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APRIL 18-24, 2019



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Photo: Cynthia Kemeny • Cover: JT Thompson

# Expressions

BY ROGER C.  
KOSTMAYER

We all use expressions, in phrase & facially, to convey our thoughts and feelings. Most verbal expressions help the listener grasp the idea - usually the one intended but occasionally the exact opposite. The most obvious examples of the latter are: "To tell you the truth" & "To be honest with you".

When a salesman, a politician or a President uses one of these expressions, you can bet the farm that the speaker is lying - either now or just prior to his announcement of the change in his intentions. If a President glibly claims he's about to be honest with you, do you ever struggle to remember what he said just before that? Or, do you ever wonder if there's a difference be-

tween being insincere and shallow, and lying?

When someone says "To tell the truth", do you ever cringe and think "Actually, that's what I assumed you were doing all along".

The irony here is - all the the salesmen, politicians, the President and their emulators would be better served and more successful if they expressed themselves simply, directly and truthfully. ■

# Walk-Through Wednesday for Expedited Building Permits

Key West, April 11

On April 17th, residents and contractors will find an added convenience in the City's Building Department.

Walk-Through Wednesdays will offer expedited permitting between 7:30 and 11:30 a.m. Permits for interior work like non-structural interior remodeling, mechanical, plumbing electrical HARD painting and minor repairs as well as the extension of expired permits will be expedited on Walk-Through Wednesdays.



Gerzale Hill is just one of the friendly faces eager to expedite your building permits on the new Walk-Through Wednesday.

Applicants can use the convenient simplified check list available and permit application available on the City's web site at [www.cityofkeywest-fl.gov](http://www.cityofkeywest-fl.gov). Just click on the Building Department link. Completed forms should be brought to the service counter at the rear of City Hall, 1300 White Street. If the permit application is in order, appli-

cants can expect to leave with an approved permit card. Questions? Call the Key West Building Department at 305-809-3956. ■

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# KONK Life

## Schooner Western Union repairs need more money... again

BY PRU SOWERS

KONK LIFE STAFF WRITER



There is a not-so-funny joke about a boat being a hole in the water that you keep pouring money into. Another is what B.O.A.T. stands

for: Bring On Another Thousand.

In the case of the Schooner Western Union, the last working wooden sailing schooner built in Key West, those old jokes might be true. Currently in Maryland undergoing extensive repairs, the price tag to return the vessel to the water keeps going up.

After the U.S. Coast Guard forced the schooner into drydock in 2013 because a lack of maintenance led to safety



concerns, the owners of the historic vessel, the Schooner Western Union Preservation Society (SWUPS), first

raised \$750,000 to replace engines, decking, the mast and rigging. That money came from a \$250,000 taxpayer

grant approved by the Key West City Commission in 2015, which allowed the schooner to qualify for an additional \$500,000 grant from the state; enough for the repair, SWUPS said at the time. In return, SWUPS agreed the ship would remain permanently homeported in its slip in the Key West Bight, where it was taking visitors on day sails.

But shortly after that, unexpected wet rot and termite damage was found in several of the ship's ribs after the schooner was pulled out of the water, leading to the need for another \$150,000. And now, the vessel's owners say an additional \$1.24 million is required to finish the job.

"We have, frankly, been unprepared for what it cost to fix this vessel," said

► Continued on page 8

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FLORIDA KEYS

# Fun in the Sun with KWHS Wakeboarding Club

BY **PARIS CRONE**  
KONK LIFE STUDENT WRITER

Out of the many clubs at Key West High School, there is one in particular that stands out among the rest for fun in the sun: wakeboard club. Shannon Perkins, who is currently an art teacher at Key West High School, first started the club.

Perkins explains why she was inspired to start this club around ten years ago, “Because I love wakeboarding, and I want to share it with my students.” About twenty members are in the club, and Perkins notes that it is the perfect amount.

Students who are interested in wakeboarding enjoy this club because it consists of just about everything to do with wakeboarding. Perkins explains that they go to Orlando or Miami as a whole and “ride the cables,” so to speak. She also adds, “It’s quite neat because they can make personal goals, and when they’ve reached that goal they can go on to the next one. Every time we ride, they set personal goals, and at the end, we say if we met our personal goals. No matter how good or beginner they are, they can still make a goal and reach it.”

This club helps students be more well-rounded people because it gives them the inspiration to try new things and keep trying when they fail at first. Not only is this club fun for students, Perkins herself enjoys wakeboarding with them as well.

The club wakeboards through-



Key West High School wakeboard club member Nelson Sawyer trying to keep himself up as the waves push him back on a recent trip to Homestead to “ride the cables” with sponsor Shannon Perkins.

out the year. Savannah Crone, a previous member of the club, states, “We would go to wakeboard parks and wakeboard. The club was filled with enthusiastic people, and we would have the time of our lives.” Current member Nelson Sawyer adds, “We get to learn new things and experience something we don’t usually get to do.” Clearly, this club is very well-liked with those involved. Crone says she “loved every minute” she spent with the club.

Everything about this club screams fun. “I never saw someone not having fun. The club acted as if they were family. The club actually introduced me to people I am still friends with today,” Crone

explains. Wakeboarding itself is a great sport, especially for the Keys, but when you add the comradery the club promotes among students, it becomes invaluable.

To keep this club going strong, the wakeboard members raise money to travel by having candy gram fundraisers at school. Perkins explains that the club is “always glad to have donations,” and that the community can participate in their fundraisers to help support the club as well. If you would like more information, or to support the wakeboard club at Key West High School, contact Shannon Perkins at [Shannon.perkins@keysschools.com](mailto:Shannon.perkins@keysschools.com). ■

# Medicinal cannabis retailer Surterra rolls into Key West

BY TERRY SCHMIDA  
KONK LIFE STAFF WRITER

Anyone walking into Key West's first legal medicinal cannabis retailer expecting to find Bob Marley tunes playing, and the smell of incense a-wafting behind a display case full of oversized bongos, is bound to be disappointed.

That's because Surterra Wellness - ironically located in the former Florida Department of Law Enforcement office in Habana Plaza - is not on a mission to turn hipster potheads on to a kind quarter of sticky buds.

Instead, the Atlanta-based company aims to be "empowering individuals to take control of their own well-being and potential," according to Surterra's Chief Marketing Officer Levent Hamdemir.

"Right down to their dietary choices and exercise regimens," he said, "we think of our retail locations as learning centers, not stores, and that we're actually 'moving in' to the communities where we have a presence."

At the Key West location's grand opening on April 11, dozens of curious locals showed up to chat with the staff while munching on fruit and (un-doctored) blueberry muffins, receive massages, and henna tattoos; and yes, fill their prescriptions for the cannabis oils that have helped so many to live with painful and debilitating medical conditions.

"This place is a godsend for me," said Jose Davila, a mixed martial arts enthusiast who recently ended up with a broken orbital lobe and fractured wrist from time spent in the ring. "Knowing that Surterra was opening here is actually about 25 percent of the reason we moved down to Key West."

Since he can't afford to miss work at the catering company employing him,



Davila needed to manage his pain, as well as the sleep issues that have haunted him as a result - without resorting to the highly addictive opioid painkillers that have so ravaged the country in recent years.

"Before I discovered Surterra, I found myself buying marijuana on the street from some pretty shady characters," he said. "And I never really knew what I was getting until I got home. This place is a pharmacy, and it's no different from me walking into a CVS. It's just a much better experience, and it's given me a lot more freedom to carry on with my life."

There are no posters of pot plants, or other recreational drug culture trappings at the dispensary.

Clients who have received prescriptions from one of the 16 doctors in town authorized to write them present their scrips at a desk in the rear, and are either given just what the doctor ordered, or, depending on the doctor's instructions, decide for themselves which products best suit their needs.

The refined cannabis can be utilized in epidermal patches, gels, or vape form, and are specially designed for specific ailments, such as Parkinson's disease, glaucoma, sleep disorders, and more.

The average cost for a two- or four-week supply of these products is around \$40 to \$75.

Surterra will even deliver to homebound patients, or even for people who may be out of town but will need the products upon their arrival back in Key West. Even tourists can take advantage of the dispensary - as long as they have a valid prescription from a local doctor.

▶ Continued on page 6

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Horace O'Bryant School students, teachers and "Kinetic Coach" Suzanne Brown are pictured on Thursday morning with models they are making of Key West landmarks—including the Key West Lighthouse, La Concha Hotel, Sloppy Joe's Bar, and the Southernmost Point marker—to be incorporated into the school's kinetic float creation for the upcoming Key West Art & Historical Society Papio Kinetic Sculpture and Art Bike Parade (think art with parts that move). Pictured left to right are: Alfredo Mejia, "kinetic coach" Suzanne Brown, Miguel Mejia, Revora Bustillo, Lurieth Guerra, Lucie Bublakova, Cole Jackson, HOB teacher Katie Holtcamp, and Uliana Ivannikova.

## Even more love for Mother Earth...



The Love Your Mother Earth Civics Lesson sponsored by the Lower Keys League of Women Voters is growing. Dee Dee Green, the Solid Waste Coordinator for the City of Key West, and Alison Higgins city Sustainability Coordinator are already signed up, and additional Mother Earth advocates will participate in the league's community civics lesson Wed., April 17, upstairs at the Waterfront Brewery at 5:30 p.m. in Key West.

Natalia Duke from the Key West Women's March is a member of the Climate Reality Leadership Corps founded by former Vice President Al Gore and will join Julie Brown from Key West Green Drinks and Florida Keys Surfrider Foundation, Mill McCleary from Reef Relief, Mark Songer from Last Stand and

Caroline Horn from Fair Insurance Rates in Monroe – FIRM -- in brief presentations focusing on environmental challenges and successes in the Lower Keys.

