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

## A Farewell from our Outgoing Chair

s 2024 draws to a close, I find myself reflecting on what a remarkable year of service it has been as the Chair of the Board of Directors for the Citrus County Chamber of Commerce. It has been a privilege to lead an organization that is deeply committed to the well-being of our local businesses, educational platforms, and the broader Citrus County community. The dedication and tireless efforts of the Chamber's staff, our members, volunteers, and the entire community have left a warm feeling in my heart.

The Citrus County Chamber of Commerce stands as a shining example of an organization that tirelessly advocates for the interests of our business community and the quality of life that Citrus County has to offer. Throughout my term, I have witnessed firsthand the Chamber's commitment to facilitating open communication with our local, legislative, and congressional leaders. Their advocacy efforts have been instrumental in promoting the interests of our community both locally and at the state

One of the highlights of this year was the successful hosting of two beloved festivals that brought our community together: the annual Florida Manatee Festival and the Floral City Strawberry Festival.



2024 Chair of the Citrus County Chamber of Commerce Board of Directors, Debbie Reilly, Citrus County Library System

These events not only showcased the rich culture and heritage of Citrus County but also provided a platform for local businesses to thrive and con-

nect with our residents.

The year 2024 was a devastating one for the citizens and businesses of Citrus County. In the aftermath of Hurricanes

Debby, Helene, and Milton, the honor and a truly rewarding ex-Chamber's dedication to supporting our community was truly remarkable. Whether it was delivering food, cleaning out muck, providing recovery grants, the Chamber, businesses, and community came together to help anyone who needed help.

October saw the Chamber's Annual Business Appreciation Month, which shone a spotlight on the vital role played by small businesses in our community. Through various events and initiatives, the Chamber celebrated the resilience and contributions of these businesses, reinforcing their significance in the fabric of Citrus County.

I am honored to say, in 2024 through our festivals, events, and outreach the Chamber has given \$59,000 back to our community.

I would like to extend my heartfelt gratitude to all those who have dedicated their time, talent, or resources to support the Chamber's initiatives throughout the year. These events and endeavors would not have been possible without the dedication of the Chamber's staff, the commitment of our members, the hard work of event volunteers, and the generosity of our businesses.

Serving as the Chair of the Citrus County Chamber of Commerce has been a tremendous

perience. I am profoundly grateful for the trust and confidence that the Chamber and its members have placed in me. While my term as Chair is ending, I am enthusiastic about staying actively involved with the Chamber in different capacities as we continue to work towards a prosperous and vibrant Citrus County.

As I pass the gavel to our incoming Chair for 2025, Stacey Worthington, I am excited to see what she brings to the table. Stacey has been active in our community for many years and I am confident of her leadership skills. Her involvement in numerous community organizations reflects her dedication to our area. With her leadership, I am confident that the Chamber will continue to thrive and serve our local businesses with increased community partnerships, workforce development, and resource opportunities.

As we look forward to another impactful year in 2025 under Stacey's leadership, I am excited about the continued growth and prosperity that the Citrus County Chamber of Commerce will bring to our community. Thank you once again for the privilege of serving as your Chair, and I look forward to the bright future for Citrus County.

Debbie Reilly Outgoing Chair Board of Directors

#### 2025 EXECUTIVE BOARD

Stacey Worthington, Chair Worthington A/C & Heating

Marci Holder, Chair Elect Tampa General Hospital -Crystal River

**Rob Wardlow, Treasurer** Wardlow & Cash, P.A.

Kelley Paul, Secretary Wollinka Wikle Title Insurance Agency

Debbie Reilly. **Immediate Past Chair** Citrus County Library System

## **Garret Adkins**

YMCA of the Suncoast -Citrus County Branch Financial Consultants

### Tiarra Alexander The Pace Center

for Girls

Rachel Cullen Phoenix

**PEO Specialists** 

**Cregg Dalton** Citrus County **Property Appraiser**  Carl Flanagan Flanagan's

**Barb Fletcher LKQ** 

Jordan Fulkerson Florida Citrus Memorial Hospital/

**Mark Garlock** Garlock Enterprises/ Amway

**HCA** 

## 2025 BOARD MEMBERS Dr. Jim Harvey

College of Central Florida (Retired)

