

WELCOME!!!!

A WORD FROM OUR DIRECTOR

Welcome to Columbia County's first Economic Development's first Newsletter. Our goal is to keep you informed with what is going on in the business world here in Columbia County. I am the Executive Director of Economic Development and my Economic Development Specialist, Van Brown, works with many of the local businesses providing support and resources for Business Retention and Expansion.

One of the main goals of this newsletter is to clear up the gossip about what is and what is not coming to our community. So, stay tuned and find out the true story right here.

We thank you for taking time to read our newsletter and hope that you find something in here that makes your day a little bit brighter.

-Jennifer Daniels
CEcD, MEDP

DID YOU KNOW?

Lake City Florida used to be named Alligator Town after Chief Alligator, the leader of the Seminole Tribe that inhabited the land. With the coming of the Second Seminole War and the settling of the Americas the name would be changed to Lake City in 1859.



What's That Over There?

- 47 and I75 - Tractor Supply
- Hwy 90 - WAWA
- Hwy 90 Big Dan's Carwash
- 228 NW Centurion Ct - Chicken Salad Chick
- 2941 W US Hwy 90 - Diamond Nails
- E US Hwy 90 - AgroLiquid
- Sunstop/Wendy's - N US Hwy 441



Business Retention and Expansion

Business Retention and Expansion (BRE) is a part of Economic Development that focuses on the support and resources that our local businesses need. Links to grant and loan programs along with free webinars offered by the Small Business Development Center (SBDC), The Small Business Administration (SBA), Service Corps of Retired Executives (SCORE), and the United States Department of Agriculture (USDA) just to name a few. Our goal is to ensure that your business has the tools necessary to help you thrive, expand and succeed in Columbia County's business arena.

If you are a business in Columbia County and would like to receive information on these resources and support, contact Van Brown at 386-758-3355 or email vbrown@columbiacountyfla.com.

-Van Brown

RURAL COUNTIES DAY 2026

Rural Counties Day was held at the State Capital on January 21-22, 2026. During this time, rural counties advocate and network to highlight achievements as well as promote economic opportunities to state legislators. 30 out of 31 rural counties participated in the event this year. Columbia County was once again proud to be a part of these events.

Economic Development partnered with our local CTE and UF/IFAS programs to create a display themed, "Pipeline for Progress." We highlighted how Economic Development is not just business and buildings, it's also workforce. And where does that workforce come from? That's right, our local school system and 4H programs. 4H sparks the potential, CTE builds their skills and Economic Development partners with both to grow the workforce. This collaboration is continuing throughout the year so be on the lookout for events in Lake City.



Joey O'hern, Heather Janey, Angela Coppock, Jennifer Daniels, and Van Brown at RCD 2026



Pictured from left to right: Joey O'hern- Lake City Chamber of Commerce, David Kraus - County Manager, Kevin Parnell - County Commissioner and Mayor Noah Walker posed with Bellamy Beaver

Thank you to the local businesses who helped Lake City Shine!!



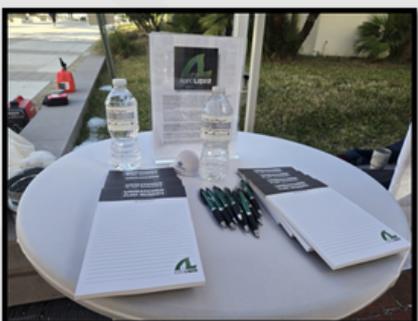
Nettles Sausage



Ambie's Sweet Treats



Endured



AgroLiquid



New Millennium



Weyerhaeuser