

WEST MAUI TAXPAYERS ASSOCIATION'S

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, September 2012

PRESIDENTS MESSAGE By Don Lehman

CALENDAR ALERT: Please note these very important dates for anyone interested in a better West Maui:

- 1) October 1, 2012, at 6:00 pm the County Administration will conduct the West Maui budget hearing at the Lahaina Civic Center.
- 2) October 18, 2012, at 5:00 pm is the 2012 WMTA Candidates Night. (Please see Page 4 for full details)
- 3) November 6, 2012, is ELECTION DAY-PLEASE VOTE!
Elected officials will not take West Maui seriously if we do not vote!

The West Maui budget hearings are an annual opportunity to present funding requests for projects specific to West Maui. WMTA has traditionally argued that a proportionate share of the significant tax revenues produced in West Maui should be invested in services and infrastructure in West Maui. Rather than testify, WMTA will share the attached WMTA Goals and Objectives with the administration in advance of the hearing. As WMTA has such a broad range of interests, as demonstrated by the Goals and Objectives, we feel we can share our objectives better with a written submission than by oral testimony. If anyone reading this newsletter feels WMTA should add additional areas of interest, please contact us and we will bring your suggestions to the WMTA Board for discussion. Note that the Goals and Objectives no longer have a date other than the date they were adopted by the Board. We made this decision as the Goals and Objectives are constantly evolving and, as currently configured, are designed as a tool for Maui County and the State of Hawaii to use in the budget process to consider priorities WMTA has identified for West Maui. You may review the most current WMTA Goals and Objectives by visiting the WMTA web site at www.westmaui.org and clicking on 'About Us'.

WMTA is exceedingly proud of the public service we provide by conducting the only candidates forum on the west side. We invite every candidate appearing on the West Maui ballot, and use the forum as a vehicle to allow voters to see many candidates in person. In addition, we are able to inform all candidates on the issues we feel are most important to West Maui by sharing the WMTA Goals and Objectives with both those candidates attending and those declining our invitation. The WMTA Candidates Night is always very informative and interesting. If you have a specific question for a candidate, please contact the WMTA office with your suggestion. Please plan to attend, and invite anyone you know with an interest in West Maui issues.

Election Day is an opportunity for voters to show they really do care what happens in government. Voter turnout has been very disappointing in past years, but WMTA is asking everyone reading this newsletter to be sure to vote and encourage all the voters they know to do the same. Even if you know you will be disappointed, or some candidates have no opposition, you have an opportunity to show your approval or dissatisfaction with your ballot. Please show that West Maui 'DOES COUNT' by casting your ballot on November 6th. Thank you.

Sincerely,



President, WMTA

LAHAINA BYPASS UPDATE By Bob Pure

We are maintaining close contact with the State Dept. of Transportation to monitor the progress of the Bypass. As you know, the first two Phases are being constructed simultaneously. Phase 1A runs from Lahainaluna to Keawe St. and Phase 1-B-1 runs from Hokiokio Pl. (opposite Puumana) to Lahainaluna.

Both contractors have experienced construction delays on each of the Phases. Each Phase contains a bridge which has turned out to be more complex than they anticipated.

So we wanted to give you revised completion dates based on the latest information from the DOT and the contractors best estimate.

Phase 1A.....by the end of November, 2012
Phase 1-B-1.....by the end of February, 2013

We will stay on top of the situation and inform you if those dates change.

WMTA GOALS AND OBJECTIVES
APPROVED & UPDATED: September 11, 2012

HEALTH AND SAFETY



- 1) Promote the development and construction of a critical access medical facility in West Maui with associated facilities.
- 2) Support emergency preparedness programs for West Maui.
- 3) Support budget requests for MEO projects and improved police and fire fighting facilities in West Maui.

EDUCATION

- 1) Lobby for funding for the Lahaina Complex After School Tutoring Program.

TRAFFIC AND ROADWAYS

- 1) Promote the completion of the Lahaina Bypass and other traffic mitigation projects in West Maui.
- 2) Pursue completion of the upgrades and paving of lower Honoapiilani Road from Kahana to Napili
- 3) Promote improvements to Honoapiilani Highway from the Pali to Lahaina Town to protect the single access in and out of West Maui.
- 4) Spur County to complete Shaw Street sidewalk from Front Street to Honoapiilani Highway as promised.
- 5) Promote implementation of the Maui County Complete Streets Ordinance on all West Maui projects.
- 6) Support expansion and improvement of County public transit service in West Maui.
- 7) Support moving the southern terminus of the Lahaina Bypass to Cut



AFFORDABLE HOUSING

- 1) Continue to support well planned housing projects in West Maui that include both affordable and work force elements. (ie: Waiee Village, Kaanapali 2020, Kohoma Stream infill, Villages at Leialii, Puukolii Village Mauka, Pulelehua, 'Kahoma Village, etc.)
- 2) Support the expansion of the Ka Hale A Ke Ola Homeless Resource Center to address the homeless encampment problems in West Maui.

