



Chamber Connection

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

Strawberry Festival Next Weekend!

Celebrating a VERY BERRY BIRTHDAY this year, the Floral City Strawberry Festival turns 35! Join us next weekend, March 5th & 6th, 2022 in beautiful Floral Park, Floral City, for berries and pageants and pies (OH MY)! Ok, maybe more short-cake than pie, but that's even better!

This annual event is a salute to our local agriculture with fresh strawberries hand-picked right around the corner from the festival at Ferris Groves. Luscious strawberry shortcakes will be available for your nosing pleasure, along with flats and half-flats of whole fresh berries that you can take home with you as a sweet souvenir of your day to make your own delectable treats. Not sure what to do with them all? Check out our Berry Bakery on our website at www.GoStrawberryFest.com.

Saturday morning, the festival opens with the posting of Colors, the Pledge of Allegiance, and our National Anthem. Live music will also fill the main stage all weekend with a full performance



lineup! Saturday will kick off with music from crowd favorite, Southern Express Band from 10 A.M. - 1 P.M., followed by headliner Xhale from 2 P.M. - 5 P.M. Sunday's lineup includes Lonesome Ride from 10 A.M. - 12 P.M. with headliner Rick Lynn and Clint Byron closing out this year's festival from 1 P.M. - 4 P.M.

Sticking to its very berry American roots, the annual pie-eating contests and prince and princess pageants will be back as well! Ooh and ahh on Saturday morning as poised young ladies and gents take the stage in their favorite strawberry-themed attire for a chance to

earn a crown and become the next Strawberry Princes & Princesses. Or maybe getting messy is more your style? Then sign up to compete in the strawberry pie-eating contests for your shot at bragging rights until next year! Competitions will be held both Saturday and Sunday with registration that day at the festival.

Back again this year is Pickin' & Grinnin'! These two farmers are **outstanding in their field** presenting a mix of toe-tappin' barn-dance music and knee-slappin' farm jokes. It's family-friendly farm fun for everyone! We are also excited to welcome back the oldest traveling trailer club in America, the Tin Can Tourists! First organized in 1919



at Desoto Park in Tampa, this 100-year-old club is comprised of many unique, vintage campers, along with some new styles as well! Stroll through their strawberry "campground" and see them on display!

Also coming to the Floral City Strawberry Festival is a new addition, Crossover University! This is family friendly entertainment basketball featuring dunkers and ball handlers that combine theatrics, athleticism, and humor in their play style. Crossover University has been featured on Sprite Slam Dunk Contest, And1 Live, and the Harlem Globetrotters! Watch for them Saturday, March 5th, taking on local leaders at high noon on the courts and again on Sunday,

March 6th, for demonstrations and one-on-one clinics from 11am - 12pm.

Round out your festival adventures by strolling the park and browsing close to 200 art and craft vendors; indulging in a cold beer, glass of wine or hard seltzer at the beer garden near the main stage; enjoying the gastronomic pleasures offered by the many food vendors; or enjoying laughs and smiles with the young ones as they "play themselves silly" in the kids' area.

Floral City Strawberry Festival hours are 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. on Saturday, and 9 a.m. to 4 p.m. on Sunday. Entrance fee is \$5.00 for adults, children 12 and under are free. Free parking is strongly recommended at the Citrus County Auditorium, located at 3610 S Florida Ave, Inverness, FL 34450. Free shuttles will be available to and from the festival grounds both days.

For complete information on the Floral City Strawberry Festival, visit www.GoStrawberryFest.com. On Facebook, search for "Floral City Strawberry Festival."



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.

Notary Will Travel



Welcome to the Chamber, Notary Will Travel! Notarizations of all legal documents with 40+ years of experience. Wedding Ceremonies performed, your choice of location. Photography offered. Linda will travel to you, Citrus County and surrounding areas. (813) 399-3329.

The Dutch Mill Mobile Pub



Welcome to the Chamber, The Dutch Mill! The Dutch Mill Mobile Pub provides a mobile bar rental offering an array of services including but not limited to bartending service, event décor, event coordination, and more depending on your needs. Their goal is to add a unique flair to your event while at the same time easing your mind so you can enjoy your event as much as your guests will!! 352-269-6996. <https://www.dutchmillpub.com/>

MARCH CHAMBER MIXER!
MARCH 17, 2022 | 5:00PM - 7:00PM

Citrus County Children's Advocacy Center
Jessie's Place
1410 S Lecanto Hwy,
Lecanto, FL 34461

JESSIE'S PLACE

CITRUS COUNTY Chamber of Commerce
*CHAMBER MEMBER ONLY EVENT

March Luncheon Hosts Superintendent of Schools

The Chamber is excited to welcome Superintendent of Citrus County Schools, Sandra "Sam" Himmel, as their speaker for the March 11th luncheon at Citrus Hills Golf & Country Club.

The luncheon will begin at 11 am, and is expected to end at 1 pm. Pre-paid reservations are required.

Members - \$20 / Non Members - \$25. Please register online or call Corrine no later than Tuesday, March 4th 352.795.3149 if you would like to attend. No Walk-Ins will be accepted.

Register online at www.CitrusCountyChamber.com.

Thank you to our March luncheon sponsor, Nature Coast Ministries.

Upcoming Events

- 3/5 - 3/6 — 35th Annual Floral City Strawberry Festival; Floral Park (Floral City)
- 3/11 — March Chamber Luncheon; Speaker: Speaker: Sam Himmel, Superintendent of Citrus County Schools; Sponsor: Nature Coast Ministries; Location: Citrus Hills Golf & Country Club
- 3/17 — March Chamber Mixer hosted by Jessie's Place; Location: Jessie's Place
- 3/25 — Comedy @ The Valerie; Location: The Valerie Theatre - Inverness
- 3/26 — Primerica Advisors, 401K Workshop; Location: Chamber Welcome Center

PRIMERICA® LAUNCH401K WORKSHOP
Making 401k Easy and Affordable
March 25th 11am - 1pm
Chamber Welcome Center

Join Carl Flanagan with Primerica Advisors and speaker, Cassie Aragon - Regional Sales Manager for July Business Services, for a free and informative workshop on Launch401K to see if this modern solution for small businesses is a perfect fit for your business and your employees.



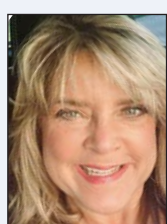
'Chamber Report' on WYKE

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 Chamber Events Manager, Erika Corley, about the upcoming Floral City Strawberry Festival and a VERY BERRY BIRTHDAY!

Also joining Jade is Sheri Chancey of Wisteria Boutique discussing the incredible array of specialty handbags, gifts, and many other amazing items that you can find in their store.

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



Erika Corley



Sheri Chancey

Chamber Legacy Partners

RE/MAX REALTY ONE, CRYSTAL AUTOMOTIVE/MOTORCYCLE/TRACTOR, FREEDOM BOAT CLUB, AMU, CAREER SOURCE CITRUS/LEVY/MARION, CITRUS MEMORIAL, INSIGHT CREDIT UNION, Ag-PRO, HOMEOWN, BRAVERA HEALTH SEVEN RIVERS, LIFESOUTH Community Blood Centers, LUCAS, MACOBYZYN & DYER LAW FIRM, Advanced Disposa, Signs Plus

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.