



a seasonal newsletter for residents of the



**HOUSING AUTHORITY**  
OF THE CITY OF KEY WEST, FLORIDA



## Beat the Heat: Cool Off at the Library!



As summer temperatures soar, finding a cool, comfortable place to spend time without spending a small fortune becomes a top priority. Consider making the library your go-to destination. The Key West Library at 700 Fleming Street offers air-conditioned spaces perfect for relaxing with a good book or engaging in a variety of activities. Beyond its collection of books, the library offers an assortment of programs and events to keep you entertained. From summer reading challenges for kids and adults, to workshops, movie screenings, and guest lectures, there's something for everyone. Parents will find the library an excellent resource for keeping children engaged during the school break. Storytime sessions, craft activities, and educational games can make the library a second home for young minds to learn and explore. So, when the summer heat becomes too much to bear, remember that your local library is more than just a place for books—it's a community hub offering experiences for all ages. Check out [www.keyslibraries.org](http://www.keyslibraries.org) or visit in person to discover all the ways you can stay cool and engaged this summer!



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## IMPORTANT DATES



Independence Day—July 4  
(KWAH Offices Closed)

National Senior Citizens Day—August 18

Primary Election Day—August 20

Women's Equality Day—August 26

Labor Day—September 2  
(KWAH Offices Closed)

Patriot Day—September 11

## IT'S ELECTION SEASON!

Exercise your right to vote.

### How to register:

Complete and submit a FL Voter Registration Application Form by mail or in person to:

- ◆ Supervisor of Elections' office—5200 College Rd, Key West, FL 33040
- ◆ Any office that issues driver licenses,
- ◆ Any voter registration agency (public assistance office, center for independent living, office serving persons with disabilities, public library, or armed forces recruitment office), or
- ◆ The Division of Elections

Register online: [RegisterToVoteFlorida.gov](http://RegisterToVoteFlorida.gov)

### Voter Registration Requirements

- U.S. citizen and resident of Florida and county
- At least 18 years old (or 16 for pre-registration)
- Not adjudicated mentally incapacitated, or if so, voting rights restored.

Deadline to Register for the  
Primary Election is **July 22nd**  
Deadline to Register for the  
General Election is **Oct. 2nd**



## HISTORICAL REMEMBRANCE

### Fair Housing Act



In 1968, Title VIII of the Civil Rights Act was passed. It prohibits housing discrimination, including refusal to rent or sell a home to any person based on their color, race, national origin, or religion. In 1974, a prohibition of discrimination on the basis of one's gender was added, and in 1988, families with children and people with disabilities were added to the list of protected classes. In February, 2021, HUD implemented a prohibition of LGBT discrimination in federally assisted housing programs.

## A MESSAGE FROM THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

As the Executive Director of Key West Housing Authority, I want to take this opportunity to remind you that the upcoming hurricane season is expected to be particularly active. Your safety is our utmost priority, and we are committed to ensuring that everyone is well-prepared for any potential storms. Here are some important steps you can take to protect yourselves and your families:

**Stay Informed:** Keep up to date with weather forecasts and advisories from local authorities and trusted news sources. Sign up for emergency alerts if you haven't already.

**Prepare an Emergency Kit:** Ensure you have essential supplies such as non-perishable food, water, medications, flashlights, batteries, and a first aid kit. Don't forget necessary items for pets and any specific needs of your family members.

**Know Your Evacuation Routes:** Familiarize yourself with the local evacuation routes and the locations of nearby shelters.

Make a family emergency plan that includes meeting places and contacts.

**Secure Your Home:** Take steps to safeguard your home, such as securing outdoor furniture, ensuring windows are protected, and checking that your emergency exits are clear.

**Follow Official Guidance:** If an evacuation order is issued, please follow it promptly. Your cooperation is essential for your safety and that of your neighbors.

The Housing Authority team is here to support you. We will keep you informed of any critical updates and provide assistance as needed. Please reach out to our office at 305-296-5621 or email your property manager if you have any questions or need help with your preparations.

Let's work together to ensure a safe hurricane season. Thank you for your attention and cooperation.

