Summer 2019 in Port Costa

Fourth of July: Port Costa-Style

Photos by Kristen Lucas

This year marked the 10th Anniversary of our town-wide July 4th celebration! The festivities began in the grassy yard next to the Port Costa Mercantile with a potluck and BBQ. Tom List generously grilled up burgers and hot dogs for attendees to enjoy and potluck participants brought phenomenal goodies to share with friends, family, and neighbors. From there, the funkiest (and arguably most fun) parade this side of the Mississippi began at the bottom of Canyon Lake Drive and was judged by town residents Jan MacKenzie, Spencer Sargent, and Michelle Bow. Prize winners were tough to choose, as all entries were spectacular! The parade flowed into the grounds of the historic Port Costa School, where Mitch Polzak, with his guitar, and Tom List, with his fiddle, played lively music for attendees to dance along to! The ever-coveted Port Costa Railroad-Spike Prizes were handed out to parade winners and the festivities continued into the night down by the waterfront, where fireworks from Benicia, Vallejo, Martinez, and beyond were visible. It was a fantastic celebration and a wonderful day to be in Port Costa!

2019 Port Costa Car Show & BBQ

Organized by Hilary Sheridan and supported by the PCCS and Crockett Community Foundation, this year's Car Show was a rockin' good time! The Car Show took place Sunday, August 4th from 10-4 and after months of careful planning and preparation, folks from far and wide gathered to share and view some truly gorgeous vintage vehicles. PCCS volunteers helped makes this event possible by securing envy-inducing raffle prizes, selling food, drink, and raffle tickets, managing parking, cooking and serving mouth-watering food (including pulled pork sandwiches and vegetarian chili), and of course, pouring up some icy cold beer and lemonade. This year's award winners were Marty Owens' 1955 Chevy Bel Air for "Best in Show", pictured at right, and Jerry Demartile's 1947 Willy's Camper Special for "Most Unusual", pictured at left.

New Security Cameras at the Port Costa School

The times they are a changing…

After several vandalism attempts- broken windows and burning our American flag on the front steps at the school- the Board decided to install security cameras that cover the outside perimeter.

The cameras are part of the Safety and Security Grant from the Crockett Community Foundation, given to us in 2018. The same grant made the back steps possible, as well as other major safety improvements inside the building.

Doggie Troubles on the School Grounds

Over the last several months, there have been a handful of incidents involving dogs on the school grounds. To address some of these issues, the PCCS has installed new security cameras, mentioned above, and chains the entrance gate open daily, to prevent any dog owners from closing it. As a friendly reminder, the playground and blacktop area are for **all** community members to enjoy, with children taking priority. Aggressive and unfriendly dogs should be kept on leash and the main school gate is to remain open and unlocked during daylight hours.

The PCCS is hopeful that the proposed upcoming Crockett Dog Park project will help alleviate some of the dog-related issues we have noticed at the school. The Crockett Dog Park committee submitted a grant application to the Crockett Community Foundation this Spring, which was subsequently approved in June. The grant is contingent on Caltrans' acceptance of the project and a lease for the property is finalized.

What's Happening with our Port Costa Museum & Archives Project

Nine months ago, the PCCS undertook the Port Costa Museum & Archives Project. Since then, a group of core volunteers and many guest contributors have scanned and archived over 2,000 artifacts and documents, hosted a Museum Open House in May, and logged over 550 hours of volunteer time.

We're currently archiving Theresa Jurik and Carol Palacio's collection of articles and other printed items about Port Costa; as we work, you'll inevitably hear one of us start laughing or say something like "I didn't know that" or "listen to this". Additionally, we are archiving and protecting over 100 mounted photographs of Port Costa's past that Dee & Lewis Stewart assembled for the Port Costa School Centennial Celebration. These photos will be significant parts of our Museum displays for years to come.

Archiving happens at the school on most Thursday mornings from 9am – noon and we invite you to join us! We have plenty of work and can have you trained in 15 minutes.

Michael Domagalski and Anne Mann cataloging photographs for the Museum display.

If you have questions, would like to volunteer, have items to donate, or would like to be on our mailing list, please email Dee Stewart or Suzanne Statler at PortCostaMuseum@gmail.com.

Coffee with Congressman Mike Thompson

Over the years the schoolhouse has been used for many purposes and it is always a special pleasure to host public events. On August 26th, we had the honor of hosting Congressman Mike Thompson for coffee. About 60 people from Port Costa, Crockett, Martinez, and Vallejo attended the event.

While enjoying Earl Flewellen's freshly brewed coffee, the congressman answered questions related to federal issues. No local subjects were addressed at this event. One of the biggest takeaways was how open and accessible Mike Thompson and his staff are. This is part of their policy and they encourage people to write and call with ideas or issues of any kind. You can find Mike Thompson's contact information listed below:

Mike Thompson
Member of Congress
420 Virginia Street, Suite 1C
Vallejo, CA 94590
(707) 645-1888

Peripatetic Players

The Peripatetic Players completed their summer show *Port Stories* at the end of June. Shows took place each weekend in June, with two shows each Saturday and one show each Sunday. The show was a site-specific, interactive experience which was inspired and influenced by Port Costa's history. The shows ran two hours, with the first half of the show taking place on the school grounds and the second half taking place downtown. *Port Stories* was a big success and we look forward to the Peripatetic Players' next production!

Idiot String and the Peripatetic Players have several upcoming Fall workshops and special events. Most workshops are open to the public and take place at the Port Costa School. The next two events are an "Expressive Movement and Drawing Workshop" on September 29, 12-3pm, and a "Site-Specific Creation Lab" on October 27, 12-3pm. More information about these and other events at **idiotstring.org**.

Summer/Fall 2019 Newsletter
Port Costa Conservation Society
PO Box 36, Port Costa, CA 94569

THE

PORT COSTA TALENT SHOW

IS IN THE WORKS!

We need your help to create the revival of this infamous fundraiser for the historic Port Costa School!

Volunteers are needed for: The Marketing Team, Stage Builders, Costume Advisors, Ticket Sales, Stage Manager, Sound Engineer, Photographer, Videographer, Face Painters, Day-of-the-Event Volunteer Team - and of course TALENT!

SAVE THE DATE

SATURDAY, JUNE 20, 2020

4:00 to 8:00 pm

Show starts @ 5:30

Get involved now!

Our 1st meeting is **Wednesday, November 13, 2019** at 7:00 PM

@ the Port Costa School (Canyon Lake Drive & Reservoir Street)

Contact Anne Mann - PortCostaTalentShow@gmail.com