

CCF News

The Newsletter of the
Crockett Community Foundation

Vol. 8, Number 1



Spring/Summer 2011

Enhancing the quality of life in the Crockett community, now and for generations to come.

Community Focus - the POOL will last another 50 years!

By Ron Wilson



Above: This year's pool renovation project in progress.
(Photo credits: Ron Wilson.)

The Crockett swimming pool was built in 1966. In 2016 the swimming pool will be 50 years old. The plumbing needed to be upgraded to meet current California standards. The standard is that the water in the pool must be filtered at a rate of four times in a 24-hour period. Currently, the pool barely filters the water at a rate of three times in a 24-hour period. The Crockett Recreation Department was fortunate enough to receive a grant of \$207,144 from the East Bay Regional Parks District for this project from Measure WW funds. This project will replace the plumbing in the pool, filter and pump to meet state requirements for the filtration of the water. The pump will be a variable speed pump, reducing the amount of electricity used to operate the pump, which in turn will reduce operating cost. New LED lights will be installed in the pool which will also reduce the amount of electricity needed to operate the lights and reduce operating costs. The crumbling concrete deck around the pool will also be replaced. The chain link fence around the perimeter of the pool will be replaced to meet state requirements. New Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) swimming pool guidelines become mandatory in March 2012. To comply, handicapped accessibility will be improved by renovating the outside showers and the installation of a lift.

The Crockett Community Foundation generously granted \$336,000. The Crockett Community Services District also received a \$35,000 grant from Contra Costa County, District II, and a \$25,000 grant from the Dean and Margaret Leshner Foundation. ConocoPhillips donated \$5,000 and the Crockett Swim Team donated \$1,000. The pool staff held car washes to raise money for the project, and donations were received from indi-

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C.R.E.E.C. Spotlight Coast Live Oak

By Dr. Dean Kelch, Horticultural Consultant

Oak trees dominate many of the forests of North America and the Carquinez Strait Region is no exception. The coast live oak (*Quercus agrifolia*) is by far our most common tree locally. Its smooth gray bark and spiny, cupped leaves are a familiar sight on north-facing slopes and in valleys throughout the area. Coast live oaks can live for over 300 years. The acorns are borne in the fall and they provide an important food for wildlife such as wild turkeys, quail, jays, squirrels, raccoons and whitetail deer. They were also an important element in the diet of the Karkin Indians. Nowadays most of us think it's too much trouble to leach the bitter tannins out of acorn meal, but we are missing a nutritious and healthy food. Coast live oaks are facing a threat from Sudden Oak Death, a disease related to potato blight that has killed thousands of coast live oaks along the coast. This disease is present in Contra Costa County, but seems not to be as virulent as it is in cooler coastal areas. If you have a mature coast live oak in your yard, keep in mind that mature trees do not like summer watering.

Message from the President

In this first "message from the President," I thought it fitting to revisit the roots of the Crockett Community Foundation (CCF) and what the Foundation means to our communities. The Foundation's history and purpose promotes a characteristic that makes Crockett, Tormey, and Port Costa unique and amazing communities in which to live -- volunteerism of community members who see a need and give their time and energy to meet that need.

As many of you may know, the Foundation was created through the hard work of committed community members. When a Co-Generation (CoGen) plant was proposed to be built in Crockett, these citizens formed a committee to fight to ensure that the plant was safe, obtaining changes in the design of the plant to prevent accidents and better protect the community. This committee also negotiated for monies from the plant to come back to benefit the community for a period of 30 years. As part of the agreement, C&H Sugar, which receives energy from the CoGen plant, also agreed to fund the Community for 15 years, a commitment that officially ends this year (although we hope that C&H will nonetheless continue to support the Community in which it does business). After ConocoPhillips reneged on its promise to renegotiate in good faith its Good Neighbor funding commitment, the CoGen and C&H funds are now the mainstay of the Foundation.

After succeeding in retaining some of the CoGen and C&H funds in the community, the CoGen committee founded the Crockett Community Foundation to receive and expend such funds. The Foundation's mandate is to distribute these funds for the general benefit of the community. The Committee also stipulated that CCF Board members be elected by the community rather than appointed by our Contra Costa Councilmember, an arrangement which had been proposed to the community. Requiring that the community elect CCF Board members ensures that the Board will continue to be responsive to community needs. Given current County financial straits, this foresight has likely ensured that funding is retained in our communities.

In a country where people seem to be increasingly focused on their own needs and desires, Crockett, Tormey, and Port Costa citizens stand out for their volunteerism and commitment to the community in which they live. A majority of CCF's grant projects are initiated by community members who contribute their time and hard work to the community in a whole range of ways -- whether it is repair of the tennis courts, maintaining our parks and swimming pools, giving out scholarships, running community clean-ups, supporting our youth, beautifying our community, maintaining and improving our historical buildings, supporting our veterans, protecting our communities from fire, or hosting events that bring our community together, you will see citizens heading up each of these efforts. Funding assistance from the Foundation continues to help make these projects happen, especially in a time when County funds continue to shrink. This amazing partnership has been a true success. I am grateful to be a part of this community and this Foundation.

Danielle Fugere, President

Crockett Community Foundation Directors:

Cyndee Bogard (Secretary)
James Easterday (Vice President)
Danielle Fugere (President)
Dean Kelch
Erin Mullen-Brosnan (Treasurer)
Robert Muzinich
Emma Sutton (Chair)
Staff - Jeanne Owens

CCF News is printed in house now! Content and assistance for this issue generously provided by Cyndee Bogard, Danielle Fugere, Dean Kelch, Erin Mullen-Brosnan, Robert Muzinich, Jeanne Owens, Karen Peterson, Dan Robertson, and Ron Wilson.

