We are battered but not broken. We are Keys Strong! We are grateful for all donations sent and for the volunteers who took the time to help us in our time of need and for all those who took the time to say a prayer for the families of the Florida Keys.

Hurricane Irma
September 10, 2017
The Journey Of Our Communities
The Middle & Lower Keys
As Hurricane Irma approaches the Florida Keys, even lifelong residents, known as Conchs, evacuate to the mainland. As the storm increases in size and strength, emergency officials notify the governor that first responders will evacuate the Keys on Saturday morning telling residents who stay behind to “get out or go it alone”.

Reverend Debra and a group of nine are on Pilgrimage to Ireland and Scotland, leaving before Irma’s exact path is known.

Reverend Debra Maconaughey presents a trailer donated from Episcopal Relief and Development. The Right Reverend Peter Eaton, Bishop of Southeast Florida visits residents displaced at the American Red Cross Shelter. Reverend Debra Maconaughey helps Mrs. Gloria Goodman, longtime Marathon Librarian with FEMA paperwork.
HELP ARRIVES IN VARIOUS FORMS

Many groups arrive to help; North Carolina Baptist Men’s Group, Hearts and Hands, and Helping Hands and Moravians Mission Group are just a few.

Bridge to Hope sends several truckloads of mattresses.

Help arrives in many forms. Volunteers come from all parts of the country. Churches and organizations send supplies, water, mattresses, food, gift cards and money.

St. Gregory’s Episcopal Church come down to volunteer and cook!

September 10, 2017

Category 4 Hurricane hits the Florida Keys

12 Inches of Rain
10 Foot Storm Surge
130 MPH Winds

Over 1,300 Boats Damaged in the Florida Keys
675 Structures Destroyed - 465 of Those Structures were on Big Pine Key

Over 10,000 Homes “Affected”

Spiritual leaders of Marathon meet with the city manager on the needs and resources of the community.
First Responders are allowed back into the Keys to clear US 1, assess bridges, and begin to make repairs to electric and water systems and sewers. Residents in the middle Keys will have to wait a week before returning home to assess damages to their homes.

The Cities of Marathon and Islamorada are quick to collect debris and remove it from our beautiful islands but as of January 2018 the lower Keys are still struggling.
Homeowners, boat-ers and business owners begin the difficult journey of recovery after returning to the once beautiful Florida Keys.

This is an Official Report From the City of Marathon. September 10, 2017, 6:06 P.M. I know that all of us that are not in the Keys are extremely anxious to hear about our town and all of the Keys. We also are anxious to Get Back Home. However, it is NOT safe to come back yet.

Right now, our City Staff, our emergency management team, our first responders and our Mayor Doc Dan and Councilman Cook are sawing their way thru debris to get back to Marathon. They will then work to clear the runway at the Marathon Airport. When the runway is open the planes can come in and begin to fly out those in need of medical care. The planes will also fly in supplies. Currently, there is no electricity and no water. Again, I know Everyone of us has excellent intentions in wanting to come back down and help. However, for now it is better for all of us not to be in the way and further put a drag on the limited resources.

FDOT will be coming in soon to check all the bridges, until they do so it is impossible to pass all the bridges and get to Marathon. If you are in a safe place with food, water and electricity stay put! We are in the BEST HANDS with our City Manager, Chuck Lindsey and our City Staff, they have a solid plan. All of us City Council Members along with our City Staff are committed to rebuilding Marathon.

Please be safe where you are,
Michelle Coldiron, Vice Mayor Marathon City Council

It seems like a long wait for residents not allowed to return to the Keys until conditions improve. City Officials keep residents informed though Facebook are other social media outlets.

Vice Mayor Michelle Coldiron checking in with EOC report. Tuesday 9/12
The take away message is this. Help is on its way via the roads and air strips, Navy Ship on standby. The help includes people and resources. The roads need to be free to move the supplies in place. Keys Electric: Attempting to bring in 92 trucks to get power up. In order for the linemen to do critical work, for safety reasons, ER Hospital services must be available. Mariners is open-
Middle Keys residents are allowed to return to their homes on September 17th. The Lower Keys residents will have to wait one more day. Curfews are set in place and most do not have electricity and water has to be boiled. Hurricane debris lines the highway as residents drive home to check on their properties. A strong Police presence is stationed across areas that are hardest hit in Marathon.

"We will not tolerate people who take advantage of our citizens," said Sheriff Ramsay. "If we catch people looting, committing theft or burglary, price gouging, or committing fraud of any kind we will do everything we can put the offenders in jail," he said.

"We need to make sure no one is entering these neighborhoods who doesn't belong there," said Sheriff Ramsay. "We will be working hard to make sure our citizens and their property are safe from those who would take advantage of the situation."

Our beautiful Key Deer survive the hurricane but fresh water supplies now have salt from surge waters. Residents and volunteers leave fresh water out for in buckets and kiddie pools for the deer.
Above, a photo of the silt that is left behind on the floors after water enters a home. Below, a photo that causes one to wonder what the environmental effects of Irma will be long term.

Above, a photo taken in Big Pine Key, one of the hardest hit areas. Most residents have been without power or too busy cleaning to take time to watch television. Only a few weeks after Irma, the media has moved on and there is little or no coverage of Irma and the Keys. The people of Big Pine are not interested in the latest hot topic, they have more important issues at hand.

Vice Mayor Michelle Coldiron with an update 9/17/2017

I understand people are questioning the different colored stickers on their homes. City Hall is creating a fact sheet on what all the various stickers mean. City Hall will post it on the city website. I will also post it on my page.

If you are back in Marathon, we will be having a Town Hall Meeting Monday at Community Park. PLEASE join us! Our waste water treatment is working. If you have running water you can flush your toilet!!

#makeMarathonGreaterAgain.

Updates continue from City Officials as residents return to find trees down, sunken boats, destroyed homes, neighbors boats in their yards.

Reverend Debra returns to St. Columba to assess damages to the church. Trees and debris litter the grounds but no damage was done to the church. A number of people who took refuge in church property had already begun the clean up of the grounds.
THE REAL WORK BEGINS

Businesses and homes are heavily damaged and some destroyed completely but the community rallies behind our cry of ...

“We are Keys Strong”

People begin to clean their homes and yards. The recovery effort will take many, many months and continue into 2018.