

# FLORIDA KEYS Celtic Festival



January 6th & 7th  
Marathon Community Park

Explore the music, food, entertainment  
and rich history that define iconic Celtic  
culture, right here in the Middle Keys



The Florida Keys  
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to the Celtic Festival team  
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# Dear Celtic Festival Friends

Welcome to the Florida Keys Celtic Festival!

The Florida Keys Celtic Festival is a party with a purpose as it benefits the Hammock House, the free after-school and summer camp program for the children of the Middle Keys. Thanks to ticket sales, your donations and our Nearly New Thrift Boutique we have raised over \$1 million in the last 10 years. This allowed us to provide the free after-school camp programs to working families in our city and award scholarships to two graduating seniors from Marathon High School.

As you explore the festival and town in the days and weeks ahead, please take a moment to say to our sponsors, "We saw you in the Florida Keys Celtic Festival Program. Thank you for caring about our children."

We hope you will come by and enjoy the exceptional talent, food, entertainment and athletics available this year and see why the Florida Keys Celtic Festival was recently voted as one of the Best Regional Festivals by the Guide to Florida Magazine. We are thrilled to have this honor.

So come on in, relax, enjoy and have a great time!

Peace be with you,  
**Reverend Debra Andrew Maconaughey**

If you are interested in learning more about St. Columba Episcopal Church and the Hammock House, please check out our website.  
[www.stcolumbamarathon.org](http://www.stcolumbamarathon.org)

## Committee Members

Suzy Curry  
Chuck & Crissy Gilbert  
Jodi Gonzales  
Dan & Janet Griffin  
Sarah Jones  
Bill & Nancy Lorimer  
Kirk & Debra Maconaughey  
Kristen Reed  
Vicki Steed  
Mary Stella  
Steve & Nancy Talbott  
Tom Teuber  
Cathy Walters  
*FKCF Coordinator*  
Bobby Wellsby

## ON THE COVER:

Joan Diver and the Screaming Orphans are one of six musical acts set to rock the stage at the Florida Keys Celtic Festival. SANDRA LEE PHOTOGRAPHY/Keys Weekly

*Additional magazine photography by Sandra Lee, Barry Gaukel, Cathy Walters and Larry Benvenuti.*



Scan for festival tickets

# Keys AHEC Health Centers

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# SCHEDULE OF EVENTS



Members of the Marathon High School Drama Club serve tea and scones in the Iona Tea Garden.

## Friday, Jan. 5

- 5-7 p.m. Kick-off Party at Docksider Boot Key Harbor  
Features West of Galway & Police Pipe & Drum of Florida
- 7 p.m. The party continues @ Keys Fisheries  
Features Police Pipe & Drum of Florida

## Saturday, Jan. 6

- 10 a.m. Women's Highland Athletic Competition
- 10:15 a.m. West of Galway
- 11:15 a.m. Byrne Brothers
- Noon Opening ceremonies & parade led by  
Police Pipe & Drum of Florida
- 12:15 p.m. Albannach
- 1 p.m. Drake Irish Dance
- 1:30 p.m. Screaming Orphans
- 2 p.m. Make a Didgeridoo with Albannach's DidgeriDrew in the  
Celtic Crossroad tent
- 2:15 p.m. Police Pipe & Drum of Florida
- 2:30 p.m. West of Galway
- 3 p.m. Afternoon Tea with Mary, Queen of Scots (\$, limited tickets)
- 3:30 p.m. Drake Irish Dance
- 4 p.m. Police Pipe & Drum of Florida
- 4:15 p.m. The Byrne Brothers
- 5:15 p.m. Albannach
- 6 p.m. Athletics Awards Presentation Ceremony
- 6:15 p.m. Screaming Orphans
- 7 p.m. Special Caber Toss event on the game field
- 7:30 p.m. Community Candlelight Compline

### Ongoing throughout the Day

- Ladies of the Keys Highland Athletics Competition
- Raptors of the Roundtable Birds of Prey Exhibit
- Ceili dancing on the pavilion by the tennis courts
- Knockerball on the baseball field
- Bingo & Celtic Art in the Celtic Crossroads Tent
- Spiritual Crafts at the St. Joseph's Spirituality Tent

