

GREATER MARATHON CHAMBER OF COMMERCE

CONNECTION

The Official Monthly Publication of the Greater Marathon Chamber of Commerce

The Greater Marathon Chamber of Commerce's



2023 BUSINESS BEAUTIFICATION GRANT PROGRAM

DEADLINE EXTENDED TO MAY 12TH - See application inside



Chamber After Hours

May 10th - 5:30pm-7:30pm



Membership Luncheon

May 16th - 12pm-1pm Guest Speaker: Dana Young President/CEO, Visit Florida



Conference Room - \$16 Please RSVP to erika@floridakeysmarathon.com or 305-743-5417

Please welcome our new members!

KeySteam, LLC
Keyswide
229-516-0398
Contact: Erica Rachal
erica@keysteamllc.com
https://keysteamllc.com/
Mobile Steam Cleaning Service for Weddings

Keys Auction Gallery, LLC 14 Avenue F Marathon, FL 33050 954-850-5453 Contact: Ken Kurtz Ken@KeysAuctionGallery.com Florida National Parks Association
10 Parachute Key #51
Homestead, FL 33034
305-247-1216
Contact:
Jim Sutton
jim@evergladesassociation.org
https://floridanationalparksassociation.org/

All About Doors & Windows 2797 Overseas Hwy, Marathon, Fl 33050 305-225-8010 Contact: Stephanie Diaz

Contact: Stephanie Diaz www.allaboutdoorsthekeys.com allaboutdoorsmiami@gmail.com **Welcome New Visitor Center Member!**

Florida National Parks Association
10 Parachute Key #51
Homestead, FL 33034
305-247-1216
Contact:
Jim Sutton
jim@evergladesassociation.org
https://floridanationalparksassociation.org/

Chamber Member Recap

New Members This Month: 4 Total Members: 560

> Visitor Center Recap New Members; 1 Total Members: 79

Monthly Stats

March 2023
Total Visitors: 2052
Daily Average: 56
Top State: Florida
Top Countries: Canada
Without Reservations: 22%

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

April 27-May 13

MCT presents: Scapino!

A fun-filled adaptation of Moliere's "Les Fourberies de Scapin," Set in contemporary Naples, Italy, the leading character, Scapino, devises a complex plot to help two pairs of lovers against parental opposition that, it turns out, does not even exist. Scapino, a fast-talking, quick-thinking scamp cleverly manipulates and cajoles everyone around him into doing what he intends them to do. Slap-stick, over-the-top hilarity ensues in this uniquely musical farce! 10 dates only! Visit www.marathontheater.org or call the box office 305-743-0994

May 5-7

17th Annual TOM THUMB
Marathon Bull & Cow Dolphin Tournament
Up to \$25,000 in Cash Prizes
www.marathonoffshoretournament.com

May 6

Cinco de Mayo Bingo Night
Presented by Zonta Club of Marathon
6pm at Marathon Elks Lodge
\$50 pre-sale tickets/\$60 at the door
includes 10 games,
6 strips eachCall Cara or Stephanie for info 305-731-7887

May 6-10

Tarponian Tournament

Rules of this high-energy three-evening tournament mandate that each team fishes with a different captain each outing.

Teams also rotate among the three major bridge channels in Marathon, so any potential "hot spots" are shared among all anglers. The tournament's opening and closing events take place at Florida Keys Steak & Lobster House, mile marker 48 bayside.

Call 267-210-1952 for information

May 10

Chamber Business After Hours
5:30pm-7:30pm at Dolphin Research Center sponsored
by Centennial Bank
Bring the whole family and see what's new at DRC!

May 13

17th Annual Mother's Day Dolphin Tournament
To benefit Habitat for Humanity of the Middle Keys
Angler Tournament 4 divisions
Pro, Weekend Warrior, Ladies & Junior
Visit www.mothersdaydolphintournament.com

May 14

Drag Queen Bingo Hosted by JJ Mills at Marathon Community Theater 5pm-7pm Doors & concessions open at 4pm Theme: 90's Supermodels Runway battle for best costume!

