

CCF NEWS

THE NEWSLETTER OF THE
CROCKETT COMMUNITY FOUNDATION

Vol. 8, Number 2



Winter 2011

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

Community Focus - Keeping up with the Carquinez Women's Club



Above: The Old Homestead is the only building in Crockett that is listed on the California Register of Historic Places. This gem is maintained by the Carquinez Women's Club (CWC). The Crockett Community Foundation has supported the CWC by providing grants for the building's maintenance and improvement. Below right: Angela Reese of the CWC stands by the historic birdbath in the backyard of the Old Homestead. (Photo credits: Erin Mullen-Brosnan.)

By Erin Mullen-Brosnan

Each Crockett Community Foundation newsletter highlights one of the community organizations supported by CCF, the idea being to allow our readers to learn more about these organizations. I enjoy writing these articles because I am able to then see the spotlighted organization *in situ* and get a sense not only of the people involved but also visit some beautiful historic buildings around town. The Carquinez Women's Club (CWC) is no exception to this rule - their meeting place is one of the more special spots in town, the Old Homestead. It is Crockett's oldest building, built in 1867 by Crockett founders Thomas Edwards and family. CWC member Angela Reese met me at the Old Homestead, and showed me around. Her pride was visible as we viewed the grounds and interior. The members of the CWC are clearly devoted to the building, and have kept it looking wonderful throughout the years.

The Carquinez Women's Club is charged with maintaining the building, although it is still owned by C&H Sugar. (C&H does generally contribute to each facility project.) The building has been listed on the California Register of Historic Places since 1960, the only structure in our town with this distinction. The Old Homestead can be rented for meetings, receptions and other events. From May through October it is generally rented every weekend - amazing! The facility comes with tables and chairs, one of the selling points the CWC has capitalized upon. A recent grant from CCF will ensure that these items continue to be well cared for, with the creation of a new shed to store them in the backyard grounds.

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Message from the President

As the town gears up for the holidays, I wish each and every one of you a Happy Holiday Season!! This past year has been filled with activities and hard work. Local groups have had more fundraising events than ever to help fund their work. Town-wide events have taken place. Music has been enjoyed. Buildings have been improved. Plans have been made for improving the downtown area. The Memorial Hall is being renovated. Work has been done to improve the Fenceline monitoring system around the Conoco Phillips refinery, and so much more. Our largest project this year was the pool renovation. While other communities saw their pools close due to lack of funding, the Foundation was able to invest in this important community asset, ensuring more summers of fun and exercise. The Foundation also funded plans for work that will be occurring next year to improve the downtown area. The money to fund downtown improvements was set aside from the Unocal settlement, with the purpose of improving downtown Crockett. With this expenditure, the last of the funds from the settlement have been paid out.

As local businesses invest less in their communities, it is incumbent on the Foundation to plan very carefully for the future, with a special focus on maintaining support for the larger capital expenditures necessary to keep our town amenities in good repair. With this in mind, I have initiated a process to create improved guidance for the Board for investing in our Endowment fund, with the goal of balancing investment in current needs against future needs. This process acknowledges that our remaining funding source, the Return-to-Source monies, is scheduled to end in 14 years, with the Endowment being the only guaranteed source of income thereafter. We hope to ensure long-term support for the community including town events, investments in community-oriented historical buildings, fencing and lighting for public spaces, emergency equipment for sanitary systems, pool maintenance, library supplies, improvements to the Recreation Center, park projects, grants for school projects, and other investments that help maintain our towns as unique, safe, and beautiful places to live.

Although funding is important, the Foundation exists only to serve the community and the amazing people who volunteer their time and energy to make these projects happen. Each of you can and do make a difference in your community every day and the Board thanks you for your continued efforts. I also invite all of you to join our Foundation meetings the first Thursday of every month at the community center multi-purpose room to provide input to the Board and learn more about the many benefits volunteering can bring.

Danielle Fugere, President

CROCKETT COMMUNITY FOUNDATION DIRECTORS:

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

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Above: Michael Kirker (left) is sworn in as a CCF Director by President Danielle Fugere (right). (Photo credit: Dan Robertson.)

CCF Board Welcomes New Director

It was with a heavy heart that the Board of Directors accepted Cyndee Bogard's resignation from the Crockett Community Foundation's Board this past July. Moving out of Crockett has made her ineligible to serve in this position, but we are grateful for the considerable energy and earnest nature that Cyndee brought to the table in her shortened term as Board Member.

The CCF Board advertised for a new director, and two excellent candidates emerged, offering to finish Cyndee's term in office. Michael Kirker, Business Manager for the Crockett Community Services District and Manager of Port Costa PCSAN, was sworn in at the September Board meeting. Michael has lived in Crockett since the mid 1970s and attended John Swett High School. He also serves on the ConocoPhillips Community Advisory Panel, and on the boards of the Carquinez Vista Manor, as well as the Rodeo Hills Elementary PTA and On-Site Council. Michael sees great value in working to preserve the rich traditions of this beloved town – he sees the CCF as an important part of Crockett and would like to ensure its future success. He is especially interested in working to coordinate the local community groups, in order to have the greatest impact for the betterment of the whole community. We are glad Michael's "aboard"!

CCF Board Approves Grants for New Community Projects

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

May 2011 - Fundraising Assistance: The **Carquinez Middle School**, \$589.29 to match \$589.29 raised during their Basketball Shootoff; **John Swett Band Boosters**, \$1,000 to match \$7,019.74 raised during their Crab Feed.

