

KONK Life

OCTOBER 24 - 30, 2019



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King Ryan Acker



Queen Karen Frank-Noll

Florida Keys 3-9 • Upper Keys 10-12 • What's Happening 14 • Real Estate 24

Photos: Virginia Wark & Guy DeBoer • Cover: JT Thompson

City Closes Notorious Cosmetics Shop for Ten Days

City Manager Greg Veliz ordered a ten days business license suspension against Oro Gold, 518 Duval Street, during a Suspension/Revocation hearing at city hall on Oct 17, Thursday morning. The business owners Nir Chen and Zohar Alon were warned any future code violations would close their business in Key West. The suspension was ordered to start at 2PM on Oct 17, Thursday.

Oro Gold has a long history of consumer complaints, citations and repeated fines for violating Key West City Code.

Oro Gold has also been the target

of sidewalk protest by local consumer action group The Key West Rip-Off Rapid Response Team for bad business practices. The group has made several monetary recoveries to consumers who were cheated after false claims and high pressure sales tactics.

Rip-Off Team spokesperson Tevis Wernicoff said, "We're encouraged the new city manager is getting tough on serial code violators and willing to suspend their license. The city needs to come down hard because the cosmetics shops have a horrible track record here in Key West. We are better than this!" ■

Transit Driver of the Quarter

Jean Vertus has been named Driver of the Quarter by Key West Transit.

Vertus began his career with the City of Key West in 2006 as a transit fleet helper, washing and cleaning buses. In 2011 he advanced to bus operator.

"Vertus values the opportunities he has had and shows his appreciation daily," said Transit Director Rod Delostrinos, "by providing excellent customer service and driving the bus in a safe manner for our passengers. He really understands the value of hard work in order to be successful and is dedicated to doing a good job." ■



Driver Jean Vertus and Transit Director Rod Delostrinos.

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KONK Life

Expensive energy savings promised at new City Hall falling short

BY PRU SOWERS
KONK LIFE STAFF WRITER



When Key West was awarded the LEED Platinum energy conservation certification in November 2018

for the design of the renovated City Hall, it was cause for celebration, earning the highest LEED ranking among only three city halls in the United States that have earned the coveted platinum award.

But, as the city's former energy manager reported recently, it may have been a little too soon to pop the champagne cork. Promised savings from both the solar panel array installed in the City Hall parking lot and the in-ground water conservation cistern system are coming in well below expectations.

Terrence Justice, recently named the Key West Chief Building Official, had been the city's energy manager since 2017. He made the energy manager's annual report to city commissioners at their Oct. 16 meeting and had some startling – and dismaying – information. First, the two solar panel arrays in the parking lot that were supposed to provide 100 percent of the electric requirements of the new City Hall, saving approximately \$6,000 a month

in Keys Energy bills, are only producing 10 kilowatt hours per month, reducing the monthly bill by about \$1,100, Justice said.

“On average they provide 20 percent of the power that's consumed in this facility on a day to day basis,” he said, standing at the podium in City Hall.

The two arrays cost approximately \$686,000 to build but that cost was reduced by a \$240,000 contribution from Keys Energy. They were supposed to pay for themselves in about 20 years by reducing electricity bills. If the 10-kilowatt hour production cannot be increased, it will take closer to 50 years to pay off the investment. When city commissioners inquired about boosting that output by installing a third solar panel array at City Hall, Justice was not encouraging.

“Given that it would increase our savings on the solar to the tune of \$500, \$600 a month, the simple pay-back investment looks something along the lines of 52, 53 years; not very supportable from a financial standpoint,” he said.

Justice pointed out that in pursuing a LEED Platinum Certification, the highest possible, the city paid for what he called the “Rolls Royce” of expensive solar panels. In addition, by choosing to install them at a tilt,

which optimizes the solar collection but requires an expensive steel support system instead of a flat installation on the existing City Hall roof, the city paid considerably more than it had to in order to get solar energy benefits.

“The difference between that [tilt structure], which is a more expensive-type installation, and laying them flat on the roof is about four percent annually in [energy] production. It's insignificant for the increased cost to do it the way we did,” Justice said.

Three city commissioners had argued in August 2016 against installing the second solar array in the parking lot. Commissioners Margaret Romero, Richard Payne and Billy Wardlow asked why the second array couldn't be in-

stalled on the roof of City Hall so as to be out of sight. Several residents in the neighborhood had complained about the tilted array structure, resembling a carport, in the back part of the City Hall parking lot. But they were told by then-City Manager Jim Scholl and project architect Bert Bender of Bender & Associates Architects that it would cost between \$800,000 and \$1 million to change the location to the roof.

At last week's meeting, commissioners were still interested in exploring the use of solar power on city-owned buildings, including the recently-purchased former Citizens newspaper building and the new transit building

► Continued on page 4

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FLORIDA KEYS

Key West Art & Historical Society Announces Perpetual Groove Concert Tickets Now on Sale

Tickets are now on sale for an evening of live music starring legendary “jam band” Perpetual Groove with opening act The Happy Dog, presented by Key West Art & Historical Society via its popular Music at Martello series. Set for December 12, 2019 on the grounds of historic Fort East Martello, 3501 S. Roosevelt Blvd., doors will open at 6:00pm with The Happy Dog band starting at 7:00 followed by headliners PGroove.

Perpetual Groove, known for a sound that fuses Southern rock, funk, jazzy improvisation, indie rock and synth loops, and whose hits include “Save for One,” “Mr. Transistor,” “Three Weeks,” “Teakwood,” and “Walking in Place,” will be performing from their classic play list along with material from



their newly released self-titled album. General admission is \$25; children under 12 admitted free. Limited parking is available; bicycling is encouraged. Tickets are now on sale at kwaahs.org/tickets. ■

Expensive energy...

► Continued from page 3

on Stock Island. They directed the new energy manager, Johnnie Yongue, to research the issue and get back to them.

“At least to have that option so we could sit here and actually have a discussion about it,” recommended Mayor Teri Johnston.

“I would suggest that you would be paying 10 cents on the dollar against what we paid for the support structures out here,” Justice said, comparing the cost of an “off-the-shelf” solar panel array mounted on a roof versus the top-of-the-line tilted option installed at City Hall. “So instead of a 50-something year payback, you’d be looking at 18 to 20 years, would be my guess.”

The bad energy news continued to mount when Justice reported on the water cistern tank system installed in the \$19 million City Hall renovation project.

The design did not account for the fact that the top half of the cistern tanks are above ground and the piping system connected to them cannot fill the tanks above ground level, Justice said.

“So, we have a capacity in the cisterns of about 22,000 gallons rather than the initially reported 44,000 gallons,” he said.

City Manager Greg Veliz said that he had spoken to a plumber last week asking for a plan to get the cistern up to full capacity. He said the lower water level became a problem during Hurricane Irma, when several city officials were staying in City Hall to manage emergency operations.

“During the storm we ran into a problem here when we were all staying here, that there wasn’t any water,” he remembered, adding that he wanted the cistern to back-feed the bathrooms in City Hall to ensure water flow during a power outage.

LEED stands for Leadership

in Energy and Environmental Design. To achieve LEED Platinum status requires a minimum of 80 points on the LEED energy conservation check list. Between 60 and 79 points is required for Gold certification, while Silver certification requires 50 points.

Achieving Platinum status was a goal several city officials believed was important. Called the “showcase of sustainability” by the U.S. Green Building Council and Green Business Certification, Inc., which issues the designation, a press release put out by the city when the award was announced said it means environmental sustainability “as well as cost savings to the taxpayers through energy efficiency.”

“LEED Platinum was a great accomplishment on our part and I think it sent a message to the rest of the country,” said Veliz. “But there are lower levels of LEED certification that we might be able to attain.” ■

Friday Football Fun

BY WESLEY HAZZARD
KONK LIFE STUDENT WRITER

It is Friday night in Key West. The crisp air is carrying the sound of the band playing and the faint cheers of a crowd. It is almost like you can feel the energy from anywhere you are on the island.

Key West may be a small island, but they can compete with any other South Florida team with a bigger population to pull from. The Key West Fighting Conchs have gotten off to a great start this season with a 4-1 record and are listed among the elite throughout Florida. This is due to the way Coach John Hughes has built the program.



Here Come the Conchs! The Key West Conchs sprint through a banner hoisting the Conch Republic flag during pregame.

There is no secret to the success that this team has experienced. There is one recipe, and it's hard work. Coach Hughes says that the best thing about this football team "is their never say die attitude...and their work ethic."

This team's drive is fueled by shortcomings of last year. The Key West Fighting Conchs were just short of the state playoffs by less than a point. Coach Hughes says that "it motivated the returning players. They knew they were close, and they knew they let it slip away." He then goes on to point out examples such as the game against Calvary Christian whom they were beating 20-0 but lost to 20-21 when the game clock hit zero.

