

#### GREATER MARATHON CHAMBER OF COMMERCE

# CONNECTION

The Official Monthly Publication of the Greater Marathon Chamber of Commerce



We will not be hosting a Chamber Business After Hours or Membership Luncheon for March as we are getting ready for the big event!

#### Please welcome our new members!

Scotty's Sport Fishing
1998 Overseas Hwy, Marathon, FL 33050
786-682-7004
Scott.costa74@icloud.com
https://scottyssportfishing.net/
Contact: Scott Costa

Private Capital Loans, LLC
780 1 NW 37th St. #201, Doral, FL 33195
321-914-5159 Keyswide
ilizano@privatecapitalloans.com
Owner: Idania Lizano – Marathon Local
Mortgage Lending /Commercial Loans

Matt Pitcher
761 98th St., Marathon, FL 33050
704-201-0622 / mpitcher@zuzick.com
Life & Supplemental Health Insurance Sales

MarineLab/Marine Resources
Development Foundation
51 Shoreland Drive, Key Largo, FL 33037
305-451-2353

kim@marinelab.org / Contact: Kim Gregory Environmental education & research programs

Sailor's Dog Spa 12535 Overseas Hwy, Marathon, FL 33050 305-922-2191 / Candice@sailordogspa.com https://www.sailorsdogspa.com/ Contact: Candice Lee Dog Grooming, Boarding & Daycare

Banana Bay Resort & Marina
4590 Overseas Hwy, Marathon, FL 33050
305-743-3500

Christopher.Dorsey@BananaBay.com https://www.bananabay.com/ Contact: Christopher Dorsey, GM

Key West Wildlife Center 1801 White St., Key West, FL 33040 305-292-1008

boardofdirectors@keywestwildlfecenter.org https://keywestwildlifecenter.org/ Contact: Jennifer Lopes, Board of Directors

**Bruce & Karen Tyson (individual)** 

#### **Chamber Member Recap**

New Members This Month: 8 Total Members: 563

> Visitor Center Recap Total Members: 82

#### **Monthly Stats**

January 2023
Total Visitors: 2067
Daily Average: 73
Top State: Florida
Top Countries: Canada
Without Reservations: 25%

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**

March 4th
Annual House & Garden Tour
10am-4pm
The Marathon Garden Club will host their annual
House and Garden Tour featuring 4 unique homes
andgardens plus one exceptional garden with live music.
Tickets are \$35 and may be purchased at the Garden Club,
5270 Overseas Highway, MM50,
Gulf (Mon. – Fri. 10-2), from the Marathon Chamber
of Commerce, at the DK Beach Boutique on Key Colony
Beach or online at Eventbrite (www.eventbrite.com).
Call the garden club at 305-743-4971
for more information or visit
www.marathongardenclub.org

11th Annual Swords & Tails A Seaside Soiree for CFK
6pm at CFK Upper Keys Center in Key Largo
\$175 ticket includes cocktails, fine keys cuisine & dancing.
Costumes are encouraged.
Visit www.cfk.edu/soiree to purchase tickets
Sponsorship packages available
and virtual silent auction will run Feb 22-Mar 4
Benefiting the students and programs
of The College of the Florida Keys

March 5th
66th Annual Key Colony Beach Day
The City's Birthday Celebration held from 9am-4pm
at KCB 7th St Park
Live music, food, drinks, vendors, and barracuda
& ducky races
Bring a lawn chair and enjoy the all day music!
Free Admission. Free parking.
Helping to support the KCB Fishing & Boating Club,
Marathon Rotary Club & Zonta

March 9th-25th
Marathon Community Theatre presents:
Desperate Measures
A musical gone wild!
Tickets \$33 before tax
Visit www.marathontheater.org or 305-743-0994

March 11th & 12th

47th Annual Marathon Seafood Festival
Sat 10am-9pm Sun 11am-5pm
at Marathon Community Park
\$5 admission kids under 12 free with paying adult
Free admission on Sunday for active
and retired military with ID
Live music, fresh seafood (and non-seafood),
drinks (beer, wine, frozen drinks & non-alcoholic drinks),
boat show, kids area, retail vendors with jewelry, art,
clothing, furniture and more!

