

Newsletter of the Crockett Community Services District

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

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.

OUR DISTRICT BOARD

The 2017 Board of Directors of the Crockett Community Services District are:

John Mackenzie, President

Luigi Barassi

Alicia Johnson

Fred Clerici, Vice-President

Kent Peterson

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 for a calendar of meeting dates and more information about our District.

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

Hello and thank you all for reading our newsletter! Welcome to the new year of exciting things happening at the Crockett Community Service District. I am so lucky to be a part of this District! I started out as a Committee Member for the Contra Costa Sanitary District #5 in Port Costa over 20 years ago because I wanted to take an interest in our community and have some sort of control over what happens. Then when LAFCO formed the Crockett Community Service District in 2006 I saw an opportunity to participate in something really cool, have local control of our money, and have a greater say on how things are done. I hope other people in Crockett and Port Costa realize how unique we are in having this local control.

I would encourage everybody to get involved with your community no matter what it is. Volunteering for the yearly cleanup, helping with the senior center, coming to local meetings such as the Police Liaison Advisory Committee and Sanitary Commission meetings, and of course the District meetings for the Crockett Community Service District.

Volunteers have been the key in moving Crockett's Memorial Hall restoration project forward, recently completing the coordination of bids so that hazardous abatement can begin. Once the asbestos and lead are removed the District is planning to begin Phase 1 of the seismic retrofit by strengthen the foundation of the building. Construction is anticipated to begin in the spring of 2018.

I'm looking forward to serving the communities of Port Costa and Crockett to the best of my ability, to ensure that cost to our residents are kept as low as possible and still provide quality services. Thank you.

John Mackenzie, Board President

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.

SEWER INSPECTION REQUIREMENT

The District is in the tenth 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.

More information on this program can be found on our website at www.town.crockett.ca.us. You or your realtor can contact the District office to find out more information.

OUR WEBSITE

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

TOILETS ARE NOT TRASH CANS

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

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



These and many other items (even if labeled "flushable" or "biodegradable") can clog your sewer 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.**



SAFE DRUG DISPOSAL ORDINANCE PASSED

The Contra Costa County Board of Supervisors passed a *Safe Drug Disposal Ordinance* on December 20, 2016 requiring medication manufacturers to create a stewardship organization that will offer convenient drop-off locations throughout unincorporated areas of the county for safe disposal of unwanted, expired, and unused medications. Convenient locations include pharmacies and hospitals.

Key Elements of Ordinance

1. The ordinance places responsibility on medication manufacturers to be a solution in helping reduce medications entering local waterways.
2. The new drop-off bins will accept all medications, including over-the-counter drugs.
3. Medication manufacturers are subject to penalties if they fail to comply with the ordinance.

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 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.

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.



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 to dispose of common household hazardous waste and E-Waste that might otherwise harm the environment. Residential drop-off is available Thursdays, Fridays, and Saturdays 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.

The District will continue to accept your 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.



The District still collects old cathode ray tube (CRT) monitors, televisions (27" or smaller), and Plasma/LCD/LED televisions as a service to residents. 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, radios, stereo components, and other electronic items. Please call (510) 787-2992 to drop off items at our District office or for more information.

FREE PERSONAL THERMOMETERS!

Mercury is highly toxic. If you drop and break an old-fashioned mercury fever thermometer in the sink, its mercury could go down the drain, get into the wastewater that flows through the sewers to the treatment plant, and ultimately pollute the Carquinez Strait. The treatment process cannot remove all traces of mercury from the wastewater. Never put mercury down your drain!

The sale of mercury fever thermometers was banned in California years ago, but some people still have them at home.

If you bring your mercury thermometer to our District office for safe disposal, we'll give you a free digital fever thermometer to take its place!



Board of Directors

John Mackenzie Fred Clerici Luigi Barassi Alicia Johnson Kent Peterson

General Manager

Dale McDonald - 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

Rene Beauchemin - Tom Cusack - Anthony Guarnieri
John Mann - Joe Surges

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 - Barbara Cardwell
Elena Gomez - Sylvia Melero
John Valentini - Mary Wais

Port Costa Advisory Committee

Luigi Barassi - Jim Campbell - David Chamberlin
Tom Conklin - Tom Cusack - Earl Flewellen - Edward Miranda
Chris Palacio - Brian Staggs - Suzanne Statler - Jim Stitt

Crockett Community Services District
P.O. Box 578 / 628 2nd Avenue, # 206, Crockett, CA 94525
John Angell – David Botta – Loïuse Choquette
Phone: (510) 787-2992 Fax: (510) 787-2459
Elena Gomez – Ruth James – John Valentini
www.town.crockett.ca.us

Board of Directors

Patrick Glover – John Mackenzie – Kris Vickers

Recreation Commission

Harold Burnett – Fred Clerici

Tom Cusack –

Sanitary Commission

General Manager
John Mann – Joe Surges

Dale McDonald – manager@town.crockett.ca.us
Anthony Guarnieri – Jeff Chirgwin

Crockett Sanitary Commission

Jon Wolthuis – Robert A. Dahl – Mary Wais

Howard Adams – Ron Maria – Don Barton (alt.)

