

CCF NEWS

THE NEWSLETTER OF THE
CROCKETT COMMUNITY FOUNDATION

Vol. 9, Number 1



ENHANCING THE QUALITY OF LIFE IN THE CROCKETT COMMUNITY, NOW AND FOR GENERATIONS TO COME

Community Focus - Crockett REC Works Hard So That You Can Play Hard



Above: Ron Wilson at the 2006 dedication of Alexander Park. Ron holds horseshoes found during excavation work at the park. (Photo credit: Margaret Faria.)

By CCF Director Erin Mullen-Brosnan

When my daughter was two, she and I started spending quite a bit of time at Alexander Park. I met other parents there, and my child had a fun, challenging, safe, and clean place to play with her friends. Plus, it was free! On sunny days one can find people of all ages enjoying the two play structures, BBQ grills, expanse of open lawn, and picnic tables. Although it seemed at the time that it was kept nice and tidy by invisible magic elves, I learned some time later that in fact the park is maintained by the Recreation Department (REC), one of the departments that the Crockett Community Services District (Crockett CSD) coordinates for our community's benefit. The CSD is comprised of the Crockett Sanitary Department, the Port Costa Sanitary Department, the Maintenance Department, and the Recreation Department. An elected governing board of district directors, assisted by more volunteers in committees and commissions, oversees the small staff tasked with keeping all of those departments running smoothly and answering any citizen concerns.

The REC Department is charged with maintaining the pool, parks, tennis court and bocce courts- no small feat for four part time staff. Ron Wilson, Amy Carlos, Dolores Morales and Pierre Swanson work long and hard keeping all those amenities looking as wonderful as they always do, and often they are volunteering extra time. For example, REC has received a grant from the Crockett Community Foundation to sponsor some free summer fun - Beatles tribute band The Sun Kings played at the Community Center on the 4th of July and a Rolling Stones cover band plays August 19. The staff you see working these events will actually be volunteering, as the budget does not cover these extra days! Department Manager Ron Wilson feels strongly about hosting these free events for community, and to him the volunteer hours are well worth seeing happy people enjoying the facilities, especially in these tough economic times.

Ron's amazing work ethic has been the mainstay of his department before it even existed in its present form. The pool and Alexander Park used to be owned by the John Swett Unified School District. When there was no room in the budget to maintain it, over 30 years ago, the nonprofit Crockett Recreation Association (CRA) took over. Ron's daughter was member of the swim team, so he was interested in the success of the pool and became involved in its periodic cleaning and maintenance. In 1989, Ron was elected president of the CRA, and he has basically been working down at the pool every single day since then! In 2003, when Ron retired from Chevron, he had even more time to devote to volunteering, and so that is what he did. Depending on the upcoming event or project, he would work 6-10 hours each day. In 2006, when Alexander Park and the Community Pool were deeded over from the CRA to the CSD, Ron became a CSD employee, but his Recreation Department salary probably covers less than half

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Message from the CCF President

It's an Election Year! Four Vacancies on the CCF Board of Directors in 2013

CCF Approves New Grants

The CCF Office Gets Greened Up!

Message from the President

As the summer gets into full swing, I hope you are enjoying the warm weather and potentially even making use of our town's recreational amenities, including the swimming pool, bocce ball courts, tennis courts, and our beautiful town park. I am heartened by the Community's vote to pass Measure R, which will invest additional tax dollars in these recreational facilities. While state and national support for communities seems to be foundering, our community has pulled together to invest in its own healthy future.

That spirit is what lies at the heart of the Crockett Community Foundation's mission - enhancing the quality of life in the Crockett Community, now and for generations to come. Over the years, the Foundation has also invested in our recreational facilities and in family programs centered around them. Having these areas to gather with our families and friends helps maintain and strengthen our ties to one another, provides healthy outlets for our kids (swim team events will be in full swing again this year), and allows us to create lasting memories.

At our last meeting, the CCF Board voted to support a number of proposals including the Sugar Town Festival and Street Fair, which brings thousands of visitors into our community; repairing the bocce ball court retaining wall; and funding a free summer concert series in the park. We also voted to invest capital funds in a sprinkler system for the Port Costa School project. The sprinkler system will protect the building - and the time and money community volunteers and the Foundation have put into bringing this historical building back to life as a thriving community center.

