

# CROCKETT ENGAGED

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

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A 2017 report from the State Legislature recommends that local governments “do a better job of telling their own story to overcome the stigma that they function as “hidden government.” Report #239 of the Little Hoover Commission contains many interesting recommendations for improving engagement and oversight by the voters who are served by a myriad of local government agencies.

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 through such vehicles as this newsletter in response to Report #239.

Our form of government is known as an “independent special district.” This means that Crockett CSD is independent of Contra Costa County, answering directly to the State of California and to the voters of Crockett and Port Costa. By contrast, the Crockett Carquinez Fire Protection District is a “dependent special district,” dependent on Contra Costa County for funding and oversight. California now has 2,071 independent special districts, of which 321 are community services districts, such as Crockett CSD.

A “community services district” is a special district that has multiple functions. Crockett CSD was formed in 2006 by the voters of Crockett and Port Costa for the purpose of providing sewer services and recreation services, and it is empowered to provide certain additional services if desired by our communities. In other respects, we are no different than BART or East Bay Regional Park District or so many others around the bay area, which were created to provide a single service.

Report #239 recognizes that “*special districts seemingly reflect the wishes of local voters.*” It also recognizes that “*Special districts may be able to customize services and provide more tailored services to their customers.*” It notes, however, that “*Ironically, these governments that are physically closest to their communities are oftentimes unknown to the people they serve.*”

Crockett CSD is no more “hidden” than is the fire district or the John Swett Unified School District, but we recognize that our communities lack a complete understanding of who we are, what services we are authorized by law to provide, and where the limits of such authorization lie. We answer to you, the voters of Crockett and Port Costa, and we intend to become more visible and better (continued on page 4)

## **Featured Service Organization**

We are delighted to have opportunities in this space to showcase nonprofit organizations serving Crockett and Port Costa. It can be especially confusing to newcomers that we have so many different service groups. In this issue we showcase the invaluable **CROCKETT COMMUNITY FOUNDATION (CCF)**, a public charity providing financial support for a wide range of local programs and projects.

CCF was created in 1994 to receive and manage mitigation funds from the Crockett Cogeneration power plant and from C&H Sugar. Its role later expanded to handle mitigation funds from the Unocal refinery and property taxes from the County. This Foundation is virtually unique in that its Board of seven directors is publicly elected. CCF meets in public every month on the first Thursday, normally at the Crockett Community Center at 7 PM.

CCF is not a government agency but fills an essential need in Crockett and Port Costa to stimulate our civic vitality, helping our towns to be such great places to live. All donations to CCF are fully tax deductible.

CCF grants are available to non-profits serving Crockett, Port Costa and Tormey. Fundraising assistance grants of up to \$1,000 are available each month in support of local events. Micro-grants of up to \$1,000 may also be made each month, while larger grants are made twice a year on a spring/fall cycle.

The next Foundation Board election will be in November of this year. Please visit their website to learn more:

[www.crockettcommunityfoundation.org](http://www.crockettcommunityfoundation.org)

Phone: (510) 787-9708

## **Three Month Events Calendar**

### **January**

Crockett Improvement Assn.  
Jan. 2: Board election @ 7 pm @  
Crockett Community Center

Crockett Bass Club  
Jan. 13: Crab Feed @ 5 pm @  
Crockett Community Ctr.

### **February**

Italian Catholic Federation  
Feb. 3: Polenta dinner @ 6:30 pm @  
St. Rose Church

Crockett Boy Scouts  
Feb. 4: Pancake breakfast @ 7:00 am @  
Scout Hall

John Swett Band Boosters  
Feb. 10: Crab Feed @ 5:30 pm @  
Crockett Community Ctr.

Crockett Lions Club  
Feb. 24: Corned beef dinner @ 5 pm @  
St. Rose Church

### **March**

Italian Catholic Federation  
Mar. 10: Corned beef dinner @ 6:30 pm  
@ St. Rose Church

Crockett Community Foundation  
Mar. 31: Grant application deadline

*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.*

## Contra Costa County Government

Crockett and Port Costa, being unincorporated towns, are governed and served by Contra Costa County. The County provides such services as road maintenance, public safety, building permits, animal control, libraries, hospital, courts and jails, elections, flood control and many others. Please visit the County website at:

[www.co.contra-costa.ca.us](http://www.co.contra-costa.ca.us) for guidance on all County services. Click on "Departments" to access all County services.

County Supervisor Federal Glover is our elected representative at the county level. This year he is the Chair of the Board of Supervisors. You may seek assistance from Supervisor Glover's office on all County services.

Phone: (925) 427-8138 (Pittsburg office)  
(925) 335-8200 (Martinez office)  
or (510) 262-8800 (Hercules office)

### FREE Trash Collection

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 scheduling. Furniture, hot water heaters, mattresses, electronics and appliances are all eligible. Please use these services!

## Complaint Desk

*People are taking my parking space in front of my house. It should be my right to park there. What can I do to stop this?*

Limited street parking is a widespread problem in Crockett and Port Costa. There can be no reserved parking spots on public streets, except when designated by the County for people with disabilities. Such parking spots are designated with blue paint and signs.

Streets are available to everyone for public parking, and private parking spaces cannot be claimed by right of anyone absent County designation. You may apply to the traffic engineer of the County Public Works Dept. at (925) 313-2000 for the disabled parking designation.

Crockett CSD invites you to address our Police Liaison Committee about public safety or parking problems in Crockett on the first Monday of every month at the Crockett Community Center at 7 PM.

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

### Giant Yardsale Success

Yardsale fundraisers for Memorial Hall in March and November were highly successful. We had lots of great stuff and made thousands each time to help Crockett CSD to restore Memorial Hall to public service. Look for our next one in May. To donate useful household items to the cause, please phone (510) 787-2414. These events have been supported by the Crockett Community Foundation through their fundraising assistance program!

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understood through publications such as this.

We plan to continually upgrade our website with an emphasis on building a growing community of better informed users. We will also consider expanding our presence on social media platforms in an effort to foster a growing conversation with our voters and other people and businesses that we serve. A primary goal is to build trust among an informed community.

### **CROCKETT CSD CONTACT INFORMATION**

We encourage you to visit our website: [www.town.crockett.ca.us](http://www.town.crockett.ca.us) for information on Crockett CSD, such as our elected officials and staff, our facilities and services, our various commissions and activities, and much more. We also invite you to contact us by email at: [manager@town.crockett.ca.us](mailto:manager@town.crockett.ca.us). We are expanding our email distribution contact list as well, so that we can reach more people with this publication and other bulletins, invitations and announcements. We encourage you to request addition to our contact list.

For rental information on the Crockett Community Center call our Recreation Dept. at **(510) 787-2414**. Please call the same number for information on use of our swimming pool, tennis courts, bocce courts or park facilities. We are proud of all of these public facilities and do our best to keep them maintained.

Please be aware of everything that's going on in Crockett and Port Costa, and take advantage of what is available, whether it be local events and programs, local elections or volunteer opportunities.

### **2018 CROCKETT CSD BOARD OF DIRECTORS:**

**LUIGI BARASSI, PRESIDENT OF THE BOARD**  
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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!**