



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



Chamber After Hours

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



Live music, great food & drink, raffles and more!

Please welcome our new members!

Island Girl Excursions
305-902-7479
trips@islandgirl-excursions.com
islandgirlsexcursions.com

James Dykstra
(individual)

Mountain Top Financial
rachellynn@mountaintopfinancial.com
913-749-2752

Starfish Kitchen
laurennaguayo@gmail.com
786-818-0000

Barnacle Barney's
Marvincerda0624@gmail.com
305-289-6706



Chamber Member Recap

New Members This Month: 5

Total Members: 540

Visitor Center Recap

Total Members: 69

Monthly Stats

October 2025

Total Visitors: 605

Daily Average: 14

Top State: Florida

Top Countries: Germany

Without Reservations: 6%

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 Amanda for more info:
membership@floridakeysmarathon.com
305-743-5417

EXECUTIVE MEMBER CIRCLE

Starfish Level

Brutus Land and Sea
Coldwell Banker Schmitt Real Estate Co.

Angelfish Level

Faro Blanco Resort
First Horizon Bank
First State Bank
Florida Keys Electric Co-op
Hawks Cay Resort
Hotwire Communications
Isla Bella Beach Resort
Key Squared Construction
Marathon Garbage Service
The Tackle Box

Seahorse Level

Berkshire Hathaway HomeServices
Centennial Bank
D'Assign Source
Faro Blanco Marina – by Suntec
Fisherman's Community Hospital
Keys Federal Credit Union
Marathon Community Theatre
Million Air
Keys Weekly Newspaper
Wolfe Stevens, PLLC
Wright Barrows, PLLC



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 Erika@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

2nd Annual 7 Mile SantaCon & onto 2026



Dear Valued Members,

Happy Holidays to you, your staff, and families! We are truly grateful for another quiet storm season, and turkey vultures are back (as I write this signifying an end to storm season! I also hope you had a fun-stuffed Thanksgiving too.

I am really excited about our 2nd annual SantaCon taking place on December 6th. If you participated last year you recall that we basically wrapped a holiday event into something that involves a fun poker run, dressing up, and a few drinks. There will be prizes for best poker hands, best dressed, and more. For only \$60.00/pp you get to stop at five (5) local restaurants where you will receive a free drink, pull your poker card at each stop, and your final (5th) stop you will have the chance to buy a "mulligan" if you weren't happy with your fifth poker card.

Also, one of our amazing members, Marathon BikeWorks is providing FREE bicycle rentals for SantaCon participants! Bike's will be dropped off at our 1st stop (aquarium encounters), and picked up at our final stop (Havana Jacks), all for free (thank you again Brandon/Marathon Bikeworks). More info online (<https://floridakeysmarathon.com/7-mile-santa-con/>) and in this newsletter, hope to see you all there.

December also marks the end of our fiscal year; and the beginning of a new year with tons of potential for us all! December also signifies your chamber membership renewals, so please be sure to keep a look out in your mailbox and inbox for your annual Chamber Membership Renewal invoice (you can pay online now: <https://floridakeysmarathon.com/product/marathon-chamber-payments/>). Should you have any questions about it please contact us as we are happy to help as always. As you frequently hear me say, we are grateful for your involvement and membership with the Greater Marathon Chamber of Commerce, especially during 2025. We look forward to serving you for yet another year in 2026!

As we wrap up 2025, I was very proud we were again able to contribute towards our annual scholarships and not-for-profits. Your Chamber was able to award over \$6,000 in donations to local not for profits that benefit our businesses as well as our local economy and community (FIRM, Middle Keys Habitat for Humanity, United Way, Marathon Rotary, KAIR, American Cancer Society, and more). We also awarded over \$15,000 in scholarships to MHS students and to you all, our valued members, via the Board's Continuing Education Grant program. Lastly, we will soon be starting a new program designed to even better support local charitable organizations, so stay tuned!