May 15-19

Healing & Wellness Retreat

Empowering individuals and their caregivers who are dealing with cancer & other life threatening diseases. Hope, Healing, Education, Relief. Oceanfront resort, wellness workshops, group & private healing modalities, organic foods, water activities & live music.

For info & to register go to OceanDreamsHealing.org

May 16

Chamber Membership Luncheon
12pm-1pm at Faro Blanco Conference Room
In partnership with Florida Restaurant & Lodging Association
Guest Speaker: Dana Young, President/CEO, Visit Florida
Topic: State of Tourism & Hospitality in Florida & the Florida Keys
RSVP Required as space is limited
erika@floridakeysmarathon.com

May 19

Monroe County Bicentennial Celebration on Old Seven Mile Bridge A commemorative celebration of the bicentennial of the founding of Monroe County commences at 6 p.m. on the Old Seven Mile Bridge. Attractions are to include live music and dancing, local artists painting on-site, catered tidbits by the Marathon High School culinary class and a sunset toast with vodka distilled from breadfruit grown at the Lower Keys' Grimal Grove. Past and present commissioners who helped guide Monroe County are to be honored during the evening. Attendees can park at Marathon's 7 Mile Marina property, 1090 Overseas Highway, with trolley service to the bridge provided by the Pigeon Key Foundation.

May 19 & 20

Drama at Drag Brunch: The Slaying of the Sequin Sisters An interactive murder mystery event hosted by Marathon Community Theater

Doors, concessions & hors-d'oeuvres at 6pm.

Event begins promptly at 7pm

Attendees will team up in groups of 8 to DRAG the clues out of over 15 original characters! Fantastic prizes will be awarded to the team that has the most correct answers at the end of the night.

Tickets are \$50 each before sales tax and include a fabulous Charcuterie Board Table and Crudités by Chef Heather MacDonald. Along with the complimentary Hors-d'oeuvres, Champagne and Malt Based Cocktails, Beer and Wine will all be available for purchase at the MCT Concessions Bar beginning at 6pm, so come in early before the Murder Mystery begins to eat, drink, mingle and find your team.

Attendees are invited to come in their best DRAG attire, but costumes are not required. Fun Feather Boas and additional Costuming will be available onsite to purchase.





Join us for an evening of networking and fun!



Wednesday, May 10th 5:30-7:30 pm
Food & Drinks

Raffle

Location: Dolphin Research Center

58901 Overseas Hwy



Membership Luncheon

Tuesday

May 16th

Noon-1pm \$16

RSVP Required

in partnership with



MONROE CHAPTER



Speaker: Dana Young,

President/CEO, Visit Florida



Topic: : State of Tourism &

Hospitality

in FL and the FL Keys

(Faro Blanco Conference Room)



RSVP to Erika@floridakeysmarathon.com

Payment Link Click here



The Greater Marathon Chamber of Commerce's



2023 BUSINESS BEAUTIFICATION GRANT PROGRAM

Purpose/Summary

Providing Chamber business-members with the opportunity to improve the external appearance of their properties. Participants will receive discounts in purchasing landscaping & design products & services from local vendors to off-set expenses incurred. Additionally, this will further improve the visual appearance of our community to visitors, and will thus have a positive impact on long-term tourism, economic development, sustainability and growth for businesses as well as property values.

PROGRAM DETAILS & EIIGIBILITY: two options of funding are available (can only choose one option)

