

Chamber Connection

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

Pillar Awards Evening at Black Diamond Ranch

'Classic Hollywood Glamour' on April 28

The Citrus County Chamber of Commerce will present its annual Pillar Awards during a Classic Hollywood Glamour-themed gala event on April 28 at Black Diamond Ranch in Lecanto.

Step out in your favorite glamour, and step into a bit of old Hollywood with opening night search lights, movie star posters and film clips, a live jazz trio, movie theme songs, and even star-and starlet-themed cocktails. Pose for your red-carpet photos, and enjoy an exquisite dinner befitting Hollywood royalty preceding the presentation of the awards.

The Chamber Pillar Awards honors contributions of individuals, businesses and organizations to Citrus County over the past year. The Chamber awards have been presented annually since 1992. Over the years, more than 254 individuals and businesses have been recognized for beneficent acts that have added to the quality of life in Citrus County.

Award categories are:

■ Charles B. Fitzpatrick Heritage Award: for an individual who has made a significant impact on the quality of life in Citrus County with a lifetime of service and community involvement.

■ Rick Quinn Distinguished Citizen Award: for a deserving "low-profile" community leader who exemplifies the ideals of community volunteerism in their daily lives.

■ Dr. O.J. Humphries Community Service Award: for an adult who has contributed significantly to the education of youth in Citrus County through volunteer work.

■ Shawn Harrison Outstanding Youth Service Award: for a youth who has shown outstanding volunteer service for the betterment of youth in Citrus County.

■ John T. Barnes Outstanding Community Organization Award: for a non-profit organization that has significantly sustained its contribution to Citrus County over the years.

■ Walt Connors Small Business Award: for a small well-established business that has made a significant impact on the quality of business in Citrus County through sustained contributions over the years to the community through their support.

■ J.L. Hassell Award: for an



individual or business that has given significant support to the Chamber of Commerce.

Chamber members, as well as members of the community, are invited to submit nominations for awards. Online nomination forms are available at CitrusCountyChamber.com, or by calling or stopping in to either the Crystal River or Inverness Chamber offices. The deadline for nominations is April 7.

Additionally, the Chamber's in-house committees will nominate and select recipients to receive the Jean Grant Business Women's Alliance Award, the Young Professionals Mandi Warren Richards Rising Star Award, the Lillian Smith Leadership Citrus Award, and the Ambassador of the Year Award. The Chamber also recognizes Chamber Champions who have made special contributions of time or talent to the Chamber over the past year.

To attend the April 28 gala, register online through the Chamber website or by calling 352-795-3149. Admission is \$45 per person, or \$500 for a table of 10.

The Chamber thanks Presenting Sponsor Insight Credit Union for their support of the Pillar Awards, along with Chamber Legacy members Citrus Memorial Hospital, CareerSource CLM, and the Citrus County Sheriff's Office F.O.C.U.S. program. To join the growing list of sponsors, please contact Janet Mayo at 352-795-3149.

Last call to join the Chamber on March 23 for Legislative Day

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.

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 Ardat 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.

Chamber adopts new logo

The Citrus County Chamber of Commerce has a new logo!

The existing logo had been in use for over a decade and it was time for an update with a more modern look. Josh Wooten, Chamber President/CEO, said, "We are always looking at ways to keep our Chamber exciting and fresh. While keeping the color scheme and theme, we made the decision to modernize our logo. We unveiled it at the recent Floral City Strawberry Festival and received positive reviews."

The logo was designed by Jennifer



Worthington, formerly the Marketing Graphic Designer for the Citrus County Visitors & Convention Bureau.

Look for the new Chamber logo to be gradually transitioned into all Chamber materials over the next months.

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.

ERA Suncoast — Tyler Ross

253-691-9552



The Chamber would like to welcome Tyler Ross of ERA Suncoast. Tyler loves living here in Citrus county and enjoys working with people. He considers it both an honor and a privilege to be a Realtor in Citrus county. Buying a home can be a daunting task and each deal presents its own set of unique challenges. Tyler likes to think of himself as a real estate problem solver and likes seeing the happiness on a persons face when the deal closes and they just bought the home of their dreams. Ambassadors to welcome him include Betty Murphy, Citrus Archives and Computers; Barbara Donohoe, Citrus County Chronicle; Dennis Pfeiffer, Orkin Pest Control; Kristi Bortz, RE/MAX Realty One; Tom Ryan, Central Ridge Insurers; and Jennifer Duca, Fidelity Title Services. Tyler can be reached at 253-691-9552.

Crystal River Room Escape

352-228-4033



The Chamber would like to welcome Phillis Rosetti, owner and Andrea Cunningham, Manager of the Crystal River Room Escape. Bring your friends, family and co-workers for an hour of fun, excitement, creativity and teamwork. No special skills or knowledge is required to escape. Curiosity, creativity, quick thinking and resourcefulness are enough to succeed at this game. Do you have friends or family you would like to lock in a room? Gift vouchers are now available. To help welcome them include President/CEO, Josh Wooten and Hunter Springs Kayaks, Dave Perry. Ambassadors include Lisa Nash, Dennis Pfeiffer, Orkin Pest Control; Betty Murphy, Citrus Archives and Computers; Lauren Heise, Associate Member; and Karlene Feliciano, Plantation on Crystal River. 8740 Mayo Drive, Crystal River. Call 352-228-4033 or check out their Facebook page.



'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).



Kimberly Stibbs-Menster

It can also be accessed on Live Stream.com by searching for WYKE.

This week's program features Bill Coyle, Wellness Director for the Citrus County

YMCA, and Kimberly Stibbs-Menster, Service Officer for the Citrus County Veterans Services Office. They talk with host Josh Wooten about a new obstacle training course to be built on the YMCA's 7/10-mile nature trail. Veterans are welcomed to share their mental and physical skills in developing the training course to help strengthen current and future generations.

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



Bill Coyle

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 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.