As we say good-bye to a normalized 2025, we are hopeful 2026 will yield another strong, safe, and steady year for your businesses and families. In the meantime we will continue to creatively and effectively serve your business, as that is our primary mission and purpose.

The Marathon Chamber Board of Directors, staff, ambassadors, and I are all committed to working for and with you and your staff. Please be sure to get involved in our beneficial programs; ask questions, and let your Marathon Chamber work for you. Have a wonderful holidays, Christmas and New Year's later this month; be safe in any of your travels, and see you at our December business after hours and luncheon, and of course in 2026!

Most Respectfully,

CEO
Greater Marathon Chamber of Commerce
(305) 743-5417
ceo@floridakeysmarathon.com
www.FloridaKeysMarathon.com
*Mark your Calendars: Dec. 6th 2025 7 Mile SantaCon
www.KeysBrewBQ.com



**Greater Marathon Chamber of
Commerce & First Horizon
Bank Presents:**

**After Hours at Aquarium
Encounters**

**December 10th
5:30-7:30 PM**



MARATHON NEWS, EVENTS & HAPPENINGS

Pet Photos With The Grinch

Wednesday, December 3, 2025 at 4:30PM-6:30PM

**Event by Berkshire Hathaway HomeServices Keys Real Estate Knight & Gardner Realty and Florida Keys SPCA
9141 Overseas Hwy, Marathon, FL 33050-3247, United States**

**Snap a Pic with the Grinch and Support a Great Cause!
Bring your furry friends for a fun, festive photo with the Grinch! It's the perfect way to create Who-ville-worthy memories and help the Florida Keys SPCA make a difference for animals in need.**

Date: Wednesday, December 3rd

Time: 4:30 PM - 6:30 PM

Location: 9141 Overseas Hwy, Marathon, FL 33050

Come share some holiday cheer, capture a paw-some pic, and support our local SPCA! Make sure your pets are leashed or in carriers for a safe and joyful time.

Mermaids at Aquarium Encounters

Dec 6 at 11AM – Dec 7 at 2PM

**Event by Florida Keys Aquarium Encounters
11710 Overseas Hwy, Marathon, FL**

Join us at Aquarium Encounters for mermaids! They will be performing swim shows at 11 am and 2 pm both Saturday and Sunday. Afterwards they will be hosting meet and greets! We will be offering snorkeling with our mermaids in our coral reef tank! Call for more details!

St. Columba Christmas Bazaar

Saturday, December 6, 2025 at 9AM- 1PM

**Event by St Columba Episcopal Church
451 52nd Street Gulf, Marathon, FL**

**Join us at St. Columba's Christmas Extravaganza!
We spill out Christmas over the entire St. Columba campus with everything you could imagine for Christmas... decorations, gifts, baked goods and so much more.
We will be selling homemade soups and chili for lunch, hot coffee, hot chocolate and more! Saturday 9am-1pm
Sneak Peek on Friday night-just \$5 to shop early and enjoy refreshments.**

Saturday Christmas Movies at Community Park – Fred Claus

Saturday, December 6, 2025 at 7PM

**Event by City of Marathon, Florida
Marathon Community Park**

**Santa's ne'er-do-well older brother wreaks havoc on the holidays when he is forced to work at the North Pole's toy shop.
(Rated PG)**

Winter's Waltz

Saturday, December 6, 2025 at 7PM

**Event by Marathon Community Theatre
5101 Overseas Hwy, Marathon, FL, United States, Florida 33050**

Join us for one night only as the MCT dance department showcases their beautiful dance production.

Night with Santa and Mrs. Claus

Sunday, December 7, 2025 at 6PM-8PM

**Event by Florida Keys Aquarium Encounters
11710 Overseas Hwy, Marathon, FL**

Join us for a night of arts and crafts, drinks, appetizers, and holiday fun! Admission is free!

