



THE V.C.A. VOICE



May, 2007 (vol. 2, no. 5)

Please Note: The VCA's next board meeting will be held on **TUESDAY May 8** at 7pm at Cooper Center. ALL ARE WELCOME TO ATTEND, please contact a board member if you would like to propose a topic for the agenda. *All articles herein are the opinion of the authors*, address submissions to:

P.O. Box 600, Volcano, 96785

-or-

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Visit us online at:

www.VolcanoCommunity.org

“The preservation of a democratic civilization requires the wisdom of the serpent and the harmlessness of the dove. The children of light must be armed with the wisdom of the children of darkness but remain free from their malice. They must know the power of self-interest in human society without giving it moral justification. They must have this wisdom in order that they may beguile, deflect, harness and restrain self-interest, individual and collective, for the sake of the community.”

- Reinhold Niebuhr

CALLING ALL ACTIVE MILITARY FAMILY MEMBERS

Independence Day celebrations are coming soon, and the VCA would like to mark the day by recognizing the debt we owe men and women in uniform. Because they are serving so far from home, we would like to honor their parents at the annual July 4th festivities. Please contact Hank Banquer

at 989-5773 if you know someone we should recognize.

PUBLIC FORUM, May 1st Transportation Alternatives HELE ON!

“At the present time, the Hele On Bus route that begins in Kau, leaves Volcano at 8am and leaves Hilo at 2:40pm is of limited use to most potential riders.

Along with many other Puna/Kau residents, I commute daily to Hilo for my full-time job. I have spoken with many others who also work full-time in Hilo and there is a general consensus that if there were a bus that left early enough and returned late enough, we would ride it. If there are enough people who need the short trip to Hilo, two routes would be ideal: one that arrived in Hilo around 7:30am, the other arriving around 9 or 10am; one could leave Hilo early (2:30 or 3pm) and the other could leave after work hours (5 or 6pm).

The State of Hawaii is talking more and more about sustainability (see www.hawaii2050.org), but until we have public transportation that can meet the needs of the working public, we will remain a long way from achieving it.”

-VCA member

Do you agree? Come talk to Tom Brown, the Department Head of the County's Mass Transit Office or, call him at 961-8744. He will be in Volcano to talk about plans with the community for new route options on:

**Tuesday, May 1st at 7pm,
Cooper Center.**

DOZER OPERATORS ARE PEOPLE TOO!

Please everybody, don't take out your frustrations with property developers on the working guys at a site. Back hoe and loader operators are just doing a job fulfilling a contract. They have worked very hard in some cases to own their own small businesses and heavy machinery to make a decent living. They have families and bills to pay.

No one likes to see even the scraggiest of forest cleared in shortsighted attempts at speculative profit. However, private property is private property. Unfortunately, the existing zoning in the village and subdivisions of our community is woeful.

We can turn the situation around. We can insist that our representatives reevaluate the situation and take serious and progressive steps to fix the flawed planning of the past. They have the opportunity to take action through the Puna Community Development Plan. Please contact our representative, Bob Jacobson (961-8225 jjaco@co.hawaii.hi.us), and let him know that property ownership comes with responsibilities as well as rights.

Do not take the forest view out your bedroom window for granted. That undeveloped lot next door may just be the next to be clear-cut.

COQUI SPRAYER FUND

Coqui season is just around the corner. As soon as we get consistent temperatures above 60 degrees in the evenings those frogs are going to start chirping!!

This summer will be a critical period in the establishment of populations here. Given the data reported from last year by

Kim Tavares for the National Park, it is apparent that small populations of coqui are already ensconced in several locations. ***One more breeding season without eliminating these resident pockets will result in their numbers becoming too great to effectively eradicate, EVER.***

Towards the goal of stopping the coqui's spread, several private individuals have begun a fund towards the purchase of a large trailer mounted pump and sprayer for treating infested sites. If you are interested in contributing, please contact Peter Golden at 967-8696

Care about safety surfacing for the playground?

***It's time to decide what to use
under the play equipment.
Come join us as we make that
decision:***

**6:00pm Wednesday May 9
Cooper Center**

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