

Newsletter of the Crockett Community Services District

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 Ave. or Rolph Ave. The bridgehead entrance to Crockett is property-owned by the State but through small grants and donations to the District, along with volunteer labor, the District intervened to protect the area from decline while the future of the bridgehead is discussed by Caltrans and the District.

OUR DISTRICT BOARD

The 2015 Board of Directors of the Crockett Community Services District are:

Fred Clerici, President

Kris Vickers, Vice-President

John Mackenzie

Harold Burnett

Alicia Johnson

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

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

2014 was a productive and rewarding year for your Crockett Community Services District (CCSD). The staff, board, commissions, and committees, of the service district

have dedicated themselves to delivering a reliable and efficient sanitary and recreation program for Crockett and Port Costa. At the board level we have strived to keep costs down while delivering needed services.

During the past year the CCSD accomplished locating all of our staff operations under one roof with the relocation of the district office to the Crockett Community Center. This move has led to better coordination and communication amongst our departments and direct rental savings.

The Crockett Sanitary Department and the Port Costa Sanitary Department performed needed repairs and upgrades to their aging systems while simultaneously meeting all of the existing and new rules and regulations established by the federal, state, county and regional regulatory agencies.

The Crockett Recreation Department installed beautiful and energy efficient new windows at the Crockett Community Center with a grant from the Bay Area Air Quality Management District and gave the building a complete exterior painting. Our recreation complex continues to be an increasingly popular venue, both regionally and locally, for meetings, parties, picnics, classes and all types of events, it is something all of our residents can be very proud of.

The CCSD Veterans Memorial Hall Committee accomplished gaining both state and federal historical status for the veterans hall. This is a major step in procuring needed grants to eventually accomplish the renovation of this unique facility, which will lead to future public use.

The CCSD Police Liaison Committee has become a popular forum for the public to meet and converse with our local law enforcement entities. This has allowed citizens to air their concerns regarding policing issues.

The CCSD Maintenance Department has worked with other local organizations on upkeep of the bridgehead property. This department is also cooperating with the county to find workable solutions to the problem of illegal dumping on the roads and streets of our towns.

Our dedicated staff could not accomplish all of these activities without the selfless volunteers who give countless hours of their time to serve on the board, commissions, and committees of the CCSD. Crockett and Port Costa thank you.

Finally, the District Board has undergone some recent changes. Board member Gerald Epperson decided to leave the board at the end of 2014. I want to personally thank Gerald for his service and wish him well in the future. In

February 2015, the District appointed Alicia Johnson to the CCSD Board of Directors. Alicia brings her experience, ideas, and energy to the board, and is a welcome addition to your CCSD.

Fred Clerici, President

REPORTING SEWER PROBLEMS

For all matters concerning sewer service in Crockett or Port Costa, the correct number to call is always 787-2992. Call us day or night to report any sewer problem in Crockett or Port Costa. Our staff will respond quickly to all inquiries, complaints, or reports of sewer problems. 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 Department 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.

TOILETS ARE NOT TRASH CANS

Toilets are only meant for one activity, and you know what we're talking about! When the wrong thing is flushed, results can include costly backups on your own property or problems at your local wastewater treatment plant. That's why it's so important to treat toilets properly and flush only your personal contributions to the local wastewater treatment plant.



Disposable Does Not Mean Flushable!

Many household cleaning products are labeled and marketed as disposable; many baby hygiene products are labeled both disposable and flushable. And while these products may be marketed as a convenience item in this way, the truth is that these household wipes and cleaning towelettes have the ability to clog and stop up not only the sewer line on your property, but also can cause blockage and service problems in the public sewer system and pump stations. Unlike toilet paper, these products don't break down once they are flushed. They can cause blockages in your on-site side sewer, especially older pipelines that may have grease, roots, or other obstructions already existing.

Flushing paper towels and other garbage down the toilet wastes water and can create sewer backups and overflows. Even if its label reads "flushable," you are still safer and more environmentally correct to place the item in a trashcan. And because homeowners are responsible for their property's sewer pipes, improper flushing can cost you money. **You plug it, you pay for it!**

DRUGS, CHEMICALS, AND METALS

Whatever ends up in your toilet can potentially impact the water environment, so it's really important to keep household wastes such as window cleaners, unused or expired pharmaceutical products, paint thinners, and any

products with copper or mercury out of toilets and drains and dispose of them properly.

A drive-thru drop-off Hazardous Waste center is located at 101 Pittsburg Avenue in Richmond to dispose of common household hazardous waste that might otherwise harm the environment. Chemotherapy drugs and other medicines are also collected for safe disposal. 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.recyclenore.com.