CAPITAL IMPROVEMENTS

- 1) Press for improvements to the pump station at Honoapiilani Highway and Ka'anapali Parkway to address the sewer odor problem.
- 2) Pursue funding for improvements to the Honokowai sewage treatment plant, including completion of the ultraviolet canal, to provide treatment, storage and distribution systems to reuse treated waste water instead of using injection wells, and to address odor problems.
- 3) Support the operation/preservation of the new West Maui skate park.
- 4) Support development of an off-highway bicycle greenway for West Maui.
- 5) Urge the County to aggressively develop under-utilized water resources to ensure adequate supply for current and future needs
- 6) Support purchase of land at Makila for the creation of a new park.



VOTER/TAXPAYER REPRESENTATION

- 1) Press for reform of the County employee pension system so it is fair to taxpayers and more equivalent to the private sector.
- 2) Support effort to reform the permitting process and change the Planning Department focus more to customer service with fewer bureaucratic hurdles.
- 3) Represent taxpayers in the budgeting process, with an emphasis on right-sizing government and greater efficiency in government programs.
- 4) Promote business friendly regulatory and tax policies for enhanced job creation, especially in the hospitality industry.
- 5) Support fairness and certainty in real property taxation.
- 6) Support the effort to bring fairness and true voter representation to the Maui County election process for Council seats.
- 7) Promote communication between West Maui taxpayers and their government with the annual WMTA meetings, the WMTA Candidates Night (the only such forum on the West side), and aggressive get-out-the-vote efforts.
- 8) Build awareness for West Maui harbor needs.

CULTURAL PROTECTION

- 1) Preserve and promote Hawaiian culture efforts, such as:
 - a. Support the efforts of the Royal Hawaiian Guard and its efforts with Na Kia'i O Waiee to honor the monarchs at Wai Ola Cemetery.
 - b. Support funding for the Lahaina Honolua Senior Citizens Club.
 - c. Support the creation of a new cemetery in West Maui
 - d. Support restoration of Moku'ula

Ka Hale A Ke Ola Homeless Resource Centers By Rafael M. Ayala MC/MFT, Site Director West Side

Mahalo, West Maui Taxpayers Association!

The WMTA GOALS AND OBJECTIVES of September 11, 2012 are forward thinking aspirations that will help our community move forward in finding answers to the homeless issues that we currently face. I am looking forward in working with WMTA on ideas how to better serve the homeless crisis, and supporting the homeless residents of Maui finding permanent housing and opportunities to improve their well-being.

To learn more about our resource centers please visit our website at KHAKO.ORG or contact me at the following phone numbers. Ph: 808446-8027, Cell 269-3299.

WEST MAUI HOSPITAL UPDATE By Joe Pluta

We have many reasons to be pleased about where we are with respect to developing our West Maui Hospital and Medical Center. Please be assured that we are doing everything practicably possible to expedite all necessary applications, approvals and agreements necessary to complete our mission and goal to develop our West Maui Hospital and Medical Center. We know that no one expected the events and financial crisis that derailed our initial plans to develop our hospital. We did not lose our faith and made necessary adjustments to continue on our path. Please see our web site at www.westmauihospital.org. (*Maui TV News has a special report on the bottom of their home page at www.mauitvnews.com.*)

We have a USDA Rural Hospital Development Loan Pre-application in process with favorable expectations to permit the major construction financing of the West Maui Hospital. We are working in tandem with the landowner and Certificate of Need holder, Newport Hospital Corporation, and are proceeding with necessary finalization of arrangements for all entitlements and approvals. With your help, we could be open and accepting patients within 2 years!

While this newsletter is being published, we are currently negotiating with several major hospital operating companies and are very encouraged by the level of interest we are receiving. It seems that everyone who has examined our project agrees that our hospital is essential and that it will be profitable.

Now it is time for you to become part of the solution towards the remaining steps! Please join in with us! We are reaching out to the community to obtain tax deductible donations for approximately \$75,000 within 60 days for the necessary preliminary expenses associated with new agreements and entitlements. Verbal assurances have been received. However, we are anxiously awaiting the official approvals from the USDA for the Major permanent financing which at this point appears to be \$50 Million. One generous prior supporter has already donated 40% towards that \$75 K goal. We are counting on you to add your contribution as well to help those who will join with you to make up the difference. Any amount you send will help. Please use the form and return envelope attached and send your donation today! Time is of the essence. Thank you.

