



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.

Promotional information provided by the Citrus 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

Floral City Strawberry Festival opens Saturday

It's here! The 30th Annual Insight Credit Union Floral City Strawberry Festival opens Saturday morning in Floral Park. This perennially favorite festival 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!

The Floral City Strawberry Festival has something for everybody with a full line up of fun activities, top notch musical entertainment, shopping galore, kids' zones, fabulous food and beer and wine.

For complete information about ALL Strawberry Festival activities and maps, including a complete list of food, arts and crafts, nonprofit and business vendors, pick up a copy of the

Thursday, March 2, edition of the Citrus County Chronicle for a comprehensive pullout section.

The Insight Credit Union Floral City Strawberry Festival hours are 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. Saturday, and 9 a.m. to 4 p.m. Sunday. Admission is \$5; children 12 and under are free. Floral Park is at 9530 S. Parkside Ave., Floral City. Park at the Citrus County Auditorium and ride a free shuttle to the festival.

For information, contact the Citrus County Chamber of Commerce at 352-795-3149, or www.GoStrawberryFest.com.



Festival Schedule

SATURDAY

Festival Main Stage:

9 a.m.: Festival Opening Ceremonies
Presentation of the Colors: VFW Post 4337, Inverness

Pledge of Allegiance: led by Sheriff Mike Prendergast

National Anthem: sung by Angela Vick, Citrus County Clerk of the Court

9:15 a.m.: Little Miss and Miss Strawberry Princess Pageants

11 a.m. to 1:30 p.m.: Jody Beggs Band

2 to 5 p.m.: Singer/songwriters Mike Mentz and Amy Gerhartz

Pie-Eating Contests:

Signups to participate begin at 11:30 a.m. at the Chamber Information tent by the Strawberry Shortcake booth. One minute to eat the most strawberry-and-whipped-cream pie will earn the winner \$50 in each category. Only eight spaces available per category and spaces fill quickly.

12:30 p.m.: Contests begin for ages 10 and under; ages 11-17; ages 18 and over; age 50

and over (Saturday only)

Strawberry Team War: "The Cops v. The Fire Fighters" - Citrus County Sheriff's Office v. Citrus County Sheriff Fire Rescue

Also:

Car show: on the hill in the center of the park
All day: The Traveling A's — Model A Group

SUNDAY

Festival Main Stage:

9:30 a.m. to 1 p.m.: DJ John DiOrto

1 to 4 p.m.: The Dan Story Band

Pie-Eating Contests:

Signups to participate begin at 11:30 a.m. at the Chamber Information tent by the Strawberry Shortcake booth. One minute to eat the most strawberry-and-whipped-cream pie will earn the winner \$50 in each category. Only eight spaces available per category and spaces fill quickly.

12:30 p.m.: Contests begin for ages 10 and under; ages 11-17; ages 18 and over

Strawberry Team War: Citrus Memorial Hospital vs. Seven Rivers Regional Medical Center

Juggler David Ferman will be at the Strawberry Festival!



David Ferman has quickly become a fan favorite at the Florida Manatee Festival over the last two years. Now David brings his amazing juggling skills with hilarious comedy and death-defying stunts to the Strawberry Festival!

David has been featured on "Good Morning America" and was also a quarter-finalist on Season 8 of "America's Got Talent." David will perform both Saturday and Sunday throughout the festival. You just never know where he may pop up and amaze you! Visit www.davidferman.com.



30th Annual Insight Credit Union Floral City Strawberry Festival Sponsors

The Citrus County Chamber of Commerce thanks our valued sponsors for their support that makes it possible for us to bring this great event to the community:

Title Sponsor: Insight Credit Union

Bronze: Suncoast Credit Union, Brannen Bank, Advanced Disposal, Nature Coast EMS, Nick Nicholas Ford, Grand Living at Citrus Hills, Maus Nissan

Media Partners: Citrus County Chronicle, Tampa Bay Times, Hometown Values, Citrus 95.6/The FOX 96.7, WXJB 99.9FM, CBS Sports Radio 104.3

Legacy Partners: Insight Credit Union, Citrus Memorial Hospital, CareerSource Citrus Levy Marion, Citrus County Sheriff's Office F.O.C.U.S.

