

KC BEE LINE



Key Colony Beach
COMMUNITY ASSOCIATION
NEWSLETTER

Volume XXXIV • January 2023 • Issue 3

KCBCA NEWS

We hope everyone had a great Christmas. KCB had a wonderful Christmas Boat Parade. More boats were in it than anyone can remember. Thanks to Ted Fischer for organizing this much anticipated holiday tradition. Photos and results are on pages four and five of this newsletter.

With Christmas behind us, we welcome a New Year! Our new year/season, has definitely begun. We are entering the busiest time for the KCBCA.

This January we welcome back the Coconut Crawl. Thanks to COVID (of course) we haven't had the opportunity to have this fun event for the last few years. Well, we are back and hopefully, bigger than ever!

Mark your calendars Saturday, January 21 is the day to Crawl. For those of you who may not know what this event is about, let us enlighten you.

A pub crawl means you go from bar to bar and party. A poker run means you go to different locations, draw a card and at the end the one with the best hand wins something. Your KCBCA has incorporated these two things and we have a poker run pub crawl named the Coconut Crawl.

All of the local bars and restaurants are onboard as stops for this years Crawl. They include the Key Colony Inn, Havana Jack's, The Island Fish Co., Sparky's Landing and El Molcajetes.

We are proud to have proceeds from the Crawl this year benefit the Marathon High School students in need.

Thanks to our sponsors, the KC Inn, Island Fish Co., Sparky's, Havana Jacks, Promotions Guy and El Molcajete for donating to help us make this event successful.

You can register several ways:

1 - Online KCBCA.org. (pay with PayPal and get a receipt).

2 - Print & mail your registration (next page), one for each participant, with your check, made out to: KCBCA, PO Box 510884, KCB, 33051 (Keep a copy for your records).

3- Register in person KCB Post Office, Tuesday, January 10, 11am-1pm or Saturday, January 14, 2-4pm.

You can pickup your t-shirt day of or day before. All times and dates are on the registration form.

It's always a lot of fun. We encourage you to wear a costume, get a group together or just come by yourself and



Coconut Crawl

Key Colony Beach
COMMUNITY ASSOCIATION

2023 Pub Crawl & Poker Walk

Saturday, January 21, 11:00am-4:30pm
Starts and Ends at the Key Colony Inn
Awards Party 2:30-4:30

REGISTER

- KCB Post Office - Tue, Jan 10, 11-1, \$25 Mem, \$30 Non Sat, Jan 14, 2-4
- KCBCA.ORG
- DAY OF, KC INN 10:30-Noon, \$35

CASH PRIZES!
Best & Worst Hand
AWARDS!
Best Costume/Team Spirit



Benefitting Marathon High School students in need thru the Education Coalition of Monroe County



Print & mail your registration (top half, one for each participant) with your check, to
KCBCA, PO Box 510884, KCB, 33051 (Keep your registration receipt, bottom half)

2023 Coconut Crawl Registration

\$25 Mem, \$30 Non-Member, Day of 10:30-Noon \$35

NAME: _____

EMAIL: _____

KCBCA MEMBER: Yes _____ No _____

AMOUNT PAID _____ Check # _____
Received _____

Liability Release and Waiver: I, the undersigned, understand that I am fully responsible for any and all liabilities caused by, or concerning me, during this event. I further agree that I understand that any sponsor of this event shall not be held liable in any event or under any circumstances.

SIGNED: _____ DATE: _____

2023 Coconut Crawl Registration Receipt

IMPORTANT! You must have your registration receipt to get your t-shirt, wristband and score sheet.

NAME: _____



You can pickup your t-shirt, wristband & score sheet at:

- The start, Saturday, January 21, 11am, Key Colony Inn or
- Friday, January 20, 3:30-5pm, Castillo del Sol Condos
799 W Ocean Dr. (across from KC Inn empty lot)

(No guarantee of t-shirts sizes)

Paid & Mailed Date _____ Check # _____

(Continued from page 1)

meet new people. You can walk, bike, roller-skate, drive or crawl to the stops. Your choice.

Don't be shy about ordering food and drinks at the poker stops along the way.

The Awards Party is your last stop at the KC Inn. Johnny Live will be playing from 2:30-4:30. There will be a Happy Hour cash bar and we are serving appetizers.

Just make sure you are there by 3pm to draw your last card and turn in your scoresheet.

Your hand will be made up of the best five cards out of the six that you drew. There is always a chance to win best hand but if you really have a bad hand, the worst of the worst, we have a prize for that as well.

Good luck!

Concerts begin next month with John Bartus on February 5th. Dust off your lawn chairs and coolers, find someone to carpool with and get ready to rock 'n' roll. All concerts are 4-6pm at Sunset Park except for on KCB Day. That day we will have music all day long with various bands at the venue near the 7th Street playground.