Q&As will follow.

The environment is the #1 issue of Lower Keys League of Women Voters members. This is a good – and fun -- opportunity to learn what is happening environmentally in the Lower Keys and also watch a Key West sunset. There will be a cash bar and snacks to enjoy.

The League of Women Voters is a non-partisan organization that encourages informed and active participation in government and works to increase understanding of major public policy issues through education and advocacy.

Questions? Contact Caroline Horn, Program Chair, LKLWV at 305-731-0562, [carolinehorn714@gmail.com](mailto:carolinehorn714@gmail.com) or Marge Holtz, President, LKLWV at 703-473-8870, [margeholtz@hotmail.com](mailto:margeholtz@hotmail.com). ■

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### Medicinal cannabis...

► Continued from page 5

The industry has come a long way since Florida voters approved medicinal marijuana by way of a ballot initiative in the 2016 general election. Two more such dispensaries, managed by different owners, will be opening in town soon.

It's a far cry from the mid-1990s when Zvi Baranoff's unsanctioned Key West cannabis buyers' club was raided and shut down by local police, despite the organization's strict adherence to providing the drug only to people whom doctors had recommended its use. Baranoff himself was arrested and charged with possession of felony amounts of marijuana, with intent to distribute.

Ultimately he received probation and sentence adjudication withheld.

These days he calls Oregon home.

"Wow, and wow again," said Baranoff, upon being informed about Surterra and the other forthcoming Key West dispensaries. "We have all suffered from decades of pointless prohibition. Now, with the passage of the Farm Bill that recognizes hemp, we are seeing the beginnings of the utilization of this most beneficial plant in ways that we were telling people about in the 1980s. Medical access - although still limited - is now available almost nationally."

For more information about Surterra Wellness visit <https://www.surterra.com/Keyscribe@aol.com> ■

# Conch Republic Cup, Key West Cuba Race Week

**C**onch Republic Cup, Key West Cuba Race Week, has an interesting past. In 1996, the Key West Sailing Club, now the Key West Community Sailing Center, received an invitation from Commodore Jose Miguel Diaz Escrich of Hemingway International Yacht Club of Cuba to run a race from Key West to Veradero. At that time the race had been run two times previously in the 1970's. Peter Goldsmith, owner of Geslin Sails, was the fleet sailing captain of the Key West Sailing Club and accepted the challenge. Peter and his then partner Michele Geslin, since deceased, put the race together in 1996-97 with the help of Mark Lindas, Mark Milnes & Glenn

Sykes among others. They success-

fully put on a number of races from 1997-2003. After two years of running KW to Varadero, Commodore Escrich would propose the Conch Republic Cup (CRC) four race series.

In 2003 the government decided they did not want to allow the race to proceed. So on the way to the start of the CRC2003 racers were escorted out of the harbor to Sand Key by many government boats and a helicopter taking pictures. They did not stop participants on the way out but for the first time in seven years they boarded most boats returning from Cuba and confiscated cameras, GPS systems, and charts.

In 2015 when the Obama Adminis-

tration changed the restrictions on travel to Cuba the race was renewed with Karen Angle at the helm alongside Peter Goldsmith. We have established the Conch Republic Cup as a 501c3 non-profit organization dedicated to the pursuit of sailing education and friendship with Cuba. We continued the tradition of the 4 race series of the CRC traveling in 2016 & 2017 with 54 boats and 475 people to both Varadero and Havana. In 2018 the race had to make a change a abandon Varadero.

This year we are continuing to have the CRC but have changed the format. CRC2019 is the 10th edition of the race between Key West and Cuba.

It will begin with the Wrecker's Race, the all in fun series of races that the Schooner Wharf Bar and Grill has been doing for over 35 years. Our racers will then continue on to Havana, Cuba. Commodore Escrich will once again host the event in Cuba. This year marks the 500th Anniversary of the founding of Havana as a city. We will be doing our usual buoy race in Cuba alongside Cuban sailors. We will no longer race back to Key West giving the participants more freedom to pick their appropriate weather window and timeframe to return to Key West. Next year we plan to continue the tradition and have the CRC2020 at the end of April. Please join us April 26-May 3, 2020. [www.conchrepubliccup.org](http://www.conchrepubliccup.org) ■



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**Schooner Western...**

► Continued from page 3

John Dolan-Heitlinger, SWUPS president. “If I had known what it would cost, we probably wouldn’t have gone forward with it.”

But it’s too late to stop now, Dolan-Heitlinger added, because SWUPS has already spent \$1 million on repairs. So, they are turning to the state for help. State Rep. Holly Raschein has proposed an appropriations project from the department of state for \$1.243 million. If approved, the grant would be included in the proposed state budget currently under discussion. Dolan-Heitlinger called the bill “a long shot” but is still hopeful.

Even if state legislators approve the grant, however, it may not be enough. Dolan-Heitlinger said SWUPS is working on an updated preservation plan to assure potential donors that no more money will be needed after the fundraising target – to be finalized in the preservation plan – is reached. He is considering selling naming rights to pieces of the schooner such as the mast or rigging as part of that effort.

Key West City Manager Jim Scholl called the increasing cost of restoration “a very unfortunate situation” but said he has heard some offers of fundraising help. If the restoration project ends up failing because enough money cannot be raised, he said, Key West will not be

able to get its \$250,000 back.

“They [SWUPS] were trying to be too optimistic. I don’t think they understood the true complexity of repairing an old vessel,” Scholl said.

Key West Mayor Teri Johnston has an idea, too. If the schooner cannot be returned to the water, she proposed to bring it back to Key West and turn it into a museum. “With the amount of money we’ve sunk into it, we could drydock it and use it as a museum and preserve that history,” she said.

Built on the Simonton Street beach in 1939, the Western Union laid 30,000 miles of communication cables between Key West, Cuba and the Caribbean. In 1974 she was converted

to a passenger vessel, eventually purchased by Historic Tours of America, which offered day sails to tourists. Unwilling to keep maintaining the increasingly-expensive boat, however, HTA donated her to SWUPS in 2007.

Since then, the schooner has fallen on hard times, with maintenance on the aging wooden boat put off again and again until she was forced into drydock by the Coast Guard in July 2013, one year after she was designated as the flagship of the state of Florida. But all that antiquity is worth trying to save, Dolan-Heitlinger said.

“It is the flagship of the state of Florida and the city of Key West,” he said. “History is important.” ■

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# KWAHS welcomes Distinguished Speaker Series guest Jeff Stotts

On Thursday, April 25 at 6:00pm, Key West Art & Historical Society welcomes Distinguished Speaker Series guest Jeff Stotts, a historian, environmental horticulturist and sustainable landscape development consultant, to the Helmerich Research & Learning Center on the third floor of the Custom House Museum, 281 Front Street, where he will present a compelling and educational narrative titled “An Iconic Figure in Key West History: The Life and Times of Sandy and Lillah Cornish.”

Stotts will also lead a Society Historic Walking Tour to the Cornish Memorial AME Zion Church established by Cornish in 1864 in Bahama Village on Saturday, April 27, from 9:30-10:30am.

Cornish was an iconic leader of his African American community, “respected by all races,” says Stotts. His interest in Cornish developed from researching the Cornish church and Afro-American history of Key West.

Cornish endured an intense journey from slavery—his freedom papers were destroyed in a fire and he was tracked by slave hunters who tried to capture and resell him. To render himself useless as a slave, he publicly maimed himself at the town square, and eventually ended up in Key West, where he and Lillah had the island’s first successful farm—a farm mentioned in an 1850s horticultural magazine as well as in diaries of citizens of the era. His work as a leader and farmer was so notable, he was visited by President Johnson’s fact-finding commission and the chief justice of the US in 1865.



Farmer, civic leader and former slave Sandy Cornish, shown here circa 1865, has been described as an “inspiring testament to human freedom.” (Portrait by W.G. Jackman, from “After the War” by Whitelaw Reid, from the Scott DeWolfe collections, Monroe County Public Library)

“All this and more when typically, being black wasn’t even considered human, or a person or capable of processing any attribute worthy of recognition by society,” says Stotts.

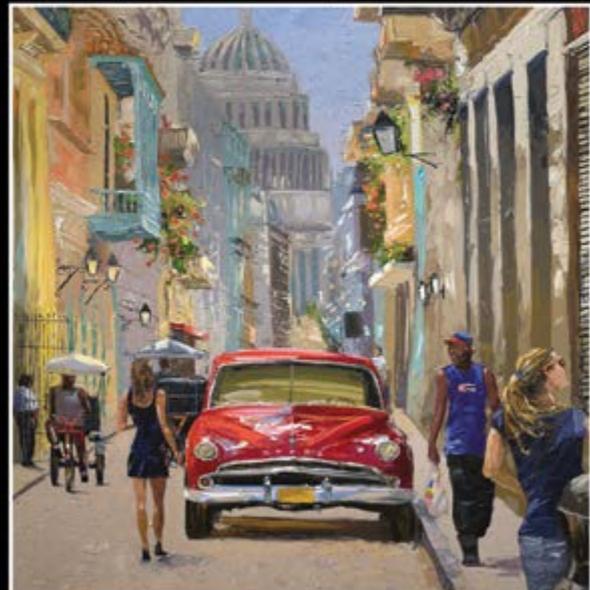
Guests can choose to attend one or both events; each stands as its own individual presentation. Tickets for each are \$5 for KWAHS members, \$10 for non-members, and are available at [kwahs.org/events](http://kwahs.org/events). Early ticket purchase is recommended. Sponsored by the Helmerich Trust, the State of Florida Division of Cultural Affairs and the Southernmost Beach Resort. For more information, contact Kristina Callaway, KWAHS Director of Education at 305-295-6616 extension 115 or at [kcallaway@kwahs.org](mailto:kcallaway@kwahs.org). Your Museums. Your Community. It takes an Island. ■



Mary Ellen Lapp, a member of Key West Toastmasters, was awarded 1st Place in the Area 55 International Speech Contest held in Key Largo. She now moves to the next highest level, Division E, which will be held on April 27 at Carnival Cruise headquarters. Area 55 includes Key West, Florida Keys Toastmasters, Homestead Toastmasters and Cutler Bay. 2nd place went to Richard Erschik of Homestead, (l) and Frank Lazcos, Florida Keys (r). Key West Toastmasters meets on the 2nd and 4th Tuesday at noon at Keys Federal. For more information, call 305-295-7501.



