Spring 2022 in Port Costa

Message from the Chairman

Well, as of this writing it looks like we are emerging from the cave of covid and into the sunlight. During the pandemic we had to cancel fundraisers, yoga class and weddings, lock down the playground for a while and conduct all our meetings on Zoom.

In spite of the slowdown some things still carry on. Weeds and grasses still grow profusely, most of the trees have flourished and are in need of pruning and we have worked diligently on the archives and museum. The building developed new leaks in the roof, alarm glitches and freezer repairs.

The Community Garden is still as popular as ever. We will be helping with the Town Wide Yard Sale in May. Our proposed partner, The Field Semester Program, has been doing their research and planning for a submission to the county. Soon you will be hearing about the status of their plan via a public meeting. The wheel turns regardless.

Photo by Janet Wood

It's a good feeling to be almost back in motion. We wish you good health because we'll need some muscle soon for that volunteer cleanup day!

Jeff Wilson, PCCS Chairman

PCCS Bylaws Update – Consider and Your Vote

The PCCS Bylaws have not been amended since 1996. Anne Mann has spearheaded the committee with Veronica Crane, Janet Wood and Suzanne Statler to study our Bylaws and propose changes that range from grammar to practical content. We've found there's a difference between Bylaws and a "Policy and Procedures" Manual and this is reflected in many of the proposed revisions.

At our Board Meeting on Monday, May 16, we reviewed and discussed the proposed changes. We will appreciate any comments or ideas. The vote to adopt the final changes will occur at the Board Meeting on June 20th.

The following is a summary of the noteworthy proposed changes:

- Add "Supporting Member" (non-voting PCCS friends – and children and dogs, too).
- Remove the specified membership fee.
- Clarify the Board of Directors election timeline including nominating committee and dates.
- Add: The Executive Board must consist of at least 4 out of 5 Port Costa Residents.

We welcome your input. To request a copy of the current Bylaws and proposed changes, please email pccs.portcosta@gmail.com. And see you at the June 20th Board Meeting.

PCCS Schoolyard Usage

The PCCS schoolyard is a special place for many here in town and surrounding areas. Recently a father with toddler and dog in tow were enjoying the swings, slide, and Jungle Gym. He commented that as a child he too played in the yard. Multi-generational enjoyment at its best! Not a day goes by without seeing families enjoy the schoolyard.

Recently a better understanding of PCCS liability regarding schoolyard use has dictated changes to our policy regarding dogs in the yard. We cannot be proper stewards of the historic Port Costa School if we leave ourselves open to potentially ruinous litigation.

In keeping with similar rules in public use areas and explicit County regulations it is now required that ALL dogs be on a leash no longer than 6 feet long at all times while in the schoolyard. No exceptions.

To clarify this change, a new sign will be posted at the entrance to the schoolyard:

Port Costa School Schoolyard Rules

- The schoolyard is closed to the public when the gate is shut.
- Dogs must be kept on a leash no longer than 6'.
- Always clean up after yourself and your dog. Bags and garbage containers are available at the main gate.
- Please be thoughtful as you enjoy our schoolyard.
- Dogs that are aggressive or dangerous are not allowed on the Port Costa Conservation Society property.

We will continue to keep the gate locked open throughout the day. This lets folks know the schoolyard is open for public use and enjoyment. We welcome all, and ask that all abide by the posted rules.

Port Costa Museum & Archives Project

To date, the Port Costa Museum has archived over 1500 Port Costa-related documents, photos and artifacts into a searchable database. During the COVID shut down, Michael Domagalski gathered and categorized over 40 years of Port Costa Conservation Society documents that include everything from the Time Oil original land deed to school building plans.

We have answered inquiries from researchers, authors and students. And love sharing our history. Are you interested in a Port Costa historic walking tour? Email Suzanne - PCCS.PortCosta@gmail.com

Skip Dodge & Gregory Gazaway donated their collection of 23 Sock Monkeys to our Museum. These were created by Port Costa's Hazel Tobin in the 1970 and 80's and sold at her shop just inside the Warehouse Café. True Town Treasures!

Community Garden Update

After two early spring community weeding days, Cathy Sands kindly has lent us her goats to help clear the tall weeds outside the garden. If you missed one of the scheduled weeding days, please do feel free to weed any of the common areas in the garden. We keep a small journal in the community Seed Sharing Library for everyone to track their volunteer weeding hours for us to report back to PCCS to help them track volunteer hours from the entire community. You do not need to be a member of the garden to volunteer weeding hours or use the Free Seed Sharing Library, we appreciate any help!

In April, garden member Alicia Johnson had a very sweet Sunday afternoon birthday garden party. Both members and non-members mingled with bubbles and macarons made by new garden member Alisha Gard.

For garden members, we are collecting dues now for the current year ahead. If you are not a member and interested in learning more, please reach out to shellerclark@gmail.com or rachelstanich@gmail.com

Port Costa Events supported the PCCS!

Port Costa was host to two memorable events - March 26th was the 1st Annual Grassroots Bluegrass Gathering. Over 150 came to Port Costa for an afternoon of down home music. PCCS accepted a $570 donation from the generosity of the Bands, proceeds from the Port Costa walking tour and other donations!

The revival of the April Fools Day Bike Race – Crockett to Port Costa on April 2nd was great fun. And we were surprised when the proceeds from the T-Shirt sales (over $400) were donated to the PCCS!

Thank you to all who support the PCCS / Port Costa School, Look at where 30+ years has brought us!

PCCS Volunteers in Action!

There's nothing better than working together to build connection and community! On our Volunteer Day at the School on May 14th, we did a major cleanout. Thanks to Jeff Wilson, Anne Scheer, Anne Mann, Dee Stewart, Janet Wood, Sheller Clark, Suzanne Statler and Tom List, Robin & Rye Nazarian and Amy & Rob (and son). What a difference we made!

Then Monday (5/16) was the Green Waste Bandit Wood Chipper Day at the School ball field. Thanks to an efficient crew from the County and our ACE volunteers, we got through it all by 10:05 – 2 hours! Volunteers: Jeff Wilson, Anne Scheer, Anne Mann, Suzanne Statler, Luigi Barassi, Spencer Sargent, Janet Tatterson, Tim Humann, Dad Chris and Lemon LoBalbo-Shima plus our newest resident Billy Martini! Yes indeed, connections were built!

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