

Volcano Cymbidium Acres Road Maintenance Corporation
Annual Newsletter 2019

Aloha VCARMC members,

2019 has been and still is definitely a pivotal year for VCARMC. The call went out for new Board members to replace some current, long-serving members so that the corporation can continue to exist. So far four or five of you have expressed an interest, which is certainly a good thing. Simply put, a new president and treasurer are needed in order for VCARMC to continue to exist. We can coach you through it for the first few months! At this writing, we are in the midst of that challenge and don't know how it will turn out. We resolve to determine the outcome by the time of our Annual General Meeting on October 26. It is our fervent hope that the corporation can continue operating.

Missing from this year's newsletter is our annual assessment that pays for our road upkeep. Since there's a possibility of dissolving, we are trying to deplete our bank account. We will wait to see if we get the necessary new officers. If we succeed, an annual assessment will be mailed later this year, separate from this newsletter. It is conceivable that a part time bookkeeper could be contracted to do part of the treasurer's work, but not in lieu of having a treasurer. Assessments would have to be raised to pay for a bookkeeper. Our current, long-time treasurer did this work without pay, and that is not a sustainable situation. It is a plus that our treasurer took a system that was in disarray and has refined it to where it can be handed off to a new treasurer.

We currently have \$8,462 in the corporation bank account. In the event that VCARMC is unable to continue, we intend to spend all of that money on the roads. Regardless of the outcome, a full accounting of funds will be mailed to all owners. We are currently looking at chip seal resurfacing of the mauka end of Kawailehua (Rd. E), as it is in bad shape.

Despite trying to deplete our bank account, we welcome payment of past-due assessments. We have succeeded in netting \$14,000 in past-due assessments. However, \$9,000 remains unpaid, despite the numerous letters we've sent to these owners. If these owners – you know who you are – paid what they owe, we could:

- Reinforce the weakening intersection of Laukapu and Kekoanui with a large patch of asphalt
- Do the same at the intersection of Wright Road and Olomea
- Have Warren Gilbert do more roadside mowing and brush cut back.

Road maintenance projects of this past year were:

- Fog sealing of intersections of Olomea Road
- Resurfacing and widening of a 100-ft. section of Kekoanui Blvd. in front of Lotus Garden B&B
- Chipseal resurfacing of Kalaninauli Rd.
- Broadening the corner of Wright Rd./Olomea intersection with chip seal
- Routine roadside vegetation management – mowing, brush cutback and herbicide

The Board of Directors wants to inform members that we have had challenges in doing business with Triple K Trucking during the past couple of years. They take a long time to get jobs done. Many of you

have no doubt noticed their equipment parked in the subdivision for long periods. We are sometimes unsure of what they are doing. Since we have not found any other company on the island that does chip seal, we have had to work with them the in best way we know how. All this has been an exercise in diplomacy and assertiveness. It's not like we can go on the attack with them. Then we'll be nowhere at all. Finally, the owner, Kyle Pua informed us in early July that his son was diagnosed with cancer and that Kyle had been at his bedside in a Honolulu hospital for several weeks. Consequently, out of common decency and respect, we refrained from putting pressure on Kyle to finish fog sealing Kalaninauli and remove his equipment. At this writing, Kyle has indicated that they are once again available. The plan is to finish fog sealing Kalaninauli, patch any potholes, resurface the Makua 600 feet of Kawailehua and move their equipment out of the subdivision.

Whether or not VCARMC exists, there are things both big and small that we as members can do to maintain our roads and roadsides. Here are some suggestions:

- Cut back ginger, Himalayan raspberry, tibouchina and other invasives.
- Reshape ruts where the roadside grass has been driven on. Suggested methods include "by foot" with rubber boots on, with shovel, pick, etc.
- Toss clumps of dirt that have been flung onto the roadways back to the roadsides.
- Pull up grass runners that are growing out into the roads.
- Rake up carpets of leaves that drop onto the road beneath your large (e.g. koa, ironwood) trees
- Dead head and dispose of roadside weeds that are going to seed.
- Speeding: Wow, there's been a lot of that lately. If you want to drive 25, 30 or 40 miles an hour – Wright Road speeds – do that on Wright Road. Our speed limit is 15 mph. Would it kill ya to go 20? Your neighbors would like it better. And tell your visitors.
- Use herbicide on grass that's sprouting up through the roads.

Perfection is unattainable. The goal here is to make an effort, no matter how big or small.

Regarding the use of glyphosate (Round Up), we are keenly aware of the growing opposition to it in light of recent scientific findings. To the person who wrote "A'ole!" on our spray notice sign, we hear you. FYI, Kyle Pua recently offered to spray the entire subdivision and we declined. It would have been the third round of herbicide within a year's time. Nevertheless, it's a dilemma as to how to manage the roadside grass without some use of herbicide, especially fronting the many vacant lots. Evidently one of the prospective new board members has a rider mower with an edger. Perhaps that's an alternative to glyphosate. However, past experience has shown that "scraping" the mat of turf that creeps into the roads has actually damaged the roads. It's indeed a tough issue.

We hope for a good turnout for our upcoming "make-or-break" annual general meeting. It is Saturday, October 26 at 4 pm at Cooper Center. Watch for the signs ten days prior. Let's keep this thing going!

VCARMC Board of Directors