

## Newsletter of the Crockett Community Services District

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### **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. 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 2016 Board of Directors of the Crockett Community Services District are:

**John Mackenzie**, President  
**Harold Burnett**, Vice-President  
**Frank Brosnan**  
**Fred Clerici**  
**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](http://www.town.crockett.ca.us) for a calendar of meeting dates and more information about our District.

### **MANAGER'S MESSAGE**

This year marks the 10th year anniversary of the Crockett Community Services District (CCSD). The District was initially created to protect existing recreation facilities

and programs, to reacquire our Crockett Community Center from the County for local management, to bring cost-effective and comprehensive management of public recreation in Crockett, and to create a public agency able to receive and preserve other community assets for continued public benefit. The previous Crockett-Valona Sanitary District was dissolved and merged with the newly formed CCSD.

Since that time the District has taken over the operation of the Port Costa sanitary treatment plant and sewer collection system from the County, acquired Crockett's Memorial Hall to protect and renovate the historical building, entered into agreement with Caltrans to maintain the bridgehead property, and most recently created a Port Costa Advisory Committee to act as liaison between local residents, the District Board, Union Pacific Railroad, and Contra Costa County on issues of concern to Port Costa.

The CCSD is a small independent special district of the State and contracts out many of its services as the most cost effective solution for our small communities. The District has only a few year round employees who work out of the Crockett Community Center at 850 Pomona.

The District has positioned itself well to continue to provide services to the community for years to come. Our financial situation has improved since 2006. Outstanding Port Costa and Crockett Sanitary long term debt has been paid down. No new loans have been taken out. The community continued its support of recreation services by approving a recreation parcel tax in 2012, allowing us to maintain high quality services at the Crockett Pool, Alexander Park, and the Crockett Community Center.

I am very proud of our employees, the citizens of Crockett and Port Costa for their involvement in local government, and the support given to our District.

*Dale McDonald, General Manager*

### **REPORTING SEWER PROBLEMS**

For all matters concerning sewer service in Crockett or Port Costa, the correct number to call is (510) 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 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 our help.

# Wipes Clog Pipes

**W**e've said it before and we'll say it again: wipes clog pipes!

These products were not designed with your plumbing – or our sewer and treatment systems – in mind. Despite what manufacturers would have you believe, successfully passing through a toilet is NOT an adequate test for labeling a product as flushable.



Over the past few years, the conversion to low-flow toilets and fixtures, the growth of drought-thirsty tree roots invading our pipelines, and the huge number of people flushing wipes, have created a perfect recipe for sewer clogs and overflows in homes.

From forensic sewer surveys (yes, that's a thing) performed around the country, it seems a major part of this issue is consumers buying, using and flushing baby wipes, because they are the cheapest wipe product on the market. Unfortunately, they are made of plastic fibers and were never meant to break down in a water environment.

As if the clogging potential wasn't enough, many disposable cleaning and disinfecting wipes contain chemicals that pollute our waterways.

*Please put wipes – even those labeled “flushable” – in the trash, not the toilet.*

◀ A mass of wipes is removed from a clogged pipe.



## DRUGS, CHEMICALS, AND METALS

Flushing unwanted medications down a toilet, or pouring them down the drain, is a bad idea. 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](http://www.recyclenore.com).

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

## SMOKE TESTING IN NORTH EAST CROCKETT

The Crockett Sanitary Department will begin its fourth year of smoke testing to identify sections of main and lateral sewers that exhibit inflow. Sewers in the area of Loring, Winslow, Alhambra, Edwards, and Clark Streets 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 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.

### **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](http://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 more information.

### **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. People can hit utilities even when digging to plant shrubs or trees. Play it safe and call 811 first.

### **FATS, OIL, AND GREASE**

When you combine fats, oil, and grease with the problems associated with wipes that are flushed down the toilet, it is not uncommon for congealed lumps to develop in the sewer system which does not break down like toilet paper. Extra maintenance and cleaning of the sewer collection system costs the District money, which in turn is passed on to all residents.

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.

The District will continue to work with Contra Costa County Environmental Health to keep our business partners in compliance with their grease traps. Visit our website or call the Crockett or Port Costa Sanitary Department if you have any questions.

## **ELECTRONIC AND UNIVERSAL WASTE DROP OFF**

Our e-Waste recycling program has continued to be very successful. In 2015 we continued our partnership with Futures Explored, Inc. to host 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. Old cathode ray tube (CRT) monitors, CRT televisions (27" or smaller), and Plasma/LCD/LED televisions are also picked up upon request and held until the next e-Waste event. Due to changing regulations and reimbursement rates to e-Waste recyclers, it is no longer viable for the District to collect other electronic waste such as VCRs, computer CPUs, radios, stereo components, and other electronic items. The District urges all residents to seek other recycling options such as the West County HHW Collection Facility at 101 Pittsburg Ave in Richmond for disposal of this type of e-Waste.

The District will continue to accept your old household batteries, compact fluorescent light bulbs, thermometers, barometers, thermostats, and neon lighting and dispose of them properly. These products are known to contain universal waste and it comes primarily from consumer products containing mercury, lead, cadmium and other substances that are hazardous to human health and the environment. These items cannot be discarded in household trash nor disposed of in landfills. The District will even give you a FREE easy to read digital thermometer in exchange for your old mercury thermometer.

Keeping mercury, lead, nickel, cadmium, and other toxic metals out of the trash benefits the environment. Please play it safe by dropping off at our District office or calling us at (510) 787-2992 for more information.

## **SUMMER JOBS**

Our Recreation Department is now hiring temporary staff for our swimming pool. Lifeguard and swim instructors are needed. Applications are available at our Community Center (Mon-Fri). For more information, call (510) 787-2414.

## **POOL AND SUMMER SCHEDULE**

The Crockett Pool opens weekends beginning May 28 and daily beginning June 11. Please see the Crockett

Recreation Department 2016 Summer Schedule for program dates and events this summer.

## **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 \$121,000 has been raised by this event. 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 21 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 2015 including matching funds of \$5,000 for Phillips 66's annual Walk of Honor and a \$36,864 architectural grant for the Crockett Community Center Deck project!

## **OUR WEBSITE**

Visit our website at [www.town.crockett.ca.us](http://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.

## **DISTRICT OFFICE**

We are 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. We recommend calling ahead to (510) 787-2992 as our limited staff is regularly out in the field.

### **Crockett Community Services District**

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

### **Board of Directors**

John Mackenzie - Harold Burnet  
Frank Brosnan - Fred Clerici - Alicia Johnson

### **General Manager**

Dale McDonald - [manager@town.crockett.ca.us](mailto:manager@town.crockett.ca.us)

### **Recreation Commission**

Jeff Airoldi - David Botta - Louise Choquette - Tom Cusack  
Margaret Faria - Elena Gomez - John Valentini

### **Crockett Sanitary Commission**

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

### **Port Costa Sanitary Commission**

Tom Cusack - Mark English - Anthony Guamieri  
John Mann - Joe Surges - Luigi Barassi (alt.)

### **Bridgehead Advisory Committee**

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

### **Memorial Hall Advisory Committee**

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

### **Police Liaison Committee**

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