



Fall 2023
Volume 2, Issue 3

THE Key Wester

a seasonal newsletter for residents of the



HOUSING AUTHORITY

OF THE CITY OF KEY WEST, FLORIDA

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IMPORTANT DATES

- Columbus Day—October 9
(KWA Offices Closed)
- Boss' Day—October 16
- Halloween—October 31
- Daylight Saving Ends—November 5
- Veterans' Day—November 11
(KWA Offices Closed on Nov. 10)
- Thanksgiving Day—November 23
(KWA Offices Closed)
- Black Friday—November 24
(KWA Offices Closed)
- Pearl Harbor Remembrance Day—December 7



THANK YOU MR. ROBERT WRIGHT & THE BASILICA SCHOOL OF SAINT MARY STAR OF THE SEA!

This August, the Key West Housing Authority accepted a generous donation of hundreds of school supply items from Robert Wright & the Basilica School of Saint Mary Star of the Sea. The supplies were distributed to youth residents that live at the Lang Milian Apartments, Fort Village, Robert Gabriel Apartments, & George Allen Apartments by Mr. Gary Young, Resident Activities Coordinator for the Authority. We hope all the students, teachers, & school staff have a productive & safe school year!



Housing Authority Inventory: 1,405 Are Living in 390 Units

Recent Report
KEY WEST — The city's Housing Authority had to take a new "inventory" April 1, in compliance with a new Public Housing Authority ruling.

Rents for the coming year were set on the reports of the tenants' financial status and the number in their families.

Here is what the survey taken for the first time, showed about residents now living in this city's 390 low rent units:

A total of 1,405 individuals live in the units.

Forty-five are Civil Service employees, all work for the city of Key West, 41 receive old age assistance and two are servicemen.

Four who receive aid to the blind live in the units, 16 receive disabled aid, and 45 live on social security benefits.

A total of 30 come under the aid to dependent children bracket, 14 receive disability compensation and 12 get veteran widows compensation. A total of 228 have miscellaneous occupations or benefits.

Yvonne Stroup, director of the local Housing Authority, noted that the general purpose of low cost housing is to "rehabilitate the occupants by providing them a better way of living and better environment."

Stroup says many residents have raised their own incomes and bought their own homes.

"Many got their incomes from living under favorable conditions rather than in some areas, even though they had low incomes," Stroup said.

Under the new housing law, a rent is set after the April 1 inventory, unless the head of the family dies. The rent is then lowered, as the income is less, Stroup said.

The railroad will build a new freight depot in the industrial section next to the Farmer's Market. City officials have agreed to move four businesses out of the area, including a machine shop, metal shop, gas company building and trucking firm's headquarters.

HISTORICAL REMEMBRANCE

Housing Authority Survey Conducted

On April 1, 1961, the Key West Housing Authority conducted a survey and found that 1,405 residents were living in the City's 390 low-rent units (Lang Milian Apartments, Fort Village, Robert Gabriel, & George Allen Apartments).

This average of 3.6 residents per unit was just under the national average at that time of four people per single public housing unit.

A MESSAGE FROM THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

The Key West Housing Authority will hold its Annual Plan meeting for residents of Senior Citizen Plaza (SCP) on **Wednesday, September 27th at 4:00 p.m.** in the auditorium and another meeting for residents of Lang Milian Apartments, Fort Village, Robert Gabriel Apartments, and George Allen Apartments, on **Thursday, September 28th at 5:00 p.m.** under the Lang Milian pavilion. 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 me. In addition, this year we will have door prizes, generously donated by the FL Keys Council of the Arts!

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

“If after I read a poem the world looks like that poem for 24 hours or so I’m sure it’s a good one—and the same goes for paintings.” - Elizabeth Bishop



EMPLOYEE SPOTLIGHT

**Mr. Metielle Posia
Grounds Caretaker**

Interview by Peter Batty

Metielle is relatively new to the Housing Authority, with just a little less than a year on the job. His current position is Grounds Caretaker, with responsibilities that consist of cleaning

out units when they become vacant, removing limbs & trees, & maintaining the dumpsters. Metielle says that he likes his job very much, & that his supervisor, David Zarate, is great to work with. Metielle says he likes driving the dump truck but especially likes ensuring that the properties are clean, & the dumpsters are well maintained. He takes great pride in his job.

Metielle has a wife & 15-year-old son who live in Haiti. Unfortunately, he has not seen them in person for 11 years. He stays in touch using FaceTime & supports them by sending money to Haiti. He has a 27-year-old son named Tigana, who is also a Grounds Caretaker with the Housing Authority. He & Tigana live together on Stock Island.

Metielle’s favorite hobby is fishing, which he does from various docks around the island. He admitted that he would like to fish more but that he puts in a lot of overtime on the weekends taking care of Poinciana Gardens. He also works evenings in the kitchen at Salute! On the Beach restaurant.

