



Promotional information provided by the Citrus County Chamber of Commerce.

Chamber Connection

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COAST COAST HEATING AND AIR CONDITIONING, LLC

FLORIDA MANATEE FESTIVAL CRYSTAL RIVER, FL

38TH ANNUAL
FLORIDA MANATEE FESTIVAL
JANUARY 18TH & 19TH, 2025

\$10 ADULTS | 12/UNDER FREE \$5 ENTRY SUNDAY ONLY WITH CHRONICLE COUPON!

GUIDED KAYAK TOURS
MANATEE BOAT TOURS
FOUR ENTERTAINMENT STAGES
FREE ENTRY TO THREE SISTERS SPRINGS

FREE PARKING/SHUTTLE AT CRYSTAL RIVER HIGH SCHOOL & WEST CITRUS GOVERNMENT BLDG.

- FOOD COURT
- BEER & WINE GARDEN
- ART IN THE PARK
- CRAFT VENDORS
- KIDS ZONES
- STREET ENTERTAINMENT
- HIPPIE VILLAGE AT HERITAGE HOUSE

WWW.GOMANATEEFEST.COM

Logos for sponsors: JENKINS AUTO GROUP, Nature Coast Clinical Research, RE/MAX REALTY ONE, TRUSTED SOLUTIONS, CITRUS COUNTY CHRONICLE, ALEXANDER, HENGEBAUGH, CITRUS COUNTY CHAMBER OF COMMERCE, HOMETOWN CITRUS, SEACOAST BANK, COASTAL ACCOUNTING & TAX ADVISORS, CPAs, PA, LHS Langley, Waybright Real Estate, Inc., LIFESOUTH Community Blood Centers, CoreCivic, and others.

THIS WEEKEND! 38th Annual Florida Manatee Festival Making a Splash in Crystal River

Join us to celebrate Florida's most famous gentle giants in grand style at the 38th Annual Florida Manatee Festival! This weekend the streets of downtown Crystal River are transformed 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 in today's 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, Exploridive, 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 Undefeated 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 Pump House 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 Exploridive'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!

Upcoming Chamber Events

- 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

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.

February Chamber Luncheon focused on Mental Health

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 advocate 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.

Greens and Goodness



Welcome to the Chamber, Greens and Goodness! Discover the essence of fresh, wholesome living at Greens and Goodness in Inverness! Specializing in locally sourced produce and nourishing foods, Greens and Goodness is your go-to destination for a healthier lifestyle. From vibrant fruits and vegetables to artisanal products and gluten-free options, their curated selection is designed to support your wellness journey. Whether you're looking to stock up on essentials or find unique specialty items, Greens and Goodness offers quality and freshness that you can trust. Embrace a better way of living with the finest in local goodness! 4445 S. Pleasant Grove Road Inverness FL 34452. (352) 756-4798.

Chamber Legacy Members

RE/MAX REALTY ONE, TRUSTED SOLUTIONS INSURANCE AGENCY, INC., JENKINS AUTO GROUP, Nature Coast Clinical Research, TGH Tampa General Hospital, Michael D. Bays State Farm, CITRUS COUNTY CHRONICLE, ARBOR TRAIL REHAB & SKILLED NURSING CENTER, WAVE, REALTORS' ASSOCIATION OF CITRUS COUNTY, INC., HCA Florida Citrus Hospital, HOMETOWN CITRUS, SeacoastBank, Signs Fast!, Ag Pro, Family Chiropractic, LHS Langley, WM, Waybright Real Estate, Inc., LIFESOUTH Community Blood Centers, CoreCivic, and others.

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.