



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

39th Annual Florida Manatee Festival Making a Splash in Downtown Crystal River

Get ready, Citrus County! The 39th Annual Florida Manatee Festival is making a splash on January 17 and 18, 2026 in beautiful downtown Crystal River. Presented by Coast-to-Coast Heating and Air Conditioning, this beloved two-day celebration brings together art, music, food, and family fun in honor of our community's favorite gentle giants.

Each year, thousands of visitors travel from near and far to experience one of the Nature Coast's most anticipated events. Festivalgoers can enjoy guided manatee boat tours and kayak adventures through the sparkling waters of Kings Bay, offering a rare and unforgettable look at manatees in their natural habitat. Art enthusiasts will love Art in the Park, where talented local and regional artists display their work beneath the shady oaks of the town square.

Live music will fill the air throughout the weekend across multiple stages featuring a mix of local talent and regional performers playing everything from classic rock to blues and country. Guests can explore hundreds of craft and business vendors, sample delicious food

from a variety of vendors, and treat the kids to the always popular Kids Zone packed with games and entertainment for all ages.

Visitors can also take advantage of free shuttle services to the world famous Three Sisters Springs, where manatees gather in the crystal-clear waters that make Crystal River famous.

Admission is \$10 for adults, and children 12 and under get in free. On Sunday, January 18, festivalgoers can enjoy a \$5 discount per person for up to four adult admissions with a coupon from the Citrus County Chronicle.

Free parking and shuttle services will be available from Crystal River High School and the West Citrus Government Building.

To learn more, view the full schedule, or apply to be a vendor, visit www.GoManateeFest.com or reach out to the Chamber Events Manager, Missy, at Events@CitrusCountyChamber.com.

Come join the fun and celebrate the charm, creativity, and community spirit that make the Florida Manatee Festival one of Citrus County's favorite annual traditions.



December Luncheon to feature WTC Director

Join the Citrus County Chamber of Commerce for the December Chamber Luncheon, hosted by the Business Women's Alliance, a committee of the Citrus County Chamber of Commerce, featuring guest speaker Colleen Strickland, Director of Withlacoochee Technical College.

Colleen has dedicated her career to expanding access to high-quality technical education and aligning training programs with the needs of local employers. Under her leadership, Withlacoochee Technical College continues to play a key role in preparing students and adult learners for in-demand careers right here in Citrus County.

Details:

Friday, December 5, 2025

Time: 11:30 a.m. – 1:00 p.m.

Location: Citrus Hills Golf & Country Club

Pricing:

\$25 – Members

\$35 – Non-members

Advanced reservations are required, and no walk-ups will be accepted. Reservations open now at www.CitrusCountyChamber.com.

Don't miss this opportunity to connect with fellow business and community leaders.



Colleen Strickland

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.

Cogent Legal Services



Please join us in welcoming Cogent Legal Services to the Chamber! With over 20 years of combined professional experience, Cogent Legal Services provides top-quality legal support across Florida, including live and remote court reporting, certified legal transcription with fast turnaround, videography, interpreting and translation services, and remote depositions. They pride themselves on accuracy, HIPAA compliance, and delivering personalized service while meeting the demands of even the largest cases. You can reach them at (561) 356-0831 or visit their website at www.cogentls.com.

RESQ Homes



Welcome to the Chamber, RESQ Homes! Family-owned by Keith and Kat, RESQ Home Ventures provides fast, fair, and hassle-free cash home buying services throughout Citrus County and Tampa. They specialize in helping homeowners navigate life's challenges by offering solutions with no agent fees, no commissions, no repairs, and flexible closings on your schedule. Their goal is to make the process simple, stress-free, and tailored to your needs. For more information, check out their website at <http://resq.homes> or call them at (352) 400-4022.

Citrus County Blessings



Congratulations to long-time Chamber member, Citrus County Blessings, on their NEW LOCATION! Citrus County Blessings is a dedicated nonprofit organization committed to fighting childhood hunger in Citrus County. Their flagship program, the Blessings Program, provides weekend meals to students enrolled in the free or reduced-price meal program, ensuring they have food to eat when school is not in session. Additionally, they operate the Feed the Kids Summer Feeding Program, which provides fresh produce to children in need during the summer months when school meal programs are unavailable. Their Food Recovery Program, known as Harvest, coordinates with local restaurants to collect and distribute donated food to residents in need. Through these initiatives, Citrus County Blessings serves over 2,600 local students and continues to expand its reach to meet the growing demand. For more information or to get involved, contact them at (352) 341-7707. <https://citruscountyblessings.org/>

UPCOMING CHAMBER EVENTS

- 11/20 November Chamber Mixer; 5:00pm – 7:00pm; The Oaks B&B
- 12/5 Chamber Luncheon; 11:30am – 1:00pm; Citrus Hills Golf & Country Club; Sponsor is Business Women's Alliance; Speaker is Colleen Strickland, Director of Withlacoochee Technical College
- 12/06 Crystal River Christmas Parade, 6pm
- 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.