- 1) Marathon Chamber <u>will match up to \$2,000.00</u> to five (5) business-members to assist with expenses (<u>in form of reimbursement only</u>).
 - \rightarrow Grants are awarded as a 50% match, up to \$2,000.00 (max amount).
 - → To receive maximum amount business's total project cost must be at least \$4,000.00 (or more); of which \$2,000.00 would then be reimbursed by the Marathon Chamber.
 - → Applications/projects with higher owner-equity will garner higher scores.
- 2) Marathon Chamber <u>will award up to \$1,000.00</u> to five (5) business-members towards their beautification project (no match required).
 - → Business Applicants must be current member in good standing with Marathon Chamber of Commerce (2023 dues paid)
 - → Your Business must be located within the Middle Keys, specifically from Duck Key to the East end of the 7 Mile Bridge.
- Participating businesses are eligible to receive discounts from vendors (supplies, labor, etc.: see Vendor List).
- Applicants who have received one of our grants previously are eligible to apply again as needed.
- Participating businesses must have improvement-plan which will result in real-visual external improvements made to business/property (see reimbursable expenses list below).
- All participating businesses will receive recognition for their improvements and participation.
- Participating businesses must have authority as building/property owner and/or lease authority/approval of owner for such improvements.
- Projects that are under construction, or have begun prior to May 1, 2023, are not eligible to apply.

All participating businesses will be recognized in the Marathon Chamber Connection Newsletter, Marathon Weekly Newspaper, and Free Press (compliments of Marathon Chamber)

Timeframe:

Participating businesses will have <u>from May 1, 2023, until Dec. 31, 2023</u> to complete their specified beautification projects (per their application) on their properties in order to receive grant funding (in form of reimbursement)

Reimbursable Expenses Include:

- 1) Building façade improvements (masonry repairs, painting, stucco, surfacing, repair, redesign, architectural details/additions, additions, cleaning, pressure washing)
- 2) Landscaping (planting of native-tropical trees, palms, plants, and ground cover on property where applicable; cleanup- clearing of unwanted/invasive trees, plants, trash).
- 3) Roofing & Awning improvements/repairs (redesigning/structuring, resurfacing material)
- 4) Public Art attached to building (murals)
- 5) Parking improvements (resurfacing/paving parking area/lot assigned to business)
- *6) Other improvements not mentioned may still be considered: please fully explain on application, if applicable/acceptable by Board of Directors your application will be considered

UOVER ↓

Process:

- Step 1: Businesses complete application to enter program (application due by May 12, 2023).
- Step 2: Once Marathon Chamber closes the application window (May 12th), the Board of Directors will review applications and based on meeting mandatory criteria, scope of project/work proposed, and level of impact it will have on Marathon's Image.
- Step 3: Participating businesses and vendors/contractors conducting work will apply for necessary building, landscaping, etc permits with local government (City, County).
- Step 4: Participating businesses will have until Dec. 31st (window begins the day participating businesses are notified) to complete work to receive reimbursements.
- Step 5: Once all work has been completed, participating businesses will receive special recognition in Chamber Newsletter and Marathon Weekly Newspaper.

Disclaimers:

- -Participating businesses must be members in good standing (2023) of the Greater Marathon Chamber of Commerce and be physically located in the Middle Keys.
- -Participating businesses must be commercial businesses that are zoned for mixed-use commercial.
- -Business's project outcome must match their proposed project plans from grant application to be eligible for reimbursement.
- Funding may be denied if project not completed by the Dec. 31, 2023, deadline.
- -The Greater Marathon Chamber of Commerce is neither liable nor involved in any financial matters and/or decisions between participating businesses and vendors.
- Your Business must be located within the Middle Keys, specifically from Duck Key to the East end of the 7 Mile Bridge.
- -The Greater Marathon Chamber of Commerce is not responsible for any damages that may occur before, during, or after any beautification projects occur.
- -Discounts offered through vendors are only valid until Dec. 31, 2023, and only with participating businesses (participating businesses will be verified via Marathon Chamber).
- -Participating businesses must have appropriate permits from the City of Marathon and/or Monroe County
- -Participating businesses are encouraged to consult with and get landscaping plans approved by City of Marathon Biologist/staff.
- -Matching grant payment to business is only reimbursable for specific improvements (see above)

Local Vendors Offering Special Discounts to Participating Businesses (subject to change):

Vendor	Contact	Discount Offered
Dot Palm	Gigi Harrison:	10% discount on all services
Landscaping	305-743-3090	offered
D'Asign Source	Emily Pulis	25% off Coastal Source outdoor
	305-743-7130	lighting /audio & D'Asign source
		Botanicals
Category 5 Signs	Edward Burdon	20% off discount on full color
	305-293-4501	printing, banners & flags
Design Center	Andrew:	20% Spalling
	305-735-4042	

BUSINESS BEAUTIFICATION APPLICATION







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

Springtime MAY as well be Summertime



As 2023 continues to fly by, I hope this finds you well. We are very busy with a few exciting events and programs going on and coming up. To keep you informed and in the loop here they are in a nut (or conch) shell.

