

Pa'auilo Mauka Kalopa Community Association

March 2017 Newsletter

President`s Message



PMKCA President Joe Clarkson

General Meeting Report

Our Pa'auilo Mauka Kalopa Community Association (PMKCA) held its first general meeting of 2017 on the last day of January. Several guest speakers made presentations to the membership.

Marissa Harman representing Kamehameha Schools Bishop Estate (KSBE) informed us that the lease on their Hamakua timberland expired at the end of 2016. KSBE will re-lease the land and eventually the harvest will continue. Of approximately 14,000 acres planted, only 2,800 acres were harvested by the previous tenant. Harman indicated that there are many potential lessees for the land under consideration.

PMKCA members had submitted several questions to Harman related to plantation and harvest issues. She indicated that KSBE was aware of the problem of noise from harvest operations and would make sure that

the problem of noise from harvest operations and would make sure that future harvest procedures minimized noise as much as possible. Other concerns involved the potential for trees to be blown over onto power lines, slash accumulation on harvested acreage and prospects for sale of any of KSBE land in Hamakua. We were told that KSBE rarely sells land and that there were no plans to do so in our area. KSBE will be working with HELCO to minimize risk to power lines and will possibly change the new lease to ensure that their land is left in better condition after every harvest.

In closing her presentation, Harman indicated that although they had studied the issue thoroughly, no re-development plan for the commercial area of Pa'auilo Village had yet been found to make financial sense. No additional structures or businesses are planned for the area.

Our county council representative Val Poindexter talked about her effort to facilitate better coordination between volunteers in Community Emergency Response Teams and Civil Defense. A similar effort will help our volunteer firefighters coordinate with the county fire department. Poindexter also expressed concern that so few young people were becoming farmers. She is working on creating a roundtable to enhance opportunities for young farmers and ranchers. Poindexter reminded everyone that Hawaii Island is at the end of a very long chain of food supply. Food availability in emergencies can be helped by having more food produced on island.

Michael Gibson described the latest activities at Hamakua Harvest. In addition to the farmer's market, several acres of orchard and native tree forest will be established. Many dozens of trees are already planted and growing well. Gibson noted that although many truckloads of soil amendments and many potted plants have been transported onto the Hamakua Harvest site, they are keeping fire ants out of their facility by inspecting every shipment at the point of loading and also after it arrives on site. He recommended that procedure be followed by anyone

bringing plants or soil enhancers onto their property.

Police officer Jody Passmore was our last invited speaker. He indicated that a mini crime spike two or three months ago had ended with the arrest and incarceration of the perpetrators. Passmore said that although there was relatively little crime in Hamakua, people could still reduce criminal activity by reducing the opportunities available for criminals. He asked everyone to remove the keys from their cars and lock the car doors after parking. House doors and windows should be secured to prevent easy entry into one's home. He also indicated that car keys and house keys should not be kept on the same ring.

A lively discussion followed his suggestion that, in our area, the most frequently stolen cars are the Honda Civic and the Toyota Tacoma. Possible anti-theft measures discussed were GPS locators hidden in the car and steering wheel disabling devices. Passmore also noted that a car can be stolen and stripped to the frame for parts in only a few hours.

Wooden Bridge Repair Timetable

By press time, repair of the wooden bridge over Waikaalulu Gulch on Kaapahu Road should have just been completed. Three bridges on Paauilo Mauka Road between Hookahua and Kukuipapa Roads are scheduled for repairs from March 2 to March 15. Work crews will be closing the road between 8:30 am and 2:00 pm when they work on the bridges. The road will then be re-opened. PMKCA has asked that "Road Closed" signs be posted at the nearest intersections when the road is blocked.

Best Regards,

Joe Clarkson
President, PMKCA

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