

CROCKETT – PORT COSTA

Newsletter of the Crockett Community Services District

MAY 2011

OUR DISTRICT BOARD

The 2011 Board of Directors of the Crockett Community Services District includes:

Pat Glover, President

John MacKenzie, Vice President

Steve Loveseth

Kristopher Vickers

Fred Clerici

Your elected 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.

COMMISSIONS

All of our Commissioners 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.

RECREATION COMMISSION

The current members of our Recreation Commission include Tom Cusack (chair), David Botta, John Valentini, Elena Gomez, John Angell, Ruth James and Louise Choquette. Ron Wilson is the Department Manager and devotes all of his time to the recreation programs serving our community. Our Recreation Commission meets on the first Monday of each month at the Crockett Community Center at 7 PM.

CROCKETT SANITARY COMMISSION

The members of our Crockett Sanitary Commission are Howard Adams (chair), Jon Wolthuis, Tony Dahl, Mary Wais and Harold Burnett. Dale McDonald is the Department Manager. The Crockett Sanitary Commission meets on the third Wednesday of each month at the Crockett Community Center at 7 PM.

PORT COSTA SANITARY COMMISSION

The members of our Port Costa Sanitary Commission are Joe Surges (chair), John Mann and Tom Cusack. Michael Kirker is the Department Manager. The Port Costa Sanitary Commission meets every month on the second Wednesday at 7 PM or second Thursday at the Port Costa School. There are currently two open seats on the Port Costa Sanitary Commission. Interested residents of Port Costa can apply for the open seat on the Sanitary Commission by calling 787-2992.

POLICE LIAISON COMMISSION

The members of our Police Liaison Commission are David Botta, John Valentini, Elena Gomez, Joe Costa, John Angell and Mary Wais. The Commission maintains communication with our law enforcement agencies. They are advocates for your public safety and parking problems, so please bring them your concerns. Public meetings are held on the first Monday of each month at the Crockett Community Center at 6 PM.

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

Another year has passed and our Service District continues the work of serving the people of Crockett and Port Costa. This is a unique message because this is the first time we have had a president serve two years in a row. We did this for a couple of reasons. First, we had 3 new individuals joining our ranks as board members (Karen Peterson, Kristopher Vickers, and Fred Clerici). Karen Peterson has since resigned and John MacKenzie was appointed to fill the vacant seat. More importantly we are finally nearing the end of our long drawn out lawsuit with C&H Sugar and we thought that a level of continuity was necessary to get this accomplished.

The lawsuit itself is moving along with both parties wanting to settle this and move on. It is my belief that we can get this settled by year end.

If you look around the Community Center you have to notice the on-going pool project. It will soon

reopen with new plumbing, new tile, and looking brand new! We all have to thank Ron Wilson for his tireless work, this project could never have been completed without his efforts. From getting grant funding from outside our town to managing the project to completion he is an amazing person and we are truly lucky to have him. Thanks Ron!

Vandalism is again rearing its ugly head in Crockett. Our Community Center, bocce ball courts, tennis courts and parks have been vandalized yet again, this time stealing the copper wiring from outside lighting systems. The District is working carefully with local law enforcement to identify the criminals involved. This kind of activity costs the District thousands of dollars, not to mention the disruption to our citizens who use our community resources. We will find these people and bring them to justice.

As residents of Crockett we have done a fine job in the area of water conservation. Single family homes reduced their water consumption by almost 2%. This puts money back in your pockets. It lowers your EBMUD bills and with less water going down the drain it reduces the cost we incur to treat wastewater. Every little bit helps. Thank you.

I want to thank our District office staff, Dale, Mike and Susan for all of their efforts this year. To be able to run this place and keep it in the black is no easy feat. We are fortunate to have such a capable group working for us and thanks to all of you who serve this community on our Board and all of our Commissions, it takes a lot of folks to keep this place running and looking as good as it does. Thank you to all of you.

Crockett is a great place to live and play. It is our District's goal to keep in touch with you through our Board and various Commissions. Come down and visit our meetings. We are always looking for ways to serve you better. Even better why not serve on one of these commissions. We look forward to hearing from you.

