

CROCKETT ENGAGED

*Fostering Informed Civic Engagement
By Offering Information of Local Interest*

NOVEMBER-DECEMBER 2018

VOL. 6

The Crockett Community Services District (Crockett CSD) is your local government providing municipal services to Crockett and Port Costa. We are eager to foster informed civic engagement. We answer to you, the voters of Crockett and Port Costa, and we are working to become more visible and better understood through publications such as this. We are also working to upgrade our website with an emphasis on building a growing community of better informed users. We intend to expand our presence on social media platforms as well in an effort to foster conversation with our voters and other people and businesses that we serve.

Crockett CSD has a Board of five Directors who oversee the work of three Commissions and other Committees of dedicated volunteers. **The District Board is pleased that we had four candidates interested in the November election to three seats on the Board. We congratulate winners John MacKenzie, Emma Sutton and Michael Kirker. Incumbent John MacKenzie of Port Costa was re-elected to the District Board. Emma Sutton of Crockett, a former board member of the Crockett Community Foundation, was newly elected to our Board, as was Michael Kirker of Crockett, who also served on the CCF Board of Directors. They will take office in December as Fred Clerici and Alicia Anderson step down with our appreciation for service our communities.**

We also appreciate that Sammy Obaid of Crockett had sufficient interest in Crockett CSD to run for public office. Mr. Obaid is an attorney with Caltrans whose abilities could still be of benefit to our district. We encourage him to continue coming to District meetings and perhaps serve on one of our three Commissions or our other Committees.

As the year comes to an end, we must thank all of our many Commissioners who have served on the Recreation Commission, the Port Costa Sanitary Commission or the Crockett Sanitary Commission. Jeff Airoidi, David Botta, Louise Choquette, Tom Cusack, Vanessa Eskildsen, Elena Gomez and John Valentini are Recreation Commissioners. Rene Beauchemin, Tom Cusack, John Mann, Anne Scheer and Joe Surges are Port Costa Sanitary Commissioners. Howard Adams, Scott Bartlebaugh, Mark Manzione, Mary Wais and Jon Wolthuis are Crockett Sanitary Commissioners. All Commissioners serve without compensation.

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A Big Change May Be Ahead

We understand that Crockett CSD may be required before long to switch to a system of voting by individual wards. Apparently there are lawyers in California who are suing special districts such as ours where board members are being elected “at-large.”

It is argued that minority groups may be under-represented in elected office due to the at-large system. Whether any voters of Crockett or Port Costa feel under-represented may be legally unimportant.

We are hearing that Crockett and Port Costa may soon be divided into five wards of equal population. Voters would thereafter be represented by a single resident of each ward. We are not sure that this would be an improvement within our small district. Would it prevent Port Costa from ever again having two directors on our District Board? What would happen if we don’t have applicants from every ward in an election? And will this make elections more costly?

It would seem that we’ll have much to learn before such an important change takes place at Crockett CSD. We will try to keep you informed as this issue progresses. At present we’ve been given no timetable.

CIA Receives Donation From C&H

C&H Sugar Co. has made a generous donation to Crockett Improvement Assn. to assist with maintenance of the Wanda Bypass, the truck route from Pomona to Port St. CIA will be able to remove litter and do weed abatement more often by hiring rather than depending so heavily on volunteers. C&H is a valued partner in keeping Crockett clean!

Three Month Events Calendar

November

John Swett Education Foundation

Nov. 3: Annual Dance Party @ 7:00 pm
@ Crockett Community Center

Nov. 6: Election Day voting @
Crockett Community Center

Memorial Hall Advisory Committee

Nov. 11: Veterans Day Celebrations
@ 10:45 at Memorial Hall
then @ Crockett Museum

Nov. 22: Thanksgiving

December

Carquinez Women’s Club

Dec. 1: Cocktail Party @ 7:00 pm
@ The Old Homestead

Dec. 2: Town Holiday Celebration
@ 5:00 pm @ Crockett
Community Center

January

Crockett Improvement Assn.

Jan. 8: Board elections @ 7:00 pm
@ Crockett Community Center

Crockett Striped Bass Club

Jan. 12: Crab Feed @ 5:00 pm
@ Crockett Community Center

Port Costa and Crockett organizations are invited to publicize their events & programs here in this space. Phone (510) 787-2414 Additional local event information can be found on the CCF website events calendar.

