



**Newsletter of the Crockett Community Services District**

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

**DISTRICT BOARD**

**MAY 2022**

The 2022 Board of Directors of the Crockett Community Services District are:

**Luigi Barassi, President**

**Scott Bartlebaugh, Vice-President**

**John Mackenzie**

**Kent Peterson**

**Michael Kirker**

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 website at [www.town.crockett.ca.us](http://www.town.crockett.ca.us) for a calendar of meeting dates and more information about our District.

**BOARD ELECTIONS**

The District will have 3 Board seats up for election this November. For those interested in running for a seat, the Contra Costa Elections Division will be your point of contact for those who have ever considered running for elected office. The filing period is July 18 through August 12 and paperwork will be available at the Contra Costa Elections Division in Martinez. The Candidates must be a U.S. Citizen, be a registered voter of the District at the time the Declaration of Candidacy is issued, and not have been convicted of a felony involving accepting or giving, or offering to give, any bribe, the embezzlement of public money, extortion or theft of public money, perjury, or conspiracy to commit any of those crimes. The term of office is 4 years. You may call us at (510) 787- 2992 for more information on running for election. Board members of the District are not paid.

**MANAGER'S MESSAGE**

The Crockett Community Services District (CCSD) was formed in 2006, taking over the management of Alexander Park, Pool and Community Center, and to manage the sewage system. The Crockett Valona Sanitary District was absorbed into the CCSD, and in following years the Port Costa Sanitary District also joined into the CCSD. The CCSD has since taken responsibility for the stately Memorial Hall, and its surrounding park. Most recently the CCSD has purchased the Hosselkus Chapel mortuary at 1 Rolph Park Drive. This property is being renovated and will become a public building housing the Sanitary Department office, to serve as an addition to the community center in ways still being worked out and as a town hall/public space. We hope to soon meet the requirements to open this historic and unique building to the public.

The CCSD is a local organization, hiring largely local residents. We have seven permanent employees, and hire fifteen to twenty lifeguards in the summer, nearly all from Crockett, Port Costa or with ties to John Swett High School and the Crockett Swim Team. Community Services Districts in California are a limited government approach to with a narrow scope of work. Unlike a municipal government we don't apply a tax and then spend it on a wide range of services, rather we charge specific fees for specific tasks, subject to the consent of voters.

This brings up another subject, and another possible addition to the District's mission: ....*CONTINUED ON BACK PAGE*

## NO WIPES DOWN THE PIPES

It is crucial to remember that disposable wipes, even those marked "flushable", should **NEVER** go down the drain. Flushing wipes, or anything other than toilet paper, including paper towels and other paper products, could cause blockages to CCSD's collection systems and treatment plant. Flushing wipes may also damage home plumbing systems creating significant costs to property owners.



Damage caused by wipes costs money for the district, and drives up the cost of service in our district. Keep your family and neighbors safe by putting used wipes in the trash and not down the toilet!

### TOILETS ARE NOT TRASH CANS

Please don't use your toilet as a trash can. While convenient, you should also never flush:

- Feminine hygiene products
- Condoms
- Dental floss
- Tissues
- Or paper towels.

These and many other items can clog your pipes, causing overflows, damage wastewater treatment plant equipment, and contribute to water pollution.

***Flush only human waste and toilet paper. Put everything else in a real trash can.***

## DON'T FLUSH DRUGS, CHEMICALS, OR PAINT

Wastewater treatment facilities are not equipped to remove all traces of pharmaceutical chemicals or metals. Do not pour unwanted chemicals such as ammonia or unused paint down the drain. Whatever ends up in your toilet can potentially impact the water environment, so it's important to keep household wastes such as window cleaners, paint thinners, and any products with copper or mercury out of toilets and drains and dispose of them properly. Washing of latex paint brushes etc. is acceptable but oil based paint brushes should be cleaned with cleaning solution and disposed of properly.



Don't flush your drugs! Flushing unwanted medications down a toilet, or pouring them down the drain, is a bad idea. If you flush your drugs, a portion of those contaminants will reach local waters. Scientific studies show the chemicals in many drugs can harm aquatic life. Proper disposal of unwanted medications helps protect your family, your community and the environment.

## WE GRAPPLE WITH GLOBS OF GREASE

Please dispose of grease with garbage, not down your drain. When people pour grease down a sink, it cools, solidifies, and sticks to the inside of the pipe. If that happens within your drain, you'll need a plumber. Things get worse when grease from thousands of sinks builds up inside sewers. Those gross globs of grease can grow until they completely clog pipes! Our crews work tirelessly to find and destroy them before they cause overflows.



