



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

One Week and Counting:

38th Annual Florida Manatee Festival Set to Make a Splash in Crystal River

Get ready to celebrate Florida's most famous gentle giants in grand style at the 38th Annual Florida Manatee Festival! Just one week away, Saturday, January 18, and Sunday, January 19, the streets of downtown Crystal River will transform into a lively hub of nature, art, music, and family fun.

Admission is just \$10 per person (kids 12 and under free). Looking for a deal? Bring the Citrus County Chronicle coupon on Sunday for \$5 off up to four entries. Look for the coupon the weekend edition of the paper.

Plenty of Parking & Free Shuttles

To ensure a smooth arrival, festivalgoers are strongly encouraged to park at:

- Crystal River High School (3195 Crystal River High Dr), with entrance access from Northeast 8th Street and N. Turkey Oak Dr.

- West Citrus Government Building (1540 N Meadowcrest Blvd), accessed from Hwy 44.

Free shuttle buses will whisk you downtown—no need to navigate crowded side streets! Handicap-accessible parking

and shuttle service are available at the Crystal River High School Football field off West Crystal Street, near the Coastal Regions Library.

Exciting Attractions

- Boat Tours: Explore Kings Bay with local captains offering tours on a first-come, first-served basis. Tickets (\$15 adults/\$10 kids) can be purchased near NW Third Street at Kings Bay Park. Thank you to this year's experienced guides from American Pro Dive, Explorita, Plantation Dive Center, River Ventures, and Paddletail Waterfront Adventures.

- Guided Kayak Tours: Paddle through the bay and Hunter Springs area with Paddletail Waterfront Adventures for just \$15. Reserve your preferred time in advance online via www.GoManateeFest.com.

- Soccer Collies: Don't miss the World Famous Undeclared National Champion Professional Soccer Dog Team! These talented pups face off against festival attendees once an hour starting at 9:45 a.m. daily—do you have what it takes to guard the goal?

- Community Color Project: Join Twistid Arts Initiative to

help paint a community-driven mural at the Splash Pad by the Pump House. Open to all ages, this free (donations appreciated) activity runs both festival days starting at 10 a.m.

- Three Sisters Springs Tour: Hop on a free bus near the entry gate at 5th Street and NE 1st Avenue to visit the iconic Three Sisters Springs and check out the Friends of the Crystal River National Wildlife Refuge Visitor's Center. Buses run every day from 9 a.m. until the last pickup at 2:30 p.m.

- Manatee Selfie Station: Head to the Pumphouse Pose station by the Downtown Square's Art in the Park for a memorable photo op with the giant recycled flip-flop manatee, Elvis the Manatee statue, and Explorita's Marley the Manatee!

From exciting encounters, hundreds of vendors, to hands-on art, the Florida Manatee Festival has something for everyone.

Mark your calendars, gather your friends and family, and come join the party in downtown Crystal River.

For more information, visit www.GoManateeFest.com. See you next weekend for all the splashy fun!

Vendor Applications Open for Floral City Strawberry Festival

Exciting news! Vendor applications are NOW OPEN for the 38th Annual Floral City Strawberry Festival, happening March 1 & 2, 2025!

This cherished event draws over 15,000 attendees yearly, immersing them in:

- Top-notch entertainment

- Mouth-watering pie-eating contests
- Enchanting Strawberry Princess Pageants

- Fun interactive features
- ... and most importantly, the STAR of our festival – our locally grown, farm-fresh STRAWBERRIES!

Location:

Floral Park, Floral City, Florida

Deadline to Apply:

February 14th, 2025

But, hurry! Spaces are limited and

they fill up FAST!

If you want to be part of a vibrant community experience, this is your chance. Join us and showcase your offerings to a massive crowd eager for quality, fun, and (of course) strawberries!

Apply at www.GoStrawberryFest.com.

Upcoming Chamber Events

- 01/16 January Chamber Mixer; 5PM-7PM; Location: Appliances 4 Less.
- 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
- 03/01-03/02 38th Annual Floral City Strawberry Festival; Floral Park, Floral City
- 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

February Chamber Luncheon

Join us for our February Chamber Luncheon featuring a panel discussion with Sunshine Arnold, LCSW, Citrus County Fire Rescue, Rachel Montgomery, Chief of Police, Citrus County School District, and Cindi Fein, Executive Director, NAMI Citrus.

They will lead an informal discussion on the powerful impact that investing in employees' mental health can have on a company's overall success.

In addition, they'll share how each is working within our community to raise awareness, improve outcomes, and ad-

vocate for mental wellness.

Details:

February 14th, 2025; 11:30am-1pm; Citrus Hills Golf & Country Club
Networking: 11:30am-12pm
Program/Speakers: 12pm-1pm
Sponsor: Citrus Abuse Shelter Association - CASA
Pricing: \$25 - members and \$35 - Non-members
Advanced reservations are required. No walk-ups will be accepted. Online at www.CitrusCountyChamber.com

RECENT RIBBON CUTTING

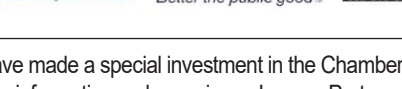
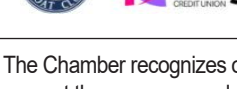
The Chamber is growing every week. We welcome our new members and thank all of them for joining the Chamber. We encourage the community to support their businesses.

Marketplace at Manatee Springs



Welcome to the Chamber, Marketplace at Manatee Springs! Unlock your business's potential with Marketplace at Manatee Springs, offering prime retail and office space for lease in the vibrant heart of downtown Crystal River. This premier location provides an exceptional opportunity for businesses seeking visibility and access in a bustling area, surrounded by the charm and energy of the local community. Whether you're launching a new venture or expanding an existing one, this strategic location ensures your business is positioned for success. Elevate your presence and connect with customers in one of Crystal River's most sought-after business hubs. 37 NW US-19 Crystal River FL 34428. (813) 852-5661. Tenantsolutions@vikingprop.com.

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.