Promotional information provided by the Citrus County Chamber of Commerce · 915 N. Suncoast Blvd., Crystal River · 352-795-3149

Chamber Connection

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.

It's Beginning to Look a Lot Like Parade Season in Citrus County!



It's Beginning to Look a Lot Like Parade Season in Citrus County! The holiday season is right around the corner, and it's time to get those creative wheels turning! The Citrus County Chamber of Commerce is gearing up for our beloved annual Christmas Parades, and float applications are officially OPEN! This year's theme, "Nature Coast Christmas," invites participants to combine the magic of Christmas with the natural beauty, wildlife, and traditions that make Citrus County so special.

Picture Santa cruising down the river in an airboat, manatees sporting Santa hats, or a festive fishing village decked out for the holidays! Whether you're representing a local business, school, church, nonprofit, club, or community organization, we can't wait to see how you bring the spirit of a Nature Coast Christmas to life.

The Crystal River Christmas Parade will take place on Saturday, December 5, followed by the Inverness Christmas Parade on Saturday, December 12. Both parades promise memories filled with festive floats, twinkling lights, holiday music, and plenty of Christmas cheer as our community comes together to celebrate one of Citrus County's favorite traditions.

Float applications are due Saturday, November 28, so don't wait to get started!

Register at www.CitrusCountyChamber.com/christmas-parades/.

Gather your crew, untangle those Christmas lights, and start planning your float! Let's make this year's Nature Coast Christmas parades two to remember!

40 Years of Manatee Magic! Save the Date for the Florida Manatee Festival



Get ready to celebrate 40 years of one of Citrus County's most beloved traditions! The 40th Annual Florida Manatee Festival returns to downtown Crystal River on January 16 and 17, 2027, bringing together the very best of our coastal community for a weekend filled with entertainment, local flavor, and plenty of manatee magic!

For four decades, the Florida Manatee Festival has welcomed residents and visitors to the heart of the Manatee Capital of the World. This milestone celebration promises another unforgettable weekend featuring hundreds of local and regional vendors, live music across four entertainment stages, delicious food, arts and crafts, and activities for the whole family. Festivalgoers can also explore the natural beauty of Kings Bay through manatee boat tours, guided kayak excursions, and opportunities to visit the world famous Three Sisters Springs.

Want to be part of this milestone celebration? Vendor applications are now open! Local businesses, artists, crafters, and food vendors are invited to showcase their products and services at one of the Nature Coast's most anticipated annual events.

With thousands of visitors attending each year, it's a fantastic opportunity to connect with the community and be part of a tradition 40 years in the making.

Mark your calendars and make plans to join us as we celebrate four decades of community, conservation, and coastal charm.

Whether you've attended for years or are planning your first visit, the 40th Annual Florida Manatee Festival is one celebration you won't want to miss!

Admission: $10 for adults, FREE for children 12 and younger
Special Offer: $5 Sunday admission with Citrus County Chronicle coupon
For vendor registration, festival information, and event updates, visit www.GoManateeFest.com.

Promotional information provided by the Citrus County Building Alliance, a Council of the Citrus County Chamber of Commerce.

Building Connection

MISSION OF THE CITRUS COUNTY BUILDING ALLIANCE: To elevate and support Citrus County's building industry by actively engaging in local policy, promoting ethical standards, and providing valuable resources and education to our members. From industry networking to advocacy on key issues, CCBA is committed to driving growth, opportunity, and a high quality of life in our community.

Boots, Bling & New Beginnings: CCBA Celebrates Its New Leadership

The Citrus County Building Alliance celebrated an evening of Boots & Bling at Sugarmill Woods Country Club in September, gathering members and guests for our annual Installation Dinner. It was a night to welcome new leadership, recognize outstanding members, and celebrate the people who keep our Alliance moving forward.

A special thank-you to Duke Energy, our event sponsor, for supporting this memorable evening, and to Traci Perry, our installing officer, for leading the installation of our incoming officers and directors.

We proudly welcomed Melissa Sutherland, of Sutherland Enterprises, as our new president, alongside our 2026-2027 leadership team. These dedicated volunteers bring experience from across the building industry and a shared commitment to supporting our members, strengthening industry connections, and advocating for our local building community.

The celebration also included our annual awards, recognizing members whose service and involvement have made a lasting impact. Congratulations to our Builder of the Year, Josh McDermott with Townsley Construction, Associate of the Year, Tyler Deem, Deem's Kitchens & Counters, and VIP of the Year, Katrina Leturno, Circle T Sod Farms!

To everyone who joined us, thank you for making the evening special. We look forward to another year of working together and Building a Better Citrus!

Congratulations to Our 2026 to 2027 CCBA Officers & Directors!

President: *Melissa Sutherland, Sutherland Enterprises*
President-Elect: *Justin Leech, Habitat for Humanity of the Nature Coast*
First Vice President: *Jon Stafford, Quality First Roofing*
Second Vice President: *Tyler Deem, Deem's Kitchens & Counters*
Treasurer: Nadia Miller, *Habitat for Humanity of the Nature Coast*
Secretary: *Jake Bell, Citrus Networking Solutions*
Past President: *Katrina Leturno, Circle T Sod Farms*

Directors:
- *Bruce Kaufman, Bruce Kaufman Construction*
- *Drew Benefield, Bluewater Drafting*
- *James Holder, Troy's Irrigation & Landscaping*
- *Josh McDermott, Townsley Construction*
- *Linda McCabe, Palmwood Construction*
- *Ruthie Schlabach, Schlabach Security & Sound*
- *Trey Moberley, Tropical Windows*

Congratulations to Our Award Winners!

Builder of the Year: *Josh McDermott, Townsley Construction*
Associate of the Year: *Tyler Deem, Deem's Kitchens & Counters*
VIP of the Year: *Katrina Leturno, Circle T Sod Farms*







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.

UPCOMING CHAMBER EVENTS

- **11/02** Monday Meetup: Career & Community Series; Twistid Arts Initiative
- **11/13** Chamber Young Professional's 40 under Forty Luncheon; 11:30am – 1:00pm; Citrus Hills Golf & Country Club; Sponsor: Wardlow & Cash, P.A.
- **11/19** November Chamber Mixer; 5:00pm – 7:00pm; Village Powersports
- **12/03** CCBA Christmas Bash; 5:30-8:00pm; Sugarmill Woods Country Club
- **12/05** Crystal River Christmas Parade, 6pm
- **12/11** Chamber Luncheon; 11:30am – 1:00pm; Citrus Hills Golf & Country Club; Sponsor: Business Women's Alliance (BWA)
- **12/12** Inverness Christmas Parade, Noon
- **12/17** Chamber Mixer; 5:00pm – 7:00pm; (members only), Sweet Citrus Acres

UPCOMING CCBA EVENTS

- **NO NOVEMBER GMM DUE TO HOLIDAYS**
- **12/03** CCBA Christmas Bash; 5:30-8:30 p.m.; Sugarmill Woods Country Club
- **2/21** Citrus County Building Alliance's Annual Jim Blackshear Memorial Golf Outing; Twisted Oaks Golf Club, Beverly Hills; contact Corrine at Corrine@CitrusCountyChamber.com for sponsorship opportunities and benefit information