

MONROE COUNTY



2021 STATE OF THE COUNTY AND INFORMATION GUIDE

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Monroe County Statistics

74,228

Population
2019 estimate

Approx. 77.5
people per square
mile .4 percent
of Florida's
Population

Area:
3,738

Square Miles
(73 Percent Water)

Islands:
1,783

of 1 acre or larger

Established: 1823

County Seat:
Key West

Districts: 5

\$63,030

Median Household Income

4,572

Number of Employment
Establishments

2.6% Unemployment
Rate

48.3

Median Age

Average
Commute to
Work: 17.8
minutes

Number of Registered
Boats: 29,037

*(Statistics courtesy of census.gov,
edr.state.fl.us and fhsmv.gov)*

Monroe County is the southernmost county in the continental United States and consists of the entire Florida Keys chain, the surrounding waters and a mostly uninhabited region of Everglades National Park and Big Cypress National Preserve on the mainland.

The 2021 Monroe County State of the County and Information Guide was produced by Public Information Officer Kristen Livengood with the help of Monroe County's Senior Management Team.

Cover photo by Kimberly Wallen on Summerland Key while paddleboarding in the backcountry near her home in October 2020.

Looking Ahead

When we entered the new decade on January 1, 2020, Monroe County looked forward to building a resilient community. We never imagined how that would morph only two months into the year. There is nothing more important to our County staff than the health, safety, and wellbeing of our residents and visitors. Our staff, alongside our residents, learned what adaptation really means as we all navigated these challenging and uncertain times with innocence, innovation, and creativity. We continue to monitor the impacts of COVID-19, a global pandemic that has affected every facet of our lives, and go into 2021 with a renewed hope as we strive to enhance the quality of the lives of our citizens, business owners, and visitors. Despite the challenges of COVID-19, I am proud of the work County staff completed this past year in addition to the day-to-day operations.

Emergency Management partnered with the Florida Department of Health Monroe County, community partners, and the municipalities and will continue to do so for the vaccination rollout. Activating for three storms this hurricane season, Solid Waste led a month-long cleanup in Key Largo following Tropical Storm Eta. Information Technology helped staff move to remote work, taught us how to Zoom, and helped automate services.

The Office of Sustainability and our County Commissioners continue to lead the country in climate change and sea-level rise adaptation conversations. To mitigate flooding issues, the Engineering and Roads Department tested temporary barrier systems in two Upper Keys neighborhoods, while repairing and replacing county-maintained roads and bridges throughout the county. Through the Community Rating System, Monroe County flood insurance policyholders continue to save approximately \$5 million annually.



Facilities Maintenance always strives to maintain the highest cleaning standards at county-maintained properties and buildings and increased the frequency of our cleanings, especially in high traffic areas like our county parks, which we were able to keep open throughout the pandemic. Project Management continued capital projects at Marathon library, Plantation Key Courthouse, and others with new protective measures in place.

The airports, despite a decline in travel worldwide, thrived with new projects and even a COVID-19 germ-fighting robot and is leading the nation in rebounding from the pandemic.

Legislatively, the County allocated millions of CARES Act dollars to local renters, homeowners, small businesses, and nonprofits. Budget and Finance simultaneously advocated for reimbursements of storm-related expenses while producing and administering the \$460.3 million FY21 budget. Social Services, Veterans Affairs, and Guardian ad Litem advocated for our most vulnerable residents, many of whom are in even greater need due to the pandemic.

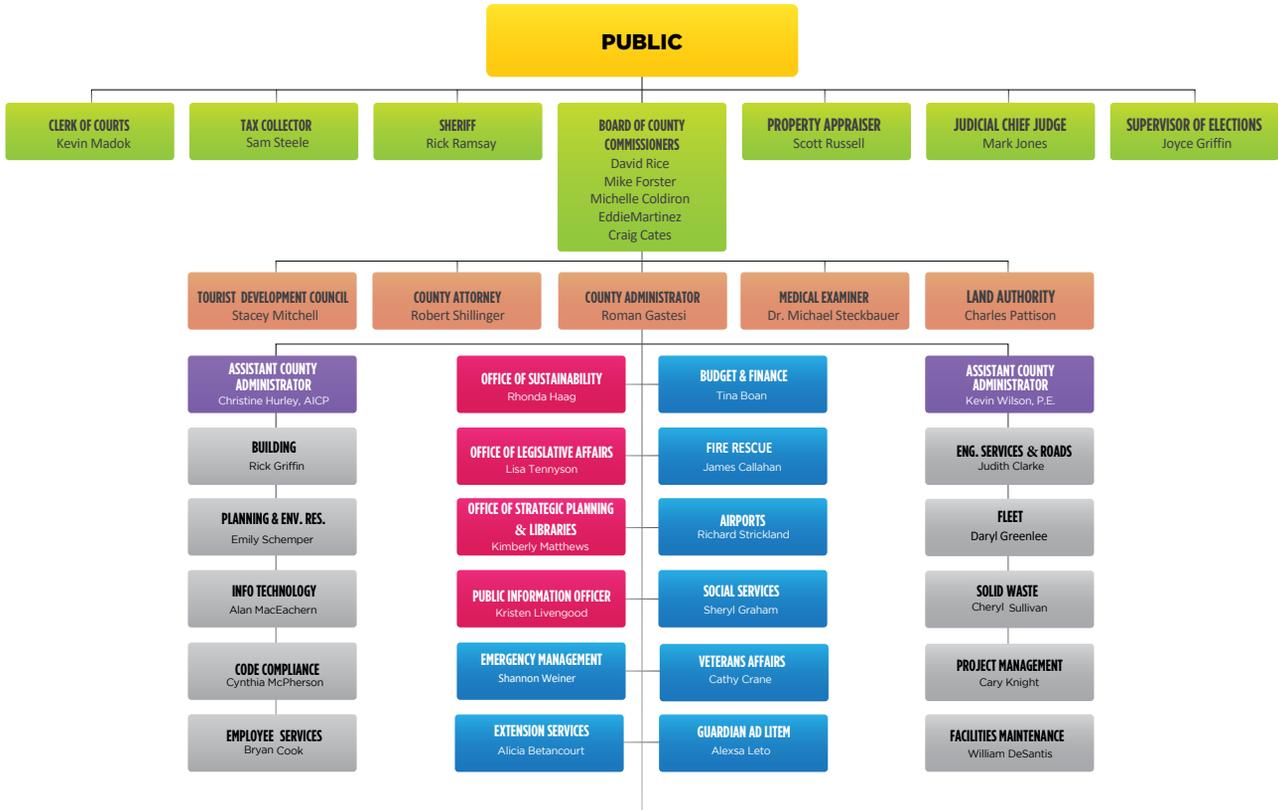
Being on the frontline of COVID-19, Monroe County Fire Rescue and Trauma Star continued to provide a record number of lifesaving services and flights to the mainland, all while transporting our residents with no out-of-pocket costs. Fire Rescue also graduated its third “Hot Shots” class waiving tuition fees for residents at its fire training academy.

From Ocean Reef to Key West, our services continued. Building permits were issued without physical contact. Planning and Environmental developed new technology for damage assessments after storms and implemented mobile marine sewage pumpouts to protect our marine environment. Code Compliance focused on illegal vacation rentals, sewer hookups, unsafe structure abatement, and illegal clearing of our critical habitat. Fleet continued maintenance of county vehicles. Safety procedures were put into place by Employee Services to keep our employees healthy and County services in operation. The County Attorney’s Office stayed fully engaged. The Extension Service continued seamlessly with virtual classes. And our five libraries stayed open for call-in/pick-up/drop-off activities, proving they are community resource centers, even virtually.

In my 30 years of public service, five major hurricanes, an oil spill, flesh-eating flies, and several other public health emergencies, 2020 was by far the most challenging. Despite its uncertainty, our purpose remains steady, Monroe County is committed to creating a better life, every day, for everyone in the Florida Keys. In 2021, Monroe County will continue to have open and courageous communication to help you in your decisions regarding your family and work life. We will be here for you. This is a community we can all be proud of and we will continue to strive to make our island home a safe place to live, work, and play.

Cheers in paradise,

Roman Gastesi
Monroe County Administrator



Monroe County Organizational Chart

The County Administrator, Roman Gastesi, has overall responsibility for the daily operations of Monroe County's government, with the exception of the Constitutional offices. The County Administrator, County Attorney, Land Authority, Tourist Development Council and Medical Examiner answer directly to the elected Board of County Commissioners.

The County Administrator and two Assistant County Administrators, Christine Hurley and Kevin Wilson, oversee the County's 24 departments and offices that cover a broad range of services and activities.

Assistant County Administrator
CHRISTINE HURLEY, AICP



305.289.2517
Hurley-Christine@
monroecounty-fl.gov
Aide: Kelly Cummings
Cummings-Kelly@
monroecounty-fl.gov



County Administrator
ROMAN GASTESI
305.292.4441
Gastesi-Roman@
monroecounty-fl.gov
Aide: Lindsey Ballard
Ballard-Lindsey@
monroecounty-fl.gov

Assistant County Administrator
KEVIN WILSON, P.E.



305.453.8788
Wilson-Kevin@
monroecounty-fl.gov
Aide: Suzanne Rubio
Rubio-Suzanne@
monroecounty-fl.gov

Monroe County Senior Staff Directory

AIRPORTS

Director: Richard Strickland, 305.809.5210
Strickland-Richard@monroecounty-fl.gov

BUDGET & FINANCE

Director: Tina Boan, 305.292.4470
Boan-Tina@monroecounty-fl.gov

BUILDING

Director: Rick Griffin, 305-289-2521
Griffin-Rick@monroecounty-fl.gov

CODE COMPLIANCE

Director: Cynthia J. McPherson
305.289.2508
McPherson-Cynthia@monroecounty-fl.gov

COUNTY ATTORNEY & RISK MANAGEMENT

County Attorney: Bob Shillinger,
305.292.3470
Shillinger-Bob@monroecounty-fl.gov

EMPLOYEE SERVICES

Director: Bryan Cook, 305.292.4558
Cook-Bryan@monroecounty-fl.gov

EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT

Director: Shannon Weiner, 305.289.6018
Weiner-Shannon@monroecounty-fl.gov
Information Hotline: 800.955.5504
(During emergencies, only call the hotline)

FIRE RESCUE

Fire Chief: James Callahan, 305.289.6004
Callahan-James@monroecounty-fl.gov

Fire Prevention:

Upper Keys: 305.453.8726
Lower Keys: 305.797.0875
Trauma Star: 305.289.6008
Trauma Star Billing: 305.289.6010

ENGINEERING SERVICES & ROADS

Director: Judith Clarke, 305.295.4390
Clarke-Judith@monroecounty-fl.gov



EXTENSION SERVICES

Director: Alicia Betancourt, 305.292.4501,
Monroe@ifas.ufl.edu
Betancourt-Alicia@monroecounty-fl.gov

FACILITIES MAINTENANCE

Director: William DeSantis, 305.292.4532,
Desantis-William@monroecounty-fl.gov

FLEET MANAGEMENT

Director: Daryl Greenlee, 305.292.3571
Greenlee-Daryl@monroecounty-fl.gov

GUARDIAN AD LITEM

Director: Alexa Leto, 305.292.3485
Leto-Alexa@monroecounty-fl.gov

INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY

Director: Alan MacEachern, 305.453.8792
Maceachern-Alan@monroecounty-fl.gov
Monroe County Television: 305.295.5128

LEGISLATIVE AFFAIRS

Director: Lisa Tennyson, 305.292.4444
Tennyson-Lisa@monroecounty-fl.gov

PLANNING & ENVIRONMENTAL RESOURCES

Senior Director: Emily Schemper
305.289.2500
Schemper-Emily@monroecounty-fl.gov

PROJECT MANAGEMENT

Director: Cary Knight, 305.292.4527
Knight-Cary@monroecounty-fl.gov

PUBLIC WORKS

Director: Willie DeSantis, 305.292.4431,
DeSantis-William@monroecounty-fl.gov

PUBLIC INFORMATION

Public Information Officer:
Kristen Livengood, 305.680.8226
Livengood-Kristen@monroecounty-fl.gov

SOCIAL SERVICES

Senior Director: Sheryl Graham,
305.292.4510
Graham-Sheryl@monroecounty-fl.gov
Monroe County Transit
Reservations: 305.292.4424
Cancellations: 305.295.4373

SOLID WASTE & RECYCLING

Director: Cheryl Sullivan, 305.292.4536
Sullivan-Cheryl@monroecounty-fl.gov

STRATEGIC PLANNING/LIBRARY SERVICES

Senior Director: Kimberly Matthews
305.292.4540
Matthews-Kimberly@monroecounty-fl.gov

SUSTAINABILITY, RESILIENCE & CLIMATE CHANGE

Chief Resilience Officer: Rhonda Haag,
305.453.8774
Haag-Rhonda@monroecounty-fl.gov

VETERANS AFFAIRS

Director: Cathy Crane, 305.295.5150
Crane-Cathy@monroecounty-fl.gov

Board of County Commissioners (BOCC)

www.monroecounty-fl.gov/bocc



MAYOR
MICHELLE COLDIRON
District 2
25 Ships Way
Big Pine Key,
FL 33043;
305.292.4512
boccdis2@monroe
county-fl.gov



MAYOR PRO TEM
DAVID RICE
District 4
9400 Overseas
Highway, #210
Marathon, FL 33050;
305.289.6000
boccdis4@monroe
county-fl.gov



COMMISSIONER
CRAIG CATES
District 1
500 Whitehead
Street, Suite 102
Key West, FL 33040;
305.292.3440
boccdis1@monroe
county-fl.gov



COMMISSIONER
EDDIE MARTINEZ
District 3
530 Whitehead
Street, Suite 102 Key
West, FL 33040;
305.292.3430
boccdis3@monroe
county-fl.gov



COMMISSIONER
MIKE FORSTER
District 5
102050 Overseas
Highway, Suite 234
Key Largo, FL 33037;
305.453.8787
boccdis5@monroe
county-fl.gov

Aide:
Katie Atkins
Atkins-Katherine@
monroecounty-fl.gov

Aide:
Tamara Lamarche
Lamarche-Tamara@
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Aide:
Amanda Leggett
Leggett-Amanda@
monroecounty-fl.gov

Aide:
Eurie Sarmiento
Sarmiento-Eurie@
monroecounty-fl.gov

Aide:
Corie Abel
Abel-Corie@
monroecounty-fl.gov

CONSTITUTIONAL ESTABLISHMENT

Article VIII, Section 1(e) of the Florida Constitution states that except when otherwise provided by county charter, the governing body of each County shall be a Board of County Commissioners composed of five members serving staggered terms of four years.

After each decennial census, the BOCC shall divide the County into districts of contiguous territory as nearly equal in population as practicable. One commissioner residing in each district shall be elected by the voters.

Mission

To enhance quality of life by providing outstanding public service responsive to the needs of our citizens, our unique community and our environment.

Vision

Creating a Better Life Every Day for Everyone in the Florida Keys



MONROE COUNTY BOCC MEETINGS

www.monroecounty-fl.gov/meetings
The BOCC holds monthly meetings that are open to the public. The dates and agendas are posted on the website. Meetings start at 9 a.m. Due to the geographical challenge of the 100-mile island chain, the meetings are held on a rotating basis at three sites. The BOCC also holds public budget meetings and other special meetings during the year.

**Murray Nelson
Government
& Cultural Center**
102050 Overseas
Highway, Key Largo
305.852.7161
**March, June,
September,
December**

**Marathon
Government Center**
2798 Overseas
Highway, Marathon
305.289.6036
**January, April, July,
October**

**Harvey
Government Center**
1200 Truman
Avenue, Key West
305.295.4385
**February, May,
August, November**

Stay in the Know About Monroe

There are several ways to stay up-to-date with County government

MONROE COUNTY WEBSITE

WWW.MONROECOUNTY-FL.GOV

Find the Board of County Commissioners, the budget, all County departments, County projects, County parks and museums, legislative advocacy for the Keys, permitting rules, hurricane preparedness and relief, links to department emails and phone numbers, and more.

HURRICANE INFORMATION

WWW.MONROECOUNTYEM.COM

Information Hotline: 800.955.5504
(activated for emergencies)

Sign up for ALERT!Monroe:
www.monroecountyem.com/alertmonroe

 /MonroeCountyEM

MONROE COUNTY SOCIAL MEDIA

 /MonroeCountyBOCC

 @MonroeCounty

 @monroecountybocc

 flickr.com/monroecountybocc

Monroe County Fire Rescue:

 /monroecountyfirerescue

Key West Airport:

 /KWIAEWY

 /eyw_kwia

Guardian Ad Litem:

 /galflkeys

Monroe County Libraries:

www.keyslibraries.org

Sign up to receive County news releases directly to your email at www.monroecounty-fl.gov/notifyme. You can also sign up for custom calendars and alerts for meeting notifications for specific boards or advisory committees, bid notifications, employment openings, and more.

PUBLIC RECORDS

The County Attorney's Office manages the County's responsibilities under Florida's Public Records Act. Requests can be submitted at www.monroecounty-fl.gov/publicrecordsrequest or on the NextRequest portal at <https://monroecountyfl.nextrequest.com/>.

MONROE COUNTY TV (MCTV)

WWW.MONROECOUNTY-FL.GOV/MCTV

Comcast: Channel 76

AT&T U-Verse: Channel 99

RUKU, Online & Mobile Applications

Information Technology (IT) operates Monroe County Television (MCTV), the in-house government television station that covers regular and special meetings of the BOCC, including Planning Commission, Code Enforcement hearings and other live, pre-recorded, and original content. MCTV also covers local election coverage, approaching weather and emergency information, video bulletin board, and NOAA weather audio. See more on MCTV on page 34.

Public Information Office

www.monroecounty-fl.gov/publicinformation

The Public Information Officer's (PIO) primary responsibility is to provide accurate and timely information to the public and media about the actions, policies and public meetings of the Monroe County Board of County Commissioners and the County's 24 departments. The PIO also provides the primary information for the County's Emergency Management and Fire Rescue.

Responsibilities include:

- Writes and distributes news releases
- Maintains the County's official social media communications
- Creates content and maintains the official websites of Monroe County, Monroe County Fire Rescue, and Monroe County Emergency Management
- Responds to questions from residents and the media
- Arranges press conferences, ceremonies, and public meetings
- Works with state, federal and other local government entities to ensure County residents receive information about programs and opportunities.



Public Information Officer:

Kristen Livengood

305.680.8226

Livengood-Kristen

@monroecounty-fl.gov

Employees: 1

FLORIDA KEYS MUNICIPALITIES

Islamorada:

www.islamorada.fl.us

Key Colony Beach:

www.keycolonybeach.net

Key West:

www.cityofkeywest-fl.gov

Layton:

www.cityoflayton.com

Marathon:

www.ci.marathon.fl.us

MONROE COUNTY CONSTITUTIONAL OFFICERS

Sheriff's Office: www.keysso.net

Supervisor of Elections:

www.keys-elections.org

Clerk of Court:

www.clerk-of-the-court.com

Tax Collector:

www.monroetaxcollector.com

Property Appraiser:

www.mcpaf1.org

Budget & Finance

www.monroecounty-fl.gov/budgetandfinance

The mission of the Budget and Finance Department is to provide effective development and implementation of Monroe County's budget; promote efficient, sound financial management; ensure governmental procurement regulations are followed countywide; facilitate financially responsible grant funding; and maintain the highest standards of ethics, integrity, and prudent expenditure of public funds. **The Budget and Finance Department is made up of three offices:**



Senior Director: Tina Boan
 305.292.4467
Boan-Tina@monroecounty-fl.gov
 Employees: 8
Budget: \$4.5 Million
 (includes \$3.5 million for nonprofit funding that the department manages).

1. OFFICE OF MANAGEMENT AND BUDGET

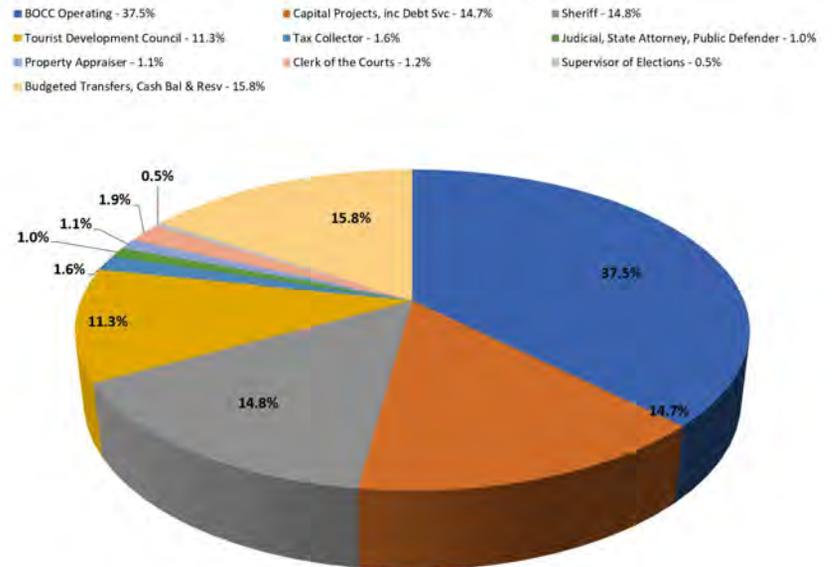
The Office of Management and Budget develops, implements and monitors annual operating and capital budgets, and provides financial analysis and revenue and expenditure forecasting. It performs multi-year budget forecasts, analyzes the effect of the State budget on the County budget, and prepares financial information for the Board of County Commission and the public.

