



Hawaiian Shores Community Association December 2014 Newsletter



Board of Directors – as of December 2014

Eileen O'Hara/President
Hiroshi Yanagihara/Vice President
Mike Lopez
Mike Dolson
Solveig Lamberg
Steve Bailey/Treasurer
Tom Cumming/Secretary
Chris Weingartner
Jack Wells

Aloha Members!

Storm and Lava Updates

Given the unprecedented natural disasters we've experienced since being hit by Hurricane Iselle August 7th, we're sending out this newsletter with the annual assessment to let you know all is well. While downgraded to a tropical storm upon landfall, Iselle struck with intense force toppling the massive and invasive Albizia trees like pick-up-sticks; tearing apart the utility grid and splitting apart our underground water pipes in two locations. **Now you know why we've been reminding you about controlling Albizia trees on these small sized lots!!** HELCO, our electric utility, aided in recovery setting up at our community center with free wifi and charging stations. Civil Defense, Senator Schatz, and local support groups brought in ice, food, and other assistance. We were able to repair our water lines and restore the water service within two days of the storm; while it took nearly two weeks for the electricity, cable, and phone lines to be repaired throughout the subdivision.

As we took a collective breath and congratulated our outstanding crew, board, and community members for hands-on response to the storm destruction, a new threat emerged when the Governor issued an emergency proclamation on Sept 4th regarding pending lava inundation headed towards Pahoia town. At this time, the lava flow is active 2-3 miles upslope of town; one finger did come within 500 feet of Pahoia Village Road before stalling on Halloween (whew!). While we're not out of the woods yet, and we could experience ongoing lava threats for years to come, we have so far been spared loss of property within the subdivision. Only 1 home upslope of Pahoia has fallen to the current June 27th flow from Pu'u O'o.
<http://hvo.wr.usgs.gov/kilauea/history/main.html>
<http://hvo.wr.usgs.gov/activity/kilaueastatus.php>
<http://www.hawaiicounty.gov/active-alerts/>

As the predicted path for the lava could reach close to the top of our subdivision and potentially cut off Hwy 130 and the top of Kahakai Blvd., the County prepared emergency routes that connect through our subdivision on Kahala Street (Railroad Ave). They resurfaced that roadway in the event they must activate the detour. The County also improved the Govt. Beach Road between our subdivision and Hawaiian Paradise Park (HPP), creating two alternative routes to reach Hilo, while they continue work to reopen Chain of Craters road; a third alternative. Meantime, HELCO remains committed to serving the community and has plans to bring poles in either from Nanawale or from HPP should the main utility corridor on Hwy 130 be affected. Here at HSCA we installed an expensive (~\$3k) transfer switch in our water yard, which was generously donated by Gemini Telescope, and have a large capacity 125kW generator on reserve when, and if, needed in the event of possible power outages.

In short, the last few months have been rocking and rolling, yet we're still here and all is well. If you don't live here, the news probably sounds frightening, yet it is important to keep a perspective on living with an active volcano. Please check out the Internet links below to learn more about the history of Kilauea Volcano and current status of the June 27th flow that is part of the 32-year Pu'u O'o eruption cycle. **Lava flows could impact postal delivery service and the USPS sent area residents information outlining their plans for maintaining normal delivery.** Be absolutely certain to keep your home owner's insurance policy paid on time; check renewal dates even if insurance is paid by a lender through an escrow account.

As we were making national news for these amazing natural phenomena that also happen to be quite destructive, many other good things were occurring in the subdivision. So don't despair, the volcano is young and may continue to grow for many thousands of years without direct harm to your property. The other good news is that the National Guard has been active in the area to deter property crimes.

We hope everyone has a great NEW YEAR and if you need information from HSCA please be sure to email us at HSCA_BOD@hawaii.rr.com or call (808) 965-8140. Contact info & hours of operations can be found on the HSCA website: www.hawaiianshores.org



Hawaiian Shores Community Association December 2014 Newsletter



Board Updates:

After the April annual board elections, we were saddened to receive a resignation from Arnold Gregory for personal reasons. Mike Dolson stepped forward and we were thrilled to appoint him as the newest member to the board. He brings lots of valuable professional experience in decision making.

The board has been highly functional throughout the recent disasters and is committed to ensuring the interests of the members and owners are best represented in the light of County and State actions. Monthly Bingo activities ceased due to the departure of a key individual, although the board remains committed to attracting more community friendly activities at the community center. Yoga anyone?

Staff Updates:

While most of our staff have been with us at least one year, we have a couple new additions. Samantha Martoni, who recently acquired her water operations license Grade III, has been promoted to General Manager. Joining the office staff this year are Stephanie Carney, Accounting Associate, and Sara Tokura-Ellsworth, clerical assistant. Sara had already been with HSCA as a weekend facility attendant and Stephanie worked briefly with HSCA in 2013. We also have Gabe Kasoga as the newest addition to our maintenance crew.

Water Updates:

We completed the final paperwork to establish a closing date for our USDA, Rural Development low interest loan and grant combination package. The engineering firm we have selected to work with will now commence to draft the bid documents for the nearly \$2M in system replacement and upgrades needed for our 40+ year old well-based water distribution system. The most critical element to complete soon is replacement of the 100,000 gallon holding tank. As of the last monthly billing, we have lost about 10% of our active water customers although if lava remains distant, that situation will likely revert. Given the potential decline in water billing revenues, we had to increase our 1000 gallon usage fee from \$3.50 to \$3.80. The overall average impact is an increase of less than \$2/mo per household and goes into effect January 1, 2015.

We completed over \$17,676 in work supporting our water system under an EPA Wellhead Protection grant which included updating our Emergency Response Plan. We completed the updates in June; just in time for our response to real emergencies!

We have also submitted an emergency grant request through the USDA – Rural Development for reimbursement of some of the repair expenses incurred after Hurricane Iselle. While not all costs are eligible, we hope to recoup approximately \$6,112; nearly half of what we expended in that emergency.

Roads Update:

The temporary access across HSCA's largest property behind the community center was granted to Kamehameha Schools Bishop Estates (KSBE), owners of the large adjacent agricultural property with 3 farmer/tenants. HSCA receives \$2,000/year under this short term agreement which needs to be ratified by membership to extend to a longer term. KSBE committed to controlling Albizia tree growth along the border behind the water yard and along the main water line easement. This work, completed in July, was extremely timely as it helped to mitigate impacts on our water system from Hurricane Iselle. The membership will be asked to approve the agreement on a longer term at our 2015 annual meeting.

Parks and Facilities Update:

The cell tower at Maikoiko was completed and slated to go live with coverage from AT&T and Verizon Wireless in August. Given that we were under a hurricane watch at the time, the placement of antennae was delayed until after the storm cleanup and repairs were completed. Then, with the lava threat following, Hawaiian Tel has delayed its work to run fiber to the site which is needed for the signals to be activated. The latest word we have is that signals will activate in mid-January 2015. HSCA is already receiving the rent from both cellular carriers so we hope they keep to their activation schedule – finally!

The Honu Recreational Facility remains in great condition and is being widely used by members for swimming, games, and parties. Suzan Thompson Forrest continues her good work promoting fitness at the pool and at Maikoiko Park, so consider joining in!

Happy & Safe Holidays to All from the HSCA Board!