

Chamber Connection

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

FINAL DAY OF STRAWBERRY FESTIVAL

Today marks the final day for the 34th Annual Floral City Strawberry Festival and you don't want to miss the Berry Bustin' fun!

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, volun-

teers, 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.



FESTIVAL HOURS 9 A.M. - 4 P.M.

9:00 A.M. VENDORS OPEN | KID ZONE OPEN | BEER & WINE GARDEN OPEN | STRAWBERRY SHORTCAKE SALES OPEN | STRAWBERRY FLAT SALES OPEN | MEET THE 'HOTDOGGERS' AT THE OSCAR MAYER WIENERMOBILE | LOOK FOR ROY THE TORTOISE! | LOOK FOR TINY THE TANKER!
9:00 A.M. DJ JOHN DIORIO - MAIN STAGE
9:30 A.M. PICKIN' & GRINNIN' ON STRAWBERRY ROW
10:00 A.M. JOHN JOHNSON ON MAIN STAGE
10:00 A.M. STRAWBERRY PIE EATING CONTEST SIGN-UPS AT THE CHAMBER INFORMATION TENT
1:00 P.M. SOUTHBOUND ON MAIN STAGE
1:00 P.M. STRAWBERRY PIE EATING CONTESTS
5:00 P.M. LAST PARKING SHUTTLE DEPARTS THE FESTIVAL

THANK YOU SPONSORS!



CORPORATE COLLEGE

Service Dogs: The Law and How It Affects Businesses

Do you know where a service animal can go and under what conditions? Do you know what animals can be considered service animals? Whether you are front line staff, a volunteer, a manager or owner, or even an elected official, you need to know the law. The goal of this workshop is for businesses and community organizations to understand and operationalize their rights and responsibilities when a service animal is on the premises. Attend this valuable

workshop March 16th via Zoom and learn who can have a service animal, the responsibilities of the animal handler, when a service animal can be excluded, and what to do when the needs of customers, with and without service animals, conflict.

Individual workshop fee is \$29. Register and pay online at: CF.edu/Corporate-College or call 352-873-5855. No refunds will be granted five (5) business days prior to each workshop.

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.

B & W Rexall

352-726-1021



Congratulations on your new location, B & W Rexall Drugs! Your local Inverness pharmacy since 1932. Their pharmacists have over 75 years of experience and their friendly staff will treat you like family. At B & W Rexall, they are dedicated to providing their customers with services that are customized to meet their needs. 102 E Highlands Blvd, Inverness.

Furloughed Employee Rehire Grant for local businesses

In February, 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 within the next few days. 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.

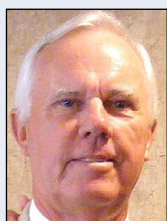


'Chamber Report' on WYKE

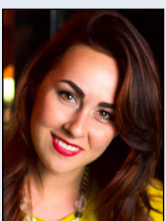
Watch the weekly Chamber Report show on WYKE-TV to stay informed on Chamber events, issues, and member spotlights. Chamber Report is broadcast on Tuesdays, Saturdays, and Sundays at 5:00 p.m. on Spectrum Channel 16 or through LiveStream (www.livestream.com/watch and search for "WYKE TV 47").

This week, host Jade White, Chamber Public Relations & Communication Coordinator, talks with Jim Green of SCORE Nature Coast about the availability of PPP Loans and EILD loans for independent contractors, self-employed, and sole proprietors. 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!

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



Jim Green



Eileen Posadny



Karen Ginda and Dennis Bailey

Dockside Gift Shoppe

352-563-2730



Welcome to the Chamber, Dockside Gift Shoppe! 300 NW US 19, Crystal River. Dockside Gift Shoppe is a unique shoppe specializing in gift items and Crystal River mementos. Upstairs there is a special array of ladies clothing, linens and quality flowers.

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.

CITRUS COUNTY SMALL BUSINESS GRANTS FUNDING EXTENDED

The Citrus County Board of County Commissioners (BOCC) has extended its Citrus County Small Business Grant Programs.

The programs were originally approved with \$200,000 in funding at the regular BOCC meeting on Tuesday, January 5, 2021. Since then, \$170,000 of that funding has been expended. In order to distribute the full amount, the grant program will be extended on a first come first serve basis until the remaining \$30,000 is spent.

There are two programs available to small businesses with less than 35 employees:

- The Personal Protective Equipment (PPE) Micro Grant will have a minimum award of \$250 up to a maximum award of \$2,500.
- The Retrofit/Adaptation Grant will have a maximum award of \$10,000 per business. A small business may be eligible for both grants.

To Apply visit www.CitrusBOCC.com