

Business Buzz

Columbia County's Economic Development Newsletter!

JUNE 2026

STAND UP RURAL AMERICA



REGISTER TODAY!

Dynamic Panels featuring...
Lake City's Secret Sauce: Leadership, Vision & Action
FREDA: Better Together...The Power of Partnerships
Tips & Tools: Revive, Renew & Reimagine

Back by Popular Demand...
The Economic Development Divas
The Economic Development Brat Pack

And there's more...
Meet the 2026 SURA Charity Beneficiary
The Jim Walton Community Impact Award
The 2026 SURA Trailblazers
Celebrating Success: Rural Case Studies
Tuesday Welcome Reception & Wednesday Rock On Rural America Party

We can't wait to show off three beautiful venues...
Florida Gateway College | The Blanche | The Woods

With special presentations featuring...

Steve Lerch
Digital Innovator

Amy Holloway
Trust Builder

Tom Ziglar
Leadership Authority

Lorie Vincent
Rural Trailblazer

Denny Spinner
Community Catalyst

acceleration

www.StandUpRuralAmerica.com

This summer, from July 28-30th, Stand Up Rural America will take place right here in Lake City, Florida. This event promises topics on leadership, innovation, entrepreneurship, downtown revitalization and much more.

This event is perfect for economic development organizations, chambers of commerce, cities, counties, regional groups and workforce. The networking and expert panels will stimulate anyone with an interest in growth and success in rural America.

For information regarding registration go to
<https://www.standupruralamerica.com/>

Hosted in partnership
with
**COLUMBIA
COUNTY**

FORUM SPONSORSHIPS

Your generous sponsorship support allows us to provide a high level slate of nationally renowned speakers, in a beautiful and productive environment, at a cost that is affordable to our rural participants. We offer many sponsorship levels, with an abundance of benefits. If you do not find an opportunity that fits your objectives, please reach out and let's discuss a solution! We also offer a vibrant location for vendors and exhibitors at the Forum. Sponsorships and Vendor Tables can be secured online through the registration portal, you can request an online invoice to pay with a credit card, pay direct by ACH or we can send you an invoice. We are happy to accommodate your payment system. <https://www.standupruralamerica.com/>

EXHIBITOR – COST, BENEFITS AND SIGN UP

****The cost to be an exhibitor is the \$1500 Boiled Peanut Baron Sponsorship
Boiled Peanut Baron/Exhibitor Benefits**

Two (2) Complimentary Summit Registrations

1) Go to the Registration Page (if you didn't register when you purchased the package online);
2) Scroll down to the bottom of the registration options; and
3) Register under the "Sponsor Comp Registration" which will allow you to register two registrations into the system with a zero amount fee. Please alert us of who will be utilizing the comp registrations so we can reconcile our records when it comes through the system. Please complete a separate registration for each comp.

ONE (1) Exhibitor Package

Exhibitor benefits includes one 8' space, one table w/ covering and one or two chairs. Electricity available upon request. Public WiFi is available. Tabletop displays are preferred, but not required. Tables will be located around the perimeter of the meeting space for maximum exposure throughout the event.

Complimentary Listing in the official Summit Journal

Advanced social media recognition & website hot links

Please send us a logo and hot link you would like for us to include on social media and the website. Your social media shout-out is scheduled for the week of July 6, 2026.

Special signage at the Summit recognizing our sponsors & exhibitors

Registration Lists

We will provide our sponsors the list of Summit registrants one week prior to the event and then a final list immediately following the Summit for your promotion and follow-up campaigns.

Address of Venue and Set-Up Time

The Summit sessions will be held at:

Florida Gateway College
Howard Conference Center
149 SE College Pl
Lake City, FL 32025

Set Up Time will be from 9:00 am to 12:00 pm on Tuesday, July 28th. Tear down time will be noon on Thursday, July 30th.

Action Items

By ASAP: Send a high resolution logo in color to lorie@accelerationbydesign.com. (to be used for website, Sponsor signage, stage screen, journal, social media, etc.)

By ASAP: Preferred website address to Hot Link for social media and website.