Coach Hughes says that the thing about Key West football is that they don't have a lot of depth. "The dirty thirties have become a tradition in Key West High School." This means that everyone on the team has to be ready to play at any given point in time through-

out the season. But what the Conchs don't have in depth, they have in size.

"We are a run first offense," says Coach Hughes. "We take pride in moving people where they don't want to go... We have some big physical guys like Patrick Barnett, Max Ryan, Jonathan Faatuai, Ricardo Camay, Tyron Carey, Roosevelt Joseph: These guys move people." If you watch a Key West High School football game, you will see what Coach Hughes is talking about. As the game progresses, the opposing defensive line gets worn down and therefore easier to break through.

As the season grows, so does the strength of this team, so come out and support your local Conchs on Friday nights. ■

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The Key West Ambassadors Academy Graduates



front level left to right: Facilitator Stuart Strickland, Marilyn Brew, Dave Geller, Lea Moeller, Jon Drolet and facilitators John Teets and Lois Songer. Second row: Elizabeth Chamberlain, Gary Gingras, Leslie Lesinski, Sue Harrison, and Pam Kutchey. Back row: Ann Stahl, Jonathan Jonas, Kimberley Highsmith, Ellen Caron, Dan Reynen, Scott Miller and Sonja Miller. Not shown: Derek Epperly and Lesley Thompson.

The Key West Ambassadors Academy graduated its 32nd class during Wednesday's City Commission meeting. Eighteen enthusiastic citizens participated in the 12-week class. They join more than 600 citizens who now have a better insight to the workings of City government. Each class of the Key West Ambassadors Academy has been a special blend of dedicated, involved citizens.

During Wednesday's City Commission meeting, City Manager Greg Veliz

congratulated Class 32. Two current city leaders -- Commissioners Clayton Lopez and Sam Kauffman -- were elected after finishing this program. Other alumni have served as commissioners as well as sitting on other City boards.

The Key West Ambassadors Academy was established in 2003 and is facilitated by volunteers, all of whom graduated the program. Volunteers Lois Songer, Stuart Strickland, and John Teets facilitated the class. ■

Red Ribbon Week



Commissioners Gregory Davila, Mary Lou Hoover and Jimmy Weekley, City Manager Greg Veliz, Chief Sean Brandenburg, Mayor Teri Johnston, Chief Michael Davila, Commissioner Sam Kaufman.

Mayor Teri Johnston and the City Commission have proclaimed the week of October 23rd to the 31st as Red Ribbon Week.

Established in 1988, Red Ribbon Week is focused on encouraging a drug-free lifestyle.

"Communities across America have been plagued by the numerous problems associated with illicit drug use," read the proclamation.

The best way to win the war on drugs, it reads, lies in education and reduction of drug demand, coupled with the hard

work of organizations such as the Young Marines of the Marine Corps League to foster a healthy, drug-free lifestyle.

The red ribbon was chosen as a symbol commemorating the work of Enrique "Kiki" Camarena, a Drug Enforcement Administration agent who was murdered in the line of duty. It represents the belief that one person can make a difference.

Police Chief Sean Brandenburg and Fire Chief Michael Davila accepted the proclamation. ■



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Coral Restoration Site Hit by Boat Anchor

- Critically endangered elkhorn corals that survived Hurricane Irma have been found fractured at their bases, pieces of them scattered and exposed on the ocean floor. A missing mooring buoy near the site indicates that a boat anchor was dropped and dragged across the reef.
- When dropped, a boat anchor can decimate a vast area of reef in seconds. The result is often permanent loss of corals and additional years of recovery for the affected site.
- Coral Restoration Foundation™ teams were able to assess the site and reattach viable colonies

A key Coral Restoration Foundation™ restoration site, Pickles Reef, has been severely damaged by an anchor drag and drop, leaving well-established elkhorn corals fractured at their bases and scattered over the reef. It is evident from the damage assessment and a missing mooring buoy that a boat dropped its anchor and proceeded to drag the anchor over this critical site.

Jessica Levy, Coral Restoration Foundation™ Restoration Program Manager said, “We’re all saddened and upset by the incident here at CRF™. When our dive team went to Pickles Reef to monitor some of our new elkhorn outplants, we were shocked to see such major damage to these well-established colonies. The corals that have been destroyed were returned to the wild in 2014. It is



Reef Restoration Associate Paige Carper rescues one of the fractured elkhorn corals. Photo Credit Coral Restoration Foundation™

devastating to think that these corals survived Hurricane Irma only to be wiped out by someone carelessly dropping an anchor on the reef.”

Unfortunately, anchor damage to coral colonies is not uncommon. Centuries of reef growth are annihilated every single day by this type of disregard. If left unattended, damaged coral will move with ocean surge and quickly die due to abrasion and burial from sediment.

Even with this setback, Coral Restoration Foundation™ hopes to recover this site to give this story a positive outcome. They are pleading with community members and visitors to be more cautious out on the

water. A quick act of carelessness can decimate decades of coral reef growth. But a moment of consideration will ensure that future generations will have the opportunity to enjoy this beautiful marine ecosystem.

Please use good practices when anchoring a boat including the following:

- Research where boats can anchor or attach to a mooring buoy safely before a boat trip
- Attaching the boat to a mooring buoy
- If there is no access to a mooring buoy, look for a sandy area that is away from a coral reef or sea-grass bed.
- Ensure your anchor is set and will not drag. ■

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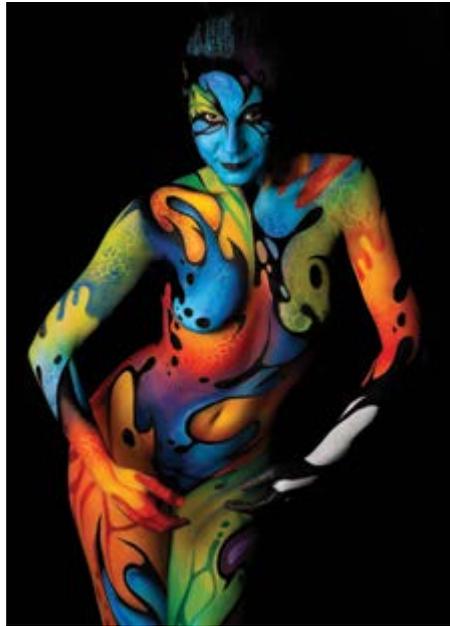


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Paradise Tattoo Filming Reality TV Show During Fantasy Fest

A TV production crew will be on hand at Paradise Tattoo during the 10 days of Fantasy Fest filming artists and revelers to capture the unique artistry of body painting. Paradise Tattoo, celebrating 27 years in Key West, will house 18 celebrity and award-winning guest artists who will participate in the show. Many fans will recognize Sean Avram, (also known as Skeletor), as a popular contestant from the original Skin Wars, reality tv competition. A seasoned and accomplished painter for more than 15 years, Sean is regularly published in books and magazines, painted for the Dan Patrick Show, movie The Crow and the Walk-



ing Dead, among others. Pashur the Body Painter is known world-wide for his innovative full body artistic masterpieces. This multi-award winning artist was hand-picked as the 2019 Fantasy Fest featured artist. His design can be found throughout the festival on the official posters and tshirts available at Paradise Tattoo where he's accepting appointments and signing autographs. The official poster signing party is Friday from 1 pm to 3 pm. Pashur's highly prized work has been featured in dozens of magazines, music videos, theater and film. His industry-specific television credits include the SyFy Channel's 'FaceOff', reality

TV 'Naked Vegas' and the body paint competition 'Skin Wars'. His work has graced the cover of Rolling Stone Magazine, Cirque du Soleil performers and bunnys at the Playboy Mansion, along with designs commissioned for Nikki Minaj, Brooks & Dunn and countless celebrities and major brands. One of the first female Bodypaint Rockstars, Felisa L. Massey high profile gigs include airbrush bodypainting for Chris Kirkpatrick of NSync and his foundation and face painting for Grant Hill of the Detroit Pistons. Her makeup artist skills has landed her on the set of a

► Continued on page 10

Mel Fisher's Treasures Presents Check to Wesley House Family Services

On behalf of the Fisher family a check was presented to Wesley House Family Services in the amount of \$14,000.00 as a result of this year's Mel Fisher Days' events. The funds will be used to support the program Healthy Families Monroe. Another check for \$2,750.00 was presented to the Michael Abt Jr. Have a Heart Foundation. Final amount of funds raised during July's Mel Fisher Days totals \$16,750.00.

Wesley House Family Services provide services to children and families throughout the Florida Keys. Some of these services include Foster and Adoptive Care, Independent Life Skills & Training, Prevention and Intervention Services, Community Based Care, Healthy Families Monroe, and the Inez Martin Child Development Cen-



Mel Fisher's Treasures team presents a check for \$14,000 to Wesley House Family Services and a check for \$2,750 to The Michael Abt Jr. Have a Heart Foundation on behalf of the Fisher Family from Mel Fisher Days 2019. To date the Fisher Family has donated \$129,900 to Wesley House Family Services. From Left to Right.

ter. The Michael Abt Jr. Have a Heart Foundation mission is to donate AED's (automatic external defibrillators) to schools nationwide and to educate staff on maintenance and training.