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

Pictured left: Crockett Community Foundation 'past and newly elected' Board Members. Photo taken during the swearing-in ceremony at the January 2011 meeting. (Photo credit: Dan Robertson.)



CCF Board Approves Grants for New Community Projects

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

April 2011

Fundraising Assistance:

The Crockett Bass Club, \$1,000 to match \$6,017 raised during Crab Feed; **Crockett Lions Club**, \$1,000 to match \$ 1,342.45 raised during Corned Beef and Cabbage Dinner.

Microgrant:

Crockett Museum & Historical Society, Memorial Day Celebration \$800.

March 2011

Fundraising Assistance:

Carquinez Women's Club, \$1,000 to match \$1,760.36 raised during Dinner Raffle; **John Swett High School Football**, \$1,000 to match \$1,861 raised during Cookie Dough Sale.

February 2011

Fundraising Assistance:

Al Zampa Memorial Bridge, \$1,000 to match \$8,581 raised during Crab Feed; **Quilters of Crockett**, \$1,000 to match \$1,083.50 raised during Quilt Raffle & Bazaar; **John Swett Educational Foundation**, \$1,000 to match \$2,024.50 raised during Get Lucky Prom, **John Swett High School Football**, \$1,000 to match \$2,960 raised during PDP Fundraiser; **Crockett Museum & Historical Society**, \$978 to match \$978 raised during Night at the Museum.

January 2011

Fundraising Assistance:

John Swett PTSA, \$1,000 to match \$1,332 raised during Pancake Breakfast; **Carquinez Model Railroad Society**, \$829 to match \$829 raised during December Open House.

December 2010

Fundraising Assistance:

John Swett Educational Foundation, \$343.14 towards \$343.14 raised during E-Waste; **Crockett Boy Scouts**, \$1,000 towards \$2,388.29 raised during Mexican Dinner.

Microgrant:

Crockett Improvement Association, Free Concert \$1,000

Grants:

Crockett Public Services, Tree removal & trimming \$9,450; **St. Marks Church**, Hall Floor Replacement \$4,073.39; **John Swett Band Boosters**, Purchase Drums \$8,685.

November 2010

Fundraising Assistance:

CREEC, \$1,000 towards \$1,424.66 raised during Fall Plant Sale; **John Swett Athletic Boosters**, \$1,000 towards \$1,028.22 raised during Tri-tip & Pasta Dinner; **Crockett Fireman's Association**, \$1,000 towards \$2,385.64 raised during Spaghetti Dinner.

Microgrant:

Crockett Museum & Historical Society, Veterans Day Celebration \$670.

Thank you to all our community organizations, and those who sponsor them! For more information about upcoming community events and CCF's grant programs, please visit our website, www.crockettcommunityfoundation.org, or call our office at 510-787-9708.

Community Focus - POOL update (Cont'd from page one)

viduals and families.

The Crockett Community Foundation fosters volunteerism, and this project has certainly achieved that goal. Nick Lundberg from Pacific Painting volunteered to paint the structures at the pool and Kris Carlos volunteered to tile the outside showers.

Once the plaster was removed from the swimming pool, we were surprised to find that the shell was in very good shape after 45 years. There are only a couple of places where re-bar is exposed. The wading pool however, has significant problems. The bottom of the wading pool is crumbling, and will most likely have to be replaced. We don't know yet what the additional cost will be to repair the wading pool.

The project got a late start because it took six months to get the necessary permits from the building and health departments. The project should be completed mid June (weather permitting).

This project will result in a safer bathing environment for those who use the swimming pool. New equipment will be installed which will result in lower operating costs. The pool and deck will last another 50 years.



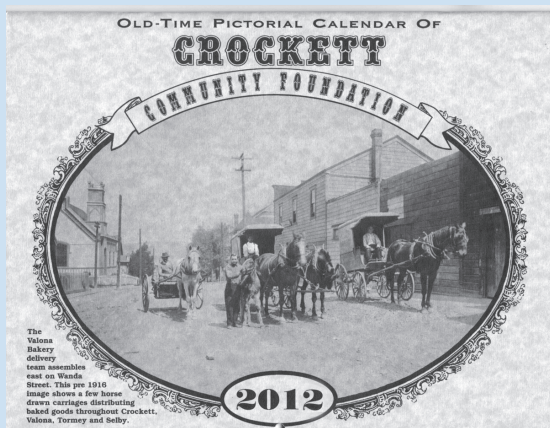
*Pictured: Coast Live Oak
(Photo credit: Doreen Smith.)*

SAVE THE DATE!
Crockett Community Foundation's
Annual Donor Event
January 14th, 2012

Crockett Community Foundation
P.O. Box 155
Crockett, CA 94525

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Become a CCF Member!



Did you know that the CCF is a membership organization? Your support is more important than ever, and individual memberships are just \$10 per year. Use the enclosed remittance envelope to join or renew today! Among the many benefits you will receive is admittance to our fun annual Donor Appreciation Event (see page three of this newsletter), as well as a limited edition Old Time Pictorial Calendar of Crockett (left). This calendar contains stunning images from Crockett's history, and is available now to all members at the CCF office. Please call 510-787-9708 for more information!

Learn more about CCF membership, our grants programs, and the many community events and capital projects we sponsor at www.crockettcommunityfoundation.org.