**West Maui Improvement Foundation Donation
IRS EIN 99-0275775 NON PROFIT 501C (3)**

West Maui Taxpayers Association continues to collaborate with the West Maui Improvement Foundation in its efforts to bring a hospital to West Maui. Please read the hospital update above by Joe Pluta, WMTA Treasurer/President Emeritus, as well as President of the West Maui Improvement Foundation. If you can give a gift, no matter the amount, it would be greatly appreciated.

Donor Name: _____ Email: _____
Address: _____ City: _____ ST: _____ Zip: _____

- Check here to have your name kept private in publications and acknowledgements.
- Check here to have your e-mail address added to our "WMIF E-Alerts" List

Payment Info:

\$_____ Check Enclosed
Payable to **West Maui Improvement Foundation**
Amount: \$25 \$50 \$365 Other \$_____

Credit Card (fill out information to the right.)

Mail Checks, and Send Comments to:
West Maui Improvement Foundation
PO Box 158 • Lahaina, HI 96761
Phone: 808-661-7990
Visit www.WestMauiHospital.org

CHARGE MY CREDIT CARD –

ALL INFORMATION REQUIRED FOR CREDIT CARD DONATIONS:

CARD TYPE Visa MasterCard

Amount: \$25 \$50 \$365 Other \$_____

Card # _____

Expiration Date: _____ Phone Number: _____

Billing Address: _____

City: _____ ST: _____ Zip: _____

Signature _____

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WMTA CANDIDATES NIGHT By Don Lehman

Did You Know...

- In the 2012 Primary Election, Maui County had 84,042 registered voters, yet only 30.6 percent, or just 25,702 voters cast their ballots? (Source: State Office of Elections). That's down from the 34 percent voter turnout that Maui County recorded for the 2010 primary.

The West Maui Taxpayers Association (WMTA) invites West Maui registered voters to participate in the 2012 WMTA Candidates Night. The 2012 WMTA Candidates Night is on October 18, 2012, and will be at the Lahaina Civic Center.

The WMTA Candidates Night is the only forum of its kind in West Maui. West Maui is a unique and vibrant community that provides employment opportunities and generates significant tax revenues for all levels of government. WMTA is also unique in that our mission is to promote efficient use of the taxes generated to invest in infrastructure, services and amenities that help ensure that West Maui remains one of the best places to live, work and visit in the world.

The tradition for the WMTA Candidates Night is to invite all candidates appearing on the West Maui ballot and give West Maui voters an opportunity see the candidates up close and personal, as well as building awareness of West Maui issues. For those offices with both candidates attending, there will be an opportunity for each candidate to give an introductory statement followed by a question or two presented in a debate format. If only one candidate is present, or the office is not contested, the candidate will have an opportunity to introduce themselves to the voters with a short statement. This event will be videotaped by Akaku Maui Community Television, and currently planned to be aired live.

As the WMTA Candidates Night is for West Maui voter education, we ask that any candidate attending please refrain from bringing a large contingent of supporters. No signs, banners or other campaign materials will be allowed inside the Civic Center, and all election activities must be conducted outside. Anyone displaying disruptive or disrespectful behavior will be asked to leave.

There will be a delicious dinner service provided for all attendees graciously hosted by our loyal supporters Art Ortiz and David Mellow from the Kaanapali Paradise Grill Restaurant. Food service starts at 5:00 PM.

MEMBERSHIP / TREASURERS REPORT By Joe Pluta

Thank you for supporting WMTA with your membership dues! The WMTA is unlike many other non-profits who receive County, State and Federal support. The WMTA is one of the only Non-profit community organizations that rely solely on the financial support of members like you!

We have an ambitious schedule of goals and objectives contained in this newsletter. How important are they to you and your investment in West Maui?

Our success is in your hands. Membership dues alone simply are not enough to get the job done. Please send us an added donation today! What we can do as your Board of Community volunteers is directly related to our financial resources. The WMTA Board of Directors are very excited about our role and being able to see the significant accomplishments we have initiated being brought into reality.

Thank you for part in this and your continued outstanding support!

**West Maui Taxpayers Association
MEMBERSHIP FORM - IRS EIN 99-0160368 NON PROFIT 501C (4)**

Member Name: _____ Email: _____

Address: _____

City: _____ ST: _____ Zip: _____ Phone: _____ Fax: _____

- Please correct my information as noted above.
- Check here to have your name kept private in publications and acknowledgements.
- Check here to have your e-mail address added to our "WMTA E-Alerts" List

\$ _____ MEMBERSHIP

I am a member and renewing my dues

I **am not** a member but would like to join

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

Membership Levels

- Individuals may join at \$50.00 per year.
- Families may join at \$100.00 per year
- Businesses may join at \$100.00 per year
- Associations, please contact us directly

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

Mail Checks, payable to "West Maui Taxpayers Association, to:

West Maui Taxpayers Association

PO Box 158 • Lahaina, HI 96761 • Phone: 808-661-7990 • Visit www.WestMaui.org

Sept-2012 NWS

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