



Chamber Connection

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

Florida Manatee Festival coming up!



Manatee Season isn't over just yet! The 34th Annual Florida Manatee Festival is set! Join us on March 27th & 28th in Downtown Crystal River as we celebrate our favorite floating friends, the manatees!

WHAT'S IN STORE?

This festival is known for its top notch musical performances and this year's lineup will hold true to that!

With multiple stages throughout the festival, you can expect performances from local favorites Barefoot Bob & the Hope and the JoJo & Jay Experience, local up and coming band Bad Luck Penny, Nashville recording artist Rob Nichols, Gypsy Sparrow, Palomino Blonde, and headliner MoonFlower "Spirit of Santana" on Sunday and Stonegrey on Saturday.

Returning are manatee boat tours in partnership with META (Manatee Eco Tourism Association). Our participating local guides will take you to their favorite manatee watch spots for a chance to see our favorite floating friends up close!

New this year, we are partnering with Hunter Springs Kayaks to offer \$10 1-hour guided Kayak Tours of the bay and Hunter Springs area giving a first hand glance at the beauty of our Nature Coast!

Of course, what's a festival



without the food? Two food courts will offer an array of delectable delights as well as two beer and wine gardens with the addition of hard seltzers this year!

Additionally, more than 300 fine art, craft, commercial and non-profit vendors will line the streets on both the north and south sides of downtown. "Art in the Park" will be held in Crystal River's beautiful Town Square, offering the perfect setting to browse and purchase an original piece of art for your home, business or as a wearable piece of jewelry that will be a treasure of special meaning forever.

We are excited to move forward, safely and responsibly, as we enjoy the beauty of our nature coast and see just why Crystal River is the Manatee Capital of the World.

We encourage festival-goers to

Produced By
CITRUS COUNTY
Chamber of Commerce

FLORIDA
MANATEE
FESTIVAL
CRYSTAL RIVER, FL

34th Annual
Florida Manatee Festival
Presented by
Bailey
ELECTRIC & SIGNS
EO 13093036

March 27 & 28, 2021
Downtown Crystal River
Adults - \$5 : 12 and Under Free
www.GoManateeFest.com
Free parking & Shuttles from the Crystal River Mall

- Manatee Boat Tours
- Live Music on Multiple Stages
- Kids Zones
- Guided Kayak Tours
- Street Entertainment
- 2 Food Courts
- 2 Beer & Wine Gardens
- Fine Arts & Crafts
- Hippie Village

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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 Florida Manatee 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. For more information, full entertainment lineup, and more visit our website at www.GoManateeFest.com

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/CorporateCollege or call 352-873-5855. No refunds will be granted five (5) business days prior to each workshop.

Rehire Furloughed Employee Grant Program

The BOCC recently allocated \$300,000 to the Citrus County Chamber of Commerce for a grant program for businesses that furloughed employees due to COVID-19 and have since rehired them. To qualify, the business must have furloughed an employee for a minimum of two months before rehiring and steadily employing for a minimum of 90 days. The grant amount is \$2,000 per rehired full-time equivalent employee.

All local businesses are eligible. Complete information on the grant program and documentation required is on the application form.

It is preferred that businesses use the online application. However, in the event that is not possible, the application form may be printed and mailed back along with the required documentation. Application are open at www.CitrusCountyChamber.com

Small Business Grants Funding Extended

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

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.

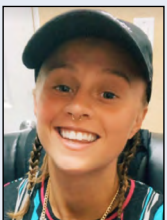
A small business may be eligible for both grants. To Apply visit www.CitrusBOCC.com

CitrusCountyChamber.com/furlough-rehire-grant. For questions, please email CitrusFurloughRehire@gmail.com

'Chamber Report' on WYKE



Jim Green



Erin Rice



Jake Vaughan

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, Erin Rice, owner of World Fusion, comes on to talk about their new restaurant location, Downtown Fusion, set to open in Crystal River.

Jake Vaughan, owner of Conservation Plus and now JV Southern Real Estate, about his decision to open another business in Citrus County and the unique services they offer.

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

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.

