



# Chamber Connection

915 N. Suncoast Blvd., Crystal River, FL 34429 · 352-795-3149 · 106 W. Main St., Inverness, FL 34450 · 352-726-2801

## New Small Business Grants Available Monday

The Chamber recently proposed a plan to the Citrus County Board of County Commissioners to provide reimbursement to local businesses for PPE and business retrofit/adaptation expenses. We are pleased that the BOCC has approved and adopted these proposed Citrus County Small Business Grant Programs. There will be 2 grants available beginning Monday, January 11th.

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The Personal Protective Equipment (PPE) Micro Grant will have a minimum award of \$250 up to a maximum award of \$2,500.

**Program Overview:**

- Individual business grants

to pay for businesses PPE expenses up to \$2,500 incurred between March 1 and December 15, 2020.

■ For business-related costs for PPE and sanitization supplies related to COVID-19 that directly impacted applicant businesses employees and customers when such cost was not otherwise sold or charged to the customer.

■ Must demonstrate the expenses through receipts/documentation and that documentation must show that the expense(s):

- Was COVID related
- Met or exceeded \$250
- Examples include, but are not limited to, Masks, Face

Shields, Hand Sanitizer Gel, New Hand Sanitization Stations, Gowns, Disinfecting Wipes, Temperature Checking Devices, and Employee COVID Testing paid for by the business.

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The Small Business Retrofit/Adaptation Grant will have a maximum award of \$10,000 per business. A small business may be eligible for both grants.

**Program Overview:**

■ Individual business grants to pay for businesses adaptation and modification expenses related to COVID-19. Grant is up to \$10,000 for expenses incurred between March 1 and December 15, 2020.

■ Examples of eligible expenses include actual modification expenses related to physically and/or functionally adapting the business to meet officially required or recommended guidance related to COVID-19 with the overall goal to make operation of the business safer for employees and/or the public.

■ Examples of eligible business adaptations and expenses include, but are not limited to: Erecting counter separation barriers, increasing height of restaurant separation booths, adding a customer drive-thru, mobile device application for paperless menu, restriping/signage for pickup lanes/spaces,

social distancing separation staging stickers, COVID-19 safety signage, and similar business delivery improvements.

■ Applications for grant must provide receipts for any expenditures made that will be recovered under this grant.

These grants will be offered through the County on a reimbursement basis and will require the business to submit an application online through SurveyMonkey apply online at the [www.CitrusBOCC.com](http://www.CitrusBOCC.com).

Applications will be accepted until funds are exhausted.

For more detailed information, please contact the Citrus County Board of County Commissioners.

## CALLING ALL VENDORS!

*Applications Open for the Floral City Strawberry Festival, Florida Manatee Festival*

The Chamber is very excited for a VERY busy March! The Floral City Strawberry Festival is scheduled for March 6th & 7th, followed by the new dates for the Florida Manatee Festival, March 27th & 28th!

Vendor applications are now open for both festivals! For the Floral City Strawberry Festival visit [www.GoStrawberryFest.com](http://www.GoStrawberryFest.com).

For the Florida Manatee Festival visit [www.GoManateeFest.com](http://www.GoManateeFest.com)

**34TH ANNUAL FLORAL CITY STRAWBERRY FESTIVAL**  
March 6 & 7, 2021  
Adults \$5 : 12 and under FREE  
[www.GoStrawberryFest.com](http://www.GoStrawberryFest.com)  
Floral Park, Floral City

**FLORIDA MANATEE FESTIVAL**  
Downtown Crystal River  
[www.GoManateeFest.com](http://www.GoManateeFest.com)  
Adults \$5 : 12 and under FREE  
March 27 - 28, 2021

34th Annual Florida Manatee Festival  
Presented by Bailey Electric & Signs

## 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.

### Waterfront Social

352-795-3113



Welcome to the Chamber, Waterfront Social! Located at 1610 SE Paradise Circle, Crystal River. Waterfront Social provides an indoor/outdoor gathering spot for informal lunches, sunset cocktails and evening cocktails. Enjoy a menu of southern coastal dishes with a focus on from scratch recipes. Waterfront Social creates a uniquely Florida atmosphere while keeping it simple. Positive Service, Delicious Food and Friendly Staff await you.