Mel Fisher's Treasures, Wesley House Family Services and the Michael Abt Jr. Have a Heart Foundation would like to thank the local businesses of Key West, volunteers and attendees who supported this event making it another successful year raising money to assist children and families.

Mel Fisher's legacy lives on through his family, crew and everyone he inspired to never give up. Mel Fisher's Treasures continues the hunt for the Sterncastle of the Atocha while always believing Mel's motto; Today's the day! For more information visit www.MelFisher.com. ■

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Ariel Sanchez Recognized as FCAA's Employee of the Quarter

Ariel Sanchez was recognized as the Florida Keys Aqueduct Authority's Employee of the Quarter for the third quarter of 2019.

Ariel has been employed with the Authority for four years and is currently the Executive Assistant for the Human Resources Department.

Ariel is known for her follow through and dedication, not only to the Authority, but to all the employees she assists. Her enthusiasm extends to the community where she is a key participant, taking the lead in many the Authority's community service events. You might not always recognize Ariel since she often masquerades as the Authority's mascot, Precious the Water Drop.

"Ariel is a quick learner and has already established herself as an upcoming leader for the Authority" said Kerry Shelby, the Authority's Deputy Execu-



Florida Keys Aqueduct Authority's Employee of the Third Quarter 2019, Ariel Sanchez

tive Director. "We hope to have Ariel on our team for a long time." ■

Paradise Tattoo...

▶ Continued from page 9

number of Indie films and you can see some of her handy work in Tooth Fairy 2 starring Larry the Cable Guy. Mandi Ilene hails from Orlando but travels the country competing and winning body painting competitions including a first place trophy at the Face and Body Art International 2019. She's also behind the scenes as the organizer of the popular body art show, BASEOrlando. There are many other amazing and award-winning artists at the shop; bios and details can be found on the Paradise Tattoo facebook page.

Paradise Tattoo is an official sponsor of Fantasy Fest and the Zombie Bike Ride offering guests quality full body art to small stencils, as much as or little in all price ranges. In addition to

traditional applications they have glow paint, finger painting, water & sweat proof options and glitter boobs/bum! All paint jobs are professionally photographed and the best join the Wall of Fame. The shop also has a great selection of costumes, costume accessories, tutu's, theatrical eyewear, false eyelashes and more to accessorize any costume or paint job. Revelers may also make a decision they can't forget and Get INKED by Key West's #1 Tattoo Shop. Paradise Tattoo is a one-stop-shop for your Fantasy Fest needs plus \$3 Bud & Bud Light roadies all day, every day. Body Painting and Tattooing are available by Appointment or on a walk-in basis during Fantasy Fest. Call 305-292-9110 to make an appointment now. Paradise Tattoo is located at 627 Duval St and is open daily from 10AM-Midnight during Fantasy Fest. ■

Florida Keys Marathon International Airport Welcomes New Airport Manager Mike Legere

Marathon



The Florida Keys Marathon International Airport and Monroe County Airport Director Richard Strickland welcomed Michael Legere, the new Marathon airport manager, on his first day Tuesday.

Legere joins the Marathon airport from Manchester, New Hampshire, where he was the Manager of Airport Operations and Facilities. He was chosen for the position

by a panel of four, including Monroe County Administrator Roman Gastesi, Strickland, Marathon Chamber CEO Daniel Samess, and Marathon City Councilman "Doc" Dan Zieg.

With an airport operations background starting in 1996, Legere said his main goal for Marathon airport is to continue to meet all Federal Aviation Administration requirements and to continue to hold safety in the highest regard.

"The new manager is full

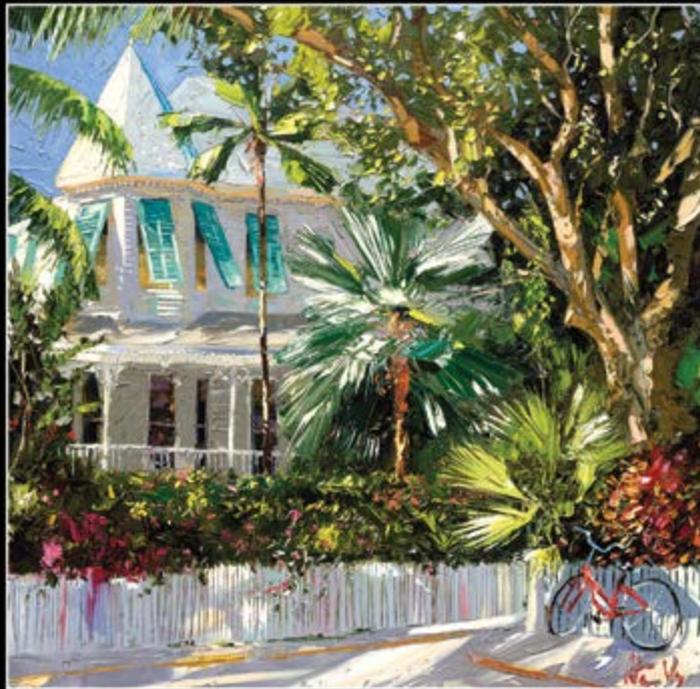
of knowledge that he can share with the existing staff," said Strickland. "His background with repairs, inspections, and maintenance will be invaluable to the operations at Marathon airport."

Legere is also no stranger to weather emergencies coming from snowy conditions and has dealt with his fair share of wind issues as well. "The most important thing is for the airport personnel to be ready for weather, and for us to be able to quickly respond," said Legere. ■



Marathon Airport Manager Michael Legere spends his first day familiarizing himself with airport operations.

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Peter Vey

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Monroe County Public Works Replaces Worn Playground Equipment at Higgs Beach and other Parks



Monroe County Public Works is replacing the worn playground equipment at Higgs Beach in Key West. Replacements include the slide, decking, safety barriers, and several other pieces of children's playground equipment. The original equipment was placed at the beach in 2012 and due to showing signs of rust, the replacements were covered under manufacturer warranty.



"I am so glad to see that the equipment at Higgs Beach playground is being repaired and replaced as needed,"

said Heather Carruthers, Monroe County Commissioner. "The park is a favorite for my children, as it is for so many others in the community. It's a gem."

In addition, Public Works has installed a new shade structure at Wilhelmina Park on Big Coppitt Key. New sand will be added to the park after the high king tides subside.

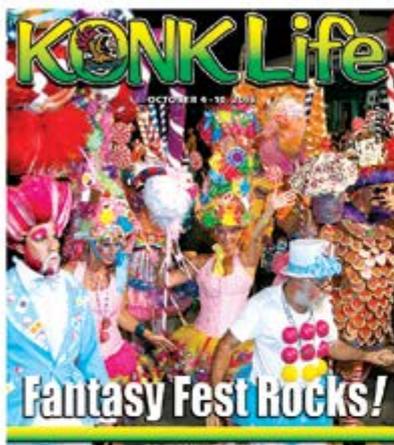
In Key Largo, Friendship Park is also having repairs and replacements take place. The park will receive a new shade

sail, and new playground equipment, including the popular seahorse bouncing rider. A swing set will also be added.

"As we continue to deal with repairs from Hurricane Irma, it is important that we also improve and maintain our parks for the enjoyment of our residents," said Willie DeSantis, Director of Monroe County Public Works.

To look up more Monroe County's parks and beaches, visit www.monroe-county-fl.gov/parks. ■

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Alice in chains: The White Rabbit comes first in Key West Burlesque's 'Wonderland'

BY TERRY SCHMIDA
KONK LIFE STAFF WRITER
Photos contributed

Ever kiss a rabbit between the ears? If your answer is “yes” then you may be just the kind of person for whom the Key West Burlesque dance troupe’s latest production was created.

Let’s face it, while Key West is a through-the-looking-glass type of town more or less year-round, it’s during Fantasy Fest when the weird – and tourist swingers - truly go pro. So it makes perfect sense that this entertaining production, taking place as it does during this year’s fandango, should be Alice-based.

Yet in THIS version nothing, like Key West itself, is as it seems, for in “The White Rabbit’s Wonderland: A Burlesque Parody,” playing at 8 p.m. Wednesday through Friday at the Key West Theater, 512 Eaton St., it’s the famously tardy critter, that takes center stage.

White Rabbit expert Grace Slick once saw the anthropomorphic animal as representing Alice’s imagination. It’s fitting then that Wonderland’s script-writer, ringer actress Shelly Watson from New York City, also portrays the character in this sexy (21+) and non-sensical tale.

“I’ve actually been in quite a few different productions of Alice in Wonderland over the years,” Watson said.



Hip-hoppers: The cast and crew of “The White Rabbit’s Wonderland,” playing this week at the Key West Theater.

“But I always played the Queen of Hearts. I wrote this with the Fantasy Fest demographic very much in mind. The combination of the local talent, like Tatak (Producer/Director/Choreographer Christa Hunt,) and the New York element shows that you can bring and create talent and showmanship anywhere to create something really spectacular.”

