

# Chamber Connection

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

## Join in the fun and be a mermaid! (or merman!)

### Mermaids & Margaritas is Sept. 9 at Fort Island Gulf Beach

It's only 13 days until Mermaids & Margaritas! Things are coming together at a fast and furious pace. For a complete rundown of ALL of the stellar entertainment, themed vendors and great beachy food offerings, see the festival website. But here are a few of the new activities and attractions that have recently been added:

● Ms. Mermaid/Mr. Merman Contest: Sponsored by the Chronicle

Have you ever daydreamed of being a mermaid or merman? Do you imagine yourself making waves in a colorful tail? Then we invite you to enter the Ms. Mermaid & Mr. Merman Contest! The contest is going on NOW on the Chronicle's website and you still have until midnight tomorrow to enter. Go to [www.chronicleonline.com](http://www.chronicleonline.com) and click on "Contests." Beginning Tuesday, return to the Contest webpage and begin voting for your favorite entry. Those selected as finalists will compete for the grand prize at Mermaids & Margaritas behind waist-high cutouts of mermaids or, if you have your own tail, bring it and show it off.



Winners will be selected by crowd applause, so tip the decks by getting your own cheering crowd together!

● Nautical-themed Costume Contests for Kids and Adults: Sponsored by MezMer Eyes

This festival, it's all about the beach and the sea! Come in your favorite nautical-themed costume and compete on stage with Master of Ceremonies DJ Trae for crowd applause to win a prize. Think mermaids, pirates, sailors, fishermen, sea creatures or anything related to water — dress up and have a great time!

● Axe-throwing Lessons: Sponsored by Warrior Armaments

You never know when axe throwing may be a good skill to have! For only \$5 for 6 throws, you will be taught how to properly throw an axe. Six throws not enough? For \$10, you can have unlimited instruction and throws all day!

● Mmmm, mmmm Margaritas!: Concocted by Mexican Riviera Cantina

You can't have a Mermaids & Margaritas event without margaritas! Mexican Riviera Cantina will be mixing up fresh margaritas onsite: \$5 for a well brand or \$10 for a delectable top-shelf drink. And of course, there will also be beer, wine and Bud Light Lime-a-Rita blends.

● Paddleboard Training/Paddleboard Raffle: Sponsored by Hunter Springs Kayaks

Maybe you've seen other people having a great time paddle boarding through the water, but have been afraid to try it yourself? Fear no more! Hunter Springs Kayaks will be on hand to give you the skills to become a paddleboard master. And, if you discover that you LOVE paddle boarding, enter their raffle to win your own board!

The Chamber thanks all of our sponsors



Insight Credit Union is the Presenting Sponsor.

to date for insuring that the inaugural Mermaids & Margaritas will be a wonderful experience! Presenting Sponsor: Insight Credit Union; Poseidon Sponsor: Nature Coast EMS; Siren Sponsor: Plantation on Crystal River; Merfolk Sponsors: Hunter Springs Kayaks, Specialty Gems, Crystal River Harley-Davidson, D&M Property Maintenance, Kona Ice, Suncoast Plumbing, Tania's House, Riviera Mexican Cantina and MezMer Eyes.

● Face Painting by Annie Adams: Sponsored by Suncoast Plumbing  
Mermaids are about fantasy, so how about a fantasy face to go along? Sit for a few minutes with Annie Adams and walk away with a fairy tale face. Best of all, Suncoast Plumbing is sponsoring Annie so that the face painting is FREE!

**WHAT:** Mermaids and Margaritas Festival; [www.CitrusCountyChamber.com](http://www.CitrusCountyChamber.com) and click on "Mermaids & Margaritas" or Facebook at "Mermaids and Margaritas Fest 2017"

**WHEN:** Saturday, Sept. 9, 12 noon – 8 p.m.

**WHERE:** Fort Island Gulf Beach, at the end of Fort Island Beach Trail, Crystal River

**ADMISSION:** \$5, children 12 and under are free

FREE parking with FREE shuttle to the beach. Continuous shuttles from the festival parking lot at U.S. 19 & Fort Island Trail. Handicapped parking with accessible shuttles will be at the Chamber's parking lot at 915 N. Suncoast Blvd. (Be aware that parking at Fort Island Gulf Beach is not offered and we encourage use of the shuttle.)

ABSOLUTELY NO COOLERS and NO PETS/ANIMALS (with the exception of service animals)

## OCTOBER IS BUSINESS APPRECIATION MONTH

### FIRE UP CITRUS!

Using Local Ingenuity to Develop BIG Ideas!

Oct. 5 — 6-9 p.m. at Tuscany on the Meadows at the Quality Inn and Suites, 350 E. Norvell Bryant Highway, Hernando.

