



Crescent City Chronicle

January 2014

City of Crescent City, Florida

Courtesy of Crescent City's City Commission

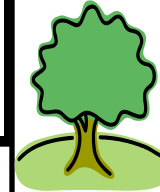
Volume 2 Issue 1

January 2014



COMMUNITY CALENDAR

Arbor Day Celebration



Crescent City Arbor Day Celebration
January 17th.

DID YOU KNOW...

There is a **Kids Fishing Rodeo** during the Crappie USA Fishing Tournament on January 18th on Lake Stella in Crescent City!

The Kids Rodeo Event is for kids 12 and under. It will take place on Lake Stella.

Sign up: 8am to 9am

Tournament: 9am to 11am

All fish species are eligible and live bait is allowed. There will be prizes and all participants will be eligible to win one of six \$1,000 scholarships. Scholarship winners will be drawn at the Crappie USA Classic in October 2014.

The Crappie Fishing Tournament Is Back!

Crappie USA, and its major sponsor Cabela's, are returning to Crescent Lake for the 4th Annual Crappie Fishing Tournament on January 18, 2014. The tournament will be staged at Margary Neal Nelson Sunrise Park in Crescent City. There is a semi-pro and an amateur category, so anyone can join the tournament. You can sign up for the tournament all the way up to the morning of the event, but the mail-in deadline is January 3, 2014.



Basic rules are as follows:

Off Limits: You may not fish prior to the start time.

Start Time: 6:30am

Stop Time: 3:00pm

Weigh-In: 4:00pm

Legal Waters: Dunn's Creek, Crescent Lake & Dead Lake.

Locals are welcome to participate in the event. Just ask Putnam County's Own Kirsten Knowles pictured above with the 2.62 lbs crappie that won the Big Fish award last year.

The Crappie USA Tournament Trail 2014 brochure with an entry form and complete rules is available at City Hall, the Chamber of Commerce and several retail establishments around the County. Don't want to fish? Come on out for the weigh in!

A ceremony will take place at Middleton-Burney Elementary on Huntington Road at 12:40 pm.

Crappie USA Fishing Tournament

Saturday Jan. 18th.
Tournament runs from 6:30 am to 3:00pm
Weigh-in Starts 3:00pm at Sunrise Park (By the New Boat Ramp)

Kids Fishing Rodeo
Saturday Jan 18th
Sign Up: 8-9am
Tournament: 9-11am
Location: Lake Stella Boat Ramp Area

City Commission Regular Meeting —
January 9th at 7 pm

Planning & Zoning Commission Meeting —
January 21st, 6pm at City Hall

CRA Advisory Committee Meeting — TBA
(Probably 3rd or 4th week of January)

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

Your Utility Bill Will Be Changing!

No, your rates will not be changing, but the bill will now be sent out on 8.5"x11" paper in a standard size envelope. Gone are the days of postcard bills. This is happening partly by necessity to accommodate new rules with the US Postal Service, but it is also a format that will make the bills easier to read and understand. It will also allow us to place important notices and other information in the envelope with the bill (maybe even the occasional Crescent City Chronicle!). Although the cost to mail the bill will increase, the City will absorb the increase and is not increasing rates. The January bill will be the first bill under the new format, so look for the envelop in January or early February.

CITY HALL CLOSURE NOTICES

City Hall will be closed:

January 1st for the New Year

January 20th for Martin Luther King Day.



A Year In Review...

Perhaps a better title to this article would be "Why Just Participating Matters". We wanted to take the opportunity to point out the effort by members of our Crescent City community over the past year to make our City a better place. These individuals and groups have shown us what it takes to make this City a place...a community...a home. They are in no particular order of importance, as each has made a difference in our community this past year in a way that truly matters:

The Crescent City Celebration Committee—for the Independence Day festivities and most recently the Christmas Festival. It was not always easy, but they persevered and made something special happen for both occasions. I hope they can repeat in 2014!

The Crescent City Yacht Club—They put the "Boom" in the *Red, White, and Boom* Independence Day celebration. They pulled off the first fireworks display for Crescent City in well over 30 years and it was a good one! Next year is already in the works.

Boys-To-Men — This group showed what a little volunteer elbow grease can do to help the City improve its park. Go take a look at the softball field at Harry Banks Community Park on Grove Avenue. It is looking great. Keep on it guys.

Crescent City's Public Works Staff — All the City employees could be thanked for their extra effort, but the public works staff volunteered its time on a Saturday to work on the Christmas tree lighted decorations you see on Summit Street to get them ready for the holidays. They also put in extra effort to help Boys-to-Men with the ongoing softball field renovations.