Did You Know?

Crockett CSD owns 30 of the green decorative streetlights along Pomona Avenue, Second Avenue and in the Downtown Plaza. Our lights have recently been converted to LED lamps, which should improve their performance and reduce the need for maintenance. Holiday decorations have been installed by the Crockett Chamber of Commerce to liven up our downtown. The Chamber hopes that a festive look will cause people to stop by local businesses during the holiday season and beyond.

Updated District Website

Crockett CSD expects to roll out a much-revised and updated website by the end of this year. This is needed to better serve Port Costa and Crockett with helpful information and better communication. It will also meet new state requirements for the posting of accessible meeting agendas and minutes. Our website address remains: www.town.crockett.ca.us. Please watch this update.

Telephone Directory

Contra Costa County provides many public services to Crockett and Port Costa. The directory of County Departments provides a comprehensive list of services and the phone numbers to call. The directory is found on-line at: www.co.contra-costa.ca.us/8/departments. Here you'll find who to call to get results: ask questions, make reports or file complaints.

For example, to file an anonymous code enforcement complaint call the code enforcement hotline at (925) 674-7200.

Make use of the services that you are paying for.

Complaint Desk

Why aren't Crockett's street trees being replaced as soon as they die?

It is true that Crockett has lost many of its street trees over the years. Towering Dutch elms along Rolph Avenue have succumbed to disease. Bradford pear trees along Second Avenue have been removed either due to falling branches or because property owners did not want them. Some have been butchered by persons unknown. Some have been cut down by the school district, some by the County. Crockett Improvement Assn. will happily put in street trees where they are wanted but needs permission from the County, property owners and tenants before acting. Property owners and tenants can request street trees by calling (510) 375-9493 or emailing crockettcia@gmail.com

[*Generalized complaints regarding Crockett or Port Costa may be emailed to manager@town.crockett.ca.us to be answered in this column.*]

Have You Used Your 2018 FREE Trash Collections?

Republic Services collects garbage, rubbish and recyclables from subscribers throughout Crockett and Port Costa. Did you know that they also provide subscribers with TWO FREE PICK-UP SERVICES? They offer one annual on-call curbside pick-up of up to fifteen 35-gallon bags of trash and yard waste. They also now offer one annual on-call curbside pick-up of bulky items of up to 200 pounds. Call (510) 262-7100 at least a week in advance for information and scheduling. Furniture, hot water heaters, mattresses, electronics and appliances are all eligible. If you haven't already, please use these services before the year is out. Use them or lose them!

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Similarly we voice our strong appreciation to all those dedicated volunteers who serve on District committees, including our Police Liaison Committee, Memorial Hall Advisory Committee and others!

Crockett CSD has had another successful year of service to Port Costa and Crockett due in large part to the skill and dedication of our wonderful staff:

Dale McDonald, Gen. Mgr.
James Barnhill

Ron Wilson
Harley Mandicino
Trevor Dees

Susan Witschi
Dolores Morales
Katelynn Clemons

THANK YOU *for your service!*

All District meetings are open to the public. To enquire further please call Gen. Mgr. Dale McDonald at (510) 787-2992.

CROCKETT CSD CONTACT INFORMATION

We encourage you to visit our website: www.town.crockett.ca.us for information on Crockett CSD, such as our facilities and services, our various commissions and activities, elections and much more. We also invite you to contact us by email at: manager@town.crockett.ca.us. You may subscribe to receive various District publications, bulletins, invitations and announcements through our website's "Stay Connected" link under the "News & Announcements" tab. For rental information on the Crockett Community Center, you may use our website or call **(510) 787-2414**. Please see previous volumes of *PORT COSTA & CROCKETT ENGAGED* on the Crockett CSD website.

2018 CROCKETT CSD BOARD OF DIRECTORS:

LUIGI BARASSI, PRESIDENT OF THE BOARD
FRED CLERICI
ALICIA JOHNSON
JOHN MACKENZIE
KENT PETERSON

THE PUBLIC IS ALWAYS WELCOME AT BOARD MEETINGS, TYPICALLY @ 7PM ON THE 4TH WED. EACH MONTH @ CROCKETT COMMUNITY CENTER.

This publication is a volunteer effort on behalf of Crockett CSD with no cost to the public!

Approved by Crockett CSD. Printed at the Crockett Community Foundation. **THANK YOU!**