



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



**Chamber After Hours**

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

**Townsquare Mall**

Get your passport stamped at all of the participating businesses to be entered in a raffle! Live music, great food & drink, raffles and more!

**Membership Luncheon**

June 20th - 12pm-1pm

Guest Speaker: Sam Steele  
 Monroe County Tax Collector



\$16 Please RSVP to  
[erika@floridakeysmarathon.com](mailto:erika@floridakeysmarathon.com) or 305-743-5417

**Please welcome our new members!**

Oasis Islands, LLC  
 13371 Overseas Hwy  
 Marathon, FL 33050  
 203-640-7047  
[D.Reed@TheOasisIslands.com](mailto:D.Reed@TheOasisIslands.com)  
[www.TheOasisIslands.com](http://www.TheOasisIslands.com)  
 Contact: Darrin Reed

Sailing Tax Lady  
 Keyswide, 321-265-1368  
[Sailingtaxlady@gmail.com](mailto:Sailingtaxlady@gmail.com)  
 Contact: Kindra Warnygora

Wireless Zone Verizon -  
 Marathon Branch  
 5800 Overseas Hwy Suite 21  
 Marathon, FL 33050  
 786-920-8074  
[Ian.cebek@Jhcellular.com](mailto:Ian.cebek@Jhcellular.com)  
 Contact: Ian Cepek- Manager

The Green House  
 10875 Overseas Hwy Ste 110  
 Marathon, FL 33050  
 305-453-6597  
[Accounts@thegreenhouse.com](mailto:Accounts@thegreenhouse.com)  
[thegreenhousemarathon.com/](http://thegreenhousemarathon.com/)  
 Contact: John Timura

Keys Vaca Center  
 17013 Coral Drive  
 Sugarloaf Key, FL 33042  
 646-327-4431 [mpollaci@gmail.com](mailto:mpollaci@gmail.com)  
 Contact: Mark Pollaci- Property Owner

Keys Vacation Supply Rentals  
 11400 Overseas Hwy Ste 123  
 Marathon, FL 33050  
 317-494-9361  
[Keysvacationsupplyrentals@yahoo.com](mailto:Keysvacationsupplyrentals@yahoo.com)  
[www.keysvacationsupplyrentals.com/](http://www.keysvacationsupplyrentals.com/)  
 Contact: Denise Bullard

Yoga Keys  
 Serving Key Largo to Key West  
 954-988-1771  
[info@yogakeyslife.com](mailto:info@yogakeyslife.com)  
[yogakeyslife@gmail.com](mailto:yogakeyslife@gmail.com)  
<https://www.yogakeyslife.com>  
 Contact: Ena Soul

Hurley Land Planning and Consulting  
 11400 Overseas Highway Suite 208  
 Marathon, FL 33050  
 239-220-0848  
[HurleyLPC@gmail.com](mailto:HurleyLPC@gmail.com)  
 Contact: Steve Hurley

**Welcome New Visitor Center Members**

Keys Vacation Supply Rentals  
 11400 Overseas Hwy Ste 123  
 Marathon, FL 33050  
 317-494-9361

[Keysvacationsupplyrentals@yahoo.com](mailto:Keysvacationsupplyrentals@yahoo.com)  
[www.keysvacationsupplyrentals.com/](http://www.keysvacationsupplyrentals.com/)  
 Contact: Denise Bullard

Marathon Community Theater  
 5101 Overseas Hwy  
 Marathon, FL 33050  
 305-743-0994  
[gm@marathontheater.org](mailto:gm@marathontheater.org)  
[www.marathontheater.org](http://www.marathontheater.org)

## Chamber Member Recap

New Members This Month: 8

Total Members: 552

Visitor Center Recap

New Members: 2

Total Members: 79

## Monthly Stats

April 2023

Total Visitors: 956

Daily Average: 34

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](http://www.floridakeysmarathon.com) and Click to Submit Your Event or contact [Erika@floridakeysmarathon.com](mailto: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](mailto: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](mailto:info@floridakeysmarathon.com)