Pat Glover, President

POOL RENOVATION

Yes, the pool will be open for summer! Get your swimsuits ready and buy your season pass now. The construction (ongoing since February) is scheduled to be completed by the end of May. The pool plumbing, pump system and concrete decking will be new and meet current state standards. In addition, you will notice a new ADA compliant shower and cosmetic

improvements to the aquatics center. Generous grants were received from the Crockett Community Foundation, the East Bay Regional Parks Measure WW Grant Program, the Dean & Margaret Leshner Foundation, and from the Contra Costa County Department of Conservation and Development. In addition to the grants, fundraising efforts by the Crockett Swim Team and others were able to provide all the funding required to complete this project at no cost to the taxpayers.

SUMMER JOBS

Our Recreation Dept. is now hiring temporary staff for our swimming pool. Lifeguards, swim instructors and office staff are needed. Applications are available at our Community Center (Tues-Fri) and at our pool (Mon-Fri 3-5pm). For more information, call 787-2414.

CROCKETT LEGION HALL

The Crockett Memorial Hall (Legion Hall) at Pomona & Alexander was built in 1925 to honor local men who died in World War I and members of the American Legion. The seismic retrofit design has been completed by Structural Engineer Ben Au from San Francisco firm Holmes Culley. Changes to the Memorial Hall grounds have now begun. The Crockett Improvement Association has donated all the bricks used to outline some initial planting areas for flowers and shrubs. Mulch has been donated by Hamilton Tree Service of Concord. Four small willow trees were removed along Pomona and two oak trees will be planted soon as an initial measure to 'reforest' the property.

WALK OF HONOR

The 3rd Annual Walk of Honor for our Veterans will take place Saturday, May 21, 2011. Registration for this event is required. The "Walk of Honor" will be a short walk across the Alfred Zampa Memorial Bridge and back. Check in begins at 8:00 am at the Crockett Community Center, located at 850 Pomona Street, Crockett, CA 94525. The Walk will begin at 10:00 am with a BBQ lunch at noon. Transportation will be provided to and from the bridge. Transportation to the Crockett Legion Hall will also be provided.

100% of all sponsorship contributions will be divided evenly between the Viet Nam Veterans of the Diablo Valley and the Crockett Community Services District for use on the restoration of the Crockett Legion Hall. Please see www.sfrwalkofhonor.com

for more information. We look forward to seeing you at the walk!

WHEN IT RAINS...

Did you know that when there are heavy rains, as occurred this March, extra water entering the sewers puts an added burden on the Crockett and Port Costa treatment plants increasing the cost of sewer service to everyone. Inflow sources such as roof leaders, foundation drains, abandoned building sewers, faulty connections, and yard area drains contribute to this problem. It is illegal to connect these sources of inflow to the sanitary sewer system.

To address this problem and to identify sections of sewers which may exhibit inflow, the Crockett Sanitary Department will smoke test our sanitary sewers later this summer. A two-man or three-man crew will use a high capacity smoke blower to test each sewer line. Smoke blowers are placed on or in manholes and smoke is blown through the sewer system. Anywhere the smoke exits, there is potential for storm water to enter the sewer system.

Prior to beginning the smoke testing, notices will be placed on the front door of every building on the streets to be smoke tested at least 24 to 48 hours in advance. The smoke that comes out of the vent stacks on houses or holes in the ground is non-toxic, harmless, and has no odor. It does not create a fire hazard. More information will be included in the notices as we get closer to beginning this important program.

INSPECTION REQUIREMENT

Following the lead of other cities, Crockett CSD has adopted an ordinance requiring inspection and repair of building sewers at the time of property sale. Property owners in Crockett and Port Costa must obtain a "Certificate of Compliance" for their sanitary sewer laterals prior to the sale of their property. It is important for property owners and realtors to know their responsibilities. The reasoning for this requirement is to help ensure that sanitary sewers are operating properly, not leaching into the ground, and not infiltrating the drainage system that flows to the Bay. The pipe that connects your building to the public sewer is called a "building sewer" or "lateral."

This pipe is your property and your responsibility, up to and including the connection to the public sewer. The benefits of this new program in preventing sewage overflows and controlling the rising costs of sewage treatment are proving to be even greater than

we anticipated! Please visit our website at www.town.crockett.ca.us or contact us for more information.

REPORTING SEWER PROBLEMS

For all matters concerning sewer service in Crockett or Port Costa, the correct number to call is always 787-2992. Calling any other number will only slow down a response. Our staff will respond quickly to all inquiries, complaints, or reports of sewer problems. If they are not in the office when you call, a recording will give you an alternate emergency number for reporting a sewage spill or backup that day. The State and Regional Water Quality Control Boards are getting much tougher about preventing sewer overflows and backups and your quick phone call could keep us from being fined.