March 25th
2nd Annual Curry Hammock Community Action Day
What to bring?
Sun protection
Bug spray and/or wear long sleeves and pants
Closed-toed shoes are required
(we will be wading through water)
Change of clothes (there are showers available at the John Pennekamp park)
Towel
Reusable water bottle

March 31st
History of Diving Museum presents:
Dive Into Art & Music
Join us for a special musical tribute experience
featuring a unique exhibit of Jerry Garcia's Fine Art
5:30-9:00 pm, under the stars at Safe Harbor Angler House
There will be a limited number of general admissions available at \$35 per person, as well as VIP options.
You can purchase tickets by calling the museum
at 305-664-9737,
or on the website:
https://divingmuseum.org/events-calendar

# **Membership Luncheon Hosted by Courtyard Marriott**

Photos courtesy of TIME OUT Magazine

















## Membership After Hours Hosted by Berkshire Hathaway

Photos courtesy of TIME OUT Magazine













February 23, 2023

Daniel Samess, CEO Greater Marathon Chamber of Commerce 12222 Overseas Hwy Marathon, FL 33050



Valued Marathon Chamber of Commerce Member:

The Greater Marathon Chamber of Commerce Board of Directors is honored and proud to support, inform, promote, and advocate for your business!

One way we try to <u>support</u> your business is through our annual **(2023)** *Professional/Adult Continuing Education Scholarship Program*. Your Marathon Chamber Board will award upto \$10,000 in such scholarships to fellow business-members (and staff) who wish to continue to advance their knowledge, skills, and abilities via a continuing education opportunity in 2023. Scholarship amounts can be anywhere from \$50.00 - \$1,000.00 per applicant and can include any type of training, classes, courses, seminars, or continuing education opportunity. I hope you take advantage of this member-benefit and opportunity for yourself and/or your employees. Please see the attached application and return it to us by April 30<sup>th</sup>.

Thank you for taking the time to review this information. Please call or email us anytime with any questions you may have, as well as for any assistance you may need putting your application together. If you haven't yet renewed your chamber-membership for 2023 please do should you wish to apply for this scholarship/grant opportunity.

We truly value your membership with us, and more importantly I appreciate having the opportunity to continue to serve your business and staff.

Sincerely & Respectfully,

Daniel Samess, M.S. Chief Executive Officer

Greater Marathon Chamber of Commerce

(305) 743-5417

ceo@floridakeysmarathon.com

www.FloridaKeysMarathon.com

www.MarathonSeafoodFestival.com

# GREATER MARATHON CHAMBER OF COMMERCE 2023 Professional/Adult Continuing Education Scholarship Application

\*Please turn in completed application to the Marathon Chamber no later than <u>5PM</u> on April 30, 2023\*

<u>Send/Return to</u>: Marathon Chamber of Commerce 12222 Overseas Hwy, Marathon, FL 33050 (or email to: <u>CEO@FloridaKeysMarathon.com</u>)

#### About:

The Marathon Chamber of Commerce Board of Directors strives to continuously strengthen the Marathon Chamber's educational programs offered to our 540+ members. One way was by creating a new scholarship opportunity that will allow one member, or employee of a business-member, to continue to advance their knowledge, skills, and abilities via a continuing education opportunity.

There are many great training programs throughout the state and region that employees may benefit from; but between the costs, travel, and time away from work, it is prohibitive for businesses to take advantage of these opportunities.

These new scholarships offered by the Marathon Chamber Board of Directors seeks to bridge that gap, making such opportunities more accessible to our business-members and their employees.