## Sunday, Jan. 7

- 9:30 a.m. Celtic contemporary worship with  
St. Columba Episcopal Church
- 11 a.m. Gates open
- 11 a.m. Marathon Locals Highland Games
- 11:45 a.m. Police Pipe & Drum of Florida
- Noon Zero K Nessie Fun Run
- 12:15 p.m. West of Galway
- 1 p.m. Pup & Pipers Parade
- 1:15 p.m. Drake Irish Dancers
- 2 p.m. The Byrne Brothers
- 3 p.m. Albannach
- 4 p.m. Screaming Orphans
- 5 p.m. Gates close

### Ongoing Throughout the Day

- Raptors of the Roundtable Birds of Prey Exhibit
- Ceili dancing on the pavilion by the tennis courts
- Knockerball on the baseball field
- Bingo & Celtic Art in the Celtic Crossroads Tent
- Spirituality Crafts at St. Joe's Spirituality Tent

### Children's Glen Activities

#### Saturday, Jan. 6

- 2 p.m. Make a Didgeridoo with DidgeriDrew  
in the Celtic Crossroads Tent
- 2-2:45 p.m. Wee Athletes (6 and under) Kilted Run,  
Neeps & Tatties, Tug O' War
- 2:45-3:30 p.m. Lads & Lassies (7+) Kilted Run, Neeps & Tatties,  
Tug O' War

#### Sunday, Jan. 7

- 12:15-1 p.m. Kilted Run & Tug O' War

### Ongoing Throughout the Day

- Arts & Crafts, Clan Passport Game, Sheaf & "Sheep" Toss,  
Caber Toss, Haggis Hurl, Farmer's Carry



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The Hammock House offers all school-age children within the Middle  
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FREE after-school and camp programs.

A woman with tattoos, wearing a pink tank top, a plaid skirt, and a weightlifting belt, is captured in a dynamic pose, leaning back with her right arm raised high. She is outdoors on a grassy field with trees and a utility pole in the background.

By Marcille Wallace

## THE ORIGINAL 'STRONGMAN' SPORT

The Highland Athletic Games – the original “Strongman” sport – have a history dating back thousands of years. Their exact origins are lost in the mists of history, but they still reflect the rugged nature of the Highlanders who invented them. The games may have evolved from a need to train for hand-to-hand combat, or to determine the most battle-worthy warriors. Today they are tests of strength in which honor and sportsmanship are valued as much or more than winning.

Feats like tossing tree trunks, throwing bundles of straw over a bar and launching heavy rocks as far as possible are thrilling to witness, but because they require stamina and strength, they were traditionally considered unsuitable for women. The Florida Keys Celtic Festival is a leader in the charge for female participation. In its inaugural year (2014) the festival featured the world's first all-female games.

“At the time when I started the athletics competition at the Keys festival, there were still a lot of games either not offering, or limiting, the number of spaces for women competitors,” said Keys Celtic Athletic Coordinator Bob Gourlay. “Because we focus only on women, we attract athletes from all over the U.S. and Canada. ... With all the games I do, this one is still the most fun.”

Echoing Gourlay's sentiment is three-time Keys athlete Laura Anthony. “(The Celtic Festival is) my favorite game because the spectators are just fantastic,” she said. “I love the access they have to the athletes and how involved they get with us.”

Katie Tennant is a record holder in the Braemar Stone event, one of the first U.S. women to compete in Scotland's prestigious Braemar Gathering, and a participant in the popular TV series “American Ninja Warrior.”

“The Highland Games community is great because it's a group of strong women empowering other women,” she said. “Athletes are super helpful, encouraging and supportive of one another.” Tennant, along with Anthony, are among the Highland Games contestants scheduled for the 2024 Florida Keys Celtic Festival.

### THIS YEAR'S EVENTS INCLUDE:

**Caber Toss:** Participants must pick up the tapered end of the caber (a 13- to 15-foot “tree trunk”), balance it, then toss it so that the upper end hits the ground and turns completely over. Success is gauged by how closely the caber falls to the 12 o'clock position.

