

## Letter from the District Administrator



Hello Carmichael Community! As I write this, we are at the midpoint of the year already and I can't believe how quickly it has gone. So much has been happening here at the Carmichael Recreation and Park District and I'm happy to share some incredible things that have taken place. As I mentioned in my last letter, the \$30,000,000 in bonds will be sold in 3 stages. We sold the first \$10,000,000 this past March and have worked out a 2-3 year plan to spend those funds.

The first series of bond projects from those proceeds were approved by the CRPD Advisory Board during the FY 2023-24 budget process and includes:

- Re-roofing of several wings and HVAC upgrades at La Sierra Community Center.
- Replacement of the Tiny Tot playground beside the Vet's Hall in Carmichael Park.
- Sports grass renovation at Del Campo Park.
- Paving some areas of the roadway/parking areas at Carmichael Park.
- Renovation of the aging playground at Glancy Oaks Park.

There will be even more projects coming from the first series of bond funds in FY 2024-25! As always, we appreciate your input so please attend our Advisory Board meeting to give input.

I'm happy to announce that the Advisory Board approved the nominations of the following seven citizens to be on the Bond Oversight Committee: Mike Rockenstein-Chair, Ken Hall-Vice-Chair, Nick Bloise, Colleen Cadwallader, Wesley Maxey, Dorene Rose, and Zachary Yonker. Their first meeting is this fall.

I hope you've seen some of the improvements that have taken place without bond money. These upgrades were from developer fees we receive when in-fill housing happens here within the district. It's not a massive amount of money, but every dollar helps!

A partnership with the Over-Under Initiative and the Sacramento Republic FC saw the basketball court upgraded at Carmichael Park, along with in-ground soccer goals added to that court. We are working on adding an ADA pathway from the Garfield House to the main walkway at Sutter-Jensen Park! We also resurfaced 4 of the 6 tennis courts at Carmichael Park. For those of you thinking why did we only resurfaced 4 tennis courts at Carmichael Park? The other 2 courts are going to be turned into 4-6 pickleball courts (per the Master Plan Update) in the next few years. We weren't going to spend money to renovate the tennis courts and then rip them up a few years later.

As we work to return to normal staffing levels, we've had several professionals join our staff this past spring. We welcomed Erin Johnson and Cameron Wiggins to our Recreation Division, along with Mike Edwards and Wes Buda to our Parks Maintenance Division. We still have several positions to reinstate in our Administration and Parks divisions but will only do that as funding is available. We want to welcome our newest Advisory Board Director, Joe Leavitt, who was the former President of the Carmichael Girls Softball League. He is a terrific addition to our board, and we look forward to working with him. As we move forward, we encourage all of you to visit the district's website and social media to receive updates and learn how to get involved. If you haven't joined us on Facebook and Instagram, I strongly suggest you do, as we have an amazing staff putting out great content!!!

Take care!

**Mike Blondino**, *District Administrator*