

Newsletter of the Crockett Community Services District

P.O. Box 578 / 850 Pomona Street, Crockett, CA 94525 Phone (510) 787-2992 Fax (510) 787-2459

OUR DISTRICT

The Crockett Community Services District (CCSD) provides certain municipal services for the unincorporated towns of Crockett and Port Costa including sanitary sewer services, recreation, and maintenance. The Recreation Department offers Crockett and Port Costa residents access to the Crockett Community Center, Swimming Pool, Alexander Park, bocce ball courts and tennis courts. Upcoming events are listed on the pool schedule. Maintenance services include maintenance of Crockett's Memorial Hall (Legion Hall), Crockett's downtown plaza, Crockett's decorative green street lights, and numerous green iron fences on either Pomona St. or Rolph Ave.

OUR DISTRICT BOARD

The 2020 Board of Directors of the Crockett Community Services District are:

Michael Kirker, President

John Mackenzie

Luigi Barassi

Emma Sutton, Vice-President

Kent Peterson

Your governing officials receive no compensation for their service. Our District Board holds its regular meetings on the fourth Wednesday of each month. The meetings are held at the Crockett Community Center at 7 PM.

Commissioners and Committee appointees are dedicated volunteers who receive no compensation. They have been appointed to assist the District Board by recommending operational policy and overseeing staff activities. The Commissions provide an opportunity for residents to interact with our local government on issues that concern the public.

Please visit our website at www.town.crockett.ca.us for a calendar of meeting dates and more information about our District.

BOARD ELECTIONS

The District will have 2 Board seats up for election on November 3. For those interested in running for a seat, the Contra Costa Elections Division will be your point of contact for those who have ever considered running for elected office. The filing period is July 13 through August 7 and paperwork will be available at the Contra Costa Elections Division in Martinez. The Candidates must be a U.S. Citizen, be a registered voter of the District at the time the Declaration of Candidacy is issued, and not have been convicted of a felony involving accepting or giving, or offering to give, any bribe, the embezzlement of public money, extortion or theft of public money, perjury, or conspiracy to commit any of those crimes. The term of office is 4 years. You may call us at (510) 787-2992 for more information on running for election. Board members of the District are not paid.

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

Hello and thank you for reading our Community Services District newsletter! First of all, if you don't know what the Crockett Community Services District (CCSD) is, let me brief you on it. The CCSD was formed to give local control to limited local government services. We provide community input through regularly posted meetings. These meetings are reported back to the publicly (locally) elected board. You may be aware of meetings such as the Parks and Recreation Commission meeting and the Police Liaison meeting, both held on the first Monday of the month. There is also the Crockett Sanitary Commission meeting the second Wednesday and the Port Costa Sanitary Commission meeting the third Wednesday. The CCSD Board meets on the fourth Wednesday. These meetings are all open to the public and a designated time is given in each meeting for public announcements and comments. Even with the COVID-19 limitations, we are still meeting online and you are encouraged to attend and let us hear from you.

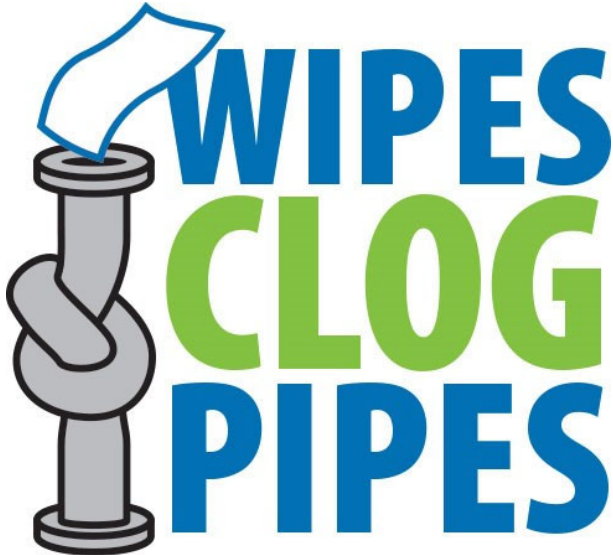
As the President and Chair of the CCSD Board, I would like to thank all of the other Board members, Commissioners, and Committee members (current and past) for their many hours of volunteer service. Without their efforts, we would just be a little part of Contra Costa County without a voice. I have heard the phrase "It takes a village", well I think it takes even more than that. What it takes are "villagers", people who will move out of their comfort zone and take action. We are standing on pillars formed by past "villagers" like David Botta. His commitment was not measured in hours, days or even years, but in decades! I salute David in his passing; I think of him often and miss him perpetually. I want to thank his family (his pillars), especially his wife Pat for sharing David's time with us. David will not only be remembered for the many wonderful things he did for this town, but the way he did it. David's smile and laughter brought joy to everyone who had the pleasure of working alongside him.