Admission is FREE — Complimentary hors d'oeuvres & cash bar  
Apply to present YOUR idea at Application deadline is Sept. 12.

Produced by the Citrus County Chamber of Commerce.

### "SALUTE TO BUSINESS" LUNCHEON

Oct. 13 — 11:30 a.m. at Black

Diamond Ranch, 3125 W. Black Diamond Circle, Lecanto

\$23/person for Chamber members; \$25/person for non-members

Confirmed speaker: Duke Energy Florida State President Harry Sideris; invited speaker: U.S. Sen. Marco Rubio

Sponsored by Sunflower Springs ALF.

### BUSINESS APPRECIATION MONTH (BAM) BBQ

(formerly known as EDC BBQ)  
Oct. 19 — 6-10 p.m. at M&B Dairy, 8760 S. Lecanto Highway Lecanto \$35/person (includes two drink

tickets); tickets available at Chamber offices in Crystal River & Inverness  
Produced by the Citrus County Chamber of Commerce.

### BAM MIXER

Oct. 26 — 5-7 p.m. at Insight Credit Union, 1101 E. Fifth St., Crystal River

Insight hosts this special mixer in recognition of Business Appreciation Month.

For information on all events or to purchase tickets/RSVP, call the Chamber at 352-795-3149.



October 19, 2017 ~ 6pm-10pm

## Citrus County Chamber receives award from Florida Main Street

The Citrus County Chamber of Commerce was honored to receive a Merit Award for the Outstanding Local Florida Main Street Program

Supporter at the Secretary of State's Awards Banquet in Amelia Island

on Aug. 15 for the Chamber's support of the Crystal River Main Street program.

In addition, CRMS also received Honor Awards for Outstanding Public Improvement for Spirit Corner (the installation of

the scow crafted by the Crystal River Boat Builders) and Image Campaign/Promotional Material for the Spirit of Crystal River Pop Up Gallery. Amazing work for a group that has been in existence for only 2 years!



The Chamber's Josh Wooten and Ardath Prendergast accept a Florida Main Street Merit Award from Secretary of State Ken Detzner and Deputy Secretary Christie Fitz-Patrick at the Omni Hotel in Amelia Island.



### 'Chamber Report' on WYKE

Watch the weekly "Chamber Report" show on WYKE-TV to stay abreast of Chamber events, issues and member spotlights with host Josh Wooten. "Chamber Report" is broadcast on Tuesdays at 4:30 p.m. on Bright House Channel 16 and Channel 47 (digital antenna).

It can also be accessed on Live Stream.com by searching for WYKE.

This week's program features Chamber board member Harold Walker, who talks about the building of the George Washington Carver Center in Crystal River that he oversaw as the volunteer project



Harold Walker

manager, along with the services that the center now provides to the community. Then, in a second segment of the show, Harold talks about Fire Up Citrus! and the many presentations from past Fire Up Citrus! events that have developed into reality, including Harold's idea presented last year for a Construction Academy. Also, Kathleen Grady-Weil gives a rundown of the latest developments for Mermaids & Margaritas on Sept. 9. "Chamber Report" is your ticket to the many happenings in Citrus County!



### Mission of the Citrus County Chamber of Commerce

The Citrus County Chamber of Commerce is an organization of businesses unified in efforts to advance the economic growth of the region, promote the interests of the business community, provide key leadership on key commerce issues and preserve the county's quality of life.

### Chamber events calendar

- Sept. 8 — Chamber Luncheon at The Plantation on Crystal River, speaker KC Nayfield; Sponsor is Citrus County Blessings
- Sept. 9 — Mermaids & Margaritas, Fort Island Gulf Beach
- Sept. 21 — Mixer, King's Bay Rotary and George Washington Carver Center at George Washington Carver Center, Crystal River
- Sept. 23 — BWA Women's Health & Fitness Expo at National Guard Armory, Crystal River
- Oct. 5 — Fire Up Citrus! at Tuscany on the Meadows
- Oct. 13 — Business Appreciation Month Annual Luncheon, Black Diamond
- Oct. 19 — BAM BBQ!, M&B Dairy
- Oct. 26 — BAM mixer, Insight Credit Union, Crystal River
- Nov. 3 — Chamber Luncheon at Seven Rivers Presbyterian Church; Poverty Simulation Project by United Way; Sponsor is Hospice of Citrus County
- Nov. 11 — Lake Hernando Dragon Boat Festival
- Dec. 2 — Crystal River Christmas Parade
- Dec. 9 — Inverness Christmas Parade
- Jan. 13 & 14 — Florida Manatee Festival
- Jan. 24 & 25 — Legislative Days in Tallahassee

For more information on all Chamber events, call 352-795-3149 or go to [www.CitrusCountyChamber.com](http://www.CitrusCountyChamber.com).

### 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.