Watson is a double-master Julliard graduate whose lengthy credits include stints at opera, big band, rap, and fe-

tish parties.

The story itself utilizes both of Lewis Carroll’s novels but charts an esoteric course all its own. Alice makes an appearance, as do many of Key West’s most talented – and attractive – dancers and actors – but not the one your childhood memories would lead you to expect. (“The MarchHare dances with a bare derriere, while the Mad Hatter wears pasties.”)

But as with all Key West Burlesque parodies, story lines come second to the



White Rabbit: New York City-based singer/actor Shelly Watson penned the script and stars in the lead role.

fun of watching such an irreverent but entertaining evening come together in all its DIY sequined, bosomy glory.

“There’s a lot more visual imagery than a reliance on sets,” Watson continued. “It’s a modern take. Nostalgia can be melancholy, which is something we wanted to avoid. This is a fun production.”

And good fun it is – but only for three days.

Don’t be late for these very important dates!

For tickets or more information, visit www.keywestburlesque.show ■

keysscribe@aol.com

First State Bank's Valladares Promoted



First State Bank congratulates Judelys Valladares on her promotion to Islamorada Assistant Branch Oper-

ations Manager. Valladares joined First State Bank in March of 2016 as a Teller in Marathon and in November of 2016 was promoted to Lead Teller. She has proven herself a valuable member of the

Marathon team. AVP/ Branch Manager, JoAnn Wagner commended Valladares for her “excellent job leading and managing the teller line with an efficient use of time and priority.” Valladares grew up

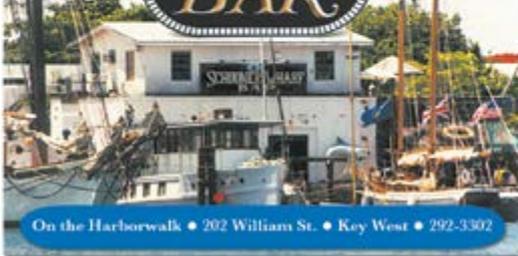
in the Keys and graduated from Marathon High School. After high school she attended classes at Johnson & Wales University where she majored in Culinary Arts. ■

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Florida Keys...
Continued from page 12

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noon - 5pm



SUSHI ROLL BAND
6:45 - 11:45pm

MAGIC OF FRANK
EVERHART
9:00 pm - 1am

Friday 10/25
MICHAEL McCLOUD & FRIENDS
noon - 6pm

SUSHI ROLL BAND
7pm - midnight



MAGIC OF FRANK
EVERHART
9:00 pm - 1am

Saturday 10/26
MICHAEL McCLOUD & FRIENDS
noon - 4:30pm

LAST MANGO DUO
5 - 8:30pm

SUSHI ROLL BAND
8:30pm - 1:30am
WALK-ON COSTUME CONTEST

Sunday 10/27
MICHAEL McCLOUD & FRIENDS
noon - 5pm
ROSS BROWN DUO
6:45 - 11pm

MAGIC OF FRANK
EVERHART
9:00 pm - 1am



Monday 10/28
Raven Cooper
Noon - 5:00 pm



PRINCE AZARIYAH DUO
6:45 - 11pm

Tuesday 10/29
ALLEN "FRANKENDREAD" HOLLAND
noon - 5pm

MIKE NASH with Special Guests
6:45pm - 11pm

Wednesday 10/30
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MAGIC OF FRANK
EVERHART
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Whats Happening

▶ Continued from page 14

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Saturday 10/26

Caffeine Carl and Friends 9:00pm

Saturday 10/27

Marjorie Lee 8pm

Saturday 10/28

Scott Kirby 5pm
Caffeine Carl & The Buzz 9:00pm

Saturday 10/29

Thom Shepherd 1pm
Scott Kirby 5pm
Elmore's Revenge 8:00pm

Saturday 10/30

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Peter Diamond & Company 8-11

Friday 09/25

Piano Bar Happy Hour with GERALYN
BARRICK 5:30-7:30
Ericson Holt 8-11

Saturday 09/26

Piano Bar Happy Hour Peter Dia-
mond with James King 5:30-7:30
Barry Cuda & The Sharks 9:30-12:30

Sunday 09/27

Piano Bar Happy Hour with Any
Mayo 5:30-7:30
Barry Cuda & The Sharks 8-11

Monday 09/28

Sing-A-Long Piano Bar Happy
Hour with
Malathi 5:30-7:30
Larry Smith and Christine
Cordone 8-11

Tuesday 09/29

Piano Bar Happy Hour with Coffee
Butler 5:30-7:30
Bluesday Tuesday with Larry Baeder
and Bill Blue 8-11

Wednesday 09/30

Piano Bar Happy Hour with
Karen Hiens
5:30-7:30
Victoria Horne 8-11

Tropical Soul Plays the Hog's Breath Saloon

Dennis McCaughey, lead vocals, rhythm guitar and harmonica for the trop-rock band Tropical Soul, will bring the popular band to the Hog's Breath Saloon, Oct. 28 to Nov 3, 4:30 – 8:30 pm.

McCaughey formed Tropical Soul twelve years ago, and prior to that, has been a member of the duos, Double Play. He has released four CDs, Days like These, Tropical Soul, No Plans At All, and a live recording, We're All Here, Come Hell or High Water. Stop in, kick off your shoes and enjoy the trop-rock. ■



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Where's My Roy Cohn?



Roy Marcus Cohn (1927-1986) was and is a truly among the most unsympathetic and despicable men in our American history. As Joseph McCarthy's chief aide, Cohn led a hate-fueled war against Communism in the 1950s, often without any rationale. As an advisor to Judge Kaufman in the trial of Julius and Ethel Rosenberg, Cohn was crucial in getting the Rosenbergs a death sentence, achieved without any solid evidence.

In addition to Communist scare machinations, Cohn went on to work with McCarthy on the persecution of gay officials in the government, even though Cohn himself was gay. If that was not enough, Cohn was implicated in financial impropriety, mishandling of client funds, witness tampering and tax evasion.

One wonders how he slept at night.

The film "Where's My Roy Cohn?" directed by Matt Tyrnauer partially answers this question.

As a homely closeted young man in the late 40s, Cohn was riddled by

self-loathing. He could not find peace or satisfaction in conventional routines (by his own admission) so Cohn chose to channel his energy into law, wealth and politics, a sphere where appearances meant everything and moral fortitude counted for little. By aligning himself with gangsters and wealthy people of influence, Cohn became a master of manipulation.

With his cold frozen-fish eyes and a scar just slightly off the center of his nose, one could feel the contempt Cohn had for anyone he deemed an "enemy" In feeling this way, Roy Cohn had no empathy or scruples. For Cohn, the only element as an attorney and as a person was winning and winning big.

In the documentary, we hear from David Marcus, Cohn's cousin who is somewhat mystified by his notorious relative, but says that after hours in his bedroom, one saw a "different" Roy Cohn: he liked young Nordic men, (the less sophisticated all the better, Cohn liked control) and valium. It seemed the only way he could unwind from the stress of cases and his own blighting lawsuits.

Cohn lived for the thrill of danger and the unexpected.

The film follows his progress from a teen enamored with debate, to a man driven by self-righteousness, to his one serious infatuation / romance with G. David Schine, a McCarthy aide who resembled film star Tab Hunter.

Though the documentary focuses on this professionally malicious and unsavory person, it does so with verve and potency. Like an amoral character out of Wilde or Highsmith, Tyrnauer highlights Cohn's dark magic and his ability to float through moneyed realms with an ingratiating, yet slanted smile.

Cohn paved the way for Nixon, Reagan and the shiny demagoguery of Murdoch's Fox News.

Cohn, the original "orange man" met a young Donald Trump who became his protégé. One sees Trump as Roy Cohn's Frankenstein creation: super enraged, extra-vindictive and ultra-orange, specially engineered to wreak havoc upon due process, respect and empathetic values.

Although the man met a sad end in 1986 at the age of 58, Cohn could well have redeemed himself by coming out and speaking pro-actively about AIDS but he chose not to do so at the time of his passing.

Like the last image in a horror film, the most unnerving and terrible aspect of Matt Tyrnauer's excellent film is that Roy Cohn lives on in death and his public poison still holds, making our country petty, polarizing, and for many, a stubborn shade of orange. ■

Monos



From Alejandro Landes, who won acclaim with his film "Porfirio" (a true story about a paraplegic shot by police), comes "Monos." The film is hyper-realistic and intense, recalling epics "The Beach" by Alex Garland and the classic "Apocalypse Now."

This film is a character study of a young guerilla army in the Colombian jungle. In style and structure, it most recalls "Lord of The Flies." The first shock of the film is that these soldiers are children who could be in school yet they are carrying machine guns.

It is immersive with large majestic visuals. Monos is the name of a loosely organized gang deep in the mountains. To gain respect, they kidnap a Western-

er, a doctor (Julianne Nicholson). She is often bound and put underground with little resources beyond basic food. Periodically she is put in the open air to read the news headlines.