Home for the Holidays- MCT Annual Holiday Show

Friday, December 12, 2025 at 7PM-9PM

**Event by Marathon Community Theatre
5101 Overseas Hwy, Marathon, FL**

**Join us for our Annual Holiday Show-
Home for the Holidays!
Holiday sing-along and variety show!**

Saturday Christmas Movie at the Park –

A Christmas Story

Saturday, December 20, 2025 at 7 PM

**Event by City of Marathon, Florida
Marathon Community Park**

**Join us for this Classic Christmas Story - It's FRAGILE!
It's the final days before Christmas in early 1940s Cleveland, and 9-year-old Ralphie wants one thing from Santa Claus more than anything else: a Red Ryder Carbine Action Air Rifle. As he trudges through the snow to school, faces the neighborhood bully and visits a malevolent department store Santa Clause, Ralphie connives, conspires and campaigns for the most fabulous Christmas present ever in this heartwarming, hysterical and sweetly nostalgic holiday film. Based on stories by Jean Sheppard. (Rated PG)**

FREE

Buy Your
**RAFFLE
TICKETS**

**Zonta Club of Marathon
Presents:**

Festival Of Trees 2025

SCHEDULE OF EVENTS

Tuesday Dec 2nd ... 5pm - 8pm

Wednesday, Dec 3rd ... 5pm - 8pm

Pick your Background - Complimentary Professional Photos

Thursday, Dec 4th ... 5pm - 8pm

Friday, Dec 5th ... 3:30pm - 10pm

Saturday, Dec 6th ... 10am - 8pm

Cookies with Santa and the Grinch 11:30- 1pm

Drawing for the Winning Tickets at 8pm

Sunday, Dec 7th ... 8am -12pm Tree Pickup



Zonta Club of Marathon



Marathon Garden Club

5270 Overseas Hwy Marathon, FL 33050

WWW.ZONTACLUBOFMARATHON.COM



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Wednesday, December 3
11:00 a.m. - 7:00 p.m.

- NO APP FEE (SAVE \$30)
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Wesley House Family Services

HOLIDAY VILLAGE & BeLighted Bike Ride

FRIDAY, DECEMBER 5, 2025

COFFEE BUTLER AMPHITHEATER

HOLIDAY VILLAGE 5 - 9PM

BIKE RIDE @ 8PM

WESLEYHOUSE.ORG/BELIGHTED2025



PHOTOS WITH SANTA! UNLIMITED AMUSEMENT RIDES! FOOD TRUCKS! KIDS 3 AND UNDER FREE!

OFFICIAL AFTER PARTY



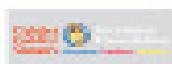
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Celebrate our holiday season FL Keys style with:

- Drinks
- Fun Poker Run
- X Mass cheer, and much more!

Dress up in your most festive holiday garb, have some drinks with us, play some poker, and maybe even win some cash prizes (poker and best dressed prizes)!



Saturday, December 6, 2025

Greater Marathon
Chamber Commerce

LIGNUMVITAE CHRISTMAS

Friend Raiser



Saturday, Dec 6, 2025

10:00am to 3:30pm

**TICKETS AVAILABLE
ONLINE**

\$25.00 Donation

No Refunds

See you there rain or shine
For more information phone:
305-664-4339



Ticket Includes

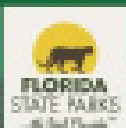
- Round-trip ferry to the island
- Park admission

Included Activities

- Nature trails and 1919 Matheson House tours
- Storytelling, no-tech navigation, crafts, and 1930s games
- Lawn lounging with live seasonal music (bring a blanket)

Lunch Options

- Hot Dog or Hamburger, with chips, for donation or bring your own picnic (raccoon-proof container, no alcohol)



All donations support Friends of the Islamorada Area State Parks, Inc.

Mission Statement: A volunteer non-profit, citizens' support organization created to generate public awareness, education, financial support, preservation, and maintenance of our local State parks.

Parks Supported: Florida Keys Overseas Heritage Trail, Lignumvitae Key Botanical State Park, Windley Key Fossil Reef Geological State Park, Indian Key Historic State Park, San Pedro State Park, Curry Hammock State Park, Long Key State Park.