**Braemar Stone:** Named for the ancient festival held in Braemar, Scotland. Similar to the Olympic shot put, using a large 13- to 18-pound stone instead of a steel ball.

**Hammer Throw:** The Scottish Hammer Throw is another event that has a counterpart in the Olympics. Each participant gets three throws with a 12-pound hammer.

**Sheaf Toss:** The “sheaf” is actually a bag full of straw, weighing about 12 pounds. Competitors use a pitchfork to toss the sheaf behind them and over a crossbar. For those successful in clearing each height, the bar is raised.

**Weight Over Bar:** Like the Sheaf Toss, contestants have three chances to clear a crossbar with a 21- or 28-pound weight.

**Weight for Distance:** There are two events, contested separately – one with a “light weight” (14 pounds) and one with a “heavy weight” (20-28 pounds). The athlete must throw the weight, using one hand, for distance.



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*Campers get all wrapped up in a Mummy Race, one of the many fun games at summer camp. CONTRIBUTED*

## WELCOME TO THE HAMMOCK HOUSE

### Who We Are

Founded by St. Columba Episcopal Church in 2011, the Hammock House offers all children safe, secure and fun recreational and educational experiences at no cost to their families. It is our goal to help each child develop to the best of their individual abilities and to provide an atmosphere in which children can learn to share and become supportive members of the community. We always keep in mind that children are unique and develop at varying intervals. We encourage each child to use his or her potential, and we always strive to provide new experiences for growth.

### The Hammock House Mission

The mission of the Hammock House is to provide children of the Middle Keys a healthy environment where they can thrive emotionally, artistically, intellectually and spiritually.

### OUR PROGRAMS

#### After-School Program

The after-school program includes transportation from Stanley Switlik, a healthy snack, reading buddies, tutoring, recreation, crafts and encouragement. Kids reach monthly reading goals and work to foster an overall sense of engagement and belonging among one another.

### Camp Programs

The Hammock House Just for Fun Summer Camp offers four weeks of exciting free experiences which include recreation, two healthy snacks, lunch, arts and crafts, field trips, science experiments and music.

The Hammock House offers free camp during school breaks, spring break, Thanksgiving and Christmas break. Camps are open 9 a.m. to 3 p.m. and provide holiday fun and games while giving working parents an important opportunity to keep working through the holidays.

### Enrichment Programs

Students engage in activities to help develop compassion and contribute to the community. They include yoga, gym, ukulele lessons, Mutt-i-grees, Marathon Yacht Club sailing and more.

### SARA'S STORY

#### From Student to Counselor

It seems almost impossible to describe what the Hammock House has done for me throughout the years I have lived in Marathon. My mom found out about St. Columba when she was looking for a place for my brother and me to go during the summer while she was looking for a job.

My mom began to lose hope when no one would take us in. Hope then showed itself in Reverend Debra at St. Columba – she allowed us into her camp even though it was full. I never knew how important that simple act of kindness was to my mom until years later when I learned how it changed her life – and, little did I know, mine as well.

The Hammock House has taught me how to be a good person, how to look at the world in an optimistic way and how to find the good in people. I learned how to have mature conversations with people who were older than me. Most importantly, however, I learned the importance of teamwork and how to be kind and empathetic to others.

Now, I work at the Hammock House as a summer camp counselor, and I get the chance to teach the lessons that were so important to me to the next generation of Hammock House kids.

**“In a city where more than 70% of children are on free and reduced lunch, providing the Hammock House at no charge is a gift from the parish of St. Columba.”**

*– a Hammock House parent*

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Location	Pick-Up Day
Knights Key	Tuesday
11th - 30th, Ocean Side	Thursday
12th - 52nd Gulf Side	
48th St Ocean - 74th St Ocean Side	Wednesday
60th, 61st, & 70th Gulf Side	
75th - 117th, Ocean & Gulfside Behind Airport & Aviation Including Startup Key	Friday
Sombrero Beach Road	Wednesday
Sombrero Blvd & Flamingo Island	Thursday
Vaca Cut - Coco Plum	Saturday
Grassy Key, Duck Key, & Conch Key	Saturday
Key Colony Beach	Tuesday
Long Key - Layton	Thursday

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Keys Clean!