- Collaborate and consult with Monroe County departments to develop the annual operating and capital budgets
- Publish, administer and monitor all Monroe County budgets; provide financial analysis, multi-year forecasting, and financial reporting

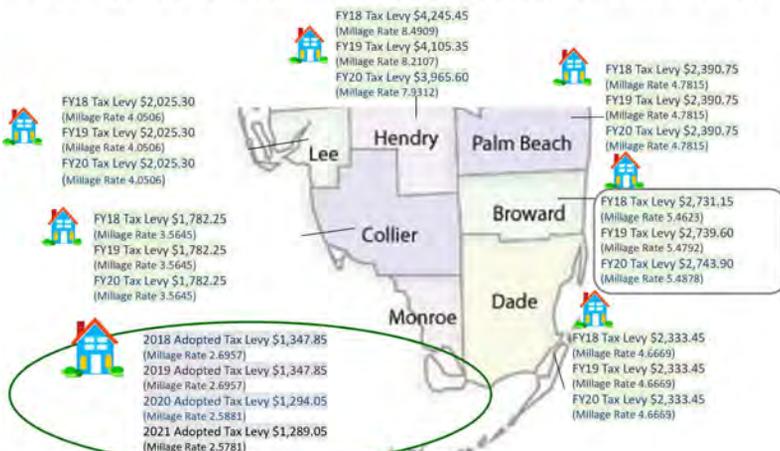
FY21 Adopted Budget

The Monroe County Board of County Commissioners adopted the 2021 budget and millage rate that reflect the uncertainty of COVID-19. Immediate action was taken within the County to identify, analyze, and estimate potential shortages and at-risk revenue sources. The County immediately instituted a hiring and purchasing freeze and furloughed employees who did not have work due to the county closures. The County also suspended discretionary spending and unnecessary travel and deferred work wherever possible. County staff made cuts to make up for shortfalls, including the elimination of 42 positions plus five contracted positions.

Total FY21 Budget - \$460,311,267



South Florida Ad Valorem Tax Comparison FY21 Countywide Services-Property with \$500,000 Taxable Value¹



¹ Source: Florida Department of Revenue: Comparison of Property Taxes Levied

The Countywide certified millage rate adopted by the BOCC for Fiscal Year 2021 is .4 percent below the rolled-back millage rate from 2.5881 to 2.5781. Ad valorem taxes collected overall will be \$100.5 million, which includes direct funding of \$1.3 million to fund the Florida Department of Health in Monroe County. The Monroe County Board of County Commissioners adopted the fiscal year (FY) 2021 \$460,311,267 budget on Sept. 16, 2020. The budget is 2.6 percent lower than last year's budget and includes a certified aggregate millage rate of 3.3435. The budget includes the Board of County Commissioners, the constitutional officers (sheriff, supervisor of election, clerk of court, property appraiser, tax collector, judicial sector, state attorney and public defender), the Tourist Development Council, capital projects, and reserves.

The budget is in effect from Oct. 1, 2020 through Sept. 30, 2021.

2. PURCHASING OFFICE

The Purchasing Office provides quality purchasing and contracting support to all County departments in a timely, cost-effective, professional manner while following a strict code of ethics.

- Provides high quality, best value purchasing and procurement activities to maximize the purchasing power of public funds and promote fair and open competition
- Ensures governmental procurement regulations are followed countywide
- Provides procurement support in a timely and professional manner to all County departments

Purchasing administers the requisition-to-purchase order process, purchasing card program and disaster-related procurement and payments. In 2020 the department processed or verified: 1,695 regular requisitions, 86 disaster requisitions, 1,048 disaster-related invoices, and 545 purchasing card transactions. In addition, it secured 79 payments from FEMA and the State for Hurricane Irma work, more than double the number of payments from the prior year.

Due to the pandemic, the department retooled numerous processes. One of the biggest changes is the competitive bid solicitation process. Bid openings are now held via Zoom Meeting, with bid documents delivered electronically. Of the 55 Bid Openings in 2020, 43 were held via Zoom.

3. GRANTS ADMINISTRATION

The Grants Administration Office oversees the funding for competitive, discretionary and mandatory grant programs funded by the BOCC. The BOCC awards approximately \$3.5 million each year in grants designed to promote the well being of vulnerable families, children, and individuals who live in Monroe County. Though this grant program does not provide personal financial assistance, it does provide funding opportunities to a variety of local nonprofit organizations.

The Grants Administration Office applies for and administers some pass-through grants and oversees contracts related to discretionary and mandatory nonprofit grant awards that are distributed by the County. Other responsibilities include facilitating meetings for the Human Services Advisory Board (HSAB) and Substance Abuse Policy Advisory Board (SAPAB). The department is also responsible for application implementation and monitoring of the Florida Department of Law Enforcement Edward Byrne Memorial Justice Assistance Grant programs and the Clerk’s Drug Abuse Trust Fund.

HSAB GRANT CYCLE:



More information about Grants Administration programs, visit www.monroecounty-fl.gov/hsab and www.monroecounty-fl.gov/sapab.

Hurricane Irma Recovery

as of 12/30/2020

\$34.5 Million

Federal and State Public Assistance Reimbursement

- ♦ 73% of estimated project costs submitted have been obligated
- ♦ 68% of expenses have been reimbursed
- ♦ 72% of total projects submitted have received payments

For Fiscal Year 2021, the BOCC approved \$2,040,000 in ad valorem property tax revenues be awarded to 28 nonprofit human service organizations that provide needed services to vulnerable residents of Monroe County.

The BOCC awards grants to nonprofit organizations meeting human needs through an interdisciplinary knowledge base, focusing on prevention and remediation of problems and maintaining a commitment to improving the overall quality of life of service populations who live in Monroe County. The board is charged with the responsibility of reviewing the grant applications and recommendations for grant awards.

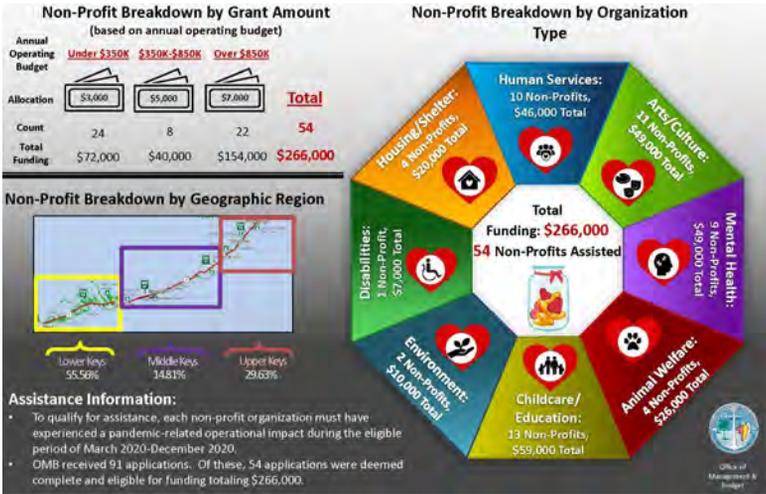
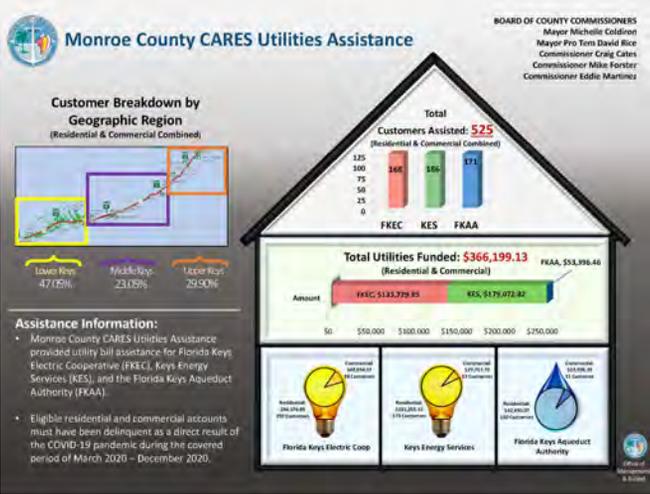
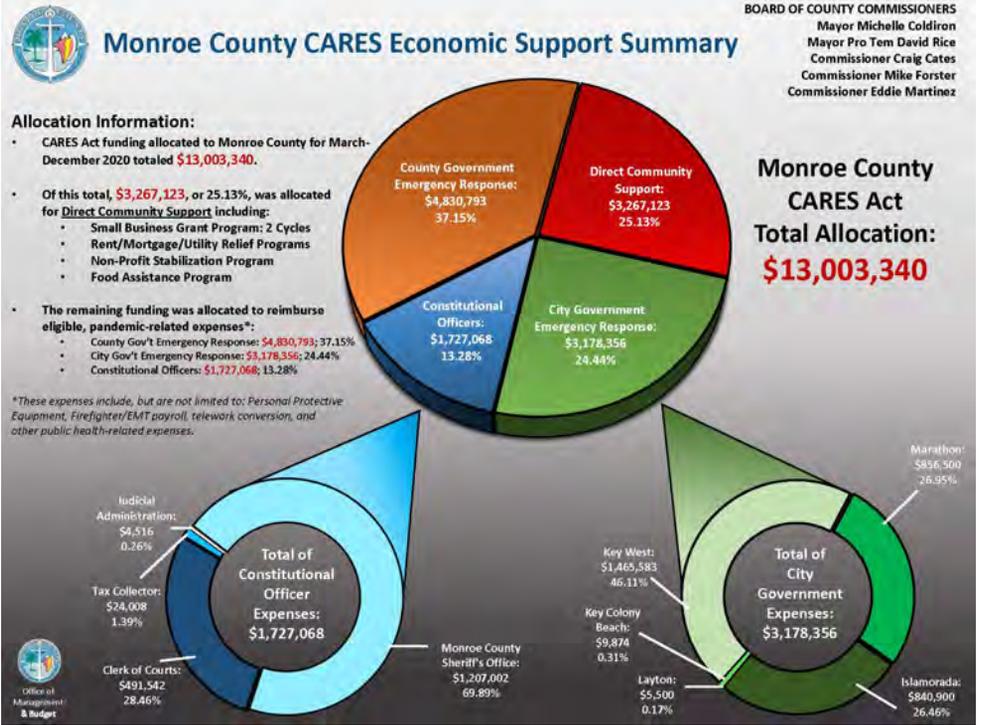
CARES Act & COVID-19

www.monroecounty-fl.gov/covid-19

Monroe County Office of Management and Budget, Legislative Affairs, and Social Services helped facilitate \$13 million in CARES Act funding for COVID-19 relief to the community in 2020.

The graphs on this page show the recaps of the \$3.3 million in CARES Act direct community programs the County supported including Small Business Grants, Rent, Mortgage and Utility Relief Programs, Nonprofit Stabilization, and Food Assistance.

In addition to the direct community support, the County allocated funding to the municipalities to support their ongoing relief efforts as well.





Key West International & Florida Keys Marathon International Airports

www.monroecounty-fl.gov/airports



Director: Richard Strickland
305.809.5210
Strickland-Richard@monroecounty-fl.gov
www.eyw.com

Airport Employees: 16
On-Site Fire Rescue: 13
On-Site Sheriff's Office: 25
Budget: \$45.3 Million



Monroe County owns and operates two airports: Key West International Airport (EYW) and Florida Keys Marathon International Airport (MTH). The airports are self-supporting Enterprise Funds, which uses airport resources to provide for the operational and financial needs through budgeted fees and charges levied to airport users and tenants with based operations at the airports. Additional funding is acquired through various Florida Department of Transportation (FDOT) and Federal Aviation Administration (FAA) grant funding programs. The department oversees all services at the airports from landscaping to air service development and all requirements for safe and efficient operations. The diverse staff of professionals work to consistently ensure that all regulatory requirements, planning efforts, and passenger and operator's needs are being met.

Both of Monroe County's airports are FAA certified under the, Federal Aviation Regulation (FAR) Part 139 standards for Certification of Airports conducting commercial operations. The airports play a vital role in the community's transportation network in lessening roadway congestion, enhancing the economic foundation, and offering convenient travel options for residents and visitors alike.

Key West International Airport

Key West airport served nearly one million passengers in 2020 on flights from Delta, American, United, Allegiant, and Silver airlines. The airlines operating from EYW provide non-stop flights to Atlanta, New York, Chicago, Charlotte, Dallas, D.C., Fort Lauderdale, Orlando, Tampa, Miami, Philadelphia, Boston, Houston and Dulles. In 2021, a non-stop Nashville flight will also be added. With convenient one-stop connections at these hub airports, the airlines offer service to nearly every major destination around the world.

The airport supports numerous based and transient general aviation aircraft. Last year, EYW handled approximately 33,000 general aviation aircraft operations and pumped more than 3.5 million gallons of aircraft fuel. General aviation aircraft services and all aircraft fueling is provided by the Fixed Based Operator (FBO): Signature Flight Support, www.signatureflight.com, 305-296-5422.

- **Total Land Area:** 334 Acres
- **Elevation:** 3 feet above sea level
- **Runway:** 9-27, 5,076 x 100 feet
- **Average Commercial Flights Per Day:** 60
- **Based Aircraft:** 25

Key West has a unique history due to its compact size and strategic geographic location. Originally called Meacham Field, the airport had its first scheduled flight in 1928 and was used during WWII by the United States Army.

Key West International Airport's Master Plan: The airport has developed projects focused on enhancing the passenger experience and efficient flow of aircraft operations. Recently completed projects include an upgraded baggage handling system, departure hall renovations, the rehabilitation of Taxiway A and the reconfiguration of the airport's access road. In progress is the addition of Concourse A to increase passenger seating, add new restrooms and a pet relief station, offer smart drinking fountains, increase airside concession amenities and provide an all-weather streamlined boarding process.

Florida Keys Marathon International Airport

Marathon airport provides private aeronautical, emergency, business, and ground transportation services to the Middle Keys. The airport houses Florida Keys Mosquito Control District, Monroe County Sheriff's Office, and Trauma Star operations. In 2020, the airport had nearly 45,000 total aircraft operations.

General aviation services and aircraft fueling is provided by Marathon General Aviation, 305.743.4222; www.marathonga.com and Marathon Jet Center, 305.743.1995; www.marathonjetcenter.com.

In 2020, Marathon Aviation constructed and opened a new state of the art FBO facility and accompanying hangar to accommodate private jet operations.



Marathon Airport Manager: Michael Legere 305.289.6302
Legere-Michael@monroecounty-fl.gov

Airport Employees: 4
Budget: \$9.8 Million

- **Total Land Area:** 197 Acres
- **Elevation:** 5 feet above sea level
- **Runway:** 7-25, 5,008 x 100 feet
- **Based Aircraft:** 45

Marathon airport has several improvement projects to be completed in 2021 including the rehabilitation of the terminal interior and roof, security lighting, and T-hangars.

Building and Permitting

www.monroecounty-fl.gov/building

The Building Department, in coordination with the Planning and Environmental Resources Department, protects public health, safety, and the environment by providing effective permitting for construction and development in accordance with Monroe County Code and the Florida Building Code, consistent with Florida Statutes. The Building Department coordinates permitting with other departments to ensure consistency with the Monroe County Comprehensive Plan and Land Development Code.

Monroe County Codes can be found at www.monroecounty-fl.gov/codes.

- Provides plan review, permitting, and inspection services for compliance with the Florida Building Code, the Monroe County Code, and all other life safety codes.
- Coordinates unsafe structure abatement with the Code Compliance Department and the Office of the County Attorney.
- Provides contractor registration and licensing and testing programs.
- Provides staff support for the Contractors Examining Board and the Construction Board of Adjustment and Appeals.
- Provides coordinated administration and enforcement of County's Floodplain regulations, pursuant to the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) regulations, including management of the County's Community Rating System (CRS) that saves flood insurance policyholders 25 percent off their premiums annually, which is more than \$5 million/year and Flood Compliance Programs.
- During 2020 and 2021, will work with FEMA to review new flood plain regulatory mapping, based on a coastal study performed by FEMA consultants, resulting in new flood zones, with potential impacts on insurance ratings and regulatory standards for construction, including new base and design flood elevation requirements.

PERMITTING

Permits are required in unincorporated Monroe County for the following:

- site preparation, including land clearing, placement of fill, and excavation
- demolition
- tie-downs of habitable structures
- signs
- fences
- sheds
- any new construction and remodeling work of principal and accessory structures
- all work in the electrical, mechanical, and plumbing trades
- all work subject to the County floodplain management requirements
- resource extraction
- any work involving life safety

There are certain residential exceptions for several of these categories. Contact the County Building Department with specific questions.



**Building and Permitting
Building Official: Rick Griffin**
305.289.2521
Griffin-Rick@monroecounty-fl.gov
Employees: 49
Budget: \$6 million

PERMIT OFFICES

Key Largo: Murray Nelson
Government Center
102050 Overseas Hwy
305.453.8800

Stock Island:
5503 College Road, 204
305.295.3990

Marathon:
Government Center
2798 Overseas Hwy, 330
305.289.2501

Ocean Reef:
11601 CR 905, Key Largo
305.453.8765

FEMA FLOOD MAP CHANGES

www.monroecounty-fl.gov/floodmaps

The County received preliminary Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) floodplain maps in 2019 that demonstrate newly modeled recommended regulatory elevations and risk areas for wave action. Current County zones include AE, VE, and X zones. New zones, like the Coastal AE zone, were added to the maps, and now include a boundary that shows a LiMWA zone, where waves can also be expected to impact the strength of structures. Per Florida Building Code, structures in a Coastal A zone are also required to be constructed strong enough to withstand wave action.

The elevation and coastal boundary are used to determine where finished floors or structural elements must be constructed to withstand wave action during a flood. These maps are currently being reviewed by County staff and technical consultants before FEMA establishes new map boundaries.

In January 2020, FEMA held Community meetings throughout the Keys, offering the public an opportunity to view and comment in person on the proposed PRELIMINARY Flood Insurance Rate Maps. Following this, Monroe County, through its Consultant, examined the maps and the accompanying Flood Insurance Studies provided by FEMA.

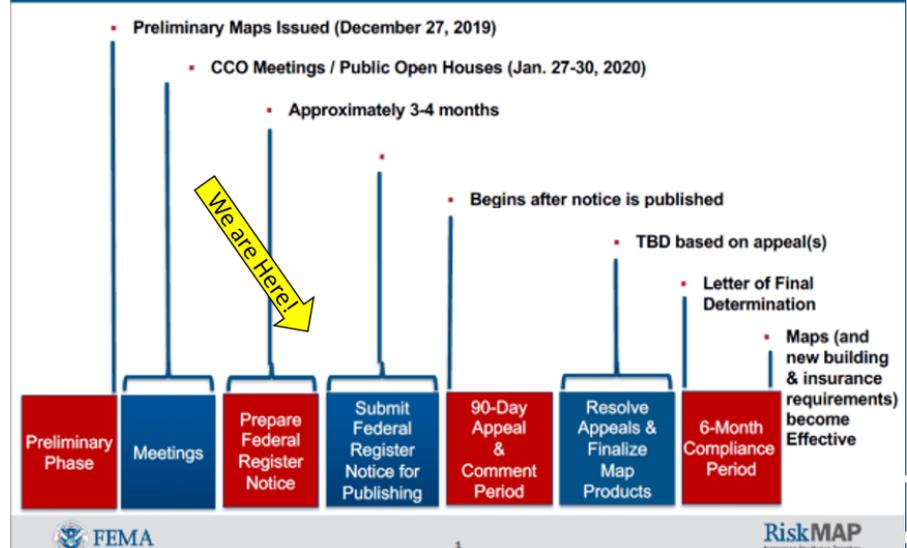
COVID-19 impacted FEMA's original timeline for Monroe County's Map Review and Adoption Process. FEMA is now in the process of preparing a notice for advertisement in the Federal Register. Once the Federal Register notice is published, legal notices will be sent to local newspapers announcing the publication. The second legal notice in the newspapers will mark the beginning of a 90-day appeal and comment period. At this time, anyone wishing to comment or appeal the proposed maps may do so with FEMA, along with any documentation to support their case. Once FEMA reviews and processes all appeals, they will publish the final FIRMS. The final FIRMS will likely become effective sometime in 2021-2022.

At this time, the county is required to formally adopt the maps by ordinance and for residents to be eligible for the National Flood Insurance Policy. The maps will be used when reviewing permits to establish finished floor elevation and determine building and site design requirements to reduce future risk of flooding. New lender requirements may go into effect along with flood insurance requirements, as well as changes in flood insurance rates as a result of map changes.

All new FEMA mapping elevations will be done in a different datum (NAVD88). Staff will be available to assist the public in understanding how these proposed changes will impact each property owner.

Email: floodmaps@monroecounty-fl.gov.

Monroe County Coastal Study: Post Preliminary Processing



FLOOD INSURANCE REMINDER

If you are eligible for flood insurance, the Board of County Commissioners urges homeowners to purchase a flood policy now even if you are self-insured or in an X Zone. Under today's existing rules existing flood policies can be grandfathered in and can be assumed by future buyers.

COMMUNITY RATING SYSTEM (CRS)

www.monroecounty-fl.gov/crs

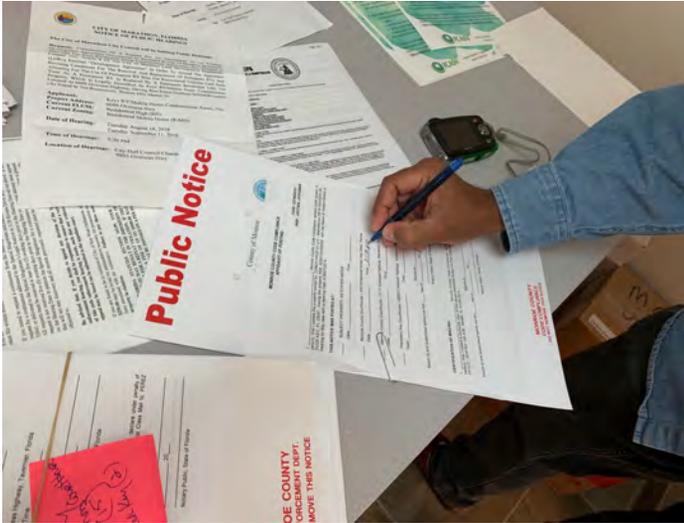
Unincorporated Monroe County is in the process to move from a CRS class 5 to a class 4 designation saving flood insurance policyholders hundreds of dollars yearly.

The average annual savings per policyholder will go from \$373/year to \$448 per year if the County is successful in this effort. The total County savings annually would go from \$5,317,202 to \$6,376,373. Deductions are based upon the individual property premiums.

Monroe County would be the only class 4 in a coastal community. There are only two other class 4 designated counties in Florida.

Annually, brochures are sent to homeowners identifying flood risks.

The County entered the CRS program in 2017. Each year, this saves policyholders more than \$5 million.



Code Compliance

www.monroecounty-fl.gov/codecompliance

Code Compliance provides an equitable and effective method of enforcement of building, zoning, land development, environmental and other County codes to ensure the health, safety, and welfare of the citizens of Monroe County. The department establishes working partnerships with neighborhoods and outside agencies to assist with compliance.

