



Promotional information provided
by the Citrus Chamber of Commerce.

Mission of the Citrus County Chamber of Commerce

The Citrus County Chamber of Commerce is an organization of businesses unified in efforts to advance the economic growth of the region, promote the interests of the business community, provide key leadership on key commerce issues and preserve the county's quality of life.

Chamber Connection

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

Join the Chamber for Legislative Day on March 23

The Citrus County Chamber of Commerce is headed to Tallahassee on Thursday, March 23, for Citrus County Legislative Day and we invite you to join us!

This annual event is one of the Chamber's most popular for our business community to hear from legislators and agency officials on issues that are important to our community. Registration for Legislative Day is now open on the Chamber website.

Two options are available: 1) an all-inclusive trip that includes round-trip bus transportation, the Legislative speaker sessions, lunch with a keynote speaker, and free time to sit in on sessions or attend committee meetings; or 2) for those who



Crystal Automotive and Motorcycle Group is the Presenting Sponsor for Legislative Day on March 23 in Tallahassee.



wish to drive on their own, a second option includes the speaker sessions and lunch.

The Chamber thanks Presenting Sponsor Crystal Automotive and Motorcycle Group, Governors Club dinner sponsor ZF Systems, and luncheon

sponsor Duke Energy for their support in making this event possible.

For information, call Ardath Prendergast at 352-795-3149 or email to ardath@citruscounty-chamber.com. To register, go to CitrusCountyChamber.com.

Quick Care Med of Beverly Hills receives New Image Award



Quick Care Med of Beverly Hills was the recipient of the Chamber Ambassador's New Image Award for January. The Beverly Hills branch opened in June 2016 following the total renovation of a former pizzeria into a beautiful and modern walk-in medical care clinic. Praised for their short wait times, Quick Care Med offers affordable health care and accepts most insurance plans, as well as a reduced rate for self-pay clients. Pictured, from left, are: Clayton Jeck, Chamber Board Chair; Jennifer Duca, Chair of the Chamber Ambassadors' New Image Award Committee; Kellie Moran, Office Manager for the Beverly Hills location, and Charley Cook, Quick Care Med Regional Manager. Quick Care Med is open Monday through Friday from 9 a.m. to 7 p.m., and Saturday through Sunday from 9 a.m. to 4 p.m. It is located at 3925 N. Lecanto Highway, Beverly Hills, next to the Post Office and Skeets Restaurant. 352-527-SICK (7425); www.QuickCareMed.com.

'Chamber Report' on WYKE



Joyce Palmer

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.

This week's program features Joyce Palmer, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Refuge Manager for Crystal River National Wildlife Refuge (CRNWR), and Tom Gotterup, President of the

Friends of CRNWR. They talk with Josh about the current manatee season, the recently completed bank stabilization project at Three Sisters Springs and last year's wetland restoration by the Southwest Florida Water Management District (SWFWMD), the Friends' educational programs for area elementary students and plans for the near future.

"Chamber Report" is your ticket to the many happenings in Citrus County!



Tom Gotterup

Chamber events

Feb. 10 — Chamber Luncheon at Citrus Hills; guest speaker is Commission Chair Scott Carnahan; sponsored by Citrus Memorial Health
Feb. 23 — "Know Your Chamber Benefits" 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; sponsored by Drummond Community Bank.
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.

Strawberry Festival returns to Floral Park March 4 & 5

There's a feeling of spring in the air and the promise of new growth as our days begin to get a little longer. And what does that make us think about? STRAWBERRIES! Those luscious, sweet, refreshing and healthy red berries that signal the Floral City Strawberry Festival!

Make your plans now to attend the Citrus County Chamber of Commerce's 30th Annual Floral City Strawberry Festival on March 4 and 5 in Floral Park presented by Insight Credit Union. This perennially favorite festival that attracts over 20,000 patrons is a salute to local agriculture that features the strawberries of our local grower, Ferris Farms. It is the perfect opportunity to indulge in first-of-the-season local strawberries in delicious strawberry shortcake and as a special treat to take home by the flat and half-flat!

In addition to berries, the Floral City Strawberry Festival has so much more in store for you, including top notch musical entertainment featuring the return of indie music artists Amy Gerhartz and Mike Mentz who recently wowed audiences at the Florida Manatee Festival;



Insight Credit Union returns for a second year as Presenting Sponsor of the Floral City Strawberry Festival.

such as the Sheriff vs. the Fire departments, teachers vs. students, Army vs. Navy v. Air Force vs. Marines, and more. Advance sign-up is required at www.GoStrawberryFest.com.

Children's activities play a big role in the Strawberry Festival and will keep the little ones entertained for hours.

Look for a petting zoo, an exciting variety of inflatables and bounce houses,



Photo by Michael Pate

Getting messy is A-OK when it's a strawberry pie-eating contest!

the ever-popular aqua tumble bubbles, a climbing rock wall and much more.

More than 200 booths filled with craft artists, local non-profits, and commercial vendors will make shopping a pleasure. And let's not forget about the food! Everything from seafood to barbecue, frozen smoothies and ice creams, craft sodas to homemade pretzels will insure that you will not go home hungry.

The Chamber thanks its growing list of sponsors, including Presenting Sponsor Insight Credit Union, the Citrus County Chronicle, Tampa Bay Times, Brannen Bank, Hometown Values, Advanced Disposal and Nature Coast EMS. For other sponsorship opportunities, we invite you to contact Janet at 352-795-3149.

Floral City Strawberry Festival hours are 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. on Saturday, and 9 a.m. to 4 p.m. on Sunday. Floral Park is located at 9530 S. Parkside Ave., Floral City, FL 34426. For information, contact the Citrus County Chamber of Commerce at 352-795-3149, or www.GoStrawberryFest.com.



Photo by Michael Pate

Volunteers deliver more strawberries for sale at last year's Strawberry Festival.

Florida grass roots country and blues artist Jody Beggs and The Jody Beggs Band; and the high-energy country, southern rock, classic rock hit band, The Dan Story Band.

Miss Strawberry Princess Pageants for girls ages 4-6, and 7-12 on Saturday morning are a festival tradition going back to the early days of the event. This special pageant is designed to be fun and enjoyable for the whole family and to help children build self-esteem. It is not a highly competitive event. Applications to participate are on the Strawberry Festival website at www.GoStrawberryFest.com.

The extremely popular and extremely messy pie-eating contests return on both Saturday and Sunday. There will be contests for adults, along with special contests for the little ones and maybe even super competitive "rival" contests



Photo by Michael Pate

Patrons enjoying the entertainment at last year's Strawberry Festival.



Scott Carnahan

Scott Carnahan to be speaker for February's Chamber Luncheon

Citrus County Commission Chair Scott Carnahan is the keynote speaker for the Chamber's luncheon on Feb. 10 at Citrus Hills. The Commissioner will speak about his visions and

goals for Citrus County for 2017. The luncheon is sponsored by Citrus Memorial Hospital.

To RSVP call Janet at 352-795-3149. The last day to register is Wednesday, Feb. 8.

Chamber Member News

Join Crystal River Watersports and the Citrus County Dive Club in the Western Caribbean

Chamber member Crystal River Watersports and the Citrus County Dive Club are offering a seven-day Riviera Maya Diving Trip from June 10-17. Activities will include six reef dives, two Cenote dives and a whale shark snorkeling excursion. The trip includes all dives, accommodations, food and drink, tanks and weights. For information, contact Mike Engles at Crystal River Watersports, 352-795-7033, or info@crystalriverwatersports.com.

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.