The masculine Wolf (Julian Giraldo) is in charge of the group and a cow, which they use for milk, a valuable resource. In the group also is Rambo (Sofia Buenaventura), Bigfoot (Moises Arias), and the enigmatic Swede (Laura Castrillón) among others. The group is bound by ritual and power. When the cow is accidentally shot by another member named Dog (Paul Cubides) all hell breaks loose. Wolf takes on the guilt and becomes a Kafkaesque figure, unable to face the burden of failure. Dishonor is a terminal sin.

Foremost in the film is its rich cinematography by Jasper Wolf, which depicts both the landscape and the children within as one vast pagan rite. Eat or be eaten. When Wolf and Lady (Karen Quintero) become a couple it is more a Halloween event than any Valentine's Day romance.

This kiddie chiaroscuro gradually gives way to the doctor fighting for her life, and the apprehension is as tense as John Boorman's "Deliverance." There are no set rhythms or predictable circumstances. The only currency is power and control. Nicholson is excellent, as is the entire young cast which equals the pathos of their past generational "doubles," Brando and Martin Sheen, from the aforementioned Coppola classic.

Although the film does echo other survivalist stories from Joseph Conrad to William Golding, a picture is all that is necessary. The magnetism of "Monos" in its depiction of children in a great bestial maze of blood and fire, (especially as they carve up the bovine corpse and become increasingly animalistic), is surprisingly scary, meditative and human. ■

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■ Rescue Tail From Gang Member to Family Member

BY TAMMY FOX-ROYER
Executive Director, Florida Keys SPCA

Her “family” had built a reputation in their local neighborhood. Through the years we received multiple complaints about this herd of little chihuahuas, terrorizing people and dogs like a bad street gang. On occasion, we’d had to quarantine a “family” member after one had bitten somebody. Education and citations helped to some degree but it appeared that these dogs were never well-socialized, nor had any guidance along the way. They were essentially set up to fail by being allowed to run amok. There were multiple generations: dad, mom, and kids. So, when their owner eventually passed away, it was sad situation. We ended up with six of the dogs. Two of them were very ill, two of them were not about to take any prisoners (and more than willing to use teeth to inflict harm) and two were simply terrified. Taquita was one of the latter. She would not let us touch her or put a leash on her. Strangers were not to be trusted. She had a long road forward to becoming adoptable. Fear is a peculiar thing. Sometimes it can be overcome and other times, it’s lifelong. With Taquita, it took weeks of working with her but with time, she became more comfortable with a few people. She became especially attached to one of our staff members and would start in with this fingernails-on-the-blackboard yipping every time she saw her friend. It was a bit much and a bit in-



tense--but at least we knew she could grow attached to someone!

Her circle of friends grew as she improved, but we knew that if she was to succeed in a new home, we were going to have to be choosy where she went.

When Mara came in and asked to

see her, we told her about Taquita’s challenges. We were immediately impressed with how Mara seemed to both understand and appreciate what it might take. She began making regular visits. At first, Taquita didn’t give her the time of day, just



kept watching for the human allies she knew. But eventually, the seeds of a relationship began to grow with Mara and walks together turned into sitting together, which turned into the beginnings of a friendship. What really helped was Mara’s patience and respect when it came to her interactions with Taquita. We knew we had found the perfect home for our little ex-gang member!

For obvious reasons, dogs that require more from us become special to us so, after Mara took Taquita home, we anxiously waited to hear how things were going. The first update, followed by others, filled us with both relief and joy. Seeing Mara, her partner Camilo, and Taquita together as a family made all the time and effort so worthwhile. Mara sent us this: “Taquita has changed our lives for the better. We are in love with her. She is the baby of the house and we live to make her happy. We love her so much!” The pictures she shared are proof of that! ■

Public is invited to 8th Annual Key West Film Festival launch event where 2019 program will be revealed

Passionate cinephiles need not wait until the 8th Annual Key West Film Festival kicks off on November 20th to begin immersing in the Festival experience excitement. On Tuesday, October 29, the public is invited to a special advance KWFF kick-off party from 7:30-9:00pm at Mangoes Restaurant, 700 Duval Street. Meet

KWFF producers, enter to win Festival swag and tickets, and enjoy food and beverage specials while viewing short films and 2019 Festival sneak-peek trailers. Be the first to get the lowdown on the official 2019 film program, awards, special events and celebrity guests. Admission is free.

Now in its 8th year, the KWFF -

where passion meets paradise - showcases dozens of cinematic offerings while highlighting visiting filmmakers, actors, directors, and industry leaders through discussions and workshops with access to some of the biggest names in the film business. Red carpet events, parties and award cer-

emonies round out an unforgettable world-class festival experience.

Stay abreast of KWFF announcements by signing up for their e-blasts at kwfilmfest.com, where event passes, including VIP, All-Access, and Auteur options, are now available. For more information, visit kwfilmfest.com. ■



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Schooner Wharf Bar Wednesday, October 30th, Noon-11 p.m.

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Live music with 16 trop-rock performers all afternoon will have you swingin' and swayin' to the easy island vibes. The party is hosted by the South Region Parrot Heads Club.

Then dance the night away with the island trop-rock sensation, the Phin Addicts. They've found their lost shaker of "salts" here at the popular waterfront bar. Join them again on Thursday, October 31st from 6:45-11:00 p.m.

Special guests Jerry Diaz and Steve Hopper will sit in for the Halloween Party Jam!

Also catch Mike Nash and Special Guests on Tuesday, October 29th, from 6:45-11:00 p.m. On Friday, it's Johnny Russler and the Beach Bum Band from 6:45-11:45 p.m.; on Saturday, Young Rebel Goombas take our stage from 6:45-11:45 p.m.; then come out for our No Plane on Sunday party from 6:45-11:45 p.m., to round out the weekend.

For more info., please visit Schoonerwharf.com or Facebook. Or, call Schooner Wharf at (305) 292-9520. ■

Jack Mosley Band live at the San Carlos Theatre on Nov 1st

You've seen him at Music on the Bay, The Parrothead Rendezvous, cruise ships, Islands in the Caribbean and many other clubs' and outdoor venues across the Country. You've heard his music on Radio Margaritaville, Radio TropRock, Radio A1A, Songwriters Island, and many other TropRock radio Stations. Now Jack Mosley is bringing his music and his band to the San Carlos Theater in Key West Florida!

If you have not seen The Jack Mosley Band before, don't miss this opportunity to see this entertaining storyteller perform all his classic songs (and some new ones as well!) with full instrumentation live in a theater environment!

For Tickets or more information, please go to: <https://www.eventbrite.com/e/the-jack-mosley-band-live-from-key-west-tickets-61912056628>. ■



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The Key West Art Center holds a Charity Art Show

The Key West Art Center holds a Charity Art Show each year to benefit an important organization in the community and this year is supporting the Key West Wildlife Center. To kick off the fundraiser there will be a Plein Air event at the Wildlife Center with Jim Salem October 31st at 10 a.m. Jim will be hosting his weekly Plein Air Class, cost \$20, and everyone is invited to learn more about the Wildlife Center. Art from either the Plein Air event or work done at home can be dropped off to The Key West Art Center on November 8th from 10 am til 5 pm. All work will be hanging in a special

show for which there will be an opening reception November 15th from 5-7 pm complete with refreshments. The event is open to all members and associate members of the Key West Art Center. Associate membership is \$45 per year and includes, among other benefits, participation in two shows during the year and discounts on original artwork and classes. Each artist is allowed two pieces of original art. All 2D media is to be framed and wired, not to exceed 24"x30" including the frame. Maximum size of 3D work must not exceed 70" total of the two longest faces, must be sturdy and have a complementary

support stand. Ten percent of sales will be donated to the Wildlife Center and a 20% commission will go to the Key West Art Center. Please submit your intent to exhibit and a finished image of your art work by November 4th. This event is a great way to have your work shown while supporting two important not for profit organizations in the Key West community. If you don't participate in the show as an artist, please come for the opening reception and show your support. For more information please call The Key West Art Center at 305-294-1241 or visit keywestart-center.com. ■

Atlanta's Mike Veal Duo at the Hog's Breath Saloon

The Mike Veal Band, Atlanta's favorite party band brings its energy and excitement to the Hog's Breath Saloon, 400 Front St., Oct. 24 - 27, rocking the stage from 4:30 - 8:30 pm.

Veal plays a hot combination of blues, rock, and funk. Diverse musical backgrounds and regional influences color each member's contribution to the tight sound for which the band is admired.

Atlanta partiers and club patrons throughout the Southeast know the band delivers a killer show every time. Stop by the Hog's Breath and see for yourself. ■

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International music stars to shine during Impromptu Classical Concerts' 2020 season

Many of the classical music world's most talented artists will take to the stage at St. Paul's Episcopal Church early next year during the 2020 season of Impromptu Classical Concerts.