MCESEARCH

www.monroecounty-fl.gov/mcesearch

Code Compliance introduced MCEsearch in 2019 in conjunction with Information Technology. The interface allows the public to review the status and information on permits, inspections, search local licensed contractors, see code compliance cases, and review property information for unincorporated Monroe County. The website is a single point access search tool.

Permit and code compliance searches can be done by the owner’s name, address of property, permit or case numbers, real estate numbers, or inspector. Contractors can be found in a general “all” search, or by company name, category, license numbers, or contractor ID.



Director: Cynthia McPherson
305.289.2508
McPherson-Cynthia@monroecounty-fl.gov
Employees: 19
Budget: \$1.7 million

Code Compliance performs field inspections and investigates complaints relating to ordinance violations.

- Prioritizes safety violations related to unsafe structures, work without permits, land clearing, sewer connections, and vacation rental violations based on elected official goals for compliance
- Coordinates removal of abandoned vehicles/vessels, trash and debris, and maintenance of overgrown lots
- Issues Courtesy Notices for less extreme violations and/or Notices of Violation, with emphasis placed on voluntary compliance, but if a property owner doesn’t respond, Code Compliance will proceed with enforcement measures to achieve compliance
- Provides assistance and information to Special Magistrate and the public regarding Monroe County Code of Ordinances
- Coordinates litigation efforts with the County Attorney’s Office
- Provides collections of fines/liens related to violations
- Coordinates with the real estate industry during the sale of property with violations or fines

By the Numbers

1,195

Opened new cases in 2020

\$2.3 M

totaled collections of fines, costs, and after-the-fact fees.

16,667

Conducted inspections

Specialty inspectors:

- Vacation Rental
- Wastewater Connection
- Land clearing
- Unsafe Structures

Six General Code Inspectors:

- Address complaints/violations
- Work without permits
- Abandoned vehicles and watercraft
- High grass and weeds
- Trash and debris

Other positions include:

- Collections facilitator
- Research analyst
- Liaison to the special magistrate
- Administrative personnel

The remaining cases include work without permits, unsafe structures, land clearing, trash and debris, abandoned vehicles/ watercraft, wastewater connections, collections/new liens and mitigation.

Presented **563** cases before the Special Magistrate Including **325** Vacation Rental

CODE COMPLIANCE ISSUE:

Online at www.monroecounty-fl.gov/codecomplaintform

In-person or by phone:

Murray Nelson Government Center:
305.453.8806

Marathon Government Center:
305.289.2810

Planning and Environmental Resources

www.monroecounty-fl.gov/planning

The goal of the Planning and Environmental Resources Department is to foster sustainable, quality development in the County, while conserving and promoting stewardship of the County's fragile environment, and the unique character of the diverse island communities. The department is responsible for the administration of the adopted Monroe County Year 2030 Comprehensive Plan and Land Development Code through the review of all development proposals for compliance with these plans.

The department's functions are handled by the following offices:

THE PLANNING OFFICE reviews all development proposals for compliance with the comprehensive plan, including community character, growth management provisions and environmental compliance; and processes amendments to the Comprehensive Plan and Land Development Code based on changing conditions and applicant requests. The Department's services also include transportation planning, administration of the County's affordable housing programs, and Geographical Information Systems (GIS) administration for both the Department and other County entities as needed. **Email Cioffari-Cheryl@monroecounty-fl.gov.**

GIS develops, maintains and disseminates geographic data and GIS resources to enhance county functions and provides resources making geographic data available to the public. The GIS Office is also an integral component of the new FEMA flood mapping plans. **Email Davison-Bryan@monroecounty-fl.gov.**



Senior Director:
Emily Schemper
305.289.2500
Schemper-Emily@monroecounty-fl.gov
Employees: 35
Budget: \$5.8 million

RATE OF GROWTH ORDINANCE (ROGO)

In 2012, based on hurricane evacuation clearance time modeling and Monroe County's status as an Area of Critical State Concern, the State of Florida mandated that no more than 1,970 new housing unit permits (ROGO permits) be issued within unincorporated Monroe County through the year 2023. Based on the evacuation modeling, this total number of housing units brings the Florida Keys up to its required maximum 24-hour evacuation clearance time. The incorporated municipalities within the Florida Keys also have limited ROGO permits to issue.

In 2019, the Board of County Commissioners directed staff to process amendments to extend the timeframe for issuance of the remaining permits an additional three years, through 2026, in order to leave time to consider the next hurricane evacuation model, which is planned to occur following the 2020 US Census. Amendments to the Comprehensive Plan are currently in progress and will cut the rate of ROGO permit issuance in half for the remainder of the allocation period (July 2020 – July 2023). Results of the next hurricane evacuation clearance time modeling are expected in 2022.

ENVIRONMENTAL RESOURCES conducts the review of applications for compliance with environmental regulations, such as habitat identification, landscaping, stormwater, land clearing, and FEMA required review of potential endangered species impacts under the Permit Referral Process. Staff work to protect the sensitive environment and endangered species of the county, in coordination with state and federal environmental agencies. In addition, this office works in coordination with the Monroe County Land Authority, the Land Steward, and the Florida Department of Environmental Protection on land acquisition initiatives for conservation and retirement of development rights. **Email Roberts-Michael@monroecounty-fl.gov.**

MARINE RESOURCES works to protect the nearshore marine environment, ensure public water access, and provide waterway infrastructure for the recreational boating public. The Office manages Boating Improvement Funds and secures marine-related grants, which are used to remove derelict vessels, maintain channel markers, and provide for pumpout service throughout the Keys. The Office also develops boating regulations in coordination with FWC for boater safety as well as anchoring and mooring management. **Email Hitchins-Celia@monroecounty-fl.gov.**

ENVIRONMENTAL RESTORATION

The Land Steward manages the County's habitat restoration and improvement projects to enhance and preserve county-managed lands and partners with state and federal agencies on management issues. The Land Steward's focus includes invasive exotic species removal, habitat restoration, debris removal, and wildfire hazard reduction. The Land Steward also contributes to land acquisition efforts for both conservation purposes and retirement of development rights. **Email Rosch-Mark@monroecounty-fl.gov**



Fire Chief James Callahan
305.289.6088
Callahan-James@monroecounty-fl.gov



**Deputy
Chief of
Operations
Steve
Hudson**

305.289.6342
Hudson-Steven@monroecounty-fl.gov
Employees: 151
Budget: \$25 million



Monroe County Fire Rescue

www.monroecounty-fl.gov/firerescue

Monroe County Fire Rescue (MCFR) operates nine fire stations located throughout the Keys from Tavernier to Key West International Airport and Trauma Star air ambulance bases in Marathon and at Lower Keys Medical Center. The certified firefighters are cross-trained as paramedics, flight medics, emergency medical technicians (EMT's), and Aircraft Rescue and Fire Fighting personnel (ARFF).

Responsibilities include:

- Fire suppression
- Aircraft Emergency Response (ARFF)
- Advanced emergency medical response and transportation (air and ground)
- Fire prevention and safety education
- All-hazards disaster preparedness
- Countywide firefighting and EMS training

In 2020, MCFR firefighters responded to emergency incidents throughout Monroe County. These calls for service included: structure fires, wildland fires, brush fires, trash fires, vehicle fires, marine/boat fires, gas leaks, water-related rescues, vehicle extrication calls, hazardous material spills, aircraft incidents, and medical emergency calls.

In 2020, MCFR responded by ground ambulance and Trauma Star helicopters to 3,315 medical emergency calls. Of the 842 patients that were airlifted to out-of-county hospitals, about one third of the incidents were scene responses related to heart attacks, strokes, traffic accidents, and other trauma related incidents. The remaining helicopter transports were hospital-to-hospital transfers for medical emergencies, including heart attacks, strokes, seizures, difficulty breathing and abdominal disorders.

Trauma Star

www.monroecounty-fl.gov/traumastar
305.289.6010

Trauma Star is the only air ambulance service in Monroe County. It is jointly operated by Monroe County Fire Rescue and the Monroe County Sheriff's Office. Trauma Star has bases in Marathon and Key West, both staffed with Sheriff's Office pilots, MCFR flight nurses, and MCFR flight paramedics around the clock and ready to launch at a moment's notice. Trauma Star's primary mission is to provide emergency helicopter transportation for individuals who are critically ill or injured either by natural causes such as heart attacks or strokes or by other causes such as a vehicle crash or other traumatic event. Trauma Star also provides interfacility transport of critical patients to out-of-county hospitals for specialty care when ordered by a physician.

No Out-of-Pocket Costs for Monroe County Residents

There are no out-of-pocket costs for County residents who use the lifesaving service. In the past, private air ambulances in the Keys have charged County residents tens of thousands of dollars in out-of-pocket costs for transport to mainland hospitals. If you qualify for the resident fee waiver, Monroe County will continue to seek reimbursement from any private insurance companies, but any remaining unpaid fees will be waived. The waiver can be found on the website.

Monroe County Fire Rescue Fire Prevention

www.monroecounty-fl.gov/firemarshal

Fire Prevention provides services that help eliminate fires and work to prevent accidents from happening, including inspections of businesses and multi-unit residences for compliance with the Florida Fire Prevention Code. The department provides complete and accurate fire protection engineering and plans review, definitive fire cause investigation, life safety code enforcement, occupancy inspections, and outreach and education, especially to children. Inspection checklists for commercial properties and vacation rentals can be found on the website. Effective Oct. 1, 2021, the BOCC authorized a fee schedule for inspection services for all commercial and vacation rental properties.

FIRE MARSHALS



Chief Fire Marshal:
RL Colina
Colina-RL@
monroecounty-fl.gov
305.289.6020



Upper Keys: Cassy Cane
Cane-Cassy@
monroecounty-fl.gov



Lower Keys: Craig Marston
Marston-Craig@
monroecounty-fl.gov



Lower Keys: Thomas Rossano
Rossano-Thomas@
monroecounty-fl.gov



FIRE TRAINING

HOT SHOTS PROGRAM

www.monroecounty-fl.gov/hotshots

The Monroe County Board of County Commissioners graduated a third class of the "Hot Shots" program in December 2020. The program provides free firefighting and first responder training for qualified Monroe County residents in exchange for a commitment to volunteer for three years or work as a professional firefighter anywhere in the Florida Keys.

The program waives the curriculum fee for qualified local residents to take the Firefighter I and II courses at the county's Joe London Fire Training Academy facility. Students who successfully complete all 17 performance objectives of the firefighter program will be prepared to take the State of Florida Firefighter I and II examinations.

AIRCRAFT RESCUE FIREFIGHTING (ARFF)

Station 7 at Key West International Airport (EYW) protects the airport by providing fire suppression, EMS, and ARFF services to the traveling public. The station is staffed 24/7, 365 by a total of 13 ARFF firefighters, with 3 to 4 firefighters on duty per shift. Crash rescue equipment is stationed and maintained at the airport. In February 2020, MCFR and ARFF assisted EYW with a full scale emergency exercise. The full-scale exercise is conducted every three years.



JOE LONDON FIRE ACADEMY

www.monroecounty-fl.gov/fireacademy

Monroe County owns and operates the Joe London Fire Training Academy located on Grassy Key. Rebuilt in 2017, it is one of only 43 certified firefighting training centers in Florida. The academy has a modern classroom facility for educating and training firefighters, as well as a training tower and burn building for practical learning to prepare trainees to become state-certified firefighters. The academy offers medical and fire training for our firefighter EMTs and paramedics year-round.



Emergency Management

www.monroecountyem.com

Emergency Management prepares Monroe County to mitigate against, respond to, and recover from any event that might threaten the safety of the County's residents and visitors or impact property and infrastructure.

Emergency Management provides planning, preparedness, and coordination of response activities to events that might impact the infrastructure of Monroe County or the safety of its residents and visitors. Emergency events include weather events, like hurricanes, tornadoes, and waterspouts, hazardous materials accidents, mass migration, terrorist activities, large fires, air crashes, civil disorder, nuclear incidents at Turkey Point, or pandemics.

In 2020, Emergency Management worked with municipal and infrastructure partners to secure more than \$100 million from FEMA's Hazard Mitigation Grant Funding to harden and protect infrastructure from impacts of future storms. Emergency Management coordinated the countywide COVID-19 response and has been activated since March 2020.



Hurricane Preparedness

IF A STORM THREATENS

The best place to get information is through official channels, found on page 7.

Monroe County is vulnerable to hurricanes because of its geography and has been hit by big storms including the 1935 Category 5 Labor Day Hurricane that destroyed Henry Flagler's railroad and most recently Hurricane Irma in 2017.

THE ATLANTIC HURRICANE SEASON RUNS JUNE 1 TO NOV. 30

Everyone who lives in the Florida Keys should have a plan.

- Determine your evacuation destination: to a relative, friend, motel, hotel, or public shelter (as a last resort).
- Gather needed supplies for at least three days, including medicine and pet food.
- Keep gas in your vehicle and make sure it is in good working order.
- Put up your storm shutters and take other protective property measures, including securing lawn furniture and tie down boats.
- Review your insurance policies and coverage and take photos and/or video footage of your property. Visually inspect your home and property.
- Charge your cell phone and make sure you have batteries for your portable radio.
- Follow official instructions and monitor official sites.



Have a Plan: In 2020, Emergency Management monitored 18 named storms and 20 tropical cyclones including Tropical Storm Eta in December. Hurricanes in the Florida Keys can bring high winds, heavy rainfall, storm surges, and tornadoes.



Director: Shannon Weiner

305.289.6012

Weiner-Shannon@monroecounty-fl.gov

Employees: 7

Budget: \$987,366

(\$414,875 in grant funding)

SHELTERS

www.monroecountyem.com/shelters

In-county shelters are only available during Category 1 or 2 storms. For stronger storms, shelters are located in Miami. All shelters should be a last resort. Additional services are not provided at shelters. Plan to bring bedding and snacks for up to 72 hours.

- Special medical needs: www.monroecountyem.com/specialneeds
- County shelters are pet-friendly. Register in advance: www.monroecountyem.com/petsregistry.
- Prepare a supply or evacuation kit: www.monroecountyem.com/emergencykit.

REENTRY

www.monroecountyem.com/reentrystickers

Plan to stay at your evacuation destination until it is safe to come back. Monitor official sites for reentry information. Do not congregate at checkpoints entering the Keys.

PLACARD PROGRAM

www.monroecountyem.com/placardprogram

Businesses or organizations that are not represented within the EOC but believe they have an essential response mission can apply for the Business Reentry Placard Program. The placard program enrollment period and applications for 2021 will be announced online.

CERT PROGRAM

www.monroecounty-fl.gov/volunteermonroe

Citizens who go through Monroe County's Community Emergency Response Training (CERT) become part of the volunteer Monroe Emergency Reserve Corps (MERC) and can obtain early reentry placards.

Hurricane Irma Recovery

www.monroecounty-fl.gov/hurricaneirma

Monroe County Hurricane Irma recovery is an ongoing long-term response since the September 2017 storm made landfall in the Lower Keys. The Approximate Damage Assessment Results from Hurricane Irma included 1,179 homes destroyed throughout the Keys, and of the 55,000 housing units in the Keys, another 2,977 homes suffered major damage.

DEO HOUSING REPAIR PROGRAM

This is a state run program that will rehabilitate or replace single-family and rental housing for low- and moderate-income families impacted by Hurricane Irma. The Florida Dept. of Economic Opportunity (DEO) will manage and complete the construction on behalf of eligible applicants. Questions regarding the program should be directed to Rebuild Florida at 1.844.833.1010 or www.floridajobs.org/rebuildflorida.

AFFORDABLE WORKFORCE RENTAL HOUSING CONSTRUCTION

The Workforce Affordable Rental Program will create quality, resilient affordable housing units. DEO and Florida Housing Finance Corporation is leveraging CDBG-DR bond financing for larger multi-family developments. An estimated \$37 million in federal grant funds were awarded through a competitive process to qualified developers to support new construction and may include redevelopment of uninhabitable dwellings.

VOLUNTARY HOME BUYOUT PROGRAM

In June 2020, Monroe County entered into a sub-recipient agreement with the DEO. Pre-registered applicants are beginning the application process in January 2021 to determine eligibility. If you are pre-registered and need additional information, contact Cynthia Guerra at 305-453-8756 or email buyouts@monroecounty-fl.gov to update your contact information and verify your continued interest in the program.



Recovery Director Helene Wetherington

305.289.2524

Wetherington-Helene@monroecounty-fl.gov

INFRASTRUCTURE REPAIR PROGRAM

In early 2021, the State of Florida announced funding through the Florida Department of Economic Opportunity's Infrastructure Repair Program for CDBG-DR funded projects that were disaster-related and contribute to the long-term recovery of communities after a hurricane.

Unincorporated Monroe County received:

- \$8,181,489 – to install a stormwater collection, treatment, and disposal system designed to assist neighborhoods with repetitive flooding in Sands Subdivision on Big Pine Key.
- \$1,353,986 – to assist in mitigation and potential of destroyed or heavily damaged homes from future storm surge during a storm event in Key Largo.
- \$2,194,599 – to prevent flooding and sea level rise and maintain better water quality in Tavernier.

More information can be found at www.monroecounty-fl.gov/rebuildflorida.

"Monroe County is still recovering from the impacts of Hurricane Irma even more than three years later, and this funding will help make our communities and infrastructure more resilient in future storms and prevent costly damage," said Mayor Coldiron.

The county has other CDBG-MIT projects still waiting decision from the DEO, including Twin Lakes Road Mitigation (\$7.1 million), Stillwright Point Road Mitigation (\$21 million), Big Coppitt Mitigation (\$8.5 million), Public Works Maintenance Facility Relocation (\$13.7 million), Tavernier Fire Station (\$818,000), and Stock Island Detention Center (\$1.3 million.)

Pilot Tiny Home Project

www.monroecounty-fl.gov/tinyhomes

The Monroe County Board of County Commissioners approved in December 2018 the building of four "Tiny Homes" to serve as code-compliant models for residents who are rebuilding after losing their mobile homes during Hurricane Irma.

In November and December 2020, the public was invited to open houses to view the first model home in Key Largo.



The commissioners wanted to be creative in finding products that are wind and flood resistant for homeowners to consider as replacements after a disaster or losing their home. The prototype is a hurricane-rated structure that could be used as an alternative replacement of a mobile homes after a disaster.

The model home is one bedroom and one bathroom with a porch, a little less than 400 square feet, and starts at \$85,000 (for the home, without the land or site preparation and finishing). More information on Cornerstone Tiny Homes can be found at www.cornerstonetinyhomes.com.

Employee Services

www.monroecounty-fl.gov/EmployeeServices

The Employee Services Department provides guidance and information to the County's more than 570 employees and the public. The department works to maintain a ready workforce that is talented, fairly-compensated, healthy, diverse and safety-minded while keeping pace with the evolving needs and goals of Monroe County.

The department includes:

HUMAN RESOURCES

Administers personnel actions, position recruitment, policies and procedures, and employment law compliance for BOCC employees.

GROUP INSURANCE BENEFITS

Provides and administers health, prescription, dental, vision, and life coverage to more than 2,400 BOCC and Constitutional Officer employees, retirees, and dependent spouses and children.

SAFETY AND SECURITY

Provides safety training and programs as well as workers' compensation to more than 1,700 BOCC employees and Constitutional Officer employees. Manages security programs and systems for County employees, buildings, and other assets.

NEED A JOB?

www.monroecounty-fl.gov/jobs

Monroe County hires about 100 employees each year in a variety of positions and departments.

For job openings and employment applications, go to the website or apply in person at computer kiosks located in the Historic Gato Building in Key West, Marathon Government Center, and the Key Largo library.



Director: Bryan Cook

305.292.4458

[Cook-Bryan@](mailto:Cook-Bryan@monroecounty-fl.gov)

monroecounty-fl.gov

Employees: 11

Budget: \$28.3 million

In addition to serving County employees, the Benefits and Safety offices provide services to the Monroe County Land Authority and the five Constitutional Officer agencies: Monroe County Sheriff's Office, Property Appraiser, Clerk of the Court, Tax Collector, and Supervisor of Elections.

Employee Services hosts an annual County-sponsored health and wellness fair where employees attend free workshops and can participate in biometric screenings. In 2020, the in-person wellness fair was done virtually due to COVID-19. Participation continues to be at an all-time high and includes the BOCC, Court Administration, Monroe County Land Authority, Monroe County Property Appraiser, and Monroe County Clerk of Courts.



Employees of the Quarter/Employee of the Year

Congratulations to Monroe County Employee of the Year Gabriela Henri and to the employees of the quarter Teresa Valdez and Gabe Price. Monroe County's Senior Management Team selects an Employee of the Quarter from a pool of employees nominated by their peers or supervisors. These employees are chosen for going above and beyond their own work responsibilities while showing a continual demonstration of the values of Monroe County. Due to COVID-19, there was no employee of the first quarter announced.



GABRIELA HENRI
EMPLOYEE OF THE YEAR
SECOND QUARTER
ADMINISTRATIVE ASSISTANT
CODE COMPLIANCE

Gabriela Henri was nominated for her positive impact on fellow staff members and performance that exceeds normal job expectations. She started working for Monroe County in 2018.

For her code compliance position, she has taken the added responsibility of assisting the liaison to the Special Magistrate at code hearings. **"From her first day on the job, she strives for excellence in her daily work and developed protocols to assist in the department becoming more efficient,"** said Cynthia McPherson, Director of Code Compliance.

In March, April, and May, Henri stepped out of her code compliance position and assisted the Public Information Office with several tasks, including taking the lead position in answering hotline phone calls, where she averaged 50 or more calls per day.

"She was especially calm and empathetic to the callers, some of whom at times were very hostile, upset, or frustrated," said Kristen Livengood, Monroe County Public Information Officer, who nominated her for the award.



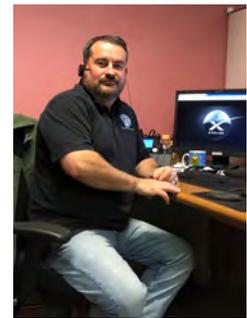
TERESA VALDEZ
THIRD QUARTER
ASSISTANT BRANCH MANAGER
BIG PINE KEY LIBRARY

Teresa Valdez was nominated for continuing to provide outstanding service to the citizens of Monroe County despite of COVID-19 challenges. She has been reading stories to toddlers at the library for more than 20 years.

Continuing story time for her favorite littlest constituents – the children – she continued reading stories for young and even started virtual programming online "Simple Spanish for Kids." Her "Baby Shark" rendition have also gone viral.

