 Hair in Concert at Waterfront Playhouse 305-294-5015
- 11/22-1/5 Key West Art & Historical Society- Key West Collects Our Community Treasures 305-295-6616 ext 112
- 11/23 Old Fashioned High Tea in Lily's Garden- The Oldest House & Museum; 305-294-9501; 1:00pm- 3:00pm oirf.org
- 11/26 The Architecture of Key West- Garden Lecture Series. Snow Phillip 305- 294-9501. The Oldest House & Museum- 6:00pm oirf.org
- 11/27 Lighting of the Bight- Key West Harbor Walk of Lights 6-9pm