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# Easter Sunday Tea Dance and Silent Auction at La Te Da to benefit Camp Bravo scholarship program



Children from Camp Bravo Musical Theater Camp pause for a pose after their final performance last year at Waterfront Playhouse. On Sunday, April 21 from 4:00pm – 7:30pm, La Te Da hosts an adult-only Easter Tea Dance & Silent Auction to benefit Keys Community School of the Arts scholarship program for children in this year's Camp. *Photo by Larry Blackburn*

## Key West, April 9

La Te Da invites the public to hop on over to 1125 Duval Street for an adult-only Easter Tea Dance & Silent Auction on Sunday, April 21 from 4:00pm-7:30pm, with silent-auction proceeds to benefit the Keys Community School of the Arts scholarship program for their Camp Bravo Musical Theater Camp.

For more than a decade, Camp Bravo Musical Theater Camp has provided children ages 6-17 summer opportunities to explore theater arts at the histor-

ic Waterfront Playhouse, offering approximately ten scholarships annually. This year, the 3-week, Monday – Friday program builds to a final performance of “The Jungle Book,” presented on Saturday, June 29th.

Break out your cotton tail and get ready to dance, bid on fantastic silent auction items, and win fabulous prizes, knowing your bunny love helps give the gift of theater arts to a deserving child.

For more information or to make a silent auction or tax-deductible donation, contact Penny Leto at 305-393-3001. ■

# Monroe County Launches New 'Flickr' Website for County Photos

Monroe County, April 9



Monroe County's Public Information Office launched a new "Flickr" website for public and media use of Monroe County government-related photographs at [www.flickr.com/photos/monroecountybocc](http://www.flickr.com/photos/monroecountybocc).

The site has more than 800 images, with new pictures being added weekly. The photos feature a wide variety of subject matter, including the Board of County Commissioners; County staff; County buildings,



parks, boat ramps, beaches, museums and historic sites; County projects; community events; Hurricane Irma photos; and more.

Flickr is a photo management web-

site and sharing application used for organizing photos and video. Monroe County's Flickr site has photos arranged in albums for easy searching of high-resolution pictures. All photos can be downloaded and used in publications and internet sites – with photo attribution to Monroe County. Videos will also be added

to the site.

The Monroe County Public Information Office also welcomes submissions of archival photos of County

government buildings, officials, staff, etc. Please send digital submissions to [clark-cammy@monroecounty-fl.gov](mailto:clark-cammy@monroecounty-fl.gov) and include a short caption about the photo, date it was taken (approximate if not known) and name of person who took the photo.

Other Monroe County social media platforms include [www.fb.com/monroecountyfbocc](http://www.fb.com/monroecountyfbocc), [www.twitter.com/monroecounty](http://www.twitter.com/monroecounty) and [www.instagram.com/monroecountybocc](http://www.instagram.com/monroecountybocc).

The Monroe County Public Library System also features a Flickr account with historical Florida Keys photos for public and media use at [www.flickr.com/photos/keyslibraries](http://www.flickr.com/photos/keyslibraries). ■

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# The Ocean is Calling! Reef Relief Summer Coral Camp Registration is Now Open



Key West, April 9

**C**oral Camp 2019 Registration is Open! When school lets out, Coral Camp begins. Each fun-packed day, campers experience hands-on-learning, interactive games and outdoor activities.

Activities include science and art projects in addition to field trips around Key West. Campers also experience four days of snorkeling: one day practicing their snorkeling skills at the beach, one day in the seagrass beds and sponge gardens, and two days snorkeling at the barrier reef.

Weekly sessions begin June 3th and go through August 9th. Sessions are limited to 25 campers per session. Camp is designed for 6-12 year olds. A limited number of scholarships are available to those who qualify. Coral Camp runs Monday through Friday from 8:30am-4:30pm. Camp fees are \$225 per child per week or a discounted rate of \$200 per child per week when registering for multiple weeks or siblings. Space is limited! Reserve a slot today!

For more information about registration call Reef Relief at 305-294-3100 or email reefrelief@gmail.com. Download registration forms at <http://www.reefrelief.org/coral-camp-2019/>

Reef Relief is a nonprofit membership organization dedicated to improving and protecting our coral reef ecosystem. ■

# Monroe County Participates in Fifth Annual Green Commute Challenge

Monroe County, April 10

**M**onroe County employees participated in the fifth annual Green Commute Challenge led by the City of Key West. The challenge takes a percentage of carbon dioxide saved from the participants who walked, rode their bikes, took public transportation, or carpooled to work during the week of April 1-7 in a friendly competition between other agencies in the Keys.

As of Friday's unofficial results, the commuters saved a total of 2,280 pounds of CO2 from going into the environment. Monroe County's 14 participants included: Allison Rich, Alicia Betancourt, Liz Yongue, Judy Clarke, Matt Howard, Breanne Erickson, Patricia Eables, Dina Gambuzza, Janene Sclafani, Cheryl Cioffari, Rhonda Haag, Arlene Haessler, Shelly Krueger and Clint Arsenault.

"I started participating in this five years ago and didn't think I could do it even once, since then I have done the yearly 100-mile bike rides to Key West," said Monroe County IFAS Extension Director Alicia Betancourt, who rode her bike from Plantation Key to the Murray Nelson Government Center daily. "It really motivated



Allison Rich, Senior Library Assistant at Key West library. Photos contributed



Dina Gambuzza, Office Manager for Monroe County Land Authority. Photos contributed

me to push myself to get fit and get at least one car off the road." ■

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# American Red Cross Volunteers and Partners Install More Than 100 Smoke Alarms in Stock Island

Miami, April 9

The Greater Miami & The Keys Chapter of the American Red Cross along with partners installed more than 100 free smoke alarms on Saturday, April 6 at the Island Life Village community in Key West, Fla.

The home fire safety and smoke alarm installation event was sponsored by The Helmerich Trust and is part of a two-week push of Sound the Alarm events in 100 cities across the U.S.

Red Cross volunteers along with local partners like The Helmerich Trust, the Lodging Association of the Florida

Keys and Key West, Suburban Propane and local community leaders visited homes throughout Stock Island and educated families on home fire safety.

Following the installations, community partners and volunteers enjoyed a barbecue generously hosted by Suburban Propane.

“Every day, seven people die in home fires, most victims die in homes that don’t have working smoke alarms. The Red Cross wants to do everything we can to prevent these needless tragedies,” said Deborah Koch, executive director of the Greater Miami and the Keys Chapter. “This is one of six

events that our chapter will be hosting with the goal of saving lives and educating people about home fire safety.”

Across the country, the Red Cross Home Fire Campaign is helping save lives by installing free smoke alarms in homes that don’t have them and by educating people about fire safety. So far, it has reached more than 1.7 million people and saved more than 520 lives nationwide.

**HOW YOU CAN HELP** People interested in helping at Sound the Alarm events can register to volunteer and raise funds for lifesaving services by visiting [SoundTheAlarm.org/SFL](http://SoundTheAlarm.org/SFL). ■

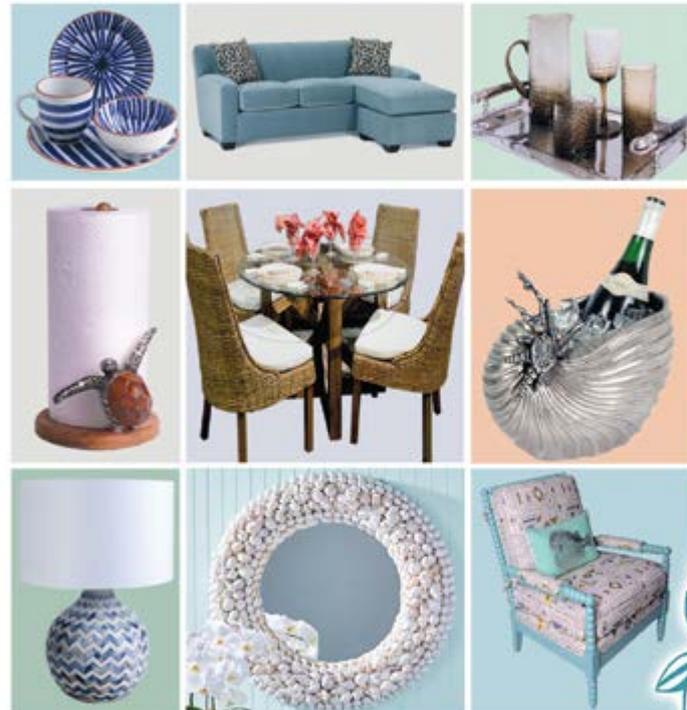


Sound the Alarm Stock Island Group



Red Cross volunteers and Suburban Propane gather to Sound the Alarm in the Keys.