By July 3: 120 word paragraph about the company that will be used in social media promotion. By July 22: Registration process completed for complimentary registrations. Send names to Lorie Vincent for reconciliation. By July 24: Ship or deliver any marketing materials for inclusion in the Summit participant bags Jennifer Daniels at Columbia County Economic Development (in Lake City) or to Lorie at ACCELERATION by design LLC (in Texas) by Friday, July 24 (if applicable). Addresses can be provided. Please contact us with any questions. We are excited to be partnering with you on the 2026 Stand Up Rural America Summit!!

Lorie Vincent | lorie@accelerationbydesign.com | 806.683.2553

THANK YOU FORUM SPONSORS

2026 STAND UP RURAL AMERICA SUMMIT HOST | Columbia Economic Development

THE SUNSHINE PRESENTING SPONSOR | \$10,000 Exclusive

TALL PINES TITLE PARTNER | \$7,500 Exclusive

SOUTHERN CHARM HOSPITALITY SPONSOR | \$6,000 Exclusive

THE HONEYBELL HERO PLATINUM SPONSOR | \$5,000 | Advanced Project Solutions

AIRBOAT CAPTAIN DIGITAL APP SPONSOR | \$4,000 Exclusive

MANATEE CROSSING GOLD PARTNER | \$3,000

BOILED PEANUT BARON SILVER SPONSOR/**EXHIBITOR** | \$1,500 | Fresh Prints Miami | Amazon Hub

Thomas Howell Ferguson P.A. | The Roberts Companies | Kimley-Horn

FLIP FLOP FARMER COMMUNITY SPONSOR | \$1,250

FLOCK OF FLAMINGOS BRONZE SPONSOR | \$750 | Chanute Regional Development Authority
BusinessFlare LLC

SOLD GULF TO GATEWAY FEATURED VENDORS | Enrichment Benefits USA | Marketing Alliance

SOLD SWEET AS SUGARCANE LUNCHEON SPONSOR | Florida Power & Light

SOLD OFFICIAL MEDIA MEGAPHONE SUMMIT SPONSOR | Site Selection Magazine

SOLD THE HEMINGWAY OFFICIAL SUMMIT JOURNAL SPONSOR | FRED A

SOLD SWEET TEA BREAK SPONSOR | Lindale Economic Development Corporation

SOLD PINEAPPLE PATRON RECEPTION SPONSOR | Big Lake Economic Development Corporation

SOLD STRAWBERRY FIELDS SUMMIT BAG SPONSOR | Bowie Economic Development Corporation

SOLD NORTHWEST WELCOME WAGON | First Federal Bank

SOLD DELIGHTFUL DOUGHNUT HEAVEN | Morpheus Group

SOLD SEMINOLE WIND LANYARD SPONSOR | Opportunity Strategies, Inc.

****Forum sponsors that are not marked as sold, can have more than one sponsorship****

WHAT'S HAPPENING?

Food Truck Wednesday

11am - 2pm every Wednesday Olustee Park area

June 10th Royale Dream

June 17th Cousin's Maine Lobsters

June 24th Cluckin & Truckin

Growers Makers Market

June 13th and 27th

9am-1pm Olustee Park

Summer Kick-Off Market

June 5th

5pm-8pm Veterans Park

The Woods Splash Park

June 6th - 12pm and 7pm

June 7th - 5pm

June 7th - K-POP Demon Hunters at 5pm

Contact the Woods for fees for activities

Cooper's Hideout

Throughout the month of June

Ladies Night

Karaoke Contest

Live Music

Line Dancing

Check Facebook for dates and times

Fun Fact: Did you know that in 1891, Lake City was the first city in Florida to have electric lights from a local power and light company?



A SUMMER FOR ART!!

