



Summer 2023
Volume 2, Issue 2

THE KeyWester

a seasonal newsletter for residents of the



HOUSING AUTHORITY
OF THE CITY OF KEY WEST, FLORIDA



CONGRATULATIONS TO OUR HIGH SCHOOL SENIOR SCHOLARSHIP RECIPIENTS & THE ENTIRE CLASS OF 2023!



Each year, the Housing Authority sponsors scholarships for residents that are graduating from high school. In addition, for the past two years, Gulf Atlantic Bank has teamed up with the Housing Authority to offer additional scholarships. This year, the scholarship evaluation committee opted to include not only students that are pursuing a college education, but also students pursuing a vocational school education. Students were asked to submit an essay either explaining how they have financially prepared themselves for post high school education or their thoughts about student debt and how to pay for their education, whether it be in pursuit of a college degree or a vocational school certificate. Seven well-deserving residents were selected for the scholarships, and we wish them all the best in their bright futures!

On May 23rd, the KWAH and it's partners from the City of Key West, Monroe County, Truist Bank, the Monroe County Land Authority, Gulf Keystar & William P. Horn Architect, cut a ceremonial ribbon to mark the official opening of Garden View Apartments, the largest 100% affordable housing project built in Key West in the last 50 years.

Garden View Apartments is located at 5220-5224 College Road.



INSIDE THIS ISSUE

Message from the ED.....	2
Employee Spotlight.....	2
Free Classes at Williams Hall.....	2
National Elder Fraud Hotline.....	3
Tax Holiday.....	3
Job Opportunities.....	3
Pest Control Schedule.....	4
Looking Back.....	4
Mr. Gary's Corner.....	4

IMPORTANT DATES

Independence Day—July 4 (KWAH Offices Closed)
Parents' Day—July 23
Coast Guard Birthday—August 4
Purple Heart Day—August 7
Senior Citizens' Day—August 21
Labor Day—September 4 (KWAH Offices Closed)
National Grandparents' Day—September 10
POW / MIA Recognition Day—September 15
Rosh Hashana—September 16
Air Force Birthday—September 18

HISTORICAL REMEMBRANCE

Poinciana Place—between 16th Street and 19th Street in New Town, Key West

Decades before the property was known as Poinciana Plaza, it was called Poinciana Place. According to newspaper articles published in September, 1942, Poinciana Place was an \$800,000 federal housing project, opened under the direction of the Key West Housing Authority and its executive director, Wallace B. Kirke. The property consisted of 210 "modern apartments" for occupancy by defense workers and personnel of the naval air station. It was acclaimed as one of the "show places of the city," and the site was planted "with poincianas and other tropical blooming trees." A small lake was dredged at the rear of the property during construction, to a depth of about 10-feet. The small lake remains today.

A MESSAGE FROM THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

The 6-month hurricane season started on June 1, and the first named storm of the season, Tropical Storm Arlene, formed just one day later on June 2. Despite the quick start to the season, forecasters are predicting a near- to below- average season due to El Nino. However, they also report unusually warm water in the Atlantic, so we should all stay diligent.

Updated KWHa hurricane preparation packets will soon be distributed to all residents. If you do not receive a packet, please contact your housing manager. You should have also received one during your move-in orientation. These packets provide vital information, including how to operate shutters (for those residents residing in units with shutters), how to register for the special needs registry, and where to evacuate locally in the case of a

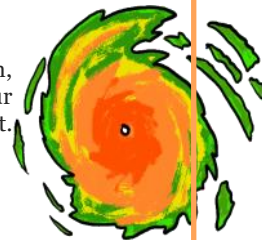
Category 1 or 2 storm. Remember, Monroe County will be closed in the case of a Category 3, 4, or 5 hurricane, and evacuation is mandatory.

Planning and preparation is so important, whether you opt to shelter in place or to evacuate. The Florida Division of Emergency Management provides a great tool on their website to help you create a custom plan that meets your unique needs. I highly recommend that you check it out:

<https://apps.floridadisaster.org/getaplan/>

If you need any assistance before or after a storm, please do not hesitate to reach out to my office, your property manager, or the maintenance department. Stay safe.

In service,
Randy Sterling



“May your walls know joy; may every room hold laughter and every window open to great possibility.” - Maryanne Radmacher-Hershey



EMPLOYEE SPOTLIGHT

Mr. Roberto Hernandez
Lead Maintenance Mechanic

Interview by Peter Batty

Roberto has been with the Housing Authority for 14 years. He was assigned to maintain Key West properties for the first 8 years of his employment and has worked at the Newport Village property in Key Largo for the last 6 years. He says that he really enjoys taking care of others, and

that his job with the Housing Authority makes that possible.

