



Fall 2022
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THE Key Wester

a seasonal newsletter for residents of the



HOUSING AUTHORITY

OF THE CITY OF KEY WEST, FLORIDA



Lang B. Milian Apartments—New Sign Unveiling

On Friday, September 2nd, the Housing Authority hosted a sign unveiling ceremony under the covered pavilion at the Lang B. Milian Apartments. The apartment complex was renamed after Resident Commissioner Annette Milian Mobley's father Lang Milian, who served on the KWA board in the 1970s, and was also a City of Key West Commissioner. The gathering was attended by Lang Milian's immediate and extended family, current housing authority board members, housing authority staff, and distinguished members of the community, who all came to honor former Commissioner Lang Milian.

Randy Sterling, executive director of the housing authority, stated, "The new name of this housing complex honors a man who served this community with honor and integrity and stood for people across the entire island, including working families that live here on this property. It is so fitting that his name now graces the fence that protects this property."

Housing Authority Board Chairman Johnny Parks, Jr. said, "Our vision is to take this property, which has served our community's affordable housing needs for decades, and provide newer, safer, eco-conscious housing. Today, we honor Lang Milian with the new sign with his name, and tomorrow, we honor him by building a new complex to house more residents in a better way."

Resident Commissioner Annette Milian Mobley, daughter of Lang Milian, currently serves on the KWA Board of Commissioners as the Resident Commissioner, continuing her father's legacy of service.

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HOLIDAY SCHEDULE & IMPORTANT DATES

- Columbus Day / Indigenous Peoples Day—October 10th (KWA Offices Closed)
- Boss' Day—October 17th
- Halloween—October 31st
- Daylight Savings Ends—November 6th
- Veterans Day—November 11th (KWA Offices Closed)
- Thanksgiving Day—November 24th (KWA Offices Closed)
- Black Friday—November 25th (KWA Offices Closed)
- Pearl Harbor Remembrance Day—December 7th

HISTORICAL REMEMBRANCE



In **October of 1947**, George Mills White, the executive secretary of the KWA, traveled to Miami and reported to a congressional subcommittee that there was a severe housing shortage in Key West. He was joined by (pictured from left to right) City Commissioner Albert B. Cooper, City Commissioner Ralph Betancourt, both members of the Key West Housing Authority; the Rev. JH Johnson, JL Cates, of the housing authority; Fred Dion (with baby), James W. Murphy, Key West Jr. Chamber of Commerce; and City Commissioner Louis Carbonell. Mr. White is pictured in the far right of the photo.

A MESSAGE FROM THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

The Key West Housing Authority will hold its Annual Plan meeting for residents of Lang Milian Apartments, Fort Village, Robert Gabriel Apartments, and George Allen Apartments, on Wednesday, **September 28th at 5:00 pm**, and another meeting for residents of Senior Citizen Plaza on Friday, **September 30th at 4:00 pm**. It is through the Annual Plan that the housing authority receives grants to support improvements to public housing buildings.

While attendance is not mandatory, it is important. We

will be discussing the projects that occurred so far this year, capital improvements that are currently in the works, and ideas of what the residents would like to see for the future. Speakers will include the Director of Maintenance, Property Managers, the Resident Activities Coordinator, other key staff, and myself.

If you are unable to attend, we still want to hear from you. Comment cards are available at all rental offices. Please fill one out and return it to your property manager.

I hope to see you there.

In service,

Randy Sterling

“Grief is the price we pay for love.” - Queen Elizabeth II



EMPLOYEE SPOTLIGHT

Mr. Raul Barcenas - Lead Maintenance Mechanic

Interviewed by Peter Batty

Raul was born in Havana, Cuba 51 years ago. He and his wife Ileana came to the United States on August 16, 2001. Other than the 3-day immigration process in Miami, they



have lived in Key West the entire time. He has been married to Ileana for 28 years and they have one son, Jonathan, who is 14 years old and was born in Key West. Raul has worked in the Maintenance Department of the Housing Authority for 5 years. Raul was a painter in Cuba, and that experience gave him good training for his current job. He also does plumbing, carpentry and electrical work. He enjoys a great relationship with his fellow workers, especially with his supervisor Danny Gallardo.

Raul says the three happiest days of his life are (1) when he married Ileana, (2) when his son Jonathan was born, and (3) the day he became a US Citizen.

Raul has a 16' boat and loves to fish for Yellow Tail snapper, other types of snapper, grunts, and just about any other fish imaginable. He also enjoys hunting Florida spiny lobster.

He is very positive about working with the Housing Authority and is very appreciative of our great country and says that that he has a wonderful life.