Finally, over the past year the Foundation has invested in its own building at 444 Loring and that investment has paid off handsomely. We replaced the old stairs and decks, landscaped the yard with primarily drought tolerant plants, and are in the midst of replacing rotted siding and painting the building. It not only is sounder and safer, but also looks wonderful. As always, I am proud and thankful to live in such an amazing community. As my term as President nears its end, I want to thank the Board members and staff of CCF who have all given generously of their time and energy to keep the Foundation working effectively for the community. I also want to thank you, our members, and all the amazing people of this community who work tirelessly in their individual ways to keep our community a thriving and vital place to live. Don't forget to join us at our next Foundation meeting on the first Thursday of August (at the Community Center) to hear what is happening in the community and to make your voice heard.

- Danielle Fugere, CCF President

CROCKETT COMMUNITY FOUNDATION DIRECTORS:

James Easterday (Vice President)
Danielle Fugere (President)
Dean Kelch
Michael Kirker
Erin Mullen-Brosnan (Treasurer)
Robert Muzinich (Secretary)
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Staff - Jeanne Owens

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Crockett Community Foundation
P.O. Box 155
Crockett, CA 94525
Tel: 510-787-9708
Fax: 510-787-1346
Email: info@crockettcommunityfoundation.org
Website: www.crockettcommunityfoundation.org

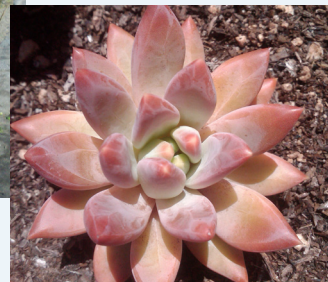


Volunteers Green Up 444 Loring

Left: Volunteers from the Carquinez Regional Environmental Education Center (CREEC) spruce up the yard of the CCF office at 444 Loring with local, drought-tolerant plants (below). Botanist and CCF Director Dr. Dean Kelch oversaw the planting.

The CCF office has also received a new deck and stairs, as well as a fresh coat of paint. Stroll, bike or drive past 444 Loring and check it out!

(Photo credits: Heidi Petty, far left, and Karen Peterson, near left.)



CCF Board Approves Grants for New Community Projects

The Crockett Community Foundation funded the following projects since the last issue of *CCF News*:

December 2011 – **CREEC** received a fundraising assistance grant in the amount of \$983.19 to match the \$983.19 raised during their Fall Plant Sale. A \$500 microgrant was awarded to **Crockett-Carquinez Fire Protection District** to offset the costs of the Community Tree Lighting (Alexander Park). **Crockett Community Services District** was granted \$2,249.95 for the purchase of a riding mower. The **Carquinez Women's Club** received \$3,190.07 to purchase a Shed for use at the Old Homestead.

January 2012 – The **Al Zampa Memorial Bridge Foundation** received a fundraising assistance grant in the amount of \$1,000 to match the \$7,746 raised during their Crab Feed. **Crockett Boy Scouts Troop 171-173** received a fundraising assistance grant in the amount of \$1,000 to match the \$2,958.80 raised during their Mexican Dinner. **John Swett Class of 2012** received a fundraising assistance grant in the amount of \$1,000 to match the \$1,402.04 raised during their Pancake Breakfast. **John Swett PTSA** received a fundraising assistance grant in the amount of \$996 to match the \$996 raised during their BBQ dinner. **Rodeo Hills PTSA** received a microgrant in the amount of \$380 to offset the costs of the Alexander Street Tree Lighting.

February 2012 – The **John Swett Education Foundation** received a fundraising assistance grant in the amount of \$1,000 to match the \$6,644.12 raised during the Get Lucky Prom. The **Crockett Quilters** received a fundraising assistance grant in the amount of \$1,000 to match the \$1,366.44 raised during their Bazaar and Raffle. **Crockett REC** received a microgrant in the amount of \$1,000 for Kitchen

Countertops for the Community Center. **John Swett Band Boosters** received a microgrant in the amount of \$609 for Color Guard Equipment. **Crockett Public Services** received a grant in the amount of \$4,708 for Street Light Maintenance.