KCB Day is the biggest event for us all year. This one day event will be on Sunday, March 5. It is our primary fundraiser along with the membership dues. This is how we pay for the concerts. We will have more details next month, but put KCB Day, March 5 on your calendar now.

We need volunteers for the Crawl and for KCB Day. Contact Ted Fischer, 302-841-9812, if you would like to know how you can help.

Let's all have a great 2023 now that we have thawed out. See ya round town!



A few photos from the last Coconut Crawl



KBCA FREE CONCERT SERIES

Bartus singing his own lyrics as well as known songsters, past and present. After an open Super Bowl Sunday, the Rick and Dayna Band will blast the audience out of its seats to sing and dance into a frenzy. Next will be blues at its best from Key West award-winning pianist/songwriter Ericson Holt and his drummer sidekick, Mick Kilgos. The Sunday following KCB DAY finds the popular-through-whole-Keys ukelele band, Bob Howard and the Ukalalics! March 19 finds yet another well-known local group, Abstract Radio (the Campbell brothers) sending us out to dance. As the weather warms, so will the bluesy-rock sounds of the Lady A Band have the audience tapping its toes. Recalling strains of lyrics from local days past will be the performers Bob, Crystal, Patty, and Joe to conclude the Sunset Park Sunday Series. What a season of singing, dancing, and community friendship the KCB COMMUNITY ASSOCIATION has planned for its residents and visitors! Please respond in kind by joining the association to ensure more concerts and fan outings next season!

Joining some of our "oldies but goodies" music-wise at Sunset Park this season will be some exciting new additions. See the attached calendar for dates! Opening will be the ever-popular local performer John

Concerts in Sunset Park

Scheduled Concerts in Sunset Park

Feb 5	John Bartus
Feb 19	Rick and Dayna Band
Feb 26	Ericson Holt with Mick Kilgos
Mar 5	Special KCB DAY Music 7th Street Papa Pete, David Quick, Rick and Dayna Band
Mar 12	Bob Howard & the Ukalalics
Mar 19	Abstract Radio
Mar 26	Lady A Band
Apr 2	Bob, Crystal, Patty & Joe

Free Concerts Sundays 4-6pm

Bring a chair, blanket, refreshments. All are Welcome!

Parking is limited. Please share a ride, bike or walk to the park

Sponsored by Key Colony Beach

Carol Fischer Concert Chair

CHRISTMAS BOAT PARADE

Thank you all for participating in this year's parade - it was simply spectacular!

CONGRATS TO ALL OUR WINNERS!

- Best Overall - Izzy Rose -\$1,100
- Best in Class 30 ft and Under - Holiday Time - \$500
- Best in Class Over 30 ft. New Beginnings - \$500
- 30 ft. And Under – \$150 GC to favorite local restaurant
- Brightest - Key Colony Beach Marina
- Most Creative Coco's Boat Rentals
- Most Spirited - Jelly Fish Kayak
- Over 30ft.- \$150 GC to favorite local restaurant
- Brightest - Vicious Cycle
- Most Creative - Two Conchs Island Touring
- Most Spirited - Marathon Mermaid



Best Overall - Izzy Rose -\$1,100 – Sponsored by Karen Raspe, Realtor and Berkshire Hathaway Home Services Keys Real Estate Knight Gardner Realty – Bud Fernandez



Brightest - Key Colony Beach Marina– Jay Ward



Brightest - Vicious Cycle – Paul Lebo



Best in Class 30 ft and Under - Holiday Time - \$500 – Sponsored by Marathon Sail and Power Squadron – Denise and Steve Decrow



Most Creative - Coco's Boat Rentals – Jason Peterson



Most Creative - Two Conchs Island Touring – Capt Jeff



Best in Class Over 30 ft. New Beginnings - \$500 – Sponsored by Marathon Sail and Power Squadron – Ilene Ward

