



GREATER MARATHON CHAMBER OF COMMERCE **CONNECTION** *The Official Monthly Publication of the Greater Marathon Chamber of Commerce*



Wounded Warriors Soldier Ride Jan 6 & 7.

Use caution on the roads and show your support for this countywide community event!

Chamber After Hours

January 11th - 5:30pm-7:30pm



Membership Luncheon

January 17th - 12pm-1pm

Please RSVP



Please welcome our new members!

Seaside Marine Survey, Inc.
118 Coco Plum Dr. Unit #15
Marathon, FL 33050
561-351-4557
Contact: Brad Freese
seasidemarinesurvey@gmail.com

Paul Geyer
(individual supporter)

Clearwater Environmental Services
Keyswide
970-353-5763
Contact:
Jordan Rockwell
www.clearwateramerica.com
jordanrockwell@gmail.com

Reef Renewal USA
4002 W. State St.
Ste.200
Tampa, FL 33609
813-245-3273
Contact: Mike Enchevarria
Mike@reefrenewalusa.org
www.reefrenewalusa.org

Keys Helicopter Tours
9850 Overseas Hwy
Marathon, FL 33050
888-535-4354
Contact:
Savanna Worthington
savanna@keyshelicoptertours.com
www.keyshelicoptertours.com

The Owl Library & Book Store
11400 Overseas Hwy
Suite 105
Marathon, FL 33050
404-988-2259
Contact:
Alexia Mann
TheOwlLibrary1@gmail.com
www.facebook.com/
TheOwlLibraryProject

Chamber Member Recap

New Members This Month: 6

Total Members: 549

Visitor Center Recap

Total Members: 83

Monthly Stats

November 2022

Total Visitors: 1253

Daily Average: 44

Top State: Florida

Top Countries: Canada

Without Reservations: 26%

Member Referral Program:

Anytime a current member of the Chamber successfully refers another business to join, they will receive \$25 in "Chamber Bucks!" Chamber Bucks can be used to attend monthly luncheon meetings or for advertising opportunities through our website or newsletter.

Events:

Please let us know about upcoming events or community news for our newsletter, social media pages and online calendar. Or submit your own events to our online calendar.

Visit www.floridakeysmarathon.com and Click to Submit Your Event or contact Erika@floridakeysmarathon.com

CHAMBER BUCKS!

Any current member of the Chamber that successfully refers another business to join, will receive \$25 in "Chamber Bucks!"

Chamber Bucks can be used to attend monthly luncheon meetings or for advertising opportunities through our website or newsletter.

New/Current Member Orientation:

We want to ensure you are able to take full advantage of your chamber membership.

Please set up a Member Orientation with Erika to learn more about how you can maximize your membership with us and utilize member benefits that will help you and your business.

Contact Laura for more info:

membership@floridakeysmarathon.com
305-743-5417

Executive Membership Circle

Starfish Level
Seafarer Realty, LLC

Angelfish Level

Iberia Bank • First State Bank • Hawks Cay
Florida Keys Media • Isla Bella Beach Resort
Florida Keys Electric Co-op • 5 Star Air
Million Air • Faro Blanco Resort

Seahorse Level

Centennial Bank • Keys Federal Credit Union
D'Asign Source • Marlin Bay Resort & Marina
Fishermen's Community Hospital
Weekly Newspaper • Dolphin Connection
Faro Blanco Resort • Wolfe/Stevens PLLC
Mt. Sinai Cardiology of the Keys
UM Sylvester Cancer Center • The Tackle Box
Florida Keys Cemetery

Additional opportunities to advertise to Chamber members and visitors include:

Monthly Travel Email Blast

Our Travel email blast goes out to a growing list of visitors (5,700+ including travel writers) The email blast will consist of up to 20 business listings (includes picture/logo, contact info and website link) upcoming events and featured business spotlight. This blast is a great way to get noticed by travel writers and potential visitors. The cost is only \$35/month to participate. Contact (305) 743-5417 or info@floridakeysmarathon.com

Newsletter Ad or Flyer

Take advantage of our advertising opportunities with a flyer or ad space! Contact Jeanine@floridakeysmarathon.com for pricing