### Newsletter Ad or Flyer

Take advantage of our advertising opportunities with a flyer or ad space! Contact [Jeanine@floridakeysmarathon.com](mailto: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](mailto: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](http://www.floridakeysmarathon.com) and Click to Submit Your Event or contact [Erika@floridakeysmarathon.com](mailto:Erika@floridakeysmarathon.com)



**(check local papers and social media for additional information)**

### **Marathon Community Theatre**

June 5th- July 19th

Children's Summer Theatre Program at MCT!

A 7 week theatre camp for ages 6-18 where participants learn to produce their own main stage musical. Mondays and Wednesdays 6pm-8pm, with main-stage shows on Friday July 21, Saturday July 22 at 7pm and a possible hold over show July 23. \$150/student includes 2 complimentary show tickets for parents/guardians.

[www.marathontheater.org](http://www.marathontheater.org) for info

### **Dolphin Research Center**

Dolphin DayCamp runs from 8:30am-4:00pm daily

Monday-Friday for ages 8-10

With hands-on activities, group discussions, games, crafts and more, their days will prove that learning is fun! Schedule:

June 12-16

July 3-7

July 10-14

[www.dolphins.org](http://www.dolphins.org) for info

### **Pigeon Key**

Pigeon Key & Marine Science Center gravitates towards hands-on learning and interaction within the Florida Keys ecosystem, providing campers with a fun & pivotal, one-of-a-kind experience.

Overnight Camps ages 10-16

June 26th-June 30th

July 10th-July 14th

July 17th-July 21st

Day Camps ages 8-16

July 3rd-July 7th

July 24th-July 28th

July 31st-Aug 4th

Visit [www.pigeonkey.net](http://www.pigeonkey.net) for more info

### **Crane Point**

Kids Summer Camp starts May 31st

9am-5pm

(early drop off available)

\$100/week Ages 5-11

Activities include education, fishing, swimming, fun & games

[www.cranepoint.com](http://www.cranepoint.com) or

305-743-3900 for more info

### **SeaCamp**

SeaCamp offers programs for lifeguarding, kayaking, sailing, windsurfing, marine science & scuba as well as classes in Arts & Crafts, journalism & photography.

Visit [www.seacamp.org](http://www.seacamp.org) for more info

### **College of the Florida Keys**

Visit [www.cfk.edu/summer-camps](http://www.cfk.edu/summer-camps)

for a complete list of dates and descriptions

Futures Heros (ages 7-11)

Jr. Art Camp (ages 7-11)

Jr. Tropical Hobbyist (ages 7-11)

Young Writers (ages 10-15)

Code Breakers (ages 9-12)

STEM Robotics Camp (ages 9-12)

Summer camps held in-person at the KW campus

M-F 8:30am-4:30pm

with 1 hr lunch break

# 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](http://www.floridakeysmarathon.com) and Click to Submit Your Event or contact [Erika@floridakeysmarathon.com](mailto:Erika@floridakeysmarathon.com)

### June 2nd & 3rd

14th Annual Tah-Dance  
Community Dance Showcase featuring the talents of Marathon!  
7pm at Marathon Community Theater  
(Doors & concession at 6pm)  
Tickets \$15 (plus tax)

### June 2nd-4th

30th Annual Lower Keys Chamber of Commerce Dolphin Tournament  
The Lower Keys Chamber of Commerce presents the 30th annual event where anglers contend for over \$35,000 in cash prizes and awards. A special cash prize of \$20,000 is awarded for the largest dolphin over 50 pounds -- this prize is available only to the anglers on the first 50 boats registered for the tournament. Additional prizes await winners in open, ladies and youth divisions.  
[www.lowerkeyschamber.com](http://www.lowerkeyschamber.com) for more info

