

THE VOICE

"Coming together, uniting West Maui as ONE Voice"

PO Box 10338 ♦ Lahaina, HI 96761 ♦ www.WestMaui.org ♦ WMTA@maui.net

Newsletter of the West Maui Taxpayers Association ♦ July, 2010

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE – DONALD LEHMAN

As expected, 2010 is proving to be very challenging for WMTA and all Maui taxpayers. Your WMTA has been actively focusing on protecting taxpayers, businesses, and the tourism industry from harmful tax and regulatory policies.

WMTA joined with other interest groups and Maui County to successfully argue that the State should continue to share the Transient Accommodations Tax with the counties. Loss of that tax revenue would have made balancing the County budget even more difficult.

Maui County finally adopted a budget that included a number of increases including higher bus fares, higher golf fees, higher tipping fees at the County land fill along with reduced operating hours, and increased water and waste water fees. There will also be furlough Fridays for County employees and pool closure days.

Real property tax rates per one thousand dollars of net taxable assessed valuation will increase in some categories:

<u>Description</u>	<u>From</u>	<u>To</u>
Improved Residential	\$4.85	\$5.00
Apartment	\$4.55	\$5.00
Commercial	\$6.25	\$6.25
Industrial	\$6.50	\$6.50
Agricultural	\$4.50	\$5.00
Conservation	\$4.75	\$5.00
Hotel & Resort	\$8.20	\$8.30
Time Share	\$14.00	\$14.00
Unimproved Residential	\$5.35	\$6.25
Homeowner	\$2.00	\$2.50
Commercialized Residential	n/a	\$4.00(new)



In May WMTA joined a coalition of organizations headed by the Realtors Association of Maui to raise concerns about a proposal under review in the County Council's Budget and Finance Committee that would change the way Real Property Tax rates are applied to condominium properties. The proposal would amend Section 348.305 of the County Code to require that all condominium owners be taxed at the "highest and best use" for their property regardless of zoning unless they qualify for the homeowner exemption. This would clearly be inequitable as your tax rate would be determined by another owner's use of their property rather than your actual use of your condominium property.

WMTA sent a strongly worded letter to each member of the County Council that concluded "...we fear that this proposal could have a devastating impact on the viability of certain properties, Maui tourism, and the County's economy. We therefore respectfully request that the Council work with the condo industry to implement a "self-policing" approach to this problem and hold the current proposal in abeyance." There are continuing discussions of the proposal, and WMTA is working to protect Maui's condominium owners.

The WMTA Board appreciates the support of our community as we work to protect and preserve West Maui. We encourage you to join or renew your membership and to share this newsletter with friends and neighbors so they can support WMTA. With today's many fiscal challenges, the need for a strong WMTA has never been greater.

Thank you, and be sure to vote because your vote DOES count.

Thank you,

Donald Lehman

SAVE THE DATE

SUNDAY, AUGUST 15, 2010
MEET THE WEST MAUI COUNTY
COUNCIL CANDIDATES NIGHT
with optional Dinner/Show following (see page 3)



THURSDAY, OCTOBER 21, 2010
WMTA CANDIDATES' NIGHT

WMTA TRANSPORTATION UPDATE - BOB PURE

- Phase 1-A of the Lahaina Bypass underway and due for completion July, 2011.
- Kahoma Stream bridge to be completed by March, 2012.
- Keawe Street intersection with the Highway, to be improved with the addition of a dedicated left turn lane (green arrow) with a targeted completion date of the end of this July.
- The 2nd Phase of the Lahaina Bypass, Phase 1-B-1, scheduled to start in September of this year, with anticipated completion in 18-20 months. This Phase will go from Lahainaluna south to Hokiokio.
- Highway Widening Project, currently under construction from Lahainaluna to Aholo St. - expected completion by the end of 2010.

VOTING DATES TO REMEMBER

IF NO VOTE, NO CAN GRUMBLE!

**ONLY 34.8% of West Maui Registered Voters
turned out for the 2008 General Election.**

Please Register and Please VOTE TOO!

Vote 2010

- **2010 PRIMARY ELECTION VOTER
REGISTRATION DEADLINE**
Deadline Thursday, August 19, 2010
- **Request absentee mail ballots for Primary
Election** Start Tuesday, July 20, 2010 -
Deadline Saturday, Sept 11, 2010
- **Absentee Voting by Walk-In for Primary
Election**
September 3, 2010 - September 16, 2010
- **Primary Election**
Saturday, September 18, 2010
- **2010 GENERAL ELECTION VOTER
REGISTRATION DEADLINE**
Deadline Monday, October 4, 2010
- **Request absentee mail ballots for General
Election** Start Tuesday, July 20, 2010,
Deadline Tuesday, October 26, 2010
- **Absentee Voting by Walk-in for General
Election** October 19, 2010 - October 30, 2010
- **General Election** Tuesday, November 2, 2010

HOSPITAL UPDATE – BRIAN HOYLE

Newport Hospital Corporation has secured a "new" 15 acre site from KLMC that is below and adjacent to the Coffee Farms Rainbow House. This site borders the existing Kaka'alaneo Drive. The preliminary site plan is done including a 25 bed Critical Access Hospital, 40 bed Skilled Nursing Facility, 40 unit Assisted Living Facility, Medical Offices/Clinic and a planned Drug Alcohol Treatment Facility. Final State and County required land use entitlements are in process and we expect to commence design and engineering by year end.

