



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 Celebrates Community, Music, and Manatee Magic

The 39th Annual Florida Manatee Festival returned to downtown Crystal River this past weekend, once again transforming the Manatee Capital of the World into a vibrant celebration of community, culture, and coastal tradition. Produced by the Citrus County Chamber of Commerce and presented by Coast to Coast Heating and Air, the festival welcomed thousands of residents and visitors for a weekend filled with music, family fun, and unforgettable moments!

Saturday delivered everything festivalgoers have come to love about the Florida Manatee Festival and more. From live musical performances across multiple stages to bustling vendor streets, food courts, and beer and wine gardens, the energy throughout downtown Crystal River was electric! Guests



### Thank You, Sponsors!



[www.GoManateeFest.com](http://www.GoManateeFest.com) January 17th & 18th, 2026

enjoyed guided kayak tours, visits to Three Sisters Springs, Art in the Park, interactive entertainment, and a wide variety of activities for children, making

Saturday a true highlight of the weekend. While weather conditions shortened Sunday's schedule, the weekend delivered the

energy, community spirit, and celebration the Florida Manatee Festival is known for. The festival continues to serve as a cornerstone community event,

bringing together local businesses, nonprofits, artists, musicians, volunteers, and families to celebrate the natural beauty and unique spirit of Crystal River.

The Citrus County Chamber of Commerce extends its sincere appreciation to Presenting Sponsor, Coast to Coast Heating and Air, all event sponsors, vendors, entertainers, volunteers, public safety partners, and the community members who helped make this year's festival possible! Their continued support and dedication ensure the Florida Manatee Festival remains one of Citrus County's most beloved traditions.

Plans are already underway for the 40th Annual Florida Manatee Festival, and the Chamber looks forward to welcoming everyone back next year for another unforgettable weekend in downtown Crystal River.



## The Road Ahead for Citrus County

Join us for our February Chamber Luncheon featuring County Administrator Steve Howard. He will be providing a comprehensive wrap-up of 2025 and share some forward-looking updates on priorities and plans for the new year. Attendees will gain insight into countywide growth, infrastructure, and key initiatives shaping the future of Citrus County.



**FEBRUARY LUNCHEON**  
FEBRUARY 13TH, 2026  
11:30AM - 1:00PM  
Citrus Hills Golf & Country Club  
County Administrator  
**STEVE HOWARD**

Sponsored By: **Centratel**  
Cloud Solutions Ground Support

### DETAILS

February 13th, 2026;  
11:30am-1pm;  
Citrus Hills  
Golf & Country Club  
Networking:

11:30am-12pm  
Program/Speaker:  
12pm-1pm  
Speaker:  
County Administrator  
Steve Howard  
Sponsor: Centratel

Pricing:  
\$30 – Members  
\$35 – Non-members  
Advanced reservations are  
required, online at [www.CitrusCountyChamber.com](http://www.CitrusCountyChamber.com).  
No walk-ups will be accepted.

## UPCOMING CHAMBER EVENTS

- 02/13 February Chamber Luncheon; 11:30am – 1:00pm; Citrus Hills Golf & Country Club
- 02/19 February Chamber "Ball Drop" Mixer; 5:00pm – 7:00pm; Chamber Office
- 02/22 CCBA Annual Jim Blackshear Memorial Golf Outing; Twisted Oaks Golf Course
- 03/07 – 03/08 39th Annual Floral City Strawberry Festival; Floral Park



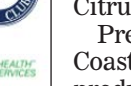
**39TH ANNUAL FLORAL CITY STRAWBERRY FESTIVAL**  
MARCH 7-8, 2026

Floral Park, Floral City, FL  
Free Parking/Shuttle from Citrus County Auditorium  
ENTRY ONLY \$5.00/Adult | FREE for Children 12 & Under



WWW.GOSTRAWBERRYFEST.COM

## 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](mailto:Corrine@CitrusCountyChamber.com).

### Calling All Vendors!

Vendor applications are now open for the 39th Annual Floral City Strawberry Festival, happening March 7 - 8, 2026 at Floral Park in Floral City. Artists, makers, food vendors, and small businesses are invited to apply to be part of one of Citrus County's most well-attended and beloved festivals. Application Deadline: February 7, 2026 ● Apply Online: [www.GoStrawberryFest.com](http://www.GoStrawberryFest.com) Vendor spaces are limited and fill quickly.

## The Sweetest Weekend of the Year

The 39th Annual Floral City Strawberry Festival is set to return to Floral Park in Floral City on March 7 - 8, 2026, bringing with it two full days of strawberries, entertainment, and small-town tradition that has become a Citrus County favorite.

Presented by Coast to Coast Heating & Air and produced by the Citrus County Chamber of Commerce, this well-loved community festival attracts thousands of attendees each year. The event celebrates the heart of Floral City with locally grown strawberries from

Ferris Groves, live music, delicious food and beverage options, and family friendly activities for all ages.

Festival goers can enjoy a full weekend of entertainment including live music, the always popular pie eating contests, kids' activities, and the Little Miss Strawberry Princess Pageant, a cherished Saturday morning tradition that highlights the next generation of Strawberry Festival royalty.

Admission to the festival is just \$5 per adult, with children 12 and under admitted free. Free

parking and shuttle service will be available from the Citrus County Auditorium, with shuttles running continuously throughout both days of the festival.

Festival hours are 9 AM to 5 PM on Saturday and 9 AM to 4 PM on Sunday. Visitors are encouraged to make a day of it by enjoying the festival grounds as well as the charm and hospitality of the surrounding Floral City community.

For event details, entertainment updates, and festival information, visit [www.GoStrawberryFest.com](http://www.GoStrawberryFest.com).