### June 4th

Sunday Funday at Alabama Jack's 12pm-5pm  
Benefit for Florida Keys Children's Shelter  
Live music, silent auction, 50/50 drawings, raffles, food & beverage  
[heathensMC@comcast.net](mailto:heathensMC@comcast.net) or 305-923-3061

### June 7th-11th

PRIDE Week!  
Celebrate PRIDE on a tropical island that is legendary for its laid-back style and its open and accepting atmosphere. Show us your pride, we will show you our Key West Pride!  
[www.fla-keys.com](http://www.fla-keys.com) for a schedule of events

### June 11th

Drag Queen Bingo  
DRAG QUEEN BINGO  
5pm-7pm at Marathon Community Theater  
Ages 18+ (ID Required)  
Theme: Underwater/Aquatic  
Come play BINGO with host JJ MILLS in your best UNDERWATER/AQUATIC costume and battle it out on our runway with a PRIZE awarded to the best costume!!!  
Costumes are not required.  
BINGO BAR SPECIAL:  
\$8 MIMOSAS, BELLINIS & MALT BASED COCKTAILS

### June 14

Chamber Business After Hours  
5:30pm-7:30pm hosted by the Townsquare Mall.  
Free networking event for members includes food, drink, raffle and giveaways.

### June 16th -17th

Father's Day Dolphin Derby  
Cash and prizes are awarded to the top four places based on largest dolphin by weight. Final registration and captain's meeting on June 16th at Two Conchs Sportfishing, 11499 Overseas Highway, Marathon. Fishing on Saturday, June 17, followed by an awards banquet at Florida Keys Aquarium Encounters  
[www.fathersdaydolphintournament.com](http://www.fathersdaydolphintournament.com) for more info

### June 20th

Chamber Membership Luncheon  
12pm-1pm at FI Keys Steak & Lobster House  
Guest Speaker: Monroe County Tax Collector Sam Steele  
Please RSVP 305-743-5417 or [erika@floridakeysmarathon.com](mailto:erika@floridakeysmarathon.com)

### SAVE THE DATE!!!!

July 14th & 15th  
Friday 5pm-9pm  
Saturday 10am-8pm  
Marathon Community Park [www.keysbrewbq.com](http://www.keysbrewbq.com)



TOWN SQUARE MALL  
PRESENTS

# CHAMBER AFTER HOURS



**FREE  
FOOD, DRINKS  
& FUN!**



- PICK UP YOUR PASSPORT AT REGISTRATION
- VISIT EACH PARTICIPATING BUSINESS TO GET A STAMP IN YOUR PASSPORT
- BRING THE COMPLETED PASSPORT TO SEAFARER REALTY (SUITE 105) TO GET YOUR RAFFLE TICKET FOR SOME GREAT PRIZES!

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**MORE THAN 10 BUSINESSES & LIVE MUSIC**

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**WEDNESDAY  
JUNE 14TH 2023**

**START AT 5:30PM UNTIL 7:30 PM**

**11400 OVERSEAS HIGHWAY, MARATHON**

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**BEER & WINE PROVIDED BY CENTENNIAL BANK  
FOOD PROVIDED BY TOWN SQUARE MALL BUSINESSES AND THE TACKLE BOX**



Greater Marathon  
Chamber of Commerce

**Membership  
Luncheon**

*Tuesday*

*June 20th*

*Noon-1pm*

*\$16*

**RSVP Required**

**Limited Seating**



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Speaker: Sam Steele,  
Monroe County Tax Collector



*Topic: Tax Collector Services  
(what we do for you),  
Role, and more.*

**RSVP to [Erika@floridakeysmarathon.com](mailto:Erika@floridakeysmarathon.com) or call 305-743-5417**



  
**Keys Federal**  
 CREDIT UNION  
 Membership is **REWARDING**  
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 Marathon and Tavernier!  
 305-294-6622    KeysFCU.org