President's Message Continued on back PAGE...

NO WIPES DOWN THE PIPES

PROTECT YOUR FAMILY FROM COVID-19

While disinfecting your home and business is an important step in protecting your family from COVID-19, it is crucial to remember that disposable wipes, even those marked "flushable", should **NEVER** go down the drain. Flushing wipes, or anything other than toilet paper, including paper towels and other paper products, could cause blockages to CCSD's collection systems and treatment plant. Flushing wipes may also damage home plumbing systems creating significant costs to property owners.



Anything that contributes to increased sewer spills may also increase the risk of spreading COVID-19. Keep your family and neighbors safe by putting used wipes in the trash and not down the toilet!

TOILETS ARE NOT TRASH CANS

Please don't use your toilet as a trash can. While convenient, you should also never flush:

- Feminine hygiene products
- Condoms
- Dental floss
- Tissues
- Or paper towels.



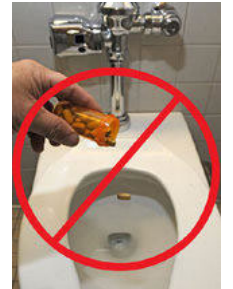
These and many other items can clog your sewer pipes, causing overflows, damage wastewater treatment plant equipment, and contribute to water pollution.

Flush only human waste and toilet paper.

Put everything else in a real trash can.

DON'T FLUSH DRUGS, CHEMICALS, OR PAINT

Wastewater treatment facilities are not equipped to remove all traces of pharmaceutical chemicals or metals. Do not pour unwanted chemicals such as ammonia or unused paint down the drain. Whatever ends up in your toilet can potentially impact the water environment, so it's important to keep household wastes such as window cleaners, paint thinners, and any products with copper or mercury out of toilets and drains and dispose of them properly. Washing of latex paint brushes etc. is acceptable but oil based paint brushes should be cleaned with cleaning solution and disposed of properly.



Don't flush your drugs! Flushing unwanted medications down a toilet, or pouring them down the drain, is a bad idea. If you flush your drugs, a portion of those contaminants will reach local waters. Scientific studies show the chemicals in many drugs can harm aquatic life. Proper disposal of unwanted medications helps protect your family, your community and the environment.

WE GRAPPLE WITH GLOBS OF GREASE

Please dispose of grease with garbage, not down your drain. When people pour grease down a sink, it cools, solidifies, and sticks to the inside of the pipe. If that happens within your drain, you'll need a plumber. Things get worse when grease from thousands of sinks builds up inside sewers. Those gross globs of grease can grow until they completely clog pipes! Our crews work tirelessly to find and destroy them before they cause overflows.



ELECTRONIC AND UNIVERSAL WASTE DROP OFF

The West County HHW Collection Facility has a Hazardous Waste drop-off center at 101 Pittsburg Avenue in Richmond which will accept e-Waste and dispose of common household hazardous waste that might otherwise harm the environment. Residential drop-off is available Wednesday through Saturday from 9am - 4pm (closed Noon -12:30 pm). Call 1-888-412-9277 for more information. You can also get helpful information from their website at www.recyclenore.com.

At the time of this mailing the District offices are closed due to COVID-19 restrictions, we look forward to the orders being lifted so that we may continue to serve the community and accept small household universal waste. We can accept your old household batteries, compact fluorescent light bulbs (which contain mercury), barometers, thermostats, and neon lighting which are known to contain universal waste such as mercury, lead, and cadmium that are hazardous to human health and the environment. These items cannot be discarded in household trash nor disposed of in landfills. These smaller items can be dropped off at our District office during regular office hours.

Due to changing regulations and reimbursement rates to E-Waste recyclers, it is no longer viable for the District to collect electronic waste such as televisions, VCRs, radios, and other electronic items.

FREE PERSONAL THERMOMETERS!

Mercury is highly toxic. If you drop and break an old-fashioned mercury fever thermometer in the sink, its mercury could go down the drain, get into the wastewater that flows through the sewers to the treatment plant, and ultimately pollute the Carquinez Strait. The treatment process cannot remove all traces of mercury from the wastewater. Never put mercury down your drain!

The sale of mercury fever thermometers was banned in California years ago, but some people still have them at home.

Contact our District office for safe disposal and we'll give you a free digital fever thermometer to take its place!



SEWER INSPECTION REQUIREMENT

The District is in the thirteenth year of its lateral inspection program, requiring property owners to obtain a "Certificate of Compliance" for their sanitary sewer laterals prior to the sale of their property. The program ensures that sanitary sewers are operating properly, are not leaching into the ground, and are not leaking into storm drains that flow to the Bay.

It has been a very successful program; helping to reduce infiltration from patio drains, roof gutters, and from cracks

in broken building lateral sewers. Less rainwater and groundwater that enters our sewer system means lower treatment costs.

