



**The GARDEN WALK**

Garden Club of the Upper Keys

**Saturday  
February 17, 2024**


10am - 4pm, rain or shine!

**TICKETS: \$30**

www.gardenclubupperkeys.org  
Available online or at locations listed below 1/3/24 - 2/16/24.  
Also available the day of the Walk at all tour locations & Francis Tracy Garden Center.

MM 106 Key Largo Chamber of Commerce  
MM 100 Key Largo Flowers & Gifts  
MM 88 Island Home Nursery  
MM 87 Islamorada Chamber of Commerce

The Garden Club of the Upper Keys, Inc. is a qualified 501(c)(3) charitable organization registered in the State of Florida (Registration #CH37407) \* A COPY OF THE OFFICIAL REGISTRATION AND FINANCIAL INFORMATION MAY BE OBTAINED FROM THE DIVISION OF CONSUMER SERVICES BY CALLING TOLL-FREE (800-435-7352) WITHIN THE STATE. REGISTRATION DOES NOT IMPLY ENDORSEMENT, APPROVAL, OR RECOMMENDATION BY THE STATE. \* All donations to the Garden Club of the Upper Keys, Inc. are tax deductible to the extent permitted by law.



**THANK YOU!**

Alzheimer's is devastating our families, our finances and our future. With more than 6 million Americans living with the disease and over 11 million unpaid caregivers, Alzheimer's is all around us — but the power to stop it is within us. Thank you for your support.

[alz.org/walk](http://alz.org/walk)

**WALK TO END ALZHEIMER'S**  
ALZHEIMER'S ASSOCIATION

## Past & Present: the Key Largo Civic Club

The Key Largo Civic Club at 209 Ocean Bay Drive (at MM 99 Oceanside) was formed in 1950 and contributes much to the community. It is rich in local history.

It began as the Rock Harbor Club, created through the efforts of the original members, mostly from the Port Largo area who built the building. The town name changed to Key Largo in 1955.

The Civic Club sponsored the organization of the present Key Largo Chamber of Commerce and then-president of the Civic Club, W.F. van Sweringen, became the Chamber's first president.

The Civic Club's purpose then, as today, was keeping the community informed on County, State and National issues and being a meeting place for locals to gather socially.

It took five years to get the club building erected with the efforts of the first pioneers who contributed materials and labor, as well as a loan to finish it. The women served many dinners to raise funds. Everyone brought pot-luck meals and then members paid a minimum for the meal.

In 1954 Commissioner Harry Harris designated the building as a permanent polling place, which today is Precinct 28.

The club sponsored through the Chamber of Commerce, the Key Largo Canal Committee, which envisioned the Key Largo Waterway and saw it through to completion at no



The present-day building is a busy meeting place for all kinds of community activities.

cost to the community of the Upper Keys.

The Key Largo Public Library had its start in the Civic Club!

The first Girl Scout group north of Key West met there, as well as several churches. St. Justins Martyr started there.

Key Largo Elementary School taught at the club until the school building was completed.

The Key Largo Garden Club met at the club and also landscaped the grounds in 1957.

Saturday BINGO, which was then called "LARGO," supported the upkeep and repairs on the building. Contributions to local charities were also made from Bingo funds.

The two lots adjacent to the building were purchased in the late 1960s and then were paved for a parking lot.

The kitchen was remodeled and air-conditioning was

installed after that.

The club also sponsored Pinochle and Bridge games.

In 1960 and 1965, major hurricanes devastated the Keys and the Civic club was used by the Red Cross as a Shelter.

Art classes were held in the building as well.

Today the Civic Club follows the agenda of the original club.

The hall is rented out approximately \$100 per hour for weddings, baby showers, birthday parties, the Orchid Club, the Republican Club, homeowners' associations, Sons and Daughters of Italy and various community fund raisers.

The Civic Club continues the tradition of yearly donations to local organizations such as the Humane Society of the Upper Keys, Hospice, MARC House, Good Health Clinic, Take Stock in Children, Center for Inde-

pendent Living, Monroe County Abuse Center and the Florida Keys Children's Shelter.

Membership dues are \$20 per year.

For more information contact Greg Bianchini 917-862-3979.

### Schedule of Events

- Every Tuesday and Thursday 8:00 am Yoga
- Every Thursday Line Dancing 7:00 pm
- Every Friday Bingo: doors open 5:30 pm, starts at 7 pm. Food and beverages available
- 1st Saturday Full Breakfast 8 to 10 am, \$7
- 2nd Wednesday Sons & Daughters of Italy 6:30 pm
- 3rd Wednesday Show Me the Money 7:00 pm
- 4th Thursday Civic Club Pot Luck Dinner and Meeting 6:00 pm

Special thanks to Dave Kay and Greg Bianchini

**OCEAN BAY MEAL PLANS**

CHEF CLARK HUFF  
C.E.C., CCA.

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Chef's Specialities

Keto and Low Calorie Menus available weekly on Mondays via Facebook @OceanBayDining or by request via text msg to 1-888-403-4503

**OCEAN BAY CATERING**

Catering services available for 6 to 600 guests

Custom tailored to your Event

Contact Chef Clark 501-626-2424  
OceanBayDining@gmail.com

**Vendor Space Available! >>>**

Please join us for the inaugural **OCEAN DREAMS HEALING CENTER Health Fest**

February 17 & 18, 2024  
Key Largo Community Park

**Education • Food • Vendors • Live Music • Fun**

The Community Health Festival brings awareness of the many agencies, health practitioners, and services available in the Keys for residents and visitors to utilize when in need of medical, mental and physical support. There is no cost for non-profits to have a booth.

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