



MISSION OF THE CITRUS COUNTY CHAMBER OF COMMERCE: The Citrus County Chamber of Commerce is an organization of businesses unified in efforts to advance the economic growth of the region, promote the interests of the business community, provide key leadership on key commerce issues and preserve the county's quality of life.

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

Congratulations to our Pillar recipients!

On April 17th, we were honored to host our annual Pillar Awards dinner, where we had the privilege of recognizing the individuals, businesses, and organizations that make up the heartbeat of Citrus County. Please join us in congratulating and thanking the recipients of this year's Pillar Awards!

2025-26 PILLAR AWARDS

ARDATH PRENDERGAST

Lillian Smith Leadership Citrus Award and Lifetime Achievement Award

STACEY WORTHINGTON

Past Chair Award

SAMUEL GRUNST

Shawn Harrison Outstanding Youth Award

MARK GARLOCK

Chris Delgado Ambassador of the Year Award

KYLE MCKAY

Mandi Warren Richards Rising Star Award

TARA BALLANTYNE

Jean Grant Business Women's Alliance Award

MICHELLE ALFORD

Altrusa of Citrus County Mamie L. Bass Award

BRUCE KAUFMAN

George Rusaw Let's Build It Award

CITRUS COUNTY ANIMAL SERVICES

President's Award

DAVID VINCENT

Philip P. Royal First Responders Award

THE FAMILY REOURCE CENTER

John T. Barnes Outstanding Community Organization Award

STACEY WORTHINGTON

Rick Quinn Distinguished Citizen Award

TIFFANI KING

Mike Scott Community Service Award

WARDLOW & CASH, P.A.

Walt Connors Business Award

DR. PARESH DESAI

Charles B. Fitzpatrick Award



From left to right: Colleen Yarbrough; Meahan Meilo; Michelle Alford; RJ Fontana; Mark Garlock; Tara Ballantyne; Dr. Paresh Desai; Tiffani King; Stacey Worthington; Kyle McKay; Bruce Kaufman; Ardath Prendergast; David Vincent; Samuel Grunst; Johnny Cash.

Thank you to our 2025-26 Pillar Awards Sponsors!



RECENT RIBBON CUTTINGS

Travelin' Tom's Coffee of Sumter County



Welcome to the Chamber, Travelin' Tom's Coffee of Sumter County! We're excited to welcome this mobile coffee truck that brings fresh, handcrafted coffee wherever the community needs it. Travelin' Tom's Coffee of Sumter County serves a variety of delicious drinks, including flavored iced coffees, hot coffees, energy drinks, and more—all delivered with friendly service and a fun, uplifting vibe. They proudly serve local events, neighborhoods, schools, and businesses, offering a convenient and enjoyable way to get your favorite pick-me-up on the go. Contact Information: Email: mjwallen@travelintomscoffee.com - Phone: (352) 593-0293 We're thrilled to welcome Travelin' Tom's Coffee of Sumter County to the Chamber community!

Agrinova Co.



Welcome to the Chamber, Agrinova Co.! Agrinova is a quality hybrid seeds company founded in 2003 and is part of Novalliance, a Franco-American group made up of 45 companies, 8 brands, and more than 755 employees across over 109 countries. Their mission focuses on the research, creation, and distribution of top-quality seeds specially developed for tropical regions. Their retail store and operations in Hernando offer a variety of seeds and gardening items, bringing global agricultural expertise directly to our local community. For more information, you can contact them at (305) 629-8390 x105 or visit them at 3554 E Norvell Bryant Hwy, Hernando, FL 34442. We're excited to welcome Agrinova to the Chamber community.

May Chamber Luncheon:

Ocala Mayor Shares Story of Resilience, Community Impact

The Citrus County Chamber of Commerce will welcome Ben Marciano, Mayor of Ocala, as the featured speaker at its May Chamber Luncheon on Friday, May 8, from 11:30 a.m. to 1:00 p.m. at Citrus Hills Golf and Country Club. The luncheon will bring together local business leaders and community members for an informative update on transportation and infrastructure impacting Citrus County.



MAY LUNCHEON

MAY 8TH, 2026

11:30AM - 1:00PM

Citrus Hills Golf & Country Club

MAYOR OF OCALA

BEN MARCIANO

Sponsored By: Family Chiropractic Center

committing to a new path, he built a career dedicated to strengthening others, from revitalizing the local YMCA to co-founding a successful fitness business and actively supporting youth and community initiatives. Grounded in more than two decades of service, Ben's story reflects the very heart of our Chamber's Prosperity Initiative, demonstrating how perseverance, personal responsibility, and a commitment to lifting others can create lasting

impact. Join us on May 8 to hear how one individual's journey can inspire stronger communities and brighter futures. Networking begins at 11:30 a.m., followed by the program at noon. The event is sponsored by Family Chiropractic Center for Wellness.

Advanced reservations are required. Admission is \$30 for Chamber members and \$35 for non-members. For more information or to register, visit Citrus CountyChamber.com.

From overcoming a childhood marked by instability and addiction to leading a thriving community as Mayor of Ocala, Ben Marciano brings a powerful message of resilience, purpose, and service. A Citrus County native and Lecanto High School graduate, Ben's journey from personal struggle to transformation is both deeply personal and broadly inspiring. After finding faith and

UPCOMING CHAMBER EVENTS

- 04/25-04/26 CCBA Annual Family Fishing Tournament; MacRae's of Homosassa
- 05/08 May Chamber Luncheon; 11:30am – 1:00pm; Citrus Hills Golf & Country Club; Sponsor: Family Chiropractic Center for Wellness; Speaker: Mayor of Ocala, Ben Marciano
- 05/14 CCBA Citrus Showcase of Homes Awards Banquet; 5:30pm – 8:30pm, Copp Winery & Brewery
- 05/21 May Chamber Mixer; 5:00pm – 7:00pm; Metailor's Mermaid Aquarium

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.