



NOVEMBER 2023 • VOL XXXV

# KC Bee Line

## KCBCA President's Update

Greetings from our beautiful "Gem of the Florida Keys". Pat and I arrived on Oct 1 and have been welcoming old friends and new as they have been drifting in more and more each week. Activity is picking up with planning for the November 18th KCB Welcome Party – 70's theme at KC Inn, Construction of the new larger Tiki Hut on Sunset Park scheduled to commence the week of November 6 and the KCB Christmas Boat Parade on December 10th. Many thanks to our event chairs and committee members who are working to make all of these a success. Of course, there's always a space join one of these teams - click here if interested. Membership renewals keep coming in – remember, dues covers Oct 1 thru next Sept 30th – so if you haven't re-upped for 23-24, click here!

On our community business front, Sparky's just reopened after a 6 weeks of expansion construction; Andy and Ali Baker keep serving up an incredible happy hour \$5 menu at KC Inn; Havana Jack's view is still breathtaking; Island Fish Co. continues to be packed; and Stone Crabs are back in season at Keys Fisheries.

Word is that the Pickleball players have been given the go-ahead from the City to form a KCB Pickleball Club and pursue construction of a new Tennis Complex on 7th St. and additional Pickleball courts on the old Tennis courts. The expansion project will primarily funded through private donations. Click Fundraising for the new Tennis Complex and Additional Pickleball Courts project, to learn more.

Would love to hear from other members, organizations and local businesses owners on what's new with you and how our community can support you. Feel free to contact me.

Ted Fischer  
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## Welcome Back Party

We are happy to see you back in KCB and this year will we celebrate together at our annual **Welcome Back Party** on Saturday, November 18th at 5PM. We are adding a fun 70s theme to this year's gathering with food, drink, music, period dress (encouraged but NOT required) and trivia. All are welcome! Tickets are on sale now via [KCBCA.org](http://KCBCA.org) for \$35 for KCBCA members and \$40 for non-members. Tickets will also be for sale at the large Tiki behind the post office on Sat, 10/28 from 10 to 12 and Fri, 11/3 from 11 to 1. Plan to come, reconnect with your neighbors and rekindle your 70s vibe.



## MEMBERSHIP

Thank you to everyone that has renewed their membership for this upcoming season. We realize our fiscal year comes around before most of you arrive but it's one less thing you have to deal with when you do get here. You also save \$5 on our events by being a KCBCA member. Your membership dues are what allows us to provide Sunday concerts at Sunset Park and other meaningful events throughout the year. The password to our Members Only page is still "member". We will be updating it soon.

You can renew online at [KCBCA.org](http://KCBCA.org) or by mail (P.O. Box 510884, Key Colony Beach, Florida 33051), printable application also on last page of this Bee Line. Give a copy to your friends and neighbors!

# KCB Welcome Back Party

*This year's welcome back party will have a 70's theme.*

*Pull out your bell bottoms, frayed jeans, tie dye, ponchos, and platform shoes. Let's boogie KCB!*

November 18, 2023, 5:00 p.m.

Key Colony Inn

**KCBCA Members \$35**

**Non-Members \$40**

**(Join and Save \$5!)**

**Tickets available online**

**at**

**KCBCA.org**

**Heavy Hors d'oeuvres**

**Cash Bar**



## KCB Book Club

Thursday, October 12, was the first of this season's KCB Book Club meetings. We had a great discussion about Lessons in Chemistry. The discussion led to several diversions which made the conversation more lively and interesting. And those of us who have Apple TV will be watching the story unfold on our home TVs.

Our next KCB Book Club meeting will be November 9th, 3:00 p.m., Key Colony Inn patio room. We look forward to seeing some returning snowbirds. We've been missing you guys!

The book we will be discussing is Remarkably Bright Creatures by Shelby Van Pelt. "Remarkably Bright Creatures is a beautiful and moving novel that explores the themes of grief, loss, friendship, and redemption. The book is full of hope and possibility, and it is a reminder that it is possible to find love and acceptance, even in the most unexpected places."



**[Click for Link to City/Community November Calendar of Events](#)**

Members of KCB have a passionate and exciting proposition that will improve our community and enhance its residents' lives. As you may have previously heard, we are embarking on a project to expand our Pickleball courts to ten while adding a basketball court and improved parking at the current location. The project includes two new tennis courts, a tiki hut and benches to be built on 7th Street. This expansion is necessary due to the lengthy wait times we currently experience during peak season. We are contacting you because your support is crucial in making this dream a reality.