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

## Summertime is BrewBQ-time



June is upon us, and as locals we know what else that signifies, storm season. As always please ensure you have your plans in place for your families, homes, and of course your businesses. Be sure to update staff contact records, talk to your IT team to ensure you have remote access to any important/needed files, information, etc. Florida also has a great Tax Savings program going on now for storm-relates supplies, for more info go here: <https://floridarevenue.com/DisasterPrep/Pages/default.aspx>. Be sure to have updated info on your insurance plans, limits, and contacts. Lastly, have a financial plan for your business meaning:

Adequate reserves: should your business be non-operational for a short period of time

Access to capital: have a line of credit set up with your bank; ensure you are set up for online banking

Plan for staff: payroll advances (if/as needed)

June also signifies that we are a month away from the FL Keys BrewBQ (July 14-15 at Marathon Community Park)!

It's not too late to be a sponsor, volunteer, vendor, and enter our amateur BBQ cooking competition.

More info on our new website: [www.KeysBrewBQ.com](http://www.KeysBrewBQ.com).

We hope to see you at our June networking events as well, stay tuned for when and where via our weekly eblasts, event calendar on our website, or on our Facebook page.

Have a great June everyone! Please remember (if you haven't already) to send in your membership renewal dues (chamber and visitor center) that were sent out earlier this year, online payment on our website 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 June, and see you at the BrewBQ July 14-15.

Most Respectfully,

CEO

[www.MarathonSeafoodFestival.com](http://www.MarathonSeafoodFestival.com)

Greater Marathon Chamber of Commerce

(305) 743-5417

[ceo@floridakeysmarathon.com](mailto:ceo@floridakeysmarathon.com)

[www.FloridaKeysMarathon.com](http://www.FloridaKeysMarathon.com)

[www.RelocateToTheFloridaKeys.com](http://www.RelocateToTheFloridaKeys.com)





# Disaster Preparedness Sales Tax Holiday

## \$10 or less

- Dog or cat food if sold individually or the equivalent if sold in a box or case

## \$15 or less

- Manual can openers
- Collapsible or travel-sized food or water bowls for pets
- Cat litter pans
- Pet waste disposal bags
- Hamster or rabbit substrate

## \$20 or less

- Reusable ice
- Leashes, collars, and muzzles for pets
- Pet pads

## \$25 or less

- Cat litter weighing 25 or fewer pounds

## \$30 or less

- Laundry detergent and supplies: powder, liquid, or pod detergent; fabric softener; dryer sheets; stain removers; bleach
- Toilet paper, paper towels, paper napkins and tissues, facial tissues
- Hand soap, bar soap, and body wash, sunscreen and sunblock
- Dish soap and detergents, including powder, liquid, or pod detergents or rinse agents that can be used in dishwashers
- Cleaning or disinfecting wipes and sprays, hand sanitizer
- Trash bags

## \$40 or less

- Portable self-powered light sources
- Pet beds

## \$50 or less

- Portable self-powered radios, two-way radios, or weather-band radios
- Gas or diesel fuel tanks
- Batteries, including rechargeable batteries, listed sizes only:
  - o AA-cell, AAA-cell, C-cell, D-cell, 6-volt, 9-volt

## \$60 or less

- Nonelectric food storage coolers
- Portable power banks

## \$70 or less

- Smoke detectors or smoke alarms
- Fire extinguishers
- Carbon monoxide detectors

## \$100 or less

- Tarpaulins or other flexible waterproof sheeting
- Ground anchor systems
- Portable pet kennels or pet carriers
- Dog or cat food weighing 50 or fewer pounds
- Over-the-counter pet medications

## \$3,000 or less

- Portable generators used to provide light or communications or to preserve food in a power outage

May 27-June 9, 2023  
August 26-September 8, 2023

Visit [floridarevenue.com/DisasterPrep](http://floridarevenue.com/DisasterPrep)



**The Palm Deck rooftop bar  
of The Rhum House**

at Grassy Flats Resort

is now open 7 days a week 5pm-10pm!  
Kitchen open until 9pm on weekdays &  
10pm on weekends offering tapas, rotating  
entrees, fresh local fish, craft cocktails and  
the best wine selection in Marathon!