We are now in the process of selecting a qualified Hospital Operator and meeting with Maui Physicians interested in being on staff and/or taking space in the Medical Office Building. Project financing is in process with governmental sources and private equity funds. Construction is anticipated to begin in late 2011 and the Hospital opening in late 2013.



Candidates for the West Maui County Council Seat include
(listed alphabetically):

Su Campos

Eve Clute

Elle Cochran

Alan Fukuyama

Ezekiela Kalua*

Ke'eaumoku Kapu

Paul Laub



*WMTA Executive Director

**KAKOU! ("Come Together")
At the Maui Theatre – Home of Ulalena (Lahaina Center)
August 15, 2010**

**Two Great Events in One Night!
Meet & Greet the West Maui Council Candidates, and
Stay for great food and entertainment raising funds for WMHMCF!**

WEST MAUI COUNTY COUNCIL – PRE-CANDIDATES NIGHT

4:30 PM

**Meet and greet the West Maui County Council Candidates, with Maui's Own
Master of Ceremonies Alaka`i Paleka**

TIME: 4:30 PM – 5:15 PM – In Lobby: Meet and Talk Story with Candidates - Ask tough questions!

5:30 PM – 6:30 PM – In Theatre: Candidate Speeches and some Q & A

COST: FREE – All Maui County Registered Voters are encouraged to attend!

OTHER: 4-Hour validated parking at Front Street Shopping Center by Hilo Hattie

Co-Sponsors: Lahaina News and West Maui Taxpayers Association

*****Pre-Candidates Event Pau at 6:30pm *****

Make it a Special Evening and Stay for Dinner and/or Show with friends starting at 7:30 PM

****Option to Purchase Special Outback Steakhouse Dinner Plate for only \$10.00**

Add Show for only \$20.00 additional**

DINNER & ENTERTAINMENT CONCERT FUNDRAISER

Co Sponsors:

Lahaina News, Hit Mixx Music Group, Show Systems Maui & Maui Theatre – Home of Ulalena

Benefitting the

West Maui Hospital and Medical Center Foundation Inc (WMHMCF) "Community Resource Fund"

Hit Mixx Music Group will donate 50% of net proceeds from ticket sales to WMHMCF

WMHMCF Inc. is a 501 (c)(3) non-profit Public Charity, EIN 26-3774805

Famous Outback Steakhouse Special Dinner Plate &

Awesome Entertainment!

"An Den"

"Tiva and Pacific Vibes"

"Maui Hula Halau"

"Lexi"

"Mele Pono"

Dinner and Show ticket - \$30.00 per person (tax included)

Show Tickets only - \$20.00 per person (Add: \$5 for VIP seating first 5 rows in Center of Theatre.)

Outback Steakhouse Special Seared Ahi Salad Plate with Ono Outback White Bean Soup only - \$10.00

TICKETS GO ON SALE JULY 22, 2010!

Call our friends and co-sponsors at

MAUI THEATRE - Home of Ulalena for RESERVATION TICKETS AND INFO AT 661-9914 Ext.#1

Show ends before 10:30 PM

IS THIS YOUR LAST NEWSLETTER?

To control costs, only dues paid members will receive future newsletters- please join today and support a better West Maui.

Expiration Date above member name- as of 07/16/2010

MEMBERSHIP REPORT - Paul Brown, Chair

Aloha!

Do you have the time to attend all of the community meetings and share your concerns with the officials present?

Do you have the time to monitor legislation moving through the state legislature and county council which will have an impact on your tax liabilities?

Do you have time to lobby your representatives to work to ensure that the infrastructure in your community is maintained at optimum levels?

Most of us don't have time to do all of these things but we are fortunate to have an organization dedicated to doing them and more. West Maui Taxpayers Association has worked for over 30 years to represent the West Maui community. WMTA works to ensure that the voice of the community is heard by our elected officials and the various State and County directors responsible for maintaining and improving the infrastructure in our community. WMTA is also a strong watchdog for legislation which will have an impact on the taxes paid by everyone in the community, including individuals, businesses and associations.

Please help WMTA continue to work for you and your community by renewing your membership. Membership dues are the sole source of revenue for WMTA and we can't continue without YOUR support.

Mahalo!

Paul Brown, Membership Committee Chairman

West Maui Taxpayers Association Membership & Donation Form

Name: _____

E-mail: _____

Address: _____

City: _____ ST _____ Zip _____ Phone: _____

\$ _____ MEMBERSHIP

- I am a member and renewing my dues
 I **am not** a member but would like to join

Membership Levels

- o Individuals may join at \$50.00 per year.
- o Families may join at \$100.00 per year
- o Businesses may join at \$100.00 per year
- o Associations, please contact us directly (808) 661-7990

\$ _____ In addition to my membership, here is an ADDITIONAL DONATION

TOTAL ENCLOSED: \$ _____

Comments and Suggestions: _____

Memberships effective for one year upon receipt of membership dues payment.

Mail Checks, and Comments to:

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