



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 · 203 E. Dampier St., Inverness, FL 34450 · 352-726-2801

## Florida Manatee Festival NEXT WEEKEND!

The Florida Manatee Festival returns for its 37th year to the manatee capital of the world, downtown Crystal River, on Saturday and Sunday, January 13th & 14th!

Produced by The Citrus County Chamber of Commerce, we are pleased to welcome Bailey Electric & Signs as our presenting sponsor for the third year in a row. Entry is only \$10 for adults, age 12 and under are free. Additionally, we are excited to offer a special with our partners at The Citrus County Chronicle. Sunday is Citrus County Day, just pick up a Citrus County Chronicle on your way to the festival on January 14th and get \$5-OFF up to FOUR adult entries with the coupon on the front cover.

Consistently voted best festival in Citrus County, The Florida Manatee Festival features a wide selection of delicious cuisine choices. We are pleased to offer a tasty selection of delectable delights at the food court right near the main stage in Kings Bay Park, and a second food court near the gazebo stage in Little Springs Park.

### Kayak Tours Vendors & More

Back this year, guided kayak tours will be offered by Hunter Springs Kayaks at the festival for only \$15/pp, advanced reservations are strongly suggested! Tour guides will take you on an immersive tour of the bay and Hunter Springs area giving a firsthand glance at the beauty of our Nature Coast! Also returning are manatee boat tours! Participating local guides with M.E.T.A. (Manatee Eco Tourism Association) will take you to their favorite manatee watch spots for a chance to see our favorite floating friends up close without getting in the water! Tickets for the boat tours can

**37TH ANNUAL FLORIDA MANATEE FESTIVAL**  
JANUARY 13TH & 14TH, 2024  
\$10 ADULTS | 12/UNDER FREE  
\$5 ENTRY SUNDAY ONLY WITH CHRONICLE COUPON!

**GUIDED KAYAK TOURS** **MANATEE BOAT TOURS** **FOUR ENTERTAINMENT STAGES** **FREE ENTRY TO THREE SISTER SPRINGS**

**FREE PARKING/SHUTTLE AT CRYSTAL RIVER HIGH SCHOOL**

- FOOD COURT
- BEER & WINE GARDEN
- ART IN THE PARK
- CRAFT VENDORS
- KIDS ZONES
- STREET ENTERTAINMENT
- HIPPIE VILLAGE AT HERITAGE HOUSE

[WWW.GOMANATEEFEST.COM](http://WWW.GOMANATEEFEST.COM)

**AND SERVICES:**  
• ANGLERS INN FLOATING SUITES  
• AT HOME REALTY  
• BRANNEN BANK  
• CUTCO

**DIGITAL HOUND MEDIA**  
• HUNTER SPRINGS KAYAKS  
• MIKE SCOTT PLUMBING  
• NATURECOASTER  
• PLANTATION RESORT ON CRYSTAL RIVER

**COUSIN CHARLIE'S CBD & WELLNESS**  
• POWERED LIVING  
• SEACOAST BANK  
• ULTIMATE HEALTH PLANS

**CITRUS 95.3**  
• THE FOX 95.7  
• SOUND DECISIONS  
• SUNCOAST CREDIT UNION

be purchased at the festival and are valid the day of purchase only. \$15 - Adults | \$10 - aged 6-12 | Free - aged 5 and under.

Free transportation and admission to Three Sisters Springs and the new Friends of the Crystal River Wildlife Refuge visitor's center will also be included in your festival entry! Buses will be picking up and dropping off from the gate at 5th street from 9AM - 3:30PM both days. World-famous Three

Sisters Springs is the perfect setting to view the majestic manatee in its natural environment from the comfort of a boardwalk above the springs. Hundreds of manatees flock to the springs every year during Manatee Season (November 15th - March 31st) as refuge from the cold, utilizing the springs' consistent 72-degree waters to regulate their body temperature at a healthy level. Additionally, a vast

array of fine art, craft, commercial, and non-profit vendors will line the streets alongside our resident businesses that fill in the charmingly picturesque setting that make up the heart and soul of our beautiful downtown.

For the cultural connoisseurs, "Art in the Park" will be held in Crystal River's beautiful Town Square, offering the perfect setting to browse and purchase an original

piece of art for your home, business or as a wearable piece of jewelry that will be a treasure of special meaning forever. New this year, we are excited to welcome the Twistid Arts Initiative as an interactive feature that will offer a creative outlet for attendees at the Pump-house, adjacent to Art in the Park.

For the kiddos, a Kids Zone and fun activities will span throughout the festival. Some of the activities the Florida Manatee festival has been known to host includes inflatables, face painting, a human catapult, human waterwheel, carnival food and more! For the adults, there will be more food, along with beer and wine gardens near the main music stage and throughout the festival. With something to please everyone, the 37th Annual Florida Manatee Festival is the place to go!

