



**Carmichael Creek
Neighborhood Association, Inc.
Est. 1986**

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 and can be paid online or by mail.

**PAY ANNUAL MEMBERSHIP DUES BY DEC 31 ONLINE WITH
CREDIT OR DEBIT CARD OR PAYPAL AT:**

<https://www.carmichaelcreek.org/Home/Membership>

Here is a paper membership form for anyone who prefers to pay by check:

----- Clip and Mail For Those Who Don't Want to Pay online -----

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

Name: _____

Residential Address: _____

Mailing Address (if different): _____

Email Address (To receive meeting minutes electronically): _____

Daytime Telephone: _____ Evening Telephone: _____

Make \$20.00 check payable to the CCNA.

Mail to CCNA Membership PO Box 1902, Carmichael 95609-1902

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**CARMICHAEL CREEK
NEIGHBORHOOD ASSOCIATION
Inc. Newsletter**

VOL. 26, October 2020

Est. 1986

President's Note

By Gareth Lacy

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 damages 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.

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.

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.

The pandemic has been a tremendous challenge for CCNA and our members. We have always relied on very traditional methods of outreach, in-person meetings, handshakes, and face-to-face community engagement. Moving our Board meetings onto Zoom, canceling the annual meeting, and truly missing the community engagement with our local officials is very difficult.

This year’s annual meeting will not occur because of the pandemic. The Board will continue to meet on its established schedule. We’re moving many operations online, including the choice to renew your membership online by credit or debit card or Paypal at:

<https://www.carmichaelcreek.org/Home/Membership>

www.carmichaelcreek.org

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

CCNA Membership, PO Box 1902,
Carmichael 95609-1902

(510) 452-7536

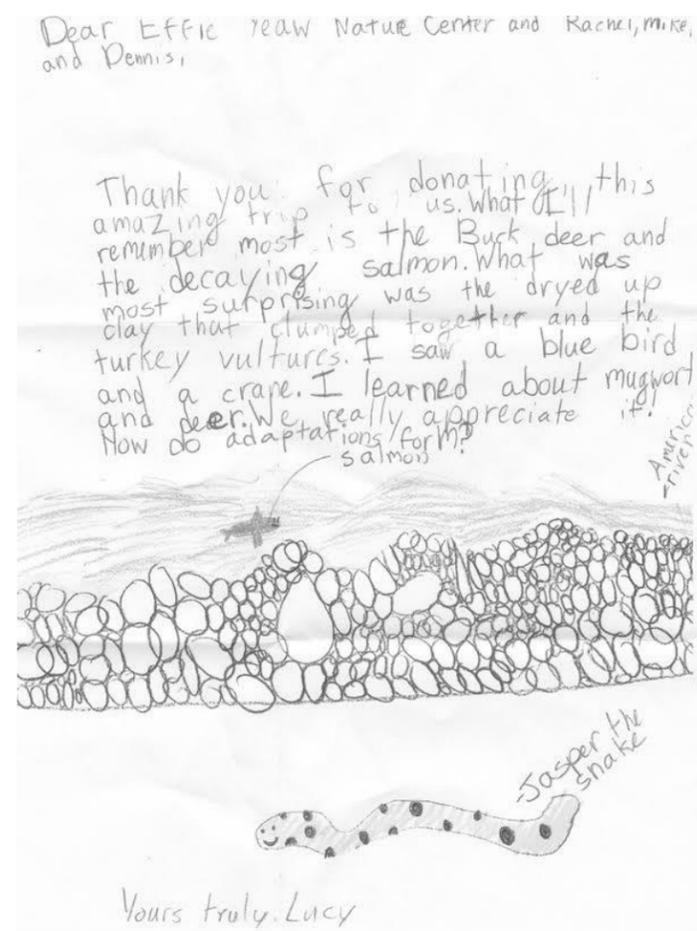
A special **“Thank You”** to our webmaster, Jorel Cooper, who this year launched a program allowing payment of the annual \$20 dues online. (Traditional paper checks will still be accepted for those who prefer that.)

That said, we are trying to make the best of things. We are increasing online outreach to the community, including more regular posting on [Nextdoor.com](https://www.nextdoor.com) as well as launching a program to pay annual dues online and avoid handling paper and physical checks. While we will continue to increase our online engagement in 2021, we look forward to bringing back the in-person engagement because it is vital to carrying out our mission. With that, please enjoy this good old-fashioned paper newsletter passed out to our 1,000-plus households by committed volunteers.

It's comforting that in these uncertain times, some things will stay the same. Thank you for your continued support!

