

President's Message

"Times are a Changing"

By Eddie Hard

"The battle, sir, is not to the strong alone; it is to the vigilant, the active, the brave." -- Patrick Henry. This is a fitting quote for the people engaged with the Carmichael Creek Neighborhood Association (CCNA).

This is my first and last President's Message to the CCNA membership. I have moved out of the Carmichael area for a brief period and will hopefully return soon when I can find some acreage and a home. Until then it has been the greatest pleasure serving on the Board of Directors for 13 years.

Another year has come and gone. What has the CCNA accomplished? The CCNA found itself less active overall than previous years, yet each year presents a unique set of circumstances in which to deal with and 2003 presented plenty of opportunities for vigilance, action, and courage.

We lost two of our dearest friends in 2002 and 2003, Joe Patitucci and Kim Meyer. Both founding members of the CCNA contributed their hearts, knowledge, and much time to the protection of the values and mission of the CCNA. Joe and Kim remind those who knew them what vigilance and courage truly represent.

Our members continue to participate and provide valuable input on several pending actions in the neighborhood, Carmichael community, and in the County overall. First our members stood strong in June when a proposal to build a cohousing project with 12 homes on less than two acres surfaced to our attention along Sutter Avenue. The property is zoned for one house per acre and is located about 1/3 of a mile west of Hollister Avenue. Our members united and went to the Planning Advisory Council to hear the project applicant describe the plans to build some 12 homes on less than two buildable acres. The CCNA sent a clear message to the Council and the applicant: we unconditionally oppose such upzoning. Thankfully to date, the proposal was just an information item on the agenda.

The CCNA is well represented on the Community Plan Update process with several members actively engaged in Land Use, Transportation, Community Identity, Public Services, and Safety issues. I believe not only recognition has come from our participation in the larger community planning effort, but a greater sense of understanding of how the CCNA can reach out to the broader community making a difference beyond our neighborhoods.

One of our proudest moments this year came when the CCNA was asked to make a donation to help open up part of Sutter Park to the public. For over ten years the CCNA has been engaged with the Carmichael Recreation & Park District to implement a park plan that one of our founding members Dale Wilson created. This year with some minor modifications to that plan a group of citizens opened up a community garden (see article page 3). Finally, through several hard fought lobbying efforts by our members part of the park is open to the community to test their skills at gardening.

For those who stand tall with us please continue to do so. For those interested and willing to help their community join the CCNA in the endeavor towards building better neighborhoods. Please join us! You will never regret meeting such caring, dedicated, knowledgeable people. Our quest is to maintain the semi-rural character of the neighborhoods by preventing upzoning and incompatible development, uphold the Carmichael Community Plan, and improve and maintain our quality of life.

"Eternal vigilance is the price of liberty." -- Wendell Phillips(1811-1884)