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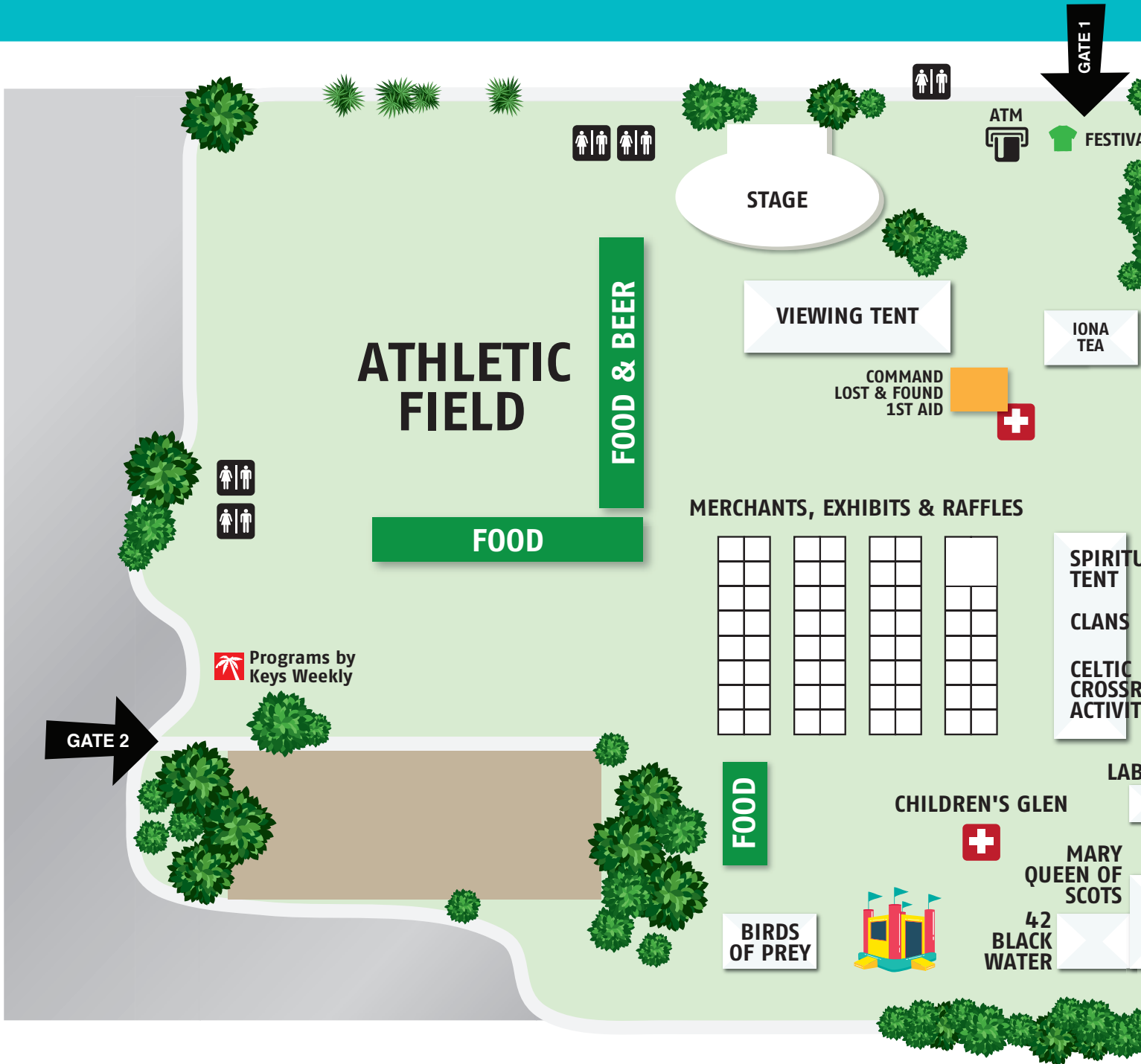
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# EVENT MAP

## MARATHON COMMUNITY PARK



**HOURS:** Saturday, 10:00 to 7:00 Sunday, 11:00 to 5:00.

**ADMISSION:** Single day \$12 in advance, \$15 at the gate. Two-day \$17 in advance, \$20 at the gate.

# VENDOR DIRECTORY

SATURDAY & SUNDAY, JANUARY 6-7



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t the gate.