We are making great progress in planning our 3rd annual FL Keys BrewBQ (www.KeysBrewBQ.com)! Contact us if you are interested in being a sponsor, volunteer, vendor, or BBQ competitor. As always, we will feature craft beers, BBQ food for quests, live music, kids games, and more on July 14-15 at Marathon Community Park. We are still taking applications for the BBQ Cookoff. If you would like to compete (amateurs only), please contact me or go to the event website for the application. We have cash prizes, BIG trophies (for bragging rights of course), and it's a great time.

Business Beautification Grants: These grants are a great opportunity to spruce up the visual appeal of your business and/or commercial property. Middle Keys chamber members can apply and get some matching monies form your chamber to help improve the outside-visual appeal of your business/property. Applications are due May 12th so contact us (305-743-5417) anytime for more info. We did recently mail out info and applications to our valued members.

May Chamber events:

Please join us for an exciting Business After Hours May 10th at world renown Dolphin Research Center and network with members while enjoying the DRC and their amazing inhabitants!

On May 16th we have our Member Luncheon (Faro Blanco Resort Conference Room) where we are honored to have Dana Young as our speaker! Dana is the CEO/President of VISIT FLORIDA, the State of Florida's tourism agency. Learn all about what VISIT FL does to promote us to the world as well as tourism trends, stats, and much more.

Have a great May everyone! Please remember (if you haven't already) to send in your membership renewal dues that were mailed out back in December, online payment is now available for your convenience. We greatly appreciate your membership with us and look forward to continuing to serve, support, promote, and advocate for your business. Please never hesitate to contact me to help you in any way. Hears to a safe and profitable May!

Most Respectfully,

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

www.RelocateToTheFloridaKeys.com



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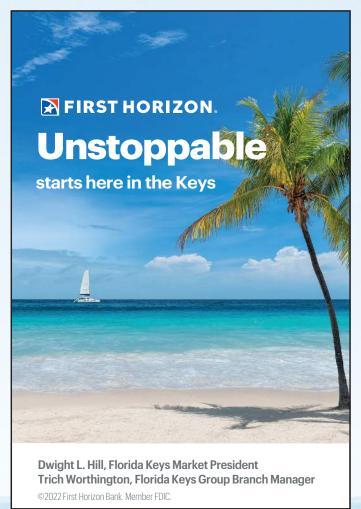
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Teri Hiller -Chair Elect Coldwell Banker Schmitt Real Estate Co. 11100 Overseas Hwy Marathon, FL 33050 305-481-0361 terihiller@cbschmitt.com

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

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jlb06z@my.fsu.edu
Lavarski Smith- Director
Coca Cola
30801 Avenue A
Big Pine Key, FL 33043
305-731-9985
LaSmith@cocacolaflorida.com

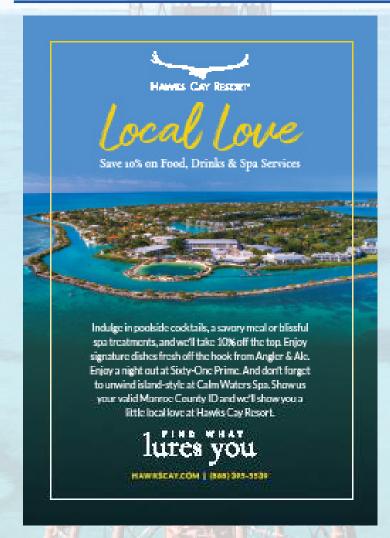
Candice Grostefon -Director Keys Car Wash 11055 Overseas Hwy Marathon, FL 33050 305-743-8121 keyscarwash@outlook.com

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
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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











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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

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......305-363-8869



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