**Annemarie Hooper** 

**Duke Energy** 

**Veronica** Kampschroer Citrus County Board

of County Commissioners

## **Bob Kane**

Kane's Ace Hardware

Dr. Vernon Lawter

College of Central Florida

Katrina Leturno

Circle T Sod Farms, Inc.

**Kyle McKay** Ryman Construction of Florida, Inc.

#### **Gary Mock** RMC(SW) USN (Retired)

John Murphy Citrus County Chronicle

**Lindsay Platz** Insight Credit Union

Tom Ryan Central Ridge Insurers

George **Schmalstig** United Way of Citrus County

> **Craig Stevens** Citrus County Fire Rescue

**Tabitha Wells** Wells Business Solutions

#### LIFETIME DIRECTORS

## George Bendtsen

Insurance By George (Posthumously)

**Pete Burrell** Citrus County Chronicle

(Retired)

#### Kevin Cunningham RE/MAX Realty One

**Charles Davis** Chas. E. Davis **Funeral Home** 

**Karen Dixon** 

### **Dick Dolbow** Citrus County Schools

Joe Fallon

Retired

Mike Fitzpatrick Century Link (Retired)

## **Rocky Hensley** Brannen Bank (Retired)

Mike Moberly **Tropical Windows** 

**Gerry Mulligan** 

Citrus County

Chronicle (Retired)

#### Jim Neal James A. Neal, Jr. PA

**Jack Reynolds** Brannen Bank

**Don Taylor EDACC** 

#### **Janice Warren** Citrus County Tax Collector

**Chet White** Stanley Steemer

**Janet Yant Nature Coast Charters** 

## January Luncheon: Chamber 4-1-1

Join us for our annual Chamber 4-1-1 luncheon where our staff will share the many different networking, promotion, and advocacy programs of the Chamber and how you can utilize them to get the most out of your Chamber membership! Additionally, Representative JJ Grow

will have the honor of installing our 2025 Chamber Board officers. January 10th, 2025; 11:30am-1pm; Citrus Hills Golf & Country Club Networking: 11:30am-12pm Program/Speaker: 12pm-1pm Sponsor: Appliances 4 Less

\$25 – members \$35 - Non-members

Pricing:

Advanced reservations are required, online at www.CitrusCountyChamber. com. No walk-ups will be accepted.

- 01/10 January Chamber 4-1-1 Luncheon; 11:30am 1pm; Citrus Hills Golf & Country
- Club; Sponsored by Appliances 4 Less. ● 01/16 January Chamber Mixer; 5PM-7PM; Location TBA
- 01/18-01/19 38th Annual Florida Manatee Festival; Downtown Crystal River; www.GoManateeFest.com
- 02/14 February Chamber Luncheon; 11:30am-1pm; Citrus Hills Golf & Country Club; Speaker: TBA; Sponsored by CASA
- 02/20 February Chamber Mixer; 5pm-7pm; Citrus County Builders Association Annual Ball Drop with Boys & Girls Clubs
- 03/14 March Chamber Luncheon; 11:30am-1pm; Sweet Citrus Acres; Speaker: TBA • 03/20 2025 Citrus County Legislative Day; Tallahassee
- 03/25 March Chamber Mixer; 5pm-7pm; Suncoast Business Masters at the Citrus

County Realtors Association

● 03/01-03/02 38th Annual Floral City Strawberry Festival; Floral Park, Floral City

## **Chamber Legacy Members**



Tampa General Hospital. CRYSTAL RIVER

**HCA Florida** 

Citrus Hospital

Insight

RBOR TRAIL







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.