According to Harvard Health Publishing, Pickleball is rapidly becoming a favorite racket sport and serves various physical, mental, and social benefits. Its appeal goes far beyond the courts and rackets; it offers numerous health and emotional benefits that can positively impact the lives of those who engage in it. To share with you just a few of the reasons why we believe these courts are an essential addition to our community:

1. **Physical Health:** Pickleball accommodates players of all ages and fitness levels. The activity provides an excellent cardiovascular workout, promotes agility, and enhances coordination. The sport is relatively low-impact, reducing the risk of injury while allowing for intense physical activity. By supporting the initiative, you are contributing to the physical well-being of our community.
2. **Mental Health:** Engaging in sports like Pickleball and Tennis has been linked to improved mental health. It offers an opportunity for social interaction, reducing isolation and loneliness. The strategic and tactical aspects of the game also stimulate mental alertness and cognitive skills.
3. **Inclusivity:** Pickleball is known for its inclusivity, making it an ideal choice for bringing people together. Our community needs more spaces where people of all backgrounds and abilities can unite, foster friendships, and strengthen our bonds.
4. **Youth Development:** By constructing these courts, we provide our younger generation with an alternative to sedentary activities. Pickleball and Tennis promote a sense of discipline, teamwork, and responsibility, quali-

ties that will serve our youth well in their future endeavors.

5. **Community Building:** A designated Pickleball and Tennis facility with multiple courts will create a hub for community events, tournaments, and gatherings. It will serve as a meeting point for people from different backgrounds, creating a sense of unity and shared purpose.

We believe in the transformative power of sports, and we need your support to bring these courts to life. Regardless of size, your contribution will help us reach our goal of \$236,000 of which we've raised \$100,000. Every donation is a step towards improving our community members' physical and emotional well-being.



To donate please make your tax deductible check to: City of Key Colony Beach, For: Pickleball Expansion, Mail to: City of Key Colony Beach, Attention: Pickleball Expansion, PO Box. 510737, KCB, FL, 33051.

Thank you for considering the opportunity now to make a difference in our community. Your support will leave a legacy in our community. Together, we

can build a healthier, happier, and more connected community for generations to come.

Please contact Mary Conditt, [maryconditt@aol.com](mailto:maryconditt@aol.com), 817-317-5781 or Diane Slusher, [amatodla@yahoo.com](mailto:amatodla@yahoo.com), 330-646-1889 for any questions regarding donations.



**MARATHON GARDEN CLUB**

### **Holiday Bazaar, November 25, 2023**

On Saturday, November 25th, the Marathon Garden Club, at 5270 Overseas Highway, MM 50, will hold their annual Holiday Bazaar from 9 a.m. – 3 p.m. featuring gently used Christmas decorations and holiday items. There will also be raffle items, a plant sale from the club nursery and numerous vendors offering orchids and unique holiday gifts.

# From the Line...

It's that time of the year again, Winter season in KCB.

This is the 35<sup>th</sup> season of the KC Bee Line. We know our members enjoy this seasonal publication and we want to continue to provide it to you. But it is time for a new editor with fresh ideas.

We are looking for someone to eventually take over as editor of the Bee Line. Computer skills are a must. At the present time we use MS Publisher to create the newsletter but one could use any program or app to create newsletters that they are familiar with.

We also would like more input from membership for articles. There is always something interesting going on in town and in your hometown that people may find enjoyable to read about so please, share.

If you would like to know more about how you can help, please contact us.

## Volunteer Coordinator

Hello, I am Rich Vieth, this years volunteer coordinator for the community association. As you know, we rely heavily on volunteers to help make our events as enjoyable as possible for our community. This year we have volunteer registration forms online at our website [KCBCA.org](http://KCBCA.org), where you can see what needs we have for upcoming events, and sign up as a volunteer.

We have an immediate need for someone special to serve as editor for this publication, our monthly BeeLine newsletter. Responsibility's would be to organize articles submitted from our members into this newsletter. Experience with Microsoft Publisher would be a plus.

Our first event of the season, as always, is our Welcome Back Party on Nov 18th. For this we have volunteer openings for photographers, greeters, tent setup, and 50/50 sales.

Thank you for your continued support of our community. You can contact me directly. Text, or call 410-491-9092.



P.O. Box 510884  
Key Colony Beach, FL  
33051

A Not For Profit  
Organization

[KCBCA.org](http://KCBCA.org)



Visit us on  
Facebook

Any articles, photos,  
questions, comments are  
welcome.

Please send them to:  
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**It's Your Community.  
Be there for it!**



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

## KCB History

*The following is the beginning of an article on the Tropical Property Rental's website. If you would like to continue reading this article, written by early KCB resident Charlie Anderson almost 40 years ago, click on their logo at the end of this of this segment.*

Notes on the background and development of Key Colony Beach, Florida. A presentation to the Key Colony Beach Chamber of Commerce "Town Meeting" in conjunction with the City Commission of Key Colony Beach, February 28, 1984.