Port Costa

Tom Cusack -

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Frank Brosnan - Fred Clerici - Alicia Johnson

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Margaret Faria - Elena Gomez - John Valentini

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Mary Wais - Jon Wolthuis

Port Costa Sanitary Commission
Tom Cusack - Mark English - Anthony Guarnieri
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

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Newsletter content for consideration

OIL and GREASE

SWIMMING POOLS

There was a new law last year on safe disposal of water from swimming pools and spas. It is no longer legal to drain them to storm drains, as people have always done. This water, containing chlorine and other chemicals, must now be drained to our sewer system for treatment, whether in Crockett or Port Costa. Please contact us for more information if you plan to drain a pool or spa.

FREE TRASH PICKUP

Crockett Garbage Service provides a free annual trash pickup to all customers. Please call them at 510-262-1608 at least one week in advance to make arrangements. It's FREE!

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 us at 787-2992. We'll retrieve those car batteries and electronics for safe disposal and make arrangements for removal of the rest. Letting it sit there invites more dumping. Do your part just by calling us as soon as possible!

COMMUNITY WARNING

The District has received complaints about certain sewer cleaning and repair companies doing business in Crockett. We are now clamping down on unpermitted and shoddy work, for which there are new fines and penalties that affect the property owner as well as the workers. All companies are not the same. We are now able to make recommendations about whom to hire for household sewer work. Please feel free to ask us before you sign that contract and be very sure that your contractor has a permit.

New technology has made replacement much more affordable today and more cost-effective than repeatedly calling someone out to cut roots out of your pipe. Several companies are doing very good work in town. Please remember that a sewer permit from our Sanitary Dept. is required for all work on your Crockett building sewer. A County Public Works Dept. permit is required for work in Port Costa. Permits are cheap and protect you from poor quality or illegal work. If the work is worth doing, be sure to get a permit for your protection.

HOUSEHOLD HAZARDOUS WASTE

West County has a collection program to help you dispose of common household chemical products that might otherwise harm the environment. A drive-thru drop-off center is located at 101 Pittsburg Avenue in Richmond. There is no charge and no appointment needed! Call 1-888-412-9277 for more information. You can also get helpful information from their web site at www.recyclemore.com/

DISTRICT FINANCES

The District has stayed within its budget for this first year of existence. Our Sanitary Dept. will spend \$1,752,000 by the end of June. Of this amount, 46% pays for sewage treatment, 14% pays for sewage collection operations and maintenance, 6% for administration, and 34 % for capital improvements.

BOTTLES AND CANS

Our Recreation Dept. is ably staffed by Amy Carlos and Dolores Morales, and they want your aluminum cans and plastic bottles. The money earned on recycled containers is helping to buy equipment for our community center. Please help Amy and Dolores with this project by bringing your cans and bottles to them at our community center. Call 787-2414 for information.

BOARD ELECTIONS

Elections will be held in November for 3 seats on the District Board of Crockett CSD. Candidates must be registered voters living within the boundaries of the District. The term of office is 4 years. You may call us at 787-2992 for more information on running for election. Check with the County Elections Dept. in Martinez for the deadline to register for election. Board members are not paid, but community service is very rewarding!

RECREATION PROGRAMS

THANKS FOR DONATIONS

To hold our costs down, we always appreciate the donation of unwanted school & office supplies. Binders and paper supplies are particularly useful to us. Do you have anything to donate? Please call or stop by. You will find our CSD office at 628 Second Avenue, Room 206, in Crockett.

DISTRICT OFFICE

The office of Crockett CSD is on the main floor of the old Valona Emporium building at 628 Second Avenue, Room 206, in Crockett.

This is the place to come for sewer permits, for drawings to be stamped, to get a list of bonded sewer contractors, and for all kinds of sewer service information for Crockett and Port Costa.

