



# Crescent City Chronicle

## August 2013

### City of Crescent City, Florida

Courtesy of Crescent City's City Commission

Volume I Issue 6  
August 2013

#### Sunrise Park to Re-open—County Approves Funding to Help with Additional Improvements

The work is substantially complete at Margary Neal Nelson Sunrise Park and it will open the first week of August. There are a few punch list items to take care of, including parking bumpers, striping and directional signage; and there is also a plan to improve the driveway apron at the entrance to the park. These items may result in another short closure (3 to 5 days) to allow the paint and the concrete to cure. Apologies for the timing but the striping cannot take place until 30 days after asphalt is down; and the concrete work, if funding is available, simply was not timed very well with the rest of the work.

Your City Commission also approved funding to place an accessible floating dock at the end of the loading pier in the boat ramp. It must be noted that the County has agreed to fund up to \$20,000 towards the cost of the floating dock. This kind of cooperation is what can make things happen in our City and our County.

The floating dock will make it a little easier to get in and out of your boat in low water conditions, and will make this a regional facility to be proud of. Permits are already in place and we should have it out for bid by late August. This should put the installation of the dock in the month of October or early November. We will keep you posted.



Just Imagine if every property owner or business owner on Central Avenue or Summit St (or any of our streets for that matter) did something as simple as plant sunflowers around a light pole. Thank you to the Trigger and Donna at Sans Souci Key Salon on Central Avenue for making the effort to put some beauty in their little piece of the business district.

#### Madagascar 3—Europes Most Wanted Coming to Eva Lyon Park August

The Movies in the Park summer movie blitz continues in August....well the very last day of August, but it is still August!

Batman finished his work in Crescent City a little early and left for Gotham City. But thanks to our generous sponsors—Kenny and Teres Biggs—and the volunteer efforts of local folks like Mary Ann Braddock, Jody Braddock, John Turney, Scott Savel, Andy Henry, Terry Davis and Commissioner Judy West — the show will go on with *Madagascar 3-Europe's Most Wanted*. As always concession will be available, with proceeds being used to fund future movie events.

#### RELEVANT TRIVIA:

Labor is the first Monday in September and was established as an annual national tribute to celebrate the contributions of every day workers have made to the strength and prosperity of our country.

The first Labor Day was celebrated on September 5th 1882 in New York City. It became a national holiday by Congressional Act in June 1894.

## COMMUNITY CALENDAR

#### Crescent City Celebration Committee Meeting

Date : August 15th

Time: 6 pm

Location: City Hall Meeting Room

Topic: Christmas Festival

#### Summer Movies in the Park *Madagascar 3*

Date: August 31st

Time: 8:00 pm

Location: Eva Lyon Park

#### Commission, Committee and Board Meetings for August:

**City Commission Budget Workshop - August 8th at 6:00pm**

**City Commission Regular Meeting - August 8th at 7:00 pm**

#### Planning & Zoning Commission Meeting - August 20th at 6pm in City Hall:

Main Topic will be improvements to Eva Lyon Park for purposes of a FRDAP grant application.

To get your Crescent City community event posted here or to submit ideas for articles, send in the information by the 28th of the month to make the following month's issue:

[newsletter@crescentcity-fl.com](mailto:newsletter@crescentcity-fl.com)

Phone: (386) 698-2525

## City Hall Closed—September 2nd for Labor Day





## Budget Talks Continue, Change in the Millage Rate On The Table—Among Other Things

The City Commission will be holding a special budget workshop prior to its regular meeting starting at 6:00pm on August 8th. This continues the informal discussions from the July regular meeting concerning the City's budget issues. As a result of another year of declining property values, Crescent City's property tax revenue is expected to drop again for Fiscal Year 2014 if the millage rate remains the same.

The good news is that the decline in property value for FY2014 is a much smaller drop than the prior 4 years; less than 2%, compared to prior year declines of 6% to 10%. The bad news is that this comes at a time when a 3 year grant that was help-

ing support the Police Department payroll is no longer available. The loss of the grant did not catch the City unaware. It was discussed at length in last year's budget process. When coupled with the decline in property values, the loss the general fund revenue is closer to 10%.

At its July meeting, the Commission agreed to explore increasing the millage rate from 8.1723 to 8.5914 to determine whether it would help to balance the budget; but also made it clear that Staff was to look at other ways to cut costs.

