

Chamber Connection

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



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.

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.

The Hagar Group

352-726-1691 • www.HagarGroup.com



The Chamber would like to congratulate Greg Hagar, President and Brandel Eldridge, Sr. Vice President, along with their associates, of The Hagar Group on their new location at 151 East Highland Boulevard, Inverness. They offer insurance on auto, boat, watercraft, homeowners, rentals, tenants, motorcycles, recreational vehicles, flood, commercial, life and health. Ambassadors to welcome them include Dennis Pfeiffer, Orkin Pest Control; Associate Member, Lauren Heise; Mary Pericht, Cadence Bank; Carole Morrissey, Wollinka Wickle Title Insurance; Tom Ryan, Central Ridge Insurers; Associate Member, Lisa Nash; and Jennifer Duca, Fidelity Title Services. Call 352-726-1691 or visit www.HagarGroup.com.

Goodies Ice Cream Parlor

352-503-6704



The Chamber would like to welcome Stormy Johnson, owner of Goodies Ice Cream Parlor, with her staff members Emily, Angel, Carol, Lana and Jordan. They offer soft-serve and homemade hard ice cream, sundaes, banana splits, root beer floats and shakes. Their ice cream is made right there using natural and sustainable whole ingredients sourced locally, seasonally and organically whenever possible. Goodies is at 5356 S Suncoast Blvd., Homosassa. Call 352-503-6704.

Floral City Strawberry Festival continues today!

After an amazing opening yesterday, the Insight Credit Union Floral City Strawberry Festival continues today from 9 a.m. to 4 p.m. at Floral Park.

Come join us for another day of great entertainment, scrumptious strawberry shortcake, fabulous food selections, arts and crafts, beer and wine, kids' activities and more! Then take a fond

memory of the festival home with you in the form of a full- or half-flat of locally grown luscious fresh strawberries! For your convenience, strawberries are for sale at the entrance/exit gates and at the County Auditorium at the shuttle bus drop off so that you don't have far to carry them to your car after a fun time at the festival.

Festival at a Glance

WHEN: Continuing today, Sunday, March 5, 9 a.m. to 4 p.m.

WHERE: Floral Park, 9530 S. Parkside Ave., Floral City, 3 miles south of downtown Floral City on U.S. 41

COST: Festival admission is \$5 per adult; children 12 and younger are free

PARKING: On site at Floral Park or at the Citrus County Auditorium located at 3610 S. Florida Ave, Inverness. Free shuttle buses from the auditorium running all day, both days

WEBSITE: www.gostrawberryfest.com

FROM LEFT:
David Ferman,
DJ John DiOrio,
The Dan Story
Band



Festival Schedule

SUNDAY

Festival Main Stage:

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

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

Juggler David Ferman from "America's Got Talent" fame will be roving and performing throughout the festival. Keep your eyes open!

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:

"The Cops vs. The Fire Fighters" — Citrus County Sheriff's Office vs. Citrus County Sheriff Fire Rescue

Join the Chamber on March 23 for Legislative Day in Tallahassee

There are still some seats available on the Chamber's "Tallahassee Express" bus on March 23. Join the Chamber for a fun and informative day in Tallahassee as part of the annual Legislative Day trip.

For over two decades, the Chamber has organized a trip to Tallahassee during the 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.

The growing list of speakers for the morning sessions includes our own Sen. Wilton Simpson and Rep. Ralph Massullo, House Speaker Richard Corcoran, and Sen. Jack Latvala. We will also meet with agency officials, including Commissioner of Agriculture Adam Putnam, Department of Environment Protection Secretary Ryan Matthews, Department of Transportation Assistant Secretary Tom Byron and Visit Florida Executive Director Ken Lawson. Additionally, we will be treated to an insightful look into Florida politics present and future by Marian Johnson, Senior Vice President of Political Strategy with the Florida Chamber.

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

Citrus County Chamber of Commerce
Legislative Day
3.23.17



Agricultural and Consumer Affairs Commissioner Adam Putnam is the keynote speaker for the Chamber's Legislative Day in Tallahassee.

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.

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 overview of County departments and divisions under his direction, and the status of current and future County projects.

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 member news

SCORE to offer workshop on growing your business

Chamber member Citrus County SCORE will present a free workshop on March 28 on "Simple Steps to Grow your Business." This workshop will cover: Marketing YOUR Business, Have your Business Needs Changed?,

Marketing Options, Customer Retention and Customer Service, Growing YOUR Sales, 5 Steps to Sales, Setting Sales Goals and Benchmarking, and Using Technology to Enhance Sales.

The workshop is 6-7:30 p.m. March 28 at the College of Central Florida in Lecanto. For information and to register, call 352-246-1236.

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 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 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.