



Happy New Year
from your Chamber
of Commerce!



Chamber Connection

915 N. Suncoast Blvd., Crystal River, FL 34429 · 352-795-3149 · 106 W. Main St., Inverness, FL 34450 · 352-726-2801



Official Manatee Festival Kick-Off Mixer at Norton's Riverside!

Thursday, Jan. 12, 5 - 7 p.m.
Norton's Riverside Sports Bar & Grill,
16 NE Fifth St., Crystal River



Produced by
Presented by



2017 Chamber Board

The Citrus County Chamber welcomes our 2017 Board of Directors:

Executive Board

Clayton Jeck, Chair
Capital City Bank
Joe Meek, Chair-elect
Citrus Builder

Rob Wardlow, Treasurer
Wardlow & Cash, P.A.
Carol Kimbrough, Secretary
Specialty Gems
Jim Harvey, Immediate Past Chair
College of Central Florida (ret.)

Board Members

Ralph Aleman
Citrus Memorial Hospital/HCA
Becky Beattie
Citrus Memorial Hospital/HCA
Austin Brown
Seven Rivers Regional Medical Center
George Bendtsen
Insurance by George
Mike Buchanan
Excel Printing
David Reed
YMCA
Sue Fullerton
Walk Don't Run Travel
Jim Ferrara
Regions Bank
Carl Flanagan
Nature Coast Bank /
Drummond Community Bank
Grace Hengesbach
Citrus County Blessings

Leon McClellan
M&B Dairy
John Murphy
Citrus County Chronicle
Gerry Mulligan
Citrus County Chronicle
Kelley Paul
Wollinka Wikle Title
Rick Burns
Reel Burns Fishing Charters
Tom Ryan
Central Ridge Insurers
Don Taylor
EDACC
Vernon Lawter
College of Central Florida
Denise VanNess
VanNess &
VanNess Associates
Harold Walker
Duke Energy (ret.)

Manatee Festival less than 2 weeks away

Never fear the "post-holiday blues" — the Florida Manatee Festival is just around the corner!

The 30th annual Florida Manatee Festival runs Saturday and Sunday, Jan. 14 and 15, in downtown Crystal River and have we ever got an event planned for you!

TWO entertainment stages, TWO beer and wine gardens, and TWO food courts will be sure to satisfy you no matter which end of the festival you find yourself at.

FREE shuttle buses to Three Sisters Springs; manatee boat tours of King's Bay available at the waterfront for a

nominal extra fee.

An EXPANDED Kids' Zone with pony rides, a petting zoo, inflatables and more, plus car shows and a boat show.

MORE THAN 100 fine art and craft artists, and an emerging student artist area.

Festival hours are 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. Saturday, Jan. 14, and 9 a.m. to 4 p.m. Sunday, Jan. 15. Admission is \$5; kids younger than 12 get in for free. Park at the Crystal River Mall and ride a FREE shuttle to the festival.

The Manatee Festival is produced by the Citrus County Chamber of Commerce and Crystal River Rotary.



Appearing at the Waterfront Main Stage on Saturday and Sunday afternoons are, from left: Steve Everett — nominated for Country Album of the Year (Independent Music Association); Mike Mentz — nominated for Adult Contemporary Album of the Year (Independent Music Association); and Amy Gerhartz. PICTURED BELOW: Also on the Waterfront Main Stage will be Virginia-based rock band MELODIME, and street performer David Ferman will roam North Citrus Avenue both days.

Entertainment at the Florida Manatee Festival

Waterfront Main Stage: Music begins at 9 a.m.
Saturday and Sunday afternoons: Nationally acclaimed indie singer/songwriter artists
Saturday morning opening act: Jo Jo Jones, and the "Jo Jo and Mel Show"
Sunday morning opening act: DJ John Diorio

Gazebo Acoustic Stage: Music begins at 10 a.m., featuring local talent
Saturday: Sophie Noelle, followed by DJ John Diorio
Sunday: Sophie Noelle, followed by Jeff Jarrett

Street Performer: Comedy Juggling and Extreme Stunts
David Ferman, from "America's Got Talent" fame, performs throughout the weekend on North Citrus Avenue.



RECENT RIBBON CUTTINGS

Welcome New Chamber Members: The Chamber continues to grow weekly! We welcome our new members and thank all of them for joining the Chamber. We encourage the community to patronize their businesses.

Kustom Glass

352-795-7146



The Chamber would like to showcase Glenn and Kathy Palhof, owners of Kustom Glass. Here are just a few of the things they offer — magnetic signs, banners, decals, name badges, laser engraving on granite/marble/glass/wood, trophies, awards and printing. Ambassadors to welcome them include Jennifer Duca, Fidelity Title Services; Betty Murphy, Citrus Archives & Computers; Dennis Pfeiffer, Orkin Pest Control; Barbara Donohoe, Citrus County Chronicle; and Mary Pericht, Cadence Bank. Kustom Glass is at 5086 N. Citrus Ave., Crystal River. Call (352) 795-7146.

Prendergast to speak at luncheon



Mike Prendergast

New Citrus County Sheriff Mike Prendergast is the keynote speaker for the Chamber's January luncheon on Jan. 20 at the Plantation on Crystal River. This will be one of the new sheriff's first public speaking

engagements following his swearing-in as the new Citrus County Sheriff on Jan. 3. The luncheon is sponsored by United Way of Citrus County. To RSVP for all Chamber luncheons, call Janet at 352-795-3149.

Chamber Legacy Partners

The Chamber recognizes our Legacy Partners that have made a special investment in the Chamber to support

the programs and mission of the Chamber. For information on becoming a Legacy Partner, please contact the Chamber at 352-795-3149.



30th Annual Florida Manatee Festival Sponsors

Presenting: Suncoast Credit Union

Gold: CRYSTAL AUTOMOTIVE / MOTORCYCLE GROUP

Silver: Great Bay Distributors, Norton's Riverside, Plantation on Crystal River
Bronze: Brannen Bank, Citrus Sports & Apparel, HomeTown Values, Maus Nissan of Crystal River, Nick Nicholas Ford Lincoln
Friends of the Festival: Hampton Inn and Holiday Inn Express Crystal River
Media: Citrus County Chronicle, Citrus 95.3 / FOX 96.7, Tampa Bay Times, WJXB 99.9 FM
Chamber Legacy Sponsors: Insight Credit Union, Citrus Memorial Hospital, CCSO
F.O.C.U.S., CareerSource CLM

Chamber events

Jan. 12 — Manatee Festival Kickoff Mixer, Norton's Riverside, downtown Crystal River
Jan. 14-15 — 30th annual Manatee Festival, downtown Crystal River
Jan. 20 — Chamber Luncheon at the Plantation on Crystal River; guest speaker Sheriff-elect Mike Prendergast; sponsored by United Way
Feb. 2 — Mixer at Village Cadillac Toyota
Feb. 10 — Chamber Luncheon at Citrus Hills; guest speaker Commission Chair Scott Camahan; sponsored by Citrus Memorial Health
Feb. 23 — Chamber Membership Benefits Meeting, Welcome Center
March 4-5 — Floral City Strawberry Festival, Floral Park
March 10 — Chamber Luncheon at Crystal River Golf Club; speaker TBA
March 16 — Mixer at Highland Hills Country Club
March 23 — Legislative Day in Tallahassee
For more information on all Chamber events, call 352-795-3149 or go to www.CitrusCountyChamber.com.