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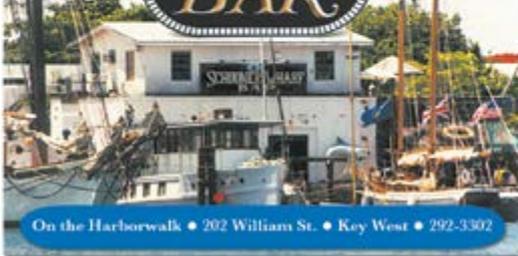
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## WHAT'S HAPPENING

**Schooner Wharf Bar**  
202 Williams St., (305) 292-3302  
SchoonerWharf.com

**Thursday 04/18**  
MICHAEL McCLOUD  
noon - 5pm



**COOL DUO** Sam Ramos & Chris Case  
6:45 - 11pm

**MAGIC OF FRANK**  
EVERHART  
9:00 pm - 1am

**Friday 04/19**  
MICHAEL McCLOUD & FRIENDS  
noon - 5pm

**LAST MANGOES BAND**  
6:45 - 11:45pm

**MAGIC OF FRANK**  
EVERHART  
9:00 pm - 1am

**KICK-OFF PARTY**

**Saturday 04/20**  
MICHAEL McCLOUD & FRIENDS  
noon - 5pm

**LAST MANGOES BAND**  
6:45 - 11:45pm

**MAGIC OF FRANK**  
EVERHART  
9:00 pm - 1am

**Sunday 04/21**  
MICHAEL McCLOUD & FRIENDS  
noon - 5pm

**FRANKENDREAD DUO**  
6:45 - 11pm

**MAGIC OF FRANK**  
EVERHART  
9:00 pm - 1am

**Monday 04/22**  
Raven Cooper  
Noon - 5:00 pm



**FUEL ON FIRE**  
6:45 - 11:30pm

**Tuesday 04/23**  
GARY HEMPSEY  
noon - 5pm

**TOM TAYLOR**  
6:45pm - 11pm

**CAPTAINS MEETING**  
BLOODY BATTLE  
9pm

**Wednesday 04/24**  
ALLEN "FRANKENDREAD"  
HOLLAND  
noon - 5pm

**RAVEN COOPER DUO**  
6:45 - 11pm

**MAGIC OF FRANK**  
EVERHART  
9:00 pm - 1am

**The Smokin' Tuna**  
4 Charles St., (305) 517-6350  
smokintunasaloon.com

**Thursday 04/18**  
C.W. COLT 5pm  
Caffeine Carl & The Buzz 9:00pm

**Friday 04/19**  
C.W. COLT 5pm  
Caffeine Carl and Friends 9:00pm

**Saturday 04/20**  
C.W. COLT 5pm  
Caffeine Carl and Friends 9:00pm

**Sunday 04/21**  
Andy Westcott & The Local Boyz 9pm

**Monday 04/22**  
Scott Kirby 5pm  
Blu Monday w Caffeine  
Carl & The Buzz 9pm

**Whats Happening**

▶ Continued from page 14

**Tuesday 04/23**

Scott Kirby 5pm  
Dynamo 9pm

**Wednesday 04/24**

Scott Kirby 5pm  
Dynamo 9pm

**The Green Room**

501 Greene St., 741-7300  
thegreenroomkeywest.com

**Thursday 04/18**

Marjory Lee,  
1:00 pm - 4:00 pm

Ken Fairbrother  
11:00pm - 3:00am

**Friday 04/19**

Andy Westcott  
1:00pm - 4:00pm

Nick Walker  
10:00pm - 2:00am

**Saturday 04/20**

Drew Gunning  
1:00pm - 4:00pm

DJ Gyver  
10:00pm - 4:00am

**Sunday 04/21**

Sheldon McLellan  
1:00pm - 5:00pm

Sharese Nicole  
11:00pm - 3:00am

**Monday 04/22**

SHASTINA  
1:00PM - 4:00PM

Drew Gunning  
11:00pm - 3:00am

**Tuesday 04/23**

Marjory Lee  
1:00pm - 4:00pm

David Warren  
11:00pm - 3:00am

**Wednesday 04/24**

Joe Enich  
1:00PM - 4:00PM

TBD  
11:00pm - 3:00am

**Bottlecap / Blue Room**

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**The Salty Angler**

1114 Duval St., (305) 741-7071  
thesaltyangler.com

**Thursday 04/18**

Roger Jokela, 1pm – 5pm

**Friday 04/19**

Ben Taddiken, 12pm – 4pm

**Saturday 04/20**

Vincent Burgeron,  
9:00am – 11:30am  
Eric Paul (Levy)  
12pm – 4pm  
The Southernmost  
Magnolia Band  
7:30pm – 10:30pm

**Sunday 04/21**

The Salty Sessions w/ Jeremy  
Tucker and Guests,  
1:30pm – 4:30pm  
Charlie Miller, 8pm – 11pm

**Monday 04/22**

Dani Hoy, 12pm – 4pm  
Julie B , Grubby bingo,  
6pm – 7pm  
Wavy Dave, 7:30pm – 10:30pm

**Tuesday 04/23**

Roger Jokela, 12pm – 4pm  
Charlie Miller, 7pm – 10pm

**Tuesday 04/24**

Roger Jokela, 12pm – 4pm

**Little Room Jazz Club**

821 Duval Street, Key West  
FL 33040

littleroomjazzclub.com

**Thursday 04/18**

Peter Diamond & Company. 8-11

**Friday 04/19**

Piano Bar Happy Hour with Larry  
Smith 5:30-7:30  
Ericson Holt 8-11

**Saturday 04/20**

Piano Bar Happy Hour with Larry  
Smith 5:30-7:30

Phil Sampson & Queen Kathleen 8-11

**Sunday 04/21**

Piano Bar Happy Hour with Larry  
Smith 5:30-7:30  
Barry Cuda & the Sharks 8-11

**Monday 04/22**

Piano Bar Happy Hour with Larry  
Smith 5:30-7:30  
Paino Bar Happy Hour with Coffee  
Butler 5:30-7:30  
Little Room Jazz Jam with Larry Smith,  
Joe Dallas and Skipper Kriptiz 8-11

**Tuesday 04/23**

Bluesday Tuesday with Larry Baeder &  
Cheryl Hodge 8-11

**Wednesday 04/24**

Piano Bar Happy Hour with Jimmy  
Olson 5:30-7:30  
Wine Down Wednesday with Chris  
Burchard & Company. 8-11

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## The Mustang



**M**atthias Schoenaerts is the perfect actor to portray Roman, a violent

inmate at Nevada State Prison who works with horses in an effort to curb his explosive anger. In the past, Schoenaerts starred in “Bullhead” as a lonely cattle farmer who gets pushed into selling illegal hormones and becomes irredeemably hooked on steroids. His casting may not be a stretch for the “silent angry man” in yet another outing, but he does it so well.

Again and again, Schoenaerts embodies a scary physicality that is somehow sensitive and vulnerable. This film, “The Mustang” by director Laure de Clermont-Tonnerre, is from start to finish and very nearly a masterpiece.

Roman is placed repeatedly in solitary. His anger is unquenchable with nowhere to go. His young ex Martha (Gideon Adlon) can’t stand him and

asks him to sign divorce papers.

While Roman is on fertilization duty, an ex-rider Myles (Bruce Dern) is intrigued by the smoldering brute, and asks him half-heartedly to try to watch the horses for five minutes without losing his cool. Under the direction of Henry (Jason Mitchell) Roman fails, yelling at the mustang.

In one visceral scene, Roman punches the beautiful animal like a speed bag and the horse promptly beats him to the ground.

After an irate lashing by Myles, Roman is undaunted and asks for a contraband equestrian magazine. A bond slowly forms.

Oddly, the meaty physique and the round brown eyes of Roman resemble the traits of the mustang Marquis, and Roman becomes as if hypnotized.

There have been many “creature kinship” films (including Redford’s classic *The Horse Whisperer*) but this is by far one of the very best and it is as fate would have it, executively produced by Redford.

This film excels precisely because it does not have an agenda or a stance, simply presenting events as they occur. The story shines in its illuminating and sometimes raging details. We know what Roman is like locked in the stifling plain square of a prison and we know what mustangs feel sequestered in a wooden pen: two animals are revealed inter-connected by their emotions.

While some might be tempted to call the film “*The Horse Whisperer*” combined with 2014’s “*Starred Up*,” this narrative is far more subtle and nuanced. In a series of telling quiet scenes “*The Mustang*” projects one man’s angry life upon a fellow animal and it delivers without manipulation, sap or sentiment. ■

## The Public

**A**ctor / Director Emilio Estevez (*The Way*) directs the well-intentioned yet tepid drama “*The Public*,” about a homeless occupation of a pub-



lic library in winter. The film is well-made and slickly produced but suffers a bit from a hammy performance by Alec Baldwin and a conventional treatment that feels like television.

It is bitterly cold in Cincinnati, Ohio. The homeless look to the library as a relief from biting temperatures. Though there are some eccentric behaviors, contentment and respect is maintained by the sensitive librarian Stuart Goodson (Estevez), who had been on the street nearly a decade ago, and his progressive co-worker Myra (Jenna Malone).

One day, a homeless man stretches himself before the windows, naked and singing. Security is called. Stuart is faced with a lawsuit claiming he forced a patron to leave because of his body odor.

During the following days, Stuart attempts to be more strict, closing promptly at six pm. The homeless group headed by Jackson (Michael Kenneth Williams) insists that this is cruel and dangerous due to the severe cold. He refuses to vacate along with 100 others.

Abruptly the police are called with DA Josh Davis (Christian Slater) and Detective Ramstead (Baldwin).