CCNA Supports Community

CCNA has been a longstanding supporter of organizations that strengthen the unique semi-rural character of this neighborhood, including the Effie Yeaw Nature center at Ancil Hoffman Park. Here is one of the Thank You notes we received from a child who benefitted from the program we support. We are proud to be a part of improving quality of life for everyone in our community.



Proposed Water Rate Increase

Carmichael Water District (CWD) is notifying residents of proposed rate increases from 2021-2025 to “support ... operation and maintenance, improve water system facilities, meet debt service requirements, and maintain financial stability.” The proposal raises rates 9.5 percent per year for the next five years from rate and increases the bimonthly service charge. Overall rates would increase approximately 60 percent from \$1.54 to \$2.47 per unit (748 gallons) over five years.

According to CWD “the rate adjustments are needed to maintain the current level of service for all District customers and pay for the costs of operating and maintaining complex water treatment and distribution systems. Without these rate adjustments, the public could see reduced levels of service and higher future costs due to deferred maintenance.”

Residents can comment on the proposal by mailing a signed letter that identifies the parcel number or street address. Comments must be sent to CWD Attn: Public Info Officer Chris Nelson, 7837 Fair Oaks Boulevard, Carmichael, 95608 and received by Dec. 15, 2020. If 50 percent of qualified residents protest the increase in writing as described the increase does not occur. More information about the proposal is available at <https://carmichaelwd.org/prop-218-notice-fags/>. There is also a teleconference public hearing on December 15, 2020 at 6:00 p.m.

Reflecting By Scatha Allison

Fall has arrived, the brisk sharp night sky, leaves rustling and tumbling, it feels time for hot cocoa and cookies and candles and cheer. This year slipped by—anxious, depressed, skittish. How is it already Fall? For those of us with children, it ricochets between joy and madness, everyone at home, attending school through little screens and piles of papers, crayons on the floor, endless pencil shavings and assignments due.

Technology goes from humorous to hellish in the matter of minutes. And the stress is all over. Nothing is untouched by this historical moment, this creeping, silent threat.

We're all in this together, but more isolated than ever. I have kids, a home, stability within all the swirling chaos, really—much privilege. And still, it's hard. No one leaves. A houseful of people constantly needs to be cleaned. And everyone needs to be fed. And then more cleaning. Toys strewn out for play get picked up, put away, and it feels like minutes later the floor is a jumble again, with the same toys?

Was that yesterday or today? Distance learning, remote working, a kind of purgatory for all involved.

Children are home learning from their teachers on live video classrooms with schedules full of papers, multimedia assessment programs, trying to follow directions, make friends, and be inspired to learn. Could you imagine trying to be a teacher online from your home and have your own children at home learning on another screen in different room? We're all isolated, pulled directions by the pressures of this time- the newsfeed, the robot calls, the emails and endless drone of data reporting.

We wear masks outside, whenever we see others. At the playground, it's hard to explain to my children they need to keep their mask on when there's so many kids running around, tangling with each other, like kids do- bare faced. I point to the signs that list the playground rules—choose what kind of citizen you're going to be, I tell my children. I ask myself: what kind of citizen am I? I don't say anything to any parents or their children about their bare faces. It's my responsibility to keep my family safe. My children's grandparents live across the planet in other countries. We can't accidentally infect them. We can send instant messages and video chat anytime. Our family is in excellent health, we are fortunate.

The business, like so many, closed for months and months to mitigate transmission risks. We made online videos and held live Zoom classes, pivot, pivot—all the experts said. Adapt to the moment. I'm still adapting. We're all adapting. Such a difficult time, so many feelings, tensions, tumult, for everyone. For me, for us, for you, for them.

And so Fall creeps in. The days ever shorter, the stars bright. Outside in the dawn all things the same—the deer wander across the end of the road, nibbling the green grass of our neighbor's lawn. In the afternoon sun the hawk's sharp cry in the treetops, in the evening an occasional whiff of skunk shuffling by, jays and squirrels chirping and chattering from sunrise to sunset.

The beauty, the rhythm, it doesn't change. It's what keeps the center, the gentle reminder to step outside, walk along the streets, waving to neighbors who we see more of now, almost. A shift of things, like the season folding over again. I love how in the darkness, all the lights, all the life, shines brighter. It's already time for kids in baths, and dinner and bed, how quickly the days slip by. Tell those you love that you love them, spend extra time to clean up the past, the future moves quickly to the present.

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.”

CCNA members elect a Board of Directors 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	Peggy Berry
Jan Watts	Gorgiana Alonzo
Ryan Goessling	Amanda Trumbo

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

**Households Will Vote Remotely
this year; Details are
Forthcoming.**