



THE PRESIDENT'S REPORT:

The September 12th BBQ was the best yet. We had way over 200 people in attendance, and to the many volunteers, a big THANK YOU!

The Tune Bandits repeated last year's great performance, they had the kids dancing, the food was good if not better than in past years and next time we plan Tri Tip and maybe a ????. surprise!!

The BBQ is held each year as a Thank You to the residents of the Keys for their cooperation, enthusiasm and support for the Keys Homeowners Association. It's a handy way for us to recruit new members, too. It takes dues from 100 homeowners to pay for our insurance alone. Your support is critical, and if you are not already a member, please join the Association with a first dues payment. Only \$50.00 per yr.

PARADE OF LIGHTS

It's that time again-Holiday Lights and the Boat Parade! This year, as in the past years, your Homeowner's Board wants to thank you for all your beautiful decorations which do so much to make our Keys neighborhood such a unique and festive place to live. We will once again be holding our Holiday Lights Competition. There will be prizes for 1st, 2nd and 3rd for homes on the water, the same for houses off the water and 1st and 2nd places for duplexes. The judging will take place about a week before Christmas.

ATTENTION TO HOMES ON THE WATER.

We have always had difficulty identifying from the water the house we select for a prize. It's hard to count roofs, and we're never quite sure that we honored the right house. Therefore, if you want to be considered you MUST place a plainly visible address (street and number) on your dock or the back of your home. Otherwise, we cannot consider your home.

Happy decorating and Happy Holidays!
Awards at the Annual Meeting.

Sharon Friedman

WATER-FRONT PROPERTY

On November 9 this year Paul Masi and I met with Rick Cole, Ventura's recently appointed City Manager, to discuss the hefty annual assessments on waterfront properties to pay for the ongoing dredging program, the problem with the baranca and the 26 drains that empty into our channels. Those of you who have been here many years know of the past lawsuits Keys vs. the City. Costly to say the least. And we didn't win. Paul and I left our meeting with Rick and us feeling optimistic. The gentleman was very attentive, listened carefully, made copious notes and responded with interest and

concern. A number of his staff had recently attended an important seminar given by the Lincoln Land Institute on how to deal with land disputes. "Under the city Charter, his administrative authority is to provide day-to-day management, with the Mayor and City Council providing policy direction" He made Paul and me feel that the Association now has a real friend in the City government

We told him that waterfront owners see the water flowing through the Keys as much a "street" as the paved one that runs in front of our houses. It is used by the Coast Guard, Harbor Patrol, the Harbor Queen and any or all other commercial or privately owned watercraft that ply the Keys. In which case we felt that it should be dredged and otherwise maintained by the proper authorities, be it county, city, flood or port district, state, & harbor patrol. Rick had done his homework. He was very knowledgeable on the past history of the Keys and City government and assured us that he and the present Council have a fresh and unbiased perspective. Furthermore he has set a goal. Starting in the spring he will be looking into our situation and creating an agenda for us that he will then bring before the City Council for recommendation by summer.

On a personal note, when I lived in Venice we had a similar dredging problem in the canals. They needed a thorough cleanup. As a board member of the Homeowner's group I worked with Ruth Galanter to make our problem the city's problem. It worked, and we helped to accomplish the entire restoration of the Venice Canals. Let's do it for the Keys.

2005 ANNUAL MEETING

The Ventura Keys annual meeting will take place at the Ventura Yacht Club on **January 25, 7 P.M.** Election of officers, treasurer's report, Christmas light winners and special guests from Neighborhood Watch and Harbor Patrol.

A POSTSCRIPT

As President of the Ventura Keys Association for the past two years I want to thank the board members who have been exceptionally involved and extremely wonderful with performance, ingenuity, tenaciousness and outright commitment.

I agreed to another term, if elected, and will do my best to bring solutions and problems to rest. I enjoy the challenge and "just getting things done" Thank you again for your support. Gail Lansbury