

Chamber Connection

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

Congressman Webster to be April Chamber luncheon speaker

The Chamber is honored to present U.S. Congressman Daniel Webster as the keynote speaker for the Friday, April 7, Chamber luncheon.

Following a long and distinguished career in the Florida Legislature, Webster was first elected to Congress in 2010 representing the 8th District of Florida. Due to redistricting, he ran in 2012 in the 10th District, and later in 2016 in the 11th District



(which includes Citrus County) for the open seat vacated by the retiring Congressman Rich Nugent. Webster recently opened a district office in downtown Inverness.

The Chamber thanks 21st Century Oncology for sponsoring the luncheon.

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

CONGRESSMAN DANIEL WEBSTER

New award category for Chamber Pillar Awards

Philip P. Royal First Responder Award

The Citrus County Chamber of Commerce and the Phil Royal Legacy announced this week that a new award category will join the roster of annual Chamber Pillar Awards.

The Philip P. Royal First Responder Award will honor a first responder, who not only exemplifies their profession, but is motivated to pursue excellence in service of the community. The Phil P. Royal First Responder Award recognizes a law enforcement officer, firefighter or EMS person who has gone above and beyond the call of duty.

In creating the award, April Royal, executive director of the Phil Royal Legacy, said, "It is such an honor to be able to present this award each year to our first responders who truly give of themselves to our community."

The winner of the Philip P. Royal First Responder Award will be selected by the Legacy.

Chamber members, as well as members of the community, are invited to submit nominations for this and all Pillar awards. The Chamber Pillar Awards honors contributions of individuals, businesses and organizations to Citrus County over the past year. 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.

Award winners will be announced at the Chamber's 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.

To attend the April 28 gala, register online through the Chamber website or by calling 352-795-3149. Cost 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.

Chamber member news

Club Recovery to hold Walk-a-thon on April 1

Chamber member Club Recovery of Citrus County is sponsoring a 5-mile Walk for a Healthy Community on April 1 to fundraise toward the Club Recovery Building Fund.

Club Recovery is a place where men and women can go for AA or other recovery meetings and for fellowship in-between the meetings. The clubhouse is staffed and visited by volunteers that understand that problems sometimes go beyond the meetings and people need to talk with someone or just hang out with others who are experiencing similar difficulties.

Club Recovery is raising funds to build a new facility in Inverness. The April 1 walk will begin at Wallace Brooks Park at 10 a.m. A \$5 donation is suggested to participate. Prizes will be given out and a 50/50 drawing will be held. www.ClubRecovery.org

Arnold Virgilio, Jr. continues Virgilio Insurance Services

Chamber member Virgilio Insurance Services announces that Arnold Virgilio Jr., son of Mary-Ann and Arnold Virgilio, has assumed full responsibility for both existing and new client accounts.

Virgilio Jr. stated, "Please be assured I will service your insurance and/or investments needs in the same manner as my father; with integrity, with high ethical standards and first and foremost always in your best interest."

While the community and the family continues to mourn Arnold Virgilio, Sr., all

insurance provided by Virgilio Insurance Services, LLC, remains intact and uninterrupted during the transition. Virgilio Insurance may be reached at 352-201-5605.

Dispose of tires at landfill for free on April 1

Chamber member the Florida Department of Health in Citrus County has named Saturday, April 1, at "Citrus County Tire Amnesty Day." As part of the Department of Health Zika Response Plan in the continuing fight to cut down on mosquito breeding grounds that can cause the spread of Zika and other blood-borne illnesses, the Citrus County Solid Waste Division is holding a free tire disposal day at the landfill.

The Zika virus, a mosquito-borne infection linked to birth defects in Brazil and has made its way to Florida. Unrimmed tires hold rain water and, as such, serve as a breeding ground for mosquitoes.

During Tire Amnesty Day, Citrus County residents in assessed and non-assessed properties can dispose of passenger and pick-up tires without rims at the Citrus County Central Landfill, free of charge. Mosquito Control will assist the Landfill if necessary by spraying collected tires to prevent mosquito breeding until tires are properly disposed of and recycled. This does not apply to commercial entities. This event is scheduled from 8 a.m. to 2:30 p.m.

With the active season fast approaching, every effort we make to get ahead of the mosquito population is possibly one less infected resident.

Chamber presents check to Crystal River Rotary



The Citrus County Chamber of Commerce presented a check in the amount of \$27,905.90 to the Crystal River Rotary Club as the portion of proceeds earned by the Club during the 2017 Florida Manatee Festival. During the years that the Chamber and the Rotary have partnered on the Florida Manatee Festival, the Chamber has split admission gate proceeds with the Rotary, less a portion of common expenses. Over the past 7 years, the Rotary has received nearly \$120,000 through this arrangement. Shown, from left, are: Josh Wooten, Chamber president/CEO, presenting the check to Greg Hagar, 2017 chair of the Crystal River Rotary Florida Manatee Festival committee.

'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 Live Stream.com by searching for WYKE.

This week's program features

Katie Neely, program manager of Aspire Relationship Center, who gives an update on Aspire's programs and plans for the summer months.

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



Katie Neely

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 23 — Legislative Day in Tallahassee
April 7 — Chamber Luncheon at Citrus Hills; speaker is Congressman Daniel Webster; sponsor, 21st Century Oncology
April 13 — Mixer at Suncoast Credit Union
April 21 — Chamber Volunteer Appreciation Picnic
April 28 — Annual Chamber Pillar Awards
 For more information on all Chamber events, call 352-795-3149 or go to www.CitrusCountyChamber.com.

Chamber Ambassadors donate to Virgilio Scholarship Fund



The Chamber of Commerce Ambassadors recently made a donation to support the Arnold Virgilio Scholarship Fund that was created in memory of Mr. Virgilio's longstanding volunteer work with students and the school district in Citrus County. Shown, from left: Tom Ryan, Chamber Ambassadors chair, and Mary Pericht, treasurer, present a check to Arnold Virgilio, Jr. To make a personal contribution to the scholarship fund, mail your tax-deductible donation to: Cadence Bank, 301 U.S. 41 Inverness, FL 34450; Attn: Mary Pericht, payable to "Arnold A. Virgilio Memorial Scholarship Fund" or stop by in person at any local Cadence Bank branch.