

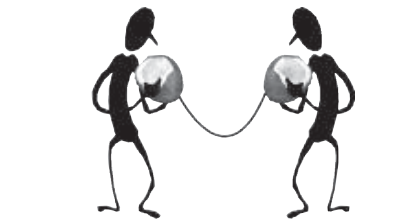
Coconut Telegraph

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Contact Denise at
305-304-2837
theconchtelegraph@gmail.com



The Email Address
for the Coconut Telegraph:
theconchtelegraph@gmail.com

Editorial: Thanks

The Coconut Telegraph's Fearless Leader was laid low with the flu at press time! She has a very brief, but heartfelt Editorial this month:

Thank you Nationwide Plumbing. They always show up on time and get the job done fast for a fair price.

Thank you Rex Air. I went for a week with no air conditioning in August and thought I was going to die. I now have a more energy efficient unit with a warranty, and the technicians were so nice.

Thank you little Jose for the roof fix, I can sleep without worrying the roof will fall in during the heavy thunder storms we have been having.

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Cast of Characters:

Editor/Sales/Distribution
Denise Malefyt
305-304-2837
theconchtelegraph@gmail.com

Advertising Production
Sue Beal
305-451-4601
beal_s@bellsouth.net

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Letter to the Editor
"RENTERS BEWARE"

County providing emergency services, such as police officers, EMTs, nurses, mental health and other social services counselors, and fire rescue personnel are leaving Monroe County like a mass exodus as a direct result of experiencing the effects of being prey to such unstable and substandard living conditions. In many cases, renters are subjected high rents, loss of security deposits, living without air conditioning, heat and other dire necessities, only to find themselves in a position to incur legal fees after being defrauded of the comfort of stable housing.

However, homeowners seem confident that the legal system will back them, despite such substandard conditions. Tenants pay high rents in a timely manner and, in many situations even upgrade these properties that have been left unattended, especially in cases when absentee landlords are those who have inherited properties, have never been members of, nor contributed to, this community, yet remain in violation of State and Federal housing laws, directly resulting in the loss of our local professionals contributing to our community for many years.

Even longtime elderly & disabled members of our community fall prey to these illegal tactics.

Homeowners may feel that this is not their problem, but the fact is that our Florida Keys community is changing rapidly as drugs and crime infiltrate what we know as "home". No one will be experiencing paradise in this county much longer, should this trend continue, leaving only drug dealers and criminal element, while losing the very emergency responders needed to address these issues in our community, especially our police officers, nurses and mental health and substance professionals. The final result, if left unaddressed, will result in the reality that no one will be living in Paradise much longer.

—C.Leroux

Editor's note: I always refer people that are looking for an apartment to realtor Jane Wasmund (305-451-7704 or 305-451-6100) because she has over 30 years experience and knows just about everyone. Moving to the Keys should be a dream come true, not a nightmare.

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