Offering unique performances from piano/cello duos to saxophone quartets and more, this much-anticipated season looks to be one of the most varied and interesting yet for the concert series, the oldest such showcase for classical music in Key West, having been founded in 1972.

First up, on Jan. 12, Canadian violinist **Blake Pouliot** will share with Key Westers the magic of his first local performance.

A native of Toronto, Pouliot has quickly become one of Canada's most celebrated and promising young artists. He was the Grand Prize winner of the 2016 Orchestra Symphonique de Montréal Manulife Competition, and has been featured on a number of television and radio broadcasts across North America, including CBC Radio and NPR's Performance Today.

The Toronto Star has described Pouliot as "One of those special talents that comes along once in a lifetime."

Next, on Jan. 26, enjoy the scintillating sounds of **Trio Gaspard**, whose



members hail from Germany, Greece and the UK. This ensemble is one of the most sought-after trios of its generation, and together violinist Jonian Ilias Kadesha, cellist Vashti Hunter, and pianist Nicholas Rimmer have been invited to perform regularly at major international concert venues such as Wigmore Hall and the Berlin Philharmonic. They have also won three major international competitions since forming in 2010.

On Feb. 9 don't miss the **Canelakis-Brown Duo**.

Composed of pianist and composer Michael Brown, (making his third Impromptu experience,) as well as cellist Nicholas Canelakis, the duo has been hailed as "a pair of adventurous young talents" by Time Out New York and lavishly praised by the New York Times as "two outstanding musicians who are captivating audiences with innovative

programs that combine masterpieces from the standard repertoire with original compositions and arrangements." The two highly acclaimed artists continue to pursue solo careers with performances in such venues as the Lincoln Center and Alice Tully Hall.

Superb reed instrument playing will be on dazzling display Feb. 23 during Impromptu's presentation of the **Raschèr Saxophone Quartet**. This group appears regularly at major concert halls in Europe, Asia and the U.S., and has been hailed as the "Uncrowned Kings of the Saxophone" by the Vienna Zeitung, and celebrated by Die Welt, which claimed that "If there were an Olympic discipline for virtuoso wind playing, the Raschèr Quartet would definitely receive a gold medal."

Although founded in the United States in 1969 the quartet was relocated in Germany several years later and has been based there ever since. The group members will conduct a workshop for students of Key West High School the day after their performance, thanks to a grant from the Community Foundation of the Florida Keys.

A special afternoon will be had by all on March 8 when Impromptu's 2020

"Rising Star," pianist **Natalia Kazaryan**, returns to perform in Key West. Kazaryan has played at a number of prestigious concert halls across Europe, and received top prizes from the Eastman Young Artists International, Kosciuszko Foundation Chopin, and the New York piano competitions as well as the Concours FLAME and Concours international de piano d'Ile de France. She studied at The Julliard School and recently completed her doctoral studies at the University of Michigan.

Noted for its "deep reserves of virtuosity and irrepressible dramatic instinct" by the New York Times, and "balance of intellect and expression" by the LA Times the group has won accolades across the globe and is now firmly established as one of the finest chamber music ensembles performing today.

All Impromptu performances take place at 4 p.m., at St. Paul's Episcopal Church, 401 Duval St.

Tickets cost \$20 at the door, on the day of the show, with all students being admitted free of charge.

Season tickets are available, as are sponsorship opportunities.

For more information, and ticket orders, visit <http://www.keywestimpromptu.org/>

Hey, Middle & Upper Keys...
Just took a great shot? Share it with us!

We want everyone to see the beauty, the fun events and the unforgettable adventures in all our Florida Keys. Send us your best shots (with captions) and they might end up in Konk Life or the Konk Blast! GuydeBoer@gmail.com • 305-296-1630



Photo: Larry Blackburn

KONK Life

Now distributed from KEY WEST to KEY LARGO!

ART FROM THE HEART: Fundraising Event to benefit Florida Keys SPCA

Zazoo Fine Art Gallery on historic Duval Street is pleased to host the first annual Art From the Heart fundraising event at the gallery – 622 Duval Street, Key West. Ph.305.294.8925

Portion of the days sales will benefit the SPCA and the night will be highlighted with a live auction of an original painting by Felix the Cat Artist Don Oriolo with the entire art auction proceeds benefiting the SPCA. Don will paint the artwork during the event!

Don Oriolo is well known across the entertainment spectrum, having been a fixture in the art, music, television, and film industries for decades.



Artist Don Oriolo with 'Angel' a horse he rescued.

In June 2018, Don spearheaded the largest Cat Rescue in the North-East-

ern states history. His nonprofit group 'Kittens With a Mission' rescued 205 cats from horrific conditions at a dilapidated home, which didn't have running water or electricity.

Spending weeks at the home collecting the cats to be taken to for medical treatment, Don personally paid the \$25 fee to have each cat spayed or neutered before having them put up for adoption. Don also rescues horses and houses them at his Blue Arrow Farm in Pine Island, NY.

With his history of supporting animal causes – it is only natural that Don's Zazoo Fine Art Gallery partners

with the Florida Keys SPCA.

Zazoo Fine Art Gallery features Don Oriolo's artwork of Felix the Cat, Casper the Friendly Ghost, Betty Boop, Popeye and Elvis Presley.

In addition Zazoo represents over 20 world-renowned Artists and Photographers (Artists - Tom Everhart, Ronnie Wood, Dr Seuss, Fabio Napoleoni, Tracy 168 and Photographers - Terry O'Neill, Milton H. Greene, Bob Gruen, Douglas Kirkland, Baron Wolman) as well as publishes art and photography. Zazoo has a wide range of art, photography and collectibles for the novice fan to the serious collector. ■

Mata Yoga Presents Tea Roman and Sound Session Meditation



On Sunday, November 3, from 6-7:30pm, Mata Yoga at 927 White Street in Key West welcomes Northern Florida-based holistic practitioner Tea Roman who will lead a 'Sound Session Meditation' experience of restorative yoga, meditation and sound, incorporating Tibetan singing bowls and the Shakuhachi bamboo flute. Cost is \$30 in advance; \$35 at the

door. Contact Tara Darmante at 347-998-5852 for advance ticket purchase. Mata Yoga is owned by Key West locals Tara Darmante and Marci Rose, and is open seven days a week, specializing in Bikram, Hatha, Vinyasa, and Yin style yoga, and Yogalates. The studio also offers a kids yoga class every Wednesday afternoon at 4:30pm. For more information visit matayogakeywest.com. ■

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Meet Kristen Eklund

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A spacious, charming and historic Conch house in one of the most desirable neighborhoods in Key West

BY TERRY SCHMIDA
KONK LIFE REAL ESTATE EDITOR
PHOTOS CONTRIBUTED

Of all the great neighborhoods potential home-buyers have to choose from in Key West, it's truly hard to beat the Meadows.

Located mere blocks from the Southernmost City's most famous dining and entertainment amenities, the area still retains its historic charm and fascinating late 1800s-early 1900s architecture – and its off-the-beaten-path tranquility. In fact, Meadows residents can often be heard describing their neighborhood as being “like Old Town but without the traffic and bars.”

It is indeed a special place with plenty of special homes – such as the shotgun house at 1215 Newton St.

This fine 3-bedroom, 2-bath wood-frame home was built in 1938 and offers over 1,300 square-feet of living space on a 2,000 square-foot lot. Constructed during a time when craftsmanship was a point of both pride and safety during Tropical storms, this memorable residence could be a fantastic family home, vacation getaway, and/or solid investment property.

The first floor features two good-sized bedrooms, a laundry nook with a full-sized stacked washer and dryer, and a spacious open-concept living/dining/entertaining area. Ceilings are high and vaulted in some places, and the floors are hardwood and marble. Most of the original Dade County Pine walls remain throughout the house.

The recently remodeled full bath is located between the bedrooms and common areas for added convenience, while the gourmet kitchen has been completely renovated with a well thought out



This historic home at 1215 Newton St. offers an inviting blend of old and new.



Lots of natural light and a vaulted ceiling are features of the roomy living area.

design, quality quartz countertops, and all new stainless steel Bosch appliances, including a super gas range.

Located past two sets of French doors the bricked outdoor area is private and surrounded by a rare coral

rock wall. Gorgeous landscaping and mature gumbo limbo and palm trees complete the tropical experience. And there's room for a small pool. A covered porch provides lots of space for that perfect outdoor dinner party.



The kitchen was completely remodeled recently and features attractive quartz countertops and stainless steel Bosch appliances.

Up a set of wooden stairs, the master bedroom is roomy and bright, thanks to four recently installed skylights. Another recently remodeled bathroom is located between the bedroom and door to a great second-floor sundeck with lots of space, sweeping views of the treetops, and an outdoor shower.

This home is located close to the Historic Seaport District, the bars, theaters, and other attractions of Old Town, but is still just a few minutes drive to the shopping centers of New Town. Ample street parking is available on Newton Street at all times of day or night. And the house's location in the X Flood Zone means lower flood insurance premiums– and less concern for the owners. So, whether you're looking for your first home in paradise, or upgrading from your current one, make an appointment now to check out 1215 Newton St. You may just find it's the home of your dreams!

