

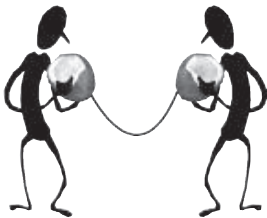
Coconut Telegraph

January 2017
Volume 11 Issue #119

Prestige Publishing, Inc
101425 Overseas Highway
PMB #628
Key Largo, FL 33037

Deadline
for the
Coconut Telegraph's
next issue is
Thursday,
January 19, 2017

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Editorial: Happy New Year

Change is inevitable. Sometimes it is good and sometimes it is bad. Key Largo is getting a McDonald's even though there is already one in Tavernier just a few miles down the road. We have plenty of fast food restaurants in Key Largo and we don't need another one. Not only are they going to be displacing our farmers market but they plan to demolish the building behind the Dollar Tree, which houses our Island Marketplace, the only indoor air-conditioned flea market in the Keys, open 7 days a week. People come from all over to get some Amish Cheese, teak furniture, patio furniture, hand made items, soaps and jewelry. They do not come to the Keys to eat at McDonalds! All it will do is take business away from the other restaurants. I'll take a fresh fish sandwich over frozen mystery meat any day.

The folks at the Island Market know they are but a small bunch of local vendors and artists who will eventually have to move and we will lose this unique shopping experience all due to a freaking McDonald's! One thing I'm counting on is that it could take months before they get permits to demolish the building so we'll have it through this season. See the ad on page 4, they plan to stay as long as they can. If and when they get demolition permits there are other buildings available for rent. Our New Years resolution should be to keep things local. Support our community and local businesses.

Karla & Troy Need Your Help!



Karla Perrine runs the Upper Keys Humane Society and is a wonderful member of our community. Her husband Troy was in a horrible motorcycle accident on December 15th and is in the hospital with critical injuries. A donation account has been set up at the Centennial Banks so you can stop in and make a donation to Karla or Troy Perrine.

In addition, a Go Fund Me account has been set up, called "Please Help Support Karla" and can be found on the Go Fund Me website and the Upper Keys Humane Society's Facebook page. We thank you all for your support in this difficult time!

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Hunk of the Month



Bernie Kay at the Islamorada Moose Lodge

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