



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. 14, Fall 2005

Est. 1986

HEAR ABOUT WHAT IS HAPPENING IN YOUR NEIGHBORHOOD

PLEASE COME TO
CARMICHAEL CREEK
NEIGHBORHOOD
ASSOCIATION'S 14TH
ANNUAL MEETING
Tuesday, October 18, 2005
7:00 - 9:00 PM
Clubhouse - Carmichael Park

FEATURED GUESTS:

County Supervisor Susan Peters

**Victor Morrison-Vega, Department of
Neighborhood Services**

**Bobbe Dworkis, Carmichael Service
Area Manager**

**Dick Barbar, Carmichael Community
Council representative for our
district**

**Refreshments will be served
following the meeting.**

Importance of Civic Pride & Community Involvement

By
Eddie Hard

Depending on whom you ask and when you ask, the question of what civic pride and community involvement means to you as a citizen of the United States can yield a fascinating response. Of course the answer varies as there are different interpretations of what civic pride and community involvement mean to each of us.

Growing up in an urban, rural, or semi-rural setting can influence and shape the way one develops a sense of civic pride and community involvement. The priorities people set, their family unity, cultural norms and beliefs play a very important role in the degree to which people engage in civic activities.

I ask each individual who reads this article and newsletter to truly think through what actions can increase their own civic performance in their community. Civic participation, whether through a neighborhood association board like Carmichael Creek, walking Fair Oaks Blvd to clean up trash, participating in the Carmichael Chamber of Commerce, working on the Carmichael Community Plan Update, or simply participating in your local school PTA, demands time away from individual priorities.

(Continued on page 2)

Civic Pride & Community Involvement

(From page 1)

I believe we can all contribute to our community by taking some of the concerns we hold near and dear in our community and making them a priority. Sacrifice of individual priorities has yielded this nation and this community great rewards over the years and in order to maintain and further expand upon those positive benefits we must continue to be engaged in civic activities. Taking action can lift the spirit and challenge the mind. You will be glad you did and meeting great life-long friends and neighbors is just one of the perks of the process.

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 most 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. The Nominating Committee has proposed the following slate for the board, but nominations will be gladly accepted from the floor at the Annual Meeting.

Anne Berner	Peggy Berry
Lora Cammack	Sharon Doughty
Sandie Dunn	Sandy Helland
Richard Humphrey	Buck Meyer
Amanda Ness	David Schoellhamer
Frank Weisman	Doug Williams
Walt Yost	

Alternates:

Ruth Ingulsrud, Liz Schroeder, Shiomi Wilson

Preventing West Nile Virus

By
Doug Williams

With all the controversy concerning West Nile Virus and aerial spraying, the most effective means of preventing mosquito borne disease has been lost in the shuffle.

Dave Brown, manager of the Sacramento-Yolo Mosquito Vector Control District (SYMVCD) confirms that the 7 D's below are the most effective means of controlling mosquitoes and West Nile Virus (WNV).

DRAIN any standing water that may produce mosquitoes.

DAWN and **DUSK** are times to avoid. This is the time when mosquitoes are most active.

DRESS appropriately by wearing long sleeves and pants when outdoors.

DEFEND yourself against mosquitoes by using an effective repellent, such as DEET, Picaridin or Oil of Lemon Eucalyptus. Make sure you follow label directions!

DOOR and window screens should be in good condition. This will prevent mosquitoes from entering your home.

DISTRICT personnel are on hand to help address any mosquito problem you may be experiencing.

In order of effectiveness, the 7Ds are followed by larvaciding, and then by adulticiding (the least effective method of mosquito control).

For more information go to:

<http://www.fightthebite.net/>

And

<http://www.pesticide-alternatives.org>

THE METERS ARE COMING!

(Continued from page 5)

That means you can flush your old 3.5 gallon toilet 324 times for a dollar. Whew!

These numbers are for water usage. You still have to add the bi-monthly service charge. With a $\frac{3}{4}$ inch meter, using less than 89 CCF bimonthly will reduce your water bill below the flat rate. With a 1 inch meter, keep it under 55 CCF to save money.

And remember to fix leaks and drips. The meter records everything. A leaking toilet can send \$1.25 down the drain every day.

Maybe this won't be so painful as imagined.

LET THERE BE DARK!

By
Richard Humphrey

Think of "semi-rural" and what do you get? Big lots and open spaces, oak trees and creeks, deer, horses. Quiet living that's not quite country, definitely not city.

How about glaring outdoor lights? Well, I hope not. Semi-rural should be semi-dark at night.

Light triggers one of our basic senses, so you'd think we would know instinctively how to use light. Yet take a drive after dark and you may get the impression that light was recently invented and we haven't yet figured out how to use it.