June 2011 - Grants: **Crockett Boy Scouts**, \$2,163.07 for a park retaining wall Eagle Project; **Crockett Recreation Department**, \$7,550 for community entertainment; **Port Costa Conservation Society**, \$4,779 for the Port Costa School Centennial; **Crockett Community Services District**, \$21,312.92 for pumps for Port Costa; and **Crockett Chamber of Commerce**, \$5,175 for 2011 community special events. **Microgrants:** **West Contra Costa Meals on Wheels**, \$355.59 for Operation Outreach. **Fundraising Assistance:** **CREEC**, \$928 to match \$928 raised during their Spring Plant Sale; **Carquinez Model Railroad Society**, \$1,000 to match \$1,088 raised during their Open House; **Carquinez Model Railroad Society**, \$876 to match \$876 raised during the Town Wide Yard Sale; **Carquinez Women's Club**, \$1,000 to match \$1,540.31 raised during their Tea; **Crockett Swim Team**, \$1,000 to match \$2,190 raised during their Pizza Card sales. **Matching Grants:** **Crockett Community Services District**, \$5,638 to match \$5,638 raised during their Memorial Hall restoration drive.

August 2011 - Fundraising Assistance: **Crockett Boy Scouts**, \$1,000 to match \$5265.74 raised during their Fish Fry; **Crockett Improvement Association**, \$925.48 to match \$925.48 raised during their Paint Out; **Crockett Lions Club**, \$1,000 to match \$2,196.31 raised during their Pasta Feed; **Port Costa Conservation Society**, \$1,000 to match \$1,202.25 raised during their Art Show. **Matching Grants:** **Crockett Community Services District**, \$5,000 to match \$18,000 raised during their Walk of Honor Match Fund Drive.

September 2011 - Grants: **CIA/ROCK**, \$225,000 for Pomona Street improvements. **Fundraising Assistance:** **CREEC**, \$916.03 to match \$916.03 raised during their Summer Plant Sale; **Port Costa Conservation Society**, \$1,000 to match \$4,029.52 raised during their Car Show & BBQ; **Carquinez Middle School PTSA**, \$630 to match \$630 raised during their 8th Grade Promotion Party.

October 2011 - Fundraising Assistance: **Crockett Lions Club**, \$1,000 to match \$1,606 raised during the Town BBQ; **Crockett Swim Team**, \$1,000 to match \$1,966.68 raised during their Candy Sales; **John Swett High School Band**, \$1,000 to match \$1,250 raised during their Candy Sales; **John Swett Athletic Boosters**, \$1,000 to match \$2,669.06 raised during their Golf Tournament.

November 2011 - Fundraising Assistance: **Crockett Firefighters Association**, \$1,000 to match \$3,625.01 raised during their Spaghetti Dinner; **Carquinez Model Railroad Society**, \$320 to match \$320 raised during their Open House. **Microgrants:** **Senior Outreach Services** received \$1,000 for the senior nutrition program; **John Swett High School PTSA** received \$1,000 for Challenge Day at JSHS; **Crockett Recreation Department** received \$1,000 for new holiday-themed banners; **Crockett Lion's Club** received \$549 for the Loring Avenue Winter Block Party.

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 www.crockettcommunityfoundation.org, or call our office at 510-787-9708.



Two of the historic buildings supported by the CCF - the Port Costa School (above), and the Crockett Memorial Hall (right), which is undergoing renovations.. (Photo credits: Karen Peterson.)



Community Focus - Carquinez Women's Club (Continued from front page)

The Crockett Community Foundation supports the CWC because the organization provides volunteer (and educational) opportunities to the community, an important part of CCF's mission of fostering volunteerism. By partnering with the Crockett Community Foundation (which matched funds raised by various events), the CWC has raised an additional \$6,500 over the past five years alone. Since 1999, with the partial help of CCF grants, the CWC has done some extensive remodeling of the Old Homestead (including roof work, a handicap ramp, bathroom renovations, new windows and furniture in the sunroom, and a new stove for the kitchen).

The CWC was formed in 1914 by a small group of very active Crockett women, and the number now stands at about 80 members. The purpose of the Carquinez Women's Club is, "To promote the general welfare of the community, to promote and encourage the natural talents of its members, and to educate the members to a better understanding of the

responsibilities and privileges of citizenship." The CWC meets on the first Friday of each month, and provides a different featured speaker at each meeting. For social enrichment, members can go the monthly meetings or on outings. The group donates to local and national service organizations from the Senior Nutrition Center to the Multiple Sclerosis Society, and also offers scholarships to John Swett High School students, encouraging educational excellence.

Each year the board awards six or seven JSHS seniors with a scholarship for future studies. Money is raised for the awards by raffling off several gourmet dinners (held at the Old Homestead, of course), a luncheon/tea, and in 2012 a new event featuring hat-wearing TV/movie critic Jan Wahl, to be held on September 23, 2012.

For more information about the Carquinez Women's Club, call membership chair Diane Thomas 510-787-2644. New members are always welcome.

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Save the Date - A Magical CCF Donor Appreciation Event

It's almost time for the Crockett Community Foundation's annual donor appreciation event! Please join us for a magical evening on Saturday, January 14 from 5 to 8 PM at the Crockett Community Center, 850 Pomona Avenue in Crockett. Be dazzled, mystified and delighted by magic from Bay Area Magician Heather Rogers! Dinner, drinks and magic will be provided to all CCF members. Not a member? Memberships start at \$10 per person! RSVP by January 3, 2012 by calling 510-787-9708.

The Crockett Community Foundation truly appreciates its members for their ongoing support, and welcomes new members. The annual donor appreciation event is a fun way to learn more about the work of the CCF and our many wonderful local volunteer organizations. Join us!