HISTORY OF DIVING MUSEUM GUIDED TOURS

SUNDAY, DEC 7TH
PEARL HARBOR COMMEMORATIVE TOURS
11 AM AND 2 PM
JOIN US!



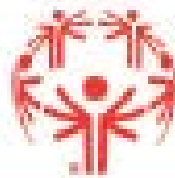
MERRY *Divemmas*

WEDNESDAY
DEC. 17TH
5:30-6:45 PM



PHOTOS WITH SANTA!
COOKIE-DECORATING, HOLIDAY CRAFTS & MORE
IMMERSE YOURSELF PRESENTATION AT 7 PM





MARCH 7, 2026

9 AM TO 2 PM AT MARATHON JR/SR HIGH SCHOOL



MONROE COUNTY SUMMER GAMES

Join us for a day of fun and sports!

- Basketball
- Cheerleading
- Cycling
- Soccer
- Track
- Healthy Athletes Screenings

How you can help:

- Host a business booth in the Athlete Village and provide an activity and/or give away item
- General volunteer
- Officiate a sport
- Volunteer as a health professional at Health Athletes screenings
- Donate funds to support the Games



**SCAN TO SIGN UP
TO VOLUNTEER**

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SERVICE HOURS
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+ PIGEON KEY +
HOLIDAY

+ SPECTACULAR +



SATURDAY DECEMBER 13TH 1PM - 9PM
PIGEON KEY POLAR EXPRESS • HOLIDAY LIGHTS • FOOD & DRINKS
HOLIDAY MOVIES • SHARK FEEDING • SANTA CLAUS*

*SANTA CLAUS WILL BE HERE FROM 3PM - 5PM



Hotwire
COMMUNICATIONS

Ana Marta
RODRIGUEZ
State Senator

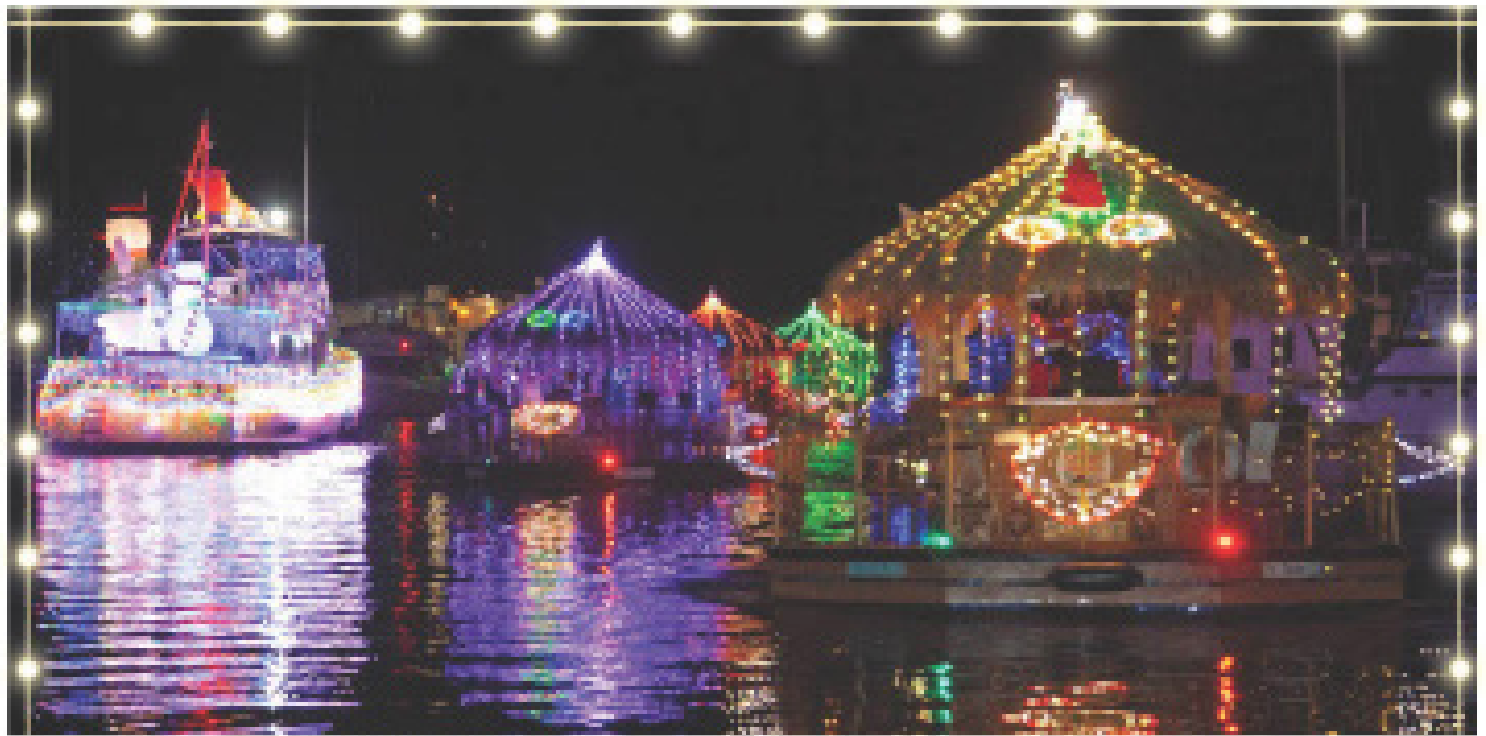
JIM
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FOR STATE REPRESENTATIVE

