



Promotional information provided by the Citrus County Chamber of Commerce.

# Chamber Connection

915 N. Suncoast Blvd., Crystal River · 352-795-3149 · 212 W. Main St., Inverness · 352-726-2801

## Firing up Business Appreciation Month at the BIG BAM BBQ

The wait is over! Tickets are now on sale for the BIGGEST PARTY of the year! The BIG BAM BBQ will be held on Thursday, October 23, from 6 to 10 pm at M and B Dairy in Lecanto as part of the Chamber's Annual Business Appreciation Month celebrations!

This community favorite brings together Chamber members, local business leaders, and friends from across Citrus County for an evening packed with incredible food, great music, and plenty of fun. Guests will enjoy Leon McClellan's Famous BBQ, Dixie Hollins' fried green tomatoes, Larry Rooks' fried okra, sweet treats from The Ice Cream Club (made with fresh cream from the cows at M and B Dairy), and a high-energy live performance from crowd favorite Echo Sixx.

The BAM BBQ is more than just a night out. It is a chance to celebrate the businesses that power our local

economy and bring our community together! From networking with fellow professionals to relaxing with friends under the stars, this event is a highlight of Business Appreciation Month.

### Tickets

General Admission: \$40  
Admission with Open Bar: \$70 (must be 21 or older)

Purchase tickets now at [www.CitrusCountyChamber.com/BAM-BBQ](http://www.CitrusCountyChamber.com/BAM-BBQ).

### Looking to make an even bigger impact?

Sponsorship opportunities are available. Contact Corrine at [Corrine@CitrusCountyChamber.com](mailto:Corrine@CitrusCountyChamber.com) to learn more about the benefit levels.

Come hungry. Come ready to celebrate. And come prepared for a night you will not forget.

## SALUTE TO BUSINESS LUNCHEON

October 10 11:30 AM - 1:00 PM

College of Central Florida, Wilton Simpson Campus | 3800 S Lecanto Hwy, Lecanto

Keynote Speaker: Wilton Simpson



## Annual Salute to Business Luncheon features Agriculture Commissioner Wilton Simpson

Every October, Citrus County comes together to celebrate the companies, creators, and teams who keep our local economy moving. One of the month's signature events, the Salute to Business Luncheon turns our regular monthly luncheon into something bigger, with more connections, more insight, and more momentum for the year ahead.

This year, we will return to the College of Central Florida's Wilton Simpson Campus, a fitting stage for our keynote speaker: Florida Commissioner of Agriculture Wilton Simpson, a leader well-known to Citrus County and former Florida Senate President. Hearing his perspective on Florida's economic landscape, agriculture, workforce, and growth opportunities, right on the campus that bears his name, promises a memorable experience for all in attendance.

Come ready to network with business

owners, executives, and community leaders from across the county. We'll share a locally crafted lunch by Kane's Cattle Co., then dive into timely insights and practical takeaways you can bring back to your team the same afternoon.

Tickets are only \$40. Seating is limited, and this luncheon sells out quickly. Reserve your spot now at [CitrusCountyChamber.com](http://CitrusCountyChamber.com).

Special thanks to our Luncheon Sponsor, Duke Energy, and to our Business Appreciation Month Presenting Sponsor, Nick Nicholas Ford. Produced by the Citrus County Chamber of Commerce.

### When & Where

Date: October 10<sup>th</sup>, 2025

Time: 11:30AM – 1:00PM

Location: College of Central Florida,  
Wilton Simpson Campus,  
3800 S Lecanto Hwy, Lecanto

## Chamber Member Spotlight

## Michael D. Bays State Farm Insurance: Building Trust, One Policy at a Time

With more than 35 years of experience, Michael D Bays State Farm Insurance has become a trusted resource for families, businesses, and agricultural operations across Citrus County.

Known for his adaptability and expertise in medical, educational, and agricultural sectors, Mike Bays has built a reputation for reliability, knowledge, and personal service.

He also proudly serves as a primary training agent, reflecting his leadership and commitment to excellence in the field.

Mike's approach to insurance goes far beyond policies and premiums. He believes that building strong relationships is



just as important as providing top-notch protection. His mission is simple—offer guidance, support, and peace of mind to every client he serves.

