



# Carmichael Creek Neighborhood Association, Inc.

Est. 1986  
www.carmichaelcreek.org

THE CARMICHAEL CREEK NEIGHBORHOOD ASSOCIATION, INC. (CCNA) WAS FORMED IN 1986 FOR THE PURPOSE OF PROTECTING OUR NEIGHBORHOOD'S SEMI-RURAL ENVIRONMENT AND ADDRESSING RELATED NEIGHBORHOOD CONCERNS. YOUR MEMBERSHIP IS IMPORTANT FOR THE CONTINUED SUPPORT OF THESE EFFORTS.

- Purpose: To preserve open space, a semi-rural residential character and the quality of life within the Carmichael Creek Neighborhood Preservation Area through participation in community-wide issues and other means.
- Membership: To be a voting member, you must be at least 18 years old, live within the CCNA Neighborhood Preservation Area (NPA), and pay dues. Those living outside the NPA may be non-voting members.
- Boundaries (NPA): From the corner of California Avenue and Sutter Avenue; east on Sutter Avenue to its end; further east on an extension of the line of Sutter Avenue to San Juan Avenue; south to the American River; southwest along the west side of the American River to Stanley Avenue; west on Stanley Avenue to California Avenue; and north on California Avenue to Sutter Avenue. Properties fronting upon or having access to either side of Sutter Avenue and Stanley Avenue, and properties fronting upon or having access to the east side of California Avenue and the west side of San Juan Avenue and of the American River are included.
- Dues: The annual membership dues, payable October thru December, are \$20.00. Members of the same household make one annual dues payment.
- Annual Meeting: An annual meeting for the election of the Board of Directors and the transaction of general business is held each year. The first annual meeting was held in 1988. The Board of Directors may schedule other general membership meetings as necessary.
- For more information, call Anne Berner at 944-1042.

.....(clip and mail).....

## CCNA MEMBERSHIP FORM

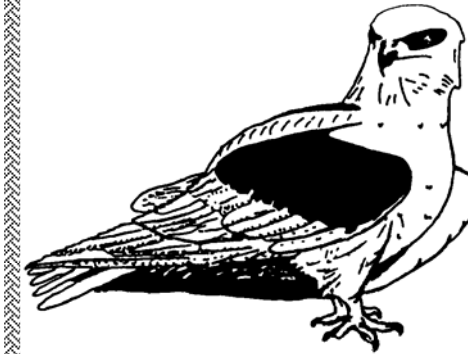
Name(s): \_\_\_\_\_ Phone: (day) \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_ Phone: (evening) \_\_\_\_\_

If you would like CCNA announcements sent to you via e-mail, please provide your e-mail

address: \_\_\_\_\_

Make \$20.00 check payable to: **CCNA, Inc.** and mail to: CCNA Membership, c/o Anne Berner, P.O. Box 1902, Carmichael, CA 95609.



# CARMICHAEL CREEK Neighborhood Association, Inc. Newsletter

VOL. 16, Winter 2008

Est. 1986

## Annual Meeting

November 13, 2008

7:00 P.M.

Carmichael Library Community Room

### Speakers:

**Susan Peters**- County Supervisor,  
3<sup>rd</sup> District  
**Community Councils - Local Land Use  
Decisions and You, Fair Oaks Blvd.  
etc.**

**Steve Nugent**, General Manager,  
Carmichael Water District  
**Aerojet groundwater contamination  
and correction measures, meters,  
etc.**

**Jack Harrison**- Administrator,  
Carmichael Recreation and Park  
District  
**Sutter Park Plans**

Refreshments will be served  
www.carmichaelcreek.org

## Letter from the President

You Don't Know What You've Got 'Til It's Gone

By Richard Humphrey

When I took the post of president last year, one of my thoughts was whether I would find anything to write about in the annual letter. Not to worry, we live in interesting times! It has been a busy year for Carmichael Creek Neighborhood Association with challenges, losses and a few wins.

We were touched by the loss of one of our most interesting and eclectic members, Frank Weisman. Frank owned and operated 'The Cabinet Studio' in Carmichael, designing and building custom kitchens. We were extremely pleased to hear that his wife Joyce will continue operations at The Cabinet Studio.

Frank was an award winner in furniture design. More than a superb woodworker, he was many things, such as an artist, musician, home builder, friend to everyone he met and especially an old flower child at heart. He was one of those rare people I feel lucky to have known. He lived life large.

Another quite unexpected loss was that of our namesake, Carmichael Creek. It's gone dry! This is something not even the long time residents can recall happening.

(Continued on page 2)

## President's Letter (from page 1)

This may be the result of maintenance at Carmichael Water District finally catching up with all the leaks in an old rusty water main that runs under the creek. The long dry summer hasn't helped either. Whatever the cause, it's been traumatic seeing the creek go dry. The wildlife has had to move on. Where are the ducks, beaver, frogs, fish and the rest? If you're skeptical about climate change, it's happened right here in our backyards on a microscopic level. Who's next?

