

# CORDELE · CRISP

## CHAMBER OF COMMERCE

July 2015

### Fireworks on the Flint



**July 4th, 2015**

**Parking \$5.00**

**Georgia Veterans Memorial  
State Park**

**Sponsored by:**  
**City of Cordele**  
**Friends of Georgia Veterans**  
**Memorial State Park**  
**Cook Industrial Electric CO**  
**Lake Blackshear Resort and**  
**Golf Club**  
**Cordele-Crisp Tourism**

### In This Issue

[Watermelon Days Festival](#)

[Fireworks on the Flint](#)

[Monday Member Minders](#)

[Ribbon Cuttings](#)

[After Hours](#)

[Wally Wednesday](#)

[Top Tips on How to Go  
Higher in Google Places](#)

[Entrepreneur & Small  
Business Quick Facts](#)

[I Love Cordele Shirts](#)

[Georgia Sales Tax  
Holidays.](#)

[Georgia Veterans  
Memorial State Park  
Triathlon.](#)

[SPONSORSHIP NEEDED](#)

[Contact Information](#)

[Mission Statement](#)

[Connect with us](#)

[New Members](#)

[Renewals](#)

[Calendar of Events](#)

[Goody Items Needed!](#)

[First Books](#)

[Drugs Don't Work](#)

[Newsletter Guidelines](#)

### Contact Information

**502 So. 2nd Street**  
**P O Box 158**  
**Cordele, Ga 31010**  
**229-273-1668**

**Lake Blackshear  
Homeowners Association  
Crisp County Commissioners  
Williams-Pitts Oil Company  
Crisp County Power  
Commission**

229-273-5132 fax

[www.cordelecrispga.com](http://www.cordelecrispga.com)

[info@cordele-crisp-chamber.com](mailto:info@cordele-crisp-chamber.com)

**Mission Statement**

"The Mission of the Cordele-Crisp Chamber of Commerce is to support, maintain, and promote members businesses and quality of life in our community."

**Connect with us!**

We're social!!!



**New Members**

**Dr. Angela Reetz  
Womens Health Center  
of Crisp Regional  
116 East 4th Avenue  
Cordele, GA 31015  
229-276-3038**

**Shelia Knight  
Run For Your Lungs  
5017 Gillionville Road  
Albany, GA 31721  
229-881-7046  
229-435-5676 Fax**

**Renewals**

**Albany Communications**

**Cordele Concrete**

**Crisp County Community  
Council**

**Daniel Adams**

**Denny's**

**Watermelon Days Festival**



**Austin French performs**





**Special THANKS to our Sponsors!**

**PLATINUM**

- Advanced Disposal Services
- AG Technologies
- Albany Tractor Company
- Ameris Bank
- Board of Commissioners of Crisp County
- Carter Burgers
- City of Cordele
- Cordele-Crisp Tourism
- Cordele Dispatch
- Crisp County Power Commission
- Crisp Regional Health Services
- Flint River Pottery
- Griffin Lumber & Hardware
- Impact Sports & Fitness
- Norbord
- Norfolk Southern
- State Farm (Mike & Curt Browning)
- Sunbelt Ford-Lincoln of Cordele
- Woodard Nursery
- WSST-DT51

**GOLD**

- Ag Georgia Farm Credit
- Captain D's
- Cordele Evening Lions Club
- Cordele Lions Club
- Cordele Lioness Club
- Cotton Law Firm
- Daphne Lodge
- Doherty, Duggan, Hart & Tiernan
- Empire Dance & Performing Arts Studio
- Hardee's of Cordele
- The Lake Blackshear Resort
- Marvair
- Regions
- South Georgia Banking Company

**SILVER**

- 16 East
- Chick-Fil-A
- Colony Bank

**Easter Seals Southern Georgia**

**Golden Corral**

**Middle Flint Behavioral Healthcare**

**OneBlood**

**Phoebe Regional Specialty Clinic**

**Stella Jones Corporation**

**Southwest Georgia Rehab**

**Tommy Kimbrel**

**Turton Investments**

**Calendar of Events**

**July 3rd**

**Chamber Office Closed**

**July 4th**

**9:30 p.m.**

**Fireworks on the Flint Georgia Veterans Memorial State Park**

**July 8th**

**9:30 a.m.**

**Tourism Committee Chamber Boardroom**

**July 9th**

**4:00 p.m.**

**Keep Crisp Beautiful Beauty Spot**

**July 27th**

**12:00 Noon**

**Executive Committee Chamber Boardroom**

**July 28th**

**8:30 a.m.**

**Board of Directors Crisp Regional Hospital**

**July 31st - August 2nd**

Cook Industrial Electric Co., Inc.  
Cordelia Manor Independent & Personal Care Home  
Cordele Metal Works  
Harris Waste Management  
Helena Industries  
Johnson Electronic Systems INC  
Leger & Son, Inc.  
PlantersFirst Bank  
Wells Hardware & Supply Company

