



109 NW 3rd Ave, Chiefland, FL 32626
 (352) 493-6797 / www.naturecoast.org
 David J. Pieklik – Executive Director -- [Email us](mailto:dpieklik@naturecoast.org)

DECEMBER 2016

Longtime Chamber Exec Retiring

Mary Kline is retiring December 22 after 18 years with the Williston Chamber of Commerce. Kline, Executive Director, joined the Chamber about two years after moving to Morriston from New Jersey.

She has led the Chamber from its early days, seeing membership increase as well as exposure despite going through some tough times such as the Great Recession in 2008.

Though business growth slowed for a bit during that period, community support for and involvement with the Chamber has increased. She has also seen the Chamber's annual signature event – the Central Florida Peanut Festival – grow from about 40 vendors and 1,000 visitors to more than 100 vendors and 7,000 visitors the latest one.

With plans to do some traveling and finish projects around the house, Kline hopes to see increased cooperation between the NCBDC, Chamber, city, businesses and others to bring in more growth to the community. She also plans to stay involved with Chamber activities.

DECEMBER CALENDAR

- 5th**– Bronson Town Council, 7 pm, Dogan Cobb Municipal Building
- Yankeetown Town Council, 7 pm, Lion's Club
- 6th** -- Board of County Commissioners, 9 am, county courthouse, Bronson
- Inglis commission, 5:30 pm, town hall
- Williston City Council, 7 pm, Williston City Hall
- 8th** – NCBDC board of directors and RESTORE Act advisory committee, 3 pm, College of Central Florida, Chiefland.
- 12^h** – Chiefland City Commission, 6 pm, city hall
- 13th** -- Fanning Springs City Council, 5 pm, city hall
- 19th** – Bronson Town Council, 7 pm, Dogan Cobb Municipal Building
- Otter Creek Town Council, 7 pm, town hall
- 20th**-- Board of County Commissioners, 9 am, county courthouse, Bronson
- Cedar Key City Commission, 6 pm, city hall
- Williston City Council, 7 pm, Williston City Hall
- 26th** – Chiefland City Commission, 6 pm city hall

NEWS AND NOTES

- **Internet Needs Assessment Ongoing:** The NCBDC is continuing its assessment of needs while working to establish a more reliable and faster high speed Internet network in the county through fiber optic cable. The focus is on businesses to increase competitiveness in the region and attract and retain higher quality industry. You can participate in a survey on this effort by clicking [here](#).
- **Facetime With Investors Opportunity:** Florida entrepreneurs have the chance to meet face-to-face with investors at the upcoming 26th annual Florida Venture Capital Conference Feb. 2-3, 2017 at the Waldorf Astoria in Orlando. The deadline to apply to attend is December 9. Click [here to apply](#) to be a presenter.
- **CareerSource Gets Readers' Choice Nod:** CareerSource Citrus Levy Marion received the 2016 Readers' Choice Award from the Ocala Star-Banner in the Services category for Best Customer Service and Best Employment Agency.
- **Labor Force Remains Level:** Levy County's labor force remained level for October, declining slightly by 19 to 16,871 and 15,979 employed (a decline of 26). The unemployment rate remained the lowest in the region at 5.2 percent.
- **Meet Your Neighbors:** More entrepreneur profiles featuring local businesses have been added to our website, courtesy of our partnership with the Florida Virtual Entrepreneur Center. Click [here](#) and scroll to the bottom of the page to read the four profiles: Scott DeBerry of DeBerry Marketing Services; Tricia Allen of PhotoFrost; Dwight Brooker of Paradox Intellectual Properties; and Al Walker of Foss Foam Products.

VALUABLE RESOURCES

- [Department of Economic Opportunity](#)
- [Enterprise Florida](#)
- [Levy County](#)
- [North Florida Economic Development Partnership](#)
- [Virtual Entrepreneur Center](#)
- [Visit Nature Coast.com](#)



Board of Directors

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