



**Carmichael Creek
Neighborhood Association, Inc.
Est. 1986
www.carmichaelcreek.org**

The CARMICHAEL CREEK NEIGHBORHOOD ASSOCIATION, INC. (CCNA) was formed in 1986 to improve the general quality of life and preserve open space and the neighborhood's unique semi-rural character. **Your membership is important for our ability to continue these vital preservation efforts!**

CCNA boundaries are: **North** along both sides of Sutter Avenue, **South** along both sides of Stanley Avenue, **East** at the American River, and **West** along California Avenue. Anyone over 18 years of age who rents or owns a home in the membership area can be a voting member of CCNA. Those outside the boundaries can join as non-voting members. Annual household dues are \$20.

----- Clip and Mail -----

**Carmichael Creek Neighborhood Association
Membership Form – Dues \$20.00 per household**

Name: _____

Residential Address: _____

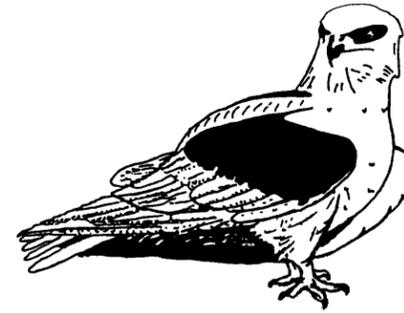
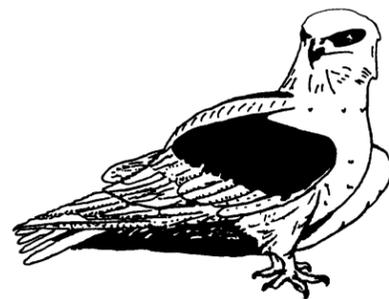
Mailing Address (if different): _____

Email Address (To receive monthly minutes electronically): _____

Daytime Telephone: _____ **Evening Telephone:** _____

Make \$20.00 check payable to the CCNA.

Mail to CCNA Membership, c/o Anne Berner, PO Box 1902, Carmichael 95609-1902



**CARMICHAEL CREEK
NEIGHBORHOOD ASSOCIATION
Inc. Newsletter**

VOL. 25, October 2019

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President's Note

By Gareth Lacy, CCNA President

Our mission is set forth in County Ordinance 83-10, which authorized our Association in 1988:

“Preserve and protect the unique semi-rural residential character of the neighborhood ... and further the purposes of the Carmichael Community Plan.”

We uphold these values to curb “up-zoning,” which carves up great swathes of wildlife habitat, urban farms, and open space. Such actions undermine the terms of the County Neighborhood Preservation Area because they degrade the community’s unique rural character.

In addition to protecting precious open space, we work hard to improve quality of life. We are proud of projects such as helping build Sutter-Jensen park, Carmichael’s largest community garden, and our only botanical garden. It is a gem that truly represents our neighborhood’s rural character.

As property values continue to rise, powerful interests will seek ever-greater exceptions to the rules to cut down native trees, pave seasonal creeks, and build more and more houses on smaller and smaller lots. Once a place is paved over, it is very difficult, if not impossible, to ever restore its natural state. Together we can continue to prevent that. Your membership sends a message that this community will stand together and protect the things that matter to us all.

Thank you for your continued support!

SAVE THE DATE:

Annual Meeting

**Tuesday, November 5, 2019
7 P.M.
Carmichael Public Library**

Speakers:

Susan Peters – Sacramento
County Supervisor, 3rd District

Mike Blondino – Carmichael
Parks Director

Refreshments will be served

www.carmichaelcreek.org

Facebook: <http://bit.ly/2dFcQEq>

CCNA Membership, PO Box 1902,
Carmichael 95609-1902

(510) 452-7536

A special **“Thank You”** to our
webmaster, Jorel Cooper!

Milagro Centre Continues Growing

By Gareth Lacy

The opening of the Milagro Centre—six restaurants and an event center under one roof—has been a landmark moment for the community of Carmichael. It's a visionary and ambitious project and something many of our neighbors have been cheering.

Project developer and founder Allan Davis's vision for the Center was to "further beautify Carmichael and create a gathering place for residents." He's delivering on that vision with a modern open-air design that invites guests to browse and mingle.

While the open-air approach has seen success in Los Angeles, San Francisco, and other big cities—the Milagro Centre is the first of its kind in suburban Sacramento. Guests can sit in any of the common areas so people can visit multiple restaurants, choose what they like, and then come together to eat.

Success, according to Mr. Davis, means "bringing people in and delivering good food not only for the people of Carmichael, but also the entire Sacramento region." He reports a loyal and diverse set of patrons, regulars, and new comers.

Mr. Davis is very optimistic about growth and future for the Center. The Gelato stop is poised to reopen soon and the storied Serritella's—a longtime Carmichael institution—is making the move to the Centre. Serritella's is preparing to reach more customers and deliver some new surprises, while continuing to deliver the fare that brought people to the original restaurant time after time.

Bella Bru's engagement with the new Events Center is another milestone. It promises to offer opportunities for large events unlike any other venue in the unincorporated Carmichael area.

There are some vacancies in the Centre but, according to Davis, these reflect his selectivity rather than a lack of demand. "I'm very optimistic about this Centre and also very selective about which tenants we choose—we want the right mix of restaurants and people. I could easily fill this place with fast food but that is not what the Centre is about," said Davis. "My focus is making this a gathering spot with different and unique restaurants that add value to the community and draw a variety of people," Davis added.