THINK SHOP BUY.
LOCAL

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Watch the Lighted Boat Parade with Danger Charters!

Seats available on our Parade Boat and Viewing Boat



Sail-abrate the holiday season with one of the most popular events of the year with the crew at Danger Charters!

Saturday, December 13th

7:30-9:30PM | Adult: \$109 · Child: \$89

.....
Perfect for Families! | Unlimited Wine, Beer, & Soda | Passed Appetizers | Limited to 25 Guests
.....

• 305-304-7999 • dangercharters.com •



SATURDAY AT THE SQUARE: A HOLIDAY CELEBRATION

Sunday, December 20 | 4 - 7PM

This season, Isla Bella's town square will transform into a festive coastal marketplace with seasonal sips, curated shopping, and family-friendly fun. Explore artisan vendors, enjoy holiday tastings, and soak up the glow of string lights, illuminated palms, and a 15-foot Christmas tree!



SCAN TO
LEARN
MORE



HOLIDAY DINING



Christmas Buffet

Thursday, December 25 | 5 - 9 PM

\$129 per adult

\$38 per child (12 & under)

New Year's Eve Buffet

Wednesday, December 31 | 6 - 10 PM

\$129 per adult

\$38 per child (12 & under)



SCAN TO
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MENUS



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PRIVATE SANDBAR & SNORKEL CHARTER

Experience the ultimate Key West sandbar
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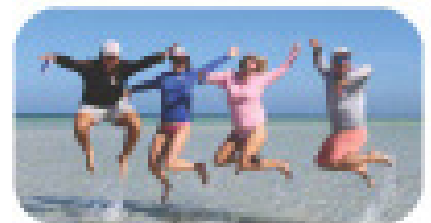
Iced coolers, bottled water & sodas, and light snacks onboard. BYOB drinks & food!

Masks, fins, snorkel gear, and wetsuits

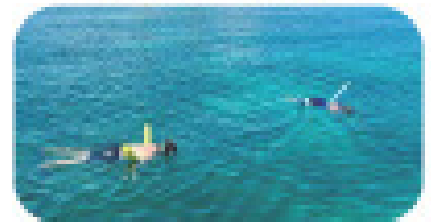
Lily pad floating mat, sandbar games, and a bluetooth speaker

Completely customizable itinerary for your perfect day on the Key West waters!

