

Why Support Locally Owned Businesses?

Top Ten Reasons to Think Local • Buy Local • Be Local

1. **Buy Local – Support Yourself:** Studies show that when you buy from an independent, locally-owned business, rather than a nationally owned business, significantly more of your money is used to make purchases from other local businesses – strengthening the economic base of the community.

2. **Support Community Groups:** Non-profit organizations receive an average 250% more support from small business owners than they do from large ones. It is the small, local businesses who give to benefits for locals in need.

3. **Keep The Keys Unique:** Where we shop, where we eat and have fun -- all of it makes the Keys our home. Our one-of-a-kind businesses are an integral part of the distinctive character of this place. Tourism benefits. "When people go on vacation they generally seek out destinations that offer them the sense of being someplace, not just anyplace." — *Richard Moe, President, National Historic Preservation Trust.*

4. **Reduce Environmental Impact:** Locally owned businesses make local purchases requiring less transportation and set up shop in town centers, as opposed to developing on the fringe. This generally means contributing less to sprawl, congestion, habitat loss and pollution.

5. **Create More Good Jobs:** Small local businesses are the largest employer in our community. More jobs means more people buying homes and so the home values rise.
6. **Get Better Service:** Local businesses hire people with a better understanding of the products they are selling who take more time to get to know customers and their needs. When you hire a local lawn and yard service you are keeping a neighbor in business. When you employ a "fly by night" out of Miami you don't know if they are going to come back and beat you up and burglarize your home. You endanger yourself, friends, relatives and neighbors.

7. **Invest in Community:** Local businesses are owned by people who live in this community, are less likely to leave, and are more invested in the Keys' future.

8. **Put Your Taxes to Good Use:** Local businesses require comparatively little infrastructure investment and make more efficient use of public services.

9. **Customer Service:** Your local business owner personally handles customer service, not someone speaking a foreign language from Miami or India who can blow you off forever with the touch of a button.

10. **Encourage Local Prosperity:** Research shows that in an increasingly homogenized world, entrepreneurs and skilled workers are more likely to invest and settle in communities that preserve their one-of-a-kind distinctive character.
- The Conch Republic Coconut Telegraph is independently owned and locally operated. Think local first + buy local when you can = being a local!**

Bushwacker's

LAWN & LANDSCAPE MAINTENANCE

Hire a **LOCAL** with **EXPERIENCE** and a **GOOD REPUTATION** who does **PROFESSIONAL WORK** and does it **ON TIME** at a **FAIR RATE!**

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- Tree Work
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State Attorney's Office "On the Run"!



Six members of the State Attorney's Office completed the Key West Half Marathon. (L-R) Cathy Langston, Carla Matinata, Colleen Dunne, Donna Phillips, State Attorney Catherine Vogel and John Hernandez.



Island Time loves and appreciates its Locals.

The price for the card is just \$20 and is valid for one year. It gives the card holder free admission to every Friday and Saturday, regularly scheduled sunset/starlight cruise. Cardholders may also bring as many guests as they wish, for just \$10, which is half the regular price.

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Hunk of the Month



Rocco Lapace
American Legion Post 333

15 minutes could save your life
...and it is 100% FREE!

Keys AHEC is giving free Clinical Breast Exams every Friday from 8am to 4pm at 50 High Point Road in Tavernier. A simple exam can save your life; early detection is key to treating and surviving breast cancer. For more info call Megan O'Neill, RN at 305-743-7111 x206. (Funded by a grant from the Susan G Komen for the Cure Foundation.)



(Above) Patty Sparks of ST Sparks Construction is a local breast cancer survivor. She says "Early detection is the key. Get checked now."

FEATURING
Churrasco Steak
Marinated skirt steak grilled and served with fresh, housemade chimichurri sauce on the side. \$18



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