

PORT COSTA and
CROCKETT ENGAGED

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

MAY-JUNE 2018

VOL. 3

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 an elected 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 this November, at which time three seats will be open to civic-minded individuals for four year terms. Other exciting opportunities to serve are available right now, however. We have been advertising an open seat on our Recreation Commission and an open seat on our Crockett Sanitary Commission. These openings are posted at our Crockett Community Center. Contact our General Manager Dale McDonald to apply. No experience is required, just a serious interest in being involved in civic functions.

The Crockett Recreation Commission oversees the provision of recreation services to Crockett and Port Costa through the hard work of our Recreation Department staff lead by Ron Wilson. We have an outstanding complex of public recreation facilities that are expertly managed and maintained. Our historic Crockett Community Center provides spaces for everything from town meetings and wedding receptions to small meetings and classes. A nutrition program serves lunches there to seniors of all ages each weekday, while the large commercial kitchen allows caterers to ably provide for larger crowds. The May 19 *Walk of Honor for Our Veterans* will start and end here for a great day of celebration, food, and a giant raffle.

Our swimming pool serves the John Swett Swim Team and the Crockett Swim Team for training and swim meets as well as summer swim classes and public swimming. Memorial Day marks the start of public swimming, open every day until late August. Adult lap swimming and aqua zumba classes are also offered. We are especially proud to offer summer jobs at the pool to local teens. Inquire now at the Crockett Community Center, phone (510) 787-2414, or go to (continued on page 4)

Featured Service Organization

In this issue we showcase the **CROCKETT IMPROVEMENT ASSOCIATION (CIA)**, a local non-profit that has been an important part of the community since the 1960's. It was born out of unhappiness with the decline that Crockett was then suffering. There were concerns about such new trends as drug use, absentee landlords of distressed properties, and growing vandalism of public areas in town. Reversing these trends was essential, but Crockett had always depended on C&H and did not have the civic institutions and abilities necessary to succeed. During the 1960's, C&H was actually working to disengage itself from its corporate benevolence of the past. Into this breach stepped an assortment of locals who just could not tolerate the situation any longer. They coalesced informally as the Crockett Improvement and Businessmen's Association, then incorporating as the Crockett Improvement Association in 1971.

The CIA has always been a strong advocate for whatever might be best for Crockett. CIA has brought many County Supervisors to town, even monthly for many years, so that a continuing dialogue can take place for Crockett's benefit. CIA's greatest success in advocacy was in wringing concessions from Caltrans during recent Carquinez Bridge projects. CIA also built and maintains our downtown Plaza, with beautification projects being the second great emphasis of CIA volunteers.

CIA meets the first Tuesday of the month at 7:00 P.M. at the Community Center, and they welcome everyone. Visit their Facebook group page: *CrockettCIA*.

Three Month Events Calendar

May

Crockett Chamber of Commerce
May 12: TownWide YardSale @ 8:00 am

John Swett High School
May 17: Bingo @ 6:00 pm @ Scout Hall

Crockett Boy Scouts
May 18: Fish Fry @ 4:00 pm @ Scout Hall

Crockett CSD and Phillips66 Refinery
May 19: Walk of Honor for Our Veterans
8 am @ Crockett Community Center

Port Costa
May 26: TownWide YardSale @ 9:00 am

Crockett Museum
May 28: Memorial Day Open House 11-1pm
w/ Band Concert in Rithet Park 1-3 pm

June

Crockett Lions Club
June 9: Pasta Feed @ 5:00 pm
@ St. Rose Church Hall

John Swett High School
June 21: Bingo @ 6:00 pm @ Scout Hall

July

Crockett Recreation Dept.
July 4: Barbeque & free swim
12:00 @ Community Center

Crockett Chamber of Commerce
July 15: Sugartown Festival & Street Fair
11 am on Rolph Avenue

Crockett Recreation Dept.
July 22: Summer Music Concert @ 3 pm
featuring The Cheeseballs
@ Crockett Community Center

Did You Know?

