



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 theregion, promote the interests of the business community, provide key leadership on key commerce issues and preserve the county's quality of life.

Promotional information provided by the Citrus County Chamber of Commerce.

Chamber Connection

915 N. Suncoast Blvd., Crystal River, FL 34429 · 352-795-3149 · 203 E. Dampier St., Inverness, FL 34450 · 352-726-2801

Chamber Hosts Community Conversations

The Citrus County Chamber of Commerce recently hosted two pivotal community events to address the challenges and opportunities brought about by rapid growth and development in the area.

Affordable Housing Discussion: On June 12, the Chamber, in collaboration with Habitat for Humanity of Citrus County, organized a crucial meeting at the Crystal River Church of God – Citrus Springs Campus. The event, focused on the pressing need for affordable workforce housing, featured a keynote speech by Former Senator Jeff Brandes, a prominent figure in housing policy. His insightful address paved the way for a comprehensive panel discussion led by Ron Daly, Board Chairman of Habitat for Humanity of Citrus County.

The panel included:
Roxanne Young, Executive Director, Habitat for Humanity of

Florida
Josh Wooten, President/CEO, Citrus County Chamber of Commerce
Ashon Nesbitt, CEO, Florida Housing Coalition
Michelle Alford, Housing Director, Citrus County Housing Services

Panelists delved into the current housing climate in Citrus County, offering valuable insights and discussing potential solutions. Citrus County Administrator Steve Howard closed the event with a call for collaborative efforts, a sentiment echoed by the large turnout, highlighting the community's dedication to finding sustainable housing solutions.

Managed Growth Town Hall: The following day, June 13, the Chamber held a town hall event titled "Charting Citrus County's Future: Embracing Managed Growth for Sustainable Progress" at the College of Central

Florida Wilton Simpson Campus. This event aimed to address the rapid development and population growth in the county, focusing on sustainable and responsible management strategies.

Sheridan Morby, Senior Research Economist from the Florida Chamber Foundation, began the event with an enlightening presentation on the Florida Scorecard, covering local population growth, job needs, tax revenues, housing issues, and educational attainments. This set the stage for an in-depth panel discussion co-moderated by Gerry Mulligan and Josh Wooten, featuring a diverse group of local leaders and experts.

The panel included:
Dr. Ralph Massullo, Florida State Representative
Eric Landon, Citrus County Growth Management Director
Cregg Dalton, Citrus County Property Appraiser

Scott Hebert, Assistant Superintendent of Schools
Linda Stockton, Senior Vice President & Hospital CEO, Tampa General Hospital Crystal River
Dr. Lisa Nummi, CEO, HCA Florida Citrus Hospital
Becky Beattie, Director of Nursing Operations, ClearSky Rehabilitation Hospital of Lecanto
Michael Mancke, Board member, Tourist Development Council
Russell Hallenbeck, Vice Chairman & CEO, Tibbetts Lumber
Jim Morton, Broker, Century 21, J.W. Morton Real Estate
Dr. Denis Grillo, DO, Crystal Community ENT
Danielle Ruiz, Economic Development Industry Recruitment, Duke Energy
Discussions highlighted the benefits and importance of managed growth, with strategies to

ensure sustainable progress. County Administrator Steve Howard concluded the event, reinforcing the need for ongoing dialogue and collaboration.

These events are part of the Chamber's broader effort to engage and inform Citrus County residents about the rapid growth's challenges and opportunities. "We believe it is essential to engage our citizens in these important conversations," said Josh Wooten, President/CEO of the Citrus County Chamber of Commerce. "Our goal is to present a positive and honest picture of community needs and the steps already in place to ensure a bright future for Citrus County."

Special thanks go to our sponsors Duke Energy, Dr. Desai, and Crystal Harley Davidson, and to the College of Central Florida and the staff and leadership at Citrus County for their support in facilitating these events.



Former Sen. Jeff Brandes addresses the crowd before panel discussion. Panelists L-R: Ashon Nesbitt, Florida Housing Coalition; Roxanne Young, Habitat for Humanity Florida; Michelle Alford, Citrus County Housing Services; Josh Wooten, Citrus County Chamber of Commerce.



Event moderator Gerry Mulligan addresses the crowd before panel discussion. Panelists L-R: Dr. Ralph Massullo, Florida House Representative; Scott Hebert, Citrus County Schools; Linda Stockton, Tampa General Hospital; Dr. Lisa Nummi, HCA Florida Citrus Hospital; Becky Beattie, Clearsky Rehabilitation Hospital; Jim Morton, Century 21, J.W. Morton Real Estate; Dr. Denis Grillo, Crystal Community ENT; Russell Hallenbeck, Tibbetts Lumber; Danielle Ruiz, Duke Energy; Michael Mancke, Tourism Development Council; Cregg Dalton, Citrus County Property Appraiser; Eric Landon, Citrus County.

July Luncheon features County Commission Primary Candidates Forum

Each election season, the Citrus County Chamber of Commerce hosts a primary candidate forum luncheon. The forum offers a unique opportunity for candidates to engage with a diverse audience of chamber member voters to articulate their vision, discuss their platform, and connect directly with constituents.

The July Board of County Commissioner Primary Candidate Forum luncheon will host candidates in the following races:
Citrus County Board of County Commissioner; District 4
Citrus County Board of County Commissioner; District 5
Luncheon Agenda:

Networking: 11:00 AM – 11:30 AM
Lunch: 11:30 AM – 12:00 PM
Forum: 12:00 PM – 1:20 PM
Luncheon Sponsor: Leadership Citrus
Pricing:
Chamber Members: \$25
Non-Members: \$35
Please note that advanced reservations are required and walk-ups will not

be accepted. Secure your spot today to be part of this important conversation and enjoy a delightful lunch with fellow community and business leaders. Don't miss out on this opportunity to connect, learn, and grow with us at the Citrus County Chamber of Commerce!
Make reservations now at www.CitrusCountyChamber.com

RECENT RIBBON CUTTING

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.

Ameriprise Financial - Doreen Scott



Welcome to the Chamber, Ameriprise Financial - Doreen Scott. Navigating changing markets can be a challenge. But sound financial advice can help you better position your portfolio to potentially take advantage of opportunities and mitigate loss. Doreen Scott is committed to understanding your goals and is here to provide personalized financial advice based on your individual needs. When market conditions change, you can remain confident that the portfolio and plan you build together is designed to factor in market ups and downs. 508 W Main St., Inverness. (352) 423-1101. <https://www.ameripriseadvisors.com/Doreen.M.Scott/>

UPCOMING EVENTS

7/12 Special Chamber Luncheon: BOCC Primary Candidate Forum; 11:00 am – 1:30 pm; Citrus Hills Golf & Country Club; Sponsor: Leadership Citrus
8/09 Chamber Luncheon: Citrus County Chronicle Healthcare Heroes Awards; 11:30am – 1:00 pm; Citrus Hills Golf & Country Club; Sponsor: Citrus County Chronicle

Chamber Legacy Members

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.