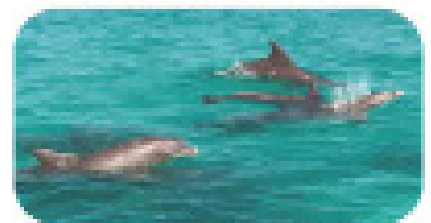
SEAS THE DAY!
YOUR CHARTER, YOUR WAY



Play at the Sandbar



Snorkel the Reef



Look for Wild Dolphins

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www.marlinbay.com

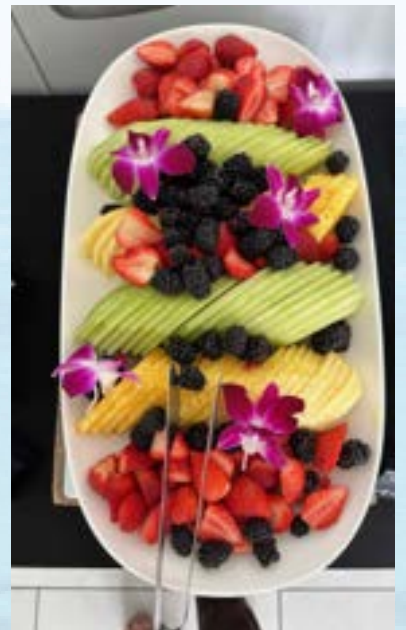
AFTER HOURS AT SUNSET GRILL



CHAMBER LUNCHEON AT ISLA BELLA



CHAMBER LUNCHEON AT ISLA BELLA



COMMERCE CORNER



Experience the True Spirit of the Florida Keys

Get out with Island Girls Excursions for unforgettable sunbath and sunset cruises, departing daily from The Island Fish Company Tiki Bar in Marathon. Our spacious 62' catamaran offers the perfect blend of comfort and fun — complete with Bluetooth Wi-Fi, complimentary drinks and snacks, refreshing sodas, and plenty of room to relax while taking in the turquoise waters of paradise.



Whether you're relaxing, sunbathing, or exploring, our friendly crew makes every journey so safe, seamless, and filled with lasting memories.

Locally owned and operated by longtime Keys residents, Island Girls Excursions was built from the ground up by people who love the water and their community. We take pride in offering authentic Keys experiences at great rates, with personalized service and genuine island hospitality that makes every cruise feel like boating with friends.

Proud supporters of local events, organizations, and the Marathon Chamber of Commerce, we're passionate about sharing the beauty of the Keys in a fun, sustainable, and community-driven way. Island Girls Excursions — Laid-Back. Beautiful. 100% Keys.

12848 Overseas Hwy, Marathon, FL 33060

(at The Island Fish Company Tiki Bar)

30.808.7479

IslandGirlsExcursions.com | trips@islandgirl-Excursions.com

GREATER MARATHON CHAMBER OF COMMERCE

3857 US 90 N • J. 388.382.7284

www.greatermarathonchamber.com

www.visitmarathon.com

1222 Overseas Hwy • Marathon, FL 33060



COMMERCE CORNER



Creating Art, Memories, and Community in Paradise

Owners Randall & Arnie bring creativity and connection to life through *Painting the Keys* — offering fun, engaging art experiences that capture the spirit of the Florida Keys.



Join us for public or private *Paint Parties* at our Concrete Art Studio in Islamorada, or let us bring the fun to local restaurants, bars, etc. and private venues throughout the Keys. Perfect for family gatherings, date nights, groups, or anyone looking to meet new friends!

Not in the Keys? You can still enjoy that island feeling with our ART2Go Boxes — anything you need to create your own masterpiece at home.

Stay connected and up to date on events, request your own party, or order ART2Go boxes at PaintingTheKeys.com. Follow us on Facebook and Instagram @PaintingTheKeys.

🥥 FindersKeepersCoconuts — Follow the adventure! Arnie paints coconuts, and Randall hides them around the Keys for lucky locals and visitors to find. Track, clues and share your finds @FindersKeepersCoconuts.