In service,

*Randy Sterling*

**“Winning is fun...Sure. But winning is not the point. Wanting to win is the point. Not giving up is the point. Never letting up is the point. Never being satisfied with what you’ve done is the point.”**

- Pat Summitt, American women's college basketball head coach



## EMPLOYEE SPOTLIGHT

David Woody (a.k.a. “Woody”)  
Director of Maintenance

*Interview by Peter Batty*



Woody is originally from Palm Beach County, Florida. He is a U.S. Navy Submarine Veteran and was stationed in Pearl Harbor, Hawaii. Woody moved to the Keys about 13 years ago and prior to working with the Key West Housing Authority, he was the Assistant Director of Maintenance at Hawks Cay Resort on Duck Key. He says that he enjoys Key West because the mornings and sunsets are wonderful, the variety of foods is excellent, the coffee is rich, and the atmosphere of Key West itself makes for an enjoyable day everyday.

*How long have you been with the Housing Authority?* Just over three years.

*What position did you start with?* I started as the Maintenance Superintendent.

*What do you like about your job?* I enjoy the daily challenges. Sometimes they can be frustrating, but when they get figured out and resolved, it's a very rewarding feeling.

*Why would you recommend others think about starting a career at the Housing Authority?* The Housing Authority has excellent benefits.

*If you could travel to one place in the world, where would that be?* Back to Hawaii. Or Japan. I loved Japan; Philippines was awesome, too.

*If you could give your younger self one piece of advice, what would it be?* Stay in the Navy!

## FUN FACTS!

The 1st American President who served in the U.S. Navy was John F. Kennedy (who commanded the famous *PT-109* in World War II), followed by Lyndon B. Johnson, Richard Nixon, Gerald Ford, Jimmy Carter, & George H. W. Bush. Some notable former members of the Navy include U.S. Senators, Bob Kerrey, John McCain, & John Kerry, along with Ron DeSantis, Governor of Florida, & Jesse Ventura, Governor of Minnesota.





# Back to School 2024 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 29 - August 11, 2024**

Visit [floridarevenue.com/BacktoSchool](https://floridarevenue.com/BacktoSchool)







# Disaster Preparedness Sales Tax Holiday

## \$10 or less

- Wet dog or cat food if sold individually or the equivalent if sold in a box or case

## \$15 or less

- Manual can openers
- Collapsible or travel-sized food or water bowls for pets
- Cat litter pans
- Pet waste disposal bags
- Hamster or rabbit substrate

## \$20 or less

- Reusable ice
- Leashes, collars, and muzzles for pets
- Pet pads

## \$25 or less

- Cat litter weighing 25 or fewer pounds

## \$40 or less

- Portable self-powered light sources
- Pet beds

## \$50 or less

- Portable self-powered radios, two-way radios, or weather-band radios
- Gas or diesel fuel tanks
- Batteries, including rechargeable batteries, listed sizes only:
  - AA-cell, AAA-cell, C-cell, D-cell, 6-volt, 9-volt

## \$60 or less

- Nonelectric food storage coolers
- Portable power banks

## \$70 or less

- Smoke detectors or smoke alarms
- Fire extinguishers
- Carbon monoxide detectors

## \$100 or less

- Tarpaulins or other flexible waterproof sheeting
- Ground anchor systems
- Portable pet kennels or pet carriers
- Dry dog or cat food weighing 50 or fewer pounds
- Over-the-counter pet medications

## \$3,000 or less

- Portable generators used to provide light or communications or to preserve food in a power outage

June 1-14, 2024  
August 24-September 6, 2024  
Visit [floridarevenue.com/DisasterPrep](https://floridarevenue.com/DisasterPrep)

# Freedom Month

## Sales Tax Holiday ★ July 1-31, 2024

### Fishing Supplies

- **\$5 or less:**  
Bait or fishing tackle if sold individually or \$10 or less if multiple items are sold together (does not include commercial fishing supplies)
- **\$30 or less:**  
Tackle boxes or bags
- **\$75 or less:**  
Rods and reels if sold individually or \$150 or less if sold as a set

### Camping Supplies

- **\$30 or less:**  
Camping lanterns  
Flashlights
- **\$50 or less:**  
Sleeping bags  
Portable hammocks  
Camping stoves  
Collapsible camping chairs
- **\$200 or less:**  
Tents

