

# CCF NEWS

THE NEWSLETTER OF THE  
CROCKETT COMMUNITY FOUNDATION

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Spring/Summer 2014

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

## Community Focus - In Step with the JSHS Band Boosters



*The John Swett Marching Band keeps the beat with help from the JSHS Band Boosters (Photo credit: John Swett Music Department).*

If you have participated in Veterans Day events (held yearly down at the Crockett Museum) recently, you have had the additional pleasure of hearing amazing sounds from the John Swett High School (JSHS) and Carquinez Middle School (CMS) marching bands. The two bands, which share equipment and instructors (and formerly uniforms!), walk down Pomona Street all the way from Memorial Hall. The students end up at the Museum and play rousing patriotic songs once they arrive. The band also sends a group in December to live up the treelighting ceremony at the Community Center, and of course are a major presence at school athletic events and various band competitions.

It is truly wonderful for our community to be able to experience the results of the practices and hard work the students have put in all year long. Crockett Community Foundation board member Joanna Cassese was able to attend an evening concert in April, which showcased the different bands (marching, jazz, drum line, and more) and was a "thank you" for donors and friends. Joanna notes, "I was amazed to see and hear the talent coming from that gymnasium. Our young members of this high school performed a show that was way beyond anything I expected. From the instruments to the uniforms-the financial support has been returned 10-fold in terms of the pride we can feel knowing this group is performing at other schools and events. One day, with their help and other students like them, the question 'Where's Crockett?' may become a thing of the past."

The awesomeness of the JSHS/CMS band programs must be partially attributed to the John Swett High School Band Boosters (JSHSBB). This valiant group of parents, grandparents, alums, and other supporters are always in the background: chaperoning, straightening uniforms, encouraging, and above all, tirelessly fundraising. The Band Boosters must raise the money to pay for all of the various band/drumline/color guard coaches and teachers, which runs about \$1,500 a month. The school district only provides the director and transportation to events, and this year helped pay for new uniforms for the high school and middle school participants.

In order to afford the ambitious slate of competition and musical opportunities offered at John Swett High School and Carquinez Middle School, JSHSBB holds about 30 fundraising activities each year, including a popular crab

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### Help the CCF Create a Lasting Legacy

One of the important goals the Crockett Community Foundation strives for is to "encourage and assist donors to achieve their charitable outcomes." Yearly membership dues, workplace giving and memorial donations are not the only way to financially support the Foundation.

Remembering the Crockett Community Foundation in your estate planning is a powerful way to ensure that the many wonderful programs supported by the CCF will continue into the future.

If you would like to make a bequest or mention CCF in your will or living trust, please call the office for more information (510-787-9708).

## Message from the President

I have been enjoying the great weather along the Strait of Carquinez this month and I hope that you are enjoying it as well. We really do have some of the best weather in the world here. Many volunteer-led nonprofit organizations in town have been taking advantage of the nice weather to have events. The Crockett Community Foundation is always willing to help increase the success of these events through our Fundraising Assistance grants. These grants are just one of the ways we support the cultural life and promote service in our community.

The Foundation has had a steady stream of dedicated funds since its founding. CCF will continue to receive these funds for the next 10 years. Of course the Foundation has been working to ensure that it can continue improving and sustaining our community after the income stream ends. That is why we have an endowment. We have been building the endowment in order to continue the Foundation's work in perpetuity. Remember that you can help too. Restricted contributions to CCF can help build the future of our community by going straight to the endowment.

Another way to contribute to the mission is to run for the board of directors of the Crockett Community Foundation. This board is elected by our community and the meetings are open to interested community members. This makes CCF quite unique as foundations go. If you would like to play an active role in improving Crockett, Port Costa and Tormey, you can download an application from the Foundation website at [www.crockettcommunityfoundation.org](http://www.crockettcommunityfoundation.org). If you are a member of a nonprofit serving Crockett, Port Costa, or Tormey with a good idea that needs some funding, you can also download forms to apply for grants on the website as well.

2014 marks the 20<sup>th</sup> year of the Crockett Community Foundation. We will be having a celebration in the fall to commemorate this important milestone. Watch your mail for an invitation to this event. Lots of people from all the organizations and families in town will be there. See you there!

Kind Regards,

Dean Kelch, CCF President



### CROCKETT COMMUNITY FOUNDATION DIRECTORS:

Joanna Cassese  
Danielle Fugere (Chair)  
Norman Garza Black  
Dean Kelch (President)  
Michael Kirker (Treasurer)  
Erin Mullen-Brosnan (Vice President)  
Nancy Rieser (Secretary)  
Staff - Jeanne Owens

CCF News Editor and Designer:  
Karen Peterson

Content and assistance for this issue generously provided by Joanna Cassese, Sophia Ching Kinsley, Marianne Clark, Dean Columbo, Charles Dell, Chris Goehe, Erin Mullen Brosnan, Jeanne Owens and Lisa Robinson.

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## Crockett-Carquinez Firefighters Association Aims High

*The Crockett-Carquinez Firefighters Association (CCFA) is comprised of approximately 75 active Crockett-Carquinez Fire Department members and retirees. CCFA supports the firefighters and their families, as well as the Fire Department and Citizens of Crockett. Pictured left, a stalwart CCFA member uses a ladder truck to string lights on the Alexander/Edwards neighborhood Christmas tree, a service CCFA provides each year at no cost to our community. (Photo credit: Charles Dell)*



# CCF Board Approves Grants

Since April of 2013 there have been two cycles of grant funding, and three grant applications were approved.

