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dining



Photo by DICK CONKLIN

The owners of the new Fisherman's Wharf, next to the Seven Mile Bridge, plan to open later this month.

**New eatery promises  
fresh food, water views**

*Fisherman's Wharf opening next to bridge*

By DICK CONKLIN  
Keys Sunday Contributor

The owners of the Keys' newest waterfront seafood restaurant, Fisherman's Wharf in Marathon, hope locals will soon congregate to celebrate the end of another workday at the downstairs bar, while diners upstairs enjoy fresh seafood dishes prepared by a master chef.

Fisherman's Wharf is the creation of the Kane family — Linda, Donna and Mark — and J.R. Jones. Donna Kane says Fisherman's Wharf will open later this month, once owners finish working their way through the permitting and licensing process.

Overlooking a working marina, the Wharf takes a unique approach as a venue for both casual and fine dining. Take chef Bill Hunt, for instance. He has worked at Keys places such

**If you go**

- ◆ **What:** Fisherman's Wharf Restaurant and Hammerhead's Bar
- ◆ **Where:** Seven Mile Marina, Marathon
- ◆ **When:** The restaurant plans to open later this month. Hours will be 11 a.m. to 11 p.m. Tuesday through Sunday. Happy hour 4 to 7 p.m. daily.

as Louie's Backyard, Boondocks, Mangrove Mama's and his own Queen's Table for more than 25 years, influenced by people such as award-winning chef Norman Van Aken.

Hunt's menu is a mix of familiar favorites and original creations, prepared to his own standards of freshness and quality. The crab cake breaks the

mold with a recipe that features "less filler, more crab." The house-smoked dip, French fries and onion rings are freshly prepared on the premises, not "frozen off a truck." The Jamaican Voodoo Chicken and Philly Cheese Steak are original creations, but Norman's Hot Fried Chicken Salad was "stolen" from Van Aken himself.

This is a family business run by local folks who want to make Fisherman's Wharf a bit of "the Keys the way it used to be," with an emphasis on "keeping it simple," says owner Donna Kane. Located on a busy, working marina, the project has been under way for a couple of years, leading up to a June opening.

While it may sound expensive, the owners plan to offer a range of affordable food, from daily blue

See FISHERMAN'S / 6

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# Restaurant planning feasts on Fridays

**FISHERMAN'S / From 4**

plate specials such as home-cooked meatloaf, fried chicken or lasagna, to gourmet-quality chef seafood specials — depending on the day's catches — to more unique dishes for the adventurous. Mark Kane describes the Wharf's philosophy in part as, "if you cater to the locals, the tourists will follow."

Hammerhead's downstairs bar is a casual spot with outdoor, shaded tiki tables, perfect for just hanging out or telling fish stories, located next door to the marina's Captain's Lounge.

Upstairs or down, be sure to check out the sauce bars, where discriminating diners can season to taste, with a variety of condiments for the wings, chicken or seafood lover.

Fridays should be a popular time at the Wharf, with a 4 to 7 p.m. special that includes a fish fry, low-country boil or clam-bake with cold draft beer and



Photo by DICK CONKLIN

Waterfront marina views await at Fisherman's Wharf.

live entertainment. Sunday brunch will feature jazz in a cool setting. Entertainment will be offered throughout the week (except for Mondays, when the Wharf is closed), including a couple of Karaoke nights. The owners and staff are not "all

work and no play" people, since several of them are members of the Pirates of Marquesas troupe.

To find Fisherman's Wharf, look for the Seven Mile Marina, the first stop on the Marathon side of the Seven Mile Bridge, bayside.



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## Helicopter Aerial Maintenance

To help maintain the reliability of our electric system, FKEC's contract crews will be performing aerial inspections and maintenance work via helicopter on these dates:

**June 2 Aerial Inspection: Entire System**  
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**June 3 - 6\* Aerial Maintenance Work**  
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**7:30 a.m. to 5 p.m.** each day

\*NOTE: May continue up to 2 weeks & change due to weather.

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## Board member looking at hybrid bus

**BIODIESEL / From 5**

entrepreneurial edge," Clearman said in a presentation prepared for the meeting.

The physics teacher's class could run into some speed bumps. The waste necessary to create biodiesel is used vegetable cooking oil from restaurants.

"People used to have to pay \$100 to pay someone to get rid of that," Clearman said after the meeting. "Now, if they're getting \$15 — what waste companies pay to pick up their grease — we have to make sure we offer savings."

Board members nodded in approval to using tax breaks to pay grease producers during

Tuesday's presentation, meaning students could potentially offer greater savings to restaurants that turn over their waste.

Clearman said selling waste to students has added benefits for businesses: goodwill.

"That's one of the ways we can sell Key West: This is a green island; we clean up after ourselves," he said. "If you go to similar climates, they're not treating the environment as well, and we can make that a powerful advertising tool."

The planned facility could include a water cistern and solar panels — projects Clearman hopes can be funded by grants. Because of state incentives for solar use, the school needs only a lender or benefactor to finance

\$10,000 to install \$30,000 worth of panels. The savings on the building's electric bill would amount to more than a teacher's salary.

The cistern could water Key West High's sports fields, which consume 4000 gallons of water each day. Worse, the school might pay for that water twice, as sewer bills are based on consumption, even though that water is not returned through the sewers, Clearman said.

"It's all adding up — we're at a point now where by taking a couple of smart steps we can save lots of money," he said.

School Board member Debra Walker said she supports students' efforts to help the environment.

"Right now in terms of environmental programs, the teachers and kids are driving it," she said. "At the least, this is an opportunity to give kids a great educational opportunity."

One of Walker's main drives this spring — getting a hybrid bus for the district — might be made possible with the help of Clearman. He and the school's administration are seeking a grant from the Environmental Protection Agency to cover the \$100,000 extra cost of the partially electric bus.

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