



# Orchidland Estates Newsletter

Orchidland Community Association, Incorporated Post Office Box 280, Keaau, Hawaii 96749  
 www.orchidland.org email: support@orchidland.org Voice Mail 808-934-7738

## From the Desk of the President

by Robert Arthurs

We have basically an all **new Board of Directors and all new Officers**. All are not only learning their responsibilities, but learning how to manage what others have started, and to do this as one family, one Board of Directors.

Our major basic **challenges** to handle, manage and resolve are:

The Board will address new paving and resurfacing of the Main Access Roads (MARS) according to the Road Plan, identify connectivity of main access roads, review the sharing of neighborhood road costs and ongoing maintenance, find a solution for the problematic Pohaku/40th elbow, and replace missing signs and posts,

**Delinquent MRMs** will be processed according to the court's instructions and filed in Small Claims Court. It is my understanding that a Court's judgement is a one time event and becomes public information unlike the previous liens which were used in the past.

The Education Committee will be reviewed, reestablished and be instrumental in developing the **Community Lot**.

**My goal** is to bring order and stability to the Board Meetings, and end unproductive behavior. In a democracy that works we learn how to "agree to disagree" yet still respect each other. Together we can stay on track for the betterment of our community. ~~

## Road Committee Report

By Richard Greever, Road Chair

### Accomplishments on Roads since the April Membership Meeting:

Potholes on our paved roads are now routinely being repaired. Ric Wyrick has been voluntarily **patching potholes** on the chip seal roads over the past few months. On 40th Avenue, Art Smith continues to volunteer his time. Many others have helped. Thank you all!

**On 35th Avenue**, 140 yards of concrete were poured to replace a failed section of chip seal between Pohaku Place and Laniuma. This was a problem area because of significant water flow across the road at times.

### Road Materials Provided:

34th, between Ainaloa and Ilima  
 34th, between Aulii and Orchidland  
 35th, between Aulii and Orchidland  
 35th, near Pohaku  
 36th, between Aulii and Orchidland  
 36th, between Laniuma & Pohaku  
 37th, between Orchidland & Melia  
 38th, between Aulii & Orchidland  
 39th, between Orchidland & Laniuma  
 39th, between Laniuma & Pohaku  
 41st, between Orchidland & Aulii  
 42nd, between Orchidland & end  
 Aulii, between 40th & 41st  
 Orchidland Drive, 41st to top

Thanks to Bob Dexter and Armon Coleman who continue to **mow** the sides of our roads. Bob has also collected surplus **stop signs** from the County for our use. We need to purchase posts and install them. (continued on page 3)

**TREASURER’S REPORT**

By Janet Somalinog

Aloha, this is my first time on a Board of Directors and the first time being a Treasurer. Even though there have been several recent Board changes I am able to report to you the end of the fiscal year information. And here are **The balances of as of June 30, 2014:**

1. General Fund	62,295.09
2. Savings	75.75
3. Road Maintenance Ckg	97,076.88
4. Road Maintenance Svgs	15,155.77
5. Paving Fund Ckg	54,877.89
6. Paving Fund Svgs	101.15
7. Board Administration	13,334.74
8. Community Lot Fund	7,334.42
9. Capitol Fund	25,509.21
10. Chip Seal Repair Fund	246,538.17
11. CD (Legal)	76,465.00
12. Legal Savings	24,841.78

The new **Fiscal Responsibility Review Committee** is at work looking at streamlining and standardizing our fiscal Policies and Procedures in order to reduce administrative costs. Our goals are to use your Road Fees wisely, effectively, efficiently, and properly.

I take my responsibility very seriously and am committed to learning as much as I can as fast as I can. If any members are interested in **volunteering** to assist with our office/storage/filing systems, grant writing, or financial solutions, please contact us. Consider being a part of making Orchidland a better place. Mahalo Nui Loa~~~

**OLCA**  
**MEMBERSHIP MEETING**  
 2:00 P.M. On Saturday,  
 November 22, 2014  
 ~ 1:30 P.M. Sign-In ~  
**EAGLE’S LODGE**  
 Across from the Humane Society

**PETITION INITIATED IN SEPTEMBER**

On September 10th, a membership petition was submitted to the Board President requesting a Special Membership Meeting. The petition was initiated by Ric Wyrick, after his resignation from the Board and the Road Chair in August. The Board was unable to arrange a meeting place in the required time frame, and it was mutually decided to address the petition topics at the November General Membership Meeting.

**MEMBER PETITION for SPECIAL MEMBERSHIP MEETING**

We, the membership of Orchidland Community Association call for a Special Membership Meeting to address numerous issues surrounding the controversial and expensive repair scheduled to lower Orchidland Drive (34th Ave to 37th Ave). We call for a late afternoon/ early evening Special Membership meeting time to accommodate all OLCA members.

