

COUNTY / IN BRIEF

Sewer user fee increase in effect at fiscal year

The County of Maui Department of Environmental Management Wastewater Reclamation Division is reminding customers that sewer user fees have increased by an average of 2 percent for Fiscal Year 2025, which started on July 1. The rate increase was approved by the County Council to ensure that the County of Maui's wastewater system is financially self-supporting.

In accordance with the Maui County Code, sewer user fees are structured so that each customer class pays its equitable share of operations, maintenance and repair of the wastewater infrastructure.

More information on the increase of sewer user rates and copies of budget documents and ordinances are available at: <https://www.mauicounty.gov/139/Budget-Office>.

Remembrance ride for Lahaina residents

Lahaina residents impacted by the Aug. 8 Lahaina wildfire will be able to participate in a specially arranged Remembrance Ride to view the ongoing recovery efforts for Lahaina Town. Three days of chartered buses organized by the County and coordinated through Kuhinia Maui will provide Lahaina residents an opportunity to see the current state and recovery progress that has taken place in Lahaina town.

Online reservations intended for Lahaina resident are required, as seats are limited. Remembrance Ride dates are scheduled for July 26-28 with five chartered motor coaches for each day. To register or for more information, go to www.KuhiniaMaui.org. Resident information will be required. In respect for the community's request for sensitivity and dignity, this event closed to the media.

"We want to provide residents the opportunity to see first-hand the progress that has been made to prepare their hometown for the next steps of rebuilding," said Mayor Bissen. "There will be a long road ahead, but it's important that residents have the opportunity to witness the progress taking place to restore and rebuild their home. I want to thank Lahaina resident Laurie Lei DeGama and Nestor Ugale, both generational residents of Lahaina, for championing this effort."

Maintenance vendors needed for modular units

FEMA is actively seeking vendors for Group Site Maintenance and Repairs on FEMA-owned modular housing units being used as temporary housing for individuals and families displaced by the Maui wildfires.

FEMA will host an informational session from 11 a.m. to 3 p.m. Tuesday, July 23, at The Westin Maui Resort and Spa, Haleakala Ballroom, 2365 Ka'anapali Parkway in Lahaina. Vendors attending Industry Day will learn of requirements for the maintenance on the group site and modular homes, which FEMA calls Alternative Transportable Temporary Housing Units. They will be installed at locations on Maui designated for FEMA group housing.

Pre-registration is required for the Industry Day event. All registration requests must be completed by noon Monday, July 22. To register, go to: https://fema.zoomgov.com/meeting/register/vJ1tcOGvrv-T1pHKARTDvXui7JiwoZn_THNC4

For the latest information on the Maui wildfire recovery efforts, visit mauicounty.gov, mauirecovers.org, fema.gov/disaster/4724 and Hawaii Wildfires - YouTube. Follow FEMA on social media: @FEMARegion9 and facebook.com/fema. You may also get disaster assistance information and download applications at sba.gov/hawaii-wildfires.

Maui residents needed for online survey

Survey will help in development, programming

Maui residents are invited to complete an online survey to help in the development and future programming of Ke Ola Hou Resiliency Center, which will assist the Lahaina community with recovery services in the aftermath of the 2023 fires.

The survey will be available through July 31, 2024, at <https://www.mauirecovers.org/lahaina>.

A site in West Maui has been identified for Ke Ola Hou Resiliency Center, which the County of Maui and Hawai'i State Department of Health have supported. The center will be dedicated to providing comprehensive services to aid in the physical, mental and emotional recovery of individuals and families affected by the fires. Ke Ola Hou, meaning 'new life,' symbolizes the center's mission to help the community rebuild and thrive.

Providers and programs envisioned for the center include behavioral health professionals, culturally specific support services, social services, educational and vocational support, and wellness and recreational services.

Ke Ola Hou's programming and any future locations will be determined through input from Maui County's impacted communities. The facility and its operations are guided and supported through donations of time, energy and funding from its growing list of partner agencies, including the County of Maui, Hawai'i State Department of Health, Alano Club of Lahaina, Kaiser Permanente, Na Mea 'Ike 'Ia, Native Hawaiian Education Association, Papa Ola Lokahi, Punawai, Rotary District 5000, and Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration (SAMHSA).