The Centre is also working toward a new monument sign to help highlight the venue. "We are very sensitive to protecting the community's vision for Fair Oaks Boulevard and its aesthetics," said Davis.

Residents in Carmichael who want to support this Centre first and foremost should go and eat there! There's something for everyone. You can also sign up for updates and events at the Centre's website: www.milagrocentre.com. The restaurants include: Taiko Sushi, Ghiotto Gelato, River City Brewing Company, Insight Coffee Roasters, Chilango Landia taco bar, Mesa Mercado. Serritella's will open soon.

The Carmichael Creek Neighborhood Association will continue looking for opportunities to partner with the Centre. Currently, we are a member of the Carmichael Chamber of Commerce, which is housed at the Centre. We are also looking at opportunities to hold meetings or events at the Centre to further engage our neighbors and the community.

Welcoming Carmichael's New Parks Director

By Gorgiana Alonzo

CCNA is pleased to welcome Michael Blondino, Carmichael's new Director of Parks and Recreation to the community.

Michael Blondino has worked in the park and recreation profession since he was 16 years old. Mike grew up with afterschool and summer recreation activities, along with youth sports programs offered by his local park and recreation department. His father coached Little League baseball for 40 years and his grandfather worked for Parks/Public Works for the city and county of San Francisco.

Mike's chosen profession was a natural fit, as he wanted to provide the same experiences to others that he enjoyed. Mike has had a great professional career with his first 20 years in recreation and the next 10 years as a park manager.

Mike joined the Carmichael Recreation and Park District in July, 2019, where he oversees 13 parks. He will speak to CCNA at our annual meeting on November 5, 2019.

Water District Ringmaster Retires

By Peggy Berry

My husband, Bill, and I became aware of the Carmichael Water District (CWD) years ago when the

Federal government notified CWD it had to make its American River water cleaner than it already was, meaning CWD would have to build a large filtration plant on a large piece of land somewhere in Carmichael and pay for it.

CWD began reaching out to our CCNA and Carmichael community asking for help in finding a filtration site location. Many very unhappy water customers met publicly at a nearby school one evening. I recall Steve Nugent calmly addressing the angry protesters in such a way that the crowd ultimately calmed down. That's my first recollection of Steve Nugent. He was calm, very informative in a way that was respectful, knowledgeable and patient.

The site search began and progressed through the complexities of locating a treatment plant site; enlarging the Board of Directors; finding and guiding excellent engineers and architects to design and build the first membrane filtration plant with a much smaller and acceptable footprint.

Getting from that first public with unhappy water users to the big day of the membrane plant inauguration took many years of twice monthly meetings attended by many community members, including Bill and me. It was grueling.

With the steady guidance of LaNell Little, the first female General Manager of CWD, then followed by Steve, many engineers, a dedicated Board of Directors, attorneys, auditors, architects, and audience participants, the plans finally came to fruition and the outstanding CWD Membrane Filtration Plant celebration took place 10 years later!

When water purity reports are published, our water district always gets high marks, so I can relax knowing we will never have a problem like Flint, and I don't have to buy bottled water.

Why have I thought of Steve as a ringmaster? Steve is a responsible leader and guide. He juggles a number of projects that benefit our district, other water districts and the environment all at once. No matter how busy he is, Steve always makes time to answer questions from ratepayers.

His local and state awards are impressive: A very important statewide award honored Steve last year when the Assn. of Calif. Water Agencies gathered here in Sacramento to honor Steve with the "2018 Excellence in Water Leadership Award," its highest award. We're going to miss you, Steve Nugent. Thank you for all you've done these past 36 years in the water industry!

CCNA History Primer

CCNA was formed in 1986 by a group of concerned neighbors to provide a community voice in development issues affecting Carmichael. Our primary concern was and is the preservation of open space and the rural residential character of this area. With the 1975 Carmichael Community Plan as our guide and after extensive house-to-house surveys, we persuaded the Sacramento County Board of Supervisors to establish the Carmichael Creek Neighborhood Preservation Area Ordinance (NPA) in 1988.

The purpose of the NPA is to preserve and protect the unique, semi-rural residential character of the neighborhood and to further the purposes of the Carmichael Community Plan, which acknowledges the importance of "residential areas which are sparsely populated and have substantial areas of private open space. These open areas, with horse pastures, large trees, natural creeks, and rolling terrain make Carmichael unique in Sacramento suburbia...In Carmichael, the most significant natural resource areas are the natural stream courses, rolling terrain and major tree groves. It is of the greatest importance to insure the continuation of this type of open space in Carmichael."

In 2006, the Board of Supervisions added a Community Action Plan to the Carmichael Community Plan that defines semi-rural: as "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 areas which provides wildlife habitat. Street improvements are minimal. All of these elements contribute to the character of a semi-rural neighborhood."

Elect the Board of Directors!

CCNA members elect a Board of Directors at the Annual Meeting of between 10 and 15 members. We propose the following 12-member slate:

Anne Berner	Jorel Cooper
Sharon Doughty	Lora Cammack
Julia Reyes	Gareth Lacy
Scatha Allison	Cindy Younger
Jan Watts	Peggy Berry
Ryan Goessling	Gorgiana Alonzo

We will warmly accept new volunteers at the Annual Meeting.

Email any questions to garethlacy@gmail.com or call (510) 452-7536