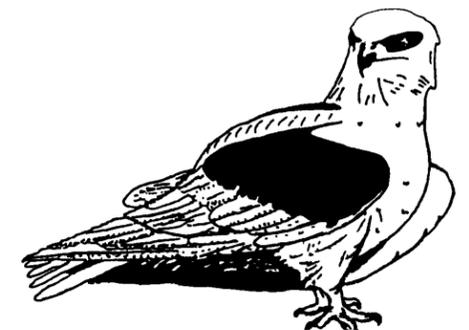
What am I talking about? Let me enlighten you. There is a design of light fixture which exposes the bulb, either directly or through a glass cover. You may have one next to your front door. These fixtures are known by architects and designers as "Glare Bombs". The light source shines right in your eyes, exactly what you don't want.

Here's a simple rule for great outdoor (and indoor) lighting. You should be seeing the object being lit, never the source of the light.

You wouldn't think of taking the lampshades off your indoor lights, exposing the bulbs. So why do so many do it outdoors?

Which brings me to my point regarding electric lighting. Improperly used, electric light can be harsh, glaring, blinding, and altogether awful. SMUD has periodically sent out enclosures with their bills touting the benefits of outdoor lighting using sodium or mercury vapor fixtures. True, these devices give off a lot of light and certainly enhance after dark safety and security. Just right for a parking lot. But really wrong for the front of your home. You don't live in a motel parking lot, why light your home like one?

Find a fixture that paints the walks, walls and doors with light without showing itself. Everyone will see better, and you'll improve the night-time appearance of your home.



Fair Oaks Blvd. Improvement Project Update 2005

By
Walter Yost

The Fair Oaks Boulevard Improvement Project moves inexorably forward - just not as quickly as some had anticipated.

At this time last year, a draft environmental impact report was expected to be available for review by Carmichael residents. It's now expected that the report, containing a pared down list of four proposed alternatives, will be issued by the end of 2005, with the public comment period scheduled for January and February, 2006.

The stated purpose of the boulevard project is to improve safety of the roadway, increase traffic capacity, ease congestion, and beautify the area between Marconi Avenue and Engle Road.

Steve White, an engineer with the Sacramento County Department of Transportation, said that last December the Board of Supervisors reduced the number of project alternatives - eliminating alternatives 5, 6, and 7.

Alternative 5 would have widened the boulevard to six lanes with the use of one-way frontage roads. Alternatives 6 and 7 were hybrids of alternatives 4 and 5 - and also contained frontage road options.

White said a completed traffic study found that frontage road options posed significant circulation and right-of-way problems.

Among the remaining options, is a proposal that would not widen the boulevard or expand it beyond four lanes, but would add a center median,

bike lanes, edged landscaping and ADA improvements. It will rely on Transportation Demand Management strategies to reduce congestion.

Another option would widen the roadway to six lanes and replace the shared center turn lane with a 12-foot wide landscaped center median. It would also relocate existing utility poles and streetlights to accommodate the widening.

White said county transportation planners have been involved in the Carmichael Community Plan Update, in an effort to better coordinate efforts to improve the boulevard.

He said he sees nothing coming out of the community plan update that would "torpedo" the boulevard project process.

If everything proceeds as expected, White said, the Board of Supervisors could hold a public hearing on the draft EIR as early as March.

The boulevard improvement project is being paid for by Measure A, a half-cent sales tax approved by county voters in 1998. The first phase of the project, widening Fair Oaks Boulevard between Cypress Avenue and Engle Road, was completed in 2000.

More details on the project are available at the county Website:
www.sacdot.com/projects/fairoaks/EIR.asp

Steve White can be reached by calling (916) 874-5354

THE METERS ARE COMING! THE METERS ARE COMING!

or, Fear and Loathing in Carmichael

By
Richard Humphrey

Whoever said "Change is good" must have been a consultant with a product to pitch. For the rest of us, change is anything but good. The way we buy our water from Carmichael Water District is changing. Flat rates are going, meters are coming. And that has a lot of people upset and worried.

So, what's the real problem? For one thing, is this change going to cost me more money with every bill? I looked at the rate schedule published by the district and with a little simple math I worked out how much water I could use with a meter to break even. Go over that number, and I would be paying more than the flat rate. Come in under that number, and I save money. The big problem is I have no idea how much water I use. No meter, remember!

And that's a big part of the problem. We're all worried that we're going to be paying more "at the pump" when that meter starts counting the gallons. It's human nature. How could it possibly cost us less? When has that ever happened?

Being an engineer, I know that if you can't measure something, you can't really understand it. So I set out to make some measurements. I acquired a $\frac{3}{4}$ inch water meter, a Badger Meter Recordall 25. Not quite the quality brass instrument the district uses, but still a good meter.

Since most residential water goes onto the lawn; that's where I measured. I hooked up some sprinklers and measured water consumption.

The old fashioned oscillating impulse Rain Bird sprinkler head that sits atop a $\frac{1}{2}$ inch pipe uses about 44 cubic feet of water per hour. That works out to 29 cents an hour.

A Rainjet type 800 with a large square pattern used 52 cubic feet of water, or 34 cents per hour. A smaller size Rainjet came in at 30 cubic feet which is 20 cents per hour.

A plastic portable type sprinkler that attaches to the end of a hose used 61 cubic feet, or 40 cents per hour.

Soaker hoses proved interesting. They put water down in a small area where you want it, but they can move a lot of water. Mine is a porous black rubber hose, maybe 60 feet in length. 65 cubic feet, 43 cents per hour.