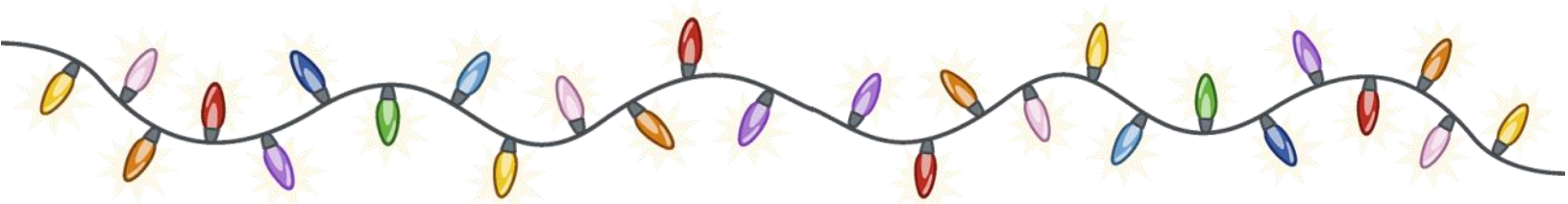


Most Spirited - Jelly Fish Kayak – Sydney Owen

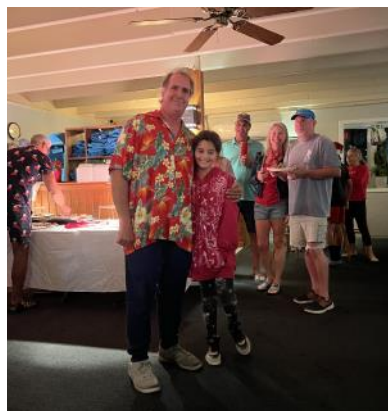


Most Spirited - Marathon Mermaid – Angela Tizzano and John Strama

Some more views of the boats and a few of the other participants and the awards dinner after party.



Many thanks to all the participants who make this something special to watch. Special thanks to Ted Fischer for organizing this wonderful parade. He really has made it one of the best in the Keys. This is Ted's last year as Parade organizer. His successor has some big boat shoes to fill!



NEW KCB COMMISSION TAKES OFFICE & APPOINTS FINAL MEMBER

Key Colony Beach's new city commission took shape on Dec. 1 with the swearing-in of newly elected commissioners Beth Ramsay-Vickrey and Freddie Foster. In the wake of former commissioner Ron Sutton's passing on Oct. 25, the seated commissioners voted to appoint former Code Enforcement and Planning and Zoning Board chair Joey Raspe to fill the vacant seat.

Finishing as the top vote-getter with 42.3% of the vote in the Nov. 8 general election, Ramsay-Vickrey was re-elected following her appointment in April 2022 to fill the seat vacated by former commissioner Kathryn McCullough.

With 31.62% of the vote, Foster won his first term on the commission with the final open seat, defeating former secretary/treasurer John De-Neale (26.01%).

In addition to Raspe, the seated commissioners heard from fellow applicants Phillip "Larry" Mills and Robert "Bob" Glassman to fill Sutton's vacant seat. Per the city's charter, remaining commissioners may appoint a qualified individual to fill a vacant seat within 45 days, with a special election held if an agreement cannot be reached.

Glassman, a former Planning and Zoning Board member, spoke of his experience as a soon-to-be full-time resident and owner of a home formerly used as a vacation rental, a position he said allowed him to understand challenges and issues faced by both types of property owners in KCB. Working as a computer programmer for 36 years, Glassman also created and owned Florida Keys Tankless Water Heaters from 2006 to 2016.

Vietnam veteran Mills touted his experience as vice president of a private equity investment firm as well as a 48-year career in construction that began in his military days. Major projects included construction of electrical generating, water treatment and wastewater treatment facilities along with several gas and oil pipelines.

In addition to his service on two boards, which saw him work hand in hand with the city's building department and code enforcement officer, Raspe discussed his membership in the Monroe Emergency Reserve Corps, a volunteer organization that supports the Monroe County office of emergency management, as well as his heavy involvement in the city fishing and boating club and its annual children's fishing derby.

Though the seated members heralded all three candidates as qualified to hold the position, the commission voted 3-1 to appoint Raspe, with Foster instead voting for Mills. Raspe will serve the remainder of Sutton's term, expiring in 2024.

"I just don't think, at this point in time, that anybody's more qualified than Joey to immediately walk into this seat and start operating at a professional and a full level from day one," said Ramsay-Vickrey.

In a surprising 3-2 split vote that drew a buzz from the room, the commission chose former mayor Patti Trefry to continue in her post, with Foster nominating former vice mayor Tom Harding instead. Both Foster and Harding voted against Trefry's selection. Ramsay-Vickrey secured the position of vice mayor with an identical 3-2 split, while Harding was chosen as secretary/treasurer in a 4-1 decision. Harding, who had nominated Foster, was the lone nay vote in his own selection.



Key Colony Beach Police Chief Kris DiGiovanni, left, swears in commissioner Freddie Foster.



Monroe County Sheriff Rick Ramsay, left, swears in his sister, Key Colony commissioner Beth Ramsay-Vickrey.



Monroe County Sheriff Rick Ramsay, left, swears in newly appointed commissioner Joey Raspe.



Alex Rickert made the perfectly natural career progression from dolphin trainer to newspaper editor in 2021 after freelancing for Keys Weekly while working full time at Dolphin Research Center. A resident of Marathon since 2015, he fell in love with the Florida Keys community by helping multiple organizations and friends rebuild in the wake of Hurricane Irma. An avid runner, actor, and spearfisherman, he spends as much of his time outside of work on or under the sea having civil disagreements with sharks.