#### **Appropriate Uses:**

Any type of training, classes, courses, workshops, seminars, or educationally-based opportunities that will enhance the knowledge, skills, and abilities of a business-members' employees, staff, or owners. We chose to keep the limitations extremely open and broad, as to allow employers to choose the right program that provides the best return on investment for their staff and business.

→ College of the Florida Keys offers some great continuing educational courses online, here are a few links for more info/resources, or call them at (305) 809-3238 <a href="https://www.ed2go.com/fkccconed/">https://www.ed2go.com/fkccconed/</a>

https://www.cfk.edu/academics/community-education/

Monies received from the Marathon Chamber may be used for:

- Costs of educational/continuing education programs, training, etc.
  - In addition to costs of training, travel costs associated with the training opportunity:
    - Continuing education must take place from time of application deadline through December 31, 2023.
    - Scholarship(s) paid via reimbursement only, all invoices, proof of purchases/receipts, etc. must be submitted prior to December 31, 2023.

#### **Scholarship Amount(s):**

- Applicants may apply for any amount between \$50.00 \$1,000.00.
- \*We ask you apply for only what you "need" as it may free up more monies for other applicants.
  - Resources are limited, the GMCC reserves the right to pro-rate awarded grants as/if needed, and/or partially award requested grants.

J OVER J

#### ADULT/PROFESSIONAL CONTINUING EDUCATION APPLICATION

- Application must be <u>completed in full</u> & returned to the Marathon Chamber By: **April 30, 2023** to be

valid -
Business Name:
Name of Specific Employee/Applicant:
Physical Address of Business:
Business Contact Info (Name, Email & Phone; who Chamber will work with):
Date of applicant's training, educational program class, etc. Begins: Ends:
Cost for Continuing Education Opportunity \$
*If awarded less than what you apply for, will you still move forward with the continuing education opportunity (YES or NO)?
If applying for travel, room/board costs in addition to program costs, list/itemize them here: Example: Car Rental = \$150.00
= \$= \$= \$
= \$=
= \$= \$
Total Cost (includes continuing education, travel, etc.) = \$
The more detailed the better your chance in receiving all or part of the scholarship (attach additional sheets as needed):
Chambar CC ammana
Chamber of Commerce
*Letter(s) of Recommendation from your Supervisor (if applicable) are not required but encouraged*
Signature: Date:

# COMMERCE CORNER





WINDOW CLEANING & PRESSURE WASHING

New owners Debra Carroll and Alex Eason took over the business in 2022 and continue to provide window cleaning, pressure washing and floor cleaning services. Their secret to success is to provide quality service that saves local owners money in the long run by preventing salt build up from corroding windows, stucco and siding. "Awax Windows Cleaning is locally owned by an army veteran who works hard for all of the Keys" said Carroll.

305-834-1842 awax33050@gmail.com

Greater Marathon Chamber of Commerce 305 743 5417 • 1 800 262 7284 visitus@floridakeysmarathon.com www.floridakeysmarathon.com 12222 Overseas Highway • Marathon, FL 33050



# COMMERCE CORNER



Established in 2020, Keys Helicopter Tours provides a memorable experience for their customers through a birds eye view of the spectacular waters of the Fl Keys, incredible wildlife sightings and sharing a little Keys history along the way. Owner Savanna Gootee says her key to success is prioritizing safety and customer satisfaction. This family owned business is dedicated to making your family adventure a one of a kind experience.



#### 1.888.535.4354

9850 Overseas Hwy, Marathon info@keyshelicoptertours.com www.keyshelicoptertours.com

Greater Marathon Chamber of Commerce 305 743 5417 • 1 800 262 7284 visitus@floridakeysmarathon.com www.floridakeysmarathon.com 12222 Overseas Highway • Marathon, FL 33050



# COMMERCE CORNER





Established in 1999, The Title Station specializes in real estate closings. Owners, Kim Jackson and Karen Deleo, says their key to success is the relationships built on trust and effective communication with real estate agents and lenders. "Quality service is our #1 priority", said Jackson. They take pride in their ability to make what can be a stressful process easy and convenient for their clients.