*Falconry, an ancient art form, continues to thrive as a living tradition.*

## FOR YOUR ENTERTAINMENT

Along with an extensive musical backdrop, savory dishes and vendors galore, the Florida Keys Celtic Festival boasts several other entertainment offerings to bring rich history to life and celebrate Celtic tradition.

### **LIEUTENANT COLONEL'S COMPANY OF THE 42ND**

The Lieutenant Colonel's Company of the 42nd is a living history group that depicts the regiment's camp life and activities during Florida's British Period of 1763-1783. They showcase military life, weapons, clothing and the experiences of wives who traveled with the army.

The 42nd has a history in the Americas, including playing a major role in the English conquest of Cuba and protecting the American frontier. During the American Rebellion, they participated in several campaigns, and some records report they were quartered in St. Augustine, East Florida, before being assigned to the Bahamas.

Come visit and witness their daily routine – from sleeping to eating and everything in between. Plus, join in on some exciting activities while you're here.

### **MARY, QUEEN OF SCOTS**

Mudlark Living History proudly brings to you Mary, Queen of Scots. Join her as she strolls through the festival lanes, takes tea at the lovely tea room and cheers on the athletes.

Find her in the 42nd Highland Regiment's historical encampment for a meet and greet, and take your portrait with the most beloved queen of Scotland.

### **RAPTORS OF THE ROUND TABLE**

Raptors of the Round Table are dedicated to the preservation and appreciation of birds of prey. As licensed master falconers, they hold both state and federal permits for the possession of raptors and have over 30 years of experience working with these magnificent birds. Their mission is to educate the public about the rich history of falconry, with a focus on the care, welfare and training of raptorial species.

They also advocate for the conservation of birds of prey as a vital part of nature and wildlife conservation programs and encourage the maintenance of falconry as a legal field sport. By continuing the traditions of falconry, they can help to ensure the welfare of both the sport and the raptors it employs. It's important to note that possessing any raptor without the proper permits can lead to fines or even jail time.

### **CROSSROADS IRISH SET & CEILI DANCERS**

In Irish, the word "ceili" is pronounced like the name Kaylee. Irish ceili dancing is the traditional group dancing native to Ireland. The Crossroads Dancers from West Palm Beach will be teaching these generations-old dances at the pavilion by the tennis courts.

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FLORIDA KEYS  
**Celtic Festival**

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THE POLICE PIPE AND DRUMS



ALBANNACH



THE SCREAMING ORPHANS

## CUE THE MUSIC

The festival is proud to bring three internationally-celebrated Celtic musical acts, and three Florida-based groups, to the Middle Keys.

### ALBANNACH

From Scotland comes Albannach, one of the original performers from the very first Florida Keys Celtic Festival. "Albannach" – Scots Gaelic for "Scottish" – begins its 20th year of bringing the ancient tribal sounds of Scotland to festivals and Highland games across North America and Europe. Their unique musical blend of drums, bagpipes and digeridoo is soul-stirring and danceable. Their vocals, some of which are sung in Scots Gaelic, are haunting and beautiful.

Albannach has earned a mighty following, dubbed "Nach Nation," because of their cross-cultural appeal to young and old alike.

### THE SCREAMING ORPHANS

From Ireland are the Screaming Orphans, sisters who have been singing together practically since infancy. In their teens they formed their own Celtic pop/rock band and named themselves the Screaming Orphans – despite the fact that they do not scream, nor are they orphans.

After being "discovered" by the late Sinéad O'Connor and eventually touring with her, they went on to tour and record with other renowned musicians. But the Screaming Orphans shine brightest when performing their own music: a blend of original compositions of melodic old-school pop and contemporary takes on traditional Irish music and song. Praised for their sibling harmonies, they've taken several of their self-produced recordings all the way to the top of the iTunes charts.

### THE BYRNE BROTHERS

The Byrne Brothers first captivated the world through viral videos of three young lads, accompanied by their father, playing music in the streets of Ireland. Walt Disney World took notice, inviting them to perform at Raglan Road Pub and become the youngest ever cast members in Disney World history.