In the win some, lose some department, there may finally be some action in getting undeveloped parks completed and open for us to enjoy.

The Carmichael Recreation and Parks District (CRPD) is moving forward with plans to start work on Sutter Park along Sutter Avenue. A vacant lot for decades, it features the Carmichael Community Garden and not much else beyond dry grass and thistles. There is one stunning deodar cedar near the street, but outside the garden it's pretty rough.

CRPD has envisioned a picnic area with some turf, a play area, some walking paths and parking. Sutter Park would be joined with Jensen Gardens. The downside to the plan is paying for it. CRPD hopes to surplus and sell some of the park acreage to pay for the development work.

CCNA members were involved in the last development plan for Sutter Park. They came up with a relatively simple open space park design which unfortunately was never acted on. No money!

Once again we've been closely following this issue. We may get a park out of this eventually, but it certainly won't be what was envisioned years ago. It will be much smaller and more of a text book design.

The big challenge of the year was a direct threat to the NPA ordinance. The development request asked for a variance to create several lots beyond what the current zoning permitted. A very organized, highly vocal and visible grass roots effort eventually prevailed in favor of the NPA ordinance.

It is not the goal of the CCNA to stop development. We'd all like to see the community grow and mature to its full potential and best use, as long as it is consistent with the guidelines set forth by the NPA ordinance and the Carmichael Community Development Plan. "Just follow the rules" is all we ask.

What's on the horizon? There will always be that next development challenge. Indeed, there's always something going on in this community. Besides the park, there's the next phase of the Fair Oaks Boulevard improvement project. Something needs to be done about traffic on neighborhood streets and creek restoration is a possibility. There's always a need for more neighbor involvement. As the title says you don't know what you've got. After it's gone is not the time to get involved. Carmichael is a very unique place to live and grow. We need to preserve what we've got.

## Wildlife

By Walter Yost

One of the great benefits of living in the semi-rural Carmichael Creek neighborhood is our proximity to such a variety of wildlife.

We share this beautiful area with deer, wild turkeys, possum, raccoons, coyotes, western gray squirrels, raptors and other birds.

But most of us also find ourselves on occasion, having to deal with injured or sick wildlife. I had a rather bizarre experience recently that reminded me how much - or how little - I know about caring for wildlife.

Amanda and I were driving home from a dog walk at Carmichael Park at dusk when something flew in the driver's side window and smacked me hard on the side of the head. (Continued on Page 4)

## A VISION FOR THE FUTURE

(Continued from Page 3)

two-mile stretch of Fair Oaks Boulevard beginning at Oak Avenue to Manzanita Avenue at Winding Way to the north and west on Fair Oaks Boulevard to Marshall Avenue. The Corridor Plan will direct private development and will establish priorities for public investments such as roadway improvements along Fair Oaks Boulevard. The Corridor Plan creates a future vision by reinventing Fair Oaks Boulevard as a "beautiful boulevard" with vibrant business districts serving the commercial and social needs of the surrounding neighborhoods.

On December 17<sup>th</sup>, the draft Corridor Plan will be presented at the Old Foothill Farms-Carmichael

Community Council. The Board of Supervisors will be asked to begin environmental review of the Corridor Plan in January 2009. The environmental review process is expected to take a year to complete. With any luck, the Board of Supervisors will approve the final Fair Oaks Boulevard Corridor Plan in 2010. With the completion of the planning process and a final plan, Carmichael's long-term vision for Fair Oaks Boulevard may with time become a reality. Until then a small group of neighbors and friends will continue to do their part. Early one-weekend morning every few months they will put on their work gloves and head out to clean the trash off our main street. The next clean up day is expect to occur this coming April. Can we count on you to help?



Artistic rendering from Fair Oaks Boulevard CAC presentation - Race Studio

## Sutter Park Plan

By Doug Williams

The Carmichael Recreation and Park District Advisory Board approved the Sutter Park Development Plan on October 23<sup>rd</sup>. The plan calls for picnic areas, a tot and school age play area, an open play area, an improved paved parking lot, and improvements to access. Walking paths will run throughout the park and will link Sutter Park to Jensen Gardens.

The plan is currently being financed by selling off almost 7 acres of the park. The hope is that land values will improve sufficiently to allow less land to be sold, but the current plan authorizes the sale of 6.9 acres.

If you attended one of the Sutter Park Workshops, the final plan has changed significantly. Come to the CCNA Annual Meeting to view the final plan and get an update from Carmichael Recreation and Parks District Administrator Jack Harrison.