CRA Advisory Committee — This group of Commission appointed volunteers has put in numerous hours and help at least monthly meetings developing ideas for improving the City. Because their efforts are tied to City Hall, they can be slowed down by the process; but they have developed beautification concepts that will be im-

plemented early 2014 that I think we will all be proud of. They also initiated a façade grant program that helps local business owners fix up their buildings. This program has funded two new murals, four building rehabs and new signage that has truly enhanced the look of city and helped cash strapped business step up to get it done.

Movies-In-the-Park — What a great addition to our City special events this has been and it has all happened because of generous donations from local residents and businesses, and the time and effort of the volunteers who set the event up and break it down each time. For anyone who says there is nothing to do in Crescent City, I am not sure you are paying attention to this effort.

Catfish Festival — Okay, this festival has been happening for 35 years and is nothing new to Crescent City. However, this event epitomizes what volunteerism and community are all about. The 16 to 20 active members of the Crescent City Rotary Club, and the 100 plus volunteers that come to their aid for this event put on an event that is know around the Country, brings visitors that increase the population of town to 20,000 or more for the weekend, and all of the proceeds are used for a scholarship program that helps local high school students afford a college or vocational education.

There are other excellent examples of community spirit that I could mention here, including the efforts of our Woman's Clubs, the local churches, the Christian Service Center, etc. But I think you have the samples of volunteerism and caring that make the City great. Thanks to you all that participate

in our community. It does matter.

What Your City Done This Past Year and What To Expect for 2014. Although what this City Commission and the City staff get done each year is essentially what they were elected to do or hired to do, it is worth highlighting some of highlights of how they are carrying out their roles. Some unique projects that go beyond the standard service we expect include:

- Paving Rocket Lane, a long neglected road.
- A brand new fire engine
- Replacing 15 fire hydrants and valves
- Installing a boat trailer parking lot and stormwater treatment at Sunrise Park.
- Renovating the softball field at Harry Banks Park (with some volunteer help!)

Some of the things we can expect from our local government in 2014:

- A floating dock at the Sunrise Park boat ramp
- \$400,000 in additional waterline improvements.
- Renovations at Eva Lyons Park and Harry Banks Community Park
- Beautification of Summit Street
- Redevelopment proposals for the Miller Property

Looking forward to a New Year!
Everyone keep up the good work and stay involved.

Light Agenda for City Commission

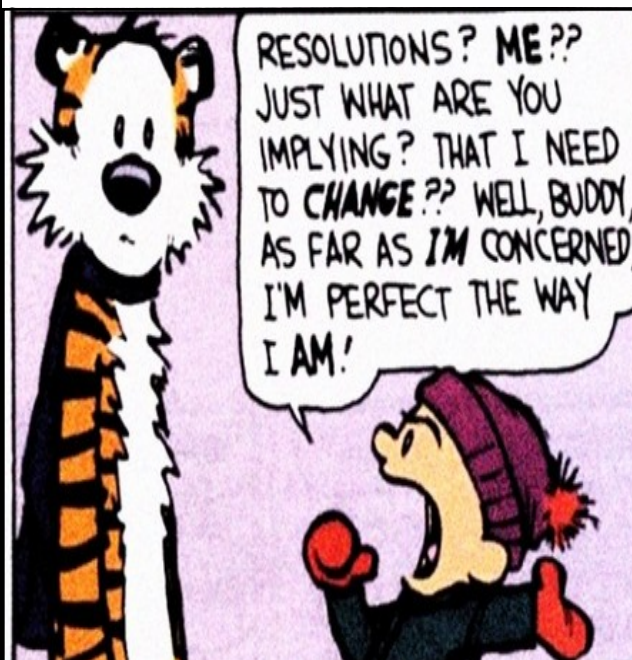
The January City Commissioner is mainly about appointing volunteers to several important committees. There is an interesting item about starting a pickleball court in Crescent City. Want to know more? Come to the meeting!

Appointment to Fire Fighters Pension Board

Appointment to the Better Place Plan Committee

Appointment to the CRA Advisory Committee

Starting a Pickleball Court in Cres-



City Manager's Resolutions

Okay, as a special to the Crescent City Chronicle, your City Manager is going to lay out 5 New Year resolutions to the avid readers of this important publication.

1. The Crescent City Chronicle will continue for 2014.
2. I will get to know my fellow City residents and business owners better by reaching out more and speaking to you directly.
3. I will seek to lower the annual business tax receipt fees for our local businesses.
4. I will conduct public work shops to help the community develop a strategy for redevelopment and revitalization.
5. I will be a better City Manger.

-Patrick Kennedy
City Manager