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

Free Classes

AT WILLIAMS HALL FOR HOUSING AUTHORITY RESIDENTS



How to:

- 1 GO ONLINE TO WWW.WILLIAMSHALL.ORG
- 2 CLICK **CLASSES & EVENTS** TO VIEW ALL UPCOMING CLASSES. PLEASE NOTE CULINARY CLASSES ARE NOT ELIGIBLE.
- 3 CLICK THE **BLUE REGISTER BUTTON** FOR THE CLASS YOU WOULD LIKE TO PARTICIPATE IN.
- 4 IF YOU ARE NOT A MEMBER IT WILL ASK YOU TO **LOGIN**. IF YOU NOT A MEMBER IT WILL PROMPT YOU TO BECOME A MEMBER IN ORDER TO REGISTER. **MEMBERSHIPS ARE FREE!**
- 5 ONCE YOU ARE LOGGED IN - FINISH YOUR REGISTRATION AND INPUT **DISCOUNT CODE: KWHA2022** (THE DISCOUNT CODE MUST BE IN ALL CAPS)
- 6 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

Motor Fuel Tax Relief

October 1st—31st, 2022

The Florida Motor Fuel Tax Relief Act of 2022 reduces the tax rate on motor fuel by 25.3 cents per gallon. Passed by the Florida Legislature and signed into law by Governor Ron DeSantis, the tax rate reduction begins Saturday, October 1, and extends through Monday, October 31. The tax rate reduction applies to all gasoline products, any product blended with gasoline and any fuel placed in the storage supply tank of a gasoline-powered motor vehicle.



GARDEN VIEW APARTMENTS UPDATE

5220 College Road, North Stock Island

The Garden View Apartments is a 2.6-acre property comprised of three (3) structures with a total of one hundred and three (103) 1-bedroom/1-bathroom units. Six (6) of the units will be fully compliant with the American with Disabilities Act. Eleven (11) of the units will be rented to extremely low-income households (at or below 25% AMI) and the other ninety-two (92) units will be rented to low-income households (at or below 80% AMI). Due to the size of the units, households will be restricted to no more than 3 people.

The property will include covered storage areas for bikes and scooters, off-street parking for automobiles, and easy direct access to the North Line bus, the South Line bus, and the Lower Keys Shuttle.

Construction of the property is well over 60% complete. The KWHA expects to be able to start welcoming new residents as early as Spring 2023. Prior to that, the KWHA will open a site-specific waiting list, using a completely online application intake process which will be available at www.cityofkeywest.housingmanager.com. The open application period will be detailed in notices published by the KWHA. The notices will be advertised in the Key West Citizen, in all housing authority rental offices in Key West, and at www.kwha.org.



The Housing Authority would like to acknowledge

ART WAREHOUSE

for their generous donation of several large custom made canvases showcasing historic places and events around Key West. The beautiful photos were hung in the SCP front lobby for all residents and visiting guests to enjoy.



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 09/21/2022):

Housekeeper (F/T) Poinciana Gardens
Maintenance Mechanic (F/T)
Med Tech (F/T) Poinciana Gardens
Protective Service Aide (F/T) SCP

How To Apply:

To apply for a position with the KWHA, 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:

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

Hand Delivery:

The Housing Authority of the City of Key West, Florida
Administration Building
Main Entrance
1400 Kennedy Drive
Key West, FL 33040

PEST CONTROL SCHEDULE



Fort Village—
3rd Wednesday of each month

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—
4th Wednesday of each month

Robert Gabriel Apartments—
3rd Wednesday of each month

Senior Citizen's Plaza—
4th Wednesday of each month

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

Do your part! Clean often: wipe down counters, sweep floors, take out the garbage, and keep food in sealed containers.

LOOKING BACK

Summer was a busy season for the Housing Authority! Below are just a few of the highlights:

- ◆ A KHWA contractor installed new playground equipment and shade sails at both the Lang Milian Apartments and Robert Gabriel Site C.
- ◆ Work began to install 4-foot white picket fencing around the entire perimeter of Robert Gabriel Site A.
- ◆ Staff created a Tenant Selection Plan for the Garden View Apartments.
- ◆ The KWA and the SPCA hosted a "Wellness Clinic" inside the Senior Citizen Plaza Auditorium, offering heavily discounted vaccine packages for cats and dogs as well as low cost flea prevention and microchips. The next "Wellness Clinic" will be held on Friday, September 23rd, in the Community Center at the Roosevelt C. Sands, Jr. Affordable Housing Complex located at 105 Truman Avenue. All residents and their fur babies are encouraged to take advantage of all the clinic has to offer!
- ◆ Major concrete spalling concrete repair is nearly complete on a section of the building at the Senior Citizen Plaza.
- ◆ Staff implemented a new updated Administrative Plan for the HCV (Section 8) program.
- ◆ The KWA hired an arborist contractor to provide on-going major tree trimming.
- ◆ Staff secured a preliminary approval for rezoning of the Lang Milian Apartments property at 301 White St. to allow for future redevelopment.
- ◆ New signage was hung at both the George Allen Apartments and the Lang Milian Apartments.