Now teens, the brothers have won numerous championships playing their respective instruments and in Irish dancing. They were named Rising Stars of the Year 2021, later to win the 2022 Young Artist Academy Award for Outstanding Music Ensemble. Now Florida residents, they tour extensively across the U.S., making their mark on the Irish music scene with electrifying and high-energy performances that showcase traditional Irish music and world-class Irish dancing.

### WEST OF GALWAY

West of Galway, based in Naples, has been entertaining Irish and Celtic music-loving crowds since 2003. The band members are friends who met through music and the shared experience of growing up with Saturday night kitchen parties with families and friends. That tradition of music, family, and friends – ceol, teaghlach, agus cairde – is observed throughout the Irish diaspora, and West of Galway, winner of the 2010 International Battle of the Bands Competition, brings that tradition to pubs, concerts, and festivals up and down the U.S. eastern seaboard.



**THE BYRNE BROTHERS**



**WEST OF GALWAY**

**THE POLICE PIPE AND DRUMS CORPS OF FLORIDA**

Police Pipe and Drum Corps of Florida was founded in 1990. Based in Fort Lauderdale, the band and color guard are composed of 51 serving and retired police officers, firefighters and civilians, all of whom are volunteers. They are a nonprofit organization who, in addition to their soul-stirring performances, sponsor and organize charitable endeavors throughout South Florida and the Florida Keys.

**DRAKE SCHOOL OF IRISH DANCE**

The Drake School of Irish Dance, founded in 1990 by Dublin, Ireland native Karl Drake, is one of the most prestigious Irish dance schools in the South. Drake Irish Dance of South Florida is led by Christina Deacy, herself once a Drake student who won the 2011 Southern Regional Championships and later earned a 16th-place finish at nationals and 36th place at worlds. Drake Irish Dancers have created a legacy of competitive achievements. Their performances are an exciting blend of talent, joy and enthusiasm.

**FLORIDA KEYS ELECTRIC COOPERATIVE**

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Members of St. Joseph's Episcopal Church



Father Marty of St. Joseph's Episcopal Church leads the Candlelight Compline at a prior Celtic Festival.

### JOIN THE CANDLELIGHT COMPLINE

As the drums of the festival fade away into the night, join us as we bid farewell to the day and turn toward the center field for a Candlelight Compline. Prayers that have been collected from the spirituality tent will be offered at that time. This brief service follows Saturday's closing of the festival.

### SUNDAY MORNING WORSHIP

9:30-10:30 a.m. Marathon Community Park

Join us as we celebrate the new day with the Episcopal service of worship and a blend of worship from Iona Abbey. This service will feature opportunities for prayer and singing.

### SPIRITUALITY TENT

Stop by the Spirituality Tent to see the beautiful labyrinth artwork, take part in arts and crafts or offer a prayer. The spirituality tent is led by Father Marty and a wonderful group of people from St. Joseph's Episcopal Church from Boynton Beach.

## A COLLECTION OF CLANS

The Florida Keys Celtic Festival is honored to welcome the following clans and societies

### EXPERIENCE SCOTTISH CULTURE THROUGH THE CLAN TENTS

A Scottish clan is a group of people who share a common ancestry and identity. By visiting the clan tents, you can learn more about the rich cultural history of the Scottish people. Make sure to grab a Clan Passport for your children at the Children's Glen. They can get their passport stamped by each clan and receive a prize.



Clan Guthrie



Clan Hay



MacFarland Clan



MacLauren Clan



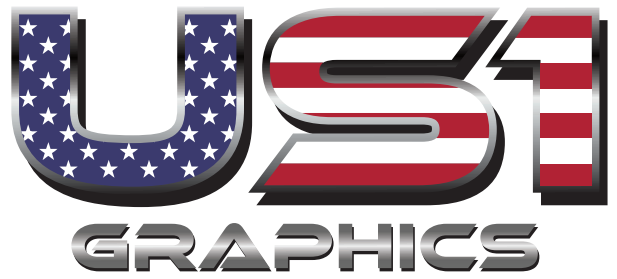
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