Roberto is very proud to be an American citizen and originally came to the United States on a raft. He has been married to his wife Anaray Corzo for 20 years, and they have known each other since they were 15 years old. He has three-year-old twins (one girl & one boy) and a 14-year-old son here in the US. He says the twins are very active and keep him and his wife very busy. He also has one older child still living in Cuba.

Where are you from? **Cuba.**

Do you enjoy your job with the Housing Authority?
I love my job!

Where do you currently live? **I live in Homestead.**

Do you have a dog or a cat? **No, I don't have any pets at this time. I would really like to have a dog, since I love them, but they are a little too expensive to keep at this time. Someday I hope to have a dog.**

What are your hobbies and what do you do in your free time? **My favorite thing to do is being with my family, I love spending time with my wife and kids. I also enjoy exercising, weightlifting, and fishing.**



Free Classes

AT WILLIAMS HALL FOR
HOUSING AUTHORITY RESIDENTS



How to:

- 1 GO ONLINE TO WWW.WILLIAMSHALL.ORG
- 2 CLICK LOGIN BUTTON ON TOP RIGHT OF NAVIGATION BAR
- 3 FILL IN THE FOLLOWING:
LOGIN: KWHZ022
PASS: #1SENIOR
CLICK BLUE LOGIN BUTTON
- 4 ONCE YOU ARE LOGGED IN, REGISTER FOR THE CLASS YOU WOULD LIKE TO TAKE.
FINISH YOUR REGISTRATION AND INPUT DISCOUNT CODE: KWHZ022
(THE DISCOUNT CODE MUST BE IN ALL CAPS)
- 5 MARK YOUR CALENDAR AND ARRIVE ON TIME
WALK/ RIDE A BIKE/ OR DRIVE TO WILLIAMS HALL, 729 FLEMING STREET
SENIORS RIDE FREE ON MONROE COUNTY TRANSIT -
CALL 305-292-4424 (PREFERABLY 24 HOURS IN ADVANCE).
SPECIAL GROUPS MAY BE CREATED FOR SMALL GROUPS OF FRIENDS

PLEASE CALL MR. GARY YOUNG,
HOUSING AUTHORITY RESIDENT ACTIVITIES COORDINATOR
FOR INFORMATION AND ASSISTANCE. (305) 240-1334

WILLIAMSHALL.ORG

Want a job like Roberto's?
Check out the job opportunities on page 3 of this
newsletter or on our website at www.kwha.org!



If you or someone you know is age 60 or older and has been a victim of fraud, help is standing by at the National Elder Fraud Hotline.

1-833-FRAUD-11

1-833-372-8311

www.justice.gov/stopelderfraud

10:00 a.m.-6:00 p.m. eastern time, Monday-Friday

English/Español/Other languages available



Reporting is the first step.

Reporting can help authorities identify those who commit fraud and can also prevent others from becoming victims. Our experts will help victims navigate this process.

No fear, total understanding.

The hotline is staffed by professionals who know how to support victims of fraud. Callers can count on our case managers to be caring and understanding.

Personalized service at no cost.

Callers will reach a case manager who will help them through the reporting process at the federal, state, and local levels. Victims will also be connected with other resources on a case-by-case basis.

Providing Help, Restoring Hope

Financial scams and abuses that target older people are happening more and more. This hotline is a free resource created by the U.S. Department of Justice Office for Victims of Crime to help people report elder fraud.

What to expect when calling 1-833-FRAUD-11 (1-833-372-8311).



We will respond quickly. We will connect you to a live contact as soon as possible.



Victims will be assigned a case manager.



Callers will always be treated with understanding and respect.

April 2023

The Housing Authority of the City of Key West, Florida gratefully acknowledges the U.S. Department of Justice, Office of Justice Programs, Office for Victims of Crime, for allowing us to reproduce, in whole, the Elder Fraud Hotline Flier above. This flier was prepared by the Office for Victims of Crime.



JOB OPPORTUNITIES WITH THE KEY WEST HOUSING AUTHORITY

The Housing Authority of the City of Key West, Florida is dedicated to providing excellent customer service & assistance to its tenants, applicants, & landlords by employing & retaining a highly qualified & well-trained staff that supports its mission.

Current Employment Openings (as of 06/21/2023):

- Cook (F/T) Poinciana Gardens
- Administrative Assistant (F/T & P/T available)
- Grounds Caretaker (F/T)
- Maintenance Mechanic (F/T)
- Med Tech (F/T) Poinciana Gardens

How To Apply:

To apply for a position with the KWH, please submit a completed Application for Employment, a completed Criminal & Traffic Background Authorization Form, & a signed job description for the position you are applying for.