## ELECTIONS: Board of Directors

CCNA members elect a 10 to 15 member Board of Directors and four alternates at the Annual Meeting. Directors are expected to attend of the monthly meetings. Alternates are encouraged to attend as often as possible. All CCNA Board meetings are open to members, interested neighbors and guests. Meetings are currently held at the Carmichael Library Community Room. The Nominating Committee has proposed the following slate for the board, but nominations will be gladly accepted from the floor at the Annual Meeting.

|                |                    |
|----------------|--------------------|
| Kyle Anderson  | Anne Berner        |
| Peggy Berry    | Lora Cammack       |
| Sharon Doughty | Sandie Dunn        |
| Sandy Helland  | Richard Humphrey   |
| Keith Jones    | Buck Meyer         |
| Amanda Ness    | David Schoellhamer |
| Doug Williams  | Walt Yost          |

## Wildlife (from page 2)

I thought at first that someone had thrown a baseball - but when I looked down at my lap I saw a screech owl perched on my leg.

The owl and I were both stunned (it more than me). In fact the owl seemed quite content to be where it landed. But I wasn't - I was wearing shorts and it was a little too close to my bare leg.

Finally, when we all gathered our wits, Amanda and I ran through our options. We could try and shoo it out of the car, drop the bird off in a wooded area or take it home and contact Sacramento Wildlife Care.

When the owl crawled behind the front seat out of sight, we opted for taking it home. We carefully placed it in a cardboard box, gave it some food and water and stashed it in a quiet corner of the garage. If it survived until morning, we agreed, I'd take it to our vet who works with Wildlife Care.

The next morning the owl was still alive, but barely. When I delivered it to Dr. Marianne Brick's office, her vet tech Lisa Maljian graciously volunteered to personally care for it.

Unfortunately, the owl died several days later. Maljian, a Wildlife Care volunteer, said it never recovered from the trauma of colliding with my thick skull. I felt bad for the owl- even though I experienced headaches for a week afterwards.

The incident made me think - what should you do when you encounter injured or sick wildlife?

For expert advice, I called Theresa Bielawski, president of the local Wildlife Care Association and a Fair Oaks resident.

First off, she reminded me that it's illegal in California to keep wild animals as pets without proper permits. In caring for wildlife, it's best to let the experts take charge.

If you find an injured animal or bird don't pick-it up in your hands, use a towel or jacket.

(Continued on Page 5)

## The Carmichael Community Council-A local governance

### success

By Dick Barbar, Council Member, District 6, Carmichael/Old Foothill Farms Community Planning Council

The Sacramento County Board of Supervisors, in September of 2005, approved a new pilot project to establish local land use decision-making bodies in four unincorporated communities of the County. Carmichael, along with Fair Oaks, Rio Linda/Elverta and Arden-Arcade began a grand experiment to place Community land use issues in the hands of appointees living in the community. This change came after many discussions between community residents and the Board to place greater local control for these actions at the local level. Past decision-making had rested with the two County Planning and Project Commissions who had little knowledge of the details of local projects.

Three years has passed and the 9 member Carmichael/Old Foothill Farms Community Planning Council has been a productive asset to the communities it serves. After a series of evaluations and reviews the Board felt that the pilot project was a success and voted to formalize the four bodies as "Community Planning Commissions". Those evaluations included input from community residents, applicants, and staff.

During this first three-year period the Council heard over 120 projects. During 2007 the Council met twice a month to deal with the large number of projects in backlog. With the economic situation changing there are far fewer projects in review. Although the Council approved over 95% of the projects it reviewed, many were revised or modified at the Council's request in order to be more compatible with the neighborhoods or community. Of the eight projects the Council denied, 5 were appealed to the Board. Of those projects appealed: two were additionally modified by the Board; the Board upheld the Council denial for two projects; and for one project the Board approved the appeal. One project wherein the appeal was denied was the proposed

upzone by Don Langely for a development off Grant Avenue within the Carmichael Creek Neighborhood Preservation Area.

The Board's recent decision to formalize the old Councils into new Commissions includes additional revisions to the pilot project that neighborhoods such as Carmichael Creek need to pay heed to. The number of members for three of the commissions including Carmichael/OFF will be seven. (This is a reduction of two for Carmichael/OFF). More importantly for Carmichael/OFF is the members will be selected and appointed "At Large" thereby eliminating the Districts. In the past Carmichael Creek at least had one council member who lived in the area. In the future that may not be the case. The new ordinance for these bodies goes into effect January 31, 2009.

## Wildlife (from page 5)

Squirrels, for example, can have rabies, she pointed out. Until you're able to get it to Wildlife Care, you should keep the injured wildlife in a warm place - preferably at a temperature of 80 to 90 degrees. For instance, place it in a box with a heating pad set to "low."

And contrary to what Amanda and I did with the owl, don't give it any fluids or food. "You can aspirate it," Bielawski warned.

