



'Tigua Tails

Holiday Fun in Port Antigua!

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The Memorial Day weekend and the Fourth of July holidays brought numerous people to the Keys, including our Beach where an active Sheriff's Patrol made both holidays safer and less crowded than in years past.

Memorial Day Weekend



The winds kept many folks close to shore this Memorial Day weekend, and quite a few decided to visit the Beach. While there were MANY boats anchored in the shallow waters, there was plenty of room for people to picnic on the beach. There was even an open Tiki hut on Saturday afternoon!

A Fun Fourth

Again, there were a bunch of boats offshore, but the Beach was available for enjoying a picnic under a Tiki, playing horseshoes or just laying in the sun!



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For more information about the security on the Beach during the Holidays, check out the [News and Happenings](#) on the website and [Oscar's Security Report](#).

Lobster Season Begins. The two-day Mini-Season falls on July 24th and 25th this year. Large crowds and heavy traffic will be the norm both on the roads and on the water, along with an increased law enforcement presence.

If you go, it won't hurt to brush up on the laws. Please be sure to keep the speed down in the canals and throw the lobster carcasses

in the trash, not back in the water. You can find out more about the mini-season on the [FVC website](#) or see a copy of the [Lobster Season Brochure](#).

And don't forget—We have many visitors in the Keys during the two day Mini-Season and some are not honest. Unattended dive and fishing gear has a tendency to disappear. LOCK IT UP!

‘Tigua Tails

From the President...

We hope you find the summer edition of ‘Tigua Tails informative and helpful. Significant volunteer effort goes into the publication of our newsletter, and I would like to thank Blain for his continuing and monumental efforts!

We are full into the summer holiday season and, hopefully, you and your family are taking advantage of the many amenities that our community offers.

We are continuing to provide heavy law enforcement presence during the summer. The primary goal is to ensure Port Antigua property owners have unrestricted access to our incredible beach. While its offshore water is a public area, reckless or improper behavior has the potential to en-

danger everyone in and near the water. Additionally, non-property owners are trespassing on private posted property if they decide to wander up on our beach. Please support our efforts to provide a great beach experience by supporting the Deputies and refraining from giving access to unauthorized non-residents.

Along these same lines, some residents have been loaning or selling common property key cards to non-property owners. This is the equivalent of each of us subsidizing access to our beach and boat ramp to non-owners. In one case, a resident of a nearby neighborhood accused of theft in Port Antigua used your boat ramp to launch boats for himself and his friends. These occurrences are

documented by the surveillance system and key card data base. Please help us maintain our valuable assets and keep our annual dues low by keeping control of your key cards.

We are working with the Village to explore potential avenues to lower the number of boats that can moor in the waters off the beach. We are in the very preliminary stages of investigating whether or not this is even possible and will keep you informed either way.

As I mentioned in my previous letter, we are all in this together. Every resident has a part to play in keeping Port Antigua the great community it is. We need your support, and I thank you.

– Dave Webb



Sgt Gregg Johnson and Dep Matt O’Neal On Duty Memorial Day

Association Officers’ Reports

The Secretary Says... The Association sent out 49 certified letters notifying property owners not in compliance with The Village ordinance on garbage and yard waste cans. Many recipients were grateful for the warning. We are continuing to work with The Village on this problem. The number of violations has decreased markedly helping the neighborhood’s appearance and property values..

One way we are keeping the costs of running your Association down is to use email. Please be sure to update it if it changes, along with your address should your “away from P.A.” home change.

– Caren Brinson

The Treasurer Says... Through the month of May, our expenses were approximately 24% less than our year to date budget. Provid-

ing there are no major expenses in the remainder of the year, we expect to have a good financial year.

The Board Of Directors works hard to keep our expenses down so we are able to fund our Emergency Fund and Replacement Fund for the future needs of Port Antigua.

– Rita Klopff



Push Me Back, Please!

Committee Reports

Maintenance I am ordering 9 loads of sand to replenish our valuable and wonderful beach (as demonstrated by the large increase in people trying to sneak on this summer). Our dedicated and valued Conch Lawn Service will be spreading it at strategic water openings along the beach. We are also getting 2 loads of rock for the parking lot.

Several of our charcoal grills have rusted out and will be replaced.

Also, some signs have faded and are being ordered and two have already been replaced. The video surveillance sign at the ramp has been replaced.

The vandalized ramp gate has been fixed with a new lock to prevent

future intrusion by miscreants! The mechanism itself was damaged and, while working, is waiting for a part to complete the repair. The video system functioned perfectly, and implicated a Miami realtor and a local boat dealer who removed the shroud covering the gate electronics and then destroyed the mechanism to force the gate open so they could put boats in for an illegal photo shoot at our beach. After a lengthy and diligent review of the video by our President, we GOT ‘em! The sheriff was called, and the criminals will pay for repairs or face charges!