Explore more of Arnie's artwork at ArtbyArnie.com

Randall Glass • 881.707.4827

Based in Islamorada

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GREATER NAPLES CHAMBER OF COMMERCE

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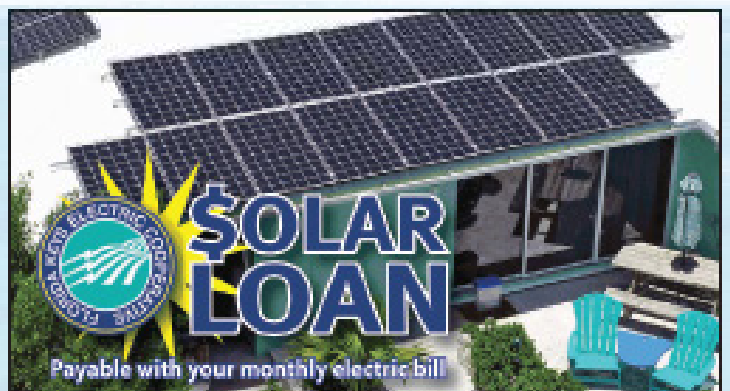
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**Interested in Solar?
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Florida Keys Electric Cooperative is committed to making access to solar power generation possible for interested members. Obtain an FKEC solar loan and make payments through your monthly electric bill — it's that easy.

How do I qualify? Qualifying is based solely on your credit history with FKEC. Residential members must have a minimum 12-month clean billing history with FKEC and commercial members must have 24 months.

How do I apply? Start by calling FKEC Member Service at 305-852-2431 to see if you are eligible, and to learn more about the terms of the loan. You can also find the terms and steps to obtaining a solar loan at www.FKEC.com.

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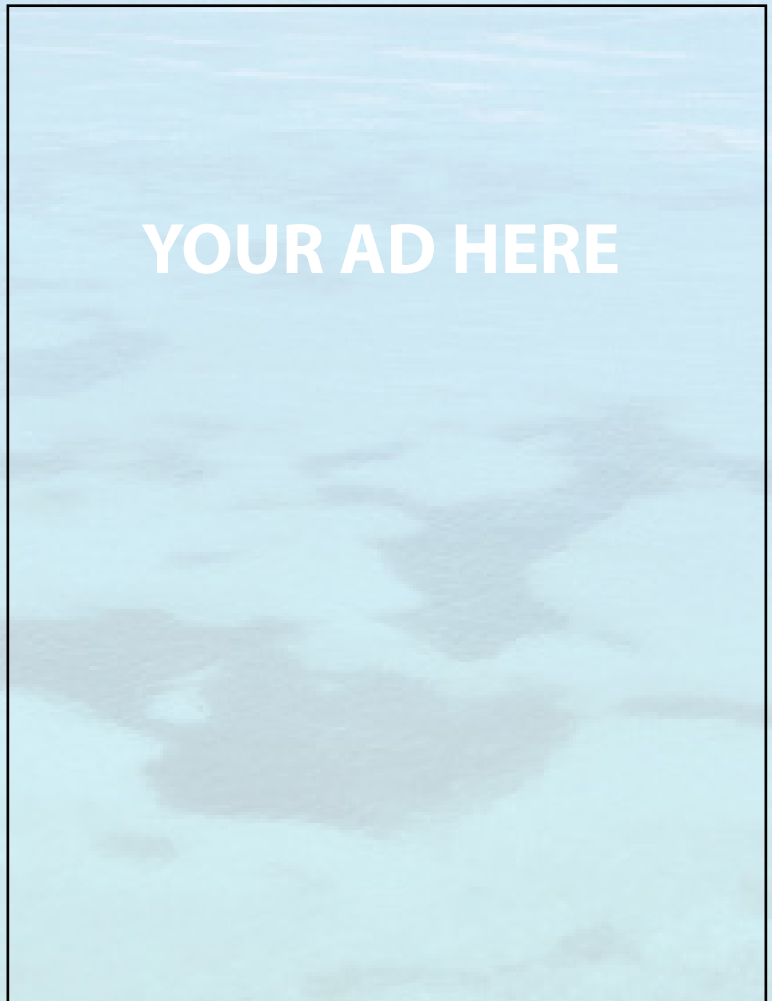