Kim Rinaldi, Big Pine Key's Branch Manager, said Valdez has expanded the walls of the library by continuing to install a love of reading in children, not only in our county but across the country. **"Teresa is a model for the educational and enriching role that libraries play in their communities,"** she said.

To view Valdez's weekly stories, visit www.facebook.com/bigpinekeylibrary.



GABE PRICE
FOURTH QUARTER
PROJECT MANAGER
INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY

Gabe Price was nominated for his noteworthy performance and continual demonstration of Monroe County values for being "the man behind the curtain" when virtual meetings began in early 2020 due to COVID-19. Price started working for Monroe County in 2010.

"When on the virtual meetings, he is well-spoken, respectful, and helpful to everyone," said Katie Atkins, Aide to Commissioner Coldiron, who nominated him. **"Toward the beginning, we were faced with nearly having to cancel a meeting due to an overwhelming number of virtual attendees and Gabe never once seemed overwhelmed or nervous."**

As an IT Project Manager, Price's day-to-day responsibilities include managing projects large and small – from ensuring the IT components for the new Plantation Key Courthouse are understood and properly scoped to helping the library select and implement a new software solution.

He was also recognized by Emergency Management for his valuable contribution during COVID-19 response.

Engineering Services and Roads Maintenance

www.monroecounty-fl.gov/Engineering

The department includes Engineering Services, Upper and Lower Keys Roads Maintenance Departments and Card Sound Toll Authority. Responsibilities include:

- Management of engineering design, permitting and construction of county transportation infrastructure including roads, sidewalks, bridges, shared-use paths, and associated stormwater management systems.
- Review of right-of-way permit applications, issuance of permits and inspection of work for conformance to county requirements.
- Review of property development/redevelopment applications and road abandonment applications for impacts on county roads and rights-of-way.
- Performing ongoing maintenance on 311 miles of county-maintained roads and 26 bridges, including cutting vegetation, fixing potholes, cleaning storm drains, repairing roadway shoulders, addressing flooding complaints, installing signage, sweeping, and maintaining bicycle and shared-use paths.
- Operating and maintaining the Card Sound Toll All Electronic Tolling System.



Director: Judy Clarke, P.E.
305.295.4390
Clarke-Judith@monroecounty-fl.gov
Employees: 36
Budget: \$20,908,452

2021 ENGINEERING SERVICES GOALS

- Research and identify appropriate software and begin implementation of GIS based roadway asset management and work order system.
- Utilize asset management system with pavement analysis capabilities to expand the County's Pavement Maintenance Program to include additional treatment alternatives throughout lifecycle of pavement.



Card Sound Toll Authority

www.monroecounty-fl.gov/cardsoundtoll

The electronic toll uses Toll-By-Plate or SunPass. No cash is accepted at the toll. The toll helps fund maintenance costs of the road and future repair and replacement of the five bridges along Card Sound Road. Two discount programs are available for Monroe County residents with two-axle vehicles that use SunPass and have an account in good standing. More information on the monthly discount program, which requires no enrollment, and the annual pass program can be found on the website.

By The Numbers

367.5 miles

Buzz bar operations

1,430 miles

Mowing operations

827

miles of sweeping

313

Utility Locates

251

New posts installed

1,208

New signs installed

**STOP BARS
REPAINTED: 346**

Material pick up: 481.26 tons of rock

Trash Picked Up:

2,467 bags weighing about 41,277 pounds

Seaweed Removal: 148.10 tons

Shoulder Work: 399,000 linear feet (Approx. 76 miles)

Trench Drain Work: 767 feet with 108 tons of material used.

Material used to fill Pot Holes: 17 tons

Coconut Removed: 60.07 Tons

Tropical Storm Eta Debris Removal:
288.17 tons

2020 ENGINEERING AND ROAD SERVICES ACCOMPLISHMENTS

- Completed construction of Stock Island II (Maloney and McDonald Avenues) Roadway and Drainage Improvement Project;
- Completed construction of Pigeon Key Ramp
- Partnered with the City of Key West to resurface the County's portion of Duval Street (from Eaton Street to Truman Avenue); the County's portion of Whitehead Street (between Eaton and Fleming Streets) will be resurfaced in 2021.
- Completed repairs to the street lights along the Duck Key Shared Use Path that were damaged during Hurricane Irma;
- Implemented first phase of the Pavement Preservation Program in April, 2020. 63 miles of recently paved county roads were treated in 2020; an additional 47 miles is scheduled to be treated in early 2021.
- Completed design of the 1st and Bertha Streets Roadway and Drainage Improvement Project and advertised for construction bids; construction will begin in early 2021. The County partnered with the City of Key West to include City work in the roadway project and to partially fund the City's Dennis Street Pump Station which will receive the stormwater flows from Bertha Street.
- Completed engineering design and awarded a construction contract for the Bimini Bridge (Duck Key) Replacement Project. The engineering designs for Harbor Drive and Seaview Drive (Duck Key) Bridge Replacement Projects are underway.
- Completed engineering designs for the Koehn Subdivision (Big Pine Key) Roadway and Drainage Improvement Project and the Sugarloaf Boulevard Bridge Replacement Project; construction scheduled for 2021.
- Continued engineering design of Key Largo III (Harry Harris Ocean Park Estates and Blue Water Trailer Village subdivisions) Roadway and Drainage Improvement Project and the Boca Chica Road Hurricane Irma Repair Project.
- The engineering design and permitting for the repair of two culverts on Cudjoe Key was completed and the project was advertised for construction bids.
- Continued design of the Twin Lakes and Sands Subdivision Sea Level Rise Adaptation Pilot Projects and applied for grants for construction through the FEMA Hazard Mitigation Grant Program (HMGP), DEO's CDBG-DR and CDBG-MIT Grant Programs, FEMA's Building Resilient Infrastructure and Communities (BRIC) Grant Program as well as the Department of Environmental Protection's Stormwater Grant Program.
- Completed CDBG-MIT grant applications for the Stillwright Point Sea Level Rise Adaptation and the Big Coppitt Johnsonville Subdivision Stormwater Mitigation Project; presented the Big Coppitt Project to DEO Staff in Virtual Site Meeting.
- Applied for funding from Florida Department of Transportation (FDOT) for project development and pre-permitting, engineering design and construction for replacement of Tubby's Creek and Mosquito Creek (Card Sound Road) Bridges; FDOT awarded \$7,562,412 to the county to fund both bridges.
- Road Department staff manned the US 1 and CR 905 checkpoints from March through June for two 12-hour shifts, seven days a week during the COVID-19 shutdown period.
- Roads staff assisted with Facilities sanitizing, food bank mobilization/demobilization and traffic control as part of the COVID-19 operations.
- Performed Tropical Storm ETA debris clean up in Key Largo.



Tiger Dams

In an effort to provide temporary relief from king tide flooding in October 2020, Monroe County Road Department crews installed 2,400 linear feet of Tiger Dam temporary barrier in the Twin Lakes and Stillwright Point neighborhoods.

With assistance from the vendor, the Roads Department staff placed the barrier sections on the roadway shoulder and anchored them down; then they filled the sections with water to create a dam that prevented saltwater from flowing onto the roads. Since the barriers also prevented stormwater from draining off of the roads to adjacent areas crews were deployed to pump stormwater off of the roads after each rainstorm.

The tiger dams were successful in stopping saltwater inundation of roads during the king tide and providing temporary relief to residents. The barriers were removed when flooding ceased and can be reused as needed in the future.



Fleet Management

www.monroecounty-fl.gov/fleet

Fleet Management operates, manages and continues to improve County garages located in Key West, Marathon, and Plantation Key. The Department provides safety inspections, maintenance, and repairs for approximately 850 units which include approximately 300 Monroe County Sheriff Department vehicles.



Director:
Daryl Greenlee
 305.292.3572
Greenlee-Daryl@monroecounty-fl.gov
 Employees: 20
 Budget: \$3.4 million



Fleet's Alex Thomas

BY THE NUMBERS

4,394

completed work orders from the crews at the three County garages in addition to performing preventative maintenance, repairs, and safety inspections.

198,934

gallons for gasoline and diesel fuel garage personnel purchased, distributed and billed for in 2020 at the three fueling facilities in Key West, Marathon, and Key Largo.

2020 ACCOMPLISHMENTS

- Added a new fuel management system.
- Implemented phase two of the GPS vehicle and equipment tracking system.
- Created a new Fleet budget billing format.
- Became a certified Ford "In-House" Warranty provider.
- Completed the sale of 35 surplus vehicles and equipment.
- Promoted ECO-driving practices countywide.

Fleet maintains safety and environmental accountability at the three garages including large capacity fuel tanks, fuel pumps, and backup generators. The department provides fuel 24 hours a day, 7 days a week at the fully automated sites. Fuel is available to County staff and the Monroe County School Board, even during electrical power outages.

Fleet is always in hurricane planning and preparation mode with in-house maintenance, inspections, repairs and refueling for Monroe County's 70-plus emergency generators. Additionally, the Fleet Department:

- Resolves manufacturer's vehicle and equipment safety recalls.
- Manages outside warranty, accident repairs, and other outsourced contract maintenance and repairs.
- Operates and maintains a preventative maintenance and repair tracking system, a fuel management tracking system, and the GPS vehicle and equipment tracking system.
- Manages and administers County Fleet contracts and written agreements.
- Responsible for acquiring and disposing of more than 500 county vehicle equipment units.



Fleet's J Falkner and Dean Steele

NEED A NEW VEHICLE?

www.monroecounty-fl.gov/surplus

Fleet Management sells surplus vehicles and equipment 3 to 4 times annually.

2021 GOALS

- Complete reorganization of duties and responsibilities for all fleet and garage staff.
- Sell or dispose of all backlogged County surplus vehicles and equipment.
- Progressively improve garages, garage tools, equipment, and facilities.
- Provide simple driving practices and basic operator maintenance steps that can help save money and help protect the environment at the same time.
- Encourage reduced vehicle idling times when safe and practical.
- Encourage operators to check tire air pressure monthly.
- Provide vehicle/safety inspections and maintenance measurements through monthly "Preventative Maintenance Due" reports.



Tammy Acevedo and Tania Stoughton run fleet's business administration.

Facilities Maintenance and Public Works

www.monroecounty-fl.gov/facilities

Facilities Maintenance and Public Works is responsible for the day-to-day maintenance and operations of more than 100 County-owned parks or buildings. When a facility needs significant repair or improvement, the department collaborates with the Project Management department.

The department maintains more than 1 million square feet of County space and leased properties throughout the Keys. These include public facilities and offices, correctional facilities, historic properties, museums, parks, beaches, and boat ramps. The department also is responsible for testing air quality, certifying and maintaining alarm systems, and maintenance of elevators.

The department has offices in Key West, Big Pine Key, Marathon, and Key Largo. In 2020, the department continued Hurricane Irma recovery efforts and assisted the Roads department in manning the COVID-19 checkpoint on the 18 Mile Stretch in North Key Largo.

2020 MAJOR ACCOMPLISHMENTS INCLUDE:

- Install new shade sails over Friendship Park Playground and replace worn shade sails over Baypoint Park Playground
- Install new Sod at Key Largo Park Ballfields
- Full buildout of new fireman's sleeping quarters in Layton
- Moved the Marathon Public Defenders Office and the State Attorney's Office with buildouts of new spaces
- Joint project between Project Management and Facilities of build out and relocation of the Roads Department to a temporary trailer on Rockland Key
- Replaced damaged hurricane shutters on the Marathon Government Center
- Jetting and Cleaning of Injection Well located near Wilhelmina Park
- Installed plexiglass barriers in several offices and common spaces throughout all Monroe County Buildings
- Ongoing COVID disinfecting of Playgrounds and County buildings

CORRECTION FACILITIES

Director: Dan Bensley

305.295.3997

Bensley-Dan@monroecounty-fl.gov

Admin: Martina Lake

Lake-Martina@monroecounty-fl.gov

Employees: 10

The Correction Facilities Department provides 24-hour, routine and emergency maintenance to Monroe County Sheriff's Office's (MCSO) three detention facilities, three substations, the headquarters building, and the Trauma Star hangar. The employees are skilled from plumbing to locksmithing and provide the best support services for maintaining multiple well-functioning and safe facilities throughout Monroe County.

- Provide routine maintenance to all MCSO buildings.
- Ensure that all accreditation standards are met by Correction Public works employees.
- Assist with the development of new MCSO buildings and improvements.



Facilities Director:

William DeSantis

305.292.4532

DeSantis-William@monroecounty-fl.gov

Employees: 82

Budget: \$10.1 million

Infrastructure

The County owns and is responsible for vital infrastructure throughout the Florida Keys, including some infrastructure located within Monroe County's five municipalities.

The County's infrastructure responsibilities:

- 2 airports
- 20 parks and beaches
- 8 boat ramps
- 1 community pool
- 311 miles of County roads
- 26 County bridges
- 5 libraries
- 3 government centers
- 3 courthouses
- 1 courthouse museum
- 1 assisted living facility
- 4 senior centers
- 4 museums
- 9 fire stations
- Fire training center
- Medical Examiner's facility
- Several historic buildings

Facilities for State Attorney & Public Defender

And other facilities throughout the Florida Keys used for County operations.



Project Management

www.monroecounty-fl.gov/projectmanagement



Monroe County Project Management contracts and builds all new public facilities for Monroe County, manages assigned special projects, and serves as the Tourist Development Council's grant compliance inspection service.

The office also manages all capital improvement projects for existing buildings, parks, beaches, and boat ramps. The department currently manages more than 100 capital projects with a total multi-year capital construction budget of \$100 million.

The Project Management Department provides information and resources needed to make informed decisions.

The majority of work is funded by the One-Cent Infrastructure Sales Tax. Grant awards account for significant supplemental capital funding. In 2020, the office assisted or was directly responsible for more than \$20 million in grant awards.

The services provided include:

- Capital Improvement Construction
- Facility Relocation
- Capital Expansion Construction
- Cost Forecasting
- Scheduling

MAJOR CAPITAL IMPROVEMENT PROJECTS

- **Plantation Key Courthouse & Detention Center: \$34 million**
- **Marathon Branch Library and Adult Education Center: \$6 million**
- Cudjoe Key Fire Station: \$4 million
- Monroe County Emergency Operations Center: \$22 million
- Key West Senior Center: \$4 million
- Lower Keys Scenic Viewing Area & Nature Center: \$2 million
- Higgs Beach Park Access Road Realignment: \$5 million
- Public Defender Key West Offices: \$4 million
- **1892 Sheriff Residence & Jail Museum: \$1.5 million**

The first phase of the jail museum is complete with a replacement of the roof. New guttering and downspouts complement the pressed metal shingles and historic air vents on the roof. The second phase is near completion, which includes selective demolition of interior and exterior buildup from the last 130+ years. Along with cleaning out and taking down walls, the county is remediating all environmental hazards (lead, asbestos and mold) to today's standards. An RFP for the third phase should be announced in February 2021 and will address replacing or repairing the doors and windows (including the bars!). The final phase will be the buildout of the facility, to make it a museum with a hopeful opening date in late summer 2022.

- Pigeon Key Honeymoon Cottage & Commissary Restorations: \$1.5 million
- West Martello Museum Brick & Mortar: \$1 million
- Jackson Square Chiller Building: \$2 million
- Jackson Square Communications Tower Relocation: \$1 million



Director: Cary Knight

305.292.4527

Knight-Cary@monroecounty-fl.gov

Employees: 9

Budget: \$100 million

EAST MARTELLO FIELD UPGRADES & DRAINAGE IMPROVEMENTS

In 2021, Monroe County is completing extensive grading, drainage, fencing, and lighting and electrical upgrades to the East Martello Field in Key West. The field is a popular event field for larger community events like Zombie Bike Ride, outdoor concerts, and annual summer children's educational programming from Key West Art and Historical Society (KWAHS). The improvements are funded through a Tourist Development Council capital improvement grant and are expected to be completed in four to six months. The higher elevation of the field and the installation of a perimeter exfiltration drainage system will properly protect Fort East Martello's foundation.

"This field is the first and last thing someone sees when they fly in and out of Key West and the upgrades will complement and protect Fort East Martello for generations to come," said Project Management Director Cary Knight.

Monroe County was in discussions with KWAHS during the design phase and it was decided by both entities that the existing foliage was unlikely to survive the grading and trenching process. KWAHS is partnering with Save a Tree Foundation to launch a fundraising effort to replant the field with biodiverse, salt-tolerant native plants and trees, including royal poincianas.

Infrastructure Repairs

HURRICANE IRMA

The Project Management Office oversees \$21 million to repair damage caused by Hurricane Irma at 48 structures, 17 parks, 7 boat ramps, and 3 tower sites.

In 2020, Monroe County was granted \$4.9 million in a Historic Resources Disaster Supplemental subgrant. Three County projects ranked in the top seven projects out of 19 applications submitted statewide. Damages to the historic properties stem from Hurricane Irma in 2017. The projects include:

Key West Lighthouse Roof \$138,932 with outbuilding, irrigation, and lighting repairs. As of January 2021, the construction plans are complete, the permit application submitted and an RFP is expected to be advertised shortly.



Fort West Martello \$500,000 for citadel and archway repairs with construction anticipated to start in March 2021. Separately, seawall repair and HVAC & windows upgrade (TDC Project) are expected to be advertised in early 2021.

Pigeon Key Honeymoon Cottage and commissary foundation work for \$482,550. Monroe County hosted its first virtual walk-through for bid proposals in January 2021. The project will take up to a year to complete. *Pigeon Key after Irma*



Grand Openings in '21

Project Management hosts ground-breakings and ribbon cuttings for Monroe County buildings. Project Management debuted web and cellular-based job site construction cameras to the commission in 2019. The job site cameras are solar-powered and upload images to a cloud-based system every minute. Images are assembled within the cloud to create a time-lapse video of the construction site. A public interface web page allows time-lapse video and images to be viewed from the cloud. County staff and the engineering team can view the site in real-time with streaming high definition video or on-demand historical surveillance video from start to finish of the project.

Right now, several projects, like the Monroe County Fire Department project on Cudjoe Key, the Marathon library project, and the Plantation Key Courthouse can be followed at the website.

Marathon library

The construction of the state of the art, user-centric legacy building is funded through the one-cent infrastructure sales tax. The new design will be open, modern, and flexible and has also incorporated solar energy.

Total Square Feet: 13,969

First floor 7,904 (The first floor will include the adult education center, the center will include just under 1400 square feet) Second floor 6,875 square feet Built to a 200-mile per hour wind load with finished first floor 2 foot above the floodplain.

Expected opening date: July 2021.

“The new Marathon branch will be a customer-centric operation with flexible space that offers our community cutting edge technology. It will be a legacy building and will truly be the community’s living room.” – Roman Gastesi



Plantation Key Courthouse and Detention Facility

The project will consolidate the existing functions on the site into a new state-of-the-art 48,240 square foot facility.

The new space will include:

- 16th Judicial Circuit of Florida
- Monroe County Clerk of the Court
- State Attorney's Office
- Monroe County Sheriff's Office
- Monroe County Public Works

The tenants will continue to work in the old building adjacent to the construction while the new facility is built. According to Upper Keys historian Jerry Wilkinson, the original building, the sheriff's substation, was built in 1958 with additions, like the courthouse and other government offices, dedicated in 1967.

Expected opening date: March 2021 for the jail and courthouse by end of June 2021.



Legislative Affairs

www.monroecounty-fl.gov/legislativeaffairs

The Office of Legislative Affairs regularly performs the following functions:

- Develops Monroe County's annual federal and state legislative agendas, identifies priority legislation and appropriations, determines specific strategies for achieving those priorities.
- Advances County's federal and state legislative priorities while guarding against legislation with negative impacts for Monroe County.
- Directs and manages federal and state lobbyists, assigns tasks, confers weekly, and tracks progress.
- Monitors congressional and state legislation, agency regulatory actions, preemptions, and budgets for potential impacts to Monroe County; advises Commissioners and staff with appropriate actions.
- Schedules and manages legislator and agency meetings, fly-ins, etc. and prepares itineraries, written materials, and legislative packages.
- Prepares all written legislative communications including talking points, tri-folds, leave-behinds, and resolutions.
- Represents Monroe County in statewide and national legislative organizations, like FAC, Small County Coalition, Climate Compact, Gulf Coast Parishes and Counties, and NACO.
- Informs and apprises municipalities of Monroe County's federal and state legislative agendas.

The Office oversees and monitors:

- Restore Act Program in response to the Deep Water Horizon Oil Spill in 2010
- Local Multi-Year Implementation Plan and monitoring of the Gulf Consortium's State Expenditure Plan, management of local pot and Consortium pot grant funds, and development and submission of applications for this funding
- Everglades Restoration and protection of Florida Bay
- Licensing and remediation activities related to the Turkey Point Nuclear Facility.



Director: Lisa Tennyson
305.292.4444
Tennyson-Lisa@monroecounty-fl.gov
Employees: 1

2021 FEDERAL LEGISLATIVE AGENDA

This year the County's federal priorities include:

- COVID-19 Response and Recovery: Support an additional \$250 billion in direct federal assistance to all local governments.
- Hurricane Recovery: Support recovery efforts from hurricanes and other disasters, including the expedited processing of FEMA reimbursements to local governments.
- Support efforts to improve the National Flood Insurance Program (NFIP). Oppose reauthorization legislation that would be detrimental to policyholders and local governments.
- Higgs Beach Land and Water Conservation Grant Issues: Support inclusion of report language in the Appropriations bill to clarify that elements of a park that predate an original LWCF grant – in Monroe County's case a restaurant – should not be factored into such conversion decisions.
- Water Quality: Support full funding of the Florida Keys Water Quality Improvements Program via the Army Corps of Engineers Work Plan and efforts and activities related to canal restoration.
- Support full, long-term mandatory funding of the Payments In Lieu of Taxes (PILT) program, which enables local governments to rely on PILT funds when budgeting.
- Support efforts to improve the health of Florida Bay by restoring adequate fresh water flows through the Everglades, including further modification to Tamiami Trail.
- Oppose oil drilling and exploration, lease expansion and seismic testing on federal lands and waters.
- Additional priorities can be found on the website.



2021 STATE LEGISLATIVE AGENDA

Monroe County's state legislative focus includes:

Stewardship Act appropriations, protection of its water quality, land acquisition needs, wind insurance affordability, and vacation rental regulations.