Both sides of the fence are too simplistically delivered with the politician (Slater) acting insensitively, and the icy enforcer (Baldwin) showing little beyond a huff and a puff and a steely glare. By midway, we are in the land of clichés with an occupation raising hell and “making noise” as Estevez sympathetically nods. We also get a superficial cosmetically perfect reporter played by Gabrielle Union.

► Continued on page 20



# Fringe Presents World Premiere



Fringe Theater has an established track record for presenting original works including *Conch Republic the Musical*, *Cock Talk*, and this season's surprise hit *Key West Characters*. Next up is the world premiere of the new musical *It's About Time*, which runs April 24 and 25 at the Key West Theater, located at 512 Eaton Street.

"New musical is little bit of a stretch," says the playwright and composer Don Bearden, "since I began writing it about 10 years ago." Audiences are more familiar with Don as an actor with Fringe (*The Gin Game* and *Cock Talk*), the Red Barn (*With Bells On*), and the Wa-

terfront Playhouse (*1776* and *A Trip to Bountiful*). "The Fringe Theatre gave me the first acting job I've had in 30 years and a leg up into the world of theatre here in Key West. Now they're giving me the first ever production of something I've written."

*It's About Time* asks the age-old question "Does perfect love (or perfect casting) exist?" Two young theater producers prepare to open a play in the old Belasco Theatre in New York, but they can't agree on the right leading lady. They discover a time-traveling key inside the old Belasco theater and soon find themselves "back in time" alongside a vintage version of the perfect leading lady. Can true love stand the test of time? Can their new play open on time?

The show is directed by Cameron Murray, who is well known for direct-

ing with Keys Kids as well as his work with the Waterfront Playhouse (including *Forever Plaid*, *Me and Jezebel*, *Souvenir*, *Steppin' Out*, and *Musicals of Musicals*).

Musical direction is in the capable hands of Vincent Zito, who also worked to prep the score. He has musical directed shows at the Waterfront Playhouse (including *She Loves Me and 1776*), Tennessee Williams Theatre (*La Cage aux Folles* and *A Funny Thing Happened on the Way to the Forum*) and the Fringe (*Bernstein on Broadway* – which he also produced). Vincent founded the Key West Pops Orchestra and co-founded the Island Opera Theatre.

The show is choreographed by Car-

olyn Cooper who audiences are familiar with as an actor, dancer, and choreographer. The cast includes Luke Fox, Rhett Kalman, Belle Jampol, Rosie Mayne, David Black, Vanessa McCaffrey, Mathias Maloff, John Reynolds, Martha Hooten, and Arthur Crocker.

This timeless love story runs for two nights only at the Key West Theater, April 24 and 25. Showtimes is 7pm (house opens at 6:30pm). Tickets at available at [fringetheater.org](http://fringetheater.org).

Fringe Theater is a local performing arts nonprofit that creates unique opportunities for people to see and do theater. If you'd like more information about Fringe Theater, please go to [www.fringetheater.org](http://www.fringetheater.org) or call the Fringe office at 305-731-0581. ■



Fringe Theater Company: (Back) Don Bearden, Samantha Messier, Mathias Maloff, Rhett Kalman, Belle Jampol, Martha Hooten (Middle) Arthur Crocker, Vanessa McCaffrey, David Black, Carolyn Cooper (Front) John Reynolds, Cameron Murray, Rosie Mayne, and Luke Fox. Photo Credit: Cynthia Kemeny

**FRINGE**  
theater key west

**It's About Time**  
music & book written by  
Don Bearden

Directed by Cameron Murray  
Musical Direction by Vincent Zito

April 24-25 • 7pm  
Key West Theater | 512 Eaton

[fringetheater.org/305-731-0581](http://fringetheater.org/305-731-0581)

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Sean Finnerty



John Tole

Comedy Key West presents professional standup comedians Sean Finnerty and John Tole. They perform after talented local comics warm up the stage at The BottleCap.

Sean Finnerty performs on Thursday and Friday, April 18th and 19th. After growing up in Longford, Ireland, Sean Finnerty recently became the first ever Irish comedian to perform on the Tonight Show with Jimmy Fallon. Based in NYC, Sean performs at numerous festivals and all the city's famous comedy clubs.

He made his television debut as co-host of Season 9 of Fireball Run on Amazon Prime, was selected for Comedy Central's Up Next competition (2013), was a semi-finalist of the nationwide talent search 'Stand Up NBC' and semi-finalist in Florida's Funniest Comedian (2014) resulting in him opening for WWE Hall of Famer Mick Foley. A keen eye for detail Sean has also developed a reputation as a Roaster and is currently the number 1 ranked roast comic in New York City.

John Tole performs on Thursday and Friday, April 25th and 26th. John is a Denver based comedian, writer, voice actor, and beloved radio personality. Tole's stand-up has

rocked prestigious stages and festivals, including High Plains Comedy Festival, Oddball Comedy and Oddity Festival, SXSW Interactive, Fun Fun Fun Fest, Limestone Comedy Festival, and multiple Moontower Comedy Festival appearances.

John has been featured on Sirius XM, VICE, Hits 1, Howard 100, and Howard 101, and was a contributor to The Howard Stern Show. In addition, John is a regular on Deathsquad Chronicles, Steve Simeone's Good Times, and Sam Tripoli's Tin Foil Hat Podcast on All Things Comedy.

Comedy Key West also hosts a weekly Wednesday Madhouse Show; a fun, pro-am show that's different each week! Enjoy open mic, standup, sketch comedy, video shorts, music, contests, roasts, games & more. If interested in testing your comedy skills during this relaxed open mic night, contact Joe at Comedy Key West.

Doors open at 7:30 PM and Showtime is at 8:30. There is a 2-drink minimum in the show-room. For more information about the comedians and to purchase tickets visit [www.comedykeywest.com](http://www.comedykeywest.com). BottleCap is located at 1128 Simonton Street in Key West. ■

# Sex with strangers a first rate production



BY JOANNA BRADY

**Y**ou don't realize what a difference ten years makes in our modern cybernetic zeitgeist until you see *Sex with Strangers*, now playing at the Waterfront. And yes, despite the titillating title, there is a plot; an intriguing one.

In the first act, a blizzard is howling outside a cozy bed and breakfast in Michigan. The owner is out, but a guest, Olivia, who is a published writer of about 35—ill-treated by her agent, publisher, and reviewers—has taken refuge there to work on a second book in peace and quiet. Her evening is disrupted when a late-comer guest named Ethan arrives. He's a young man, no more than 25—some would call him a callow youth—whom Olivia correctly judges to be raw, rude, and crude.

But when she learns that he has 500,000 followers on his blog, that he is developing an app to sell E-books, has written 2 blockbuster non-fiction best sellers, and that a movie is being made about him, her interest is peaked. Over wine by the fire, they eventually discover a mutual chemistry, and the inevitable happens. And keeps on happening at the end of nearly every scene!

One of Ethan's books is titled *Sex With Strangers*, hence the provenance of the play's title.

If you don't have a good script you have nothing, and I can't say enough about the writing in this play. It was created by Laura Eason, who wrote and produced *House of Cards* for Netflix for 4 years. *Sex with Strangers* was one of the most produced plays in the U.S. in 2015 – 2017. Eason's characters are well-developed. The first act is hip, snappy, and it's very funny. Director Patrick New has orchestrated the pace of the dialogue to suit the language with skill and aplomb.

The story takes a complex, more dramatic turn in the second act, when the play shifts to more substantive issues and the ten years that separate the pair show up in their uncompromising attitudes towards publishing and marketing their work. For Ethan, nothing is real. His phone is his life-line and he lives in a sphere where anything of consequence is on-line. Characters in his non-fiction books aren't real, reviews aren't real. Only blog followers and the sales they generate are real. E-books are what matter. He's a true child of his time. Olivia's world view is different. She is nostalgic for a time when people played CDs, loved the heft and feel—even the smell—of hard copy books. A time when there was some truth in reviews, and people depended on entertainment beyond an I-phone.

The second act also enlightens us on the state of publishing today where novels tend to be commercial rather than literary. It's an industry which has been changed radically even in the past 5 or 6 years by the proliferation of E-books and self-publishing. Techies who can maneuver the social media and navigate cyberspace with blogs and followers are the winners in the best-seller game. For Ethan, re-inventing his true self as a brand with a brilliant platform is what's important. This concept is nothing short of bewildering to Olivia. The ten years that separate the two make them chasms apart.

Both of the well cast actors turn in polished, professional performances. Melanie Keller is excellent as Olivia, the reclusive school teacher beaten down by the publishing system. Tim Torre is terrific as the glib, fast-talking admirer of her work who chooses an unorthodox route to helping her battle back, only to have it backfire.

But I'm getting ahead of myself. I'll leave the problematic core of the play and the dénouement for you to discover, but I for one, loved this play.

Michael Boyer has designed two terrific sets, transforming a quaint ru-

ral lodge in Michigan to a sleek contemporary Chicago apartment. Carmen Rodriguez provided the perfectly harmonizing props for each.

Highly recommended.

Play runs April 11 through 27. All performances are at 8 p.m. For additional information as well as tickets, call 305-294-5015 or visit [waterfront-playhouse.org](http://waterfront-playhouse.org) ■

**WATERFRONT PLAYHOUSE**

**SEX WITH STRANGERS**

By LAURA EASON • Directed by PATRICK NEW  
Starring MELANIE KELLER and TIM TORRE

Presented by arrangement with Dramatists Play Service • By permission of Actors Equity

Photo: Larry Blackburn

April 11 thru 27, 2019  
Previews: Apr. 9 & 10 • On Historic Mallory Square  
WaterfrontPlayhouse.org • 305-294-5015

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## ■ Rescue Tails

# Nothing beats being given a second chance!

BY TAMMY FOX-ROYER  
Executive Director Florida Keys SPCA

When Quigley and Queenie were brought to the shelter, it didn't sound as though they had been viewed as members of the family. Their names, ages, and where they came from were not recalled.