What we call Crockett today began as three different townships. Early CROCKETT developed east of West Street, while the town of VALONA developed to the west of Third Avenue on property owned by John Muir and Dr. John Strentzel. The township of CROLONA was created by C&H on the land between Crockett and Valona. Today's Rolph Avenue was then Valley Street. Some say that Crolona was created as a barrier to prevent Crockett and Valona from merging into a single, more powerful town that might be less easily controlled by C&H. Times have since changed for the better!

PHILLIPS 66'S WALK OF HONOR

Please register online at www.SFRWalkofHonor.com and join us on May 19. Half of the proceeds will come to Crockett CSD to support our effort to protect and restore Crockett's Memorial Hall to once again serve area veterans. For additional information, please contact Aimee Lohr at (510) 245-5130.

Welcome To Our Newer Residents

We invite you to get involved in community organizations, enjoy local events, learn from local websites, eat and shop at local businesses, and make friends with your neighbors in our two small towns. Both Crockett and Port Costa are very active with volunteer events and service groups that want your involvement, support and friendship. *Please join in!*

Complaint Desk

Why are some local paths/sidewalks being closed in town? We need them to get around on foot! What can we do?

Crockett's once extensive network of "chicken walks" is greatly diminished today. Paths were incorporated into some of the earliest sub-divisions so that students could take shortcuts to school and adults could more easily get to stores on foot. Most were actually owned and maintained by C&H for their workers and families. When the County refused to accept ownership of the "chicken walks," C&H began to quit-claim them to adjacent property owners, if willing. Also, where thru-roads were never built in County rights-of-way, the County began to quietly abandon the land to adjacent owners. So for years we've seen fences and gates and no-trespassing signs spring up without warning, to the disbelief of pedestrians who were suddenly locked out from familiar routes. The Crockett Improvement Assn. would have liked to keep them open and maintained but remains disappointed at these closures.

You may also voice your complaints to the County Public Works Dept. at (925) 313-2000.

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

Giant Yardsale May 12

Yardsale fundraisers for Crockett's 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 on May 12, when Crockett holds a TownWide YardSale. These events have been supported by the Crockett Community Foundation through its fundraising assistance program!

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our website: www.town.crockett.ca.us .

Our tennis courts have always been free for public use and have also served the John Swett High School athletic program. Our bocce courts are likewise free for public use while also serving the spirited play of the Crockett Bocce League from spring into fall. Alexander Park rounds out our recreation facilities with its play structures and picnic facilities. You can bet that all of these facilities will be in full use during our patriotic July 4th barbeque and free swim program. Everyone is invited to join us for a friendly BBQ chicken lunch on Wednesday, July 4, starting at noon!

We salute the members of our Recreation Commission for exemplary public service in supervising the many-faceted activities of our Recreation Department. One Commissioner, David Botta, has served tirelessly for many decades, earning the great appreciation of the District Board of Crockett CSD!

2018 COMMISSIONERS OF THE RECREATION COMMISSION:

TOM CUSACK, CHAIRPERSON
DAVID BOTTA
ELENA GOMEZ

JEFF AIROLDI
LOUISE CHOQUETTE
JOHN VALENTINI

THE PUBLIC IS ALWAYS WELCOME AT MEETINGS OF THE RECREATION COMMISSION, TYPICALLY @ 6PM ON THE 1ST MONDAY EACH MONTH AT THE CROCKETT COMMUNITY CENTER.

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**.

THE CROCKETT CSD BOARD OF DIRECTORS MEETS AT 7PM ON THE 4TH WEDNESDAY EACH MONTH AT THE CROCKETT COMMUNITY CENTER. COME JOIN US. SEE YOUR LOCAL GOVERNMENT IN ACTION!

CROCKETT CSD STAFF:

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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!**

