

Chamber Connection

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

Berry Boastin' Entertainment!

We are officially 1 week away from the 34th Annual Floral City Strawberry Festival and the fun is limitless! What will you experience at this year's festival on March 6th & 7th? For more information on the 34th Annual Floral City Strawberry Festival, visit www.GoStrawberryFest.com.

A Full Music Lineup!

34TH ANNUAL FLORAL CITY STRAWBERRY FESTIVAL
MUSIC LINEUP

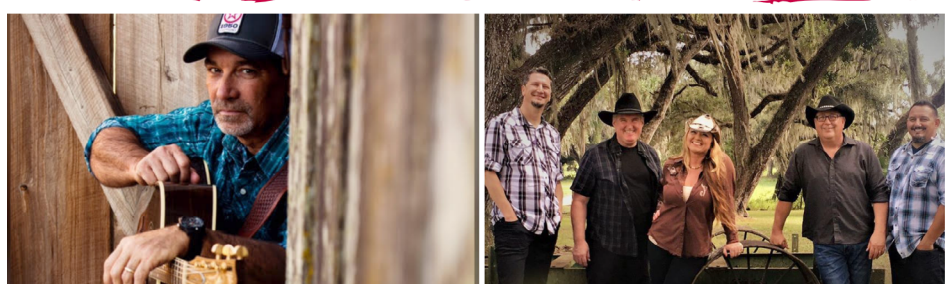
SATURDAY
MARCH 6TH

SOUTHERN EXPRESS BLUEGRASS BAND X HALE



SUNDAY
MARCH 7TH

JOHN JOHNSON SOUTHBOUND



Pickin' & Grinnin'

Another crowd favorite, Pickin' & Grinnin', will be back this year! These two farmers are outstanding in their field. Pickin' & Grinnin' presents a mix of toe-tappin' barn-dance music, knee-slappin' farm jokes, and safe, socially distanced, audience participation. It's family-friendly farm fun for everyone!



Meet Tiny the Tanker!

With 27 years in family entertainment, Tiny the Tanker is a tiny electric fire truck with a personality all his own. His sweet childlike voice melts the hearts of both young and old as he roves slowly throughout events greeting and engaging guests along the way. Whether he is singing happy birthday, giving directions, playing fun music or reminding guests to wash their hands, Tiny always gets a big smile or kind wave in return!

Oscar Mayer Wienermobile is BACK!



What offers more small-town American vibes than a good old-fashioned hot dog? The Floral City Strawberry Festival is excited to welcome the Oscar Mayer Wienermobile and the Hotdoggers to our 34th annual celebration on Saturday, March 6th & Sunday, March 7th! The Hotdoggers are the official spokespeople of the Oscar Mayer Wienermobile who travel on a coast-to-coast wiener roast on a year-long tour spreading miles of smiles. Since 1988, Hotdoggers have relished seeing the country through the windshield of an American icon, representing the brand in all forms of media and at thousands of events.

FLORAL CITY STRAWBERRY FESTIVAL SAFETY

We are excited to move forward, safely and responsibly, as we enjoy the beauty of our community and celebrate a true taste of Citrus County! We encourage festival-goers to stay home if they are vulnerable or feeling ill. We encourage all attendees to practice social distancing, wash hands regularly, utilize the on-site sanitation stations and wear a mask if social distancing is not possible.



The Floral City Strawberry Festival, and the Citrus County Chamber of Commerce, will be implementing and practicing safety precautions to ensure the health of our attendees, volunteers, vendors, and staff.

Also, in accordance with the state-mandated requirement of masks on public transportation, all attendees, volunteers, staff, and vendors will be required to wear a mask if they choose to utilize the free shuttles to and from the festival at the Citrus County Auditorium. 3610 S. Florida Ave, Inverness.

Stay Tuned: Furloughed Employee Rehire Grant to Debut next week

Earlier this month, the Board of County Commissioners voted to move \$300,000 in leftover CARES Act funds from the County's general fund to the Chamber of Commerce to be used to support local businesses that rehire furloughed employees.

To qualify, an employee must have been furloughed because of the COVID-19 pandemic for a minimum of two months between March 15, 2020 and January 31, 2021. The grant will award up to \$2,000 for each full-time equivalent

employee that is brought back and retained for at least 90 days.

Applications will be available through the Chamber website and are expected to go live sometime next week. The deadline to apply will be December 31, 2021, or until funds are exhausted.

In the meantime, if you would like to get on a list to be notified as soon as the applications are live, please email CitrusFurloughRehire@gmail.com and include your name, your business name, phone number and email.

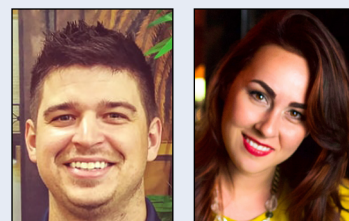


'Chamber Report' on WYKE

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 Jake Vaughan, owner of JV Southern Real Estate and Conservation Plus, about his decision to open another business and how the two work together. Also, Eileen Posadny, owner/CEO of Brightberry Marketing, discusses her work in digital media management, how she honed in and fine tuned her niche, and her business experience with the social media platform, TikTok.

Finally, joining Jade, is Dennis Bailey and Karen Ginda, owners of Bailey's Electric and Signs, highlighting the work their company does and their community involvement, including their Presenting Sponsorship of the Florida Manatee Festival!



Jake Vaughan Eileen Posadny



Karen Ginda and Dennis Bailey

February New Image Award Winner:

Nature Coast Health Care



Congratulations Nature Coast Health Care on winning the February Chamber New Image Award!

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.