

GREATER MARATHON CHAMBER OF COMMERCE

CONNECTION

The Official Monthly Publication of the Greater Marathon Chamber of Commerce





Chamber After Hours

February 14th - 5:30pm-7:30pm



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

Membership Luncheon

February 20th - 12pm-1pm



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

Please welcome our new members!

CDI of Monroe- Chamber Member 239 Tarpon St. Tavernier, FL 33070 305-833-7397 Contact: Don Peacock cdiofmonroe@outlook.com https://cdiofmonroe.com/

Please welcome our New Chamber & Visitor Center Member

La Chapina Restaurant 11524 Overseas Hwy, Suite 1 Marathon, FL 33050 Contact: Robert Cabrera 305-396-7190 Robertcabrera330@gmail.com

Chamber Member Recap

New Members This Month: 2 Total Members: 525

> Visitor Center Recap New Members: 4 Total Members: 77

Monthly Stats

December 2023
Total Visitors: 1018
Daily Average: 31
Top State: Florida
Top Countries: Canada
Without Reservations: 23%

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

Angelfish Level

First Horizon Bank
First State Bank
Florida Keys Media
Isla Bella Beach Resort
Florida Keys Electric Co-Op
Faro Blanco Resort
5 Star Air
Hawks Cay
MillionAir

Seahorse Level

Centennial Bank
Keys Federal Credit Union
D'Asign Source
Marlin Bay Resort & Marina
Fisherman's Community Hospital
Weekly Newspaper
Dolphin Connection
Wolfe/Stevens PLLC
Mt. Sinal Cardiology of the Keys
Sylvester Comprehensive Cancer Center
The Tackle Box

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

MARATHON NEWS, EVENTS & HAPPENINGS

Florida Keys Brewing Co. 81611 Old Hwy Islamorada (305) 664-9722 Baygrass Bluegrass Fest 2024

Jan. 12-14

****FREE EVENT****

3 days of MUSIC, BEER and FOOD!

 ${\bf Bluegrass\ Festival\ in\ the\ Beer\ Garden\ with\ head liner\ Grass\ is\ Dead!}$

Pet and Family friendly!

Friday: Snowbird Street Band 1:30 - 5

Hare of the Dawg 6-10

Saturday: Micah & the Barstool Sailors 1-5

The Wondering Hours 6-10

Sunday: Lowground Band 1-4

Grass is Dead 6-10

Florida Keys Brewing Co. 81611 Old Hwy Islamorada (305) 664-9722

Fat Tuesday in Islamorada Feb. 13th 5-10

**** FREE EVENT ****

5-9PM

Music: Lady A and the Blues Band 5-9 in the Beer Garden!!

Food: MEAT Eatery will be serving up traditional Cajun Cuisine 4-9pm and Taco Jalisco will be open till 830ish.

Face Painting 4-8pm

5-8pm Girl Scout Cookies and Beer Paring!

\$16 gets you a pre selected flight of five paired with

5 delicious Girl Scout cookie! Girl Scouts will also be selling cookies!!

Beads, beads and more beads!! Plenty of your favorite Mardi Gras beads will be given out for FREE!!

Florida Keys Brewing Co. 81611 Old Hwy Islamorada (305) 664-9722

9th Anniversary Party & Iguana Races

Feb. 18th 12-10pm

****FREE EVENT***

Celebrating 9 years of brewing the local beer! LIVE MUSIC 1-10pm The Carousers 1-5 and Dark Side of the Sol (Pink Floyd Tribute Band) 6-10

****IGUANA RACES 5PM**** Face Painting 1-6pm All day food trucks and drink specials. Cheers to 9 years of local beer! Florida Keys Brewing Co. 81611 Old Hwy Islamorada (305) 664-9722

St. Patricks Day March 17th 5-10pm ****FREE EVENT****

LIVE IRISH MUSIC in the Beer Garden!! McKimball and MacBacen will be serenading the Beer Garden 6-10pm. Traditional Irish cuisine served up by MEAT Eatery 1-7pm. Plenty of Irish drink and beer specials. Come celebrate St. Patricks Day with the Florida Keys Brewing Co. 81611 Old Hwy Islamorada (305) 664-9722