### Boating & Water Activity Supplies

- **\$25 or less:**  
Snorkels  
Goggles  
Swimming masks
- **\$35 or less:**  
Recreational pool tubes  
Pool floats  
Inflatable chairs  
Pool toys
- **\$50 or less:**  
Safety flares
- **\$75 or less:**  
Life jackets  
Coolers  
Paddles  
Oars

### Pool Supplies

- **\$100 or less:**  
Individual residential pool & spa replacement parts, nets, filters, lights, covers
- **\$150 or less:**  
All residential pool & spa chemicals purchased by an individual

- **\$150 or less:**  
Water skis  
Wakeboards  
Kneeboards  
Recreational inflatable water tubes or floats capable of being towed
- **\$300 or less:**  
Paddleboards  
Surfboards
- **\$500 or less:**  
Canoes  
Kayaks

### General Outdoor Supplies

- **\$15 or less:**  
Sunscreen  
Insect repellent
- **\$30 or less:**  
Water bottles
- **\$50 or less:**  
Hydration packs  
Bicycle helmets
- **\$100 or less:**  
Sunglasses
- **\$200 or less:**  
Binoculars
- **\$250 or less:**  
Outdoor gas or charcoal grills
- **\$500 or less:**  
Bicycles  
Electric scooters weighing less than 75 pounds

### Admissions

- Live music events\*‡
- Live sporting events\*
- Movies\*
- Museum entry‡
- State park entry‡
- Ballets\*‡
- Plays\*‡
- Musical theatre performances\*‡
- Fairs\*
- Festivals\*
- Cultural events\*
- Use of or access to private & membership clubs providing physical fitness facilities\*

\*To be held on any date(s) from July 1, 2024 through Dec. 31, 2024

‡Including season tickets or annual passes



## July 1-31, 2024

Visit [floridarevenue.com/FreedomMonth](https://floridarevenue.com/FreedomMonth)





# Tool Time Sales Tax Holiday

## \$25 or less

- Work gloves

## \$30 or less

- High-visibility safety vests

## \$50 or less

- Hand tools
- Safety glasses (\$50 or less per pair or the equivalent if sold in sets of more than one pair)
- Protective coveralls
- Duffle bags or tote bags
- LED flashlights
- Shovels
- Rakes
- Fuel cans

## \$75 or less

- Tool boxes
- Hearing protection items

## \$100 or less

- Tool belts
- Electrical voltage and testing equipment
- Shop lights
- Hard hats and other head protection

## \$125 or less

- Industry textbooks and code books

## \$150 or less

- Power tool batteries
- Handheld pipe cutters
- Drain opening tools
- Plumbing inspection equipment

## \$175 or less

- Work boots

## \$250 or less

- Ladders

## \$300 or less

- Power tools
- Tool boxes for vehicles

September 1-7, 2024

Visit [floridarevenue.com/ToolTime](https://floridarevenue.com/ToolTime)



## Maximizing Savings:

### How to Take Advantage of Sales Tax Holidays

Sales tax holidays offer an opportunity for savvy shoppers to save money by timing their purchases to coincide with designated periods where specific items are exempt from sales tax. These holidays are set by the state, providing a financial break on essential items like clothing, footwear, school supplies, tools, and disaster preparedness items. By strategically planning your shopping, you can keep more money in your pocket!

Sales tax holidays are short-term periods, usually lasting 1 to 4 weeks, during which sales tax is waived on certain categories of goods. The amount you save during a sales tax holiday depends on your location and the items you purchase. For instance, let's consider Monroe County with a sales tax rate of 7.5%. Here's how much you can save on clothing and footwear during a tax-free period:

- Clothing: If you purchase \$200 worth of clothing, you save \$15 in sales tax.
- Footwear: Buying \$150 worth of shoes saves you \$11.25 in sales tax.

