



# Chamber Connection

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

## Chamber Initiative Recognized at State Level

The Chamber was honored last week at the Florida Chamber conference with the 2021 Chair's Award, presented to President/CEO Josh Wooten; Vice President of Operations & BRE Ardath Prendergast; and prosperity initiative leader, County Commissioner Holly Davis, for the continuous work of Prosperity Citrus to uplift our entire community to sustained success and access to a prosperous future.

We would also like to recognize the additional members of the Prosperity Citrus steering committee: Gene McGee, Shaunda Burdette, Tiarra Alexander, Meghan Pitzer, and Jade White.

This initiative began with the Florida Chamber's focus on third grade reading scores and the impact those numbers have on the overall health and economy of a community. We identified and gathered together many of our local service organizations and agencies under what the Florida Chamber has been identified as the ten different pillars to success at a



kickoff event held in August. From here, the steering

committee is doing a deep dive to reach out to families in need, and to target and gather committed businesses and

individuals to become long-term champions of the families, using the resources of our community organizations.

Thank you to the organizations and agencies that are working to make the goals of Prosperity Citrus a success: CareerSource CLM, Citrus County Education Foundation, Habitat for Humanity Citrus County, Mid-Florida Homeless Coalition, Citrus County Transportation, Transportation Disadvantaged Coordinating Board/ Florida Association for Community Action, Citrus County YMCA, Citrus County Health Dept, Community Food Bank, Early Learning Coalition, Citrus County Fire Rescue, Citrus County Sheriff's Office, Citrus Abuse Shelter (CASA), Citrus County Clerk of Courts, Boys and Girls Clubs of Citrus County, PACE Center for Girls - Citrus, Anti-Drug Coalition of Citrus, United Way of Citrus County, Citrus County Blessings, Citrus County Libraries, Citrus County Schools, College of Central Florida, Withlacoochee Technical College.

## Today's Workforce Dynamics

### November Luncheon sign-up due Nov. 9

We are excited to welcome Cory Weaver, Director of Operations at CareerSource Citrus Levy Marion, to discuss the changing dynamics of our workforce and how that workforce is changing on almost a daily basis.

The luncheon will be held on November 12th from 11:30 - 1:00 at Citrus Hills Golf & Country Club.

Thank you to our November luncheon sponsor Withlacoochee Technical College.

\$20 for Chamber members; \$25 for non-members.

Reservations required no later than November 9th. Online at <https://tinyurl.com/2021NovemberLuncheon>.

The November Chamber Luncheon is sponsored by Withlacoochee Technical College.



**Cory Weaver**

Cory Weaver has been in workforce development for 15 years, working in a variety of roles including grant writing and management, performance management and Labor Market data analysis. She holds a Bachelor's in Management Information Systems from the University of South Florida and completed Applied Analyst training through the Council for Community and Economic Research in 2016.

She assisted in the application development for statewide databases used by the workforce system and served on the technical review committee for the Florida Workforce Performance Funding Model.

She is currently Director of Operations with CareerSource Citrus Levy Marion and works closely with education and economic development partners to help meet the needs of businesses and citizens in the tri-county area.

## Keep the Holiday Cheer HERE!

Holiday season is in FULL SWING and shopping Citrus First for your gifts, holiday prep, décor, and more will help spread the joy to your neighbors and community! For every \$100 spent at local Citrus County businesses, \$68 continues to circulate within our local economy. Investing your dollars locally doesn't ONLY support our local business owners, it helps employ our citizens, support our local charities, local sports leagues, youth programs, and non-profits. Our local businesses are



our charity donors, our event sponsors, and the first to step up when there is a need in our

community. Spread the love locally this season and KEEP THE CHEER HERE!

## Save the Date:

## Chamber on Parade!



Florida Manatee Festival is January 15th and 16th

Registration is OPEN for the 2021 Inverness and Crystal River Christmas Parades! Back to the traditional parade style, 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!

The Chamber invites you to register your float and join the holiday joy! Find more information online 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 5:00 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 Meghan Pitzer, CEO of United Way of Citrus County, about their upcoming fundraising event and an update on the United Way's programs. Also joining Jade is Crystal River Health and Rehab representatives, Rhonda Spidle RN, Staff Development and Leslie Morgan LPN, PCA class teacher to discuss their new employment program offering high school students paid, on the job training and experience.

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



**Meghan Pitzer**



**Rhonda Spidle**



**Leslie Morgan**

## RECENT RIBBON CUTTINGS

### Utopia Interior Plantscapes



Welcome to the Chamber, Utopia Interior Plantscapes! Tropical indoor plant shop offering leasing, sales & weekly maintenance services. 324 S Kensington Ave, Lecanto, FL 34461. [www.utopiainteriorplantscapes.com](http://www.utopiainteriorplantscapes.com). (352) 476-6225.

## 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.

