



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

Get Ready to Glow...

Crystal River Christmas Parade Is TONIGHT

Tonight is the night Crystal River comes alive with lights, laughter, and pure holiday joy! The Crystal River Christmas Parade, presented by Tony's Collision, begins at 6 p.m., and the entire community is invited to gather, celebrate, and share in one of Citrus County's favorite holiday traditions.

This year's theme, Holiday Favorites, has inspired some of the most imaginative parade entries yet.

Expect to see everything from classic holiday memories brought to life to fun tributes to beloved seasonal movies and music.

Each float brings its own sparkle, and together they create a magical holiday experience that families look forward to all year long.

Leading the parade as our Grand Marshal this evening is Dr. Paresh Desai, MD, a devoted local physician and the owner of The Port Hotel and Marina, PaddleTail Lodge, and the newly acquired Plantation Resort. His love for this

**Inverness Christmas Parade
NEXT SATURDAY at 12PM!**



*Thank You to our
Christmas Parade Sponsors*

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community, combined with his leadership across local hospitality and development projects, makes him a wonderful choice to serve as this year's

Grand Marshal.

Our judging panel is ready for a night full of hometown creativity. This year's judges include:

• Mia Fink, City Clerk for the City of Crystal River

• Katrina Leturno, Owner of Circle T Sod Farms and President of the Citrus County Building Alliance

• Nick Popham, Marketing and Content Manager for Discover Crystal River

They are on the lookout for the most festive, imaginative, and crowd-pleasing entries, and parade participants have been encouraged to bring their very best holiday spirit to the route.

Parade Route and Viewing Information

Staging begins just south of HWY 44 on HWY 19 at NW Third Street. Floats will enter HWY 19 between Walgreens and Saras Diner, travel southbound, and exit at Paradise Point just past Truist Bank.

Spectators may line both sides of HWY 19 and are asked to remain either on the sidewalk or the median so everyone can enjoy the parade safely and comfortably.

Traffic and Road Closures

Beginning at 5 p.m., traffic on HWY 19 in both directions will be detoured to Martin Luther King Boulevard on HWY 44 for southbound traffic and near Aldis Plaza for northbound traffic until 9 p.m.

The following downtown roads will be closed/one-way/or detoured from 2 p.m. to 7 p.m.:

- N Citrus Avenue (south of US 19)
- NE 5th Street
- NE 4th Street
- NE 3rd Street

Three Sisters Springs
Bundle up, bring the family, claim your favorite spot along the route, and get ready for a night of glowing lights, cheerful floats, and Crystal River holiday magic! The parade is set to light up downtown, and we cannot wait to enjoy this unforgettable evening with our community.

For more information or to see the route map visit www.citruscountychamber.com/christmas-parades/.

39th Annual Florida Manatee Festival Set for January 17 and 18, 2026

The excitement is building in Crystal River, as the Citrus County Chamber of Commerce prepares to welcome visitors to the 39th Annual Florida Manatee Festival, presented by Coast-to-Coast Heating and Air Conditioning, on January 17 and 18, 2026. This beloved celebration fills downtown Crystal River with energy, color, and community pride as families and visitors gather to honor our gentle winter residents, the manatees!

This two-day festival delivers something special for everyone! Guests can enjoy guided manatee boat tours and kayak adventures in Kings Bay, offering an unforgettable look at these peaceful creatures in their natural habitat. Art in the Park will once again transform the town square into a showcase of creativity, featuring work from talented artists across the region. Throughout the weekend, live music will flow from multiple



stages, bringing a variety of performers together to create the perfect soundtrack for a lively festival atmosphere.

Visitors can also ride the shuttle for

free entry into the world famous Three Sisters Springs wildlife preserve and boardwalk to see manatees in the crystal-clear waters that make Crystal River famous. A wide variety of delicious food

vendors, hundreds of craft and business booths, and a fun filled Kids Zone ensures that every member of the family has something to enjoy.

Admission is \$10 for adults, and children 12 and under are admitted FREE. On Sunday, January 18, festivalgoers can also take advantage of a \$5 discount per person for up to four adult admissions with a coupon from the Citrus County Chronicle for "Citrus County Day".

Do not miss this chance to experience the beauty, creativity, and community spirit that makes the Florida Manatee Festival one of Citrus County's most treasured annual traditions!

Free parking and shuttle service will be available from Crystal River High School and the West Citrus Government Building. For more information, visit www.GoManateeFest.com or contact the Citrus County Chamber of Commerce at 352 795 3149.

CLAIM YOUR SPOT!
Now Accepting Applications for the
2026 Floral City Strawberry Festival

The Citrus County Chamber of Commerce is accepting vendor applications for the 2026 Floral City Strawberry Festival, taking place March 7 and 8, 2026. Applications are available online at www.GoStrawberryFest.com. For questions, contact our Special Events Manager, Missy, at 352 795 3149.

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.

Pinch A Penny



Welcome to the Chamber, Pinch A Penny Pool Patio Spa (Crystal River) as our newest Chamber member! Located at 2351 NW US Highway 19 in Crystal River, they are your neighborhood experts for all things pool and more. Locally owned and operated, Pinch A Penny offers a wide selection of pool supplies, including liquid chlorine, tablets, pumps, filters, and spa care products. Their team provides expert advice and reliable service to help keep your pool, patio, or spa in top shape. You can reach them at (352) 563-0677.

UPCOMING CHAMBER EVENTS

- 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
- 01/08 January Chamber Mixer; 5:00pm – 7:00pm; (members only), Bayside Grille
- 01/09 January Chamber Luncheon; 11:30am – 1:00pm; Citrus Hills Golf & Country Club
- 01/17-01/18 Florida Manatee Festival; Downtown Crystal River
- 01/22 Annual Citrus County Legislative Day; Tallahassee

Chamber Legacy Members

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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.