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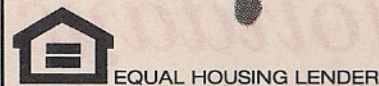
# The Islander News

*The Life and Times of Key Biscayne, Florida*



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## Winter concerts series will fill Key with music

By: KELLY JOSEPHSEN

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Key Biscayne residents suffering that post-holiday letdown have something new to look forward to: a series of winter concerts at outdoor venues throughout the Village.

On Tuesday, December 6, Winter Concert Committee members updated the Village Council on their efforts, promising a diverse series of events starting early next year. Officials also agreed to a \$6,450 funding request so the group can confirm artists and begin marketing the events.

Committee member Amarylli Fridegotto said the group began working in October to plan a series of concerts that will make use of

interesting venues throughout the Village. "Each concert will be unique enough to appeal to a different demographic in our diverse community," she said.

Venues include the Key Biscayne Community Center, Turtle Fountain Plaza at the Key Biscayne police and administration building, *Monaco Reflecting Pools* in the McIntyre Street oval and Village Green, Fridegotto reported.

She added the committee also took strides to reach the largest audience it can: "The concerts are planned to take advantage of other civic events whenever possible."

Still, Fridegotto noted, some

funding is needed for marketing, and to pay small fees requested by the artists.

Parks and Recreation Director

***A series of concerts will make use of interesting venues throughout the Village and will be unique enough to appeal to a different demographic in the diverse community.***

Todd Hofferberth, who has been working with the committee, indicated the group's \$6,450 request is a bargain – in large part thanks to Fridegotto's ability to negotiate with the artists involved.

Local leaders agreed. Council member Mayra Peña Lindsay asked if the committee's request

could be met that evening, and Village Manager John Gilbert confirmed there is ample money in contingency funds, and he would recommend using that for now.

In the future, Gilbert said, the Winter Concert Committee will likely have a line

item in the Parks and Recreation Department budget.

Fridegotto added her group plans to approach the Council at its June budget workshop next year with a request to fund its 2013 concert series, which it will start planning shortly.

Council members thanked the

group for its efforts.

Vice Mayor Michael Kelly, who spearheaded the committee as a way to provide cultural events aimed at adults, said the different types of music and venue selections exceeded his expectations, and he's excited for the concerts to take place. "I literally just threw it out there, and you took the ball and ran with it," he said. "What a wonderful, wonderful job you have done."

Meanwhile, committee member Gloria Kahn turned the praise back on the Council, stating it is local leaders who provided the idea and ample venues for music and theater.

"You gave us the theory, and you gave us the places to do this, and for that we are very grateful," she remarked.