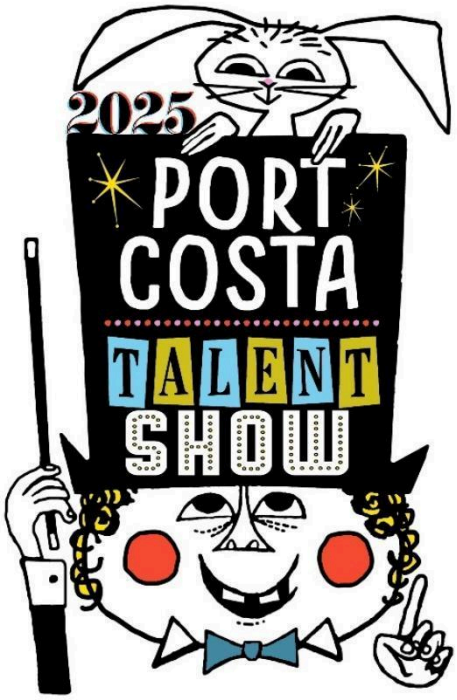
Port Costa Talent Show

SAVE THE DATE



Saturday, September 13, 2025

12 Noon – 4:30 PM

Show starts at 1:30

A Fundraiser at and for the Port Costa School

Got an idea for an act? We've got a stage!
V**olunteers** help make this show a fun fundraising event!
Email us at: PortCostaTalentShow@gmail.com

July 2025 Newsletter
Port Costa Conservation Society
P.O. Box 36
Port Costa, CA 94569

Port Costa Conservation Society
July 2025
PCCS Newsletter

Chairman's Message – Jeff Wilson

At the last Board Meeting I announced my retirement from the PCCS Board. I feel the Schoolhouse is in good hands with the present Board including Sheller Clark who will be taking my place as a board member.

Sheller has worked hard, along with our neighbor Rachel Stanich, to make the community garden something that really stands out as an ongoing success. Her energy and ideas will help the Conservation Society move forward in the post-covid world we find ourselves in.

This year Darryl Lavender has shown what dedication and volunteerism is about. He has worked countless hours maintaining the field and playground to a high standard. His work is much appreciated as well. These are people who can see a future for the schoolhouse that is not just a static dream of an imagined past. It is true that Port Costa can be a "magical" place. But if magic is performed without sharing it's not really magic is it?

I plan on working with PCCS on a different level as I step down from the Board. There is a lot of boring maintenance the building needs and my goal is to make these easier for the future Board to handle so they can focus more on the future and fun stuff we all enjoy. Thank you for all your support and I wish you well.

Celebrating 35 years of Port Costa School Stewardship

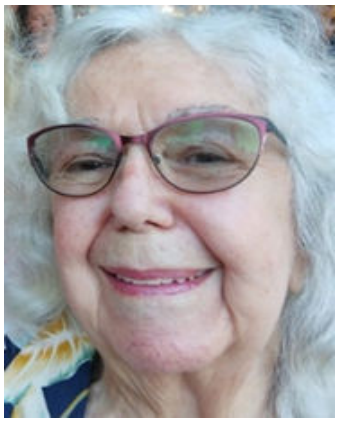
On January 17, 1990, the Port Costa Conservation Society took title to the Port Costa School building and surrounding 2.2 acres after raising $13,500 for the purchase. PCCS was fully aware of the daunting journey it was embarking upon.

By this time the 1911 building was dilapidated and needed a new roof, windows were broken, paint was peeling, and it did not meet earthquake or electrical safety standards.

At the time, PCCS leadership envisioned a playground, a museum, a nature center, and a place for retreats. And especially maintaining it as the town's only public meeting place. Grants, memberships, donations, building rental and endless volunteer hours have brought the building this far.

Here's to the next 35 years!

Remembering Dee Stewart - a tireless contributor to family and community



Ruth Diane "Dee" Stewart passed away at her Port Costa home surrounded by loving family and friends on November 19, 2024.

Dee's involvement in town has shaped much of what we love about living here. She moved to Port Costa in March of 1970. She had been drawn to the spirit here and quickly became a part of the heartbeat of town. Sometime around 1978, Dee and Lewis Stewart (1934-2018) found each other. They soon moved into the Bait Shop, bought their home at 9 Prospect Avenue, and later married.

Many of us have volunteered at School events in town over the years. At the center of any event, you would find Dee and Lewis Stewart. They were the key orchestrators of the Port Costa Talent Shows. Car Shows. Art Shows. Work Parties. 2011 School Centennial Celebration.

Dee was on the Board of Directors for the PCCS serving as Secretary, Treasurer and Grant Writer. She was a mighty force bringing us together around the worthy cause of restoring the School and building community in the process. Dee's Memorial was held on July 19th at the Port Costa School. She is dearly missed.

Supervisor Shanelle Scales-Preston comes to School

In May our new County Supervisor requested a meeting with the PCCS Board to learn about Port Costa, the historic School, and to listen to our perspective regarding sharing space in the School with The Field Semester (TFS). She had earlier met with a group in Port Costa who oppose the County approving use of the school.

As The Field Semester continues to work through the approval process with the County and sewer access with the Crockett Community Services District, Supervisor Scales-Preston said she wanted to understand the impact of the project before the land use approval was brought to a vote.

In the Supervisors newsletter, she reported after our meeting that she came to “listen, observe, and continue due diligence by hearing directly from stakeholders who support the school’s restoration and use."

2025 PCCS Board of Directors

In the April Board election, the 3 Board members up for re-election ran unopposed. With the July retirement of Jeff Wilson, following Society bylaws the Board voted to appoint Sheller Clark to fill the vacant seat. Janet Wood, Chairperson; Suzanne Statler, Vice-Chair; and Sheller Clark, Financial Secretary will serve the 4 year term ending in April 2029. The terms of Treasurer Anne Mann and Secretary Michael Domagalski end in 2027.