Here you will find parcel maps and property ownership records to assist you, along with all the old development maps that document the growth of Crockett, Valona and Port Costa since 1883. Other useful documents include the County General Plan and zoning map, and some County ordinances.

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. Our phone number is 787-2992. Our e-mail address is manager@town.crockett.ca.us.

DON'T DUMP DOWN THE DRAIN

Protect our treatment plants in Crockett and Port Costa as well as our Bay by safe handling and disposal of all paints, oil and household chemicals. Never dispose of paints, oil, acids, caustics or antifreeze down the sewer or down the storm drain. The same can be said for most cleaning solvents, stain removers and fabric cleaners. Do you have old pesticides, fungicides, photographic chemicals, pool & spa chemicals, or paint strippers sitting around your house? Copper algacides, dormant tree sprays and root killers? You can safely dispose of these hazardous wastes at an approved facility like the West Contra Costa County Hazardous Waste drop off center. Your actions will help control the rising cost of sewage treatment.

We are now collecting chemotherapy drugs and other medicines from Crockett and Port Costa for safe disposal. These products and many others can upset the sewage treatment process if dumped down the drain. Occasionally, Crockett's sewage sludge has become radioactive, possibly from medicines put down the toilet. Please play it safe by dropping off or calling us at 787-2992 to collect prescription drugs.

REPORTING SEWER PROBLEMS

For all matters concerning sewer service in Crockett or Port Costa, the correct number to call is always 787-2992. Calling any other number will only slow down a response. Our staff will respond quickly to all inquiries, complaints, or reports of sewer problems. If they are not in the office when you call, a recording will give you an alternate emergency number for reporting a sewage spill or backup that day.

As the State and Regional Water Quality Control Boards are getting much tougher about preventing sewer overflows and backups, quick phone call could keep us from being fined and that saves money out of your own pocket!

OUR DISTRICT BOARD

The 2012 Board of Directors of the Crockett Community Services District includes:

Pat Glover, President

John Mackenzie, Vice President

Steve Loveseth
Kristopher Vickers
Fred Clerici

Your elected 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.

COMMISSIONS

All of our Commissioners 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.

RECREATION COMMISSION

The current members of our Recreation Commission include Tom Cusack (chair), David Botta, John Valentini, Elena Gomez, John Angell, Ruth James and Louise Choquette. Ron Wilson is the Department Manager and devotes all of his time to the recreation programs serving our community. Our Recreation Commission meets on the first Monday of each month at the Crockett Community Center at 7 PM.

CROCKETT SANITARY COMMISSION

The members of our Crockett Sanitary Commission are Howard Adams (chair), Jon Wolthuis, Tony Dahl, Mary Wais and Harold Burnett. Dale McDonald is the Department Manager. The Crockett Sanitary Commission meets on the third Wednesday of each month at the Crockett Community Center at 7 PM.

PORT COSTA SANITARY COMMISSION

The members of our Port Costa Sanitary Commission are Joe Surges (chair), John Mann and Tom Cusack. Michael Kirker is the Department Manager. The Port Costa Sanitary Commission meets every month on the second Wednesday at 7 PM or second Thursday at the Port Costa School. There are currently two open seats on the Port Costa Sanitary Commission. Interested residents of Port Costa can apply for the open seat on the Sanitary Commission by calling 787-2992.

POLICE LIAISON COMMISSION

The members of our Police Liaison Commission are David Botta, John Valentini, Elena Gomez, Joe Costa, John Angell and Mary Wais. The Commission maintains communication with our law enforcement agencies. They are advocates for your public safety and parking problems, so please bring them your concerns. Public meetings are held on the first Monday of each month at the Crockett Community Center at 6 PM.

POOL RENOVATION

Yes, the pool will be open for summer! Get your swimsuits ready and buy your season pass now. The construction (ongoing since February) is scheduled to be completed by the end of May. The pool plumbing, pump system and concrete decking will be new and meet current state standards. In addition, you will notice a new ADA compliant shower and cosmetic improvements to the aquatics center. Generous grants were received from the Crockett Community Foundation, the East Bay Regional Parks Measure WW Grant Program, the Dean & Margaret Leshner Foundation, and from the Contra Costa County Department of Conservation and Development. In addition to the grants, fundraising efforts by the Crockett Swim Team and others were able to provide all the funding required to complete this project at no cost to the taxpayers.

