



# Chamber Connection

915 N. Suncoast Blvd., Crystal River, FL 34429 · 352-795-3149 · 203 E. Dampier St., Inverness, FL 34450 · 352-726-2801

## Best wishes, thanks to our Chamber leaders

*“Leadership is not about titles, positions, or flow charts. It is about one life influencing another.” — John C. Maxwell*

The Chamber would like to acknowledge and thank those leading us into 2022. We appreciate the hard work and dedication our board serves to our community each and every day and the investment of time, energy, and resources they pour into the future of Citrus County.



**Lindsay Platz**   **Tabitha Wells**   **Tom Ryan**   **Rob Wardlow**   **Kelley Paul**

### 2022 Executive Board of Directors

<b>Lindsay Platz</b> Chairman of the Board Insight Credit Union	<b>Tabitha Wells</b> Immediate Past Chair Wells Business Solutions	<b>Tom Ryan</b> Incoming Chair Central Ridge Insurers	<b>Rob Wardlow</b> Treasurer Wardlow & Cash, PA	<b>Kelley Paul</b> Secretary Wollinka Wike Title Insurance
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### 2022 Board of Directors

<b>Tiarra Alexander</b> The Pace Center for Girls	<b>Martin Drango</b> Duke Energy	<b>Gwen Klaiber</b> (on behalf of BWA — Business Women’s Alliance) Citrus County Property Appraiser	<b>Debbie Reilly</b> (on behalf of Leadership Citrus) Citrus County Library System
<b>George Bendtsen</b> Insurance by George	<b>Barb Fletcher</b> LKQ	<b>Gary Mock</b> RMC(SW) USN (ret.)	<b>April Saxer</b> Bravera Health Seven Rivers
<b>Leslie Bollin</b> City of Crystal River	<b>Dr. Jim Harvey</b> College of Central Florida (ret.)	<b>Gerry Mulligan</b> Citrus County Chronicle (ret.)	<b>Craig Stevens</b> Citrus County Fire Rescue
<b>Mike Buchanan</b> Excel Printing	<b>Grace Hengesbach</b> Beech Street Consulting	<b>John Murphy</b> Citrus County Chronicle	<b>Don Taylor</b> EDACC
<b>Ginger Carroll</b> Citrus Memorial Health Systems	<b>Alyson Brennan</b> (on behalf of YP’s — Young Professionals) Realtors Association of Citrus County	<b>Missy Slanker</b> (on behalf of Ambassadors) Sound Decisions	<b>Harold Walker</b> Duke Energy (ret.) (Citrus Construction Academy)
<b>Cregg Dalton</b> Citrus County Property Appraiser	<b>Dr. Vernon Lawter</b> College of Central Florida	<b>David Reed</b> YMCA of the Suncoast	

### Lifetime Directors

<b>Pete Burrell</b> Citrus County Chronicle (Ret.)	<b>Dick Dolbow</b> Citrus County Schools	<b>Carl Flanagan</b> PRIMERICA Advisors	<b>Karen Dixon</b> Retired	<b>Chet White</b> Stanley Steemer
<b>Kevin Cunningham</b> RE/MAX Realty One	<b>Joe Fallon</b> Retired	<b>Rocky Hensley</b> Brannen Bank (ret.)	<b>Jack Reynolds</b> Brannen Bank	<b>Janet Yant</b> Nature Coast Charters
<b>Charles Davis</b> Chas. E. Davis Funeral Home	<b>Mike Fitzpatrick</b> Century Link (Ret.)	<b>Jim Neal</b> James N. Neal Jr., PA	<b>Janice Warren</b> Tax Collector	

## RECENT RIBBON CUTTING

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.

### Blast It Fireworks



Welcome to the Chamber, Blast It Fireworks! Open 10am – 10pm with 20% off storewide, Blast It! Blitz with up to 50% off storewide, free popcorn while you shop and a free kids safety patrol badge. Be sure to check out their scavenger hunt for some extra fun too! Happy hour runs from 8-9pm. 1321 SE HWY 19, Crystal River (Across from Suntrust Bank). 352-535-0775. www.BlastItFireworks.com. Please be mindful of your friends and neighbors that may be silently suffering from PTSD. Celebrate responsibly!



### 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.

## Upcoming Events

1/7 – January Chamber Luncheon. Keynote Speaker: Gerry Mulligan, sponsored by Right Rudder Aviation. Citrus Hills Golf & Country Club  
1/15 - 1/16 – 35th Annual Florida Manatee Festival; Downtown Crystal River  
1/19 - 1/20 – Citrus County 2022 Legislative Days; Tallahassee  
3/5 - 3/6 – 35th Annual Floral City Strawberry Festival; Floral Park (Floral City)

## 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.

## Hop on the bus to Tallahassee!

The Chamber is returning to its pre-pandemic style Legislative Day trip to Tallahassee. We invite you to “hop on the bus” and join us on January 20 for a full morning of informative and insightful discussions with legislators and agency officials about issues of priority to Citrus County.

Our own Senate President Wilton Simpson will be the keynote speaker at

lunch. An optional tour of the state archives and state library will conclude the day before the motorcoach bus returns to Citrus County.

Roundtrip bus transportation, all sessions with a gourmet catered lunch is \$80. For more information and to register, call or email Ardath Prendergast at 352-795-3149 or ardath@citruscountychamber.com.

## Gerry Mulligan to speak at luncheon

We are excited to welcome Gerry Mulligan, former publisher of the Citrus County Chronicle, to reminisce on the history, growth, and changes he has seen over the past 40+ years offering a look at where we have come as a

Chamber and a community over the years. The luncheon will be held on January 7th from 11:30 – 1:00 at Citrus Hills Golf & Country Club. Thank you to our January luncheon sponsor Right Rudder Aviation.

\$20 for Chamber members; \$25 for non-members. Reservations required no later than January 4th. RSVP online at <https://tinyurl.com/January2022luncheon>.



## ‘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 Traci Schoenrock, Administrative Manager of Save Crystal River, about her recently taking this position with the local waterway restoration organization and a look at the impact of their work in Kings Bay.

Also joining Jade is Amy Meek of Meek Real Estate about the market trends, expectations for the future of the housing market, and their commitment to assisting clients from start to finish in their home journey. Chamber Report is your ticket to the many happenings in Citrus County!



**Traci Schoenrock**   **Amy Meek**