KEYS WEEKLY



MARATHON GARDEN CLUB

Marathon Garden Club January Jamboree and Rummage Sale, January 28th, 2023

On Saturday, January 28th, the Marathon Garden Club, at 5270 Overseas Highway, MM 50, will hold their annual January Jamboree from 8:30am to 3:00pm. Local plant experts will be on hand to answer questions. There will be plants and orchids for sale, local vendors, jewelry, pottery, a huge rummage sale, food, and fun! Here is your chance to buy plants grown in the Keys that are specifically geared to our climate and soil conditions.



The first novel we will discuss on January 12, 2023 at 3:00pm will be *Run, Rose, Run* by Dolly Parton and James Patterson.

This novel is from America's most beloved superstar and its greatest storyteller - a thriller about a young singer-songwriter on the rise and on the run, and determined to do whatever it takes to survive.

Every song tells a story. She's a star on the rise, singing about the hard life behind her. She's also on the run. Find a future, lose a past. Nashville is where she's come to claim her destiny. It's also where the darkness she's fled might find her and destroy her.

Run, Rose, Run is a novel glittering with danger and desire—a story that only America's #1 beloved entertainer and its #1 bestselling author could have created.

The location for our discussion has not yet been decided.

"Reading brings us unknown friends" - Honoré de Balzac



Crafty Gals is not meeting in Key Colony Beach at the present time. There are a group of ladies who meet at the library on the 2nd, 4th and 5th Tuesdays from 1-4pm. Feeling crafty? Come join us.

More info contact Marie Flood, 305-394-3923

[Click here for the City/Community calendar of events](#)



The Police Department would like to wish everyone a Safe and Happy New Year in 2023!



Looks a bit bare at the 7th Street Playground. Don't worry, new equipment is on order. City Administrator Dave Turner told us unfortunately the city supply chain is slow. What isn't these days? Good news, all new equipment is paid for with grants.



FITNESS CLASS FOR 50 PLUS



**NEW LOCATION:
KEY COLONY INN**

Tuesday & Thursday 7:45 - 8:45 am

Saturday 8:00 - 9:00 am

Program is geared toward improving and maintaining health. Brought to you by the Florida Keys Area Health Education Center & the Health Foundation of South Florida.

Karen Raspe & Margo Murray, licensed instructors.

CONTACT SHANE KEWEEN, Program Manager, Keys
AHEC information: 305-743-7111 ext 201

GET STRONGER AND FEEL BETTER!

FL KEYS HISTORY with Brad Bertelli



The world's largest anatomically correct sculpture of a Caribbean spiny lobster has been a roadside attraction on Plantation Key for decades. Today, the iconic Islamorada lobster, named Betsy, is the second most photographed roadside attraction in the Florida Keys—the first being Key West's Southernmost Point. The massive crustacean stands 30-feet-high and 40-feet-long and was originally purchased by Tom Vellanti who owned what was then called Treasure Village and is today home to the Treasure Village Montessori School. Having a roadside attraction like Betsy located on school grounds proved not to be a particularly good idea so the lobster was removed and placed in storage until she was relocated to her current resting place in the parking lot of one of the Upper Keys better established artist colonies, The Rain Barrel. Today, perennial local politician, restaurateur, and all around community supporter "Mangrove" Mike Forster owns the lobster with his sister and brother-in-law. While everyone driving up

and down the Overseas Highway sees the lobster and many of the locals know her name is Betsy, most do not realize that the sculpture was the work of Marathon artist Richard Blaes. It took Blaes five years to complete the piece of art which was finished in the 1980s.

#islamorada #roadsideattractions #floridakeys #giantlobster

December 2022 Beatification Award



Joe Hernandez of 250 9th St is our December award winner. Joining the award winner at the presentation was Mayor Patty Trefry, Vice-Mayor Beth Ramsey

Vickery, Greg Burke, Kimmeron Lisle, Pam Geronemus, Tom DiFransico and Sandy Bachman. Joe splits his time between Coral Gables and KCB. He has enjoyed many years in the Upper Key and last year purchased his KCB home. He has spent the last year working hard to make his retirement home HIS home by painting, adding new windows and remodeling his kitchen. Outside Joe added a pool, boat, boat lift and gave his front yard a beautiful design. Joe is encouraging neighbors to follow his lead by improving their street side view. Joe loves the Keys! Now it's time to chill! We agree!



**KCB
Mugs, License Plates
and Other Items for
Sale in City Hall**

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beach community association](https://www.facebook.com/keycolonybeachcommunityassociation)

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