Due to some reorganization in the Utility Billing Department, capping the City's contribution to the health insurance, and some volunteer pay cuts from two employees, Staff has found some additional

room for savings. However, these savings still leave the budget short by about \$4,000 if the millage remains the same. Not a huge number on its face, but after cutting more than \$134,000 from the General Fund since 2010, an additional \$4,000 is more painful to absorb than you might expect.

Staff will be presenting a budget analysis at the August 8th workshop that looks at trying to make it work with three different millage rates 8.1723, 8.2455 and 8.5914.

**COME AN BE A PART OF THE DISCUSSION—ITS YOUR TAXES AND YOUR SERVICES**

## “Other Things” on the August Meeting Agenda

While budget talks are the emphasis of City business this time of year, other City business must go on. Some topics of note for the regular City Commission meeting that will follow the budget workshop on August 8th at 7:00 pm include:

**ADOPTION OF AN ADDITIONAL EXEMPTION FOR LOW INCOME SENIORS** (this will allow low income seniors an additional \$25,000 exemption on their taxable value if they have lived in their home in Crescent City for more than 25 consecutive years and meet the income and property value limits)

**AUTHORIZATION OF AN ADDI-**

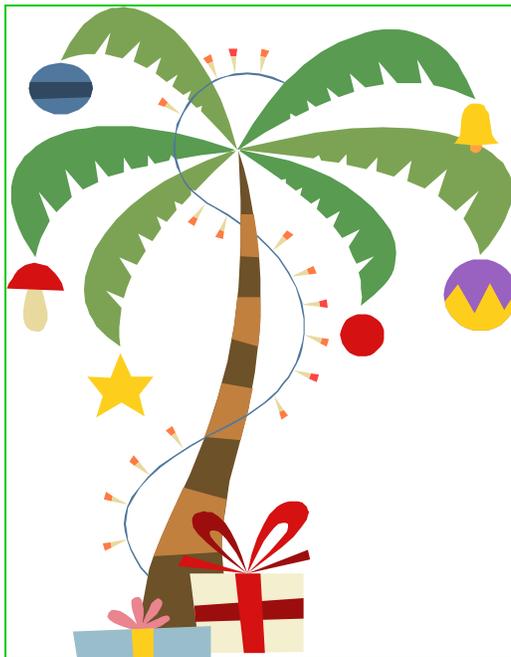
**TIONAL \$15,000 TO MAKE ADDITIONAL IMPROVEMENTS TO THE ENTRYWAY TO SUNRISE PARK** (This would allow use of Better Place Plan reserves to construct a concrete driveway into Sunrise Park)

**DISCUSSION OF FRDAP GRANT APPLICATION FOR IMPROVEMENTS TO EVA LYON PARK** (FRDAP is a State grant that provides funding for parks and recreation improvements. It has remained unfunded for the past few years but the Legislature has begun to fund it once again. Eva Lyon was set as the priority for park improvements in 2008. Staff wants to make certain

we are still on that same page.)

**A 5-YR CAPITAL IMPROVEMENT PROGRAM** (This will outline some capital project priorities for the next 5 years. We are still working to develop a list of specific projects based on the recent capital improvement priority workshops, but many projects are already on the list, such as the fire hydrant replacement project, Rocket Lane, and a floating dock at Sunrise Park. It also includes newly proposed projects such park improvements in Eva Lyon, Fletcher Park and Sunrise Park).

COMPLETE AGENDA, PRIOR MEETING MINUTES AND OTHER INFORMATION ITEMS ARE AVAILABLE ON THE CITY WEBSITE AT [CRESCENTCITY-FL.COM](http://CRESCENTCITY-FL.COM)



## Crescent City Celebration Committee Is Looking for Shepherd's

Coming off its recent success with its efforts for the “Red White and Boom” event, the Crescent City Celebration Committee has an eye on the upcoming Christmas Festival. The first organizational meeting for the Christmas Festival will be August 15, 2013 at 6pm in City Hall.

The primary motivation for forming the Crescent City Celebration Committee was a recognition that the community needed to pick the Christmas Festival back up after the Woman's Club decided was unable to carry on its 15 year tradition.

The primary topic for the meeting is to enlist as many individuals as possible who are willing to become a part of a commu-

nity volunteer group that will develop into the 2013 Christmas Festival. Emphasis will be on developing working committee chair persons and their support. The meeting will also discuss design of the event and logistics.

The Celebration Committee is looking for creative ideas and community minded volunteers that can willingly and cheerfully give their time and energy for this community event.

We might not have Christmas if a few shepherds and wiseman did not get involved from day one. Help us shepherd in a community celebration that we can be proud of.