321-266-7607

www.thetitlestation.com

**GREATER MARATHON CHAMBER OF COMMERECE** 

305.743.5417 • 1.800.262.7284
visitus@floridakeysmarathon.com
www.floridakeysmarathon.com
12222 Overseas Highway • Marathon, FL 33050







#### Save Time & Howey with Kays Basiness Checking

- Avoid a \$10 monthly for allow your use your Keys Debit Assistance of the same and the same of the same of the same and the same of th
- Earn competitive infavorites granaccount balance.

Jule us at any breach in Key West, Stock Island, Big Nee, Marethon or Teverples.



September 1965-198-198



RESORT & YACHT CLUB



Architecture • Construction
Remodels • Landscapes • Interior Design
Furniture & Accessories





**UNIVERSITY OF MIAMI HEALTH SYSTEM** 



**DOGS - CATS - BIRDS- ALL EXOTICS** 

5001 Overseas Highway, Marathon, FL 33050 P: 305-743-7099 F: 305-743-4057 www.marathonvet.com

#### **SEA YOU AT THE SEAFOOD FEST**



It's March, which means the Original Marathon Seafood Festival is here! We hope to see you all at Marathon Community Park March 11th & 12th for our 47th Original Marathon Seafood Festival. The Marathon Seafood Festival consists of over 15,000 festival guests, live entertainment and over 200 vendors, along with art booths, a boat show, kid's games and rides, and some new additions like a bloody-mary and on-the-rocks margarita bars, craft beers, and some great entertainment like The Red Elvises, Southern Stampede, Caribe, and more!

The Marathon Seafood Festival brings in thousands of out-of-county guests each year to our Island having a \$7,000,000.00+ economic impact each year on our businesses and community. Regarding economic impact and working with our visitors, I am extremely proud of the amazing job the staff in our Marathon Chamber & Visitor Center does; especially how well they work with visitors that stop into our visitors center, call, or email us asking for information about Marathon and the FL Keys. Most commonly we field questions on what to do, where to eat, stay, and play; so we may make their trip a memorable one.

- A Couple Visitor Center Fun Facts:
- Research shows that visitors who stop in the Marathon Visitor Center are likely to extend their stay by an average of three-days; this results in total additional visitor spending (includes accommodations) to the tune of \$6.2+ million per year!
- 15+% of our annual visitor center walk-ins arrive without reservations (crazy right)!
- Our customer service ratings are top notch!
- Our TripAdvisor rating is a perfect 5.0
- Our Google rating is 4.9/5.0

One of the Marathon Seafood Festival's goals is, other than putting heads-in-beds, is to enhance our visitors' experience and time here in the Islands of Marathon, and while we know the event attracts many to our islands, we want them to come back again. The seafood festival helps to do just that and we are proud of this two-fold effect our event has. Actually three-fold, forgive my ignorance; as our event serves as an annual meeting place for so many of our locals who get to celebrate our fishing heritage and catch up with friends we may not always get to see.

Your Marathon Seafood Festival also allows us and our event partner, the Organized Fishermen of Florida (Marathon Chapter), to give back to our great community. Between both organizations over \$70,000.00 in event proceeds find their way back to local not-for-profits, scholarships for local students, and grants for chamber members (continuing education, beautification grants, etc.). We are equally proud of the "local benefits" our event provides, truly making the Marathon Seafood Festival a win-win for all.

Thank you, and I look forward to seeing you at the 47th annual Original Marathon Seafood Festival (March 11-12)! If you are interested in volunteering please call Erika at your Marathon Chamber to get signed-up (305-743-5417), and check out our event website as well for more info on entertainment and more at www.MarathonSeafoodFestival.com.

Most Respectfully,

CE0

www.MarathonSeafoodFestival.com Greater Marathon Chamber of Commerce (305) 743-5417 ceo@floridakeysmarathon.com www.FloridaKeysMarathon.com



We have expanded!