Member Email Blast

We will send your email/flyer to all of our Chamber members and their staff (1,400+ recipients) Cost is \$50/email and you chose the date and frequency of the blast. Contact Erika@floridakeysmarathon.com for an application

Events

Please let us know about upcoming events or community news for our newsletter, social media pages and online calendar. Or submit your own events to our online calendar. Visit www.floridakeysmarathon.com and Click to Submit Your Event or contact Erika@floridakeysmarathon.com

MARATHON NEWS, EVENTS & HAPPENINGS

Events

Please let us know about upcoming events or community news for our newsletter, social media pages and online calendar.
Or submit your own events to our online calendar. Visit www.floridakeysmarathon.com and Click to Submit Your Event or contact Erika@floridakeysmarathon.com
Be sure to check your local papers and social media for event information as new events are being added daily!

Jan 1st

New Year's Day Hangover Brunch
11am-3pm at Lighthouse Grill
Bottomless bloody marys and mimosas (\$26 available until 3pm)
Special a la carte menu and regular lunch menu available

Jan 5-Jan 21

Marathon Community Theater presents:
Return to Sunset Village
Welcome back to Central Florida's retirement Never-Neverland in RETURN TO SUNSET VILLAGE!
The gang is all here and now they're dealing with an unscrupulous developer that is pushing the Sunset Village retirement community to the brink of an environmental collapse.
Our familiar golf-cart loving residents – Edna, Louise, Mikayla, Norma, Grandma Carolyn and Mr. Midnight – wage an all-out war for survival.
It's all about sinkholes, swinging sex, and senior citizen paramilitary action in RETURN TO SUNSET VILLAGE!
Tickets available at www.marathontheater.org or 305-743-0994

Jan 6

Kilts in the Keys
Celtic Festival kick off party
5pm at Dockside
Live music, food & ale

Jan 6 & 7

Wounded Warriors Soldier Ride
2-day countywide community event.
Line up along US 1 to cheer them on! American flags & Welcome Signs encouraged.
Ride begins in Key Largo to Islamorada starting at 8:30am, Marathon to Big Pine starting at 1:30pm and Key West and Boca Chica on Sunday starting at 10:30am

Jan 7 & 8

Florida Keys Celtic Festival
Presented by St. Columba Episcopal Church & Celtic Heritage Productions
Rain or shine at Marathon Community Park
Sat 10am-7pm
Sun 11am-5pm
Highlights include live music, Irish & Scottish Dancing, Celtic food & beer, vendors, parade, tea garden & Irish pub, athletic competition, sheep dog herding & children's glen. Proceeds benefit The Hammock House
Visit www.floridakeyscelticfestival.com for more info

Jan 11

Chamber Business After Hours
5:30pm-7:30pm hosted by Crane Point Nature Museum

Jan 14

Pause for a Cause
Dog walk to Pigeon Key to benefit the Domestic Abuse Shelter
Registration begins at 8am, walk starts at 9am
Breakfast will be served on Pigeon Key
Person who collects the most money in sponsors wins a 2 night stay at Isla Bella
For more info, call 305-849-6236

Jan 17

Chamber Membership Luncheon
12pm-1pm Faro Blanco Hotel conference room \$16
Please RSVP 305-743-5417
or Erika@floridakeysmarathon.com

Jan 21st

Grand Opening of Sweet Chili
1pm-8pm at 11524 Overseas Hwy Suite 1
Ribbon Cutting ceremony at 12pm
Opening Promotion 1st 10 customers receive free gift
Music, samples, giveaways and raffles

Jan 25

Grand Opening!
Captain Pip's Gift Shop at 1480 Overseas Hwy
Join us 5pm-7pm for a fun evening of entertainment, food, libations, and networking! Live music by Abstract Radio

CRANE POINT HAMMOCK

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Business After Hours

January 11, 2023 - 5:30 pm

Meet at the service gate
across from McDonald's.
A guide will direct you to
the Crane House.



305-743-9100 | www.cranepoint.net
5550 Overseas Highway (MM50 Gulfside)

Chamber After Hours Hosted by Florida Keys Aquarium Encounters

Photos courtesy of TIME OUT Magazine





FARO BLANCO
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Membership Luncheon

Tuesday

January 17th

Noon-1pm

\$16

RSVP Required

Limited Seating

* HOTEL CONFERENCE ROOM *

Speaker: Monroe County

Transit Executive Director Richard Clark



Topic: Transit goals

(short & long term) for the Florida Keys

RSVP to Erika@floridakeysmarathon.com or call 305-743-5417





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www.marathonvet.com

2023: Year of Normalcy ...



