



**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



**Strawberry Princesses competition:** pictured L-R Back: Jen Grow; Miss Florida USA, Caroline Dixon; Miss Florida Ultimate USA, Megan Crossman; Pageant Director, April Royal; L-R Front: 2024 Miss Strawberry, Emma Henderson; 2024 Little Miss Strawberry, Blythe Bassion; Assistant Pageant Director, Brelyn Royal.

## Thanks for a berry bustin' weekend!

This past weekend, the Floral City Strawberry Festival celebrated its 37th year, bringing together the community for a delightful celebration of local agriculture, music, and fun.

As the gates opened at Floral Park, visitors were greeted with the sweet aroma of fresh strawberries from Ferris Groves, setting the stage for a weekend filled with joy and delicious treats.

Festival-goers indulged in luscious strawberry shortcakes, took home flats of fresh berries, and explored a variety of culinary delights.

The entertainment was non-stop, with live performances that had everyone tapping their feet and singing along and the Soccer Collies' return was a hit, demonstrating their unique talents and engaging with attendees in a fun, interactive experience.

A highlight of the festival was the array of family-friendly activities, including the historic tours of the Duval-Metz House, where visitors stepped back in time while enjoying home-made strawberry treats.

The annual pie-eating contests and princess pageants brought smiles and laughter, showcasing the festival's cherished traditions.

Over 250 art and craft vendors, a selection of food and beverage



**Saturday's Pie Eating Contest winners!** L: Category 13 and up and R: Category 12 and under.



**Sunday's Pie Eating Contest winners!** L: Category 13 and up and R: Category 12 and under.

options, and a dedicated kids' area ensured that there was something for everyone.

The festival's success is a direct reflection of the hard work and dedication of all involved.

We extend our heartfelt thanks to all the vendors, volunteers, sponsors, and staff who made this year's

Floral City Strawberry Festival an unforgettable event. Your commitment and enthusiasm are what make this festival a highlight of our community calendar.

Here's to another year of sweet memories and looking forward to the next Floral City Strawberry Festival!

## RECENT RIBBON CUTTINGS

The Chamber is growing every week. We welcome our new members and thank all of them for joining the Chamber. We encourage the community to support their businesses.

### WOW Senior Home Care



Welcome to the Chamber, WOW Senior Home Care! Their services provide compassionate care so your loved one can continue to live at home. (352) 233-9594. [wowseniorcare@gmail.com](mailto:wowseniorcare@gmail.com).

### Thryv Advisor Andrew Florentino



Welcome to the Chamber, Thryv Advisor Andrew Florentino! With 17 years of experience serving your neighboring businesses, Andrew is confident that he can help you earn more business, manage your work, and get paid easier. (239) 677-3191. <https://www.thryv.com/near-me/andrew-florentino>.

### Phillips Property Improvement



Welcome to the Chamber, Phillips Property Improvement! Offering brush clearing, tree trimming, gutter cleaning, asphalt repair, fencing, roof wash, and more! Call for a FREE estimate. 352-270-6202.

## UPCOMING EVENTS

03/21 March Mixer; 5PM; Hengesbach & Hengesbach (Beverly Hills)  
04/12 Chamber Luncheon; 11:30am – 1PM, Plantation on Crystal River  
04/18 Chamber Mixer, 5pm, Suncoast Business Masters @ Realtor's Association  
04/26 Annual Chamber Pillar Awards; Citrus Hills Golf & Country Club  
05/10 Chamber Luncheon; 11:30am – 1pm; Citrus Hills Golf & Country Club

**THANK YOU, SPONSORS!**

### March Mixer at Hengesbach & Hengesbach

Join us for our March Chamber Mixer, with host Hengesbach & Hengesbach, on March 21st from 5 PM to 7 PM located at 5 William Tell Ln, Beverly Hills, FL, 34465.

This event is the perfect opportunity to network and build enduring connections within our vibrant community. Whether you're looking to meet like-minded professionals, explore potential collaborations, or simply enjoy an evening of camaraderie, our Chamber Mixer is the place to be.

Delight your senses with catering provided by Cattle Dog Coffee Roasters and complimentary beer, wine, and drinks.

Our monthly mixers are a cornerstone of the Chamber's efforts to foster a strong, interconnected business community in Citrus County. Open to Chamber members as well as guests of the venue, these gatherings are a testament to our commitment to support and promote local businesses and professionals.

Mark your calendar for March 21st, and prepare for an evening of networking, enjoyment, and community spirit at Hengesbach & Hengesbach. We look forward to welcoming you!

Parking for this event is available in the Beverly Plaza.

**Chamber Legacy Members**