When he is not working with customers, Mike enjoys engaging in community initiatives and giving back to the place he calls home. His true passion lies in enhancing family life and uplifting the community.

Friendly and approachable, Mike is dedicated to making a positive impact, one

policy at a time.

As a proud Chamber Member, Michael D Bays State Farm Insurance continues to be a pillar of trust and support in Citrus County.

His dedication to both professional excellence and community involvement makes him a shining example of what it means to serve.

Looking for an agent who will be there when you need them most? Contact Michael D Bays State Farm Insurance at 352-746-7008 or visit [www.mikebaysagency.com](http://www.mikebaysagency.com).

**BIG BAM BARBEQUE**  
CELEBRATING LOCAL BUSINESS  
**THURSDAY, OCT 23RD, 6PM - 10PM**  
**COME HUNGRY AND READY TO GET DOWN!**  
**M&B DAIRY, 8760 S LECANTO HWY, LECANTO**  
**LEON'S FAMOUS BBQ** **ECHO SIXX BAND**  
**\$40 GENERAL ADMISSION** **\$70 W/ OPEN BAR**  
\*MUST BE 21 OR OLDER TO PURCHASE  
TICKETS AVAILABLE ONLINE AT [WWW.CITRUSCOUNTYCHAMBER.COM/BAM-BBQ/](http://WWW.CITRUSCOUNTYCHAMBER.COM/BAM-BBQ/)

Logos for sponsors: JENKINS AUTO GROUP, RE/MAX REALTY ONE, TRUSTED SOLUTIONS, Nature Coast Clinical Research, DIX DEVELOPMENTS, CITRUS COUNTY CHRONICLE, State Farm, HCA Florida Citrus Hospital, Sign's Fast, HOMETOWN Citrus, Family Chiropractic, CLEAR SKY, COASTAL ACCOUNTING & TAX ADVISORS, REALTORS' ASSOCIATION OF CITRUS COUNTY, INC., WAVE LIFE REALTY PARTNERS, TGH Tampa General Hospital, CORE CIVIC, LIFESOUTH Community Blood Centers, SOIL WIZARDS, Insight, Central Motel, WASTE MANAGEMENT, CareerSource, FREEDOM, WORTHINGTON, and others.

## 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.

### Southern Cutz Barber Parlor



Welcome to the Chamber, Southern Cutz Barber Parlor! Southern Cutz Barber Parlor is your go-to destination for premium grooming services, offering a variety of styles and precise detailing in a welcoming atmosphere. With services including any-style haircuts, sculpted beard trims with steamed hot towel razor line-ups, and indulgent hot towel deluxe face shaves, they deliver classic barbershop excellence with a modern touch. Book your next appointment today and experience tailored grooming done right. Visit their website at <http://southern-cutz-barbershop.square.site> or call (352) 419-5262.

## Chamber Legacy Members

Logos for legacy members: RE/MAX REALTY ONE, JENKINS AUTO GROUP, DIX DEVELOPMENTS, HCA Florida Citrus Hospital, ARBOR TRAIL REHAB & SKILLED NURSING CENTER, TGH Tampa General Hospital, CORE CIVIC, LIFESOUTH Community Blood Centers, SOIL WIZARDS, Insight, Central Motel, WASTE MANAGEMENT, CareerSource, FREEDOM, WORTHINGTON, 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](mailto:Corrine@CitrusCountyChamber.com).

## UPCOMING CHAMBER EVENTS

- 09/18 September Chamber Mixer; 5:00pm – 7:00pm; ClearSky Rehabilitation Hospital
- 10/02 BIG BAM Mixer; 5:00pm-7:00pm; Tampa General Hospital – Crystal River
- 10/10 Salute to Business Luncheon; 11:30am – 1:00pm; College of Central Florida; Speaker: Wilton Simpson; Sponsor: Duke Energy
- 10/23 BAM BBQ; 6:00pm-10:00pm; M&B Dairy
- 11/14 November Chamber Luncheon; 11:30am – 1:00pm; Citrus Hills Golf & Country
- 11/20 November Chamber Mixer; 5:00pm – 7:00pm; The Oaks B&B