I hope you all had a great Holiday and New Year's! While the holidays are a great time of year, it is nice to get back into normal routines post holidays. More importantly it signifies a new year, and a time for new opportunities. Specifically opportunities to succeed and prosper regarding our businesses and careers.

With a great and busy Christmas and New Year's week, we are looking forward to hitting our stride this winter and spring for our high season. While it's a stressful time, it's good to be busy and in-demand. We are seeing things calm down far as what we experienced in late 2021 and 2022, and unless something else occurs (who knows, lol) I see us returning back to some resemblance of normalcy in 2023, far as tourism, traffic, etc. Course on a macro level markets are still down, inflation is up there, but fuel prices are at least down. We look forward to potentially some stabilization in the markets, mortgage rates, etc. as we move further into 2023. Until then stay focused on your goals for 2023, continue to be responsible with savings, cash flow, and profits as we see things returning to (some) normalcy.

Per my usual January/New Year's words of wisdom, here are a few important items to think about, and look into implementing in 2023:

-Sound Budgeting & Cash Flow (I like to include this most year's, because its so very important):

Update your budget (if you haven't already) the best you can, understanding it's difficult with the swings we have seen the past two years, but still important. Your Marathon Chamber (contact us anytime) can help you in updating your budget, better understanding cash flow, as well as any other financial reports that will help you make sound decisions that will positively affect your business.

-Staff Retention & Benefits: Most of you (us) are thin on staff, and strive to maintain staffing levels, if not increase them. So how can you accomplish this? Staff not only go where the money is, but where the quality of work and benefits are! Make changes to improve the workplace morale, as well as adding any benefits (401K plans with matching, healthcare, PTO, etc.) you can to retain and recruit quality staff.

-Education & Resources: we should never stop learning/improving, and your Marathon Chamber is here to help with that. Please contact us for any/all your educational needs. We also partner with our SBDC (Small Business Development Center) who offers 1-1 consulting, training, and resources that are all FREE for businesses!

-YOUR Health: without YOU your business (and family) cannot operate at its best/peak capacity. Ensure you are taking care of yourself, exercise, eat right, and get an annual healthcare checkup and physical. Baptist actually offers executive physicals, which are a great way to get a full and complete workup on your state of health. We want you to enjoy the fruits of your labors, this can only be accomplished if YOU are healthy and well (mentally and physically).

Finally, thank you for being a member of The Greater Marathon Chamber of Commerce in 2022, and we look forward to again serving you in 2023. If you have any questions about your membership renewal invoice please call us anytime. Want to know more about what the Marathon Chamber can do for you and your business? Please call us to set up an orientation/member benefits meeting; we will travel to your place of business if need be. Our mission is to serve and support you; and we look forward to doing just that yet again in 2023.

Here's to a healthy, safe, and fruitful 2023!

Most Respectfully,



Daniel Samess, M.S. • CEO Greater Marathon Chamber of Commerce • (305) 743-5417
ceo@floridakeysmarathon.com • www.FloridaKeysMarathon.com • www.RelocateToTheFloridaKeys.com
www.MarathonSeafoodFest.com • www.KeyBrewBQ.com

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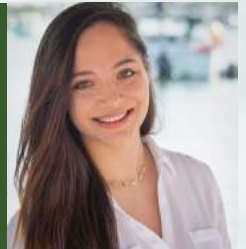
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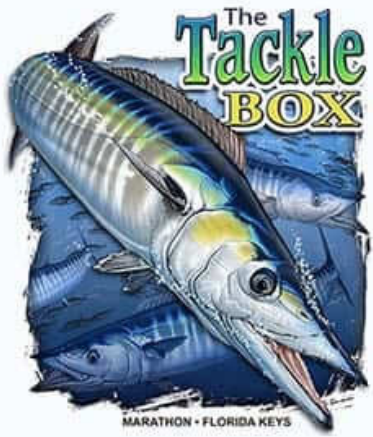


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