Chamber After-Hours - February 14 @ 5:30 pm - 7:30 pm Marathon Chamber of Commerce Business After Hours Business After Hours: 100+ in attendance/month Members-only free event

Business After Hours: 100+ in attendance/month Members-only free event Raffles, family fun, networking, and more Normally every 2nd Wednesday of the Month. 5:30 - 7:30 pm Not a member yet? Call Laura! She can help get you joined! 305-743-5417 Location: Crane Point

Chamber Luncheon - February 20 @ 12:00 pm - 1:00 pm

Luncheons: 50+ in attendance/month Members-only event
Keynote speaker each month on a business-related topic. Normally every
3rd Tuesday of the Month. 12:00 - 1:00 pm \$16 per person Please RSVP to
Erika@floridakeysmarathon.com Not a member yet? Call Laura! She can
help get you joined!

305-743-5417 Location: TBD

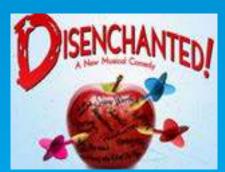
February 17 @ 8:00 am - February 18 @ 5:00 pm Ocean Dreams Healing Center Health Fest Tipsy Trolley (Karaoke) – 2/01/24- 2/22/24 @ 6:00pm February 1 , February 8, February 15 & February 22 @ 6:00 pm - 9:00 pm



If you are looking for a fun and unique way to see the sights and enjoy some good music, this Tipsy Trolley Tour is the way to go! This tour is a great way to learn little history of the city while enjoying the beautiful waterfront scenery, and enjoying live music! The tour consists of 3 bars, you will have the opportunity to learn about local lore about the locations, experience bars, listen to some live music and of course enjoy your favorite cocktail! Yes there is Karaoke too! The Tipsy Trolley Happy Hour Tour is a great way to see the city and have some fun at the same time. It is also a great way to meet new people and make some memories. Pickup is promptly @ 6:00pm from Faro Blanco Lighthouse Grill (1998 Overseas Hwy, Marathon FL 33050). Information regarding the exact 3 bars, and entertainment are announced on Island trolley Tours facebook page and instagram 7-10 days prior to the event.



ANNUAL VARIETY SHOW & FUNDRAISER
One weekend Only 3 Shows Only - February 2024 8th 9th 10th
LIMITED SEATING!
Tickets \$45/ea, before sales tax



DISENCHANTED!!!! Musical Comedy
10 shows
March 14,15,16,21,22,23,24M,28,29,30
LIMITED SEATING!
Doors open at 7pm . Show starts at 8PM

Doors open at 7pm , Show starts at 8PM Matinee Sunday March 24@3pm Tickets \$28/ea. before sales tax

Membership Luncheon Hosted by Faro Blanco

Photos courtesy of Sandra Lee Photography & Art Studio















Cirque Ma'Ceo is BACK with a sensational spectacle that will leave you breathless!

Join us for an electrifying extravaganza packed with 5 magnificent days of performances under the dazzling Big Top at the San Pablo Catholic Church in Marathon!

Brace yourself for a mind-blowing experience like never before! Cirque Ma'Ceo isn't just a show—it's a revolutionary theatrical phenomenon that defies imagination! Prepare to be captivated by mesmerizing acrobatic feats, breathtaking aerial artistry, and the enchanting grace of exotic horses!

Immerse yourself in a world of unparalleled beauty! Witness the most stunning horses and extraordinary human artists from across the globe come together in an exclusive universe that will transport you back in time.