Injured wildlife should also be kept in a dark and quiet place. While it might prove irresistible for you or the kids to look at it up close, it's not a good idea Bielawski said. "Basically, it sees us as predators," she said.

As soon as possible, call Wildlife Care at 965-WILD. You'll reach an answering machine and should get a call back within an hour. Wildlife Care's facility is located at McClellan Park and is open seven days a week.

All sorts of additional information is available on Wildlife Care's website: [www.wildlifecareassociation.org](http://www.wildlifecareassociation.org).

Bielawski said her organization will hold a fundraiser, featuring a silent auction, Dec. 14 from 6-9 p.m. at Lion Gate Pavilion, 5640 Dudley Blvd., McClellan Park. The public is invited and Wildlife Care's "educational animals" will be in attendance.

## A New Look

Starting in October the street signs within the boundaries of the CCNA will sport a new look. In addition to identifying the street name and the county, the signs will also designate that the street is within the Carmichael Creek Neighborhood Preservation Area. In an effort to enhance neighborhood identity and reinforce neighborhood awareness, Sacramento County has established a pilot project in several active neighborhoods within the Third Supervisorial District, including Carmichael Creek Neighborhood Association and the Carmichael Colony Neighborhood Association. The Sacramento Association of Realtors has agreed to contribute to the program by paying for adhesive decals with the neighborhood's name and for installing the decals on all the signs. Keep your eyes open for the new signs.

## carmichaelcreek.org

For complete information on the CCNA visit our official Website

- Latest CCNA news
- How to join
- Meeting minutes
- Correspondence
- Board of Directors
- Preservation Ordinance
- Community Action Plan
- CCNA overview
- Next meeting
- Community links
- Boundary
- Bylaws
- Annual newsletters
- Community calendar

carmichaelcreek.org provides community information about Carmichael and organizational information about the CCNA

E-mail us at [ccna@carmichaelcreek.org](mailto:ccna@carmichaelcreek.org)

## carmichaelcreek.org

## A VISION FOR THE FUTURE

By Sandie Dunn

As cars whiz by a group of hearty souls head up and down Fair Oaks Boulevard donned in florescent vests and carrying orange garbage bags to pick up trash. It is an event that occurs at least three times a year. Carmichael Creek Neighborhood Association along with Carmichael Colony Neighborhood Association and the Carmichael Chamber of Commerce started the Boulevard Brush-up over ten years ago. This year the Sacramento County Department of Transportation asked the associations if they would adopt parts of the Boulevard and be responsible for its clean up. Carmichael Creek Neighborhood Association adopted the stretch of Fair Oaks Boulevard from Stanley Avenue to the split with Manzanita and around the corner to California Avenue. The Chamber and Carmichael Colony adopted the area south to Oak Avenue. Over the last year, volunteers from the association picked up loads of trash, removed shopping carts and knocked down the weeds in front of poorly maintained businesses and along the vacant lots.

The Boulevard Brush-up started as a grass-roots effort to draw attention to the Fair Oaks Boulevard. The goal was to engage neighbors and businesses along Fair Oaks Boulevard to take more pride in the street and to push for revitalization of the corridor. While the cleanup effort may not have been the reason the County began its planning effort for Fair Oaks Boulevard, it did play a small part getting the Board of Supervisors' attention. The level of participation demonstrated that the community as a whole was tired of Fair Oaks Boulevard being named one of the ugliest streets in the County. Residents were more than willing to do something, even pick up garbage, if it would help to change the status quo.

After numerous community workshops beginning in 2001 and through the development of the Carmichael

Community Action Plan, the goal of revitalizing Fair Oaks Boulevard became an adopted policy of the Sacramento County. The Carmichael Community Plan established as an objective to improve Fair Oaks Boulevard by actively recruiting new businesses that are intended to serve the residents, to create a main street area that includes landscaping and wider sidewalks more conducive to pedestrian traffic, to increase the level of public transit service and to encourage more mixed use development (retail and residential) along the Boulevard.

In 2004, residents and property owners along Fair Oaks Boulevard worked together to flesh out the objectives of the Carmichael Community Action Plan. That effort resulted in an endorsement by the Board of Supervisors of the Fair Oaks Boulevard Concept Plan in April 2006. The Concept Plan received a 2006 Sacramento Valley Section, American Planners Association Merit Award.

In acknowledgment of the community's earnest endeavor to improve Fair Oaks Boulevard, the Board of Supervisors selected Fair Oaks Boulevard in 2006, as one of three commercial corridors for revitalization. As the initial step toward revitalization, the County with input from the community is developing a Fair Oaks Boulevard Corridor (Continued on Page 7) Plan. So far, there have been two community workshops, one presentation each to the Old Foothill Farms-Carmichael Community Council and the Board of Supervisors as part of the planning effort.

The Corridor Plan, once adopted will include a very specific set of objectives, design guidelines and development standards for a (continued on Page 7)