Making it simple for you...

Bring us your Construction Debris
Yard Waste - Household Goods



TRANSFER STATION



**PORTABLES** 

ROCK WALLS
HARDSCAPES



LOCATED ON AVIATION BLVD BEHIND THE MARATHON AIRPORT



305.743.5680 FREE ESTIMATE

Marathon Waste Transfer

www.discountrockandsand.com

www.marathonwastetransfer.com



Keyswide / 305-500-5555 / Danielle@5starair.com www.5starair.com



www.marlinbay.com

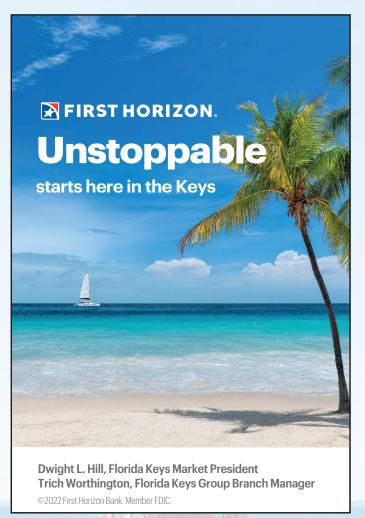
3800 Overseas Highway Marathon, FL 33050

#### **COMMERCIAL • RESIDENTIAL • INDUSTRIAL**

- •Networking Solutions
  - Security
- •Business
  Support
  Services
- •Computer Sales and Service
- IKCS
  Technical Solutions
- •Camera and CCTV
- Access Control
- •Wireless Technologies
- •Audio/Video Solutions
  - •Cabling

vice WWW.MYKCS.COM
TEL: 305.396.6320 FAX: 305.395.7573









## Join Us In Congratulating Lori Bailey

First State Bank is proud to announce the promotion of Lori Bailey to Senior Vice President.

Lori has been an integral part of our team since 2006, providing commercial and residential lending services to our customers in the Upper and Middle Keys.

Her strong work ethic, positive attitude, and commitment to her customers and her co-workers are unparalleled.

Lori Bo

Congratulations Lori!

Lori Bailey Senior Vice President Market Lending Leader 305-809-5510 LoriB@KeysBank.com NMLS: 812459





6900 Overseas Hwy • 305-289-4393 • KeysBank.com

#### Greater Marathon Chamber of Commerce • 2022/2023 Board of Directors —

Robyn Still -Chairman The Tackle Box 1901 Overseas Hwy Marathon, FL 33050 305-289-0540 TheTackleBox@thetacklebox.com

Teri Hiller -Chair Elect Coldwell Banker Schmitt Real Estate Co. 11100 Overseas Hwy Marathon, FL 33050 305-481-0361 terihiller@cbschmitt.com

Michael Weber-Treasurer Marriott Fairfield Inn Marathon 13201 Overseas Hwy Marathon, FL 33050 305-289-0222 GM.fl.marathon@otohotels.com

Grimi Betancourt-Secretary Regan Insurance Agency 8065 Overseas Hwy Marathon, FL 33050 305-852-3234 gbetancourt@reganinsuranceinc.com

Taylor Konrath-Director Marathon Garbage Service 4290 Overseas Hwy Marathon, FL 33050 305-743-5165 office@marathongarbageservice.com Blair Shiver-Nealis-Director Food for Thought 5800 Overseas Hwy STE 23 Marathon, FL 33050 305-743-3297 foodforthought33050@gmail.com

Justin Bruland-Director
JB Fisheries
1199 73rd St
Marathon, FL 33050
305-481-4081
jlb06z@my.fsu.edu
Lavarski Smith- Director
Coca Cola
30801 Avenue A
Big Pine Key, FL 33043
305-731-9985
LaSmith@cocacolaflorida.com