#### **BRONZE**

Ag America  
Cordele Main Street  
Crisp County Lions Club  
Darton College  
Lawson & Reid  
Michelle Smith  
Mike Fraser's Auto Repair  
Town of Arabi

### **Monday Member Minders**

**A new tool for our members!**



This weekly members only online news publication will go out every Monday to remind our contact list of events and opportunities our members have to offer! If you are interested in this new opportunity please see guidelines below for submitting your information!

Monday Member Minder Guidelines:

- Deadline for submission is **2:00 PM** each Friday.
- Submissions are not to exceed **200** words.
- Content should be sent in via **email**. This keeps your information from becoming pixelated
- We ask that:
  - Documents sent in Times New Roman 12pt font, single-spaced, and use 1-inch margins on all sides. This helps keep everything looking more streamlined.
  - Photos be in jpeg format to ensure the quality of the image.

### **Tax Free Holiday**

#### **Goody Items Needed!**

We are in need of your goody items for our newcomer baskets and upcoming events!

You may drop them off at our office ANY time!



### **First Books**

Sign up to get new books for the kids you serve!

First Book is a nonprofit that provides new books and educational resources - for free and at low cost - to schools and programs serving children in need, from birth to age 18.

Why Do I Need To Register?

First Book is able to make new, high-quality books available to schools and programs like yours thanks to our partners in the publishing industry, who want to be sure the books are going to organizations serving children from low-

- You may send your information to Monica Simmons [msimmons@cordele-crisp-chamber.com](mailto:msimmons@cordele-crisp-chamber.com) or Catherine Harrell [cmays@cordele-crisp-chamber.com](mailto:cmays@cordele-crisp-chamber.com)

### Ribbon Cuttings



Briley Edwards, Chamber Chairman presents Membership decal to Densie Cary, manager of Comfort Inn & Suites at 2803 Frontage Road Cordele (Formally County Inn & Suites)

### After Hours Innovative Senior Solutions



### Wally Wednesday

income families. We take that promise to our partners very seriously, so by registering, you're giving us the information we need to ensure that the books are reaching the children in greatest need.

Chamber of Commerce Members - We want to ask you for your help will bring much needed resources to Crisp County. Please have your employees register at First Book to help us!!

GO TO:  
[www.firstbook.org/crisp](http://www.firstbook.org/crisp) to register today!

### Drugs Don't Work

Are you currently paying worker's compensation insurance?

If you answered yes, continue reading below.

Through our Drugs Don't Work Program we can help you save 7.5% annually on your worker's compensation insurance.

5 Simple Steps To A Drug Free Workplace

STEP 1. Implementation of a substance abuse policy, which the program will provide.

STEP 2. Substance Abuse Testing must be enforced under the following categories:  
Pre-Employment  
Reasonable Suspicion  
Post Rehabilitation  
Post Accident

The Cordele-Crisp Chamber of Commerce, in an effort to continue to promote shopping with our local member merchants is excited to announce a new shop local campaign "Wally Wednesday".

How does Wally Wednesday work?

- Each week a participating business is chosen to be the Business Spotlight of the Week. All chamber member businesses are eligible.
- The business's picture and information will be posted on social media Wednesday morning.
- Wally will be hidden in the business chosen for the week. The first customer to find Wally will receive a \$25.00 gift card to the store.
- Businesses will be chosen for the spotlight on first come, first serve basis.

How to participate?

- Contact the Cordele-Crisp Chamber of Commerce by phone or email.
- We will send you a form to fill out your business information.
- We will contact you the week your business is spotlighted.

This shop local campaign addresses the pressing need - getting more customers. "Wally Wednesday" encourages locals every week to shop local.

So far we have had Wally Wednesday at TJ's American Italian Restaurant, Wells Hardware on 16th & 8th Ave, Crisp County Power Commission, Colony Bank, 16 East, Sakari, Cordele Mainstreet, Three's Company, and Smoakies Bar-B-Que

This week Wally will be hiding at..... Crimson & Clover!