Washing the car, a small four door sedan, using a hose with an automatic shutoff nozzle, consumed all of 2 cents worth of water.

Keep in mind that 'your mileage may vary'. Reducing the pressure reduces the flow and the cost, sometimes by a factor of 2 to 1.

If you know the gallon per minute rating of a sprinkler or any other device, you can figure out the cost per hour with some simple arithmetic. Multiply the gallons per minute by 0.1337 to get cubic feet then divide by 100 to get CCF per minute. The district sells water by the CCF, which is Hundred Cubic Feet. One CCF costs 66 cents per this years rate schedule. Working backwards, a dollar will buy 1133 gallons of water. What a deal compared to bottled water!

(Continued on page 7)

Community Action Plan

(Continued from page 3)

The Community Identity section centered on creating a "sense of place" that is Carmichael. Upgrading Fair Oaks Boulevard is a key component to establishing an identity for the Carmichael Community. Improving the look of the Boulevard in terms of increased code enforcement, mixing commercial and residential uses and creating a pedestrian friendly atmosphere along with marketing the community to new and different commercial ventures oriented to serving the residential community are important goals established in this section. A Special Planning Area is proposed to allow the County to create common design standards with the goal of creating an attractive, upscale business district that will be an enhancement to the Community.

The Land Use section covered a wide range of issues. One of the primary issues related to maintaining the semi-rural character of the community and the desire of the community to preserve the many different eclectic residential neighborhoods. The Land Use section includes a definition of semi-rural and discourages rezones that would change or contribute to the change of the character of those neighborhoods. Semi-rural is defined as: "a geographic area containing RD-1 and RD-2 zoned land but may also include a mixture of other zoning. The area may contain large animals or hobby farms. The area may generally include mature vegetation, natural streams, parcels/lots with large open space around houses and open area which provides wildlife habitat. Street improvements are minimal. All of these elements contribute to the character of a semi-rural neighborhood."

Public Safety was the final section, which focused on ideas to improve public safety. The goals centered on increased communication

between the Sheriff's Department and the neighborhoods through various means such as posting information on the Department of Neighborhood Services Web site, formation of additional neighborhood watch groups and increased presence of problem-oriented policing.

The Board of Supervisors will consider the adoption of the Carmichael Community Action Plan before the end of this year. Additional information regarding the Carmichael Community Action Plan is located on the County Website at www.communities.saccounty.net/carmichael/index.html or the Carmichael Creek Neighborhood Association Website at www.carmichaelcreek.org/.

carmichaelcreek.org

For complete information on the CCNA visit our official Website

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

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

E-mail us at

ccna@carmichaelcreek.org

Carmichael Community Action Plan Nears Completion

By
Sandra K. Dunn

After four years, the Carmichael Community Action Plan is near completion. In 2001, the County Board of Supervisors began updating the 1975 Carmichael Community Plan. In an effort to involve the community in shaping Carmichael's future, the Board of Supervisors engaged in the process of deliberative democracy. Five principles guided the effort:

- Broad public participation
- Multiple avenues for participation
- Face to face discussion among citizens
- Openness to ideas or interests
- No preconceived results

The planning process consisted of four phases. In Phase One, residents identified, through various community workshops and a survey distributed throughout Carmichael, the issues of critical importance to the community. During Phase Two, the community formed teams that were responsible for identifying policies, strategies and actions to address the issues identified in Phase One. The community in Phase Three verified the policy options and implementation ideas formulated in Phase Two by responding to an extensive survey distributed to every resident within Carmichael. During Phase Four, the community worked with County staff to determine which of the implementation ideas generated in Phase Two is consistent with the policies adopted by the Board of Supervisors based upon the results of the Phase Three survey.

The Carmichael Community Action Plan (CAP) will supplement the existing 1975 Community Plan by providing a vision for future planning within Carmichael. It is divided into five

different sections.

The Neighborhood Services section addresses issues of community governance and outreach to the various neighborhoods of Carmichael. A significant goal of this section is for the County to more actively involve residents in the ongoing shaping of the community through different means of governance and community involvement. The County has already begun to address this goal by establishing a Department of Neighborhood Services and appointing a Bobbe Dworkis as the liaison to Carmichael. Bobbe will have office hours in Carmichael and will serve as an ombudsman to the community.

In addition, the County is replacing the Community Planning Advisory Council with a Carmichael Community Council. Carmichael has been divided into various neighborhood districts; each will have an appointed representative on the council. The Community Council will take the place of the Planning Commission and will be responsible for making decisions on projects that impact Carmichael. The Community Council representatives have been appointed, including Dick Barbar, the Representative for the district which includes Carmichael Creek Neighborhood Association. The Councils are to begin holding meetings in October.

The Transportation section established goals pertaining primarily to maintaining and improving traffic flow. The transportation goals also included promoting increased level of public transit, accelerate the pace of pedestrian-friendly improvements and create a network of bike lanes throughout Carmichael connecting parks, schools, library and shopping.

(Continued on page 6)