The only thing we learned is that they were a child's pets, had already had one litter before they were separated, and now were no longer wanted. As most rabbit rescue people will tell you, this is a familiar story.

Both rabbits showed some serious cage aggression so we moved them out of their small cages and put them in large runs where they had more space to move and it didn't take long before their behavior changed, trust built,

and they became much friendlier and interactive. Both rabbits needed to be fixed before adoption, which typically goes well when done by an experienced rabbit-savvy veterinarian. But sometimes there are unforeseen problems that affect the outcome.

It turned out that Queenie had some major pre-existing conditions that could not have been known beforehand and she didn't survive. Luckily, Quigley sailed through his surgery without missing a beat.

Sue and her daughter Samantha were thinking that a bunny might be a good addition to their family and came to the shelter to look. Quigley's charm captured Samantha's heart. But even better, Quigley seems to take an immediate fancy to Samantha, which is unusual, since rabbits are curious but typically take time to trust strangers. There was some magic happening between the two of them!

Our adoption process always involves education and guidance on appropriate housing, etc. This family was so open to learning and eager to

provide whatever Quigley needed to be healthy and happy, so it wasn't long before our boy packed his bags and headed home.

These days Quigley, aka BunBun, spends his days lounging on the bed watching TV, or demanding dinner be served by tossing his food bowl in the air when he gets hungry.

Needless to say, he keeps his family smiling! Quigley is one very lucky bunny to be living with such a kind and caring family, which is what we wish for all rabbits. Sue told us recently "I've had dogs, cats, birds, you name it! But honestly, rabbits are the overlooked pet and have so much love to give.

They have more personality than anyone can imagine." We totally agree and can't understand why our Key West shelter, like so many other shelters and rescues across the country are filled with adoptable rabbits, just waiting for people like Sue and Samantha to walk through the door and give them a lifelong home! ■

## The Public

► Continued from page 16

What the film does do well, despite its predictable analysis, is its portrayal of librarians on the whole as being kind custodians of information with no judgment or conditions. This is a wonderful concept and a hallmark of our democracy.

Also well done are the montages featuring diverse library patrons focusing on facial expression and gesture. After all, it is the people themselves that give libraries its joyful function, its growth and full capacity.

It is only the narrative that feels tight fisted and heavy-handed. Davis and Ramstead sigh and gnash their teeth. The librarians raise their fists. By the time the homeless / librarian occupation reveals itself (and more) singing a song by Johnny Nash, and clearly in the right, one feels a bit put upon, despite some surprise.

"The Public" has some good performances from Estevez and Jeffrey Wright as the direct library head. This is a standard rebellion film with some good details. It only fails in its portrayal of Might vs. Right and the suits against the seekers with little in between. Unfortunately, its ideas are too thickly drawn. ■

Write Ian at [ianfree11@ahoo.com](mailto:ianfree11@ahoo.com)

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**KONK Life** Now distributed from KEY WEST to KEY LARGO!



Photo: Lanny Blackburn

# Recently Announced: Earth Day Jam with That Hippie Band



After Earth Day Founder Wisconsin Senator Gaylord Nelson saw the ravages of the 1969 Santa Barbara, California oil spill, the Cuyahoga River caught on fire from pollutants in downtown Cleveland, and LA smog was so bad you couldn't see the famous Hollywood sign some days, the first Earth Day was celebrated on April 22, 1970, and 20 million Americans took to the streets.

War raged in Vietnam, it was the height of the counterculture in the United States. Less than a year after 400,000 young Hippies descended on Woodstock, 1970 brought the death of Jimi Hendrix, the last Beatles album, Simon & Garfunkel's "Bridge Over Troubled Water", and Crosby Stills & Nash "Teach Your Children."

Fast forward 49 years later, Earth Day will be celebrated by over a billion people in 192 countries this year. The planet still needs our help more than ever, and we all still need this music. Join us in celebration of this glorious 49th Earth Day, with a fugitive band of hippies from 60s that have been hiding out and performing in Key West at the Schooner Wharf Bar. They all use to have long hair, smoked weed, and could play any 60s song that anyone could remember.

## SHOW DETAILS

Earth Day Jam with  
That Hippie Band

Key West Theater | 512 Eaton Street  
| Key West, FL | 33040

April 22nd, 2019 | Show: 8:00pm |  
Doors: 7:00pm

## TICKETS:

Online at [thekeywesttheater.com](http://thekeywesttheater.com),  
[ticketfly.com](http://ticketfly.com) OR at the Key West  
Theater box office at 512 Eaton St.

That Hippie Band leader, Gary Hempsey, will help you remember the songs from the Age of Aquarius. Plenty of old favorites from the Grateful Dead, The Beatles, Rolling Stones, Jefferson Starship, and maybe even some Crosby, Stills, & Nash will be rediscovered. Last year's Earth Day Jam was a huge success, everyone left the theater with a song in their heart. This year will be even better.

Join the global celebration of the 49th Earth Day with Gary Hempsey and That Hippie Band. This Ralph De Palma Production, sponsored by the Schooner Wharf Bar, is at the Key West Theater on Monday, April 22, Earth Day. Doors open at 7:00pm, music begins at 8:00pm.

Bring your good vibes, harmony and understanding, sympathy and trust abounding, and peace will guide the planets, and love will steer the stars. It will be like Woodstock without the mud! ■

The Florida Keys & Key West  
"Hippie in you die"

# EARTH DAY JAM

With That Hippie Band

GARY HEMPSEY  
PETE JARVIS  
RUSS SCAVELLI  
EMILY SPRINGSTEEN  
TOM CONSER  
WILL HOPPER  
TERRY WETMORE  
GRESS SHANLE

49th Earth Day

April 22nd  
Key West Theater  
512 Eaton St.

tickets at [www.thekeywesttheater.com](http://www.thekeywesttheater.com)

# Key West Woman's Club 2nd Annual Baby Time Baby Shower benefiting Wesley House Family Services

Photos by Guy deBoer



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Photos by Guy deBoer



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# Old Town home sales 1st Qtr 2019 top 1st Qtr 2018 by 44%

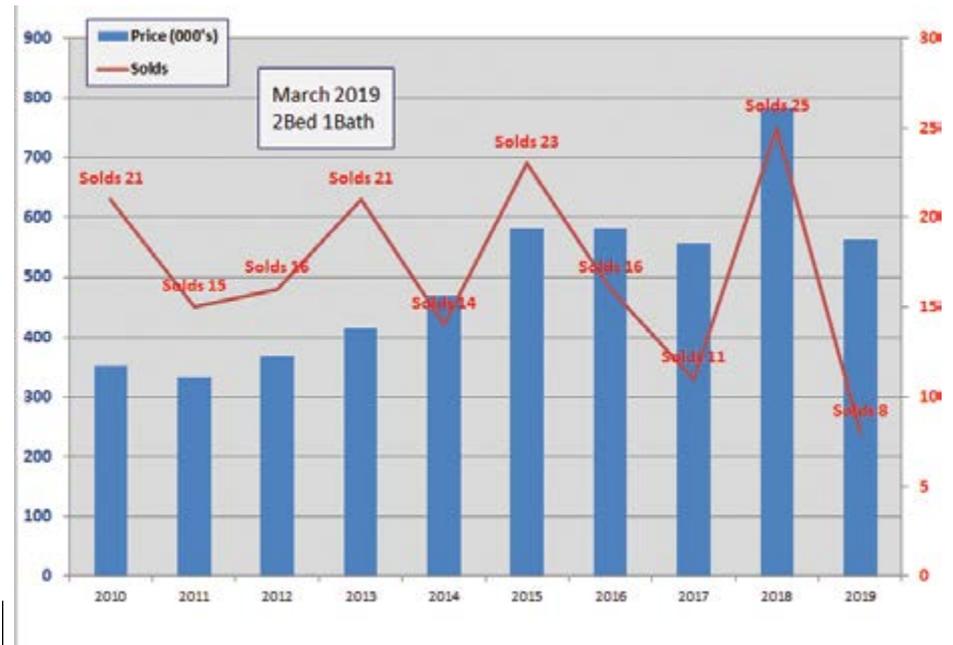
Average sales price tops \$1M for eleven of last thirteen Quarters

**C**onfidence. You don't plunk down a boat load of money on a part time home at the end of the road just for the heck of it. Savvy buyers recognize the risk-reward profile of the US economy is favorable. The combination of condensing regulatory policies and the incentives of the 2017 TCJA are encouraging corporate investment and creating broad based wealth. 30 year mortgages have fallen from 4.95% in November 2018 to 4.09% in March 2019.

The last big year for Old Town home sales was 2015. Sales declined in 2016, 2017 and the 1st Qtr of 2018.

Since April 2018 sales have been on a tear with 2018 sales topping both 2016 and 2017.

Prices too have move steadily up, both sales price and average sales price per square foot. Since the 1st Qtr of 2016, average sales price has exceeded \$1M for eleven Quarters. In 2016 there were 129 sales at an average sales price per square foot of \$694. At the end of 2018 that figure was \$781. Through March 2019 that figure was \$867 per square foot. There may be little new construction in Old Town but there is excellent craftsmanship from



Key West renovators and remodelers. Well done.

Here is a snapshot of the four most popular bedroom/bathroom combinations in Old Town:

- Eight, 2Bed/1Bath homes have sold in the Old Town area thru 3/31/2019. The average number of days to sell is 129 days.