Although Summer was busy, we have A LOT more in store!

RESIDENT ACTIVITIES AND OPPORTUNITIES WITH MR. GARY

CHILDREN SAY THANK YOU! for the new playgrounds at Lang Milian & Robert Gabriel Apartments. These new playgrounds are equipped with shade sails to keep them cool even when the sun is high. Parents & grandparents spend time with toddlers on the new slides, and older children love playing on the new equipment.

OPEN ENROLLMENT FOR OUR FREE AFTER SCHOOL PROGRAM at Lang Milian Apartments is going on NOW! While supplies last, we have extended our "**Christmas in September**" give away for children who enroll and ANY resident parent who would like **FREE PRESENTS FOR CHRISTMAS**. The program is Monday and Wednesdays from 3:45 to 7:00 pm. We assist elementary and middle school students with their homework, offer structured activities and lessons, a computer lab and healthy snack program at our Lang Milian classroom in building 13-G, next to the new playground. Please call me for details!



HIGH SCHOOL SENIORS! Plans are underway for Housing Authority 2023 Class Night scholarships. Call me for information on how to apply for a scholarship to support you with career training and/or college expenses.

ALL HOUSING AUTHORITY RESIDENTS! FREE classes are NOW available at Williams Hall, 729 Fleming Street. Fitness, Sewing, Quilting, Social Dance and more! **CALL ME FOR A FLIER WITH INSTRUCTIONS** and our free code to register, or refer to the notice on page 2 of this newsletter.

RESIDENTS HAVE ASKED ME TO SHARE THEIR THOUGHTS ABOUT CREATING A MORE POSITIVE COMMUNITY AND BEING GOOD NEIGHBORS!

- LEASH YOUR DOG & PICK UP THEIR POOP! SOME PEOPLE ARE AFRAID OF DOGS
- OPEN AREAS ARE FOR PEOPLE NOT PARKING - DRIVE ON ROADS, NOT THE GRASS!
- HELP CHILDREN WITH CHORES! HELP THEM LIFT GARBAGE INTO THE DUMPSTERS!
- TEACH CHILDREN TO PROTECT WILDLIFE, CHICKENS & BABY CHICKS!

Gary Young Contact Info

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

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



HOUSING AUTHORITY

OF THE CITY OF KEY WEST, FLORIDA

1400 Kennedy Drive – Key West, FL 33040 • Phone: 305-296-5621 • TTY/Florida Relay Service (FRS): 800-955-8771

Commissioner Roosevelt C. Sands, Jr.- 52 Years of Service



Pictured Left to Right: Vice-Chairman Bob Dean, Commissioner Roosevelt C. Sands, Jr., Chairman John Parks, Jr., Commissioner Frank Toppino, Commissioner Annette Mobley, City Commissioner (and nephew to Mr. Sands) Clayton Lopez, City Commissioner and Liaison to the KWA Board Jimmy Weekley, Executive Director Randy Sterling.

On Tuesday, September 13th, 2022, the Key West Housing Authority (KWA) Board of Commissioners, and its staff, recognized Mr. Roosevelt C. Sands Jr. for his 52 years of service to the KWA Board.

Commissioner Sands was originally appointed to the board on September 14th, 1970, by Mayor Delio Cobo. He was then reappointed twelve times by Mayors Tom Sawyer, Charles “Sonny” McCoy, Tony Tarracino, Dennis Wardlow, Jimmy Weekly, Morgan McPherson, and Craig Cates.

Executive Director Randy Sterling, during an expression of gratitude toward Commissioner Sands, shared some of the Commissioner’s many

accomplishments, which include the development of the Senior Citizens Plaza and Roosevelt Gardens Apartments, the redevelopment of the Jack T. Murray Senior Citizen Complex, the redevelopment of his namesake property the Roosevelt C. Sands, Jr. Affordable Housing Complex, and the acquisition of Poinciana Plaza, the acquisition of the Washington Street Apartments, and most recently the development of Poinciana Gardens Senior Living Complex and the current development of Garden View Apartments.

Board Chairman Johnny Parks, Jr. said, “I remember when I was a teenager, and you were my boss, and we would remove window units from homes and replace or repair them. You would always take the heavy end of the unit. Then as an adult I saw you still always offer to take the heavy end, Commissioner. It has been an honor to serve with you on this Board.” The other members of the Board shared their sincerest sentiments of gratitude for Commissioner Sands’ wisdom, knowledge, guidance, and the most powerful and heartfelt invocations ever witnessed.

The board position is 100% volunteer and members receive no compensation for their service. Mr. Roosevelt C. Sands, Jr. has dedicated more than half of a century to the KWA’s mission, and most of his life to serving the residents of the Key West community in a multitude of capacities.



EQUAL HOUSING
OPPORTUNITY