There have been 481 properties issued Certificates of Compliance to date which represents 38% of all properties in Crockett and Port Costa.

More information on this program can be found on our website at <https://www.town.crockett.ca.us/sewer-lateral-compliance-ordinance>. You or your realtor may also contact the District office to find out more information on this important requirement.

AGING SEWER SYSTEM BEING REPLACED

Did you know that Crockett has over 15 miles of underground sewer pipes? Most are clay pipe, 71% of which are more than 50 years old. Some pipes are over 100!

We are proactively replacing aging neighborhood sewer pipes with a goal of replacing at least 2% per year for at least the next 10 years. Over the last few months you have most likely seen underground construction projects on Atherton and Cooke (by the J&L Market), and two large projects along Pomona, which have replaced 1,533 feet of older sewer pipe.

Port Costa has also addressed its aging infrastructure this year by rebuilding three baffles inside its settling tank at the end of Canyon Lake Drive. The tank was emptied and thoroughly cleaned while by-passing wastewater flow during the construction of the new baffle walls.



Port Costa's New Baffle Wall in Settling Tank

We are aware that these construction projects can be inconvenient and appreciate your patience and understanding while we replace pipes that reach the end of their useful lives or perform critical maintenance tasks at our pump stations and treatment plant facilities. These improvements in Crockett and Port Costa will help ensure reliable, trouble-free service for our communities for years to come. And for that we thank you.

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE CONTINUED...

I would encourage everyone to get actively involved with our local community. There are so many opportunities available here to get involved in. At the time I am writing this, we are hindered by the shelter at home order. Please be safe and continue to follow recommended practices even after the order is lifted. When the order is lifted we will have even more opportunities to mobilize "villagers" to volunteer. There are always more ideas to better our town than implementers to do it. Please encourage the volunteers around you who are working to make this a better community for all of us.

In closing, I would like to thank you for taking time to learn a little more about the place we call home. Again, I want to thank the District staff and all the volunteers in town for their hard work and dedication to making our district a great place to live.

Your Neighbor,
Mike Kirker

REPORTING SEWER PROBLEMS – CALL OUR 24/7 EMERGENCY LINE (510) 303-2313

If you see what you believe is a sewage spill, whether from a private home or from a public manhole, call! If you are unsure if it is a sewage spill, err on the side of caution and call! We have staff available 24/7 who will be able to investigate to protect our communities of Crockett and Port Costa from unsanitary discharges. Our staff will respond quickly to all inquiries, complaints, or reports of sewer problems and will quickly take care of any blockage in the public sewer. When a sewer backup occurs in your home, it may not be obvious whether the problem is in the building sewer or the public sewer. You may save yourself distress and money by calling us first. There is no charge for this service.

For all other matters concerning sewer service in Crockett or Port Costa, call our District office at (510) 787-2992.

DISTRICT OFFICE

We're located in the Crockett Community Center at 850 Pomona Street. This is the place to come for sewer permits, for plan drawings to be stamped, to get a list of bonded sewer contractors, and for local government information regarding Crockett and Port Costa. You won't always find the office open, since we have few employees and are often working out in the field. It may help you to call ahead for appointments to (510) 787-2992.

Regular Office Hours

Monday - Friday

8:30 am - 5:00 pm

Due to the COVID-19 pandemic and orders from the Contra Costa County Public Health Officer our offices are closed to the public, but we are here still working on behalf of the community providing essential services related to wastewater, operational support, and governance. We look forward to opening our offices and facilities up to the public as soon as practical while continuing to observe the orders from federal, state, and local officials.

OUR WEBSITE

Visit our website at www.town.crockett.ca.us for the latest information about the District. Meeting dates, agendas, and minutes are available online. Residents and visitors alike will find useful information on our Crockett Community Center, pool, and parks. Sewer programs and information on our wastewater services is also available under the respective Crockett Sanitary Department or Port Costa Sanitary Department pages.

Board of Directors

Luigi Barassi Michael Kirker John Mackenzie Kent Peterson Emma Sutton

General Manager

Dale McDonald - manager@town.crockett.ca.us

Recreation Commission

Jeff Airoldi - Louise Choquette
Tom Cusack - Anne Scheer - John Valentini

Crockett Sanitary Commission

Howard Adams - Scott Bartlebaugh Mark Manzione
Mary Wais - Jon Wolthuis

Port Costa Sanitary Commission

Tom Cusack - Tom List - John Mann
Anne Scheer - Joe Surges - Karen Klaiber (alt)

Memorial Hall Advisory Committee

Bud Burlison - Chuck Dell - Scott Lawton
Kent Peterson - Ron Wilson

Police Liaison Committee

John Angell - Barbara Cardwell - Raina Currington
Sylvia Melero - John Valentini - Mary Wais