- The average Sold price of \$564,000 is down 28% from 2018 which at \$784K was up 41% from 2017. The \$564K is 70% above the 2011 low.
- Eleven 2/1 homes are for sale with prices from \$399K to \$925K.

► Continued on page 25

## REASON #3 to Support the Community Sailing Center:

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working as a team, outdoor fun and building new self-esteem.

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You can help keep this character-building program going and help us rebuild our docks that were destroyed by Irma. And the Edward & Joan Knight Foundation made a generous challenge grant, matching donations dollar for dollar!



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 David Brooks, Ordained Minister

**Old Town home sales....**

► Continued from page 24

- Sixteen 2/1's sold in 2016, eleven in 2017, twenty-five in 2018.
- Since 2009, 2Bed/1Bath homes have been the 3rd most popular selling home in Old Town with 190 sales.
- Ten, 2Bed/2Bath homes have sold in the Old Town area thru 3/31/2019. The average number of Days to sell is 50 Days, 56% less than 2018.
- The average sold price of \$910,000 is up 10% from 2018 and is 114% above the low in 2009.
- Seventeen 2/2's are for sale, priced between \$650,000 and \$1.575M.
- The average Sold price per sqft for 2019 is \$671. In 2018 the average was \$747, in 2017 the average was \$704.
- Since 2009, 2Bed/2Bath homes have been the biggest sellers in Old Town Key West with 295 sales.
- Five, 3Bed/2Bath homes have sold in the Old Town area thru 3/31/2019. The average number of Days to sell is 91 Days.
- The average Sold price of \$1,435,000 is up 36% from 2018 which was 2% above 2017 and is 211% above the 2009 low.
- The average sold price per sqft. is \$873, up 27% from 2018.
- Fifteen 3/2's sold in 2016, twenty-seven in 2017 and twenty-five in 2018.
- Since 2009, 3Bed/2Bath homes have been the 2nd biggest sellers in Old Town with 210 sales.
- Six, 3Bed/3Bath homes have sold in the Old Town area thru 3/31/2019. The average number of Days to sell is 67 Days.
- The average sold price of \$1.416M is down 8% from 2018 which was 9% above 2017.
- The average Sold price per sqft. of \$795 is down 6% from 2018.
- Nineteen homes sold in both 2015 and 2016 with twenty-two sales in 2017 and seven in 2018.
- Since 2009, 3Bed/3Bath

homes have been the fourth biggest seller in Old Town Key West.

Here's a big picture of number of sales and average sale prices from 2010:

Since 2015, over 52% of sales, ranging from \$400K to \$5M, have been in cash. National average 25%. These commitments bode very well for Key West real estate, particularly in down years. People do not walk away from such investments.

The trend of buyers is towards pre-retirement, Generation Xers, who view Key West real estate as an integral part of their investment portfolio – and – an investment that allows them to enjoy the pleasures of the Conch Republic. ■

*John Parce is a Realtor for Re/Max Keys Connection. His web site is [www.parcerealestatekeywest.com](http://www.parcerealestatekeywest.com).*

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**724 Eaton Street, Key West**



**\$5,840,000**

Dating back to 1865, the Curry-Freeman house is one of the oldest private residences in the Florida Keys. Custom-built by a prominent seafaring merchant and ship-builder, the mansion was constructed by Old World craftsmen using only the finest materials. Imposing double front porches, ornate gingerbread, vibrant colors and elegant woodwork help create this island icon. Grand public spaces, including an historic ballroom, graceful entryway and formal dining room have 12-foot ceilings, elaborate millwork and dramatic décor. The main house has plenty of space for family and guests with three bedrooms and three baths. Located in the rear of the property is a "Carriage House." Circa 1959, this detached building houses three legal apartments with additional four bedrooms and three baths. Old world charm, peerless craftsmanship, amazing history and tropical splendor live harmoniously at 724 Eaton Street.

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# KONK LIFE'S REAL ESTATE in the KEYS

## A rare town home - with private pool! At the Key West Golf Club

BY TERRY SCHMIDA  
KONK LIFE REAL ESTATE EDITOR

If floating in your own private pool after an afternoon spent playing 18 holes on the golf course behind your town home is your idea of bliss, then Janine and Jon Seibert of Century 21, Schwartz Realty Key West have just the place for you.

This three-bedroom, two-and-a-half bath home at 22 Whistling Duck Lane, at the Key West Golf Club, offers over 1,060 square-feet of living space, on a nearly 4,000 square-foot private lot at the end of a quiet lane that backs onto the seventh green.

The open floor plan of the ground floor living room offers plenty of space for dining or entertaining, adjacent to the remodeled kitchen with newer stainless appliances, and granite counter tops. A half-bath adjacent to the living room has been installed for added convenience.

Past the great room is a spacious, yet



The home is located at the end of a quiet lane. Photo: Contributed

cozy, screened-in Florida room that's perfect for outdoor dining. The deck faces east for plenty of early morning sunshine and afternoon shade.

Outside is a rear patio area that boasts new pavers and tasteful landscaping, as well as a large sized in-

ground heated pool surrounded by a huge concrete deck, ideal for outdoor entertaining.

Upstairs is a large master bedroom suite with a newly remodeled en suite bathroom, added walk-in closet for extra storage space, and a vaulted ceiling.

This floor also offers two guest bedrooms, both with vaulted ceilings, a full bathroom, and a full-sized washer and dryer in a separate laundry area.

The entire home has been lovingly cared for, and tastefully decorated with modern tropical-themed furnishings which may be included with an acceptable offer. Additionally, the home affords low insurance premiums due to the high impact windows and door shutters.

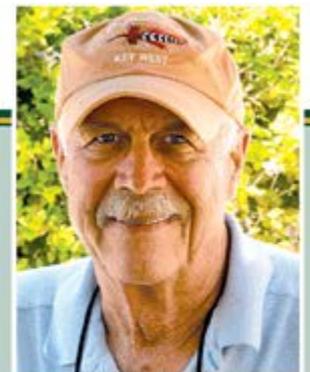
The house has been freshly painted inside and out, has central air conditioning that keeps the home cool during those hot summer days. This home could be a lucrative vacation rental, or a full-time residence.

The Key West Golf Club is a gated and secure community, with two pools and a fitness center. Memberships at the award-winning golf club itself are available for a low monthly fee.

Located in Key West, the Golf Club affords easy access to some of

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# KONK LIFE'S REAL ESTATE in the KEYS



A heated in-ground pool highlights the patio area. *Photo: Contributed*



The open-concept living/dining room is a great place to relax or entertain. *Photo: Contributed*



The recently remodeled kitchen features stainless steel appliances, and granite countertops. *Photo: Contributed*



The living/dining area. *Photo: Contributed*



Fancy an outdoor dinner? The screened-in Florida room is the perfect place. *Photo: Contributed*



A full-sized washer and dryer are included in the purchase price. *Photo: Contributed*

the areas finest restaurants, and theaters, as well as all the shopping and other amenities of this island paradise.

*22 Whistling Duck Lane, is being offered for just \$619,000.*

*For more information, visit listings agents Janine and Jon Seibert at their office at 211 Simonton Street, in Key West, or call 305-433-0552, email [jjseiberts@gmail.com](mailto:jjseiberts@gmail.com)*



All three bedrooms offer vaulted ceilings. *Photo: Contributed*



Another bedroom. *Photo: Contributed*

# KONK LIFE'S FEATURED HOMES

## Mahogany House

1401 Newton St., Key West



**PRICED TO SELL**

See Map

1

Mahogany House, an original Conch House located in a quiet corner of the Meadows, is now available as *four unique 1 bedroom condos*. All with private entrances and outdoor areas, and many updates. With new roof and paint, the low condo fees make this the perfect affordable home or Snow-bird nest!

**Unit 1:** lower level, 10' ceilings, all new kitchen and floors - **\$399,000**

**Unit 2:** two great porches + over 800" private decks/garden - **\$399,000**

**Unit 3:** 2 bonus rooms, screened porch & over 600' private deck/garden **\$479,000**

**Unit 4:** Cathedral Ceilings, loft, treetop views, private deck - **\$429,000**



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**Price \$250,000**

See Map

2

## 22 Whistling Duck Lane, Key West

A rare opportunity to own a town home with a private, heated pool in the Golf Club!

