

Promotional information provided by the Citrus County Chamber of Commerce.

# Chamber Connection

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

## First Responders Honored with Food, Fellowship, and Community Gratitude at EOC

We were honored to celebrate our first responders at the Emergency Operations Center Pole Barn this past Tuesday as our community turned out in force to celebrate the men and women who keep our community safe at the Citrus County Chamber of Commerce's annual First Responder Appreciation BBQ.

Under the generous hospitality of Sheriff David Vincent, we returned to the Emergency Operations Center Pole Barn in Lecanto, where EMS professionals, firefighters, deputies, Florida Fish & Wildlife officers, Florida Highway Patrol troopers, and corrections officers gathered for an afternoon of well-deserved recognition. Serving tables overflowed with pulled pork, chicken, BBQ ribs, and sides donated by a who's-who of local eateries and supporters, including Leon McClellan with M&B Dairy; the Agricultural Alliance of Citrus County; Powers Protection; Tampa General Hospital; HCA Florida Citrus Hospital; Mike Scott Plumbing; Sound Decisions; BubbaQue's BBQ- Crystal River; St. John's Tavern; Lollygaggers; and Joe's Family



Restaurant. "Every platter served and every handshake shared is our community's way of saying, 'We notice your sacrifice and we're grateful,'" said Chamber President/CEO Josh Wooten.

### Scholarships that Carry the Torch Forward

A highlight of the event was the presentation of the Jeff Dawsey First Re-

sponder Scholarship. Thanks to spirited fundraising by the Citrus County Sheriff's Office, Citrus County Fire Rescue, and the Citrus County Property Appraiser's Office, the scholarship committee was thrilled to fully fund two recipients this year! Congratulations to Yassiel Martinez, who is currently enrolled in the Fire Academy, and Ashley Smith, who is completing the Law Enforcement Academy. Additionally, Amy Fletcher

recognized two recipients for the Captain Mike Fletcher Memorial Fund. All the recipients received a rousing ovation from the assembled first responders who will one day call them colleagues. Events of this scale don't happen without the support of our business community. Special thanks go to our sponsors Nick Nicholas Ford, Tampa General Hospital, Crystal River Health & Rehab, Premier Pottys, Chuck's Guns, Good Signs Fast, Family Chiropractic Center for Wellness, Gary & Julie Mock, SRS Tactical, and the YMCA for their generous support. The First Responder Appreciation BBQ is a signature celebration that embodies Citrus County's close-knit spirit. Bringing the festivities back to the EOC Pole Barn felt like a homecoming—and judging by the smiles, laughter, and full plates, the tradition is stronger than ever. Thank you again to all of the dedicated men and women who have chosen a life of service. Our community is better, safer, and prouder because of you.



## June Luncheon features Citrus Superintendent Dr. Scott Hebert

Join the Citrus County Chamber of Commerce for our June Luncheon featuring Key-note Speaker Dr. Scott Hebert, Superintendent of Citrus County Schools. In his first luncheon address since taking the helm, Dr. Hebert will deliver a year-end wrap-up and share his vision for the 2025-26 school year. Hear firsthand how our public-school system is evolving to meet workforce needs, strengthen community partnerships, and prepare the next generation for success. Date: June 13, 2025, from

11:30 a.m.–1:00 p.m. Location: Citrus Hills Golf & Country Club Schedule: Networking: 11:30 a.m.–12:00 p.m. Program/Speaker: 12:00 p.m.–1:00 p.m. Sponsor: Nature Coast Ministries Pricing: \$25 – Members \$35 – Non-members Advanced reservations are required. No walk-ups will be accepted. Reserve now online at [www.CitrusCountyChamber.com](http://www.CitrusCountyChamber.com)



Dr. Scott Hebert, Citrus County Schools Superintendent

## RECENT RIBBON CUTTINGS

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.

### Uncle Louie G Crystal River



Welcome to the Chamber, Uncle Louie G Crystal River! Uncle Louie G's offers a nostalgic and refreshing treat with its delicious Italian Ice and Ice Cream, perfect for satisfying your sweet tooth. This locally owned franchise is veteran-owned and family-operated, ensuring a warm, welcoming atmosphere for all. Whether you're craving a classic Italian ice or a creamy scoop of ice cream, Uncle Louie G's delivers quality treats that bring a taste of tradition and happiness to every visit. Come indulge in a treat that's as sweet as the memories it brings! 15 NW US Hwy 19, Crystal River, FL 34429. (352) 699-4975.

### AnnDavid Real Estate



Welcome to the Chamber, AnnDavid Real Estate! AnnDavid Real Estate is North Central Florida's premier real estate investment company. They specialize in guiding both novice and experienced investors who have a desire to build wealth through real estate. From investor education and training, to constructing beautiful single- and multi-family investment properties, and providing property management services on both short and long-term rentals, they help investors achieve their financial goals. (352) 897-5083. <https://www.anndavidrealestate.com/>

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 [Corinne@CitrusCountyChamber.com](mailto:Corinne@CitrusCountyChamber.com).

**Chamber Legacy Members**

## UPCOMING CHAMBER EVENTS

- 06/13 June Chamber Luncheon; 11:30am – 1:00pm; Citrus Hills Golf & Country Club; Speaker: Citrus County Schools Superintendent Dr. Scott Hebert; Sponsor: Nature Coast Ministries
- 06/19 June Mixer; 5:00pm - 7:00pm; Grand Living at Citrus Hills
- JULY No Luncheon, No Mixer
- 08/08 August Chamber Luncheon; 11:30am – 1:00pm; Citrus Hills Golf & Country Club; Healthcare Heroes Awards; Sponsor: Citrus County Chronicle
- 08/21 August Mixer; 5:00pm - 7:00pm; Homosassa Wildlife Park