## NO GREASE





**ELECTRONIC AND UNIVERSAL WASTE DROP OFF**

The West County HHW Collection Facility has a Hazardous Waste drop-off center at 101 Pittsburg Avenue in Richmond which will accept e-Waste and dispose of common household hazardous waste that might otherwise harm the environment. Residential drop-off is available Wednesday through Saturday from 9am - 4pm (closed Noon -12:30 pm). Call 1- 888-412-9277 for more information. You can also get helpful information from their website at [www.recyclemore.com](http://www.recyclemore.com).

West County HHW Collection Facility can accept old household batteries, compact fluorescent light bulbs (which contain mercury), barometers, thermostats, and neon lighting which are known to contain universal waste such as mercury, lead, and cadmium that are hazardous to human health and the environment. These items cannot be discarded in household trash nor disposed of in landfills.

Due to changing regulations, it is not feasible or affordable for the District to collect e-waste(electronics) **but the CIA is operating a one day e-waste drop off on Saturday June 4<sup>th</sup> at the 1 Rolph Park Drive facility.**

*So, if that old TV didn't sell at the town wide garage sale bring it down on June 4<sup>th</sup> !!!*

**MERCURY THERMOMETERS**

Mercury is highly toxic. If you drop and break an old-fashioned mercury thermometer in the sink its mercury could go down the drain, get into wastewater that flows through the sewers, through the treatment plant and ultimately pollute the Carquinez Straight. The treatment process does not remove mercury from the wastewater. NEVER put mercury down your drain!

You can drop mercury containing items off at the HHW site:

**Drop-Off at the West Contra Costa HHW Collection Facility**

**NO APPOINTMENT NEEDED!**  
**FREE FOR WEST CONTRA COSTA RESIDENTS**

101 Pittsburg Avenue, Richmond

**SEWER UPGRADES**

We have a regular program of sewer cleaning and video that alerts us of upcoming problems. Local contractor LR Paulsell does constant cleaning and video inspection to keep the sewer flowing and identify problems, hopefully before they surface.

You may have noticed crews working in the streets, sidewalks, and sometimes even your backyard. These guys are doing the work of maintaining and repairing Crockett's sewers and preventing sewer overflows.

It has been a busy year! In the fiscal year 21/22 contractors working for the Sanitary Department replaced 1995 feet of failing sewer pipe with continuous HDPE pipe, in addition to several point repairs and a couple of manholes replaced. Some of these sewers had failed and caused overflows, in other cases overflows were prevented by the repair. It is the cost of an old system and whose operational lifetime has in some cases expired. The HDPE pipeline that is replacing the clay and cast iron pipe is expected to have a very long lifetime.

**OUR WEBSITE**

Visit our website at [www.town.crockett.ca.us](http://www.town.crockett.ca.us) for the latest information about the District. Meeting dates, agendas, and minutes are available online. Residents and visitors alike will find useful information on our Crockett Community Center, pool, and parks. Information on our sanitation departments is also available under the respective Crockett Sanitary Department or Port Costa Sanitary Department pages.



The pool season starts on Memorial Day weekend and runs through Labor Day

**Hours:** 12 noon to 5:00, Family Swim: Sat & Sun 6-7:30pm  
 Adult Lap swim: 5:30-7:00 M-F, 10:00-noon Sat& Sun.

Swim Lessons Available, contact Pool office for details

(510) 787-2567

**Prices:**

Daily Adults.....\$6 Resident / \$7 Non-resident  
 Youth 4-17.....\$5 Resident / \$6 Non-resident  
 Discounted punchcards.....10 tickets/\$54, never expire  
 Family Season Pass .....\$230 Resident/ \$275 Non-resident

**SEWER INSPECTION REQUIREMENT**

The District is in the 15th year of its lateral inspection program, requiring property owners to obtain a "Certificate of Compliance" for their sanitary sewer laterals prior to the sale of their property. The program ensures that sanitary sewers are operating properly, are not leaching into the ground, and are not leaking into storm drains that flow to the Bay. Sewer laterals that have roots, are cracked or misaligned are considered to have failed.

It is required that the sewer have a backflow prevention device, sometimes called a sewer popper, to prevent any possibility of sewage backing up from the main into the house—a very real possibility without a backflow preventer.