- 3 Bedroom, 2.5 Baths
- Freshly updated throughout
- Vaulted Bedrooms
- Impact Doors and Windows
- Screened Florida room
- Island Decor
- Private double lot with Golf Course Views



**\$619,000**

See Map

6

See Map

7

## Derek Epperly & Jenna Blackwell

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DerekAndJenna@KeysRealEstate.com

Derek Epperly: 305.923.4833

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See Map

8

See Map

3



**\$229,000**

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**Under Contract!** 315 Amelia Street



Each bedroom is spacious, with plenty of closet space. Photo: Contributed



There's plenty of natural light in every room. Photo: Contributed



The Key West Golf Club is a quiet and safe gated community. Photo: Contributed

# FEATURED HOMES

## Providing Answers for Key West Property Owners and Buyers

- <http://www.parcerealestatekeywest.com>
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Realtor  
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See Map

5



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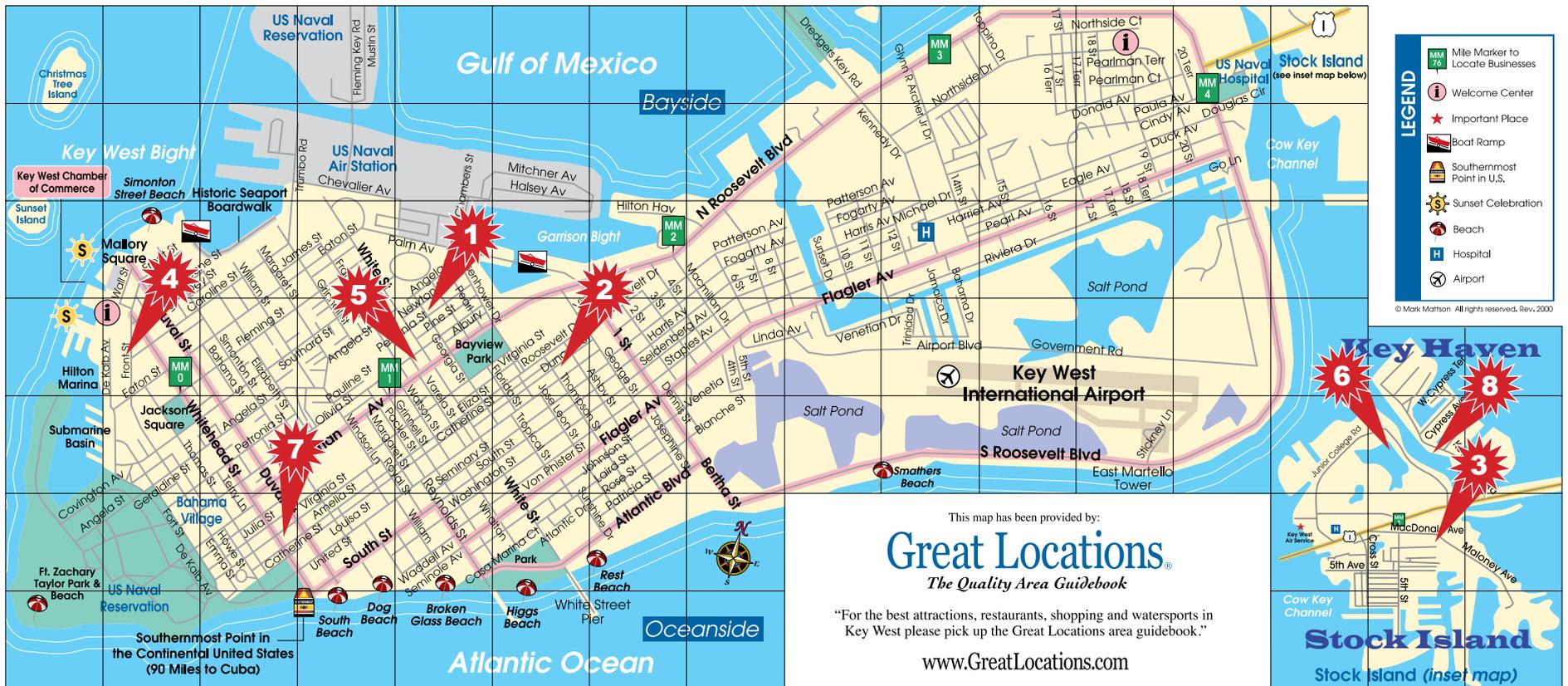
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Email: [mike@caronkeywest.com](mailto:mike@caronkeywest.com)

# KONK LIFE'S FEATURED HOMES

## Featured Home Locations



### Featured Homes – Viewed by Appointment

Map #	Address	#BR/BA	Listing Agent	Phone Number
<b>1</b>	1401 Newton St. Key West Unit 1 1/1, Unit 2 1/1, Unit 3 1/1, Unit 4 1/1		ChelleBe Blades, Realty Executives Key West	305-394-4750
<b>2</b>	1604 Duncan St., Key West	1BR/1BA	Michelle Clauson Kirby, ReMax Keys Connection	305-849-1276
<b>3</b>	6800 Maloney Avenue #17, Harbor Shores	2BR/1BA	Jon Seibert, Century 21 Schwartz Realty Janine Seibert, Century 21 Schwartz Realty	305-433-0552 305-433-1911
<b>4</b>	109 Front Street #214, Key West	3BR/2.5BA	Mike Caron, Keller Williams Key West Compass Realty	508-269-8565 305-296-7078
<b>5</b>	1126 Olivia Street #421, Key West	3BR/2.5BA	Mike Caron, Keller Williams Key West Compass Realty	508-269-8565 305-296-7078
<b>6</b>	22 Whistling Duck Lane, Key West Golf Club	2BR/1BA	Jon Seibert, Century 21 Schwartz Realty Janine Seibert, Century 21 Schwartz Realty	305-433-0552 305-433-1911
<b>7</b>	1119 Whitehead Street, Old Town	3BD/2.5BA	Derek Epperly & Jenna Blackwell Berkshire Hathaway HomeServices Knight & Gardner Realty	305-923-4833 305-393-6573
<b>8</b>	105 Key Haven Road, Key Haven	3BD/3BA	Derek Epperly & Jenna Blackwell Berkshire Hathaway HomeServices Knight & Gardner Realty	305-923-4833 305-393-6573



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Listing Office	Selling Office	Sold Date	List Price	Sold Price	Street #	Street Name	Year Built	Style	Total Beds	Wtrfrmt	MM
Key West											
RE/MAX All Keys	RE/MAX All Keys	22/02/19	\$699,000	\$685,000	5605	College Rd, #102	2000	Condo	2	Yes	5
Key West Luxury RE	Key West Luxury RE	20/02/19	\$279,000	\$262,700	3255	Flagler Ave, #406	1997	Condo	2	No	4
Richard Padron & Assoc	Key West Luxury RE	22/02/19	\$695,000	\$675,000	3612	Duck Ave	1965	Single Fam	4	No	4
Truman & Co.	Coldwell Banker Schmitt	21/02/19	\$1,199,000	\$1,160,000	617	Simonton St	1997	Single Fam	2	No	1
BHHS Knight & Gardner Realty	Truman & Co.	26/02/19	\$1,950,000	\$1,825,000	123	Simonton St	2019	Townhouse	3	No	0
BHHS Knight & Gardner Realty	BHHS Knight & Gardner Realty	26/02/19	\$2,100,000	\$2,100,000	119	Simonton St	2019	Townhouse	3	No	0
RE/MAX Keys Connection	BHHS Keys Real Estate	28/02/19	\$519,000	\$489,500	1405	18Th	1968	Single Fam	3	No	4
Keller Williams KW Compass	Keller Williams KW Compass	04/03/19	\$599,000	\$580,000	3712	Pearlman	1983	Single Fam	3	No	4
Keller Williams KW Compass	Coldwell Banker Schmitt	28/02/19	\$359,000	\$350,000	46	Merganser	1995	Townhouse	2	No	4
BHHS Knight & Gardner Realty	Royal Palms Realty	04/03/19	\$699,000	\$660,000	1320	6Th	1961	Multi-Unit	4	No	3
Key West Properties	Key West Properties	01/03/19	\$275,000	\$275,000	3312	Northside Dr, #215	1980	Condo	2	No	3
Key West Properties	Key West Properties	01/03/19	\$275,000	\$275,000	3312	Northside Dr, #613	1980	Condo	2	No	3
BHHS Knight & Gardner Realty	RE/MAX Keys Connection	04/03/19	\$625,000	\$610,000	1414	Von Phister	1973	Single Fam	3	No	2
Keller Williams KW Compass	Truman & Co.	28/02/19	\$529,000	\$475,000	Vacant	Georgia	N/A	Lots	0	No	2
Coldwell Banker Schmitt	Coldwell Banker Schmitt	01/03/19	\$491,000	\$484,000	1901	Roosevelt Blvd, #202E	1984	Condo	1	Yes	2
Rob Severin Real Estate Co	Truman & Co.	05/03/19	\$1,595,000	\$1,525,000	1214	Seminary	1938	Single Fam	4	No	2
Ocean Sotheby's International	BHHS Knight & Gardner Realty	05/03/19	\$649,000	\$649,000	1605	Catherine	1952	Single Fam	3	No	2
Preferred Properties	BHHS Knight & Gardner Realty	01/03/19	\$1,169,000	\$1,149,000	1501	Pine	2008	Single Fam	2	No	2
Coldwell Banker Schmitt	Coldwell Banker Schmitt	28/02/19	\$1,189,000	\$1,175,000	1224	Johnson	1953	Single Fam	3	No	2
Century 21 Schwartz	Last Key Realty	28/02/19	\$3,562,500	\$3,300,000	522	Emma	1997	Single Fam	5	No	1
Preferred Properties	Preferred Properties	28/02/19	\$799,999	\$700,000	533	Petronia	1923	Single Fam	3	No	1
RE/MAX Advance Realty	Doug Mayberry Real Estate	01/03/19	\$679,900	\$642,500	1401	Simonton St, #18	2006	Condo	2	No	1
BHHS Knight & Gardner Realty	Coldwell Banker Schmitt	28/02/19	\$995,000	\$925,000	525	Olivia St	1885	Single Fam	3	No	1
Truman & Co.	Key West Luxury Real Estate Inc (KW)	04/03/19	\$885,000	\$867,000	1221	Grinnell St, A	1990	Townhouse	3	No	1
BHHS Knight & Gardner Realty	Coldwell Banker Schmitt	05/03/19	\$759,000	\$745,000	317	Catherine	1923	Single Fam	2	No	1
Key West Realty	Preferred Properties	28/02/19	\$939,000	\$935,000	414	Louisa	1933	Single Fam	2	No	1
At Home in Key West	Coastal Collection	05/03/19	\$729,000	\$715,000	903	Southard	1938	Single Fam	2	No	1

Based on information from the KWAR MLS for the period of February 27th to March 6th, 2019

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