– Bill Hardy, Chair

Security It is no surprise that the 4th of July Holiday was gener-

ally quiet in Port Antigua. The Monroe County Sheriff’s Office (MCSO) presence continues to make an impact: reducing trespassers, enforcing boat safety, shutting down illegal fireworks that could lead to serious injury or property damage, while promoting golf cart and vehicle traffic safety. Property owners are taking notice of the their efforts, and increased presence in our community.

MCSO’S professionalism and compassion was best exemplified by the quick response and handling of a beach altercation. Initially a diabetic juvenile, consuming alcohol, started punching family members on a vessel. The altercation transferred to our beach, where MCSO



Unaware he is being photographed, a man breaks our gate mechanism to open the ramp gate. (The actual video is much higher resolution.)

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Captain Corey Bryan and Captain LeeAnne Holoroyd responded, along with Fire Rescue. Upon their arrival the juvenile was being restrained on the ground by a family member. Captains Bryan and Holoroyd spoke to the angrily screaming juvenile, who would alternate between calm and violent rants. Captain Holoroyd gave some water to the juvenile, who subsequently cooperated. He was handcuffed without incident and transported to the hospital for further evaluation. We are fortunate to have these skilled MCSO veterans maintain a safe environment in our community.

On another note we had two trespassers' vehicles towed for parking on private property. After partying at a beach front property, the juveniles returned to discover their vehicles gone. They approached a Deputy who told them their cars had been towed. The vehicle owners (parents) had to come from Miami with proof to have their vehicles released.

The Florida Department of Transportation (FDOT) gave a significant victory to Sheriff Rick Ramsey after an exhausting campaign to lower the speed limit between MM 77 and 80 on Indian Tea Table and Lignumvitae Fills. This speed limit change was effective Friday, July 19, 2019.

Finally, if you see something, say

something, take phone video to prove the incident occurred. This will help police deal appropriately with the complaint. **Do Not** get in a confrontation with rule violators or law breakers, no matter how many people are in your group! Instead call the Sheriff.

– Oscar Callejas, Chair

Recreation We'll be having a **Sunset Celebration** on the Beach, October 5th starting at 6:00 PM. (Sunset is at 7:05 PM.) Bring your appetizer and drink/s and let's celebrate at our wonderful beach! Please [email](#) me if you plan on attending with the number of people and what you are bringing. Help setting up would also be appreciated.

We are planning another cookie exchange in December as we had a good turnout at the last one.

Details for the events are on the [website](#). – Esther Merida, Chair

Association Manager Recently it was necessary to deactivate certain gate cards. If your card won't work, please email me at info@portantigua.net, and I will contact you about why your card was deactivated.

It was also necessary to turn off some cards that are no longer in the possession of Port Antigua owners. Please remember that your card is for your use only. It should not be loaned or sold to

anyone that is not a Port Antigua owner. The Beach and Boat Ramp are Private Property owned by PAPOA, Your yearly dues pay for the maintenance and care of these areas.

Our cameras and security system work together to inform the Board when a gate card is misused, and the owner's privileges are suspended. Damages incurred to either gate will be billed to the owner of the card. This keeps the vandalism costs from being paid for by your dues.

Thank you for being good stewards of the cards, gates, and beach/ramp areas.

– Mari Joiner, CAM

ACC If you have a dumpster on your property for building or for renovations, a deposit of \$300 must be sent to the Association. See the [Fee Schedule](#). If the dumpster is emptied properly and the worksite does not become an eyesore, the deposit will be returned. For more information, see the "[Approvals Required](#)" document on the website.

With hurricane season here, be sure your contractor keeps material secured so we don't have damage should the big blow come.

– Ray Bana, Chair

The Tale of Two Weekends Sheriff Enforcement

Memorial Day

TOTAL TRESPASSERS: 33
Boat Stops: 18
Boat Citations: 10
Arrest: 1 Reckless boating
Traffic Stops: 20
Golf Cart Stops (Juveniles) 10

4th of July

TOTAL TRESPASSERS: 13
Boat stops: 6
Boat Citations: 3
Boat Warnings: 3
Medical Emergencies: 2
Vehicle Tows: 2
Fireworks shut down: 2
Altercations: 2



Trespassers hoist a table over the fence on Memorial Day weekend—they were escorted off the Beach



P.A. Neighbor Adele West at the Fills



Sheriff Ramsey Meets the Press About the Fills

Permit Required for Boating in the Park. An article in *The Free Press* reminded us that effective 1 August, entering the Everglades National Park by boat will require that the operator have a permit in addition to the [entry pass](#). The permit is free, lasts a lifetime (or until they change the rule), and is issued after the applicant completes a one hour, on-line [course](#). The course is Everglades specific and informative.