**C**rockett REC was awarded \$9,675 (which paid for the three free concerts last summer), \$6,000 was given to the **Crockett Chamber of Commerce** (supporting the Sugartown Festival & Street Faire), and the **Port Costa Conservation Society** received \$10,425 for its community garden project.

Many nonprofits in our community have received much-needed funding through CCF's monthly microgrant and fundraising assistance opportunities, including the **Al Zampa Memorial Bridge Foundation**, **Carquinez Model Railroad Club**, **Carquinez Toy Train Operating Museum**, **Community Working Group**, **Crockett Bass Club**, **Crockett Carquinez Fire Association**, **Crockett Boy Scouts**, **Crockett Community Services District**, **Crockett Historical Society**, **Crockett Improvement Association**, **Crockett Library**, **Crockett Lions Club**, **Crockett REC**, **Crockett Swim Team**, **Crockett Women's Association**, **John Swett Athletic Boosters**, **John Swett Education Foundation**, **John Swett High School Band Boosters**, **John Swett High School Class of 2014**, **John Swett High School Drama Club**, **John Swett PTA**, **Port Costa Conservation Society**, **Quilters of Crockett**, and **St. Mark's Church**.

THANK YOU to our many partners!



CCF will be holding elections for four open board positions in December. The positions are for four year terms beginning January 2015.

The CCF Board distributes foundation funds for the benefit of the communities of Crockett, Port Costa, and Tormey.

If you are a resident of Crockett, Crotona, Valona, Tormey, or Port Costa; have lived within U.S. Post Office codes 94525 or 94569 for at least one year prior to December 5, 2014; are registered with the Contra Costa County Registrar of voters; and 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. Applications must be postmarked on or before July 31, 2014. (Photo credit: Marianne Clark)

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

feed. Former CCF board member Chris Goehe reminisces, "Where else can you hang out with friends and eat your weight in crab? The crab feed is always a fun event where friends and family can thank the band kids, simply by eating."

Sophia Ching Kinsley's high school-aged daughters have been marching in the band since middle school, and she joined JSHSBB in 2012 to make a difference, stating, "If I was going to events to see my kids perform, why not help out to make things run smoother? I felt it was a way to get to know the other band parents and to meet some of the kids my daughters knew."

Sophia served as Treasurer and is now Secretary, so she is well versed in all things booster! "We order and sell t-shirts, band jackets, bumper stickers and concessions at concerts and community events to raise money to pay for our year-round drumline and color guard coaches' fees, our summer band camp technicians' fees, the various competition fees, instruments, sheet music, and uniforms for the different performers. We work at our car washes, the monthly bingo fundraiser and count a lot of chocolate sales money! We solicit raffle basket donations for our annual crab feed fundraiser and many hands come together to make this special night happen. This summer we will be organizing a new annual fundraiser - our First Annual Battle of the Bands event at JSHS, to be held in January 2015."



JSHSBB President Lisa Robinson has been a booster for the past six years, acting as Treasurer and Parliamentarian before becoming President. "We have competition fees each year in addition to the expenses involved with feeding the kids at the competitions," she says. "We receive many generous donations from our band parents as well as from the local businesses and friends of the band." Her three children have all been band members, and luckily her youngest child will be in high school for a few more years, so her skills will benefit the JSHSBB for a while yet!

The Crockett Community Foundation has contributed \$23,000 to the band boosters since 1997, as well as given almost \$20,000 for musical instruments. The Band Booster Board of Directors this year includes Lisa Robinson (President), Irene Wright (Vice President), Sophia Ching Kinsley (Secretary), Heidi Carter (Treasurer), Robert Thomas (Parliamentarian), Vincent Pitzulo, and Dean Columbo. For more information visit [www.johnswettbandboosters.org](http://www.johnswettbandboosters.org) or attend their monthly meeting (2<sup>nd</sup> Tuesday of each month in the JSHS band room at 6:45pm).

Left: The John Swett Taiko Drummers is one of many musical groups supported by the JSHSBB. (Photo credit: John Swett Music Department).

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## Upcoming Crockett and Port Costa Events

**May 10** - Port Costa Community Garden "Bucket Brigade" at Port Costa School  
**May 15** - John Swett Band Boosters Bingo at the Scout Hall  
**May 16** - Crockett Boy Scout Fish Fry at the Scout Hall  
**May 17** - Veteran's Walk of Honor Fundraising Walk across the Carquinez Bridge  
**May 26** - Memorial Day at the Crockett Museum and music at Rithet Park  
**June 1** - John Swett Education Foundation Sweat for Swett 5K Fun Run (starts at Carquinez Middle School)  
**June 14** - Lions Club Pasta Feed at St. Rose Hall  
**June 19** - John Swett Band Boosters Bingo at the Scout Hall  
**July 4** - Free Crockett Rec Summer Concert at the Crockett Community Center (Lumberyard Band)  
**July 17** - John Swett Band Boosters Bingo at the Scout Hall  
**July 20** - Crockett Chamber of Commerce Sugartown Festival and Street Fair along Rolph Avenue  
**August 1** - Plein Air Paint Out Fundraiser for the Crockett Historical Society  
**August 17** - Free Crockett Rec Summer Concert at the Crockett Community Center (The Cheeseballs)  
**August 21** - John Swett Band Boosters Bingo at the Scout Hall  
**September 7** - Crockett Lions BBQ at the Old Homestead  
**September 14** - Carquinez Women's Club 100th Anniversary Tea and Fashion Show  
**September 18** - John Swett Band Boosters Bingo at the Scout Hall  
**September 20/21** - Port Costa Art Show, Craft Faire and BBQ at the Port Costa School  
**September 21** - Free Crockett Rec Summer Concert at the Crockett Community Center (The Unauthorized Rolling Stones)