Adam Putnam is keynote Legislative Day speaker

The Chamber is excited to announce that Commissioner of Agriculture and Consumer Affairs Adam Putnam has been confirmed as the keynote speaker for the Chamber's Legislative Day event in Tallahassee on March 23.



Adam Putnam

For over two decades, the Chamber has organized a trip to Tallahassee during the annual Legislative session for up to 100 Citrus County business leaders, officials and citizens to hear from and discuss issues of priority to the business community. Thanks to the active participation by our community, Citrus County enjoys a reputation of having one of the premiere Legislative Days, which allows the Chamber to command an impressive roster of speakers.

Legislative Day is open to any Citrus County business person or citizen that



wishes to join in. The trip includes round-trip bus transportation to Tallahassee, all sessions and the luncheon, followed by free time in the afternoon to sit in on legislative sessions or committee meetings. An alternative option is available for those who prefer to arrange for their own transportation.

Register on the Chamber website at CitrusCountyChamber.com. For more information, call Ardath at 352-795-3149.

The Chamber thanks Presenting Sponsor Crystal Automotive & Motorcycle Group; Dinner Sponsors Sea and Shoreline, LLC and ZF Systems; Luncheon Sponsor Duke Energy; and Bus Sponsor Advanced Disposal Systems for helping to make Legislative Day possible.

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.

Mike Orlito — RE/MAX Realty One

352-257-5375



The Chamber would like to welcome Mike Orlito with RE/MAX Realty One. Prior to joining RE/MAX Realty One as Broker Associate, he worked in Citrus County as a consultant for the Florida Small Business Development Center at UNF. He is a board member with the Community Food Bank of Citrus County and also with Citrus County Blessings. Mike embraces the opportunity to be of service to this community especially when it involves eliminating hunger. Prior to relocating to Florida in 2007, Mike worked with First Team Real Estate in Long Beach, California for five years. Ambassadors to welcome him include Jennifer Duca, Fidelity Title Services; Dennis Pfeiffer, Orkin Pest Control; Kristi Bortz, RE/MAX Realty One; Tyler Ross, Suncoast ERA; Barbara Donohoe, Citrus County Chronicle; and Tom Ryan, Central Ridge Insurers. Mike can be reached at 352-257-5375.

The Kleen Team

352-419-6557 • www.TheKleenTeam.net



The Chamber would like to welcome The Kleen Team of Bobbie, Mary, Sabrina, Evan and Dawn. They offer residential and commercial cleaning, move-in/move-out cleaning, one-time cleaning, window cleaning, lawn service, pressure washing and some minor handyman repairs. Several Ambassadors were in attendance, along with Chamber President/CEO Josh Wooten. The Kleen Team can be reached at 352-419-6557 or www.TheKleenTeam.net.

Randy Oliver is March Chamber luncheon speaker



Randy Oliver

County Administrator Randy Oliver is the keynote speaker for the Friday, March 10, Chamber luncheon. He will give an overview of county departments and divisions under his direction, and the status of current and future county projects.

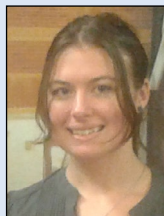
Note that the March luncheon

will be held at Crystal River Golf Club (formerly the Seven Rivers Golf Club) behind the Crystal River Airport.

The Chamber thanks Drummond Community Bank for sponsoring the luncheon.

For more information and to RSVP, call Janet at 352-795-3149.

'Chamber Report' on WYKE



Kathleen Grady-Weil

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 Adam Thomas, Director of the Citrus County Visitors Bureau, who talks with Josh about the recent approval of the 2-cent bed tax and the

benefits it will bring to the County, along with information on winter tourism experiences, and the world-wide attention that Citrus County is getting from magazine and blog writers and video producers. Also, Kathleen



Adam Thomas

Grady-Weil, Special Events Coordinator for the Chamber, gives up-to-date and last-minute information about the Floral City Strawberry Festival.

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

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.



Chamber events

March 4 & 5 — Floral City Strawberry Festival, Floral Park

March 10 — Chamber Luncheon at Crystal River Golf Club; speaker is Citrus County Administrator Randy Oliver; sponsored by Drummond Community Bank.

March 16 — Mixer at Highland Hills Country Club

March 23 — Legislative Day in Tallahassee

April 28 — Annual Chamber Pillar Awards

For more information on all Chamber events, call 352-795-3149 or go to www.CitrusCountyChamber.com.