Port Costa Community Garden Grows Community Roots Through Local Collaboration

The Port Costa Community Garden continues to thrive thanks to the generosity and support of neighboring small businesses and dedicated volunteers. At this year’s Port Costa Townwide event, the garden partnered with Lucia’s Craft Sandwiches of Crockett for a special fundraiser that brought together fresh food and community spirit.

The garden also collaborated with Grateful Gardens, a Crockett-based landscaping business owned by Wendy Dutton. Wendy has been an important volunteer with the garden and her commitment recently grew even further when her team was hired to complete major interior path improvements.

Many thanks to the Crockett Community Foundation for their continued generous support of the Garden and PCCS. Their grant made these wonderful improvements possible. These partnerships are a reflection of the strong community values in Port Costa and Crockett. Local businesses and volunteers are helping to sustain the garden not only as a green space, but also as a gathering place where connection and care take root.

For information about supporting or volunteering with the Port Costa Community Garden, please reach out to portcosa community garden@gmail.com

Port Costa Museum & Archives Project

Our collections are now searchable online!

For the past year, the Museum team has been busy organizing and archiving over 25 banker boxes of donated documents and artifacts relating to Port Costa’s recent and long past history.

We were accepted as a contributor to the Online Archives of California (OAC). This statewide database houses museum, library, and private collections of historical significance. The searchable database uses description and key words as “Finding Aids” when searching either via Google or directly on their website https://oac.cdlib.org/.

For example, in the search box type “Port Costa Milling Company” and you can view the summary of our collection. Now anyone interested in viewing our collection can see what we have and choose to contact us.

Archivist Jenny Fosket and Intern Sam Vincent

A few things –

- Donations - If you discover pieces of Port Costa history, we hope you’ll consider donating it.
- Volunteers - We meet at the Port Costa School on Wednesdays. We need display designers, video editors, history researchers/writers, archivists and people to lead town / school tours as “docents”.
- Walking Tours – Contact us to schedule a walking history tour of Port Costa and/or the Port Costa School. All tour donations go to the restoration of the Port Costa School.

Contact Suzanne Statler at PortCostaMuseum@gmail.com

The School has been busy…

Bingo, Ballet, music practice, Yoga, Stretch Class, Movie Nights, 2nd Sunday at the School Coffee & Conversation, 4th of July BBQ and Pot Luck, Pickleball, new handrails, Volunteers, Townwide Yard Sale… Volunteers have been amazing here at the School. Too many to print them all – but here are a few

Darryl Lavender has been the chief caretaker of the schoolyard. When you drive by the School, pause and appreciate his dedicated work.

Victoria Ryan has lovingly tended our historic rose garden. The garden is along the side of the School that faces Canyon Lake Drive and most rose bushes were donated in honor of a loved one who passed.

Tom List keeps the engines up and running on the tractor and push mower.

Our Spring Work Party was wildly productive – and fun to work together!

Our Monday Ballet Ladies (and husband) cleaned the upstairs Floors with Murphys Wood oil and lots of elbow grease!

Tim Humann installed blackout blinds and he does so much more.

1st timer volunteers, Lauren Thomas and Andy Lambert braved the "fragrance" of spray paint to mark PCCS on all our new tables and chairs purchased thanks to a grant from the Crockett Community Foundation.

More things to report…

Logan Wong is our Community Garden Intern this Summer. He contacted the PCCS with a plan to volunteer for high school credit. For his project, he's reviving the compost bins which had become unusable. **Janice and Marcel Wong** were volunteers on his first day making a good dent in the project. More people can get involved and help him make this a successful project.

Logan will be sharing more with us on composting - so stand by!

For 3 Saturday nights, Katherine Ghannam and Anne Mann hosted Movie Night in the School Auditorium. We thank the Crockett Community Foundation for the rant to rent and run the movies.

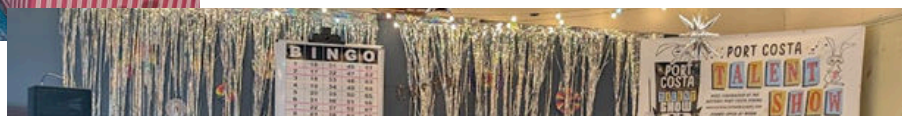
The popcorn machine was able to keep up with demand and a good time was shared by all.

Special thanks to Sound Engineer, **Spencer Sargent** for filling the room with the sound from Paddington Bear, Raiders of the Lost Ark and Casablanca!

Laurie Beauchemin was a huge part the PCCS successful day for the May Townwide Yard Sale.

We had so many volunteers…staffing the parking lot, signing in vendors, restocking the bathroom, and selling PCCS merchandise. We thank the Crockett Community Foundation for their matching grant.

Still more updates…



Sarah Louise and Gracie Dare continue to support non-profits in our area by hosting once a month Bingo games on the 2nd Tuesday. Doors open at 5:30. The evening supports groups including the Volunteer Fire Fighters, Crockett Swim Team, the Library, and the PTA.

2nd Sunday at the School continues to attract neighbors and visitors to town who stop in for coffee, pastry and conversation. Some enjoy a puzzle table and art projects for people of all ages.

Next 2nd Sunday is August 10th from 10 AM to 2 PM. You're invited to stop in!

We have a new **Pickleball** Court!
The portable net is left out (for now) with the bag of balls and Paddles. A grant from CCF made it possible for us to have this pickleball fun!

Tom List was again the Grill Master at our Annual 4th of July BBQ and Potluck. The 1933 Studebaker Fire Truck and 1940 Chevy Pick-up paraded closed Canyon Lake Drive!