

Marine Mammal Conservancy Donation

woman," said Bell, a long-time friend of the family. "I just wanted to help this organization, and also wanted people to know that Water Resource Technologies is a company that plays a supportive role in the Keys community."

Water Resource Technologies, which serves several businesses in the Keys, including Key Largo Wastewater Treatment District, is donating the needed lift station, a grinder with dual pumps, alarms and control panel to MMC -- a gift of more than \$10,000. Bell said Water Resource Technologies also plans to service the system free of charge when needed. A provider of green solutions for waste water collection, the company is a selected subcontractor for the Reynolds Water Islamorada team for installing low-pressure sewer.

"They have even offered to supervise the installation when we do the tie-in," said Art Cooper, MMC's chairman. "We are really grateful and also dependent on donations like this one from Water Resource Technologies to remain in operation."

"We receive no government

funding, yet we are saving the communities we serve thousands of dollars by conducting these rescue and rehab services." Cooper said. "Even carcass removal for marine mammals can cost up to \$10,000 each."

The two-acre MMC facility is equipped for critical care, as well as for stabilizing and pre-release conditioning of marine mammals.

"We built an office and meeting room with indoor plumbing two years ago, but haven't been able to use the bathroom for lack of a sewage line. But this tie-in is also necessary for us to continue long-term rehab," he continued citing health concerns with disposal of medication and other possible contaminants from sick marine mammals.

Dedicated volunteers at the MMC recently provided the round-the-clock human support needed to assist 23 stranded pilot whales, an endeavor that started in May and was maintained for five months. Thanks to Water Resource Technologies, their work assisting other marine mammals will now continue.



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Why You Should Buy a House in the Keys Now

Have you looked at the price of a rental lately? I took a quick look at available rentals (by owner) on Craig's List and here is what I found:

- \$800 - large one bedroom apt
- \$1,450 - 2 br - 768 sq ft
- \$1,500 - 2 br - 650 sq ft
- \$1,890 - 3 br - 1048 sq ft
- \$2,200 - 3 br - 1,000 sq ft furnished

And those prices are not on the water. You must be prepared to pay first month's rent plus your last month's rent plus a security deposit usually equivalent to one month's rent. Further, what do you have to write off at tax time versus the write off you receive from home ownership?

Some people are afraid to

buy a home in times like these, with the economy tanking and home prices continuing to fall. We hear all that doom and gloom on the nightly news and read it in the papers daily. I have been in the real estate business for over 30 years here in the Keys, and I have seen many challenges and changes in our marketplace, but I adamantly disagree with the doomsayers! I firmly believe that right now is the perfect time to buy your home in the Keys. In fact my question is "Why shouldn't you buy a house in the Keys now?"

I tell my customers, "The time has never been better, as the prices are certainly at an all time low. Besides the low prices, there are also short sales and foreclosures

on the market. These properties give the buyer even more value for their buck."

These properties are priced below what the owner has paid for them, and are based on prices that the bank will consider taking to sell the home. The advantage to buying one of these homes is that there are many extras and upgrades that your budget would not normally be able to include. You get more for your money! Yes, there are some disadvantages too. The time period to negotiate and closing on one of these homes takes a bit longer, sometimes four to six months or possibly longer. So if you have a time frame in which you must move or close, this may not be the best choice

for you to consider.

There are other advantages to buying now that the buyer should keep in mind. There's a huge inventory from which to choose. Many homes have lingered on the market for some time, and you may be able to negotiate an even better price than normal. In addition to getting a better sales price, you can also ask the seller to pay some of your closing costs or give you a credit towards an improvement. With so much competition to get a house sold, sellers are willing to give some incentives to buyers. I have a builder right now that will pay all the closing costs, add a privacy fence and upgraded appliances all at no

Continued on page 19...



Key Players present...A Taffeta Christmas

A Classic "Hometown Christmas Musical," just in time for the holidays!

Meet Kaye, Peggy, Cheryl and Donna, known as The Taffetas. The Key Players are proud to present "A Taffeta Christmas." The singing four-some posing as four Muncie Indiana sisters circa 1959 are our own talented Upper Keys chanteuses: Lisa Wetzel, Cindy Hollingsworth, Ginette Hughes and Bernadette Restivo. The Taffetas, who have played in the Upper Keys several times before, are back with a nostalgic, light-hearted look at the holidays. Celebrate the season with all your Christmas favorites in a tribute to the sounds of the McGuire Sisters, The Fontane Sisters and the Chordettes. "A Taffeta Christmas" is a classic hometown Christmas, the way it used to be.

The show will be presented the first 3 weeks in December, on Thursdays, Fridays and Saturdays at 8pm, so you have nine opportunities to enjoy it. Join the Key Players at the Murray E Nelson Government and Cultural Center at Mile Marker 102. Tickets are \$15 in advance or \$18 at the door (ages 16 and under \$7). Tickets are available for specific dates in advance at The Art Box in Keys Largo, The UPS Store in Key Largo and at Post Net in Islamorada.

This delightful musical features such classics as "I Saw Mommy Kissing Santa Claus," "Rockin' Around the Christmas Tree," "Sincerely," and "Secret Love." It's an all girl, all singing, all dancing, wholesome good time for the whole family. Visit Muncie Indiana with the sisters as they celebrate the magic of Christmas. Who knows who you might meet in this small town?

Call 305-453-0997 for more information, or visit www.thekeyplayers.org.

A Taffeta Christmas

Starring
Cindy Hollingsworth
Bernadette Restivo
Lisa Wetzel
Ginette Hughes

Written by Rick Lewis
Select Entertainment Productions

Producers
Nancy Wells
Charlene Sammis

Directors
Tom Butler
Brad Shank

Musical Director Cindy Hollingsworth

a classic hometown Christmas musical