



### 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

## Do YOU have a great idea for improving Citrus County?

Present it at *Fire Up Citrus!*

**F**ire Up Citrus! returns for a fourth year by popular demand, now as an event produced by the Citrus County Chamber of Commerce. This event brings citizens and local leaders together to present positive ideas to move our local economy forward.

This popular high-energy event has proven to be an incubator of new ideas, many of which received their first traction at Fire Up and have developed to fruition or are current works in progress. With just five minutes and 20 slides that automatically advance every 15 seconds, the evening is fast, furious and fun. Some of the ideas first floated at Fire Up include Veterans Village, Crystal River Aquarium, a yogurt shop that

spurred Flip Flop Yogurt, Citrus County Construction Academy, Pedal-Powered Works of Art, the Treetop Adventure & Zip Line, and a trolley service for tourists, among others.

Join us this year to see what new ideas just might "fire up" Citrus!

Maybe this is the year to present your idea to help put a fire under Citrus County! Can you make it a little entertaining, fairly fun, and totally presentable in five minutes flat? If so, we invite you to submit your application to present it at Fire Up Citrus! The application deadline is Sept 13. Applications are available on the Chamber website at [www.CitrusCountyChamber.com](http://www.CitrusCountyChamber.com). For more information, call Ardath Prendergast at 352-795-3149.

Fire Up Citrus! is the kick-off event for the Chamber's annual October Business Appreciation Month.

## Fire Up Citrus! 2017

October 5

Tuscany on the Meadows

350 E Norvell Bryant Hwy

Hernando, FL

[www.CitrusCountyChamber.com](http://www.CitrusCountyChamber.com)



What is YOUR idea to "fire up" Citrus?  
Applications on the Chamber website  
or 352.795.3149



### Fire Up Citrus! Using Local Ingenuity to Develop BIG Ideas!

**WHEN AND WHERE:** Oct. 5; 6-9 p.m. at Tuscany on the Meadows at the Quality Inn and Suites, 350 E. Norvell Bryant Hwy, Hernando. Admission is FREE — Complimentary hors d'oeuvres & cash bar  
Produced by the Citrus County Chamber of Commerce; for information: 352-795-3149

## Tickets now available for the BAM BBQ on Oct. 19

The biggest business networking event of the year will be held again on Oct. 19 at M&B Dairy in Lecanto. This perennially popular event has been going on for over 36 years, and it is still one of the greatest events of the year in Citrus County.

Formerly the EDC BBQ, the Business Appreciation Month (BAM) BBQ is now organized by the Citrus County Chamber of Commerce to promote business in Citrus County and is a fun way to mix and mingle within the business community.

With barbecue prepared by the Agricultural Alliance, ice cream made from the cream of M&B's cows, and plenty of other treats and libations, this is a perfect evening under the stars at this beautiful farm.

This year's musical entertainment will feature the lively country and Southern rock sounds of The Embry



Brothers Band. This popular band of brothers and others has been delighting Central Florida audiences for over 25 years. The BAM BBQ is pleased to bring them to M&B Dairy for their first appearance.

Tickets are on sale now at both the Crystal River and Inverness Chamber offices for \$35 and include two drinks. For information, call 352-795-3149.

### Business Appreciation Month (BAM) BBQ

(formerly known as the EDC BBQ)

**WHEN/WHERE:** Oct. 19; 6-10 p.m. at M&B Dairy, 8760 S. Lecanto Highway, Lecanto \$35/person (includes 2 drink tickets) — tickets available at Chamber offices in Crystal River & Inverness  
Produced by the Citrus County Chamber of Commerce; for information: 352-795-3149



September 9  
Fort Island  
Gulf Beach  
Crystal River  
12 - 8 p.m.

### WHEN AND WHERE:

Saturday, Sept. 9; noon to 8 p.m. at Fort Island Gulf Beach, at the end of Fort Island Beach Trail, Crystal River; Admission: \$5, children 12 and younger are free  
**FOR INFO:**

[www.CitrusCountyChamber.com](http://www.CitrusCountyChamber.com) and click on "Mermaids & Margaritas" or Facebook at "Mermaids and Margaritas Fest 2017"

## Mermaids & Margaritas!

FREE parking with FREE shuttle to the beach. Continuous shuttles from the festival parking lot at U.S. 19 and Fort Island Trail. Handicapped parking with accessible shuttles will be at the Chamber's parking lot at 915 N. Suncoast Blvd. (Be aware that parking at Fort Island Gulf Beach is not offered and we encourage use of the shuttle.) ABSOLUTELY NO COOLERS and NO PETS/ANIMALS (with the exception of service animals).