### Top Tips on How to Go Higher in Google Places

Glennette Goodbread, Owner  
Premium Web Design and Hosting

Google Places is very important for business owners as so many are using it to reach a wider market. If you are one of those who would like to rank higher in Google Places here are some tips to help you out.

1. When filling-in your business details in Google Places, make sure that you do not leave anything blank and that all your information is complete and accurate.

STEP 3. Employee Assistance Resources such as counseling and recovery groups, which are available at no cost through the program.

STEP 4. Employee Education  
- 2 hours the first year; one hour thereafter  
- Training is easy through newsletters, seminars, and/or videos that the program will provide.

STEP 5. Supervisor Training  
- 2 hours the first year; one hour thereafter  
- Training is easy through newsletters, seminars, and/or videos that the program will provide.

Is substance abuse a major issue for my business? YES!

- 60% of the world's production of illegal drugs is consumed in the U.S.
- 74% of current illegal drug users are employed!
- One third of employees know of the sale of illegal drugs in their workplace!

Does substance abuse affect my bottom line? YES!

- 38-50% of all Workers Comp claims are related to substance abuse.
- Substance abusers

2. Create a Google XML map and include a location.kml or geo-sitemap.xml to the root directory of your business page and upload them using Google Webmaster Tools.

3. Get listed by building more links and getting many citations and reviews on high-trafficked sites. Mention your business on another person's website. Make sure that the information is accurate and is a precise match to the ones you put in Google Places.

4. Use on-page optimization. Many people overlook the fact that you still need to optimize the actual website so do not forget to optimize the title and description, tags, categories including links and citations on every page of your website.

Remember not to ignore these tips because they are valuable to help you get higher rankings in Google Places.

If these suggestions confuse you, or you need additional help, feel free to give me a call or send me an email.

### Entrepreneur & Small Business Quick Facts

- There are 750,752 registered establishments in Georgia (SOS: 6/1/15)
- According to the GA Dept. of Labor, 281,554 business establishments represented GA employment in the third quarter of 2014; of those:
  - 99.8% are categorized as small (fewer than 500 employees)
  - 97.6% employed fewer than 100
  - 94.6% employed fewer than 50
  - 77.5% employed fewer than 10

### Georgia Rankings

- GA ranks #1 (3rd straight year) in US for fastest growth in number of women-owned firms (American Express OPEN 5/15)
- GDEcD ranks #1 'best in class' state-level economic development agency in US (IEDC 11/14)
- GA ranks #5 in US and #2 in Southeast in over-the-year job creation (GDOL 11/14)
- GA ranks #1 (second year running) in US for best state for business (Site Selection 11/14)
- GA ranks #1 (up from #8) in US for top state for business and remains #1 in workforce

have 300% higher medical costs and benefits!

- Drug and alcohol abusers are 1/3 less productive and 3.6 times more likely to injure themselves or a co-worker.
- Substance abusers are 2.5 times more likely to have absences of 8 or more days each year.

### Benefits of a Drug Free Workplace:

- 7.5% discount on workers compensation premiums every year
- Reduced absenteeism
- 300% decrease in medical costs
- Increased productivity
- Higher morale among employees
- Decrease in employee turnover
- Cut Workers Comp claims in half
- Reduce theft and other forms of crime in the workplace

### Newsletter Guidelines



In order to ensure the quality of our newsletter, the following guidelines have been compiled for those making a

(CNBC 7/14)

- GA ranks #1 for being the top competitive state in US (Site Selection 5/14)
- GA ranks #11 in US as a top exporting state (Trade & Economic Analysis 3/14)
- Emory University and Georgia Tech among top 100 universities in the world (Center for World University Rankings 7/14)
- Georgia Tech among top 12 universities for creating economic impact through innovation (Innovation U 2.0 5/14)
- 89% of Georgia's companies employ 5 and under (AEO/US Census)

#### Miscellaneous

- Atlanta is the Nerdiest City in the Country (Movoto 5/15)
- Atlanta ranks #10 for overall best tech talent (CBRE Research 4/15)
- Atlanta ranks best in US Foreign Investment Strategy, 13th globally (Global Cities of the Future 2014/15)
- Atlanta ranks #5 in US for green office buildings and other commercial properties (Green Building Adoption Index 7/14)
- Atlanta ranks #5 on Enterprising Cities list (US Chamber 5/14)

contribution.