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. The seismic retrofit design has been completed by Structural Engineer Ben Au from San Francisco firm Holmes Culley. Changes to the Memorial Hall grounds have now begun. The Crockett Improvement Association has donated all the bricks used to outline some initial planting areas for flowers and shrubs. Mulch has been donated by Hamilton Tree Service of Concord. Four small willow trees were removed along Pomona and two oak trees will be planted soon as an initial measure to 'reforest' the property.

CROCKETT COMMUNITY SERVICES DISTRICT

P.O. BOX 578, CROCKETT, CA 94525

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

E-mail: manager@town.crockett.ca.us

THANKS TO THE FOUNDATION

The District Board, Commissioners and staff are very grateful to the Crockett Community Foundation for its many generous grants during 2011!

Grant funding has allowed the Recreation Dept. to provide a superior swim center, summer music concerts, the successful Oktoberfest, and much more. Annual 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.

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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. If you are on the market for a new 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. For more information visit www.ebmud.com.

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 for more information.

Please never pour unwanted chemicals, paint, or medicine down the drain. Protect our treatment plants in Crockett and Port Costa as well as our Bay by safe handling and disposal of all paints, cleaning solvents, pesticides, fungicides, chemicals, paint strippers, copper algaecides, dormant tree sprays, root killers, and pool and spa chemicals.

Smoke Testing

The Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) endorsed smoke tests as a standard way to find defects in the sewer system. Defects in the sewer system allow rain water to enter the system, increasing flows and treatment costs. If smoke can exit through a defect, rain water can enter through that defect. These tests are economical, convenient, and effective. In the long-run, it may reduce the cost to customers.

Our sanitary sewer system is designed to carry wastewater only. The storm water drainage system is a separate network of pipes that channels rainwater and other runoff into creeks and waterways, and eventually into the Carquinez Strait.

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SMOKE TESTING FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

What do I need to do to prepare before the smoke tests?

Water can evaporate from drain traps of unused plumbing fixtures. Therefore, the day prior to any testing, property owners should pour water down all drains of plumbing fixtures that are not regularly used (e.g., guest bathroom, bar sink). This ensures the P-traps are full to prevent smoke from entering the house. It is also a good idea to keep bathroom doors closed during the test period.



P-trap

Will smoke enter my house?

Smoke rarely enters a home or business during the test if the P-traps are full of water, but because a building's plumbing is connected to the sanitary sewer system, smoke could enter through a plumbing defect in the home or business. The most frequent entry point is around a bad wax ring on the toilet. If smoke does enter your home or business, open a window. Visible smoke and odor should last no more than 15-20 minutes.

What should I do if I have emphysema or respiratory problems? Is the smoke harmful? What should I do during a smoke test?

Although the smoke is considered to have no adverse health effects, individuals with respiratory conditions should take special precautions. Smoke rarely enters a home, but it would be best if you sat outside for the duration of the smoke test, about 15-20 minutes. If you cannot sit outside, open the windows and shut your bathroom doors. Also, tell the CCSD contractor or call the District office that you have a respiratory condition.

What should I do if smoke comes out of a plumbing fixture in my house?

Open windows and doors. The smoke usually clears in 15-20 minutes. If you are home during the testing, please inform the CCSD or contracting crew member that smoke has entered your home. You also should call a professional plumber. If smoke has entered, your plumbing may have a defect that is also allowing sewer gases and odors to enter. Sewer gases can be both unpleasant and a health risk. We advise you to determine where the smoke entered and contact a plumber to correct any defects.

I work during the day and have animals inside. What do I do during the smoke test?

Smoke rarely enters a home, but if you have to leave your animals inside, leave windows open slightly for ventilation. On the rare occasion when smoke enters a home, it is usually through a defect in the bathroom, so do not enclose animals in the bathroom. Shut bathroom doors and leave the bathroom window open.

Who is responsible for paying to repair plumbing problems that are discovered through smoke testing?

Property owners are responsible for maintaining their inside plumbing, as well as for repairing cracks, breaks, and clogs in their private sewer laterals that connect their home to the District's main sewer pipeline. If you see smoke coming out of your yard this probably indicates that you have cracks in your sewer lateral that need repair. CCSD is responsible for maintaining and repairing the public wastewater collection system, the larger pipes that usually run under the street.

- ▶ Meat Fats
- ▶ Lard
- ▶ Cooking Oil
- ▶ Shortening
- ▶ Butter and Margarine
- ▶ Food Scraps
- ▶ Baking Goods
- ▶ Sauces
- ▶ Dairy Products

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!

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!

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.

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Visit our website at 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.

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!**

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.

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.

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.

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.

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

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!

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.recyclemore.com.

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





Wipes Clog Pipes

We'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.*