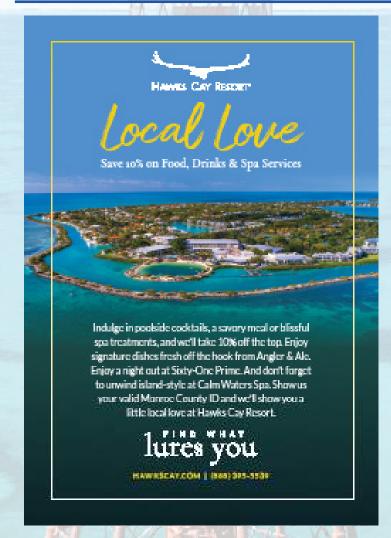
Candice Grostefon -Director Keys Car Wash 11055 Overseas Hwy Marathon, FL 33050 305-743-8121 keyscarwash@outlook.com

Alexia Mann-Director Seafarer Reakty 11400 Overseas Hwy, #105 Marathon, FL 33050 305-209-5166 alexia@seafarerrealty.com Kristin Carlson- Director Island Physical Therapy 13365 Overseas Hwy, Suite 103 Marathon, FL 33050 305-289-0707 kristinrauch@gmail.com

Tricia Baker -Director Marathon Lumber & Building Supply 11401 First Street ~ Gulf Marathon, FL 33050 305-743-3688 tricia@marathonlumber.com

> Robert Moore-Director Hawks Cay Resort 61 Hawks Cay Blvd. Duck Key, FL 33050 305-998-4590 bob.moore@hawkscay.com

Daniel Samess, CEO Marathon Chamber of Commerce 12222 Overseas Hwy Marathon, FL 33050 305-743-5417/cell 305-849-9688 ceo@floridakeysmarathon.com











DECKING • RAILING • MATCHING SCREWS

DECKING COMES IN 12 FT, 16 FT AND 20 FT







- DRILL BITS
- HAMMER BITS
- TAPE MEASURES
- BATTERY PACKS











- ALEX PLUS 40 YRS
- ALEX PLUS 25 YRS
- LOCTILE 2 IN 1
- RED DEVIL SILICONE



#### PLASTIC BARRELS

- 35 GALLON OPEN LID
- 35 GALLON CLOSE LID
- 55 GALLON OPEN LID
- 55 GALLON CLOSE LID

millwork sales

SCHLAGE

Georgia-Pacific

HILLMAN















Mon. - Fri. 7am to 4pm www.marathonlumberandbuildingsupply.com



BUILDING TRUST

305.743.3688

# Please welcome our new team members, we are so excited to have you aboard!



Alexia Mann
BROKER OWNER, GRI, AHWD, MRP
305.209.5166
Alexia@SeafarerRealty.com
www.SeafarerRealty.com



### Danial Marrs

Danial@SeafarerRealty.com
......305-767-3495







#### Ginger Perreault

## Milly Cruz

Milly@SeafarerRealty.com
......305-363-8869



SEAFARER REALTY, LLC

11400 OVERSEAS HIGHWAY, #105, MARATHON, FL 33050 😩

# EDAINS FOR this that & THINGS.



MARATHON 305-676-3020 | MIDTOWN 305-676-3083 | BIG PINE 305-676-3073

the other

MY100BANK.COM | A Home BancShares Company

All loans subject to credit and property approval. Some restrictions and fees may apply.

FDK 1











BAPTIST HEALTH SOUTH FLORIDA

## NOW OFFERING SAME OR NEXT DAY APPOINTMENTS



CARDIOLOGY OF THE KEYS
KEY WEST • MARATHON









- The only Ivy League affiliated cardiology practice in South Florida
- Close to you with two convenient locations in the Keys
- The best cardiac surgery survival rate in Florida\*\*

## **Mount Sinai**

MEDICAL CENTER

Mount Sinai Cardiology of the Florida Keys

\*Physician and location subject to availability. \*\*Best cardiac surgery survival rate in Florida. Based on Mospitals performing more than 913 cases/yr. (AHCA Y-END 2016)

305.294.8334
msmc.com