### Entertainment

Musical entertainment will be ongoing both days from four stages. The Main Stage at Kings Bay Park will feature music all weekend long opening

Saturday with an outstanding tribute to the late Jimmy Buffet, The Caribbean Chillers, from 10:30am - 1:30pm followed by southern rock headliner Six Gun featuring the original drummer of Rossington Collins, Derek Hess, and up and coming Jacksonville vocalist, Sada Davidson, from 2:30PM - 5PM. Also Saturday, look for Gypsy Sparrow from 10AM - 1PM at the Pump-house stage. Sunday, we are excited to welcome Barefoot Bob & The Hope from 10am - 1pm to the Mainstage followed by headliner, Moonflower - The Spirit of Santana, from 2:30pm - 4pm. You will also find local flavor scattered amongst the additional stages including Jekyll & Hyde at Little Springs Parks from 1pm - 4pm, Reggie Stacey from 10am - 1pm in Heritage Village, and Jeffrey Ekhoof at the Pump-house Stage from 10am - 1pm. But that's not all! A full lineup with days and times can be found on our website.

For more information: [www.GoManateeFest.com](http://www.GoManateeFest.com), [www.facebook.com/FloridaManateeFestival](http://www.facebook.com/FloridaManateeFestival), or 352-795-3149.

## January Chamber 4-1-1 luncheon

Join us for our annual Chamber 4-1-1 luncheon where our staff will cover the different networking, promotion, and advocacy programs of the Chamber and how you can utilize them to get the most out of your Chamber membership! We will also

be installing our 2024 Chamber Board officers.

January 19th, 2023; 11:30am-1pm;  
Plantation on Crystal River:  
Networking: 11:30am-12pm  
Program/Speaker: 12pm-1pm  
Pricing:

\$25 - members  
\$35 - Non-members  
Advanced reservations are required. No walk-ups will be accepted. Make reservation online now at [www.CitrusCountyChamber.com](http://www.CitrusCountyChamber.com).

## UPCOMING EVENTS

01/12 January Chamber Luncheon; 11:30AM; Citrus Hills Golf & Country Club; Chamber 4-1-1  
01/13 - 01/14 37th Annual Florida Manatee Festival; Downtown Crystal River  
01/18 January Mixer; 5PM; United Way of Citrus County  
01/25 Legislative Day in Tallahassee  
02/29 February Chamber Luncheon; 11:30am; The Plantation on Crystal River

02/15 February Mixer; 5PM; Builders Association of Citrus County  
03/02 - 03/03 37th Annual Floral City Strawberry Festival, Floral Park  
03/08 March Chamber Luncheon; 11:30AM; Citrus Hills Golf & Country Club  
03/21 March Mixer; 5PM; Hengesbach & Hengesbach (Beverly Hills)

**Florida Institute for Political Leadership**  
An initiative by CHAMBER  
"TOMORROW'S LEADERS START HERE"

**CAMPAIGN SCHOOL & COMMUNITY LEADERSHIP TRAINING**  
2-PART ONLINE TRAINING SCHOOL.  
OPEN TO EVERYONE. FREE TO ATTEND. NON-PARTISAN.  
PARTICIPANTS ARE WELCOME TO ATTEND ANY OR BOTH DAYS OFFERED.

**WED JAN 17**  
5:30pm - 8:00pm ET  
Preparing to run & Organizing your campaign

**THURS JAN 18**  
5:30pm - 8:00pm ET  
Fundraising & Running your campaign

PRESENTATIONS BY STATE AND LOCAL POLITICAL EXPERTS, UNIVERSITY PROFESSORS, ELECTED OFFICIALS, AND COMMUNITY LEADERS.  
Highly recommended for candidates and anyone interested in running for local or state office, serving their community, or managing campaigns.

- PREPARE YOUR RESUME TO RUN IN THE FUTURE.
- GETTING APPOINTED TO LOCAL BOARDS AND COMMITTEES.
- HOW TO RUN FOR LOCAL OR STATE OFFICE.
- LEARN LOCAL ISSUES.

**REGISTER ONLINE AT: [www.FIPL.org/Register](http://www.FIPL.org/Register)**  
For more information, please call (850) 688-8940  
CO-HOSTS:

**Chamber Legacy Members**

**RE/MAX REALTY ONE**  
**TRUSTED SOLUTIONS**  
INSURANCE AGENCY, INC.  
[www.trustedolutionsins.com](http://www.trustedolutionsins.com)

**JENKINS AUTO GROUP**

**CITRUS COUNTY CHRONICLE**  
**CRYSTAL TRACTOR & MOTORCYCLE GROUP**

**Michael D. Bays State Farm**

**WAVE**  
Estate Realty Partners

**BRAVERA HEALTH**  
SEVEN RIVERS

**ARBOR TRAIL**  
REHAB & SKILLED NURSING CENTER

**HCA Florida Citrus Hospital**

**LIS Langley HEALTH SERVICES**

**INSIGHT**  
CREDIT UNION

**GOOD SIGNS**

**LUCAS, MACYSZYNSKI & DYER**  
LAW FIRM

**LIFESOUTH**  
Community Blood Centers

**WASTE MANAGEMENT**

**WORTHINGTON**  
AC & HEATING LLC

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 by emailing [Corrine@CitrusCountyChamber.com](mailto:Corrine@CitrusCountyChamber.com).