Established in 2023,  
the Owl Library and Bookstore  
is a haven for book lovers young and old.

The bookstore includes  
new books, gently used books  
and a "borrow, one bring one"  
section that includes

fiction, non-fiction and local books.  
The Owl Library also provides information  
to join Dolly Parton's Imagination Library  
and has a special kids corner.

Customers are welcome to take a peek  
at some of the rare books from  
owner Alexia's Mann collection  
and she has plans to create  
a scholarship through the bookstore  
to benefit local young adults  
who are looking to start their own dream business.

Contact:

Alexia Mann

Location:

11400 Overseas Hwy  
Ste 103 in Town Square Mall

Phone:

404.988.2259

Theowllibrary1@gmail.com



## **Florida Keys Therapy & Wellness, LLC**

Established in 2013, Florida Keys Therapy & Wellness LLC (formerly In Home Therapy of Monroe County) provides Occupational Therapy rehabilitation services including generalized strengthening, balance training and fall prevention.

Florida Keys Therapy & Wellness also offers wellness and fitness through therapeutic yoga, and client centered exercise sessions, including programs for Parkinson's and post-Covid weakness.

Owner, Christy Minor specifically specializes in the rehabilitation of the upper extremity shoulder, arm, elbow, wrist and hand and is the only Certified Hand Therapist in the middle or upper Keys.

She is also the only ASTYM certified therapist in the area and is certified in Therapeutic Dry Needling.

She has recently added Kaasen Cryo-therapy to the list of services.

"When I interviewed for graduate school over 25 years ago, I was asked why I wanted to be an occupational therapist and my answer was that I wanted to help people regain their function and independence after injury or illness and that desire has never changed," said Minor.

Christy L. Minor (Owner)  
6799 Overseas Hwy Suite #3  
Marathon, FL 33050  
305.481.5180 | [floridakeystherapy.com](http://floridakeystherapy.com)

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[www.5starair.com](http://www.5starair.com)**



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(305) 501-4784 [sales@marlinbay.com](mailto:sales@marlinbay.com)

[www.marlinbay.com](http://www.marlinbay.com)

3800 Overseas Highway  
Marathon, FL 33050



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[WWW.KEYSWEEKLY.COM](http://WWW.KEYSWEEKLY.COM)

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starts here in the Keys



Dwight L. Hill, Florida Keys Market President  
Trich Worthington, Florida Keys Group Branch Manager

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## Florida Keys Media

  
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[KeysBank.com](http://KeysBank.com)

\*APY (Annual Percentage Yield) effective as of 5/24/23 and subject to change without notice. Minimum balance to open CD account is \$1,000. Early withdrawal penalty and other fees may reduce earnings. Limited time offer that may be withdrawn at any time. Member FDIC

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  
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GM.fl.marathon@otohotels.com

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Marathon, FL 33050  
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office@marathongarbage.com

Blair Shiver-Nealis-Director  
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Marathon, FL 33050  
305-743-3297

foodforthought33050@gmail.com

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JB Fisheries  
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Marathon, FL 33050  
305-481-4081

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

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

Alexia Mann-Director  
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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



  
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# Local Love

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Indulge in poolside cocktails, a savory meal or blissful spa treatments, and we'll take 10% off the top. Enjoy signature dishes fresh off the hook from Angler & Ale. Enjoy a night out at Sixty-One Prime. And don't forget to unwind island-style at Calm Waters Spa. Show us your valid Monroe County ID and we'll show you a little local love at Hawks Cay Resort.

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 **\$OLAR LOAN**

Payable with your monthly electric bill

## Interested in Solar? Finance with FKEC!

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](http://www.FKEC.com).

305.852.2431 • [www.FKEC.com](http://www.FKEC.com)

# MARATHON LUMBER & BUILDING SUPPLY INC.



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