Via Email:

Mary Martinez
Human Resources & Risk
Management Manager
MartinezM@kwha.org

Via Postal Service or Hand Delivery:

The Housing Authority of the
City of Key West, Florida
Attn: Human Resources
1400 Kennedy Drive
Key West, FL 33040



Back to School 2023 Sales Tax Holiday

ITEMS EXEMPT FROM SALES TAX:

- Learning aids and jigsaw puzzles selling for \$30 or less
- Most school supplies selling for \$50 or less
- Clothing, footwear and accessories selling for \$100 or less
- Computers and related accessories selling for \$1,500 or less (when purchased for non-commercial and personal use)

July 24 - August 6, 2023
January 1 - 14, 2024

Visit floridarevenue.com/backtoschool



PEST CONTROL SCHEDULE



Fort Village—
3rd Wednesday of each month

Garden View Apartments—
1st Wednesday of each month (starting in August)

George Allen Apartments—
2nd Wednesday of each month

Jack T. Murray Senior Complex—
2nd Wednesday of each month

Lang Milian Apartments—
2nd Wednesday of each month

Poinciana Gardens—
2nd & 4th Wednesday of each month

Robert Gabriel Apartments—
3rd Wednesday of each month

Roosevelt C. Sands, Jr. Affordable Housing Complex—
3rd Wednesday of each month

Senior Citizen Plaza—
4th Wednesday of each month

Please promptly report any pest control issues, including bed bugs, to the Maintenance Department or your property manager.

LOOKING BACK

Spring was an exciting season at the Housing Authority! Below are just a few of the highlights:

- ◆ A ribbon-cutting ceremony was held at the Garden View Apartments, and qualified applicants began moving in the very next day! Staff held 3 workshops to assist applicants with paperwork, and has a 4th workshop planned for June 29th.
- ◆ Staff issued an RFQ for a Developer Partner to assist with the redevelopment of the Lang Milian Apartments.
- ◆ The large pavilion in the courtyard of SCP was pressure cleaned and painted for a fresh new look.
- ◆ The SPCA held a Pet Vaccine/Wellness Clinic at the Roosevelt C. Sands, Jr. Community Center in Bahama Village, offering free services for the pets of all Key West Housing Authority residents.
- ◆ Staff opened the waitlist for the Lower Key Scattered Sites, a brand new development of 12 single-family homes under construction in the Big Pine Key area.
- ◆ A new, donated Tiki-hut was installed in the courtyard of Poinciana Gardens.

RESIDENT ACTIVITIES & OPPORTUNITIES WITH MR. GARY

"Luck is what happens when preparation meets opportunity"

Seneca (Roman philosopher, statesman, orator, and tragedian)

Be kind to yourself! Enjoy this summer with the people you love. Take a walk together on the beach at sunrise. Read a book! Watch a favorite movie again. Visit a museum, or stretch your body at a beach. Wear sunglasses, a hat, and sunblock. Drink water and sit in the shade. Share the joy and give someone a complement. Breathe deeply and smile a lot. Have a great time!

Summer Camp Scholarships! A limited number of Summer Camp Scholarships are still available for children ages 5-12 from the Key West Art & Historical Society and Reef Relief Coral Camp Scholarships. Call Mr. Gary.

Free After School Program Enrollment is OPEN! To learn more about the program, please call to schedule a classroom visit. Our classroom is located at the Lang Milian Apartments located at 301 White Street. The program is held on Mondays & Wednesdays, after school from 3:45 p.m. until 7:00 p.m. We offer homework assistance, structured activities, and a snack program for elementary and middle school students. Program activities continue during school holidays, too! (While supplies last, we have gifts to give away to young students and their siblings.)

Fun & Educational Summer Program Field Trips Have Begun! Call for details about field trips to the Martin Luther King, Jr. Community Pool for swimming, Boca Chica Naval Air Station for tours and bowling, and Truman Waterfront Splash Pad/Playground.



Activities for our Seniors! Senior Citizens from Jack T. Murray Senior Citizen Complex & Poinciana Gardens Senior Living Complex are always welcome to attend activities and classes held at the Senior Citizen Plaza Auditorium. Events include Bingo, Dancercise, Fitness, Chair Yoga, Salsa Dancing with Lucy, & screenings of movies. Call Mr. Gary for the monthly calendar.

Gary Young Contact Info

Email: youngg@kwha.org
Telephone: (305) 240-1334

Leave a message with your name, address, and phone number.