Weed, weeds everywhere!

Newspaper articles and fishing reports have mentioned the abundance of [sargassum weed](#) this year. Sometimes it makes trolling either difficult or impossible, especially when the winds haven't cooperated and the

weeds haven't formed into lines. This is not new. The most recent outbreak began in 2011 and has worsened since then.

Hazardous Material Drop.

You can take your household Hazmat to Advanced Disposal at Founders Park on September 13th and 14th. See [The Village website](#) for details.

What's with the Fills?

The litter, traffic and general mayhem on the roadway connecting Upper and Lower Matecumbe Keys became too much for Islamorada residents. Letters to Village, State and Federal governments, a protest complete with picket signs, and a piece by a Miami TV station finally resulted in

Around the Islands

action. The temporary fix includes four parking areas for 15—18 cars each, more trash cans, porta-potties, and Village Staff manning entry points. The oceanside near the southwestern end is completely blocked off because of erosion from Irma. Officials estimate this temporary plan will reduce the number of vehicles by 80% on the busiest holidays. The Village is submitting a long-term parking and management plan to FDOT. Thank you to The Village and to those who got involved to protect the fragile environments!

For more info, visit the Village Website's [news release](#).



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Visit the website!
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Rita and some friends she
invited to dinner



This newsletter is published by The Port Antigua Property Owners' Association for the private use of its membership. Please direct any comments or inputs to newsletter@portantigua.net. Photos are especially appreciated. For regular PAPOA business, email Mari at info@portantigua.net.

A Favorite Recipe:

Iguana Pozole^[1]

two medium iguanas
five cups of freshly bleached hominy
10 cloves of garlic
1 onion

1 slice of cabbage - diced
bay leaf
Mexican oregano
salt and pepper

Butcher, skin, and cut the iguana in pieces. Wash, salt and blanch for 15–20 minutes. Simmer the corn, garlic, onion, a bay leaf, and salt to taste. At 10 minutes add the meat. Cook for another 15–20 minutes. Serve with sliced cabbage some of the onion slice, cilantro, oregano and pepper to taste.

¹Martinez Campos - *Recetario* (p. 42)

Fishing Report Randy and Nan have had good luck with sword fishing well offshore while the tilefish action has been good for those who like to fish deep. And that is where the Mahi are hanging out in the cooler waters, coming to the warmer surface waters to feed. If you happen to be where they come up, you'll do well. One

of the problems with surface trolling has been the plentiful sargassum. With so many patches, it is hard to find the one that the Mahi have chosen as their hangout. Of course, birds do help, but absent those, it is difficult.

Meanwhile on the reef, some are doing great at night with the Man-

grove Snapper spawning. It's been extremely HOT during the day anchored up on the reef, and the Yellowtail Snapper fishing has been hot and cold. The key has been finding good current. If you don't have any, pull the anchor and move 3-4 miles to hopefully find good current.

Iguana Control. The FWC has FINALLY recognized that Iguanas may be a [problem](#). Homeowners are now encouraged to remove them from their property. Unfortunately, the liability and cost issues still make it impossible for PAPOA to be involved in their removal. Approved DIY methods are trapping, using snares, and nets. If a pellet gun is the method of choice, the shooter needs to be aware that animal cruelty laws still apply to these pests, and know the backstop. The marksman is responsible for any damage his/her pellet does should they miss, and a pellet will damage windows and gelcoat. The discharge of firearms is illegal in Islamorada so don't use that .22 or .357!

Fish Carcasses in the Canals. One of the reasons we don't toss fish in the canals is after a couple of days, they end up on the surface. They attract predators like sharks, 'cudas, and crocs, which can be hazardous to swimmers.

Freeze the carcasses and throw them in the trash on the next trash pick up day.



Golf Carts—AGAIN Some residents are thinking of approaching the Board and Village to make Carts ILLEGAL on the streets of Port Antigua. Those who have carts need to protect their privilege by following the [rules](#). Underage drivers (a.k.a. "children") are not to be driving them. If caught, the penalties can be severe for both the child and the owner of the cart.

The PAPOA Website Over the past year, our [website](#) has under-

Miscellaneous Stuff

gone significant change. The goal was to make it easy to find information about PAPOA, and you can find "stuff" on everything from building a home to getting a new ramp key.

The site has five main pages each of which targets a specific subject or audience. The [Frequently Asked Questions](#) portion contains links to most of the information a Member needs.

If you haven't visited the [site](#), take a look. We hope you will find it useful and a huge improvement over what we had before.

Newsletter News This is the first version of the "E-Mail" and online-only issue of *Tigua Tails*. It has links throughout that will lead you to more information about a subject.

Please let me know if/how you like it. If you want to receive a copy by snail mail, just send me an [e-mail](#).