Metielle’s supervisor says he is very respectful and trustworthy and a pleasure to have on his team.



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: KWHA2022
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: **KWHA2022**
(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 Metielle’s?
Check out the job opportunities on page 3 of this newsletter or on our website at www.kwha.org!

PLEASE NOTE! STOLEN SHOPPING CARTS!

It is a violation of FL Statutes 506.501-506.519 to remove any shopping cart from the premises or parking area of a retail establishment with intent to deprive temporarily or permanently the owner of such cart, or the retailer, of possession of the cart. This includes shopping carts that belong to Publix, Winn-Dixie, Office Depot, & GFS.

Any person who violates any of the provisions of ss. 506.501-506.519 is guilty of a **Misdemeanor of the First Degree**. Violators may be reported to the KWPD & may be subject to a lease violation.



SENIOR
CITIZEN
PLAZA



ROOSEVELT
GARDENS
APARTMENTS



GEORGE
ALLEN
APARTMENTS



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 and assistance to its tenants, applicants, and landlords by employing and retaining a highly qualified and well-trained staff that supports its mission.

Current Employment Openings (as of 09/22/2023):

- Grounds Caretaker (F/T)
- HVAC Maintenance Mechanic (F/T)
- Maintenance Mechanic (F/T)
- Resident Activities Coordinator (P/T) Poinciana Gardens

How To Apply:

To apply for a position with the KWHA, 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



Free COVID Tests!

Starting September 25th, you can order free COVID tests online through [COVIDTests.gov](https://www.covidtests.gov). Each household can receive four rapid at-home COVID test that will be delivered to their home.

The Housing Authority would like to thank Bill Lay & Darren Horan and their staff from La Trattoria for sponsoring and serving a delicious Italian dinner for the residents at Senior Citizen Plaza! *Molte grazie!*



RESOURCES FOR CARETAKERS & YOUNG CHILDREN

We all know that good nutrition helps us start the day off well. Below are links to information that may be of interest to new parents:

<https://www.cdc.gov/nutrition/InfantandToddlerNutrition/index.html>

Breast milk is the best source of nutrition for most babies. It helps protect them against some short- and long-term illnesses and diseases, and shares antibodies from the mother with her baby.

<https://www.cdc.gov/nutrition/infantandtoddlernutrition/foods-and-drinks/foods-and-drinks-to-limit.html>

Foods and Drinks to Avoid or Limit: honey before 12 months, unpasteurized drinks or foods (such as juice, milk, yogurt, or cheese), and sugar-sweetened drinks and food. Children younger than 24 months old should avoid added sugars and foods high in salt.

PEST CONTROL SCHEDULE



Fort Village—
3rd Wednesday of each month

Garden View Apartments—
1st 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—
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

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

- ◆ Staff began qualifying 103 households for income eligibility & tenant suitability to live in the brand new Garden View Apartments. Residents began moving into the property in May, & full occupancy is expected to be met soon.
- ◆ The Board of Commissioners awarded a contract to a local General Contractor to assist the Maintenance Department & the Facilities Department with vacancy turns and other miscellaneous construction and labor needs of housing authority properties.
- ◆ Design and planning began for the construction of approximately fifty (50) new affordable units to be constructed on vacant land at Poinciana Plaza.
- ◆ An independent financial & compliance audit was conducted and an unmodified report with no findings was presented to the Board.
- ◆ Staff began planning for a ribbon cutting at the Lower Keys Scattered Sites, a brand new development of 12 single family homes in the Big Pine Key area.

RESIDENT ACTIVITIES & OPPORTUNITIES WITH MR. GARY

“Play is often talked about as if it were a relief from serious learning...for children, play is serious learning. Play is really the work of childhood”
Mr. Rogers

Thank You, Key West Art & Historical Society, the City of Key West Community Pool, and Reef Relief!

Thanks to your generosity, our children worked hard at play during the summer. They enjoyed making Art, recreating History, practicing how to swim, & learning all about the ocean reef that surrounds us!

After School Program Enrollment is OPEN for our FREE 2023-2024 program—Please call Mr. Gary to schedule a classroom visit. Our classroom is at our Lang Milian Apartments at 301 White Street. Our program schedule is Mondays & Wednesdays after school from 3:45 p.m. until 7 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! We still have gifts to give away while supplies last.

New World Reading—Free books are available in English, Spanish, & Haitian Creole for Florida’s Kindergarten – 5th grade children who qualify. Find out more at newworldreading.com/enroll.

Attention All KWA Senior Citizens—We are looking to identify activities you may want to participate in onsite at the Senior Citizen Plaza, Poinciana Gardens, & Jack T. Murray Senior Complex. We also want to know your interest in attending other Key West activities. We can only try to plan activities and transportation if we know what interests you. Please tell your housing manager your ideas or call Mr. Gary at (305) 240-1334!



Gary Young Contact Info

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

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