March 2012 – The **Crockett Historical Society** received a fundraising assistance grant in the amount of \$1,000 to match the \$1,422.07 raised during the Night at the Museum event. The **Crockett Library** received a microgrant in the amount of \$1,000 to purchase Books for Children and Adults.

April 2012 – The **Crockett Bass Club** received a fundraising assistance grant in the amount of \$1,000 to match the \$4,899.46 raised during their Crab Feed. **John Swett Band Boosters** received a fundraising assistance grant in the amount of \$1,000 to match the \$1,504 raised during Stadium Echoes. **Crockett Boy Scouts Troop 171-173** received a fundraising assistance grant in the amount of \$1,000 to match the \$1,248.49 raised during their Pancake Breakfast. The **Crockett Lions Club** received a fundraising assistance grant in the amount of \$1,000 to match the \$1,340.87 raised during their Corned Beef and Cabbage Dinner. The **Crockett Historical Society** received a microgrant in the amount of \$800 to offset the cost of the Memorial Day Celebration Band Performance.

May 2012 - The **Crockett Women's Club** received a fundraising assistance grant of \$1,000 to match the \$2,617 raised by their Dinner Raffle. The **Crockett Lions Club** received a microgrant in the amount of \$1,000 to purchase and plant a tree at Rolph Park and Loring Avenue. **Crockett Community Services District** received a microgrant in the amount of \$1,000 for Bridgehead Maintenance Equipment.

Community Focus - Crockett REC (Continued from front page)

of the number of hours he puts in each week. Thirty years is a hard habit to break and I even found him working down at the pool on the day he was leaving on a short vacation. The recent passing of Measure R will ease some of the tight budget concerns but volunteers will remain necessary to keep the facilities clean and in good shape. When amenities are used as much as our community's are used, continuous maintenance is absolutely imperative.

Ron has obtained \$2.5M in grants on the federal, state, county, and community level to improve, remodel or modernize almost every recreational facility in town. He helped form the extremely popular bocce league, starting with 16 teams in 1990 and growing the league to 32 teams today. Currently Secretary/Treasurer, Ron is still involved with the bocce league, but he also finds time to serve of the CCF Project Funding Committee, the ConocoPhillips Community Advisory Panel (CAP), and the Crockett Memorial Hall Advisory Committee. He is dedicated to REC facilities but is also an enthusiastic supporter of our whole small but vital community, and a warm, generous person to boot. If you are amazed as I was upon learning about Ron's impressive volunteer career, and would like to join in celebrating and thanking him, you are invited to a party at the pool 7-11pm on July 28. A Jamaican steel drum band will play, and there will be a DJ, light show, food and drinks. Please call the Community Center (787-2414) or D'Arcy Trask (551-8265) for more information. Tickets (being sold to offset the costs and benefit REC) are \$30 for one or \$55 for two people. Also, the CSD has a very thorough website (www.town.crockett.ca.us). To get involved and keep informed: sign up to "follow it" on twitter, "like it" on facebook, and receive updates via email or text.



Above: The picnic area behind the Community Center is the base for many community events, such as the CCF-funded free concert series and Fourth of July barbeque organized by Ron Wilson and Crockett REC. (Photo credit: Karen Peterson.)

CROCKETT COMMUNITY FOUNDATION
P.O. Box 155
CROCKETT, CA 94525

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Crockett Community Foundation Board Election - December 2012 Four Board Positions Available!

The Crockett Community Foundation was established in 1995. The CCF Board of Directors distributes funds for the benefit of the communities of Crockett, Port Costa, and Tormey.

You are eligible to run if you:

- 1) Are a resident of Crockett, Crotona, Valona, Tormey, or Port Costa;
- 2) Have lived within U.S. Post Office codes 94525 or 94569 for at least one year prior to December 7, 2012;
- 3) Are registered with the Contra Costa County Registrar of voters; and,
- 4) Are interested in investing some of your time and energy to benefit these communities.

We welcome you to apply for a seat on the CCF Board of Directors. For more information, please call our office at 787-9708, or visit our website at www.crockettcommunityfoundation.org.



**APPLICATIONS MUST BE POSTMARKED
ON OR BEFORE JULY 31, 2012. THIS IS A
WONDERFUL OPPORTUNITY TO GIVE BACK
TO YOUR COMMUNITY!**