The County is seeking support for a legislative change giving Monroe County the ability to assess an additional penny sales tax (subject to a local referendum) to enable a road elevation program to respond to the severe and consistent flooding of County roads from sea level rise, King Tides, and storm inundation. In addition, other priorities include:

- Stewardship Appropriation: The county will be seeking legislative appropriations of \$20 million for water quality, \$5 million for land acquisitions, and Monroe County being included in the State's Land Acquisition Trust Fund.
- Local Vacation Rental bill to exempt Florida Keys' local governments from statewide preemption of vacation rental regulations.

- Citizens Wind Insurance preserving annual glide path of 10 percent.
- Support legislative efforts to improve boating safety and regulations including the reduction and prevention of derelict vessels, addressing long-term anchoring of vessels, and ensuring sufficient funding to remove and dispose of derelict vessels.
- Support Mobile Vessel Pumpout Program Appropriation of \$750,000 to support the County's vessel pump out program to protect water quality of the Florida Keys National Marine Sanctuary.
- Support State efforts to fund climate change resiliency funding for infrastructure, to protect Florida's coral reef tract, and to support Everglades Restoration.
- Support efforts to promote the development of affordable housing including full appropriation of Sadowski Trust Fund.

STATE REPRESENTATION

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Overseas Hwy, Key Largo
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State Senator Ana Maria Rodriguez
State Senate District 36
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Gov. Ron DeSantis
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FEDERAL REPRESENTATION

Senator Marco Rubio
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Senator Rick Scott
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Rep. Carlos Gimenez
District 26
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www.gimenez.house.gov
Key West office: 1100
Simonton St., Suite
1-123

Florida Keys Day 2020

Monroe County Commissioners, senior staff, officials from Florida Keys municipalities, and local business owners travel to the state capital for the 12th Annual Florida Keys Day, a day set aside in Tallahassee to discuss all things Florida Keys related. In February 2020, in addition to meeting with legislators, Monroe County commissioners and County staff discussed issues including the county's proposed 50-50 Liability Bill, Stewardship Act funding, vessel pump-out funding, and other Monroe County matters of concern. The group was recognized by Gov. Ron DeSantis, Rep. Holly Raschein, and Sen. Anitere Flores. Florida Keys Day was hosted by Raschein and Flores and is a product of the 2009 Leadership Monroe County Class XVII. The day ended with a sponsored reception with about 1,000 people enjoying popular Keys fare, like conch fritters, lionfish ceviche, and, of course, Key Lime pie.

Monroe County will represent the interests of Florida Keys residents again in-person once it is safe to do so and COVID-19 protective measures are no longer in place. A virtual Florida Keys Day may take place on April 1, 2021.



Social Services

www.monroecounty-fl.gov/socialservices

Monroe County Social Services provides a holistic approach to case management, interim financial assistance, medical assistance, and other life-sustaining supportive assistance to eligible individuals and families in need of these services throughout Monroe County.

Social Services assists a growing and diverse population with a number of long-standing local, state, and federal programs with three staffed offices throughout Monroe County.

Offices:

- Key West: Gato Building
- Key Largo: Tradewinds Plaza
- Satellite office: Marathon, 63rd Street Government Annex

In 2020, COVID-19 created more hardship for Monroe County residents. Hundreds of thousands of incoming calls from citizens were received seeking assistance from Social Services wide variety of programs and services.

Priority is available for families and households with very young children, disabled individuals, and/or elderly citizens.

Social Services provides and manages the following services and programs:

Assistive Device Loaner Program: Loans equipment to families and individuals who cannot otherwise afford items like wheelchairs, walkers, hospital beds, electric wheelchairs/scooters, shower chairs, bedside commodes, etc. This program is need-based, not eligibility-based.

Consumable Supplies: Provides consumable supplies to eligible individuals who cannot otherwise afford them like adult diapers or briefs, bed pads, wipes, disposable gloves, nutritional drinks, etc.

Energy Assistance: The Low-Income Home Energy Assistance Program (LIHEAP) is a federally-funded program that helps low-income households with their home energy bills. Priority assistance is provided to households that include the elderly, disabled, or very young children. This program provides financial relief from high energy costs in order to prevent service disconnection for families and individuals in crisis.

This year, Social Services has served approximately 515 households countywide with more than \$205,000 in grant funding.

Health Care Responsibility Act (HCRA) Program: HCRA was enacted in order to ensure that adequate and affordable health care is available to all Floridians. Social Services is responsible for determining HCRA eligibility.

In-Home Services: Homemaking, personal care, chore, companionship for the elderly, shopping assistance, in-home or facility-based respite, and group and individual caregiver training to eligible elderly and disabled individuals throughout Monroe County.

Medicaid Reimbursement for Hospitals & Nursing Homes: Per Section 409.915, Florida Statutes, the Department of Revenue is responsible for collecting from counties the share of costs for Medicaid recipients. Although the state is responsible for the full portion of the state share of the matching funds required for the Medicaid program, the state is required to charge the county an annual amount in order to acquire a certain portion of the funds.

Medical Assistance: Medical or Dental financial help in emergency situations.

Monroe County Transit (MCT): Door-to-door transportation for the elderly, disabled, and transportation disadvantaged. This allows transportation disadvantaged citizens to remain independent by assisting them. Citizens who are 60 years and older ride free. In 2020, despite COVID-19, approximately 14,000 one-way trips were provided.



Nutrition Services: In non-COVID-19 times, hot, fresh, congregate meals are provided Monday through Friday in Key West, Big Pine Key, Marathon, and Key Largo.

Due to COVID-19, home-delivered meals are provided on a weekly basis to clients.

In 2020, approximately 20,500 meals were provided to seniors countywide who are 60 years old or older.

Indigent/Pauper Cremations and Burials: Coverage of final cremation or burial expenses for individuals who are deemed eligible as indigent or paupers. In 2020, Social Services handled approximately 70 indigent and pauper cremations.

Prescription Medication Assistance: Covers the cost of prescription medications and/or over-the-counter medications as prescribed by a physician for eligible individuals who either have no insurance, inadequate insurance, or cannot afford the co-payment.

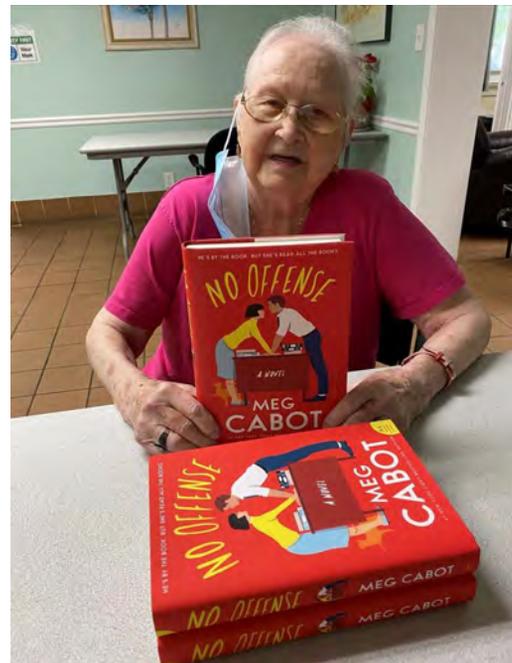
Weatherization Assistance Program: This federal program assists Monroe County's income-eligible families improve the energy efficiency of their homes with critical repairs, renovations, and installation of cost-saving energy measures.



Senior Director:
Sheryl Graham
 205.292.4510
Graham-Sheryl@monroecounty-fl.gov
 Employees: 46
 Budget: \$12.6 million (includes \$8.8 million in grants)

Alzheimer's Disease Initiative, Community Care for Disabled Adults, and Older Americans Act: Provided nearly 13,000 hours of service to the elderly and disabled adult citizens of Monroe County in 2020.

State Housing Initiative Partnership (SHIP) and Coronavirus Relief Fund (CRF): Administered more than \$5.5 million in funding countywide to assist approximately 200 homeowners and seniors with SHIP Disaster Mitigation, SHIP Sewer Lateral Connections, SHIP Rehabilitation, and CRF funding for rent, mortgage, and utility assistance.



Bayshore Manor Assisted Living Facility

www.monroecounty-fl.gov/BayshoreManor

Bayshore Manor is Monroe County's 16-bed assisted living facility that provides residents and adult daycare guests with loving, compassionate care while striving to enhance their quality of life, preserve their dignity, and meet their health, social, and emotional needs.

Residents are provided home-cooked meals and can participate in weekly and often daily field trips, outings, and events throughout the community.

Pre-COVID-19, adult daycare guests spent more than 1,800 hours at the facility each year, receiving care, meals, activities, field trips, and socialization from 8 a.m. and 5 p.m.

Bayshore Manor consistently remains at capacity and maintains a waitlist; however, there is room for adult daycare guests. Bayshore Manor also provides short-term (up to 30 days) residential services for families requiring more prolonged relief from continuous caregiving.

Bayshore Manor is fully staffed 24-hours per day by medically trained professionals who are experts in the field of geriatric care and comfort.

Solid Waste & Recycling

www.monroecounty-fl.gov/solidwaste

Solid Waste Management provides Unincorporated Monroe County with a sustainable, environmentally-sound and cost-effective service for municipal solid waste. Through education, cost management, and customer service, the department supports the needs of the businesses and residents of Unincorporated Monroe County. Additionally, the department promotes "Reduce, Reuse, Recycle" through community events and helps to assist in creating a viable and safe environment for future generations.

- Municipal Solid Waste
- Vegetation/Yard Waste
- Construction Debris
- Pollution Control on County "Right-of-Ways"
- County Owned Transfer Stations
(Key Largo, Long Key, Cudjoe)

THREE COUNTY TRANSFER STATIONS & RECYCLING CENTERS

At the transfer stations, garbage, construction debris, and yard waste are collected and hauled off the islands for appropriate disposal. Residents can drop off items directly at the three County transfer stations. Hours: 8 a.m. to 3:30 p.m., Monday through Saturday. Includes electronic waste.



Solid Waste continues to assist private citizen groups, like the Conch Republic Marine Army, Florida Keys National Marine Sanctuary, and many others in removing Hurricane Irma debris with highway cleanups.

COUNTY HOUSEHOLD HAZARDOUS WASTE COLLECTION

Household hazardous waste is collected at each transfer station as follows:

- **Cudjoe Key:** First and third Wednesdays of each month, 10 a.m. to 2 p.m.
- **Long Key:** First and third Fridays of each month, 10 a.m. to 2 p.m.
- **Key Largo:** Appointment only. Call 305-745-4307
- **Key Largo** (Corner of Atlantic and Homestead avenues behind Walgreens): Second and fourth Wednesday of each month, 10 a.m. to 2 p.m.

Household Hazardous and E-Waste Collection Dates:

9 a.m. to 1 p.m.

Marathon: 10600 Aviation Blvd.

- April 17
- July 17
- Oct. 16
- Jan. 8, 2022

Stock Island: Bernstein Park, 6751 5th Street

- Feb. 13
- March 20
- April 17
- May 15
- June 19
- July 17
- Aug. 21
- Sept. 18
- Oct. 23
- Nov. 20
- Dec. 18



Director: Cheryl Sullivan
305.292.4536
Sullivan-Cheryl@monroecounty-fl.gov
Employees: 17
Budget: \$22.3 million

Report Illegal Dumping!
Call 9-1-1 if you see Illegal Dumping in action

The recycling initiative of household hazardous waste and electronic waste continues to be a key focus. Monthly collection points throughout the county allow residents to dispose of chemicals and electronic waste in an environmentally safe manner.

STOCK ISLAND TO 7 MILE BRIDGE

Waste Management
Contact: 305.296.8297

Cudjoe Key Transfer Station:
MM 21.5, Blimp Rd.
305.745.2513



In Fiscal Year 2020, unincorporated Monroe County spent \$630,101 on recycling haul out for 8,059 tons.

Residentially, homeowners in unincorporated Monroe County pay \$402 a year for garbage, yard waste, and recycling collection. For Fiscal Year 2021, the rate is \$407 per year.

RECYCLING REMINDERS

The recycling center accepts 1-5 plastics but offered an easy way to remember what plastic can be recycled. Milk jugs, water bottles, and bath products all fall within the “if the neck is smaller than the body, it can be recycled” rule. Red Solo cups do not. And, always remember to remove the lid, which can also be recycled.

According to a municipal solid waste report, only 1 out of 3 plastic water bottles make it to a recycling center. Tin, aluminum, cartons, cardboard, and newspaper are always accepted.

Reminders of things that CANNOT be recycled include plastic grocery bags (can be brought back to the grocery store), food waste, Styrofoam, furniture (even plastic outdoor furniture), toys, plastic planter containers (can be returned to garden store), garden hoses, hangers, electric wires, sporting goods, clothing, pots and pans, yard waste, hazardous materials and chemicals, and propane tanks, especially the small Coleman camping tanks. Remembering the things that cannot be recycled is extremely important because if more than 10 percent of the recycling is contaminated, it goes to the landfill instead!

WHO PICKS UP MY TRASH, YARD WASTE, AND RECYCLING?

7 MILE BRIDGE TO MM 72.5

Marathon Garbage Service
305.743.5165
office@marathongarbage.com

Long Key Transfer Station:

MM 68 Overseas Hwy.
305.664.2263

ISLAMORADA (MM 72.5 – 91)

Advanced Disposal
305.853.3343

MM 91 TO COUNTY LINE

Keys Sanitary Services
305.451.2025

Key Largo Transfer Station:

11100 County Rd. 905
305.367.4236

Ocean Reef

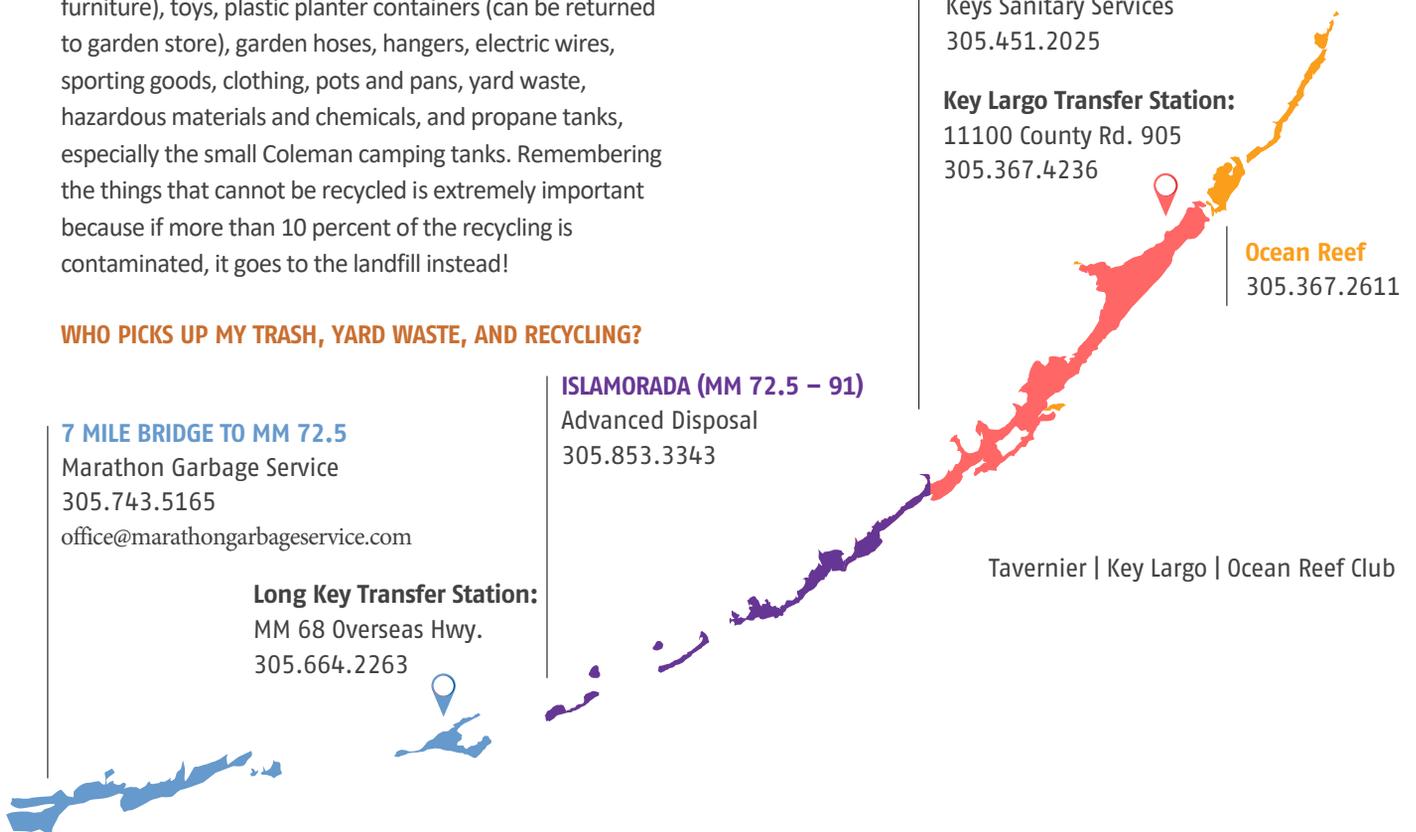
305.367.2611

Tavernier | Key Largo | Ocean Reef Club

Marathon | Long Key | Craig Key



In early 2020, several Monroe County staff joined Waste Management to tour the mainland recycling center.



Information Technology

www.monroecounty-fl.gov/informationtechnology

Monroe County Information Technology (IT) provides efficient, reliable, and cost-effective technology, telephone, and video services to County employees, the Constitutional Officers' agencies, and other governmental offices, including the Public Defender, State Attorney Office, 16th Judicial Circuit Court, Medical Examiner, Land Authority, Tourist Development Council, and the Arts Council. The department strives to be innovative and resourceful to support the IT needs of Monroe County.

Services offered by the Monroe County IT department include:

- End user computing support from the Service Desk, supplies and maintains desktops/laptops, monitors, phones, software, printers, etc.
- Infrastructure support services for IT infrastructure, including the data center, networks, servers, telecommunications, hardware, etc.
- IT applications support for enterprise software, business systems, and web integration.
- IT services for project management and procurement.
- TV broadcast and audio-visual needs through Monroe County Television (MCTV).



Director: Alan MacEachern
305.453.8792
MacEachern-Alan@monroecounty-fl.gov
Employees: 16
Budget: \$3 million

2020 IT MAJOR ACCOMPLISHMENTS

- Significantly increased our security profile by replacing legacy firewall equipment with industry leading Palo Alto firewalls
- Enabled County workers to seamlessly work remotely with full access to County infrastructure through the implementation of a modern VPN and other supporting tools
- Upgraded the Marathon MCTV chamber and broadcast studio to make it fully HD capable and added Zoom integration to all three commission chambers in support of BOCC, Planning, and Emergency Management uses
- Upgraded backup server hardware to enable more frequent server backups and longer data retention
- Continued upgrading network architecture (both wired and wireless) across all buildings to improve performance and resiliency

MONROE COUNTY TELEVISION (MCTV)

www.monroecounty-fl.gov/mctv

TV/Multimedia Manager: Jethon Williams II

Williams-Jethon@monroecounty-fl.gov

MCTV@monroecounty-fl.gov 305.295.5128

MCTV live-broadcasts all meetings of the BOCC, including special meetings and the annual budget meetings and other county board and committee meetings. See page 7 for channel details.

MEETING BROADCASTS

All televised County meetings are rebroadcast one week following the original broadcast and are posted to Video On Demand one day later. Recordings of BOCC, Planning Commission and other meetings can be found on the MCTV Video on demand system. Duplication requests for meetings can be submitted via the online Duplication Request Form or downloaded from Video On Demand.

MCTV also broadcasts information in the event of a hurricane or other local emergency as well as National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA) weather audio.

MCTV's primary programming consists of live, pre-recorded programs and original content as well as Local, State and Federal Public Service announcements. MCTV also airs children's educational programming on Saturday mornings and afternoons. Also, upgrades were done on obsolete MCTV broadcast equipment at the three meeting locations to enable enhanced remote management capabilities and improve the ability to record and broadcast meetings. All meetings are now broadcast and recorded in high definition with the exception of Comcast and AT&T.



Strategic Planning

www.monroecounty-fl.gov/strategicplanning

The Office of Strategic Planning develops plans and initiatives for greater government accountability, organizational efficiency, and continuous improvement.

The Office of Strategic Planning manages the County's strategic and tactical planning processes along with a performance-based measurement system. The long-range Strategic Plan details the BOCC's priorities for the challenges facing our community with the purpose of deliberately shaping our community's future, while the annual Tactical Plan aligns individual Departments' efforts with the County's strategic priorities and objectives. The county's performance measurement reporting creates a transparent, accountable, and meaningful process that will result in positive Community and organizational improvement.

In March 2019, the Commission adopted the five-year 2020 Monroe County Strategic Plan, which was created using 18 months of intensive research and feedback from the community collected before and after Hurricane Irma in 2017. The Plan's priorities and direction for County services are turned into action in the FY2021 Tactical Plan and supported through the FY21 budget process. The plan outlines specific areas of concern and priority in the three areas of Quality of Life, Economy, and Environment, which can be seen on page 6.



Senior Director :
Kimberly Matthews
305.292.4540
Matthews-Kimberly@monroecounty-fl.gov
Employees: 44

Library Services

www.keyslibraries.org

Budget: \$3.9 million

The first Monroe County public library opened in Key West in 1853. Today, it is the oldest library system in South Florida. In 2020, despite COVID-19,

the libraries logged more than 5 million

e-visits to web resources and continued to offer curbside and virtual services.

The five branches offered 1,700 virtual programs for patrons of all ages, drawing 37,768 participants for outreach presentations.

The programs cover all ages, from toddlers to senior citizens, and meet a broad base of interests, including story times, musical presentations, author talks, specialty clubs, art workshops and displays, computer classes, and programs featuring Florida Keys history, flora and fauna.

Monroe County libraries offer free access to the internet through library computers and through wireless access that enables patrons to use their own laptops and other mobile devices.

The only thing you need is a library card.

On the website, users can renew books, stream films, locate book clubs, and discover e-books. The library also uses an app, Libby by Overdrive, downloaded to phones and tablets via the Apple App Store, Google Play Store, and Microsoft Store. Readers borrow free e-books and audiobooks instantly to take them anywhere on their devices.

