Annual Port Costa Holiday Party
December 7th, 2022

It was sure merry & bright at the Port Costa School when Santa Claus came to town! This year everyone met in the schoolyard on a beautiful crisp evening for the lighting of our flagpole Christmas tree. Then, for the first time, the Christmas Pot-Luck was held in the Auditorium. There was lots of room for food and conversation and space for kids to spread out. Laurie Beauchemin's "12 Days of Christmas" got everyone going with pipers piping and squatting French hens. And then Santa arrived. Over 30 children anxiously awaited their time on Santa's knee and the special gift he had for each one!

Huge thanks to Sarah Louise (*pictured far left*) & Tim Humann and Santa. Plus David Chamberlin for setting up the lights (*pictured below, left*), Anne Mann and Janet Wood for leafletting the town and for all the community members who brought food and good cheer to this memorable evening!

Thank you to the Crockett Community Foundation

We want to thank the Crockett Community Foundation for their support on some important projects here at the Port Costa School and Museum. Our exterior lights had failed at every corner of the building and the main front entrance light was intermittent at best. Thanks to a CCF Grant, we were able to install new wiring and fixtures. The main light required a 40' Boom lift to replace the light bulb.

Additionally, the Museum is working on displays that have been funded plus our ancient archiving computer has been replaced with two new workstations and a printer.

Thank you again to the CCF!

Kick up your Heels – Dance Classes at the School

Swing Dancing: Last year, Scotty Hawkins (you know Scotty, he's the bartender at the Warehouse with the straw hat and Wesley his handsome little white mop of a dog?!!) started offering Swing Dance Classes in the Auditorium at the School.

It happens most **Thursday evenings starting at 7:00 PM.** Swing Dancing Classes are offered to PCCS members for just a donation to the PCCS. All skill levels are welcome - come alone or with a partner! To add your name to the email list, email your contact info to Scotty13@sbcglobal.net.

Ballet Classes: We are very happy to announce Joan Burke will be teaching Ballet in the School Auditorium on **Monday mornings from 10AM – Noon.** Joan was a Professor of Dance at Diablo Valley College and is looking forward to welcoming PCCS Members (old and new) to this adult class. We hope to schedule children classes in the future! Please contact Joan at burkefly@gmail.com for any questions or details.

Field Semester Update

We are looking forward to the benefits to the school that will result from our relationship with The Field Semester. Improvements that have been on the wish list for years include:

- Upgrades to the kitchen and auditorium
- Finishing of the school interior
- Heating and air-conditioning
- An upstairs bathroom
- A shed for the historic fire engine and other equipment
- Improved parking
- New entrance gates

The kitchen will be expanded and remodeled to serve meals to the attending students. As a result the school will have a fully functional kitchen available for use for town activities. We will be able to prepare and properly serve food and beverages ranging from small groups to large events. The auditorium will be ready for events with HVAC, sound, and an adjacent small catering kitchen. The interior ceilings and walls will be plastered and painted.

It is satisfying to take steps toward the goal of preserving our historic Port Costa School, while also making it fully functional and attractive for the community's enjoyment.

PCCS Membership Renewal

We hope all who receive this newsletter will continue supporting the PCCS with your Membership enrollment and payment.

This past Fall we made a few updates to our bylaws around membership. The Port Costa Conservation Society now has three levels of membership:

1) **Founders and Lifetime Members -** enjoy a life-time membership with no annual dues

2) **Full Members** –these are active members who have voting status ($15)

3) **Supporting Members** – non-voting friends of the Society, including members' children whom they wish included ($10)

All Founders, Lifetime, and Full members of legal voting age are eligible to vote.

Membership renewals are due no later than **March 20, 2023** and you must be current to vote in the April election. Thank you for being a part of this vital community endeavor at the school.

Port Costa Museum & Archives Project Update

At the Port Costa Museum, we're ramping up for our next archiving project. Michael Domagalski has just completed cataloging and storing all PCCS minutes and materials dating back to the inception in 1978. The next project is archiving a large collection of materials that have been donated to the Museum.

If you are interested/able to be a part of the volunteer archiving team, it's fun and rewarding. We typically work on Thursday mornings from 9am to 12:30pm at the School. Or if you'd like to be involved on another day or with displays, social media, become a docent or research, please contact Suzanne Statler at PortCostaMuseum@gmail.com or (415) 531-0432.

Save the Date:
Grassroots Bluegrass Gathering
Fundraising Festival - Saturday March 25th, 2023, 12-6PM

The 2nd Annual Grassroots Bluegrass Gathering will be held at the Port Costa School on Saturday, March 25th, 2023 from 12 to 6 PM as a fundraiser to support the historic Port Costa School & Museum. Cost is $20 Adults / $10 ages 12-21 / Free under 12

Headliner bands include the Bloomfield Bluegrass Band, Blue & Lonesome, Steve Hutchinson & the East Bay Railway Band and Port Costa's own Mitch Polzak & Friends. Plus **Bluegrass Jam sessions** for all skill levels - the experienced picker to those who are new to the homegrown sound – so bring your instrument and join in!

Food, Beer, Wine, Soft drinks will be available. Vendors and a Raffle, too!

If you would like a vendor booth ($30), to be featured as a Sponsor in the Program ($75-$200), and/or to volunteer – please call Suzanne Statler at (415) 531-0432 or email her at GrassrootsBluegrassGathering@gmail.com.

February 2023 Newsletter
Port Costa Conservation Society
PO Box 36, Port Costa, CA 94569
pccs.portcosta@gmail.com

PCCS Board Meetings are held the 3rd Monday of every month, **7pm**, at the Port Costa School

Membership Renewal and Upcoming Election

Enclosed with this newsletter you will find a form to renew your PCCS membership. Some of you have already done that and we thank you! We appreciate your donation, membership, and ongoing support!

Every other year it is election time for the PCCS Board. We have five board members and two of these seats are up for election. Incumbents Michael Domagalski and Anne Mann are up for election and both plan to run for another four-year term. Please do not let that discourage you; if you or someone you know wants to run, please present your nominations during the next Board meeting, **Monday February 20th at 7pm**, or submit in writing prior to the meeting. Individuals must be current Full, Lifetime, or Founding members to be eligible for nomination, and self-nominations are accepted.

If nominations are received other than the two incumbents, an election will be held at the regular April Board meeting. A ballot will be mailed to all current voting members of the PCCS by March 31st. This is why it is very important that you get that membership renewal in ASAP!

For more information or to submit nominations, please contact Veronica Crane, vrcrane@yahoo.com, or Janet Wood, pcgoldns@comcast.net.

Bingo Night in Port Costa

Having these Bingo Nights in Port Costa has really added to the fun of living in the Port Costa and Crockett community. And having the event move indoors to the school auditorium made PCCS so proud of being a part of it.

For the first indoor Bingo Night, Sarah Louise Humann and Grace Dare made PCCS the beneficiary of the profits and handed us a check for $1,041. This was greatly appreciated in a month with property taxes due.

Thank you SO much to these two great women!