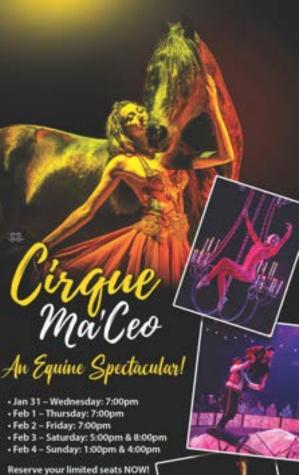
Prepare to be awestruck by an up-close and personal experience that will tantalize your senses and unveil the mesmerizing beauty and mystery of Cirque Ma'Ceo! This is an event you won't want to miss.

Be sure to Get your Tickets in advance as we sold out all performances last year!

Wednesday 7:00pm Thursday 7:00pm Friday 7:00pm Saturday 5:00pm & 8:00pm Sunday 1:00pm & 4:00pm

San Pablo Catholic Church (Grass Field Under Big Top) 550 122 Street Marathon, FL 33050

Tickets are available in advance by following the link provided. Our Box Office opens one hour before each performance We accept Cash & Card. Parking is free and on-site



cirquemaceo.com San Pablo Catholic Chruch

INCREDIBLE ACTS, BEAUTIFUL HORSES

AND UNBELIEVABLE DEFYING FEATSI

Under the BigTop



5 - 7 PM | Thursday, February 8

Join us for a happy hour event benefiting Forgotten Felines of the Florida Keys.

20% of proceeds benefit Forgotten Felines of the Florida Keys

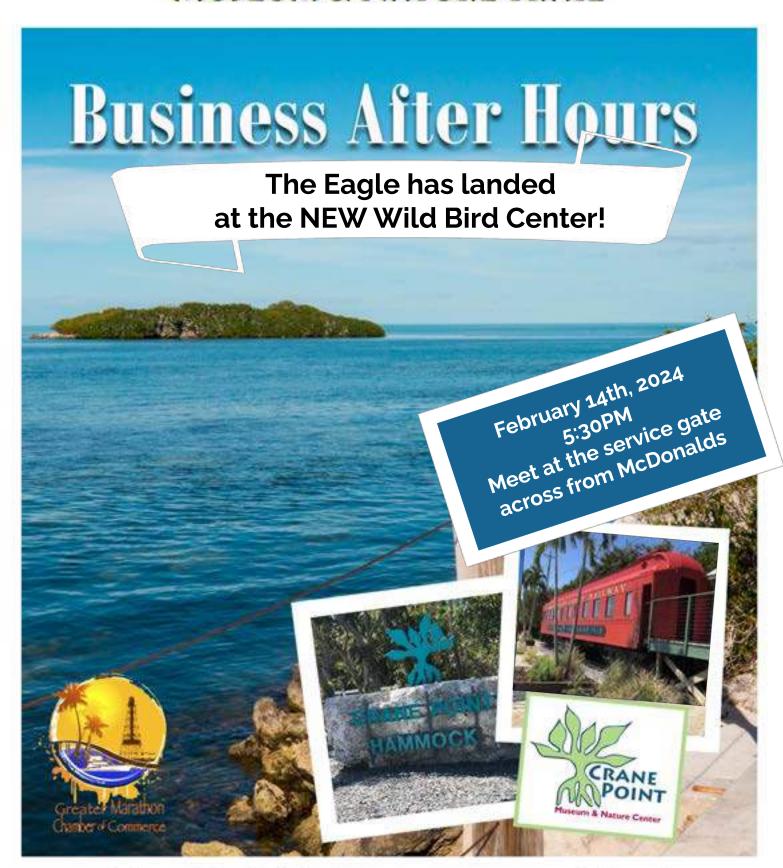




Blue Waters Bar & Grill at Courtyard Faro Blanco 2146 Overseas Hwy, Marathon, FL 33050

bluewatersbarandgrill.com | @bluewatersbarandgrill

SBANE POINT HAMMOSIS MUSEUM & MATURE TRAIL



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





2024 KEYSINO

SATURDAY FEBRUARY 17, 2024
6:00 - 10:30 PM CITY OF
MARATHON CITY HALL 9805
OVERSEAS HIGHWAY,
MARATHON, FL



TICKETS: \$100 INCLUDE: 2,500 GAMING CHIPS AND HEAVY HORS D'OEUVRES



CATERING BY BRUTUS SEAFOOD CASH BAR & GRAND RAFFLE



Tickets available at eventbrite.com and Ocean Sotheby's 10055 OS Hwy. For Sponsorship Opportunities, contact Mallory at 813-846-6759.