1215 Newton St. is being offered at just \$899,000. To arrange a showing, or for more information, contact Listing Agent Tina Masters of Coldwell Banker Schmitt by phone at 305-923-0062, by email at tina@yourkeywestagent.com or visit www.yourkeywestagent.com. To take a virtual tour of the property, visit <https://view.paradym.com/idx/1215-Newton-Street-Key-West-FL-33040/4403336>
keysscribe@aol.com

KONK LIFE'S REAL ESTATE in the KEYS

A solidly built, nearly new home in Old Town at a seductively low price This Louisa Street townhouse is all that and more

BY TERRY SCHMIDA
KONK LIFE REAL ESTATE EDITOR
Photos Contributed

As anyone who has ever looked into buying a home in Key West has by now discovered, most of the pretty houses in Old Town are older with all the charm and history that status entails.

The townhouse at 634 Louisa St. # 3, was built just 12 years ago utilizing some of the toughest materials available - including high-impact glass, Hardie siding and sturdy tile floors. The home is located on a quiet Old Town street with little road traffic and plenty of off street parking. It's also neighbored with many century-old structures that are pleasing to the eye.

It all adds up to a lot of the fun of living in Key West without the higher insurance and maintenance costs of many other downtown properties.

Located past two shared off-street parking spots this unit offers a large open-concept living room with high ceilings. It also boasts a good-sized recently updated kitchen and appliances. The bright and airy tiled living/dining and entertainment room give way to a wall of superior strength



This recently-built townhouse offers Chicago brick pathways and mature foliage.



Whether you seek sun or shade the private rear courtyard has it all.

sliding glass doors over looking the very private courtyard with a hot tub, a water feature and a mirrored wall section to create the illusion of depth. The charming Chicago-bricked patio with broad steps and automatic awning are other highlights of the garden area.

A discrete but handy half-bath and laundry area include a high-end washer and dryer unit to complete the first floor.

Up the wooden staircase are a pair of rooms; one of which is the master bedroom suite with double closets and additional attic storage space. The second is a den that could function as a guest bedroom, office, study or perhaps a nursery. Both have soaring vaulted ceilings and abundant natural light. The master bathroom has also been improved to include a roomy walk-in shower.

The entire home has recently been painted in classic colors and rentals are permitted with certain restrictions.

The street on which this quality home is located is rare in Old Town for its tranquillity and slow pace of life, all just mere blocks from some of the town's finest restaurants, exciting theater and interesting galleries.

KONK LIFE'S REAL ESTATE in the KEYS



The roomy living area features plenty of natural light and solid tile flooring.



This brand-new kitchen features top-of-the-line stainless steel appliances, and an island for eating and food preparation.



An "extra" room on the second floor could be put to any number of uses.



The master bedroom has his-and-hers closets.

It's also within the X flood zone, the highest on the island, which means the lowest flood insurance rates.

Contact Realty Executives Key West

today and make an appointment to come see a home that'll provide you with the perfect mix of old and new; charm and quality!

634 Louisa St., #3, is being offered for just \$575,000. A \$100 HOA assessment each month pays maintenance and includes reserves. Pets are allowed.

For more information, or to book a showing today, contact Listing Agent Bernice Schafer by phone at 305-509-0469 or by email at bernice@realtyexecutives.com. ■



All signs point to . . . SOLD

Realty Executives expands up the Keys, adds staff



ChelleBe Blades and Bernice Schafer.

BY **TERRY SCHMIDA**
 KONK LIFE REAL ESTATE EDITOR
Photos courtesy of Gracie Meyer

What's your sign? This tongue-in-cheek advertising slogan of Realty Executives Florida Keys asks a question that's answered by the signs on the walls at the company's new office at Mile Marker 27, on Summerland Key.

"A Realtor is not a salesperson," advises one. "They're a matchmaker. They introduce people to homes until they fall in love with one. Then they're a wedding planner." "Powered by experts," reads another. Then there's one relating to both the clients and Realty Executives Team. "Dream," it simply encourages.

They're signs of things to come. The community will have the chance to meet company staff, and to dream a little, during a Lower Keys Chamber of Commerce mixer taking place from 5 to 7 p.m., Thursday, Nov. 14 at the new office, 24752 Overseas Hwy., (between Ace Hardware and First State Bank.

"I actually got my start in real estate on Sugarloaf Key, by buying



Blades.



Schafer, Blades, and vacation property experts Amy Hansen and Tina Richard.

(and splitting) the 12-acre oceanfront 'Patch Estate,'" said Realty Executives owner/broker ChelleBe Blades, who recently changed her company's

name to reflect a growing emphasis on all Keys properties. "I've always had friends and Clients in the Lower Keys, as well as having a foot in Key West real estate. But it's time for me expand, not just geographically, but with more agents involved in the company. Perhaps, I'll even make my home up here again. This new office is a move in that direction."

Newly renovated and smelling of fresh paint, there's a casual feel to the office, which boasts a conference room with a pub-table, and a nice view of the swimming and boating canal in the back.

But there's nothing offhand about the company's professional credentials.

Blades has nearly two decades of experience with real estate in the Keys. Two other professionals at the top of their game, Amy Hansen and Tina Richard, will handle vacation property rentals in Big Pine-to-Sugarloaf, and Saddlebunch-to-Key West, respectively. Both are owner/operators of established rental managements companies, whom Blades has worked with in the past.

"Combining forces seemed quite natural," Blades said.

Then there's Realtor/Executive Bernice Schafer, whom Blades recruited recently to help propel the company forward. She's from a real estate family in South Africa and fell in love with the business during childhood while watching her mother flipping houses.

"I've always loved real estate, so it made sense that I would follow

KONK LIFE'S FEATURED HOMES

WHAT'S YOUR SIGN?

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See Map

1

LOCATION, LOCATION, LOCATION

1000 Eaton Street, Key West FL 33040

High visibility on the corner of Eaton St & Grinnell St in Key West. Home of popular Bien(also known as Paseo) Restaurant. Building has been operated as successful cafe/ restaurant/take out for decades. Fully equipped for turn key continuing food service business. Building has been updated since 2010. 14 licensed restaurant seats, covered patio creates garden setting for outdoor dining with misting system in place. Several OSP parking spaces on 4020 sq foot lot in old town.



Price \$1,350,000

Affordable 2bed/1bath on canal. Good condition on large lot. 245 Geiger Road



Price \$259,000

1424 White Street, Key West

See Map

2



**Mike
Caron**
REALTOR®

**Service...
Integrity...
Results!**

The perfect blend of classic Conch architecture with a stunning rebuild and renovation greets you at this coveted Casa Marina home. Although the historical piece dates to 1928 with the original concrete pillars in the front, it was rebuilt by an award winning builder from the ground up in 2003. Beautiful whitewashed Dade County Pine walls greet you as you enter the front door with a large staircase to take you upstairs to 3 of the bedrooms. The 2 guest bedrooms have a large renovated bathroom between them with beautiful turquoise quartz countertops and glass tiled walls. The master suite has 2 rooms with a cathedral ceiling in the bedroom and a large bathroom also filled with turquoise. The downstairs has a fourth bedroom currently used as an office plus a completely renovated bathroom. Boasting large voluminous rooms with 10 foot ceilings this 4 bedroom/3 bathroom chamber showcases a fabulous open floor plan and entertaining space. The chef's kitchen was redesigned in 2018 and features beautiful Vadora counters, an undercounter beverage cooler, 5 burner gas cooktop, oven, wine refrigerator and top of the line stainless steel appliances. The kitchen/dining area flows seamlessly to a large family room with double French doors leading out to over 640 sq. ft. of lpe decking surrounding the heated cocktail pool. The possibilities for this property can be endless, from a year round home to wonderful luxury rental option. \$1,990,000

*The perfect blend of
classic Conch architecture*



kw Key West
Compass Realty
KELLERWILLIAMS.

201 Front St. Suite 101, Key West, FL 33040

MIKE CARON

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Email: mike@caronkeywest.com

See Map

3



Derek Epperly & Jenna Blackwell

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Derek Epperly: 305.923.4833

Jenna Blackwell: 305.393.6573

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FEATURED LISTING

611 Grinnell Street #4 • Old Town, Key West



Flood Zone X. Charming 2/1 bungalow in a gated compound, surrounded by a large sunny pool encompassed by mature native shade trees. This home is located in the desirable neighborhood of Old Town North, which features everything within a short stroll or bike ride that is quintessential Key West - architecture, shopping, nightlife and culture. Call us today for a private viewing! **\$625,000**

UNDER CONTRACT!

58 Palm Drive • Saddlebunch Key



From left, Blades and staff at the new Realty Executives office on Summerland Key.

that path and enjoy it," Schafer said. "[Blades] from Realty Executives helped us buy our first house. With her knowledge we were able to purchase a duplex, which was a financial blessing. She inspired me to help other first-time buyers understand the process and excite them with the idea of owning for less than renting in some situations."

