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**SHIPWRECKS**  
 OPEN 11:00 AM to 9:00 PM • WEDNESDAY THRU SUNDAY  
 KEY LARGO'S HIDDEN TREASURE!

**WELCOME BACK**

Join us for **HAPPY HOUR**

*Happy Hour* **DRINK SPECIALS** *Happy Hour* **FOOD SPECIALS**  
 4-6 pm EVERY DAY **\$2 PBR** WED-THURS 4-6pm  
**10 WINGS FOR \$12!!**

LOCALS' FAVORITE 305-453-3153 45 Garden Cove Drive MM 106



Photo from MCSO

As we were going to press, a fire on the stretch shut down traffic on the stretch and Card Sound Road for hours, and it is assumed the fire also caused a prolonged internet outage. To make things worse, a cell tower also burned in the fire. This is why we need to support our firefighters!!

**It's Back!**  
**Sunday Brunch**  
 11 AM to 2 PM

Complimentary Glass of Champagne, Mimosa or Bloody Mary with each Entrée

*Does your group need an air conditioned place for lunch or dinner?  
 Call us! We can accommodate groups of up to 75 people!*

**PILOT HOUSE**

**Locals Day**  
 Wednesday  
 12 Beers ON TAP  
 Full Wine SELECTION  
 KID & PET FRIENDLY!

**Feed the fish!**

**MM 99.6 Oceanside**

**SIGN UP FOR OUR NEWSLETTER**

**SOMETHING FOR EVERYONE!**  
 HAPPY HOUR - Daily 4:30-6:30 pm  
 LIVE MUSIC - Friday 5:30-8:30, Saturday 5-9  
 LOCALS DAY - Use your Pilot's License all day Wednesday for your discount and rewards



Fish Dip Grouper Sandwich P&E Shrimp Stuffed Avocado Tuna Nachos Kung Pao Bowl

**WEDNESDAY to SUNDAY**  
 11:30 am to 9:00 pm

**Pilot House Restaurant & Marina** • 13 Seagate Blvd., Key Largo, FL 33037  
 (305) 451-3142 • info@pilothousemarina.com • https://www.pilothousemarina.com

## Where is Key Largo's Fire Museum?

by Karen Beal

Name a very small building with a very long name... Key Largo Volunteer Fire and Rescue, Inc. Fire Museum.

It is the 1955 original fire station next door to the larger Key Largo Fire Station 24 at the 99 mile marker oceanside, on East Drive. Now two separate entities, in 2014 the current Fire Department became a new corporation, taking over the 9-1-1 duties of fire/rescue services. The original volunteer fire station is now the KLVFR Inc. Fire Museum.



KVFD's original Engine 66, a 1962 Howe 500-gallon pumper, one of the first six new fire trucks in Monroe County. The photo was taken in the late 1980s. See the old Key Largo Shopper Supermarket in the background? (It was located on the current CVS site.)

Couples and parents also did whatever they could to support the fire department.

Firefighters had special State-level training for Firefighter I or II classification. The training took a commitment over and above your regular job and family commitments. Equipment needed to be maintained not only to respect the tax payers' investment but to assure your own safety. Between fire calls the volunteers maintained a high level of skills with frequent training. Employers and families committed to the work of each volunteer.

The Extrication Team trained constantly to upgrade skills and shorten time for getting victims out of wrecked cars. The team would compete in extrication challenges and often came home with national recognition. Remember, in the 70s the stretch did not have the cement barrier and US1 was one lane in each direction. There were many head-on, high speed accidents. A sign at the top of the stretch would state the number of deaths for the year... and it was dozens.

The Water Emergency Team (WET)

added dive certification, boat handling, fire suppression and underwater rescue in addition to fire-fighter training. One of their projects included assisting with the preparation and sinking of the Spiegel Grove. The WET worked with MCSO to train for rescues from a helicopter over water, and using hydraulic tools underwater for rescue. There is a Memorandum Of Understanding with the MCSO with the KLVFR Inc. that the MCSO main-

tains water recovery services and the water rescue truck is located in the old station.

The Marine Emergency Response Team was created to bring better on-scene communication and coordination between all the Upper Keys resources: Sheriff's Office, Marine Patrol, Coast Guard, fire departments, ambulances and others. Back then, each had their own communication systems and it was difficult to share information as a scene developed.

An Honor Guard group was formed to serve at government functions and funerals. To secure the future of the department, an Explorer Post was created inviting young men and women to assist the volunteers.

All these efforts and the stories of the volunteers that saw a need and served their community are captured in the contents and narrative of the Key Largo Volunteer Fire Rescue, Inc. Fire Museum.

If anyone has items to donate or loan, or photos of fire department volunteers or events, the Fire Museum encourages you to contact Frank Conklin at [klvfrdMuseum@gmail.com](mailto:klvfrdMuseum@gmail.com).