Here's a table to illustrate the savings for different purchase amounts:

| Purchase Amount | Tax Savings at 7.5% |
|-----------------|---------------------|
| \$50            | \$3.75              |
| \$100           | \$7.5               |
| \$150           | \$11.25             |
| \$200           | \$15.00             |



#### Tips for Maximizing Savings

1. Plan Ahead: Mark the sales tax holiday dates on your calendar and make a list of items you need to purchase. This will help you stay focused and avoid impulse buys.
2. Know the Rules: Check the specific rules for each holiday, like limits on the cost per item that qualifies for the exemption. For example, an item of clothing during the Back to School tax holiday needs to be \$100 or less to be tax-exempt.
3. Combine with Other Discounts: Sales tax holidays often coincide with other sales or seasonal discounts. Combining these promotions can lead to substantial savings.
4. Stock Up on Essentials: Use this time to buy necessities that you will need throughout the year, such as school supplies, basic clothing, cat & dog food, and batteries. This way, you save on taxes and also reduce future shopping trips!



Sales tax holidays are a valuable opportunity for consumers to save money on essential items. By planning purchases around these tax-free periods, understanding the rules, and combining the savings with other discounts, shoppers can significantly reduce their expenses. Whether you're buying school supplies for the kids or updating your wardrobe, timing your purchases to align with sales tax holidays can make a big difference in your budget. Happy shopping!

### GOOD TO KNOW!

Tropic Cinema has kicked off its summer movie series for children and their families. The movies will be shown every Thursday at 10 a.m. The tickets are \$2 per person. The summer movie series is sponsored by the Key West Women's Club. Tropic Cinema is located at 416 Eaton Street.



### 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, & landlords by employing and retaining a highly qualified and well-trained staff that supports its mission.

#### Current Employment Openings (as of 06/20/2024):

- HCV Dept. Assistant (F/T)
- Housing Assistant (F/T)
- Housing Manager (F/T)
- HVAC Maintenance Mechanic (F/T)
- Maintenance Mechanic (F/T)
- Receptionist (P/T)

#### **How To Apply:**

To apply for a position with the Key West Housing Authority, 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](mailto:MartinezM@kwha.org)

#### **Via Postal or Hand Delivery:**

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

## 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

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

- ◆ Replaced the roof of the pavilion in the courtyard at SCP.
- ◆ Ordered major tree trimmings at most properties in preparation of storm season.
- ◆ Implemented a revised Emergency Operations Plan to incorporate the latest best practices, lessons learned from recent emergencies, updated contact & resource lists, & coordination protocols with local, state, & federal agencies.
- ◆ Continued work on preparing for the installation of a new whole-building generator at SCP (delivery expected 10/2024).
- ◆ Worked with the MCLA and the City of Key West to secure funding for the construction of new units at Poinciana Plaza.
- ◆ Awarded several cash scholarships to high school graduating residents of KWH.
- ◆ Installed six new desktop computers and one new printer in the resident computer lab located at Lang Milian Apartments.

## RESIDENT ACTIVITIES & OPPORTUNITIES WITH MR. GARY



**"The more that you read, the more things you will know, the more that you learn, the more places you'll go ." - Dr. Seuss**

### KEY WEST HIGH SCHOOL SENIORS LIVING IN HOUSING AUTHORITY COMMUNITIES AWARDED SCHOLARSHIPS SPONSORED BY HOUSING AUTHORITY & GULF ATLANTIC BANK

(Scholarship winners standing next to Mr. Gary - left to right in picture.)



Attention Parents with children ages 6 to 11 years old:

FREE Summer Camp scholarships are available, including Art Camp, History Camp & Coral Camp, while they last, from our generous community partners at the Key West Art & Historical Society and Reef Relief. First come first served! Call Mr. Gary (305) 304-5568

Visit the Monroe County Sheriff's Office Animal Farm free of charge the 2nd and 4th Sunday of each month from 1 – 3 pm at the Sheriff's Office Headquarters on College Rd. For more info, call (305) 293-7300.



Attention Residents of Senior Citizen Plaza & Jack T. Murray Senior Complex: Our community partner, Monroe County Social Services, is providing transportation to the Publix and Winn Dixie shopping centers. Please speak to your Housing Manager for details, and sign up by calling Mr. Gary! (305) 304-5568

**Congratulations to all our Seniors!**  
**We wish you the BEST in your educational endeavors!**

### Gary Young Contact Info

Email: [youngg@kwha.org](mailto:youngg@kwha.org)  
Telephone: (305) 304-5568

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