Aloha Estates Association

Newsletter Volume 25

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www.alohaestates.org aea96771@yahoo.com P. O. Box 566 Mt. View, Hawaii 96771-0566

President...Glen Barfield
Vice-President...Glenn Pierson
Secretary/Assistant Treasurer...Patricia Hubner
Treasurer/Newsletter...Shelly Pierson
Director...Leilani Kruger
Director...Denette Jones

Aloha, Aloha Estates Association Members,

Per our By-Laws, Aloha Estates Association has only one responsibility: to improve and maintain our six roads. If you have any questions about our mission, I suggest you review our articles of incorporation and bylaws. These can be found on our website www.alohaestates.org.

Our annual audit, performed by an outside accountant, came back without any issues. All our expenses and revenues were double-checked and everything matched.

During 2024, we intend to make road repairs by adding paving on Hapuu Nani Road (Road 2) as well as pothole repairs throughout our six roads. If you know of additional road issues needing attention, please send us an email at aea76771@yahoo.com and the board will look into it.

Our County Council person is Matt Kanealii-Kleinfelder and he is the most engaged Council person for Puna I've seen in my 28 years here. Matt initiated the Hawaii Island Subdivision Association (HISA) to allow subdivisions with similar issues to work together. HISA meets monthly via Zoom. Out of the needs expressed in these meetings, Matt and his team created Bill #82, regarding private roads, which is currently working its way through the Council. Once it becomes law it will allow the county to work on public/private roads. You may reach Matt at matt.kanealii-kleinfelder@hawaiicounty.gov.

We in Aloha Estate have such public/private roads and this would be a big help when we face some big expenditures, such as the road collapse at the end of Nau Nani Road (3rd Road), and a large culvert on Ohia Nani Road (Road 1). Anything you can do to support Bill #82 would be helpful. Call, write letters, provide public testimony, or write letters to the editor.

Two years ago we hired a mowing/trimming service to clear a 4-foot margin on either side of our roads every three months. The first company quit without explanation, the second company didn't follow through on the second pass. We will be pursuing another vendor this year. Cutting back and mowing made a noticeable difference in line of sight, which the board thought was a step up in safety.

With increasing operating costs and anticipation of heavy road repairs near Mauna Loa Drive, we need to produce more income to achieve our mission. This is the reason the road fees increased to \$75 per lot per year in 2024. We are also increasing fees for filing liens on those properties that have an unpaid dues balance > \$250, and an increase in the fee for releasing those liens. Processing liens is very time-consuming for the volunteers on our Board.

Finally, let me address Mauna Loa Drive, a road in limbo, aka RIL in County parlance. Earlier this year the County filled in the ruts and graded Mauna Loa Dr. for safe passage, especially important for emergency vehicles. We now have traffic regularly up to 13th Road. While I am appreciative of the work done, it leaves some key work ahead. For example, grading on the road is not in the direction that moves the water off the road, down into the creeks. As a result, Aloha Estates cannot make the repairs on Nau Nani Road until the County addresses the Mauna Loa Drive culvert replacement problem. Thus, I recommend writing letters or emails to Mr. Steve Pause, the new Director of Public Works at Steve.Pause@hawaiicounty.gov, to encourage the county to focus on replacing those culverts.

I hope this update is useful, and I look forward to seeing many of you at the General Meeting on February 3, 2024.

Aloha, Glen Barfield

From our Board Treasurer:

Aloha everyone,

We successfully implemented online invoices on the WAVE app for collecting Road Fees but found it to be cumbersome by having to recreate every invoice. Though we collected payments from 19 owners, we found we needed something more efficient. As a result, we have added a "Pay Road Fees" payment button directly onto our Aloha Estates website. We are currently testing this feature and plan to have it operational by the time you receive this newsletter.

On a sad note, my husband (Glenn P., Vice President) and I recently sold our Aloha Estates home to be on the mainland to support an aging family member. We love this neighborhood and hope some of you will consider supporting our association by volunteering and/or becoming a Board member.

Mahalo, Shelly Pierson

Aloha Estates Association - Treasurer's Report January 1, 2023 - December 30, 2023 Checking Account - Bank of Hawaii Amount **Beginning Balance** \$9,194.01 Credits Road Fees \$15,427.50 \$1.32 Interest \$15,428.82 Total incoming \$: **Debits** -\$14,000.00 Trans to Savings -\$4,827.14 Expenses* Total expenses -\$18,827.14 \$5,795.69 **Ending Balance** Savings Account Amount **Beginning Balance** \$67,183.37 Credits Trans from checking \$14,000.00 \$7,278.40 Road Fees Interest \$8.09 Total incoming \$: \$21,286.49 Dehits Total outgoing \$ \$0.00 **Ending Balance** \$88,469.86 Total Aloha Estates Association Balance: \$94,265.55 * expenses: mail, website, domain name, printing, mail, meeting place rental, road supplies, mowing, etc. Submitted by Shelly Pierson, Dec. 30, 2023

From our Neighborhood Watch Coordinator:

Aloha to all residents of Aloha Estates,

Another year is coming to an end. Thankfully our neighborhood continues to watch out for each other and the community around us. Remember our neighborhood watch is watch, listen and report any issues you think may need to be addressed or passed onto the Police. If you have an emergency, please do not hesitate to call 911; and any non emergency please call the non-emergency line of the Police.

Someone recently dumped a newer vehicle on Mauna Kea @ Road 12. The car was tagged by the Police and towed away. If you ever see these types of incidents, please contact me or a Neighborhood watch road coordinator.

The County now has animal control. The Mayor is responsible for this agency and if you are unhappy with any of their responses, etc. please do not hesitate to reach out to his office with comments.

There have also been some questions regarding Fentanyl, a VERY dangerous drug if you come in contact with it. If you truly feel it could be Fentanyl the #1 thing to remember is DO NOT TOUCH IT. Please call the Police so someone can come out and take the item from you. For fentanyl safety tips, how to recognize fentanyl poisoning, and more, please go to HPD's website: https://www.hawaiipolice.com/services/crimetips#fentanyl.

I'm always happy to answer any questions from our community about Neighborhood Watch. Please do not hesitate to reach out if I can provide information to a community member.

Marianne Woller

Don't forget to update your mailing address with us if you move and also let the County of Hawaii Property Tax office at (808) 961-8201 know the same.

Providing your email address to us will assure you receive updated information from Aloha Estates!

Mahalo Lotus Buddhist Temple for your continued maintenance of Mauna Kea Drive! We appreciate your efforts to keep the roadway safe and clear of debris for our community.