This summer, the Gateway Art Gallery has your escape into mediums. Check out what's going on for the month of June. For registration, costs and more information, contact 386-752-5229

June 1 - Acrylic Painting 11am
June 5 - A Life in the Arts: Featured Artist Larry Elshoff 5:30pm
June 6 - Intro to Watercolor 10am
June 7 - Resin Art 2pm
June 8 - Advancing in Watercolor 9:30am
June 8 - Bring Your Own Wheel - Throwing clay 6pm
June 10 - Art in the A/C 9:30am
June 10 - Alcohol Ink 10am
June 10 - Teaching Kids Through Art 3pm
June 11 - Resin Art 2pm
June 12 - Oil Painting with Sean Mullins 11am
June 13 - Alcohol Ink 10am
June 14 - Stained Glass (1 day) 9am
June 15 - Watercolor painting 10am
June 16 - Alcohol Ink 10am
June 17 - Hand Building Clay - Slab Construction 6pm
June 18 - Journaling with Jeanne 5:30pm
June 19 - Fusing Glass in a Microwave Kiln 4pm

June 20 - Junior YAL 10am
June 20 - Senior YAL 12pm
June 21 - Resin Art 2pm
June 22 - Copper Repousse & Chasing 1pm
June 23 - Wally Reichert Memorial Art Show Awards Reception 6pm
June 24 - Hand Building Clay - Slab Construction 6pm
June 25 - Drawing Made Easy with Grids 4pm
June 26 - Make Your Own Ceramic Beads 4pm
June 27 - Elementary YAL 10am
June 27 - Drop off for CYOA Entries begins 12pm
June 27 - Jewelry Workshop 1:30pm
June 29 - ALNF Meeting & Luncheon 12pm

CAREERSOURCE IS READY FOR YOU!!

About 2 years ago our local CareerSource merged with Gainesville to become CareerSource North Central Florida. The growing pains of that event echoed through Lake City and left many questions. After a building closure, some moving around and a lot of patience, CareerSource has a new home here in Lake City. In fact, there is a CareerSource Office located in each county they serve. Find the office near you :

Alachua

Appointment Only
15100 NW 142nd Ter
Alachua, FL 32615
352-955-2245

Cross City

Appointment Only
405 SE 22nd Ave
Cross City, FL 32628
352-384-3433

Gainesville

1112 N Main St.
Gainesville, FL 32601
352-955-2245

Lake Butler

Appointment Only
200 SW 1st St
Lake Butler, FL 32054
352-955-2245

Lake City

By Appointment Only
180 E Duval St.
Lake City, FL
386-243-6647

Starke

925 N Temple Ave Ste C
Starke, FL 32091
904-964-8092
Closed 12-1 lunch

Trenton

723 E Wade St
Trenton, FL 32693
352-384-3349



At APS, we take pride in doing the work that keeps commercial projects moving forward. From Demo, Land Clearing, Site-work, Storm/Water/ Sewer Utility, Ponds and more, our crews handle the heavy work that lays the foundation for successful builds. We work with developers, general contractors, and municipalities across the Southeast to deliver safe, reliable, and on-schedule site solutions.

As a family-owned, WBE-certified company, we believe in building strong relationships just as much as strong infrastructure. Our team brings hands-on experience, dependable communication, and a commitment to getting the job done right the first time.

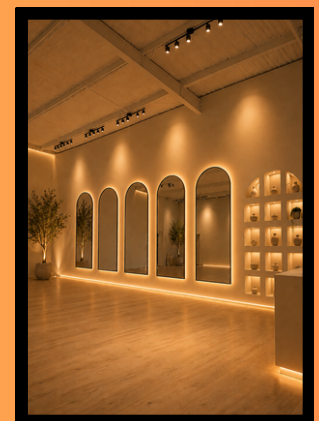
APS is proud to be a trusted partner in the field.

We're grateful for every opportunity to serve our communities and help build what's next. Contact us at 386-490-1755 for more information.



HAVE IT ALL AT THE WOODS!!

The Woods offers a one-of-a-kind event experience in North Florida, combining the flexibility of a modern event venue with the hospitality and service standards typically found at upscale hotels and destination properties. At the heart of the venue is a 4,000-square-foot, fully air-conditioned event hall featuring an open floor plan that can be transformed for weddings, corporate gatherings, conferences, trade shows, speaking engagements, fundraisers, birthday celebrations, holiday parties, and private events of all kinds. The space is equipped with a 30-foot bar and serving counter, professional audio and visual capabilities, projector and presentation support, customizable event lighting, and a high-quality sound system designed to accommodate everything from intimate gatherings to large-scale productions.



Call 386-406-9239 for more information
<https://www.thewoodsflorida.com/>