Once safe to do so, Monroe County library branches plan to open in 2021 for in-person visits.

COUNTY LIBRARY BRANCHES

KEY WEST

Branch Manager:
Michael Nelson
700 Fleming Street
305.292.3595

 / keywestlibrary

BIG PINE KEY

Branch Manager:
Kim Rinaldi
213 Key Deer Blvd.
305.872.0992

 / bigpinelibrary

MARATHON

Branch Manager:
Lorenia Diaz
3251 Overseas Hwy
305.743.5156

 / marathonlibrary

ISLAMORADA

Branch Manager:
Walt Johnson
81830 Overseas Hwy
305.664.4645

 / islamoradalibrary

KEY LARGO

Branch Manager:
Christina Teasley
101485 Overseas Hwy,
Tradewinds Shopping
Center 305.451.2396

 / keylargolibrary



Sustainability

www.monroecounty-fl.gov/sustainability
www.keysroadsplan.com

RESILIENCE

Monroe County is ground zero for experiencing the impacts of global climate change and sea level rise. Along the chain of islands that barely juts above the sea, many streets already are flooding numerous times throughout the year from extreme fall “king” tides.

Habitat for wildlife that once was high and dry continues to be encroached with seawater.

Rising seas have begun to affect roads and other County infrastructure, as well as some homes and businesses – and will continue to do so into the future.

The mission of the Office of Sustainability is to develop mitigation and resilience adaptation projects and environmental improvements that foster a resilient and livable community and a sustainable future.

The Office of Sustainability prepares the County to be more resilient to the effects of climate change and the resulting sea level rise. These climate adaptation preparations include:

- Gathering research and modeling the effects of sea level rise on County roads and facilities
- Collaboration with the Southeast Florida Climate Change Compact to keep abreast of updates on the projections of sea level rise and to help communities implement mitigation and adaptation measures
- Collecting elevation and other types of data to more accurately measure the potential inundation to County roads and infrastructure
- Developing new or revised policies to set standards for implementation of adaptation measures to prepare for sea level rise
- Implementing projects to mitigate against the effects of climate change. These projects include:
 - A County-wide roads analysis to evaluate the impacts of sea level rise on more than 300 miles of County-maintained roads and development of conceptual designs for elevation is underway and will be complete in 2021. The end-product will be a roads adaptation plan for the next 25 years.

- A three-year and \$3 million study agreement with the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers to investigate storm and sea level rise vulnerability in Monroe County, funded 100 percent by the USACE. The study will address how present and future risk to coastal storm hazard and changes to mean sea level will affect coastal areas supporting the integrity of U.S. 1 and other critical facilities. The overall goal is to analyze all information to estimate future coastal vulnerability and develop a series of projects to help the County become more resilient, partially funded by the USACE. The tentatively selected plan is \$3.5 billion, and includes voluntary residential elevations, business floodproofing, and shoreline stabilization to several areas of U.S. 1.

The GreenKeys Plan contains specific projects for resilience preparation. www.GreenKeys.info



The Office of Sustainability also guides the County in becoming more environmentally-sustainable through Climate mitigation measures. These mitigation measures include:

- Development of sustainability policy formulation and plan development
- Energy management and reduction initiatives listed in the GreenKeys Plan
- Alternative energy and fuel source options
- Green purchasing policy development and guidance
- Sustainable capital development processes

In addition, the University of Stetson completed a three-year effort on HAZUS modeling in the Keys to help the County better prepare for future flooding conditions. (HAZUS is a geographic information system-based natural hazard analysis tool developed by FEMA.)

Finally, projects are implemented in the environmental restoration area that supports the County’s sustainability initiatives, such as the canal restoration projects and post hurricane marine debris removal from the hundreds of canals located in the Keys. Sustainability is the quality of not being harmful to the environment or depleting natural resources and thereby supporting long-term ecological balance. The County’s goal is to continually employ new technologies to protect the environment and best serve the residents and visitors.



Canal Restoration

www.monroecounty-fl.gov/canals

Monroe County embarked on a canal restoration program in 2014 after a study showed that 311 of the 502 canals throughout the island chain did not meet the State's minimum water quality criteria and are a source of nutrients and other contaminants to nearshore waters. A canal restoration program is underway, restoring the water of the canals throughout the Keys. Initiatives include:

- A two-year partnership with the Department of Environmental Protection on water quality monitoring underway to help determine which areas in the County meet and do not meet State water quality standards.
- A two-year water quality monitoring effort being conducted by the University of Miami to measure the effects that water quality in canals may have on nearshore waters.
- Canal restoration projects to improve the water quality in the canals.
- Cleanup of marine debris and sediment in 257 canals caused by the impacts of Hurricane Irma, was completed in 2020.
- A grant funded by the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency to improve the overall water quality of the canals, nearshore and coastal waters of the FKNMS. The grant work includes the following three Tasks:
 1. Seaweed Barrier Technology Evaluation: the County will review available technologies such as air curtains or weed control structures and select the most appropriate technologies to augment or supplant the current standard design that will improve energy efficiency and system reliability and/or offer similar protection against surface weed invasion but at a lower cost, particularly for the operations and maintenance.

2. Canal Workplan Bridging Documents: Document development that connects the goals and objectives of the State's Department of Economic Opportunity Canal Work Plan with the technical directives presented in the Monroe County Canal Restoration Guidance Document; and

3. Sargassum Control Master Plan, Phase 1: Develop a framework for managing, removing, and disposing of the sargassum loading occurring throughout the Florida Keys.



Chief Resilience Officer:
Rhonda Haag
 305.453.8774;
Haag-Rhonda@monroecounty-fl.gov
 Employee: 1
 Budget: \$600,000

PROPERTY ASSESSED CLEAN ENERGY PROGRAM (PACE)
www.monroecounty-fl.gov/pace.

The County adopted a PACE Program in 2018 that provides alternative options for funding of projects that increase energy effectiveness. Homeowners can receive funds for energy saving projects, based on specific parameters, and pay back the funds through their property taxes.

Currently, residents have a choice of four PACE vendors to choose from in the County.

Veterans Affairs

www.monroecounty-fl.gov/va

Monroe County Department of Veterans Affairs provides entitlement assistance for approximately 8,000 full-time veterans, 2,500 seasonal veterans, active-duty military personnel, and their families in the Florida Keys.

Each year the Veterans Affairs Department has more than 18,000 client interactions while providing a wide variety of services including:

Monetary Compensation:

- Service-related disabilities
- Non-service-connected pensions
- Burial benefits
- Survivor's benefits
- Educational and vocational rehabilitation benefits
- VA home loan eligibility assistance
- Appeals of any denied benefit

Nonmonetary Benefits:

- Military service medal, decoration, and award issuance or replacement
- Military service records or document requisitions
- VA Healthcare application assistance
- Courtesy Veterans Transportation Program
- Documentation assistance with the Department of Veterans Affairs for Disabled veterans license tags, Property tax exemptions, Educational benefits, and Commissary Privileges



Eligible resident veterans with a VA certified service-connected disability of 10 percent or greater are entitled to a deduction or exemption on the assessment of their home for tax exemption purposes. For Tax Year 2020, 889 Monroe County veteran-owned parcels were awarded a deduction or exemption due to having a service-connected disability.

Department Internal Database	United States Census	Area	Zip Code
17	14	Long Key	33001
129	339	Islamorada	33036
654	1242	Key Largo	33037
1502	2734	Key West	33040
345	908	Lower Keys	33042
262	499	Big Pine Key	33043
389	756	Marathon	33050
30	128	Key Colony Beach	33051
227	453	Tavernier	33070

VETERANS BY LOCATION MAP



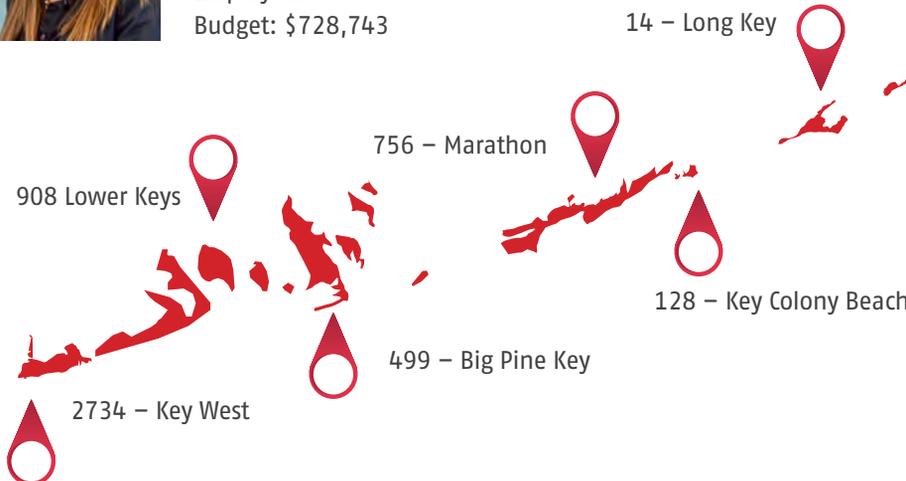
MONROE COUNTY VETERANS AFFAIRS OFFICES
 Murray Nelson Government Center 102050 Overseas Hwy, Suite 208, Key Largo 305.453.8777

Harvey Government Center 1200 Truman Avenue, Suite 204, Key West 305.295.5150

Veterans Transportation Program 305.295.5159



Veterans Affairs
Director: Cathy Crane
 305.295.5150
Crane-Cathy@monroecounty-fl.gov
 Employees: 8
 Budget: \$728,743





County Attorney

www.monroecounty-fl.gov/countyattorney

The County Attorney's Office provides high quality, cost-effective legal services to the Board of County Commissioners, the County Administrator, the Senior Management Team, County departments, and County advisory boards. The legal staff provides counsel on virtually every major decision made by the BOCC and County staff. Staff lawyers handle topics ranging literally from A (airport law) to Z (zoning).

BOCC AGENDAS

- Staff attorneys review every contract, inter-agency agreement, bid solicitation, resolution, and ordinance considered by the commission.
- During 2020, the County Attorney's Office processed and reviewed a total of 1,286 agenda items, including 419 Resolutions and 39 Ordinances.

ELECTIONS

The County Attorney's Office provides legal counsel to the Supervisor of Elections and the County Canvassing Board. In 2020, the County Attorney's Office guided the Canvassing Board through the Presidential Preference Primary, the Primary Election, and the General Election. In addition, the office represented the Supervisor of Elections and the Canvassing Board in 7 election related suits in state and federal courts.

PUBLIC RECORDS

The County's Records Management Liaison Officer (RMLO) works out of the County Attorney's Office. The RMLO coordinates the County's response to public records requests and ensures compliance with the Public Records Act and the Records Retention regulations. During 2020, the County's RMLO processed 1866 requests for public records. The County disposed of 434.2 cubic of feet of paper records for the year. To make a public records request, see page 7.

LITIGATION

- Staff lawyers represented the County in more than a thousand cases in state and federal court as well as administrative hearings.
- These efforts fulfill the Board's directive to emphasize prosecuting Vacation Rental Ordinance violations and collecting outstanding code compliance fines and costs in the amount of \$1.329 million in FY20. Collected fines and costs are deposited in the County's general fund, reducing property taxes.
- Worked with the State of Florida to reimburse the County for costs associated with two long standing Takings cases arising from the State imposed growth limits that had led to the County's Rate of Growth Ordinance (ROGO). In both cases, the plaintiffs had sought over \$30 million in damages but, due to the efforts of the County Attorney's Office, the Courts awarded less than \$1 million.



County Attorney:

Bob Shillinger

305.292.3470

[Shillinger-Bob@](mailto:Shillinger-Bob@monroecounty-fl.gov)

monroecounty-fl.gov

Employees: 17

Budget: \$7.2 million

(\$4.7 million Risk, \$2.5 million County Attorney)

The County's team of nine lawyers has more than 200 years of experience practicing law and the expertise to handle most matters in-house. Six of the County's lawyers are board-certified by the Florida Bar as experts in City, County, and Local Government law - a distinction that only 304 of the almost 108,000 members of the Florida Bar have earned.



RISK MANAGEMENT

- Implemented a new software program (EBIX) to track certificates of insurances, which ensures that the County and its vendors are properly insured.
- Reviewed and approved 1,038 agenda items.
- Reviews all tort claims made against the County and determines the appropriate response.

Extension Service

www.monroecounty-fl.gov/extensionservices
www.fb.com/MonroeCountyExtension

In the Florida Keys, The University of Florida Institute of Food and Agricultural Sciences (UF-IFAS) Monroe County Extension Service provides timely and relevant solutions to improve resident's lives. The Extension Service is dedicated to bringing current, science-based answers to all local horticulture, climate change, energy, small business, and water quality questions -- for free.

The Extension Service provides programs like Master Gardener, Sustainable Floridians, Florida Keys Water Watch, Florida Master Naturalist, and other programs.

Highlights Reel

For community tips and tricks sign up for the newsletter at the website or view the blog at www.monroecounty-fl.gov/extensionblog.



Director: Alicia Betancourt
 305.292.4501
Betancourt-Alicia@monroecounty-fl.gov
www.monroe.ifas.ufl.edu
 Employees: 4
 (3 UF and 1 Monroe County)
 Budget: \$236,934

Heavy Sargassum Year in the Florida Keys, by Shelly Krueger

This summer you may have noticed brown seaweed floating in the water and along the shorelines of the Florida Keys. What is it, and why is it coming to shore? The seaweed is a type of open-ocean brown algae, called sargassum. Another common name for sargassum is gulfweed, and it grows on the surface of the open ocean in an area of the North Atlantic Ocean called the Sargasso Sea.

Attracting Birds in the Florida Keys, by Michelle Leonard-Mularz

Many migrating birds seek to rest and refuel in Florida Keys National Wildlife Refuges, parks, open spaces, and gardens, as the last stop before continuing southward. However, in order to attract birds and other pollinators to our landscapes, there are certain elements Florida landscapes need to provide them.

2020 PROGRAM HIGHLIGHTS

- Environmental Horticulture Agent Michelle Leonard-Mularz held the first Master Gardener course since 2015. Nineteen interns, representing each County District, completed the 9-week training. 43 Master Gardener donated more than 2,100 hours helping residents identify and address horticultural related issues in their gardens and landscapes. This has an estimated value to Monroe County of \$51,470 in volunteer services, which represents one full-time employee.
- Leonard-Mularz also received a grant from Florida Wildflower Foundation to install a wildflower demonstration garden at the Historic Gato Cigar Building in Key West. The garden will not only serve as an educational tool emphasizing Florida Friendly Landscaping practices, but it will serve as a pathway for pollinators and have a visual impact in an area that is so heavily utilized by travelers, pedestrians, bicyclists, automobile drivers, and buses. The garden was installed in 2020.
- Marine Agent Shelly Krueger is co-leader for the Florida Coral Disease Outbreak Response Communications and Outreach Team, a partnership with federal agencies, that holds bi-weekly conference calls regarding the stony coral tissue loss disease outbreak in the Florida Reef Tract and the Caribbean. Krueger co-developed a program that trained more than 240 divers to identify and report the disease at Seafan.net/SEAGRANT. She also speaks about the disease on a national and international level.
- Krueger is also the outreach and communication leader for the Florida Keys Community Sponge Restoration Program, in partnership with FWC and nonprofits and universities. In 2019, more than 15,000 sponges at six sponge nurseries in the Florida Keys were restored.
- The Community Development Agent Alicia Betancourt completed the development of two new programs: Climate Smart Floridians is a statewide initiative, which will help people improve resilience and reduce personal and household climate change impacts and The Handbook for Municipal Action on Climate Change to help small local governments be climate-resilient.



Guardian Ad Litem Circuit Director Alexsa Leto accepts a proclamation from the Board of County Commissioners on behalf of her staff and volunteers.

Guardian Ad Litem

www.monroecounty-fl.gov/gal

Guardian ad Litem, established into Florida law in 1980, mandates that every abused, neglected, or abandoned child who enters the dependency court system be provided with an advocate, known as a Guardian Ad Litem (GAL), to protect the child's best interest. The Guardian ad Litem program ensures that Monroe County provides the highest quality of representation to children involved in dependency and criminal (witness or victim) court proceedings. The program identifies the necessary resources and constructs a comprehensive plan to achieve permanency for all children and their families. The Guardian ad Litem Program advocates exclusively for the best interests of children. The Guardian ad Litem takes a team approach that includes a volunteer, attorney, and a child advocate manager working together to achieve the highest standard of advocacy. Guardian Ad Litem's guiding mission is "For Children."

2020 has been a challenging year due to COVID -19 restrictions and social

-distancing. However, the Guardian ad Litem Team, aided by our public-private partnerships, found permanent homes for 123 children through family reunifications, adoptions, permanent guardianships, and age-out transitions.

You can make a difference in the Florida Keys by becoming a Guardian ad Litem. Being a volunteer is a rewarding opportunity. If you are interested, call 305.292.3485.

Also in 2020, 178 children in the Monroe County Dependency System were served by 89 volunteers, who selflessly gave their time. This volunteer work includes investigation, report writing, and testimony about a child's current situation. Research shows that children who are represented by a volunteer advocate are 50 percent less likely to return to foster care or have fewer placement changes. Historically these children also do better in school.

To close out 2020, Voices for Florida Keys Children, Inc., a not-for-profit organization that benefits the Guardian ad Litem program, delivered presents to 200+ children and distributed 40 gift cards for food and sundries to local families. Voices for Florida Keys Children is guided by an all-volunteer board dedicated to help children who are served by the Guardian ad Litem.



Circuit Director: Alexsa Leto
305.292.3485
Leto-Alexsa@monroecounty-fl.gov
Budget: \$210,000
Employees: 11
(2 County, 9 State)



CORE VALUES OF OUR PROGRAM

Commitment to Children: the children for whom we advocate are our most important priority.

Communication Built on Trust: we have a culture of open communication, active listening, teamwork, and regard for the views of others. This includes being honest and straightforward with the children we represent in keeping with their level of age and maturity.

Collective Empowerment: the program has the authority and responsibility to make and implement the best decisions to meet the children's needs. This empowerment must extend and passed on to volunteers, attorneys, and staff.

Collaboration: we proactively seek to develop relationships that promote the well-being of the whole child.

Courtesy: the program values all who engage in this challenging work and ensures they are treated with respect and dignity.

Land Authority

www.monroecounty-fl.gov/landauthority

The Monroe County Board of County Commissioners created the Land Authority in 1986 to purchase property in the Florida Keys for conservation, recreation, the protection of property rights, and affordable housing. Many of the properties bought were conservation lands consisting of tropical hardwood hammock, pinelands, and wetlands that provide many environmental benefits, including habitat for endangered species and migrating birds, and lands that help protect water quality.

Due to the significant impacts of Hurricane Irma, the Land Authority is currently putting additional emphasis on identifying and purchasing workforce housing sites. Project coordination is underway with local, state, and federal agencies to maximize the use of taxpayer funds.

The Land Authority's funding for land acquisition comes from a half-cent of the tourist impact tax charged on lodging in the Keys and a surcharge on admissions and overnight camping at state parks in unincorporated Monroe County.

Fiscal and budgetary information regarding the Land Authority can be found at the website.

LAND STEWARDSHIP

The Land Authority oversees approximately 1,800 acres of conservation lands owned by the Land Authority, the County, or the State of Florida. The acres include some individual lots within or adjacent to neighborhoods. In most cases, newly purchased conservation land needs restoration to remove invasive exotic vegetation and, when necessary, to plant native vegetation. Conservation lands protect important wildlife areas, reduce housing density, and preserve the character of neighborhoods.

Funding for land stewardship comes from mitigation fees the County charges on land clearing activities and also from state Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission funds.



A significant milestone was reached in FY19 when the Land Authority passed the \$100 million mark in advancing its mission.

PARTNERSHIP ACQUISITIONS

The County Commission entered into a partnership with the Florida Department of Environmental Protection to work jointly toward the purchase of Florida Forever conservation land in the Keys. The Land Authority serves as the County's agent for this program. The Land Authority also has an interlocal agreement with the County to act on its behalf regarding its Less Than Fee and Density Reduction programs.



Executive Director:
Charles Pattison, FAICP
 305.295.5180
Pattison-Charles@monroecounty-fl.gov
 Employees: 4
 Budget: \$19.7 million overall



Tourist Development Council

www.monroecounty-fl.gov/TDC

The mission of the TDC is to set an overall direction for the County's tourism marketing effort in a manner that will assure long-term sustained growth in tourism revenues while guaranteeing the sustainability and improvement of man-made and natural resources, and improvements to the quality of life of our local residents.

The TDC has various advisory committees and board members comprised of 54 volunteers who represent all facets of the community. It is the legislative extension of the BOCC to appoint nine TDC members and five At Large District Advisory Committee seats. TDC revenues fund marketing efforts and infrastructure improvements like beach maintenance and bricks-and-mortar projects. In fiscal year 2020, the TDC allocated \$7.3 million for capital-related projects that lessened tax burdens on residents and contributed to the resident's quality of life. The BOCC approves all TDC policies, funding, and expenditures.

The TDC started the fiscal year 2020 educating the travel industry and consumers on the newly constructed and renovated products throughout the Florida Keys and focused on sustainable tourism practices across all promotional disciplines. With COVID-19, the focus changed to mindful tourism in the advertising campaign, media relations, sales efforts, research studies as well as an entire landing page on the visitor's website dedicated to protecting and connecting with our environment safely.

The TDC also helped convey to visitors to skip the straw, wear rash guards for sun protection versus using harmful chemical-based sunscreens, and to reduce the use of plastic bags. The TDC also promoted the various alternative methods of transportation; bicycling whenever appropriate, using mass transit in the districts that offer such services and promoted airport shuttles to/from the major South Florida airports.



Director: Stacey Mitchell

305.296.1552

Stacey@fla-keys.com

Visitor's website:

www.fl-keys.com

Florida Keys Council of the Arts

www.keysarts.com

As the designated Local Arts Agency by Florida Statute #265.32, we are committed to our leadership role as the community's umbrella organization for arts and culture.

The Florida Keys Council of the Arts is the leading arts and cultural organization in the Florida Keys. The Council provides services and grants to visual and performing artists, arts organizations, students, and the public, striving to instill a passion for and participation in the arts. To enrich and enhance the arts and cultural community, the Arts Council promotes the Art in Public Places program, and advances the destination for its rich and diverse history.



