



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

Tick Tock, Tick Tock ... It's Almost Parade Time!

Tick tock, tick tock!! The most wonderful time of the year is almost here and so are our beloved Christmas parades! If you have been waiting to start your float design now is the time to grab your garland and get to it because the countdown is officially on!

This year's theme is Holiday Favorites, a nostalgic celebration of the people, places, and traditions that make this season so special. Whether it is a heartwarming fireplace scene, a joyful snowball showdown, or a tribute to a beloved holiday classic, we want to see your organization's creativity shine as you bring your favorite seasonal memories to life.

Crystal River Christmas Parade

Saturday, December 6 at 6:00 p.m.

Inverness Christmas Parade

Saturday, December 13 at 12:00 p.m.

Registration is open now at www.CitrusCountyChamber.com/christmas-parades/ with the application deadline set for Friday November 14.

These parades are one of the most anticipated traditions in Citrus County, bringing together families, friends, and neighbors to celebrate the joy of the season. From marching bands and twinkling lights to festive floats and smiling faces, there is no better way to kick off the holidays.

So, gather your team, cue up your favorite Christmas playlist, and help us deck the streets in Holiday Favorites! For more information on registration parade routes or road closures visit www.CitrusCountyChamber.com/christmas-parades/. Let's make this Christmas one to remember together!



Chamber Member Spotlight

Crystal Tractor & Equipment: Powering Citrus Forward

Locally owned and community focused, Crystal Tractor & Equipment has become a trusted name for reliability, service, and expertise in Citrus County. Located in Homosassa, this full-service dealership offers a wide selection of equipment for the agricultural, construction, and recreational industries. From tractors and mowers to ATVs, UTVs, and power tools, their knowledgeable team helps customers find exactly what they need to get the job done.

Crystal Tractor & Equipment is part of the Crystal Motor Car Company family, a locally established business group that has proudly served

CRYSTAL TRACTOR & MOTORCYCLE GROUP

Central Florida for more than four decades! Their commitment to quality, honesty, and customer satisfaction has built lasting relationships across generations of customers who know they can count on Crystal for both sales and service.

Beyond their impressive lineup of equipment and vehicles, the team at Crystal Tractor & Equipment takes pride in giving back to the community they call home. Through local sponsorships, event participation, and volunteer efforts, they continue

to support Citrus County's growth and vitality.

As a proud Chamber Legacy Member, Crystal Tractor & Equipment represents the values that make our business community strong, including integrity, hard work, and a genuine dedication to serving local customers.

For more information, visit Crystal Tractor & Equipment at 3029 S Suncoast Blvd in Homosassa or call 352 835 3110.

You can also explore their products and services online at www.CrystalTractor.com.



Save the Date for the 39th Annual Florida Manatee Festival

Get ready to celebrate one of Citrus County's favorite traditions at the 39th Annual Florida Manatee Festival, happening January 17 and 18, 2026 in downtown Crystal River! This beloved community event, presented by Coast-to-Coast Heating and Air Conditioning, and produced by the Citrus County Chamber of Commerce, brings together art, food, music, and family fun for an unforgettable weekend on the Nature Coast.

Festivalgoers can explore hundreds of local and regional vendors, enjoy live music, savor delicious food, and take advantage of discounted opportunities for manatee boat tours and guided kayak tours through the crystal-clear waters of Kings Bay. Families can also enjoy the popular Kids Zone, filled with

activities and entertainment for all ages.

Vendor applications are now open, inviting local artists, businesses, and food vendors to be part of this vibrant showcase. With thousands of visitors each year, it is an incredible opportunity to connect with the community and share your products, crafts, and creativity.

Save the date and plan to experience the very best of Citrus County during this two-day celebration that captures the heart and soul of our coastal community.

Admission: \$10 for adults, free for children 12 and under

Special Offer: \$5 Sunday entry with your Citrus County Chronicle coupon

For vendor registration, schedules, and event details, visit www.GoManateeFest.com.

EXPLORING GROWTH & INNOVATION:

2025 BAM FAM Tour Showcases the Best of Citrus County

The 2025 BAM FAM Tour of Citrus County once again delivered an unforgettable experience for the 40 business and community leaders who secured a seat on this highly anticipated journey. Held each October as part of Business Appreciation Month, the tour gives participants a behind-the-scenes look at some of Citrus County's most exciting developments, thriving businesses, and community projects.

This year's adventure began at the newly renovated PaddleTail Waterfront Lodge in Crystal River, where guests were welcomed aboard a comfortable motor coach for a full day of discovery. Attendees learned about Dr. Paresh Desai's remarkable renovation projects, including the revitalization of the former Port Paradise and Plantation Resort at Crystal River, as well as the transformation of PaddleTail into a modern waterfront destination.

Stops included the newly opened Fountains at Hidden Lake, providing affordable senior living; the Academy of Health Careers at Crystal River High School, where students are training to become the next generation of healthcare professionals; the Citrus MakerSpace, a fully operational hub for local entrepreneurs; and a look at the Dix Developments projects currently underway. Guests also toured Citrus Cardiology's impressive new facility and enjoyed a delicious lunch at Katch Twenty-Two, the signature restaurant of local restaurateurs Richard and Tiffany Wiggins. Later, the group visited Tibbetts Lumber & Windows, learning how the company continues to expand and invest in the local building industry-made followed by a stop at Twistid Arts Initiative, where founders Elisha and Danny Belden shared their vision for inspiring creative opportunities for



Citrus County youth. They then travelled to Caliber Elements, where they got to see first hand their new 18,000 sq ft facility specializing in industrial fabrication serving customers throughout the U.S. as well as in the U.K. before getting a behind the scenes tour of a brand new facility, Agrinova, that brings a new touch of agriculture to our community through their innovative seed production. Just down the road, they popped into Dragonville Studios, located on a 37-acre horse ranch, offering production services, talent management, film production, and more. Finally, our guests ended their tour with a drive through Davis Reserve, the newest expansion of Citrus Hills, to get a firsthand look at the current construction and planned layout of this state-of-the-art community.

The day concluded back at PaddleTail, where attendees gathered for a waterfront reception hosted by Dr. Desai and the Wiggins team at the new Tiki Bar.

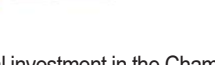
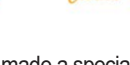
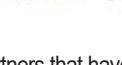
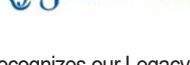
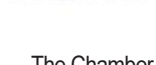
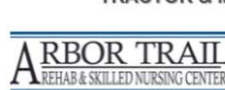
The 2025 BAM FAM Tour once again highlighted the incredible growth and innovation happening across Citrus County, celebrating the people and projects that continue to move our community forward. Thank you to all who attended, and to our BAM FAM sponsor The Florida Chamber.



UPCOMING CHAMBER EVENTS

- 11/14 November Chamber Luncheon; 11:30am – 1:00pm; Citrus Hills Golf & Country Club; Speaker: Heather Cogar, Florida Chamber Statewide Director of Prosperity Initiative
- 11/20 November Chamber Mixer; 5:00pm – 7:00pm; The Oaks B&B
- 12/06 Crystal River Christmas Parade, 6pm
- 12/12 Chamber Luncheon; 11:30am – 1:00pm; Citrus Hills Golf & Country Club
- 12/13 Inverness Christmas Parade, Noon
- 12/18 Chamber Mixer; 5:00pm – 7:00pm; (members only), Sweet Citrus Acres

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.