Food and vendor applications (Citrus County businesses and residents preferred) are available on the website. Sponsorships are also available.

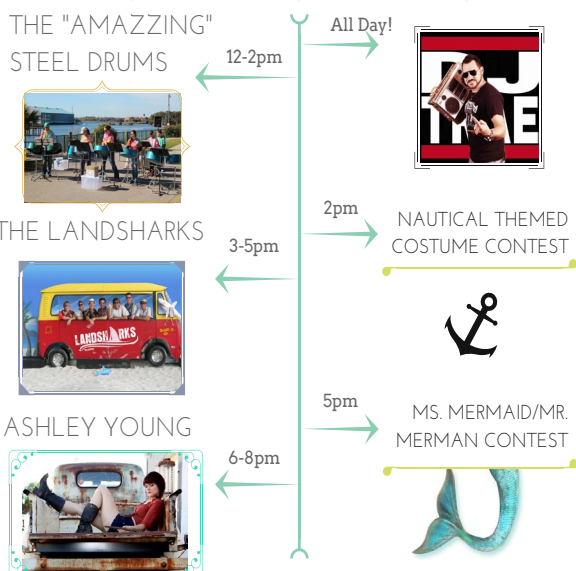
For more information, call the Chamber of Commerce at 352-795-3149.



Insight Credit Union is the Presenting Sponsor.

### ENTERTAINMENT SCHEDULE

MERMAIDS AND MARGARITAS 2017  
SEPTEMBER 9, 12-8PM, FT. ISLAND GULF BEACH  
MERMAIDSANDMARGARITASFESTIVAL.COM



### KC Nayfield is September luncheon speaker

Dr. KC Nayfield, local veterinarian and member of the Board of Directors of the Conservation Trust for Florida, is the keynote speaker for the Sept. 8 luncheon at the Plantation.

Dr. Nayfield's presentation will focus on protecting Florida's wild and working lands, and how preserving our environment is also good for business.

The luncheon is sponsored by Citrus County Blessings.

Make your reservations now to attend. To RSVP, call Janet at 352-795-3149.



Dr. KC Nayfield

## Chamber Member News

### Nature Coast Brew Fest on Sept. 1

Chamber members Citrus 93.5/The FOX 96.7 are holding the inaugural Nature Coast Brew Fest on Friday, Sept. 1, from 6-10 p.m. at the Crystal River Armory to benefit Citrus County Blessings. There will be more than 40 craft beer vendors, a cigar bar, food, music, silent and live auctions. A general admission ticket is \$20 includes unlimited beer sampling. VIP tickets are \$45. For information, call 352-746-9596.



### '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).

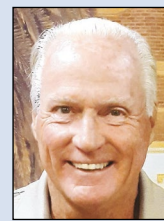


Stephanie Bell

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

This week's program features Stephanie Bell, the new executive director of the Pregnancy

and Family Life Center in Inverness who shares information with Josh about their new program, "Healthy Mind, Healthy Body, Healthy Baby," that screens their mothers for depression, anxiety and substance abuse. Additionally, Andy Smith of Events in Motion who talks with Josh about the Lake Hernando Dragon Boat Festival coming up on Nov. 11.



Andy Smith

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

### Chamber events calendar

- Sept. 8 — Chamber Luncheon at The Plantation on Crystal River, speaker KC Nayfield; Sponsor is Citrus County Blessings
  - Sept. 9 — Mermaids & Margaritas, Fort Island Gulf Beach
  - Sept. 21 — Mixer, King's Bay Rotary and George Washington Carver Center at George Washington Carver Center, Crystal River
  - Sept. 23 — BWA Women's Health & Fitness Expo at National Guard Armory, Crystal River
  - Oct. 5 — Fire Up Citrus! at Tuscany on the Meadows
  - Oct. 13 — Business Appreciation Month Annual Luncheon, Black Diamond
  - Oct. 19 — BAM BBQ!, M&B Dairy
  - Oct. 26 — BAM mixer, Insight Credit Union, Crystal River
  - Nov. 3 — Chamber Luncheon at Seven Rivers Presbyterian Church; Poverty Simulation Project by United Way; Sponsor is Hospice of Citrus County
  - Nov. 11 — Lake Hernando Dragon Boat Festival
  - Dec. 2 — Crystal River Christmas Parade
  - Dec. 9 — Inverness Christmas Parade
  - Jan. 13 & 14 — Florida Manatee Festival
  - Jan. 24 & 25 — Legislative Days in Tallahassee
- For more information on all Chamber events, call 352-795-3149 or go to [www.CitrusCountyChamber.com](http://www.CitrusCountyChamber.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.

