



Chamber Connection

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

Manatee Festival begins Saturday!

It's **HERE!** Come to downtown Crystal River this weekend for Citrus County's "Best of the Best" Florida Manatee Festival!

Look for the Florida Manatee Festival pull-out tab in this Thursday's Chronicle for complete information on the festival with full entertainment schedules, Three Sisters Springs shuttles and manatee boat tours, vendor listings, kids' activities and much more.



FESTIVAL AT A GLANCE

- **WHAT:** 30th Annual Florida Manatee Festival
- **WHEN:** Saturday, Jan. 14, 9 a.m. to 5 p.m.; Sunday, Jan. 15, 9 a.m. to 4 p.m.
- **COST:** \$5 per person, age 12 and under free
- **WHERE:** Downtown Crystal River, at the intersection of Citrus Avenue and U.S. 19, stretching up through the shops and restaurants of Heritage Village and surrounding areas, down to the waterside area along King's Bay.
- **PARKING:** Free parking at the Crystal River Mall at 1801 NW U.S. 19 (approximately one mile north of the event) with free shuttle buses to the event. There is limited street and handicap parking available.
- **BOAT TOURS:** Local boat captains will offer boat tours on a first-come basis. Tickets are available for \$10 for adults; children 12 and under free. The tickets are good only on the date purchased and are sold at the boat dock area near northwest Third Street (King's Bay Park).
- **THREE SISTERS SPRINGS:** Free shuttles will transport visitors to Three Sisters Springs from the bus stop on northeast Fifth Street.
- **EVENT WEBSITE:** www.gomanateefest.com or www.facebook.com/FloridaManateeFestival
- **CHAMBER PHONE:** 352-795-3149

2017 Florida Manatee Festival sponsors



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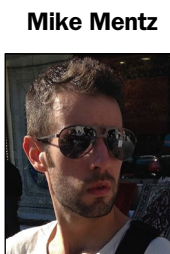
Citrus Automotive & Motorcycle Group



Entertainment on the Waterfront Stage ...



Steve Everett



Mike Mentz



Amy Gerhartz



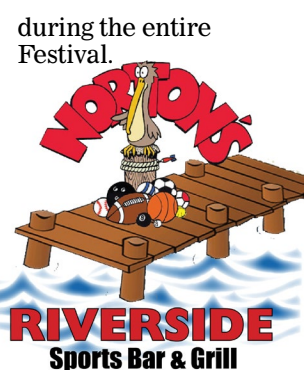
MELODIME



David Ferman will be roaming Citrus Avenue.

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

Norton's Riverside Bar & Grill is the official party place of the 30th Annual Florida Manatee Festival! Join us for the Kick Off Mixer on Thursday, Jan. 12 from 5-7 p.m. Norton's will also serve as a "refreshment stop" for your pleasure



MLK Day in Citrus County

The Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. Foundation of Citrus County will present the annual Martin Luther King Jr. Commemorative Weekend 2017 — "SHARE THE DREAM." They invite everyone to come out and share in the scheduled events:

- Saturday, Jan. 14, 6 p.m. Commemorative Service George Washington Carver Community Center 95 Three Sisters Springs Trail Crystal River
- Sunday, Jan. 15, 5 p.m. Martin Luther King Jr. Service Seven Rivers Presbyterian Church 4221 W. Gulf-to-Lake Highway Lecanto, FL
- Monday, Jan. 16 SHARE THE DREAM Parade, 11 a.m. Beginning at Tire Kingdom to Auto Zone

and dismantling at Copeland Park Fellowship Picnic, noon Copeland Park, Crystal River

For more information, contact Charles McCray at 352-257-3467. Additionally, the New Church Without Walls in conjunction with the City of Inverness will present a Unity Walk downtown:

- Monday, Jan. 16, 8:30-9:45 a.m. MLK Unity Walk Start at the Valerie Theatre, 207 Courthouse Square, Inverness to Liberty Park, 286 N. Apopka Ave., Inverness. A presentation from the New Church Without Walls will begin shortly after 9 a.m. "Selma," a historical drama set during the American civil rights movement, will start at 10 a.m., following the MLK Unity Walk, at the Valerie Theatre. For tickets contact the Valerie Theatre at 352-341-7850.

New sheriff, BOCC leader to speak to Chamber

Sheriff Mike Prendergast is the keynote speaker for the Chamber's January luncheon on Jan. 20 at the Plantation on Crystal River. This is one of his first public speaking engagements following his swearing-in on Jan. 3. Sponsored by United Way of Citrus County.

Citrus County Commission Chair Scott Carnahan is speaker for the February luncheon on Feb. 10 at Citrus Hills Golf & Country Club. He will speak about his visions and goals for Citrus County for 2017. Sponsored by Citrus Memorial Hospital. RSVP to Janet at 352-795-3149.

New Image Award



The Valerie Theatre in downtown Inverness was the recipient of the Chamber Ambassador's New Image Award for December. The Valerie, which was purchased by the City of Inverness in 2009 after sitting vacant since 1987, was rebuilt last year into an intimate multipurpose cultural and event space. Since its grand reopening in June 2015, the Valerie has become a cultural destination with a full schedule of movies, concerts, plays, educational exhibits and special events. Shown presenting and accepting the New Image Award are, from left: Frank DiGiovanni, Inverness City Manager; Inverness City Council members Cabot McBride, David Ryan, Jacquie Hepler, Ken Hinkle, and Linda Bega; Inverness Mayor Bob Plaisted; Jennifer Duca, Chair of the Chamber Ambassadors' New Image Committee; and Alan Florino, Director of the Valerie Theatre. For information and an event schedule: www.valerietheatre.org or 352-341-7850. Valerie Theatre, 207 Courthouse Square, Inverness, FL 34450

'Chamber Report' on WYKE

Watch the weekly "Chamber Report" show on WYKE-TV to stay abreast of Chamber events, issues and member spotlights with host Josh Wooten. "Chamber Report" is broadcast on Tuesdays at 4:30 p.m. on Bright House Channel 16 and Channel 47 (digital antenna). It can also be accessed on LiveStream.com by searching for WYKE.

The Chamber's Special Events Manager Kathleen Grady-Weil joins host Josh Wooten on this week's show to talk about the full line up of happenings at the Florida Manatee Festival. "Chamber Report" is your ticket to the many happenings in Citrus County!



Kathleen Grady-Weil

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. 16 — Chamber office CLOSED - Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. Birthday
 - 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 Carnahan; 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.