Please dispose of all medicines safely at collection bins or at the drive-thru drop Hazardous Waste Center.

SMOKE TESTING IN CROCKETT / TENNEY TERRACE

The Crockett Sanitary Department will begin its third year of smoke testing to identify sections of main and lateral sewers that exhibit inflow. Sewers in the area of Crockett known as Tenney Terrace (between the Post Office and Baldwin Ave) will be tested this summer.

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.

What is the purpose of smoke testing?

Smoke testing is important preventative maintenance that helps CCSD pinpoint the location of sewer defects that may need repairs. 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. Millions of gallons of excess water infiltrate sanitary sewers each year through these defects. This raises the cost of wastewater treatment for the entire community and increases the risk of sewage overflows during storms.

If there are defects in either the main sewer pipes or the private sewer laterals that serve individual homes and businesses smoke will rise to the surface and reveal these problems.

REPLACE YOUR TOILET AND CLOTHES WASHER SAVE WATER AND \$\$

Treatment of wastewater is one of the largest expenses faced by the Crockett and Port Costa Sanitary Departments. If everyone uses less water, less wastewater enters the sewer system. Conserving water not only lowers your water bill but has a direct effect on the sewer use charge assessed annually by our District. Do your part and conserve.

East Bay Municipal Water District (EBMUD) offers rebate redemptions for new a washing machine or toilet. Switch to a high-efficiency model and cash in on rebates offered by EBMUD. These programs are subject to availability of funds and are good through December 31, 2015. Visit www.ebmud.com for more information.

The Contra Costa Water District (CCWD) currently offers a High-Efficiency Washing Machine Rebate Program providing rebates of up to \$150 to Port Costa residents. Visit www.ccwater.com/conserves/rebates.asp.

SEWER INSPECTION REQUIREMENT

In 2007, the District adopted Ordinance No. 07-1 requiring property owners to obtain a "Certificate of Compliance" for their sanitary sewer laterals prior to the sale of their property. The reasoning for this requirement is to help ensure that sanitary sewers are operating properly, are not leaching into the ground, are not connected to roof gutters or patio drains, and are not infiltrating the drainage system that flows to the Bay.

More information on this program can be found on our website at www.town.crockett.ca.us. Property owners must have their sewer lateral inspected prior to the sale of their property. You or your realtor can contact the District office to find out if your property has already been inspected and if it is already in compliance.

BEFORE YOU DIG

Safe digging is no accident, even in your own yard. Always call 811 before your dig! 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. 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!

FATS, OIL, AND GREASE

Just as excess fat isn't good for our health, it's not good for our plumbing. Sewer overflows and backups can cause health hazards, damage home interiors, and threaten the environment. An increasingly common cause of overflows is sewer pipes blocked by grease. Grease gets into the sewer from household drains as well as from poorly maintained grease traps in restaurants and other businesses.

Where does the grease come from?

Most of us know grease as the byproduct of cooking. Grease is found in such things as meat fats, lard, cooking oil, sauces, shortening, dairy products, butter and margarine.

Too often, grease is washed into the plumbing system, usually through the kitchen sink. Grease sticks to the insides of sewer pipes (both on your property and in the streets). Over time, the grease can build up and block the entire pipe.

Home garbage disposals do not keep grease out of the plumbing system. These units only shred solid material into smaller pieces and do not prevent grease from going down the drain. Commercial additives, including detergents, that

claim to dissolve grease may pass grease down the line and cause problems in other areas.

The results can be:

- ▶ Raw sewage overflowing in your home or your neighbor's home;
- ▶ An expensive and unpleasant cleanup that often must be paid by you, the homeowner;
- ▶ Raw sewage overflowing into yards and streets;
- ▶ An increase in operation and maintenance costs for local sewer departments, which causes higher sewer bills for customers.

What we can do to help:

The easiest way to solve the grease problems and help prevent overflows of raw sewage is to keep this material out of the sewer system in the first place. There are several ways to do this.

1. Never pour grease down sink drains or into toilets.
2. Scrape grease and food scraps from trays, plates, pots, pans, utensils, and grills and cooking surfaces into a can or the trash for disposal (or recycling where available).
3. Do not put grease down garbage disposals. Put baskets/strainers in sink drains to catch food scraps and other solids, and empty the drain baskets/strainers into the trash for disposal.
4. Speak with your friends and neighbors about the problems of grease in the sewer system and how to keep it out.

Visit our website or call the Crockett or Port Costa Sanitary Department if you have any questions.

