

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

## Inverness Christmas Parade Decks the Halls!

A huge thank you to everyone who came out last Saturday to celebrate the magic of the season with us! The streets were filled with holiday cheer, spectacular floats, and smiling faces, creating lasting memories for our kids and families.

We are incredibly grateful to the businesses and organizations that poured their hearts into crafting such amazing floats—your creativity and hard

work truly brought the Christmas spirit to life!

To our dedicated volunteers and staff who spent countless hours organizing and ensuring a seamless event—thank you! Your efforts behind the scenes made all the difference.

**A special thank-you to our parade sponsors:**

- \* Presenting Sponsor: Tony's Collision Center

- \* WasteBros
- \* Mighty Machines Earthworks LLC
- \* Florida's Antique Mall
- \* MedFleet Ambulance

And don't forget to check out for the official recap video produced by Citrus County Live and Digital Hound Media, sponsored by Titan Fence Co, Citrus Property Renovations, and Whalen Jewelers—you won't want to miss reliving the magic!



## Feature your Business in front of Thousands!

*Florida Manatee Festival and Floral City Strawberry Festival Vendor Applications open now!*

The Citrus County Chamber of Commerce invites businesses, organizations, crafters, and artists from near and far to claim their spot at the 38<sup>th</sup> Annual Florida Manatee Festival and the 38<sup>th</sup> Annual Floral City Strawberry Festival.

Each year, these vibrant gatherings draw thousands of visitors eager to experience the best that Citrus County has to offer—don't miss the chance to put your brand in front of an enthusiastic audience!

**Florida Manatee Festival: January 18th & 19th**

If you've never been a part of the Florida Manatee Festival, you're in for a treat. Set in the heart of Crystal River, this event is a true showcase of Florida's natural wonders. Visitors come from around the state, and beyond, to celebrate our gentle giants, the beloved manatees. It's a weekend packed with live entertainment, mouthwatering cuisine, a variety of family-friendly activities,

and a curated selection of art and crafts. Becoming a vendor at the Florida Manatee Festival means more than just selling your products—it's about joining a community-driven event that highlights the unique character of Citrus County.

**Floral City Strawberry Festival: March 1st & 2nd**

When spring rolls around, nothing quite says "Florida's sweetest season" like the Floral City Strawberry Festival.

Perfectly ripe, juicy berries take center stage as this culinary and cultural delight welcomes guests from all over. From the first bite of fresh strawberry shortcake to the discovery of one-of-a-kind handmade treasures, visitors leave with full hearts and memories made to last.

By participating as a vendor, you'll engage with a lively crowd eager to celebrate local agriculture, enjoy fun activities, and embrace time-honored traditions.

These festivals offer a powerful opportunity to forge new connections, boost brand awareness, and showcase your unique offerings. Whether you specialize in locally sourced foods, distinctive handmade goods, dynamic nonprofit

outreach, or innovative services, these events are the perfect way to tap into new markets and connect with the community.

**Easy Online Applications**

Why wait? Now is the time to secure your vendor space at one—or both!—of these major festivals. Our streamlined online application processes make signing up a breeze. Don't let the season pass you by:

- Florida Manatee Festival: Find all the details and applications at [www.GoManateeFest.com](http://www.GoManateeFest.com).
- Floral City Strawberry Festival: Explore the opportunities and register at [www.GoStrawberryFest.com](http://www.GoStrawberryFest.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.

### Advance America

Welcome to the Chamber, Advance America Crystal River! Advance America offers short term personal loans, with same day service. Advance America has been in business since 1997, and currently has branches in 23 states nationwide. Advance America also offers Western Union services, as well as title loans through our partners. They are open Monday through Thursday, 10AM-6PM, Friday 9AM-6PM, and Saturday 9AM-4PM. Located at 726 SE US Hwy 19 in Crystal River, or visit them online at [advanceamerica.net](http://advanceamerica.net), for 24 hour online services. 352-795-8914.

## Upcoming Chamber Events

● 12/20 December Chamber Luncheon; 11:30am – 1:00pm; Speaker Angela Kennedy, Executive Director, Pace Center for Girls - Citrus; Host: Business Women's Alliance; Citrus Hills Golf & Country Club

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](mailto:Corrine@CitrusCountyChamber.com).