



# Chamber Connection

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

## New Executive Director for CORE Business Center

The CARES Advisory Committee appointed by the Board of County Commissioners in February of this year has selected Dawn Faherty as the Executive Director for the Citrus One-Stop Recovery and Economic (CORE) Business Center in downtown Inverness.

The mission of CORE is "to provide an economic development hub for existing and prospective businesses to obtain all necessary resources to start, grow and maintain a strong and healthy paradigm." It will operate out of the former Inverness Visitor Center at 203 East Dampier St.

The CARES Advisory Committee was created by the BOCC to advise and recommend uses and/or programs for remaining CARES funds that were placed in the County's general fund. The Committee consists of representatives from the County, the cities of Inverness and Crystal River, Chamber of Commerce, SCORE Nature Coast FL, Economic Development Authority for Citrus County, and the education, banking and private business fields.

Dawn is a 35-year employee within in the state of Florida, serving 20 years as



Dawn Faherty

case worker within the Department of Children & Families, later transitioning to the Florida House of Representatives in 2007 and serving as district secretary and later as Chief Legislative Aide for District 34 Representatives Ron Schultz and Jimmie T. Smith, and then for District 33 Representatives Don Hahnfeldt and Brett Hage.

She brings many years of constituent services and local knowledge to Citrus County. As director of the CORE Business Center, she will assist local small businesses through a focused concierge

approach to navigate resources, education, mentoring or networking to help them develop and maintain a strong economic footing.

CORE will officially open tomorrow, July 19, 2021. An open house and ribbon cutting is scheduled for July 29 from 5 p.m. to 7 p.m. Regular business hours will be Monday through Thursday, 9 a.m. to 4 p.m., and Friday, 9 a.m. to noon. After-hours appointments may also be scheduled.

CORE Center for Business, 203 East Dampier St., Inverness, FL 34450. For information, see [www.coretosuccess.com](http://www.coretosuccess.com) or call 352-419-4834.

### 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.

#### High End Hair Salon

352-794-3741

#### Groups Recover Together

352-565-4218



Welcome to the Chamber, High End Hair Salon! Professional stylists providing all your hair care needs in a down-home atmosphere. They provide quality haircuts, color, hair extensions, waxing, lash extensions, lash lift & tint, keratin, updos, and braiding for men, women, and children. They are located at 300 NW US Hwy 19 in Crystal River.



Welcome to the Chamber, Groups Recover Together! 2216 SR Hwy 44, Inverness. Groups Recover Together was founded to make treatment for opioid addiction respectful, accessible, and affordable. Members are empowered to regain control of their lives with a proven, evidence-based model of buprenorphine (Suboxone) and weekly meetings.

#### Mama's Kuntry Kafe

352-341-6262

#### Hagar Investments

352-795-2697



Welcome to the Chamber, Mama's Kuntry Kafe! 104 US Hwy 41 S, Inverness. Mama's is where you get great home country cooking at a reasonable price.



Welcome to the Chamber, Hagar Investments! 2121 SE YS Hwy 19, Crystal River. Hagar Investments is an independent, family-owned investment firm located across the Nature Coast of Florida. For over 25 years they have been serving clients and establishing relationships built on trust and transparency.

## Attract workers with Citrus Sign-On Bonus Program

Citrus County small businesses have a new option that may boost their ability to attract workers to fill their open positions: The Citrus Sign-On Bonus Program.

The program is available to all local businesses with 75 or fewer full-time or part-time workers. Jobs to be filled must be full-time positions that pay \$15/hour or less. The newly hired workers must work for the employer for 90 days to qualify to receive the \$1,000 sign-on bonus.

To participate, employers must post the jobs they seek to fill through CareerSource. Likewise, employees must apply for the job through CareerSource. Following 90-days of successful employment, employers will invoice CareerSource for reimbursement of the bonus.

Funding for the bonus program comes from \$70,000 in CARES funds that were set aside by the County for economic development uses aimed at boosting workforce affected by the COVID-19 pandemic. An additional \$30,000 has been allocated to the Citrus County YMCA to provide day care scholarships for parents in the same workforce category.

If you are a business that would like to participate in the program, go to the CareerSource Citrus Levy Marion website at <https://careersourceclm.com/> and click on the Citrus County Sign On Bonus link.

Workers who are interested in learning more about job opportunities under the program should reach out to CareerSource at the Citrus County location at 683 South Adolph Point, Lecanto, FL, 34461 or call 352-249-3278.

## Grants offered to local businesses that rehire furloughed employees

The Citrus County Chamber of Commerce offers a grant program for businesses that furloughed employees due to COVID-19 and have since rehired them. To qualify for full funding, 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.

Applications are open at [www.CitrusCountyChamber.com/furlough-rehire-grant](http://www.CitrusCountyChamber.com/furlough-rehire-grant). For questions, please email [CitrusFurloughRehire@gmail.com](mailto:CitrusFurloughRehire@gmail.com)

### REGISTRATION NOW OPEN FOR CHRISTMAS PARADES!

Save the date and start getting those floats ready! The 2021 Chamber Christmas parades are set! Crystal River will be held Dec. 4 at 6 p.m. Inverness will be held Dec. 11 at noon.



This year we are taking a trip to Santa's workshop with the theme: Christmas in Toyland! Trains, dolls, games, and baseballs!

This year's parades are sure to highlight every child's wildest dreams come to life!

Parade registration is now open at [www.citruscountychamber.com/christmas-parades](http://www.citruscountychamber.com/christmas-parades).



### '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 p.m. on Spectrum Channel 16 or through LiveStream ([www.livestream.com/watch](http://www.livestream.com/watch) and search for "WYKE TV 47").

This week, host Jade White, Chamber Public Relations & Communication Coordinator, talks with George Schmalstig of Filter Family Solutions about their mission to help families heal, learn, and grow together. They also discuss the impact programs like Filter Family Solutions has within a community. Also joining is Steve Ervin, owner of BubbaQue's BBQ — Crystal River, about their brand new salad bar and other recent renovations.

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



George Schmalstig



Steve Ervin

### 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.