



Chamber Connection

915 N. Suncoast Blvd., Crystal River, FL 34429 · 352-795-3149 · 203 E. Dampier St., Inverness, FL 34450 · 352-726-2801



Citrus County Legislative Day keynote speaker Senate President, Wilton Simpson.

Legislative Days 2022

The Citrus County Chamber of Commerce was pleased to organize and host the annual Citrus County Legislative Days once again.

Approximately 100 business and community leaders and officials from Citrus County made the trip to Tallahassee on January 19 and 20 to meet with legislators and agency officials to advocate on a number of issues that are of importance to our local businesses and residents alike.

We were joined by several speakers including Senate President Wilton Simpson; State Representative Ralph Massullo; the Florida Chamber's Executive Vice President of Governmental & Political Relations Frank Walker; the CEO of Visit Florida Dana Young; the

Florida Department of Economic Opportunity Secretary Dane Eagle; and many more.

The Chamber will continue its advocacy on our Legislative Priorities throughout the 2022 legislative session, and we look forward to providing updates over the next weeks.

We would like to give a special thank you to the sponsors that helped to make this year's Legislative Days possible. Our 2022 presenting sponsor is Crystal Harley-Davidson, supported by Diane Dameron and CareerSource CLM, our 2022 Legislative Day luncheon sponsors are Duke Energy and Freedom Hill Tree Farm, and our 2022 bus sponsor is Leadership Citrus.



State representative, Ralph Massullo, addresses Citrus County attendees.

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.

Little Climbers



Welcome to the Chamber, Little Climbers! Little Climbers is a toddler indoor playroom specializing in role-play, imaginative play. Educational classes and birthday parties. (352) 794-6122. 521 W Fort Island Gulf Trail, Crystal River, FL 34429. <https://www.littleclimbersplayroom.com/>

Official to talk turnpike at February 11th luncheon

Ananth Prasad will join members of the Citrus County Chamber of Commerce for the February 11th luncheon at Citrus Hills Golf Club.

Prasad currently serves as the President for Florida Transportation Builders' Association (FTBA). FTBA is a trade association comprising of individuals and business firms actively engaged in the construction of transportation systems or in the furnishing materials, equipment, or services for such construction.

He has more than 30 years of public and private-sector experience in the transportation industry, including 5 years with HNTB, a national infrastructure solution firm where he recently held the position of National Transportation Practice Leader and 22 years with Florida Department of Transportation (FDOT), where he held the governor-appointed position of Secretary of FDOT from 2011-2015.

In 2021, Prasad was recognized as one of Florida's most influential business leaders by Florida Trend Magazine.



Ananth Prasad
President of the
Florida Transportation
Builders' Association

Prasad was named to the National Council for Public-Private Partnerships Inaugural Top 10 P3 Transportation Infrastructure Pioneers in 2017.

He also received the ARTBA's P3 Entrepreneurs of the Year award and Florida Chamber Foundation's Champion for Florida's Future award in 2015 and was recognized by Engineering News Record Top 25 Newsmaker of the Year in 2013.

We are excited to welcome Prasad, Florida Transportation Builders' Association President, to share insight into the proposed routes for the future turnpike extension through Citrus County and other infrastructure opportunities.

The luncheon will be held on February 11th from 11:30 – 1:00 at Citrus Hills Golf & Country Club.

Thank you to our February luncheon sponsor Bravera Health Seven Rivers. \$20 for Chamber members; \$25 for non-members. Reservations required no later than January 24th. Online at <https://tinyurl.com/february2022luncheon>.

35TH ANNUAL Floral City Strawberry Festival

March 5 & 6, 2022

Presented by **LOWMAN** LAW FIRM

Adults \$5 : 12 and under FREE

Floral Park, Floral City
www.GoStrawberryFest.com

CELEBRATING A VERY BERRY BIRTHDAY!

- 🍓 Live Music
- 🍓 Kids Activities
- 🍓 Pie Eating Contest
- 🍓 Strawberry Prince & Princess Pageants

- 🍓 Food Court
- 🍓 Beer & Wine Garden
- 🍓 Vendors
- 🍓 Fine Arts & Crafts
- 🍓 Street Entertainment

Upcoming Events

2/11 — February Chamber Luncheon; Speaker: Ananth Prasad, Florida Transportation Builders' Association President; Sponsor: Bravera Health Seven Rivers; Citrus Hills Golf & Country Club

2/17 — February Chamber Mixer hosted by the Citrus County Builders Association; Location: Citrus County Building Alliance

3/5 - 3/6 — 35th Annual Floral City Strawberry Festival; Floral Park (Floral City)



'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/watch and search for "WYKE TV 47").

This week, host Jade White, Chamber Public Relations & Communication Coordinator; talks with Traci Schoenrock, Administrative Manager of Save Crystal River, about her recently taking this position with the local waterway restoration organization and a look at the impact of their work in Kings Bay. Also joining Jade is Amy Meek of Meek Real Estate about the market trends, expectations for the future of the housing market, and their commitment to assisting clients from start to finish in their home journey.

Chamber Report is your ticket to the many happenings in Citrus County!



Traci Schoenrock

Amy Meek

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.