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The Casino gaming tables are provided for entertainment purposes only by Casino Party Nights Florida Inc., tel. 954-926-4219. Must be 18 years or older to play.



Business and Professional Women/Marathon

All Donations and Proceeds go to the BPW/Marathon Stacie Kidwell Memorial Scholarship Fund

Facebook.com/BPWMarathon • Click the Events Tab





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Presents

SWORDS & TAILS

FRIDAY - MARCH 1st 2024 - 6:00 PM

The Islander Resort | Cocktails, Fine Keys Cuisine & Dancing | Costumes are encouraged!

Raffle tickets will be provided to those in costumes.

- · SPONSORSHIP PACKAGES range from \$1.650 to \$15.000
- VIRTUAL SILENT AUCTION runs February 16 March 1 (Now Accepting Donations)
- TICKETS NOW ON SALE ON OUR WEBSITE!



CFK.edu/Soiree

PURCHASE FICKETS HERE!





GENERAL FEDERATION OF WOMEN'S CLUBS VOLUNTEERS NEEDED

Who is GFWC Florida

- A volunteer, non-profit 501(c)(3) organization
- 8,000 members in 189 clubs across the state
- Dedicated to community improvement by enhancing the lives of others
- Hands-on service projects, fundraising, education, leadership & friendship









WHY VOLUNTEER WITH GFWC FLORIDA

Purposeful Work

Make a real difference in your community and beyond

Skill Development

Enhance your skills and gain valuable experience.

Flexible Commitment

Choose volunteer opportunities that fit your schedule

Build Friendships

Enjoy fellowship and fun while serving others

Each year, GFWC Florida clubwomen participate in 10,000 service projects, volunteer 800,000 hours and donate over \$3.5 million in grants, scholarships, monetary and in-kind donations to communities across Florida

Join a Local Club

Visit <u>www.gfwcflorida.org/clubs</u> to locate a club near you

Start a Club in Your Community

Contact Laura Connelly, secondvp@gfwcflorida.org for details on how to start a club in your community

Partner With Us

We collaborate with likeminded non-profits and businesses to provide valuable resources



ART CLASSES



Painting for Beginners

Wednesdays 10:30-1:00
Outdoors in the Gallery Garden
\$35 bring your supplies
\$65 supplies included

From color mixing to composition, participants will work at their own pace while learning the basics of how to make a great painting

Class meets weekly beginning January 17th- attend as your schedule permits.

Supply list provided upon registration

Register at Shadypalmartgallery.com 305 998 4165



Saturday	Friday	Thursday	Wednesday	Tuesday	Monday	Sunday
3	ISLA BELLA BEACH RESORT 7-10	SKIP JACK RESORT 6-9	31	30	29	28
PRIVATE PARTY COCO PLUM KCB PICKLEBALL CLUB	9	8 PRIVATE PARTY	MARATHON ELKS 6:30-9;30	6 PRIVATE PARTY	5	WEDDING KEY WEST
17	16 ISLA BELLA BEACH RESORT 7-10	OUTDOOR RESORT LONG KEY 7-10	MYC VALENTINE DANCE 6:30-9:30	13	12	11
WEDDING KEY	ISLA BELLA BEACH RESORT 7-10	PRIVATE PARTY KCB	ISLA BELLA BEACH RESORT 7-10	20	KCB CLAM BAKE TICKETED EVENT 1-4	18
2	1	29	28	27	26	25