So if your favorite sign is "SOLD" give the experts at Realty Executives a call and let them introduce you to the home of your dreams – or sell your

existing residence or investment property – today! ■

The grand opening of the company's Old Town Key West office at 605 Simon-ton St., will be held in early 2020.

For more information on Realty Executives call 305-394-4750, or email ChelleBeBlades at Blades@RealtyExecutives.com

To contact Bernice Schafer call 305-509-0469 or email Bernice@RealtyExecutives.com

keysscribe@gmail.com

FEATURED HOMES

Providing Answers for Key West Property Owners and Buyers

• <http://www.parcerealestatekeywest.com>

- Old Town Home Sales Stumble in September
- Are Guesthouses a Smart Buy in Key West?
- The Cost of GREEN - Part 1 Residential Solar
- Step Up For Students Scholarships are Life Changing

• <https://www.facebook.com/ParceRealEstateKeyWest>

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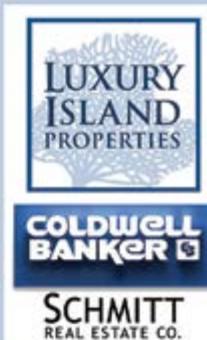
John Parce
Realtor
305.942.1040

1215 Newton St, Key West, FL 33040

Excellent Meadows location! Charming Key West 3 bedroom, 2 bath conch house with many recent updates. An open kitchen and living area lead through French doors to a covered porch for outdoor living and entertainment. The porch overlooks the landscaped patio garden and beautiful old coral rock wall. Lush vegetation with mature gumbo limbo and palm trees span the property. The luxurious kitchen, bathrooms, and entryway were remodeled in 2018. Kitchen features new cabinets, marble tile floors, quartz countertops, all new stainless Bosch appliances, Kohler fixtures and farm sink with beautiful wall tile and custom walnut shelving. Both bathrooms feature new marble tile walls and floors with walk-in glass showers. Kohler and Toto fixtures throughout. Upstairs you will find access to a large private roof deck, with new Trex decking, which is a great way to enjoy the property. The deck also provides a private outdoor shower. There have been so many recent upgrades and improvements that I would like to share with you. Definitely worth your own private viewing.
\$899,000



Tina M Masters
305-923-0062
tina@yourkeywestagent.com
<http://www.yourkeywestagent.com>



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.

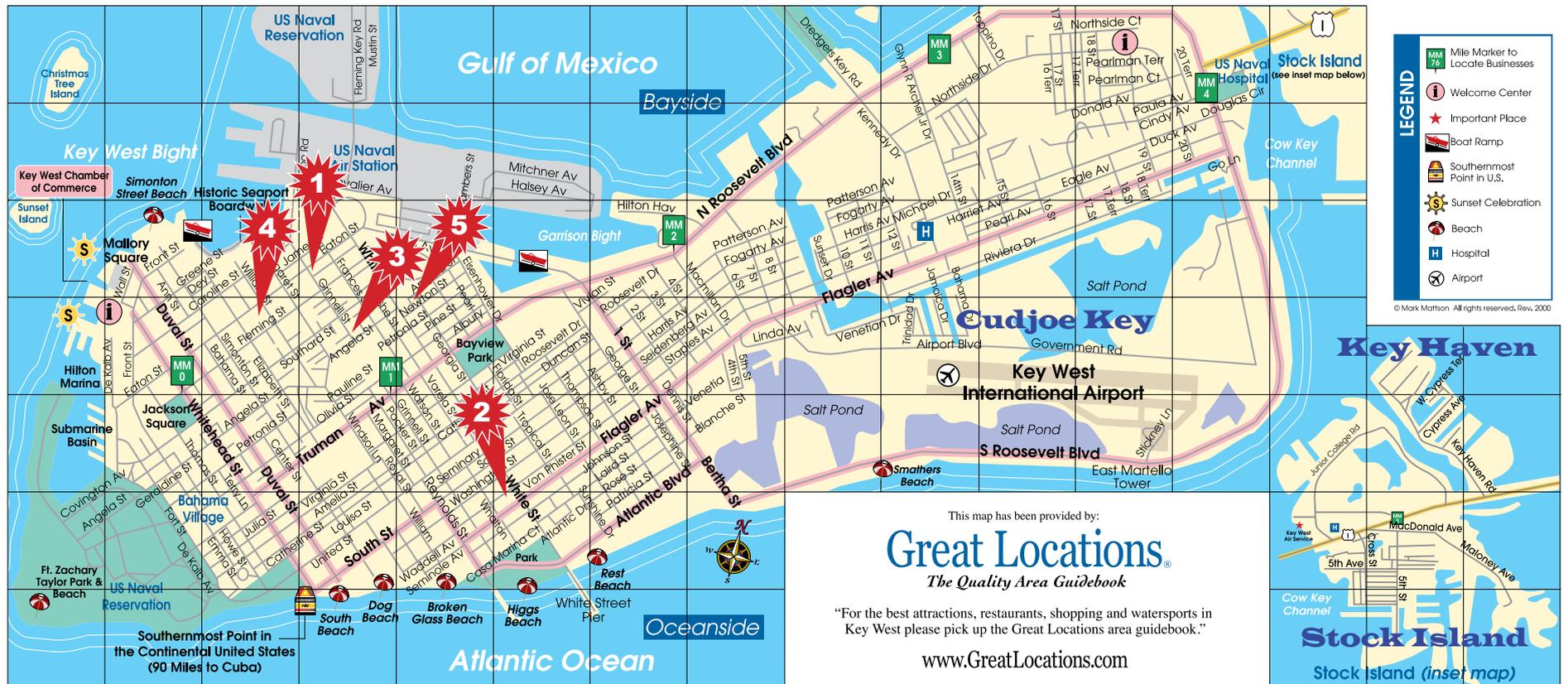
Everett Watkins
305-304-4269

Keller Williams Key West
Compass Realty
333 Fleming Street
Key West, FL 33040
askev@kw.com



KONK LIFE'S FEATURED HOMES

Featured Home Locations



Featured Homes – Viewed by Appointment

Map #	Address	#BR/BA	Listing Agent	Phone Number
	1000 Eaton Street, Key West FL 33040		Michelle Clauson Kirby, ReMax Keys Connection	305-849-1276
	1424 White Street, Key West, FL 33040	4BR/3BA	Mike Caron, Keller Williams Key West Compass Realty	508-269-8565 305-296-7078
	611 Grinnell St. #4, Old Town, Key West		Derek Epperly & Jenna Blackwell Berkshire Hathaway HomeServices Knight & Gardner Realty	305-923-4833 305-393-6573
	724 Eaton Street, Key West		Everett Watkins Keller Williams Key West Compass Realty	305-304-4269
	1215 Newton St. Key West, FL 33040		Tina M Masters Coldwell Banker Schmitt Real Estate Co. (KW)	305-923-0062



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keywestrealtors.org

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Listing Office	Selling Office	Sold Date	List Price	Sold Price	Street #	Street Name	Year Built	Style	Total Beds	Wtrfrnt	MM
Key West											
Coastal Collection	Truman & Co.	20/09/19	\$599,000	\$567,500	42	Spoonbill Wy, #2	1999	Townhouse	3	No	4
Royal Palms Realty	Keller Williams KW Compass	23/09/19	\$550,000	\$540,000	208	Golf Club Dr	2000	Single Fam	2	No	4
Key West Vacation Prop & Realty	Coastal Collection	24/09/19	\$429,000	\$425,000	3930	Roosevelt Blvd, S410	1991	Condo	3	No	3
BHHS Knight & Gardner Realty	Keller Williams KW Compass	19/09/19	\$439,000	\$429,000	3029	Roosevelt Blvd, #43	2000	Townhouse	2	No	2
Coastal Collection	Keller Williams KW Compass	20/09/19	\$475,000	\$440,000	1402	Olivia St, #3	1943	Condo	1	No	2
Truman & Co.	Realty Executives Key West	20/09/19	\$1,095,000	\$1,000,000	605	Simonton St	1948	Commercial	1	No	1
BHHS Knight & Gardner Realty	Coldwell Banker Schmitt	20/09/19	\$1,750,000	\$1,750,000	328	Simonton St	1928	Multi-Unit	3	No	1
Keller Williams KW Compass	Keller Williams KW Compass	18/09/19	\$595,000	\$570,000	202	Southard St	1991	Condo	1	No	0

Based on information from the KWAR MLS for the period of September 18th, 2019 to September 25th, 2019

KONKLife OPEN HOUSE ADS

To Place your ad or
for more information,
Call
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Weekly Open House Ads presented in
KONK Life's Daily E-News Blast
on Thursday, Friday, Saturday & Sunday
\$125.00 per week

Introductory Pricing: \$95.00 per week





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when you can look
and feel your
best... and that
is what drives
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