Executive Director: Elizabeth Young

305.295.4369

Director@keysarts.com

Employees: 3 full, 1 part

Budget: \$385,000

"To enrich and enhance the cultural community, we promote the destination for its rich and diverse history," says Young.

The cultural arts play a fundamental role in the lives of our residents and visitors. The Arts have been and continue to be the signature of what makes our community unique and an international destination. Our focus is to maintain and expand our programming in a diverse, innovative and equitable manner. We strive for results that strengthen the economy, promote active community engagement, and provide support for arts education and advocacy.

Outreach and advocacy are ongoing activities. We connect the public to a sense of place and community with the Art in Public Places commissioned permanent art collection. We advocate in a leadership role by gaining knowledge through our participation in Americans for the Arts, Florida Association of Local Arts Agencies (FALAA), and Florida Association of Public Art Professionals (FAPAP) initiatives.

Our Executive Director is an Executive Board member of FAPAP, attends monthly phone meetings and the annual conference, connecting her to public art trends, challenges and best practices. Arts Council's Board Members and Advisors are engaged, educated and passionate ambassadors for all of the arts.

Their commitment to the organization and knowledge of the economic impact of the arts within the County is essential to our advocacy efforts for continued growth and relevance.

Citizen Boards & Committees

www.monroecounty-fl.gov/boardsandcommittees

Monroe County has citizen boards and committees that contribute to the government in a variety of ways; some serve as advisory groups to the Board of County Commissioners, while others work on issues and projects in the community.

AFFORDABLE HOUSING ADVISORY COMMITTEE

Works on affordable housing opportunities for residents and workforce and fulfills Florida Statute requirements regarding the Local Housing Assistance Plan.

Contact: Juanita Jones

305.289.2562

Jones-Juanita@monroecounty-fl.gov

ART IN PUBLIC PLACES

The five-person BOCC-appointed committee reviews and recommends proposals for commissioned permanent public art. Projects are funded by the "1% for Art" ordinance created in 2001. It strives to promote and support the vibrant arts community by enhancing public buildings throughout Monroe County.

Contact: Elizabeth Young

305.295.4369

Director@keysarts.com

CLIMATE CHANGE ADVISORY COMMITTEE

Makes recommendations to the BOCC regarding appropriate mitigation and adaptation policies needed to address climate change issues.

Contact: Alicia Betancourt

305.453.8774

Betancourt-Alicia@monroecounty-fl.gov

COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT BLOCK GRANT CITIZENS ADVISORY TASK FORCE

Assists Monroe County by conducting neighborhood revitalization and housing rehabilitation programs using Community Development Block Grant funds.

Contact: Tina LoSacco

305.292.4426

Losacco-Tina@monroecounty-fl.gov

CONSTRUCTION BOARD OF ADJUSTMENT AND APPEALS

Hears discrepancies in interpretations of the current County building codes.

Contact: Maria Partington

305.289.2583

Partington-Maria@monroecounty-fl.gov

CONTRACTORS EXAMINING BOARD

Interprets and makes rules and regulations, and hears public complaints and code compliance violations.

Contact: Maria Partington

305.289.2583

Partington-Maria@monroecounty-fl.gov

DEVELOPMENT REVIEW COMMITTEE

A committee that reviews applications for development approval and reviews applications for amendments to the text of the Comprehensive Plan, Land Development Code, and map amendments.

Contact: Debra Roberts

305.289.2522

Roberts-Debra@monroecounty-fl.gov

Or, Ilze Aquila 305.289.2529

Aguila-Ilze@monroecounty-fl.gov



FLORIDA KEYS TRANSPORTATION COORDINATION COMMITTEE

The Board of County Commissioners approved a resolution in July 2019 to create the committee to study and research traffic issues and create formal recommendations for the governing bodies of the five municipalities and the BOCC.

DUCK KEY SECURITY DISTRICT ADVISORY BOARD

Provides security services for the residential areas of Duck Key.

Contact: Sylvia Hernandez

sylviahdz@gmail.com

Updates on Duck Key Bridge projects can be found at www.monroecounty-fl.gov/duckkey.

FLORIDA KEYS COUNCIL FOR PEOPLE WITH DISABILITIES

Implements special projects that advocate for residents and visitors with disabilities and their families.

Contact: Anna Haskins

305.292.4591

Haskins-Anna@monroecounty-fl.gov



Contact: Janene Sclafani,
Transportation Planner
305.289.2545
Sclafani-Janene@monroecounty-fl.gov

HISTORIC PRESERVATION COMMISSION
Designates and regulates historical properties within the unincorporated area of the County.
Contact: Diane E. Silvia
305.292.6718
hfkf@bellsouth.net

HUMAN SERVICES ADVISORY BOARD
Reviews funding requests from non-profit human services agencies and makes recommendations to the BOCC.
Contact: Janet Gunderson
305.292.4470
Gunderson-Janet@monroecounty-fl.gov

KEY WEST INTERNATIONAL AIRPORT AD HOC COMMITTEE ON NOISE

Acts as a conduit for information to and from their constituents on issues related to airport and aircraft noise.
Contact: Deborah Lagos
305.294.9595
deborah.murphy.lagos@gmail.com

LAND AUTHORITY ADVISORY COMMITTEE

Makes recommendations to BOCC on matters related to Land Authority property acquisitions.
Contact: Dina Gambuzza,
305.295.5180
Gambuzza-Dina@monroecounty-fl.gov

LIBRARY ADVISORY BOARD

Provides the Board of County Commissioners with information and counsel concerning all matters relating to the libraries.
Contact: Valerie Moore,
305.809.5266
Moore-Valerie@monroecounty-fl.gov

OLDER AMERICANS ADVISORY BOARD

Makes recommendations to BOCC regarding services or programs that would benefit older American citizens of the County.
Contact: Pam Martin
305.853.0907
pmflkeys@aol.com

PARKS AND RECREATION ADVISORY BOARD

The 5-person BOCC-appointed board reviews existing facilities, programs, expenditures, and revenues and makes recommendations for improvements, additional facilities, and programs.
Contact: Debra Martinez
305.295.4385
Martinez-Debra@monroecounty-fl.gov

PLANNING COMMISSION

The 5-person BOCC-appointed board serves as the local planning agency. Reviews proposed amendments to the text of the Comprehensive Plan, Land Development Code, and map amendments, and provides recommendations to the BOCC.

Contact: Debra Roberts 305.289.2522
Roberts-Debra@monroecounty-fl.gov
Or, **Ilze Aquila**
305.289.2529
Aquila-Ilze@monroecounty-fl.gov

SHARED ASSET FORFEITURE FUND ADVISORY BOARD

Recommends grant funding to private, non-profit organizations using money from the Sheriff's Office's forfeitures and seized assets.
Contact: Michelle Quad 305.292.7090
mquad@keysso.net

SUBSTANCE ABUSE ADVISORY BOARD

Reviews and recommends applications for funding under the Florida Department of Law Enforcement's Byrne Justice Assistance Grant Program and the Clerk's Drug Abuse Trust Fund. This board also serves as the County's Planning Council for the Florida Department of Children and Families Office of Criminal Justice, Mental Health, and Substance Abuse. **Contact: Janet Gunderson** 305.292.4470
Gunderson-Janet@monroecounty-fl.gov

TOURIST DEVELOPMENT COUNCIL

Sets an overall direction for the Monroe County tourism marketing effort to assure long-term sustained growth in tourism revenues and sustainability of resources.
Contact: Katrina Cool
305.296.1552
officeasst@fla-keys.com

County Parks & Beaches

www.monroecounty-fl.gov/parks

Unincorporated Monroe County maintains 20 parks and beaches, covering more than 100 acres of the island chain. Some parks have rentable community rooms and other amenities.

BIG COPPITT KEY

Big Coppitt Volunteer Fire Department Park

280 Avenue F

The park includes a basketball court, roller hockey rink, bocce courts, horseshoe pits, and a handball court. It also has six tables and benches.

Wilhelmina Harvey Park

373 Avenue F

The family-friendly park has a playground and swing set area, a picnic area with an open grassy area and a small walking trail. The park is pet-friendly.

BIG PINE KEY

Blue Heron Park

Lytton's Way, left, from U.S. 1 and Wilder Road

The park has three pickleball courts. The rest of the park remains closed for Hurricane Irma repairs.

Watson Field Park and Big Pine Key Dog Park 30150

South Street

It features a baseball field, sand volleyball courts, two tennis courts, and a dog park with a grassy playing field. The County installed new fencing in early 2019 due to Hurricane Irma damage.

Palm Villa Park

End of Palm Avenue and Wilder

This small pocket park has a picnic table and playground.

Big Pine Key Community Park

31009 Atlantis Road, at the end of Sands Road.

This 10-acre waterfront park has a playground, skate park, tennis, bocce, shuffleboard, pickleball, and a fitness trail. The roller hockey rink, basketball court, handball courts, and baseball field were repaired in 2019 from Hurricane Irma damage. There is also a community center, which can be used for meetings and parties. Lighting Repairs were completed in 2019.

GEIGER KEY

Boca Chica Beach

354 Boca Chica Road

This relatively secluded beach is a great spot to see a multitude of sea life.

KEY LARGO

Friendship Park

69 Hibiscus Drive

This 3-acre park has a playground, baseball diamond, basketball courts, and shaded structures.

Rowell's Waterfront Park MM 104.5 on U.S. 1, Bayside

This 8-acre park along the Bay opened as a passive park in 2016. The County hosted several informal public meetings in 2019 for community input for a conceptual drawing for the future park. The passive park is open daily from 7:30 a.m. to a half-hour after sunset.

Key Largo Community Park & Pool

500 St. Croix Place

This 14-acre park features the Jacobs Aquatic Center, playing fields, a fitness course, tennis courts, volleyball nets, basketball courts, handball, and skateboarding amenities. Admission fees apply for the pool.

Murray E. Nelson Government Center Park

102050 Overseas Highway

This park is at the back of the government center. It features five pavilions, restrooms, and picnic tables. It is accessible for small boats. Kayaks and canoes can be launched at the park.

KEY WEST

Higgs Beach

1040 Atlantic Blvd

The park along the ocean offers swimming, snorkeling, beach volleyball, tennis, and pickleball. It includes a dog park and Astro City, a large sandy playground with barbecue pits, a volleyball court, and picnic tables. The County is working on a project to renovate the area, which includes relocating Atlantic Boulevard for safety reasons.

Key West Pines Park

3501 South Roosevelt Blvd

This picnic area under Australian pines is a good place to watch planes take off from Key West International Airport or the beautiful sunrises over the water. Pets are allowed. The park is home to an annual food truck festival and staging for the annual Zombie Bike Ride.

RAMROD KEY**Ramrod Park**

Corner of Bay Shore and Pruitt Drive

The park is vacant and sandy. Visitors can enjoy walking or relaxing on the sand while watching the sunset.

SADDLEBUNCH KEYS**Bay Point Park**

6 West Circle Drive, MM 15 on U.S. 1

The park features benches, picnic tables, and barbecue pits.

There is a sand volleyball court, a basketball court, a tennis court, and a bocce court. It also has a sandy playground with swing sets and a jungle gym, a large grassy field, and a soccer net.

STOCK ISLAND**Bernstein Park**

6751 Fifth St.

Bernstein Park was renovated in August 2018. The \$7.9 million renovation project included a new 5,500 square-foot community center, playground, basketball court, walking path, elevated athletic fields, and field lighting. The County recently added a new grant-funded "Fit Court" to the property.

TAVERNIER**Old Settlers Park**

MM 92.5 on U.S. 1, Oceanside

This historic location has been transformed into a small park with a pavilion, picnic table, walking trail, and playground. Benches are scattered throughout the park to provide visitors with a place to enjoy the scenic ocean views. Pets are allowed.

Harry Harris Park

End of East Beach Road

The 21-acre park features two boat ramps, pavilions, barbecue grills, picnic tables, a playground, a basketball court, and a protected beach and swimming area. The two ball fields destroyed by Irma were rebuilt with new clay, dugouts, and bleachers and reopened in early 2019. Ball field lighting repairs were completed in early 2020.

LITTLE DUCK KEY**Veterans Memorial Park and Beach**

West end of the 7 Mile Bridge, MM 40 on U.S. 1

After suffering extensive damage from Hurricane Irma in 2017, the oceanside Veterans Memorial Park reopened in March 2019. The parking lot and beach are open to the public. The permanent bathrooms and one pavilion at the site need further renovations and will remain closed. There are portalet facilities on site available for use.

**Boat Ramps**

www.monroecounty-fl.gov/boatramps

Unincorporated Monroe County has eight boat ramps that are available for public use. The County ramps are free for Monroe County residents.

BIG COPPITT KEY**BARCELONA RAMP**

Gulf View Boat Ramp,
Barcelona Avenue
MM 9.3 -- 24°36'06" N
81°40'00" W

-The ramp has a one-lane concrete ramp intended for small boat access to Waltz Key Basin. There are 5 parking spaces in an adjacent gravel parking area. The County recently improved the ramp.

BIG PINE KEY

Koehn Avenue, MM 30.8
Bayside

-The ramp is intended for small boats and kayaks only and will accommodate light to moderate use. Limited parking on the road shoulder.

Eden Pines, MM 30.8 Bayside

-No parking, launch only.

The ramp is intended for small and large boats.

CUDJOE KEY

Blimp Road, MM 21.2
Bayside

-Dirt shoulder parking at the end of the street. The ramp is intended for small and large boats.

GEIGER KEY

Geiger Key Boat Launch, next door to Geiger Key Marina

-The ramp is intended for small boats and kayaks only and will accommodate light to moderate use.

KEY LARGO

Sunset Point Park, 24 Sunset Road
MM 95.2 -- 25°02'59" N
80°29'21" W

-Provides access to the bayside and has one paved/concrete ramp surface. The ramp is intended for small boats and kayaks only and will accommodate light to moderate use. The parking area is pea rock with six truck/trailer spaces, trash cans, and a picnic table.

LITTLE TORCH KEY

State Road 4A, MM 28.5
Bayside

-The ramp is intended for small and large boats. There is limited parking across the street for trailers.

TAVERNIER

Harry Harris Park,
50 Beach Rd
MM 92.5 -- 25°01'28" N
80°29'39" W

-A concrete double ramp is separated by a finger pier and was resurfaced in 2019. It provides access to the Atlantic Ocean. The ramp is intended for small and large boats and is heavily used. Parking is limited to 20 trailers. (\$10 fee for non-residents).

County Historic Properties & Museums

TAKE A STEP BACK IN TIME

Monroe County owns and maintains multiple historic properties, four of which have been developed into museums. Some of the historic properties maintained by the County include the 1890 Courthouse in Key West, the 1916 Gato Cigar Factory in Key West, the 1914 Truman School now serving the public as the Harvey Government Center in Key West, the 1892 Key West Sheriff Residence and Jail, and the 1936 Tavernier School.

Museum locations include Pigeon Key, a small island two miles offshore of Marathon, the Key West Lighthouse and Keeper's Quarters, and the East and West Martello Civil War Forts.

PIGEON KEY

While Henry Flagler was building the Oversea Railway to Key West in the early 1900s, more than 400 workers lived in the railroad village on Pigeon Key, located in the path of the Old Seven Mile Bridge. Pigeon Key had a post office, commissary and one-room school while the bridge was being built from 1908 to 1912.

When a hurricane destroyed the railway in 1935, Pigeon Key became the headquarters for the Florida Road and Toll Bridge District. Starting in 1968, the island served for 20 years as an environmental field station for international researchers studying tropical marine and island ecologies with the University of Miami. In 1993, the Pigeon Key Foundation assumed stewardship and began restoration efforts to turn it into a museum.

In 2017, Hurricane Irma caused substantial damage to the 1912 Commissary and the 1940 Honeymoon Cottage knocking both structures off their foundations. In 2018, the Pigeon Key Foundation asked the County to manage the repair and restoration of these two buildings. Shoring, repair, and construction began in early 2020 and will take two years to complete.

PIGEON KEY FERRY

The ferry makes daily departures at 10 a.m., noon and 2 p.m. from Pigeon Key Visitor's Center, 2010 Overseas Highway in Marathon. The ferry cost includes historical tour and island access. \$12 per person. Monroe County residents \$9. Children under 5 are free. For more information, call 305-743-5999 or visit www.pigeonkey.net.



EAST AND WEST MARTELLO CIVIL WAR FORTS

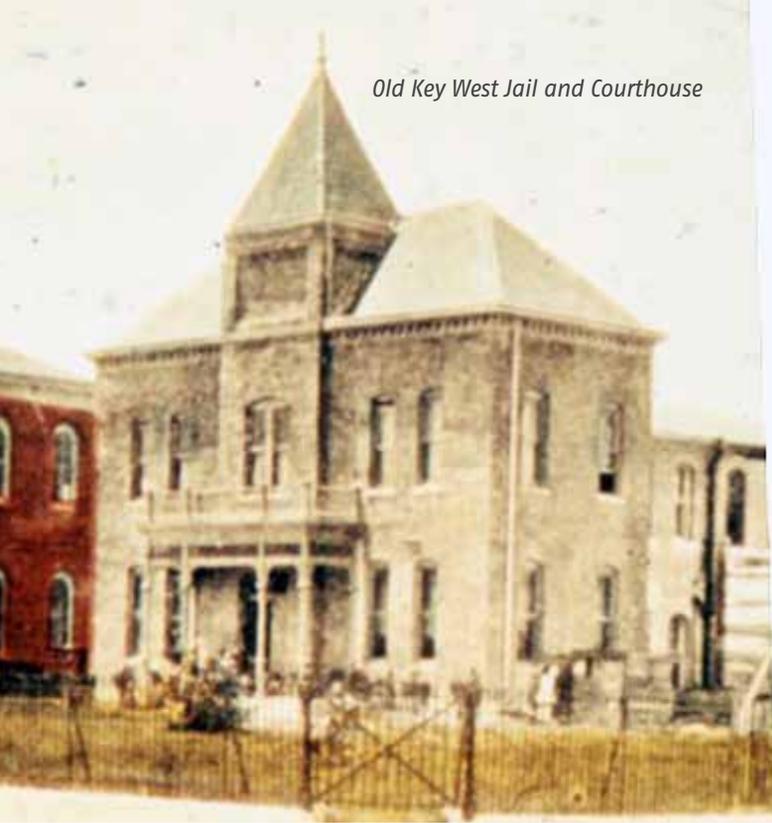
In 1822, the U.S. Navy surveyed sites for a fort to command the harbor in Key West. In 1836, the U.S. Army and a French military engineer drew up plans for a set of nine forts to command Key West harbor. The high cost led to revising the plan to just Fort Zachary Taylor and two advanced batteries, the East and West Martello Towers.

The two towers built in the mid-1860s on what is now South Roosevelt Boulevard were never armed or involved in a battle. They were used during the Spanish American War in 1898 for quartering troops and from 1914-44, they were used for radio stations and an anti-aircraft battery on the beach.

In 1947, the Army-owned towers became the property of Monroe County. The West Tower had become an eyesore to the shoreline with pressure in 1949 to demolish it and put in a new beach area. County Commissioner Joe Allen convinced the County Commission to stop the demolition.

The Key West Garden Club entered into a land-lease agreement with the County. The West Tower was declared a National Historic Site by the State of Florida in 1976 and is listed in the National Register of Historic Places.

Admission for the Fort East Martello Museum is \$12 for adults, \$5 for children (6 and up), children under 6 are free, \$5 for students with ID, free for Monroe County students, and \$9 for Monroe County residents and seniors 62 and older. www.kwahs.org.



The Key West Art & Historical Society restored the East Tower and opened Fort East Martello Museum in 1950 as the first museum in the Keys.

In 1972, it was added to the U.S. National Register of Historic Places. The museum now houses the imaginative metal sculptures of Stanley Papio and Robert the Doll, a supposedly haunted doll belonging to the late artist Robert Eugene Otto.

In 2018, the County started restoration of the historic brick at both the East and West Martello that will continue through 2021. East Martello also is receiving drainage upgrades, road and parking repairs, and new roofing, which was completed in 2019. Funding was provided by the Monroe County Tourist Development Council.

KEY WEST LIGHTHOUSE AND KEEPERS' QUARTERS MUSEUM

After the first Key West Lighthouse was destroyed in an 1846 hurricane, a new lighthouse that stood 50 feet tall was constructed. In 1894, the growth of trees and taller buildings in Key West led to it being raised so the light was about 100 feet above sea level.

Admission for the Lighthouse, at 938 Whitehead Street, is \$12 for adults, \$5 for children (6+), children under 6 are free, \$5 for students with ID, free for Monroe County students, and \$9 for Monroe County residents and seniors 62 and older. www.kwahs.org.

The Coast Guard decommissioned the Key West Lighthouse in 1969 and it was turned over to Monroe County. The County leases it to the Key West Art & Historical Society as a museum. One item on display is the first-order Fresnel lens from Sombrero Key Lighthouse.

Future plans include the restoration of the Oil House into exhibition space, which will display how the lighthouse was fueled.

1892 KEY WEST JAIL RESTORATION MUSEUM PROJECT TO START IN EARLY 2020

Monroe County Project Management will start the restoration of the 1892 Key West Jail in early 2020. The first phase includes roof replacement, door and window restoration, and spalling repairs. In the second phase, non-historic features of the building will be removed and fire protection, required ADA access, restrooms, and museum facilities will be added. The tentative opening date is in 2022. To read the full historical structure report, visit www.monroecounty-fl.gov/keywestjail.

A CONDENSED HISTORY OF THE KEY WEST JAIL

The 1892 jail had been specifically designed to mimic the Monroe County Courthouse, built just two years earlier. Both the jail and courthouse were considered impressive civic accomplishments, and symbols of Monroe County's position as the most populous city in Florida at that time with the U.S. Census showing more than 18,000 citizens in Key West.

The 1892 jail was the fifth jail built at the historic Jackson Square. In 1907, a 10-foot high concrete wall was built around the jail and in 1910 the jail was expanded to increase capacity with a two-story concrete cell block.

In 1952, the front of the old jail was demolished and replaced with a new jail and office for the Monroe County Sheriff. In 1965, the sheriff's office was replaced with a courthouse annex. This annex was expanded in the 1980s. At that time, the north section of the 1907 wall was removed. Today, only the rear portion of the 1892 building remains, along with the entire 1910 addition and the 1910 cell block.