ISLA BELLA BEACH RESORT

7-10

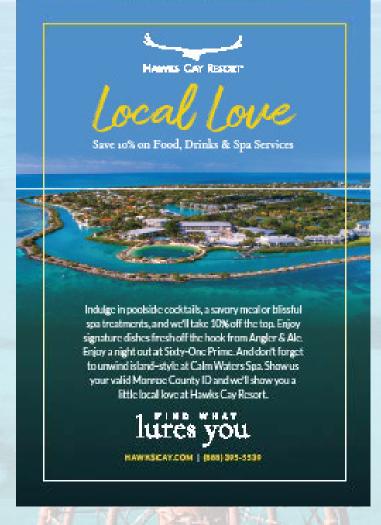
SKIP JACK RESORT

6-9

KCB CONCERT IN THE PARK

4-6















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Housing, Build-Out, & Seafood Commith



As we move past the holiday season and a bit further into 2024 we continue to march forward. Your chamber has been busy seeing a lot of visitors every day in our Marathon Visitor Center, as well as working hard in the chamber back offices.

There is a lot going on county-wide. Our City and County are discussing what to do with the state's proposal of providing additional building allocations. This is in response to us running out of such, thus creating eventual taking cases and liability thereof. Takings cases occur when a property owner sues our city, county, and state due to not being able to improve their property via building. In our case, having no more building rights to soon award, we will be liable. The crux of the issue is paying legal fees and damages from potential takings cases. As a whole our cities and county has about 8,000 more lots than building rights; now some of these are not suitable for building, so this number will be lower as we delve deeper into this; but the liability is still there. Stay tuned and keep in touch with us as needed; your chamber is watching and communicating with elected officials on this matter.

Speaking of building, your chamber board recently voted to support the County's legislative initiative and bill which would allow for a one-time use of bed-tax surplus funds (generated from 2021-2022) which would be used specifically for affordable housing projects throughout the FL Keys. We are excited about this bill and hope it passes through our legislature during this year's session up in Tallahassee. Again, please contact me anytime for more info on this bill and initiative.

Lastly, remember next month os the 48th annual Original Marathon Seafood Festival March 9-10! If you are interested in being an event sponsor, volunteer, or vendor; please contact us ASAP. As you probably know this is Marathon's largest annual event, and we surely cannot do it without our valued sponsors, volunteers, and amazing vendors.

Have a great February everyone, please do remember 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 February!

Most Respectfully,

CEO, Greater Marathon Chamber of Commerce

(305) 743-5417

ceo@floridakeysmarathon.com www.FloridaKeysMarathon.com www.RelocateToTheFloridaKeys.com www.MarathonSeafoodFestival.com www.KeysBrewBQ.com

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TheTackleBox@thetacklebox.com

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office@marathongarbageservice.com

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305-743-3297
foodforthought33050@gmail.com

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Coca Cola 30801 Avenue A Big Pine Key, FL 33043 305-731-9985 LaSmith@cocacolaflorida.com

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Tricia Baker-Director

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Marathon, FL 33050
305-743-3688
tricia@marathonlumber.com

Daniel Samess, CEO

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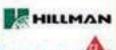
















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Please welcome our new team members, we are so excited to have you aboard!



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



Danial Marrs

Danial@SeafarerRealty.com 305-767-3495



Michele@SeafarerRealty.com 724-691-6613



Ginger Perreault

Ginger@SeafarerRealty.com 305-731-8148

Milly Cruz

Milly@SeafarerRealty.com 305-363-8869



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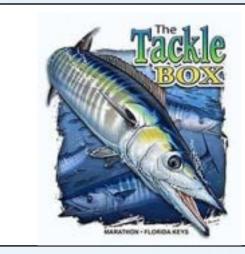
All loans subject to credit and property approval. Some restrictions and fees may apply.

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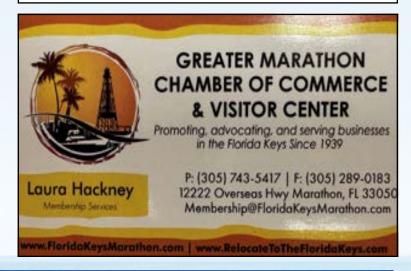












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