ELECTRONIC RECYCLING DROP OFF

Our e-Waste recycling program has continued to be very successful. In 2014 over 13 pallets of electronic waste was collected at four e-Waste events in Crockett. The District received service hour credits from our e-Waste partner which allowed the District to perform landscape maintenance at the Crockett Bridgehead at no cost to the towns of Crockett and Port Costa. In addition, the District continues to accept your old batteries, compact fluorescent light bulbs, thermometers, barometers, thermostats, 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.

Computers, monitors, televisions (27" or smaller), VCRs and other electronic items are also picked up upon request and held until the next e-Waste event. 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 electronic or hazardous waste items.

ROADSIDE DUMPING

We've all seen it. Trash, appliances and furniture dumped along the roadside, even in front of homes. You

can help curb this ugly nuisance by reporting roadside dumping to County Public Works at 1-800-663-8674 (1-800-NO-DUMPING). Crews pick up illegally dumped items in the unincorporated areas of Crockett and Port Costa once every 4-6 weeks. Report the trash as soon as you see it.

If you witness illegal dumping as it occurs, make sure to contact the Sheriff's Department immediately at 1-925-646-2441 to report all relevant details (date, time, location, vehicle description, detailed description of person dumping, etc.) so that the law enforcement can investigate.

FREE TRASH PICKUP

Crockett Garbage Service provides two free annual Curbside Clean-up without any additional charge to all customers. Please call them at 510-262-7100 at least one week in advance to make arrangements. It's FREE!

SUMMER JOBS

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

POOL AND SUMMER SCHEDULE

The Crockett Pool opens weekends beginning May 23 and daily beginning June 13. Please see the Crockett Recreation Department 2015 Summer Schedule for program dates and events this summer. Season passes are a great value. Purchase them early to enjoy a full summer of fun!

WALK OF HONOR AND 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. Phillips 66 SFR Community Fund's annual Walk of Honor for our Veterans is a keystone in our efforts to restore the Memorial Hall. To date over \$96,000 has been raised by this event. All the proceeds received from the event will be used for the restoration of the building and grounds. The Crockett Community Foundation approved a grant for \$150,000 contingent on the District raising the balance needed to begin construction. Volunteers recently painted the

flagpole, planted decorative plants, and installed benches so that residents can enjoy the park like setting of the Memorial Hall grounds. The seed money from the Walk of Honor and volunteer labor are critical for the success of Memorial Hall's future. The Memorial Hall Committee is actively researching additional grant opportunities so that seismic retrofit can begin. Walk with us, Phillips 66, and our partner, the Vietnam Veterans of Diablo Valley, on Saturday May 16 across Crockett's Al Zampa bridge followed by luncheon and celebration at the Crockett Community Center.

THANKS TO THE FOUNDATION

The District Board, Commissioners and staff are very grateful to the Crockett Community Foundation for its many generous grants during 2014!

Funds raised by Phillips 66's annual Walk of Honor were matched, up to \$5,000, by the Foundation. The 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 HAS MOVED

The Crockett CSD office completed its move to the Crockett Community Center at 850 Pomona Street last year. Consolidating our offices at this one location help control District costs, allow staff to share resources, and provide a one-stop location to serve you.

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 all local government information regarding Crockett and Port Costa. Employees are often working out in the field and it may help you to call ahead for an appointment.

OUR WEBSITE

Visit our website www.town.crockett.ca.us for the latest information about the District. Residents and visitors alike will find useful information on various public services including emergency services, recreation, sewer service, garbage service, and others. Meeting dates, agendas, and minutes are available online

Crockett Community Services District

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Phone: (510) 787-2992 Fax: (510) 787-2459

Board of Directors

Fred Clerici - Kris Vickers
John Mackenzie - Harold Bumett - Alicia Johnson

General Manager

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

Recreation Commission

Jeff Airoidi - David Botta - Louise Choquette - Tom Cusack
Elena Gomez - Karen Peterson - John Valentini

Crockett Sanitary Commission

Howard Adams - Robert A. Dahl - Mark Manzione
Mary Wais - Jon Wolthuis

Port Costa Sanitary Commission

Joe Surges - Anthony Guarnieri
Tom Cusack - John Mann - Mark English

Bridgehead Advisory Committee

Howard Adams - Bob Aita - Steve Carvalho
Kent Peterson - Mary Wais - Jeff Wells

Memorial Hall Advisory Committee

Harvey Duran - Michael Kirker
Scott Lawton - Kent Peterson - Ron Wilson
Bud Burlison, Chuck Dell

Police Liaison Committee

John Angell - Barbra Cardwell - David Botta - Mary Wais
Elena Gomez - Sylvia Melero - John Valentini