**1)** We call for a legal review and opinion on the methods and process that were used to collect the Chip Seal repair funds. (Continued on page 4)

## Are You Disaster Ready?

By Dennis McCartin

Hurricane Iselle tested our individual and family readiness in disaster and emergency preparedness. Fortunately, Orchidland Estates fared far better than other communities in Puna. A big **Mahalo** goes out to all of you who quickly and selflessly went and cleared the roads of fallen trees and helped your neighbors out. The Board of Directors (BOD) established a committee to draft out a new **Orchidland Community Emergency Plan**. This plan describes eight (8) disaster incidents that could affect Orchidland. This plan also incorporates the previous response to a lava tube cave-in and the BOD's response to mitigate this event with \$15,000 set aside for this purpose.

The new plan also describes the mission of the recently approved **Community Emergency Response Team (CERT)** by County Civil Defense. The BOD has approved a portion of the community lot as a staging area in the event of a disaster and for training. CERT members go through a basic four Saturday trainings in disaster preparedness, fire safety and suppression, CERT organization, Incident Command System, casualty triage and basic first aid, light search and rescue, critical incident stress debriefing, and appropriate actions regarding terrorism events. The mission of the CERT Team is to provide rapid and safe care for one's self, family members, friends and neighbors until trained emergency responders arrive; coordinate emergency management resources and spontaneous volunteers; and provide trained volunteers for shelter management, if necessary.

**Orchidland CERT** will also undertake functions that improve the resilience of the community in advance of any incident by: informing and educating neighbors in disaster preparedness; planning, preparing, and executing projects that improve community awareness. >>>

Some members are also licensed amateur radio operators who can provide necessary communications. Further information can be found at the following FEMA web site: <http://www.ready.gov/are-you-ready-guide>.

Local contact: Dennis McCartin at 430-5440.~~

## Road Committee Report (cont. from pg.1)

**35th Avenue Concrete Project:** When this project was installed, the contractor deviated from the specifications that had been supplied. We are working with a Civil Engineer to understand the difference this would make in life expectancy, and working with the contractor to reach a mutually acceptable solution.

**Chip Seal Paving Fund:** Since chip seal is no longer an environmentally approved material, the Chip Seal Funds collected over the past 2 years were targeted by the last Board to go towards placing 2" of new asphalt over the deteriorating Orchidland Drive chip seal surface from 34th to 37th (laid in 2001). This project is currently on hold until it is discussed at the General Membership Meeting. A petition was received which required resolution by the membership before proceeding. It is printed in this newsletter.

### Goals moving forward:

**1- Potholes:** Keep the potholes filled on the chip seal roads, and do maintenance, with the goal of these roads lasting until repaving funds are allocated or collected for repaving.

**2- Supply Materials for Unpaved Roads:** Distribute more of your road money to the road in front of your house. We can only achieve this if neighbors will work with neighbors to do the work. If a block wants to organize a work party for their road, we will try to supply the material.

**3- Complete the 1999 Paving Plan:** Work towards completing the final paving increments (Ilima), begin prep work on Pohaku, 40th and Laniuma, to make existing driving conditions better for all. ~~

**OFFICERS**

**PRESIDENT**

Robert Arthurs

**VICE PRESIDENT**

Bob Dexter

**SECRETARY**

Barbara Gantt

**TREASURER**

Janet Somalinog

**ROAD (RMC) CHAIR**

Richard Greever

**DIRECTORS**

Wayne Carey

Barbara Gantt

Tegen Greene

Peter Houle

Dennis McCartin

Rick Turner

**RMC COMMITTEE**

Wayne Carey

Barbara Gantt

Richard Greever

Dennis McCartin

Janet Somalinog

**MEETINGS**

RMC - 2nd Tuesday  
5:30pm @ Blane's

BOD - 3rd Tuesday  
5:30pm @ Eagles

**OLCA**

**P.O. Box 966**

**Kea'au, HI 96749**

**Member Petition**

(continued from page 2)

2) We call for a legal review and opinion on the manner in which these Chip Seal repair funds were redirected to lower Orchidland Drive.

3) We call for an independent civil engineer to provide a detailed report on the status

of lower Orchidland Drive and to give us viable options for proper repair.

4) We call for a current Road Committee report on other chip sealed roads within Orchidland Estates in need of repair and viable options for the use of Chip Seal repair funds.

5) We call for an Orchidland Community Association ballot vote, in order to allow all OLCA members to decide >>

“yes or no” whether to spend over \$219,000 of Chip Seal repair funds on the repaving of lower Orchidland Drive with 2” of asphalt paving.

Please note, this is the same amount of asphalt paving used on new asphalt paved roads within Orchidland, and lower Orchidland Drive was already paved once in the current Paving Plan rotation which is yet to be completed. The last time the paving plan was deviated from, a court action and subsequent mediation dictated that the paving plan rotation could not be altered.

6) This proposed ballot membership vote would also include the option to disperse Chip Seal repair funds to other chip sealed roads in need of maintenance and repair. For instance, using the chip seal fund to provide weekly pothole maintenance until the current paving plan is completed. ~~

**OLCA MEMBERSHIP MEETING**

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November 22, 2014

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