It has been a very successful program; helping to reduce infiltration from patio drains, roof gutters, and from cracks in broken building lateral sewers. Less rainwater and groundwater that enters our sewer system means lower treatment costs.

How it works: When a property is sold, or title transferred outside the family, a sewer inspection must be done within 60 days. This is done by a private sewer company that will push a camera down the sewer lateral and provide a video for the district to inspect. If all is well a Certificate of Compliance is issued. If there is a failure, the owner is required to have repairs made.

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The sewer lateral requirement is a disclosure of which the seller or their realtor should inform the buyer.

There have been 602 properties issued Certificates of Compliance to date in Crockett and Port Costa.

More information on this program can be found on our website at <https://www.town.crockett.ca.us/sewer-lateralcompliance-ordinance>. You or your realtor may also contact the District office to find out more information on this important requirement.



Above are two the two kinds of backflow prevention devices. If your sewer isn't equipped with one of them, you are at risk for having sewage flow into your house in the event of a sewer backup.

**MANAGERS MESSAGE.....CONTINUED FROM FRONT PAGE.....**

.....This brings up another subject, and another possible addition to the District's mission:

A valiant effort has kept the plaza and bridgehead clean, and repaired the decorative lights downtown for years. The work is all being done by volunteers—the Crockett Improvement Association (CIA). District funds are not currently available for the maintenance/cleanup that is required. The CIA is sponsoring a ballot measure that will ask the town to support the maintenance/cleanup of these areas with a fee attached to the property taxes. If it passes, the District will spend the money on the upkeep of these locations that are such a visible part of our town. As the manager of the District, I am neutral on the subject; My work will go on regardless. As a resident of Crockett, I hope dearly that the measure passes. We can't let the entrance to our town be covered in blowing trash, and the CIA has told us they can't keep doing it themselves for free forever.

Crockett Sanitary (CVSAN) oversees sewer matters in Crockett. One of our functions is ensuring the viability of the sewer laterals when a property is sold. It provides an interesting eye on property sales, and as of May we have inspected as many laterals as we did in all of last year. This means we will be seeing a number of new people in town, and I think we can make that a good thing, and keep the aspects of Crockett that make the town great like our civic involvement, our sense of community and volunteerism. So, invite that new neighbor somewhere. I look forward to seeing you all at bocce and at dinners and around town.

Gaunt Murdock,

General Manager

Crockett Community Services District

**CCSD Board of Directors**

Luigi Barassi - Scott Bartlebaugh - Michael Kirker - JohnMackenzie - Kent Peterson

**Recreation Commission**

Jeff Airoldi  
Louise Choquette  
Tom Cusack  
John Valentini

**Crockett Sanitary Commission**

Mary Wais  
Howard Adams  
Mark Manzione  
D'Arcy Trask

**Port Costa Sanitary Commission**

Tom Cusack  
Tom List  
Anne Scheer  
Joe Surges  
Karen Klaiber

**Memorial Hall Advisory Committee**

Bud Burlison – Michael Kirker  
Scott Lawton – Kent Peterson – Ron Wilson

**Police Liaison Committee**

John Angell – Barbara Cardwell – Raina Currington  
Sylvia Melero – John Valentini – Mary Wais

**Staff:** Gaunt Murdock, General Manager  
Vaughn Gunkelman, Administrative Services Manager  
Ron Wilson, Recreation Dept. Manager  
James Barnhill, Sanitary Dept. Manager  
Susan Witschi, Assistant District Secretary & Facilities Manager  
Dolores Morales, Event Supervisor  
Damand Bal  
Simon Sollestre  
Joel Cadena

***REPORTING SEWER PROBLEMS- CALL OUR 24/7 EMERGENCY LINE (510) 303-2313***

If you see what you believe is a sewage spill, whether from a private home or from a public manhole, call! If you are unsure if it is a sewage spill, err on the side of caution and call! We have staff available 24/7 who will be able to investigate to protect our communities of Crockett and Port Costa from unsanitary discharges. 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 this service.

For all other matters concerning sewer service in Crockett or Port Costa, call our District office at (510) 787-2992.

***COMMUNITY CENTER***

For questions about the Community Center, Pool, Alexander Park, Bocce / Rec Department, call (510) 787- 2414,

***DISTRICT OFFICE***

We're 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. 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 appointments to (510) 787-2992.

**Office Hours** Monday - Friday 8:30 am - 5:00 pm