Constitutional Officers

There are five Constitutional Officers in the Florida Keys. They are elected by voters in the entire county. They are Sheriff, Clerk of the Court, Supervisor of Elections, Tax Collector, and Property Appraiser. The Constitutional Officers report to the people. Each has different responsibilities mandated by state law.

SUPERVISOR OF ELECTIONS

www.keys-elections.org

R. Joyce Griffin

305.292.3416

Employees: 9



The Supervisor of Elections oversees all elections in Monroe County. On the website, residents can register

to vote, request Vote-By-Mail ballots, check voting status, check where to vote, request signature and address, and change party affiliation. Residents also can find information on candidates running for office, or learn how to become a candidate for county elections.

Supervisor of Elections offices:

530 Whitehead Street #101, **Key West**
10015 Overseas Hwy, **Marathon**
102050 Overseas Hwy #137, **Key Largo**

As of January 2021, there were 53,704 active registered voters in the County.

Election results are available starting in 1932, sample ballots can be viewed starting from 1987 and total voters who came out to vote in any of the elections starting in 1958, when Monroe County only had 11,544 registered voters.

CLERK OF THE CIRCUIT COURT & COMPTROLLER

www.clerk-of-the-court.com

Kevin Madok

305.292.3550

Employees: 88



The Clerk of Court is responsible for the issuances of Monroe County's marriage licenses and is responsible for keeping the official public records of past and current BOCC meetings, County payroll accounts, and payables and receivables. The Clerk is in charge of circuit and County criminal, civil, juvenile, probate, and traffic departments, including traffic citation payments.

Key West Traffic/Criminal

500 Whitehead St | 305.295.3963

Key West Civil/Recording/Records

530 Whitehead St | 305.292.3440

Marathon Office

3117 Overseas Hwy | 305.289.6027

Plantation Key Office

88820 Overseas Hwy, Islamorada

305.852.7145

Plantation Key Roth Office

50 High Point Road, Islamorada

305.852.7145

PROPERTY APPRAISER

www.mcpafl.org

Scott P. Russell

305.292.3420

Employees: 37



The Monroe County Property Appraiser is responsible for identifying, locating, and fairly valuing all property within the county for tax purposes. Determining fair and equitable value for your property is the only role of this office. The property appraiser does not create value; the value is made by buying and selling real estate in the marketplace. The property appraiser has the legal responsibility to study those transactions and appraise your property accordingly.

Main Office

305.292.3420

500 Whitehead Street (rear of building), Key West

Middle Keys Satellite Office

305.289.2550

MM 48, 2798 Overseas Hwy, Suite 310, Marathon

Upper Keys Satellite Office

305.852.7130

MM 88.7, 88700 Overseas Hwy Islamorada

TAX COLLECTOR

www.monroetaxcollector.com

Sam Steele

305.295.5010, Employees: 57



The tax collector is an agent to collect state and government revenue and public funding. The tax collector is responsible for the collection of ad valorem taxes, non-ad valorem taxes, motor vehicle and vessel registration, title applications, collection of sales tax, issuance of hunting and fishing licenses, driver's license services, concealed weapons, local business tax, issuance of City of Key West parking permits, and collection of tourist development taxes.

The tax collector works with information provided by the Property Appraiser's Office for the tax roll, which consists of real estate taxes, tangible taxes, and assessments, like fire, solid waste, and sewer.

Main Office KeyWest

1200 Truman Ave., Suite 101
305.295.5000

Marathon Branch Office

3101 Overseas Highway
305.289.6034

Plantation Key Branch Office

Governmental Center Annex Building
88800 Overseas Hwy, Islamorada
305.852.7150

Key Largo Branch Office

Tradewinds Shopping Center
101487 Overseas Hwy, 305.853.3562

Key West Driver License Office

Searstown Shopping Center
305.293.6338

Marathon Driver License Office

3384 Overseas Hwy, 305-289-2306

SHERIFF

www.keyssso.net

Rick Ramsay

Dial 911 for emergencies, 305.292.7000 for the non-emergency switchboard

r Ramsay@keyssso.net

Employees: 600



The Monroe County Sheriff's Office is the primary law enforcement agency serving the residents and visitors

of the Florida Keys from Key Largo to Key West. Law enforcement duties include traditional road patrol, the operation of county detention facilities, and the service of civil papers.

On the Sheriff's website, users can find information about arrest data, active warrant information, victim resources and more.

Administrative Headquarters

305-292-7000

5525 College Road, Key West

DON'T MISS OUT ON THE ANIMAL FARM: free of charge, the second and fourth Sunday of the month from 1 to 3 p.m.

Freeman Substation

20950 Overseas Hwy, Cudjoe Key

Marathon Substation

3103 Overseas Highway

Islamorada Substation

86800 Overseas Highway

Roth Building

50 High Point Road, Islamorada

Key Largo Substation

102050 Overseas Highway

JUSTICE SYSTEM: 16TH JUDICIAL CIRCUIT COURT

www.keyscourts.net

Chief Judge: Mark Jones

Trial Court Administrator: Holly Elomina 305.292.3423

Freeman Justice Center

302 Fleming Street, Key West

Marathon Courthouse

3117 Overseas Highway

Plantation Key Government Center

88820 Overseas Hwy, Tavernier

Medical Examiner

www.monroecounty-fl.gov/medicalexaminer



Monroe County built a state-of-the-art Medical Examiners facility on Grassy Key

in 2008 to store records and perform examinations and testing in the morgue.

The Medical Examiners Act was enacted in 1970 to establish minimum and uniform standards in death investigations. Florida's 67 counties are served by 25 Medical Examiner Districts appointed by the governor in 3-year terms.

By statute, the Medical Examiner determines cause and manner of death of a human being under the following circumstances: criminal violence, accidents, suicides, the sudden unexplained death of an otherwise healthy person, unattended by a practicing physician or other recognized practitioner, in a prison or penal institution, in police custody, suspicious or unusual circumstances, criminal abortion, poisoning, diseases that threaten public health, and employment-related diseases, injuries, or toxic agent.

The medical examiner also determines the cause and manner of death when a dead body is brought into the state without proper medical certification; when the body is to be cremated, dissected, or buried at sea; and when requested by the District Attorney.

The medical examiner's primary tool is an autopsy, which is a post-mortem examination. During an autopsy, everything is documented in a "case file," with photographs taken at all stages of the process. When an investigation is complete, a death certificate listing the cause and manner of death is filed with the Department of Vital Records for the State of Florida.

In 2019, the Medical Examiner's Office investigated 194 deaths. Through cooperation with multiple law enforcement agencies, the office identified all individuals in 2019.



Monroe County participates in the National Missing and Unidentified Persons System (NamUs). Monroe County has 45 unidentified cases. An unclaimed person has been identified, but the family has not been found to be notified by Local Law Enforcement.

Anyone can search the NamUs database at www.namus.gov or call 855.626.7600. They offer help to families in search of a missing family member.

STATE ATTORNEY

www.keyssao.org



Dennis Ward
305.292.3400

PUBLIC DEFENDER

www.pd16.org



Robert Lockwood
305.294.2501

To request a copy of an autopsy report, the request form is available at www.monroecounty-fl.gov/medicalexaminer. The form can be emailed to meo@monroecounty-fl.gov, or mailed to the Medical Examiner's Office, 56639 Overseas Highway, Marathon, FL 33050.

Municipalities

There are five municipalities in the Keys. Each has its own elected mayor, council and government for the operations of their city. The rest of Monroe County is known as “unincorporated Monroe County,” and it is governed by the Monroe County Board of County Commissioners.

ISLAMORADA, VILLAGE OF ISLANDS

Mayor: Buddy Pinder

86800 Overseas Highway, Islamorada
305.664.6400

www.islamorada.fl.us

City Manager: Maria Basset, Acting

Public Information Officer: Mary Swaney
mary.swaney@islamorada.fl.us

CITY OF KEY COLONY BEACH

Mayor: John DeNeale

www.keycolonybeach.net
305.289.1212

City Clerk: Rebecca Todd

cityclerk@keycolonybeach.net

CITY OF KEY WEST

Mayor: Teri Johnston

1300 White St., Key West
305.809.3700

www.cityofkeywest-fl.gov

City Manager: Greg Veliz

Public Information Officer:
Alyson Crean
acrean@cityofkeywest-fl.gov

CITY OF LAYTON

Mayor: Bruce Halle

68260 Overseas Highway, Long Key
www.cityoflayton.com
305.664.4667

City Administrator: Skip Haring

cityhall@cityoflayton.com

CITY OF MARATHON

Mayor: Luis Gonzalez

9805 Overseas Highway
www.ci.marathon.fl.us

305.743.0033

City Manager: George Garrett

garrettg@ci.marathon.fl.us

Federal Agencies in Monroe County

NAVAL AIR STATION KEY WEST

www.cnic.navy.mil

Monroe County and Naval Air Station Key West have a long history of cooperation and mutual partnership. This collaboration has contributed economic, public safety and environmental benefits for the community at large, and has also enhanced operational and readiness requirements for the Department of Defense, Department of Homeland Security, National Guard units, federal agencies and allied forces supported by Naval Air Station Key West.

Public information officer: Trice Denny

Andrea.Denny@navy.mil

United States Coast Guard

The Coast Guard has stations in Islamorada and Marathon. It also operates Sector Key West, which is responsible for 55,000 square miles, including Cuba and the Bahamas. The Coast Guard protects the maritime border, environment and marine commerce. They conduct search and rescue and law enforcement operations, and in the event of a disaster, Coast Guard works with Monroe County Emergency Management.

Station Islamorada: 305.664.8077

Station Marathon: 305.743.1991

Sector Key West: 305.292.8713

NOAA

www.floridakeys.noaa.gov

NOAA also is responsible for the Florida Keys National Marine Sanctuary, which protects 2,900 nautical miles of Florida Keys coastal and ocean waters.

National Weather Service Key West

www.floridakeys.noaa.gov

www.weather.gov/key

For all things weather-related, the County entrusts the experts at NWS for updated forecasts and other expertise. Daily forecasts can be found on the NWS website and during a hurricane event, like Hurricane Irma in 2017 and Tropical Storm Eta in 2020.

U.S. Customs and Border Protection

www.cbp.gov

In the event of an emergency, U.S. Customs and Border Protection agents become a part of Monroe County's Emergency Management team. The agency is also responsible for border security and detaining illegal immigrants, preventing human trafficking, and checking people in and out at the Key West Port of Entry located at 301 Simonton St, Room 105, Key West; 877.227.5511.

FEDERAL PARKS IN THE KEYS

Dry Tortugas National Park

70 Miles West of Key West
www.Nps.gov; 305-242-7700

Great White Heron National Wildlife Refuge, Key West National Wildlife Refuge and National Key Deer Refuge Visitor Center

179 Key Deer Blvd, Big Pine Key
www.Fws.gov; 305.872.0774

CEMETERIES IN THE KEYS

Key West Cemetery

701 Pauline St, Key West

Southern Keys Cemetery

258 Ave A, Key West

African Refugee Cemetery

Higgs Beach, Key West

Memorial Gardens of the Keys

31211 Ave. A, Big Pine Key

Pioneer Cemetery

81801 Overseas Hwy, Islamorada

State Agencies in Monroe County

In Monroe County, many branches of government at the federal, state, and local levels work in the Keys – some directly serve the local residents and some have bigger missions to serve Florida or the country. Monroe County BOCC works with other government entities at all levels for the good of the County and its citizens.

Florida Department of Health Monroe County

www.Monroe.floridahealth.gov
[www.DOHMonroe@flhealth.gov](mailto:DOHMonroe@flhealth.gov)

The department is responsible for helping to keep the residents in the Florida Keys healthy. From environmental health to preventative planning for those who are pregnant to those looking for elderly care, and everyone in between. The Florida Department of Health in Monroe County is also a partner for special needs care during evacuation events and has helped Monroe County in the past with issues like screw-worm and mosquito-related incidents. The local department was the lead agency for the COVID-19 pandemic that started in locally in March 2020.

Administrator: Bob Eadie

305.293.7500

1100 Simonton St, Gato Building, Key West

Public Information Officer: Alison Kerr

305.676.3820

Alison.Kerr@flhealth.gov

Environmental Health

553 College Rd, Stock Island,
305.676.3908

102050 Overseas Hwy, Key Largo

305.676.3941

Public Health and Mental Preparedness

105 Olivia St, Key West
305.293.7500

Health Care Centers

1100 Simonton St, Key West
3333 Overseas Hwy, Marathon
50 High Point Rd, Tavernier

Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission (FWC)

www.myfwc.com/

FWC has many entities in the Keys, including law enforcement, licenses and permitting, conservation and research. On the law enforcement side, the FWC officers overlap with Monroe County Sheriff's Office on the water and near coastal communities to respond as backup or primary on water-related issues and public safety. The agency also brings in supplemental officers and equipment to support Emergency Management.

FWC, Cont.

On the research side of FWC, the agency keeps track of economically stimulating fisheries like lobster and stone crab, which is important not only for the County but also for the State. It also helps create awareness about invasive species, like lionfish, and is the State agency tasked with testing antibiotics for the coral disease outbreak.

Department of Environmental Protection

www.FloridaDEP.gov

The DEP is the State's lead agency for environmental management and stewardship, divided into three areas: land and recreation, regulatory, and ecosystem restoration. In Monroe County, DEP has been an integral agency for the County's canal restoration, stormwater and sustainability projects.

Department of Motor Vehicles

305.289.2600

Florida Highway Patrol

The state law enforcement agencies have officers who are stationed in the Keys to provide a variety of functions, often working collaboratively with local law enforcement. 850.617.2000
www.flhsmv.gov

STATE PARKS IN THE KEYS

www.floridastateparks.org

Bahia Honda

36850 Overseas Hwy, Bahia Honda 305.872.2353

Curry Hammock

56200 Overseas Hwy, Marathon 305.289.2690

Dagny Johnson Hammock

County Road 905, MM 106, Key Largo 305.676.3777

Florida Keys Overseas Heritage Trail

90 linear miles of trail: Key Largo to Key West;
305.853.3571

Fort Zachary Taylor

601 Howard England Way, Key West 305.292.6713

Indian Key

Offshore Islamorada, 305.664.2540

John Pennekamp Coral Reef

MM 102.5, Key Largo
www.Pennekamppark.com, 305.664.3777

Lignumvitae Key Botanical

77200 Overseas Hwy, Islamorada, 305.664.2540

Long Key

67400 Overseas Hwy, Long Key 305.664.4815

San Pedro Underwater Archaeological Preserve

Remains of a Dutch-built ship off Indian Key
305.664.2540

Windley Key Fossil Reef Geological State Park 84900

Overseas Hwy, Islamorada, 305-664-2540



Quick References

FLORIDA KEYS CHAMBERS OF COMMERCE

Key Largo Chamber of Commerce

www.keylargochamber.org
106000 Overseas Hwy
info@keyslargochamber.org
305.451.1414

Key West Business Guild

www.gaykeywestfl.com
808 Duval St, 305.294.4603

Key West Chamber of Commerce

www.keywestchamber.org
510 Greene St, 305.294.2587
info@keywestchamber.org

Greater Marathon Chamber of Commerce

www.floridakeysmarathon.com
1222 Overseas Hwy, 305.743.5417
info@floridakeysmarathon.com

Islamorada Chamber of Commerce

www.islamoradachamber.com
87100 Overseas Hwy, 305.664.4503
info@islamoradachamber.com

Lower Keys Chamber of Commerce

www.lowerkeyschamber.com
31020 Overseas Hwy, Big Pine Key
info@lowerkeyschamber.com
305.872.0752

Florida Keys Mosquito Control District

www.keysmosquito.org
Five board members are elected countywide to represent their respective districts. The board's mission is to control mosquitoes efficiently in an environmentally sensitive manner while protecting the public from health threats and nuisance issues that could impact the local economy.

Director: Andrea Leal 305.292.7190

Public Information: Chad Huff

305.292.7190 x 131
chuff@keysmosquito.org

Comcast Service Center

1010 Kennedy Dr, Suite 200, Key West 300
Sombrero Rd, Marathon
800.266.2278

AT&T and U-Verse

1113 Key Plaza, Key West
5109 Overseas Hwy, Marathon
305.296.5007; 855.293.7676

Monroe County School District

www.keysschools.com
Five board members are elected county-wide to represent their respective districts.
Superintendent: Theresa Axford
305.293.1400,
Theresa.Axford@keysschools.com

Total Enrollment: 8,951

School Board Members:

District 1: Bobby Highsmith 305.923.9331
bobby.highsmith@keysschools.com

District 2: Andy Griftiths, 305.296.2639
andy.griffiths@keysschools.com

District 3: Mindy Conn 305.293.1400
x53323, mindy.conn@keysschools.com

District 4: John Dick, 305.395.0657
john.dick@keysschools.com

District 5: Sue Woltanski, 305.240.1565
sue.woltanski@keysschools.com

Florida Keys Electric Cooperative

www.fkec.com, 91630 Overseas Hwy., Tavernier, 305.852.2431
The nine-person elected electric company board represents four districts in the Middle and Upper Keys from the 7 Mile Bridge to Ocean Reef, and to the County line on the 18-Mile Stretch.

Keys Energy Services

www.keysenergy.com, 1001 James St., Key West, 305.295.1000
The five-seat elected governing board for the Lower Keys electric company represents the 7 Mile Bridge to Key West.
Communications: Julio Torrado
Julio.Torrado@keysenergy.com, 305.295.1023

Florida Keys Aqueduct Authority

www.fkaa.com, 1100 Kennedy Dr, Key West, 305.296.2454
The five board members each represent the entire County and are appointed by Florida's governor.
Public Information: Julie Cheon
jcheon@fkaa.com, 305.295.2150

Animal Control

The three animal shelters in Monroe County are community resources for pet owners and pet lovers. By Florida statute, each county is responsible for its own animal control. Animal Control is responsible for enforcing animal control regulations, protecting the public from the dangers and nuisances of uncontrolled, dangerous, or feral animals, and protecting animals from cruelty, abuse, and abandonment. They are also responsible for the spay and neutering and adoption of animals in their care. Animal Control officers conduct investigations, issue citations, and attend court proceedings related to alleged violations. The three County shelters provide all animals in their custody with proper care, nutrition, and shelter.

KEY WEST AND THE LOWER KEYS

MM 0 through MM 16.5
Florida Keys SPCA
5711 College Rd., Key West
305.294.4857
After-Hours: 305.304.5964
www.fkspca.org

BIG PINE KEY AND THE MIDDLE KEYS

MM 16.5 through MM 70
10550 Aviation Blvd. Marathon
305.743.4800
After-Hours: 305.394.7806

KEY LARGO AND THE UPPER KEYS

MM 70 through MM 112
Humane Animal Care Coalition
105951 Overseas Hwy, Key Largo
305.451.0088
www.humaneanimalcoalition.com

In 2020, the Key West shelter handled 1,452 animals, the Marathon shelter 481 animals through adoptions, clinic visits, lost and found, cruelty investigations, and animal control. They also completed 735 spay or neuter surgeries for the Lower and Middle Keys.

The Upper Keys shelter handled 1,531 cases broken down into 548 animal intakes, 455 spays and neuters, adoptions of 120 dogs and cats, 64 lost and found matches, and 464 road calls. Since 2000, the Upper Keys shelter also completed 10,483 spays and neuters -- all free of charge to Upper Keys residents through donations from Humane Animal Care Coalition and private citizens.

From the Mayor's Desk

First and foremost, I want to express my gratitude for the support I received in 2020 as the new Board of County Commissioners transitions into 2021. I moved to the fabulous Florida Keys more than two decades ago and have been politically involved since 2015, starting with Marathon City Council. Each day, the stunning beauty of this chain of islands is a reminder of why I am involved in its health, preservation, and prosperity.

Throughout the pandemic, I continued advanced education courses for commissioners and, even virtually, formed strong bonds with representatives across the country and continue to strengthen those bonds for the betterment of Monroe County and its residents.

Although 2020 was full of many surprises, County staff and its leadership maneuvered the COVID-19 pandemic with the utmost patience, confidence, and sound decision-making as possible while keeping the health of Monroe County residents our topmost priority. There were many hands involved in key decision making and when I look back on the way 2020 evolved, it makes me proud to call those decision makers my staff.

It is not my intention to focus on the negative events of the last year, but to look forward with a fresh perspective for the many positive events to come in 2021 and beyond.

Three new buildings will open its doors and improve services available this year, including

- In the Upper Keys, the new Plantation Key Courthouse will consolidate the judicial and penal functions that exist on the site into a new state-of-the-art facility.
- In the Middle Keys, the new Marathon library will be user-focused with an extensive collection of materials in every format.
- The new Cudjoe Key Fire Station will be an asset to the Lower Keys community and will help reduce response times and improve the service area.

Other positive points for 2021 include:

Vaccine Rollout – The Florida Department of Health in Monroe received its first doses of the COVID-19 vaccine at the end of 2020. Monroe County is following the Governor's Executive Order, which establishes the priorities for vaccinations and as more vaccine is received, vaccination populations will expand.

Emergency Operations Center (EOC) – Schematic design for our new EOC, to be built in Marathon, is complete. We are looking forward to moving through the design and permitting phases in 2021 with expected construction completion by the start of hurricane season 2023.



Hazard Mitigation Grant Program – As a result of Hurricane Irma, FEMA's Hazards Mitigation Grant Program funding totaling more than \$113 million has been applied for by Monroe County in conjunction with municipal and infrastructure partners. As a result, an estimated \$87 million dollars in mitigation funding will be received into our community in 2021, improving countywide disaster resiliency.

Water Projects - The County will be cleaning many of the remaining canals in unincorporated Monroe County that have not been cleared of marine debris from Hurricane Irma. State Stewardship funds received from Florida Department of Environmental Protection will be used to fund these projects. Water quality monitoring conducted over the past two years to evaluate the impact of canals on nearshore waters will be completed in 2021.

These are just a few of the positive things to come in 2021, including tackling our legislative priorities with State Senator Ana Maria Rodriguez and State Representative Jim Mooney.

On a local level, my goal is to strengthen the lines of communication between the County and our municipal partners to work toward the specific needs of each City and Village. United we stand.

Being a county commissioner and representing the residents of District 2, and every resident of Monroe County, is an honor and a privilege. In 2021, I will continue to be available, to hear your concerns, to meet with you, and ultimately, to represent you to the best of my ability.

Sincerely,

Mayor Michelle Coldiron