Just by way of letting you know that I am not of only recent acquaintance with the Florida Keys, let me go back in time for about fifty years.

Sarasota, on the Florida west coast, was home. The name, Florida Keys didn't mean too much. However, mention the name Marathon among members of the commercial fishing fleet and you would be on familiar ground. Marathon, in the 1920's and 1930's was winter home of commercial fishermen from both the east and west coasts of the state, all in search of the then plentiful kingfish. These were hook and line fishermen; the great nets of today's commercial fleets was either unknown or unaffordable. These fishermen came by the hundreds. The name Marathon was synonymous with kingfish.

My very first look at the area was during the summer of 1932. It was vacation time from the University of Florida. Vacation time meant a couple of weeks of sailing time with school buddy, Clinton Johnson. We had sailed our 21 foot open boat from Sarasota out to the Marquesas, into Key West and were sort of coasting back towards home. We put into this place called Marathon to take on a few staples and find a couple of jugs of water.

We docked at a rough and tumble facility at just about where the Marathon Yacht Club is now located and made our way the long block up to the commercial center of the village of Marathon. That being the intersection of the railroad track and the rutted path, one car wide, from the docking area. "The Store" was what you would call a general store owned and operated by a Mr. Woodburn. We made considerable purchases of canned milk, vienna sausage, corn flakes and pork and beans that exhausted our meager finances. We asked about fresh water and found two kinds were available. Five cent water and ten cent water. The ten cent water was from a clean tank that was supplied from tank cars railroaded down from Homestead. The nickle per gallon water was something else. This was from a large cypress tank into which was collected rainwater from the store building's roof. This you could say was quite a bargain, considering all of the pro-

teins that came with the water; proteins in the way of mosquito larvae and wiggle tails. No problem really. You just strained the water through a handkerchief or drank the water in the dark. Either way, the additives didn't seem to bother us much.

Sailing up the bay we passed Vaca Cut, Pull 'N Be Damned Creek, noticed the names Fat Deer Keys and Shelter Key on the chart. Fat Deer Keys were several islands beginning at Shelter Key (now Key Colony Beach) and including what is now Coco Plum and several other smaller islands to the east. Incidentally, there was no passage through Vaca Cut at the time. Most of the smaller openings between the islands had been filled in during the period of railroad construction 1906-1912. It was easier and less expensive to fill rather than to construct bridges.

The great and exclusive resort, the Long Key Fishing Camp, founded by Zane Gray in 1916, was located on the western tip of Long Key. This was a complex of buildings left over from the railroad construction period and redesigned into a retreat for affluent sportsmen around the world. Some 30 cottages were installed in a park like setting of a tropical coconut grove. A two story building served as lobby, recreation room, restaurant and hotel. We docked our twenty-one footer at the club marina, on the bay side where the Edgewater Lodge is now located. An elderly couple invited us to lunch in the club house. After hearing lively tales of our sailing adventure, the same couple again invited us to the evening dinner, even engaged one of the sleeping rooms for us for the night. I have always been proud of the fact I was privileged to spend a night in the somewhat historic building that was completely blown away just three years later in the great hurricane of 1935.

The next time I had a connection with the Florida Keys, I was editor of the Florida State News Bureau in Tallahassee. This was the publicity and promotional arm of the Florida State Development Commission, now the Florida Department of Commerce. Into my office one day, came a short, rotund, jolly man who introduced himself as Phil Sadowski, developer of Marathon Shores. For about two hours I heard great and glowing tales of what was happening in the Florida Keys. Especially with reference to what Phil Sadowski was doing. My summation at the time was, this guy must be on dope. No one pours that kind of money into those swampy mangrove islands. How wrong I was.

*To continue reading this interesting article, click the Tropical Property Rentals Logo to the right.*





**Membership Application**

October 2023—September 2024

If you are new to KCB or have never become a member of the Association before, now is your opportunity to join and enjoy all the KCBCA has to offer. For those of you who are loyal members of the KCBCA, please take a moment to renew your membership now so you don't miss a thing! Having all in your household join, helps the KCBCA grow and offers extra support to future programs.

\$15 1st Member: \_\_\_\_\_

\$10 each additional member same household:

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\$ \_\_\_\_\_ TOTAL enclosed

Mailing address: \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

Phone: \_\_\_\_\_

Email Addresses: \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

The Association membership includes a newsletter, the Bee Line, which is sent via email November-April

Attach check payable to:  
Mailing Address:

KCB Community Association (KCBCA)  
PO Box 510884  
Key Colony Beach, FL 33051-0884

For more information or additional applications please go to

**KCBCA.org**