When a sewer backup occurs in your home, it may not be obvious whether the problem is in the house lateral or the public sewer. You may save yourself distress and money by calling our Sanitary Dept. first. Our staff will help determine where the problem is and will quickly take care of any blockage in the public sewer. There is no charge for our help. Call us day or night to report any sewer problem in Crockett or Port Costa. The number to call is always 787-2992.

BEFORE YOU DIG

Safe digging is no accident, even in your own yard. Always call 811 before your dig! It's the new phone number to call nationwide to have underground utility lines marked. It is FREE and will keep you from harm. Sewers, water and gas lines can be anywhere without your knowledge and digging without knowing what is underground can cause severe consequences, such as serious injuries, fires, or other property damage. We have public sewers through over 100 properties in Crockett and Port Costa. It can be costly when an underground utility is hit. Some utilities in the older communities of Crockett and Port Costa are not that deep and people can hit utilities even when digging to plant shrubs or trees. All this can be easily avoided just by calling 811. Please call. Play it safe, and avoid the grief!

PORT COSTA SANITARY

Crockett Community Services District has been responsible for sewer service in Port Costa since 2008. Under the direction of the Port Costa Sanitary Commission, we have cut operating costs and raised rates to address the financial problems inherited from

the County. Michael Kirker, the new Department Manager, continues to look for opportunities to cut costs and keep sewer rates in check while providing a level of service required by state and regional regulations. With minimal rate adjustments this year and in the future, we intend to achieve solvency for our Port Costa Sanitary Department. to ensure reliable sewer service.

DON'T DUMP DOWN THE DRAIN

Protect our treatment plants in Crockett and Port Costa as well as our Bay by safe handling and disposal of all paints, cleaning solvents, pesticides, fungicides, chemicals, paint strippers, copper algacides, dormant tree sprays, root killers, and pool and spa chemicals. Please never pour unwanted chemicals, paints, or medicine down the drain.

Chemotherapy drugs and other medicines are also collected for safe disposal. These products and many others can upset the sewage treatment process if dumped down the drain. West Contra Costa County has a collection program to help you.

HOUSEHOLD HAZARDOUS WASTE

A drive-thru drop-off Hazardous Waste center is located at 101 Pittsburg Avenue in Richmond. The center will dispose of common household hazardous waste that might otherwise harm the environment. There is no charge and no appointment needed! Residential drop-off is available Thursdays, Fridays, and the 1st Saturday of each month 9am - 4pm (closed 12-12:30 pm). Call 1-888-412-9277 for more information. You can also get helpful information from their web site at www.recyclemore.com/.

Seniors (age 60 and older) or disabled persons can call for household hazardous waste pickup at their home by calling the same number 1-888-412-9277.

The District also will accept your old batteries, compact fluorescent light bulbs, thermometers, barometers, thermostats, automobile switches, and neon lighting and dispose of them properly. We will even give you a FREE easy to read digital thermometer in exchange for your old mercury thermometer.

We are also happy to pick up computers, monitors, televisions (27" or smaller), VCRs and other electronic items for free disposal. They typically contain lead and other metals that harm our environment if not carefully recycled. Keeping mercury, lead, nickel, cadmium, and other toxic metals out of the trash benefits the environment. Please play it safe by

dropping off or calling us at 787-2992 to collect your small hazardous waste items.

THANKS TO THE FOUNDATION

The District Board, Commissioners and staff are very grateful to the Crockett Community Foundation for its many generous grants during 2011!

Grant funding has allowed the Recreation Dept. to provide a superior swim center, summer music concerts, the successful Oktoberfest, and much more. Annual distribution of "Return-to-Source" funds from the Crockett Cogeneration plant property taxes to the Crockett Sanitary Dept. and the Recreation Dept. have further benefited the public by holding down rate increases that would otherwise be necessary.

DISTRICT OFFICE

The Crockett CSD office is on the main floor of the old Valona Emporium building at 628 Second Avenue, Room 206, in Crockett.

This is the place to come for sewer permits, for drawings to be stamped, to get a list of bonded sewer contractors, and for all sewer service information for 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 an appointment. Our phone number is 787-2992. Our e-mail address is manager@town.crockett.ca.us.

OUR OWN WEBSITE

Please visit www.town.crockett.ca.us for the latest information from the District. The website has useful information on various public services including emergency services, sewer service, recreation, garbage service, and others.

CROCKETT COMMUNITY SERVICES DISTRICT

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