

PORT COSTA and
CROCKETT ENGAGED

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

SEPTEMBER-OCTOBER 2018

VOL. 5

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 next election to the Board of Directors will occur on November 6. We congratulate the four residents who have stepped forward to offer their help in guiding District affairs. We don't always have enough candidates to actually hold an election, and we are always happy to afford local voters the opportunity to select their representatives in government. Democracy in action! No doubt the Crockett Signal will provide further publicity about this election and these candidates.**

Speaking of local elections, we regret to hear that the Crockett Community Foundation ran short of applicants for election to their Board of Directors. They will soon announce their decision on how they will proceed, as certain board members will reach term limits in December. The CCF does great work in benefitting our communities. This is a great chance to serve Crockett and Port Costa both!

Crockett CSD also has several committees of local volunteers who are doing great community work. You don't have to face a public election in order to serve Crockett and Port Costa. The Police Liaison Committee facilitates communication between the public and the County Sheriff's deputies and California Highway Patrol. They serve a vital function for our unincorporated towns. Monthly meetings are well attended, held at 7:00 PM on the first Monday of each month at the Crockett Community Center.

We also have the Memorial Hall Advisory Committee, which has been working for years to raise money to restore Memorial Hall. This important asset, listed on the National Register of Historic Places, is located at Alexander & Pomona in Crockett. Meetings are currently at 4:30 PM on the second Thursday of

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Featured Service Organization

In this issue we showcase the **PORT COSTA CONSERVATION SOCIETY (PCCS)**, a California public benefit corporation formed by Port Costa residents who were concerned about their community's future and determined to have a voice in how land in the area was used.

In 1982, Time Oil Co. donated 80 acres of land to the Society, establishing a precedent for land preservation on the southern shore of the Carquinez Strait. During 1985-1988, \$4.3 million in grants from the State Coastal Conservancy and State Bond Act monies enabled the East Bay Regional Park District to preserve large portions of the remaining undeveloped shoreline area from Crockett to Martinez. EBRPD continued its aggressive land acquisition policies and since 1994 has increased the size of the park many times.

The PCCS played a key role in this project. With technical assistance from the Coastal Conservancy, the Society integrated its land with EBRPD's park and assumed a leadership role in trail and waterfront planning.

A major project of PCCS since 1985 has been the acquisition and restoration of the 1911 Port Costa School. Realizing that they were about to lose their only public building, residents mobilized to acquire it from the John Swett Unified School District in 1989.

Thanks to Society members and many town residents, this building continues to be a civic and community center for Port Costa 106 years from its opening. Please visit www.portcostaconservationsociety.com for more information on PCCS.

Three Month Events Calendar

September

Crockett Lions Club

Sept. 9: BBQ luncheon @ Noon - 5:00 pm
@ The Old Homestead

John Swett Band Boosters

Sept. 20: Bingo @ 6:00 pm
@ Scout Hall

Crockett Community Foundation

Sept. 30: Grant application deadline

October

Crockett Boy Scouts

Oct. 6: Boy Scout Mexican dinner
@ 7:00 pm @ Scout Hall

Crockett Improvement Assn.

Oct. 13: Town Clean-up & free BBQ
@ 9:00 AM @ Alexander Park

John Swett Band Boosters

Oct. 18: Bingo @ 6:00 pm
@ Scout Hall

November

Nov. 6: Election Day voting

@ Crockett Community Center

John Swett Band Boosters

Nov. 15: Bingo @ 6:00 pm
@ Scout Hall

Nov. 22: Thanksgiving

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?

The Port Costa School served as a grammar school for grades 1-8 from 1912 until its closure in 1966. During its 54-year history as an active educational facility, approximately 600 children were graduated.

The PCCS was successful in having the property added to the National Register of Historic Places in 1988.

The on-going efforts of the Society's members and town residents have succeeded in restoring and maintaining major parts of the building through the years since then. Regular fund-raising activities and donations, coupled with grants from the Crockett Community Foundation and others, have enabled the Society to complete seismic upgrades, a new electrical service and sub-panels, new elevator, exterior painting, fire sprinklers, new bathrooms, storm drains and major repairs to the roof. The project is not complete however, and as it became apparent that significantly larger financial resources would be required to finish the project, the Society began a process to work with The Field Semester, a joint use tenant who would be able to advance the renovation while the Society utilizes the building for community activities.

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 doesn't Caltrans keep the weeds cut within the Carquinez bridge property in Crockett?

Contra Costa County refused to accept any responsibility for bridgehead maintenance after the Alfred Zampa Bridge was built, so Caltrans is following state law in leaving the maintenance of this area to Crockett. Crockett CSD has a permit for conducting maintenance but no revenue for such work.

A few local volunteers have intervened over the years, aided at times by disabled workers doing litter collection. The burnout factor has left them unable to keep up with vigorous weed growth this year, however. Interested volunteers should contact Crockett CSD at (510) 787-2414, and we will furnish the safety vests and hard hats required for working on Caltrans property, and the trash bags for litter collection. Perhaps even letting you operate our riding mower.

The CIA sometimes holds work parties at the bridgehead, including the town clean-up events in spring and fall. The next such event is scheduled for October 13. Please join in the fun!

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

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odd-numbered months, at the Crockett Community Center.

Our newly-formed Strategic Planning Committee and Communications Committee welcome public input at their informal meetings. Matters discussed there will be reported on at regular meetings of the District Board. We also have budget & finance committees, wastewater committees, and other ways for area residents to be involved in their local government.

All District committee 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 CTR.

CROCKETT CSD STAFF:

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James Barnhill

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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!**