



109 NW 3<sup>rd</sup> Ave, Chiefland, FL 32626

(352) 493-6797 / [www.naturecoast.org](http://www.naturecoast.org)

David J. Pieklik – Executive Director -- [Email us](#)

**MAY 2017**

**THIS MONTH: It's Not That Far Off**

A thousand people a day are moving into the Sunshine State. That means roughly 26 million Florida residents by 2030, spelling a projected water shortage of 1-billion gallons a day. That also means 2-million net new jobs will need to be created for those in the labor force who are moving into the state.

As part of a long-term strategic planning research program, the Florida Chamber Foundation is conducting a Florida 2030 town hall meeting May 26 at Haven Hospice in Chiefland from 12 pm to 2 pm. The town hall will explore a variety of issues the region and state will face in the next 13 years and beyond.

Water resources, population growth, affordable housing, economic development and other topics will be discussed, leading to a blueprint of sorts for an action plan to help prepare us. The NCBDC, [Greater Chiefland Area Chamber of Commerce](#) and the [North Central Florida Regional Planning Council](#) are hosting the event at 311 NE 9<sup>th</sup> Street, Chiefland in the Community Center.

Click on the Florida 2030 Town Hall link below in the calendar to register. You can also [view a video](#) giving additional insight into the Florida Chamber's project.

**NEWS AND NOTES**

- **Be A Part of the Future:** The NCBDC has been busy the last several years building successes and shaping others. Work is never done; it only evolves to stay ahead of trends and demands. We will soon be launching an initiative to allow you to help support those efforts and build better futures for you and our future business and community leaders. Our June newsletter will have more on this.
- **That Time of Year Again:** Hurricane season begins June 1, running to November 30. Levy County Emergency Management is hosting a kick-off meeting May 24 to discuss the approaching season and review forecasts.
- **Region's Economy Continues to Blossom:** The unemployment rate for the tri-county region of Citrus, Levy and Marion counties continues to decrease, sitting at 5.2 percent as of March, according to the latest data from the Department of Economic Opportunity. The DEO says the labor force grew to 201,238, with the number of unemployed dropping by 1,281 over the last month to 10,556. Levy remained at the lowest unemployment rate with 4.5%. Its labor force expanded by 22 to 16,937, with 16,176 employed (up 110). The number of unemployed decreased by 88 to 761, according to the DEO data.
- **2017 Companies To Watch:** GrowFL is accepting applications for the 2017 Companies to Watch awards. Second-stage companies with 6-150 employees based in Florida that earn between \$750,000 and \$100-million annually are eligible. Are you such a company or know someone you'd like to nominate? [Click here.](#)
- **Making Its Mark:** The Florida High Tech Corridor is finding itself in the spotlight more with numerous accomplishments and successes. Read some of the [latest news](#) on one of our valuable partners.

**ADD IT TO YOUR CALENDARS**

May 2 & 16	May 11	May 11	May 26
<b>Levy Board of County Commissioners regular meeting</b> 9 am County Courthouse, Bronson	<b>NCBDC board/RESTORE Act Advisory Committee meeting; tour</b> 2 pm, College of Central Florida, 15390 NW Hwy. 19, Chiefland	<a href="#">MRMA 14<sup>th</sup> annual golf tournament</a> Ocala Golf Club 3130 E. Silver Springs Blvd., Ocala	<a href="#">Florida 2030 Town Hall</a> 12 pm – 2 pm Haven Hospice 311 NE 9 <sup>th</sup> Street Chiefland, FL 32626



**Board of Directors**

- Chris Cowart  
Levy County School Board
- Denny George  
Duke Energy
- Dick Streeter,  
Withlacoochee-Gulf Area Chamber of Commerce; *vice chairman/treasurer to the Board*
- Greg Galpin  
Weyerhaeuser; *Chairman to the Board*
- Jeff Edison  
Superintendent of Schools
- Joyce Wilson,  
Unity Family Community Center
- Mark Meyer  
Florida Northern Railroad
- Phil Geist  
[Small Business Development Center](#)
- Rayanne Giddis  
College of Central Florida
- Ryan Watson  
Central Florida Electric Cooperative

**OUR VALUABLE PARTNERS**

- [CareerSource Citrus Levy Marion](#)
- [Department of Economic Opportunity](#)
- [Enterprise Florida](#)
- [Levy County](#)
- [North Florida Economic Development Partnership](#)
- [Virtual Entrepreneur Center](#)