## Chamber Member News!

The Chamber encourages the community to follow CDC guidelines, practice social distancing, and use masks when engaging in large crowds or public activities.

■ Crystal Harley Davidson - Sunday, January 10th - Biker Church Service from 10am - 11am. Live music with Bad Rabbit from 11:30am to 3:30pm. Food & Free Beer from 11am to 3pm.

■ Just Amuse Me - Indoor Entertainment Center - Saturday, January 16th - Live music with Echo Sixx, axe lane specials, and drink specials to celebrate the arrival of the manatees! 7pm to 10pm.

■ City of Inverness - Saturday, January 16th - Market at the Depot with over 25 vendors. 9am to 1pm.

■ World Fusion - Set to open a new location in Crystal River called Downtown Fusion. Opening date TBD

■ Lollygaggers - Set to open a new location in Floral City called Lollygaggers II. Opening date TBD

■ Citrus County Historical Society - Coffee and Conversation Speaker Series. January 14th will look at Short Takes: A Grab Bag of Old Florida Stories with Dr. Caren Neile. Ways to view include limited, in-person seating at the Old Courthouse Heritage Museum OR online

through live stream or youtube. Find more information, or register, at [www.CCCourthouse.org](http://www.CCCourthouse.org).

■ We Care Food Pantry - We Care Mobile Pantry has expanded in 2021! Upcoming date and locations are the Beverly Hills Civic Association, January 12/19/26 at 9am; The New Church Without Walls - Lecanto, January 14/21/28 at 10am; We care in Homosassa, January 16/30 at 9am; American Legion 155 - Crystal River, January 13 at 10am; Copeland Park - Crystal River, January 18 at 10am; Red Level Baptist Church - Crystal River, January 27 at 10am. For more information visit [www.WeCareFoodPantry.org](http://www.WeCareFoodPantry.org)

■ Citrus County - Cardinal Interchange Management Area Meeting. January 19th at 5:20pm at the Citrus County Courthouse - Inverness. The Citrus County Board of County Commissioners proposes to adopt: A new Future Land Use Map category in relation to the Suncoast Parkway Interchange Management Area at W. Cardinal Street, along with supporting Text, Goals, Objectives and Policies. Proposed Change: Amending the Future Land Use Element (Chapter 10) by adopting a new Future Land Use map category, Cardinal Mixed Use.

## CF Corporate College to host virtual workshop in January



### CYBERSECURITY: THE THREAT NO BUSINESS CAN IGNORE

■ Tuesday, Jan. 19, 8:30 - 10:30 am via Zoom

Whether you conduct much of your marketing and sales online, or only use internet-based services for select



Patricia Dukeman  
Workshop Host

business functions, you're at risk.

Cybersecurity is a constant and real threat, and could put you out of business! Every business must be aware of the risks and protective actions available to them. This is a must-attend workshop.

Individual workshop fee is \$29. Register and pay online at: [CFedu/CorporateCollege](http://CFedu/CorporateCollege) or call 352-873-5855.

No refunds will be granted five (5) business days prior to each workshop.



## 'Chamber Report' on WYKE

Watch the weekly Chamber Report show on WYKE-TV to stay informed on Chamber events, issues, and member spotlights. Chamber Report is broadcast on Tuesdays, Saturdays, and Sundays at 5:00 p.m. on Spectrum Channel 16 or through LiveStream ([www.livestream.com/watchandsearchforWYKE47](http://www.livestream.com/watchandsearchforWYKE47)).

This week, host Jade White, Chamber Public Relations & Communication Coordinator, talks with Chamber Special Events Manager, Erika Corley, about the decision to postpone the 2021 Florida Manatee Festival to March as well as the upcoming Floral City Strawberry Festival, also in March. Jade also talks with Citrus Sports and Apparel owner, Will Wilson, about his longstanding business in Citrus County, what they have been up to this past year, and their new scholarship foundation. Chamber Report is your ticket to the many happenings in Citrus County!



Erika Corley



Will Wilson

## Chamber Legacy Partners

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 at 352-795-3149.