If you have any questions regarding these guidelines, please contact Monica Simmons (229) 273-1668 or email [msimmons@cordele-crisp-chamber.com](mailto:msimmons@cordele-crisp-chamber.com)

To ensure quality we ask that all content be sent in via email only.

You may send to Monica Simmons [msimmons@cordele-crisp-chamber.com](mailto:msimmons@cordele-crisp-chamber.com) or Catherine Harrell [cmays@cordele-crisp-chamber.com](mailto:cmays@cordele-crisp-chamber.com)

- Deadline to submit is the 25th of each month by 5:00 PM.
- Submissions are not to exceed 250 words.
- We ask that any documents be formatted in Times New Roman 12pt font, be single-spaced, and use 1-inch margins on all sides. This helps keep our newsletter looking more streamlined.
- We ask that any photos emailed in be in jpeg format to ensure the quality of the image.

### I Love Cordele Shirts Available



Just \$13! Pick up yours at the Chamber TODAY!

### Georgia Sales Tax Holidays

July 31st-August 1st



During the July/August sales tax holidays, the following items will be exempt:  
Clothing and footwear with a sales price of \$100.00 or less per item; Computers, computer components, and prewritten computer software purchased for noncommercial home or personal use with a sales price of \$1,000.00 or less per item; and School supplies, school art supplies, school computer supplies, and school instructional materials purchased for noncommercial use with a sales price of \$20.00 or less per item.

The exemption does not apply to:  
Belt buckles sold separately; costume masks sold separately; patches and emblems sold separately; sewing equipment and supplies, including but not limited to knitting needles, patterns, pins, scissors, sewing machines, sewing needles, tape measures, and thimbles; sewing materials that become part of clothing, including but not limited to buttons, fabric, lace, thread, yarn, and zippers; clothing accessories or equipment; or cellular telephones.

[For more information](#)

### **Georgia Veterans Memorial State Park Triathlon**

This August hundreds of athletes, of all ages, will participate in the annual Georgia Veterans Triathlon at Georgia Veterans Memorial State Park Saturday morning August 8th 2015. The event will begin at 8 a.m. with participants entering the water at Lake Blackshear for a 400 meter swim. After emerging from the water they will proceed to a designated area to mount their bikes for the next 13.6 miles of their journey before finishing with a 5K run. Awards will be given to the top male and female in a variety of categories.

For more information about sponsorship please see below or to volunteer please call (229) 273-1668

To signup: [REGISTER HERE!](#)

### **Georgia Veterans Memorial State Park Triathlon SPONSORSHIP NEEDED**

August 8th  
We anticipate over 400 participants this year from all over Georgia and the surrounding states!

Platinum sponsor \$1000 you will receive the following:

Name on all Triathlon t-shirts (at least 400)  
(Font size will be significantly BIGGER than other sponsor levels)

Name listed as corporate sponsor in all advertising  
(Radio, TV, Newspaper)

Name listed on Chamber's website as event sponsor  
and in newsletters

You may include a brochure or item (s) in the "goody bags"

Your banner will be put up at the event (you provide the banner)

You will have a 12' x 12' space available for a display at the event

You will receive 4 t-shirts

Gold sponsor \$500 you will receive the following:

Name on all Triathlon t-shirts (at least 400)  
(Font size will be smaller than Platinum but bigger than Silver)

Name listed on Chamber's web site as event sponsor and in one newsletter

You may include a brochure or item (s) in the "goody bags"

Your banner will be put up at the event (you provide the banner)

You will receive 2 t-shirts

Silver sponsor \$200 you will receive the following:

Name on all Triathlon shirts (at least 400)  
(Font size will be smaller than other two levels)

Name listed on Chamber's web site and in one newsletter

You will receive 1 t-shirt

Bronze Sponsor \$100 you will receive the following:

Name listed on Chamber's web site and in one newsletter

If you have any questions or need an invoice, please contact me at 273-1668.

Click here [TO BECOME A SPONSOR](#)

Cordele-Crisp Chamber of Commerce | | [msimmons@cordele-crisp-chamber.com](mailto:msimmons@cordele-crisp-chamber.com) |  
<http://www.cordelecrispga.com>  
502 South 2nd Street  
P O Box 158  
Cordele, GA 31010

Copyright © 20XX. All Rights Reserved.