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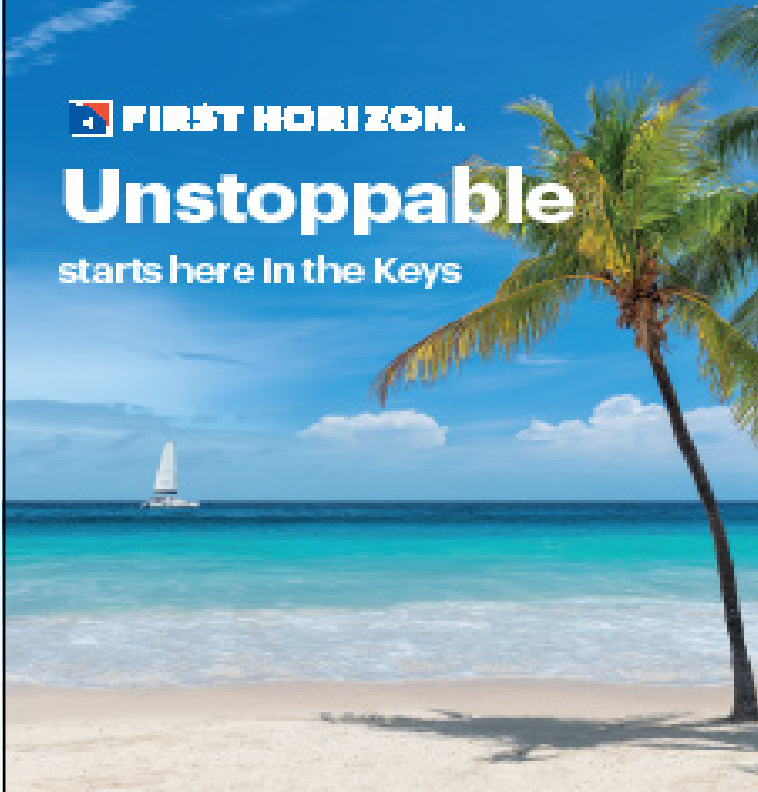
Architecture • Construction
Remodels • Landscapes • Interior Design
Furniture & Accessories



Wolfe|Stevens
Attorneys at Law



FIRST HORIZON.
Unstoppable
 starts here In the Keys



Dwight L. Hill, Florida Keys Market President
 Trick Worthington, Florida Keys Group Branch Manager
 409201st Street, Suite 100



**Fishermen's Community
 Hospital**

BAPTIST HEALTH SOUTH FLORIDA

**BERKSHIRE
 HATHAWAY**
 HOMESERVICES

KEYS
 REAL ESTATE

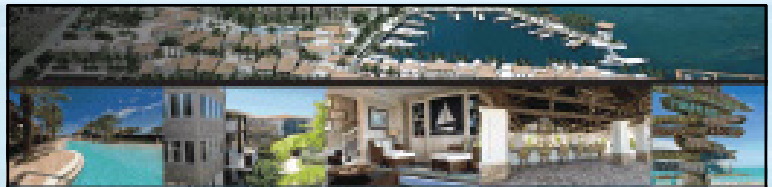
Local Roots, Global Reach.

9414 Overseas Hwy, Marathon, FL 33050
 305-743-7636 | keysrealstate.com | @bhhskeysrealstate

Member of the exclusive group of BHHS Affiliates, LLC



Florida Keys Media



Coming soon... A new collection of 84 luxury single family residences (Phase 1A Now Complete) and 99 deepwater boat slips on the bay-side in Marathon. Top Quality construction, Dutch Colonial architecture and private clubhouse with beach-entry pool and other amenities.

(305) 501-4784 sales@marlinbay.com

www.marlinbay.com

3800 Overseas Highway
 Marathon, FL 33050

Marlin Bay
 YACHT CLUB

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