For more information, visit <https://www.mauirecovers.org/lahaina>.

Stunt Training in Lahaina July 27

For the first time on Maui, a stunt training workshop will be held on July 27 at 11 Ulupono Street in Lahaina from 9:30 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. The workshop will feature special guest stuntman Sonny Sisson. For more information call Jay at (808) 258-0614 or email Grandi808@me.com.

Free homeownership event on August 29

This is a free event entitled "Getting on the Homeownership Path" being held on August 29 at the Queen Kaahumanu Center in the former Forever 21 space.

The Event will feature various speakers including Sterling Higa of Housing Hawaii's Future and President of the AREAA Aloha Chapter Tom Kiyabu. Credit counselors, lenders and more will speak to getting prepared long term for homeownership.

Free food and beverage will be offered. Registration opens at 4 p.m. and the program will begin promptly at 5 p.m. and will go to 7 p.m. Registration at www.areas.org/Aloha is required.

from "red," which indicates a property does not currently have active sewer service, to "green," meaning the sewer service is active for a property, in the following areas:

Area near Pu'unoa Place and Ala Moana Street near

Rotary Club of Lahaina Sunset honors two members

The Maui News

KAHULUI – During a recent meeting of the Rotary Club of Lahaina Sunset, two exceptional members were honored with special awards.

Soakai Taufa was presented with the Quiet Rotarian award for his humble yet significant contributions to the Rotary club and the community. Soakai played a key role in creating the crosses that now stand along the Lahaina Bypass, overseeing their maintenance since the Lahaina Fires. His dedication and quiet passion for his service work are truly admirable, inspiring many club members to join him in caring for the memorial site.

Laura Shelton was recognized with the Rotary Spirit award, a distinction



Courtesy photo

Soakai Taufa (left) and Laura Stanton (right) display their certificates for the Quiet Rotarian and the Rotary Spirit Award, respectively.

reserved for members who have been part of the club for less than a year and have shown outstanding commit-

Single vehicle motorcycle accident results in fatality Thursday

The Maui News

KAHULUI – A single vehicle motorcycle accident that occurred Thursday afternoon resulted in the death of 68-year-old Kihei man, according to a press release from the Maui Police Department (MPD).

This is Maui County's 10th fatality of 2024, compared to seven at the same time last year.

On Thursday, July 18, 2024, at approximately 12:40 p.m., a single motor vehicle collision occurred on Pulehu Road, .2 miles southeast of Spanish

Road in Kahului.

The MPD stated preliminary investigation has revealed that a black 2012 Harley-Davidson Switchback motorcycle was traveling northwest on Pulehu Road when the operator attempted to overtake a vehicle on a double solid yellow line.

"The operator lost control of the motorcycle upon failing to negotiate a left curve in the roadway and drove into bushes. As a result of this collision, the operator, a 68-year-old Kihei male, was ejected, suffering critical

life-threatening injuries. He was transported to the Maui Memorial Medical Center, where he succumbed to his injuries. The victim's identity is currently being withheld pending next of kin notification," the MPD press releases states.

The MPD has stated the operator was not wearing a helmet at the time of the collision, and the operator was wearing safety glasses at the time of the collision. The involvement of speed, drugs, and alcohol is pending as the investigation is still ongoing.

Council Vice-Chair Sugimura to host meeting at Pukalani Community Center focused on emergency preparedness

The Maui News

KAHULUI – Councilmember Yuki Lei Sugimura will host a community meeting on Tuesday, July 23rd at the Mayor Hannibal Tavares Community Center in Pukalani from 6 to 8 p.m. The focus of the meeting will be on emergency preparedness.

Sugimura announced that expected presenters will include the Maui Emergency Management Agency, the Department of Fire and Public Safety, the Department of

Police, and the Department of Water Supply.

"The Crater Road Fire has once again put our Upcountry residents on high alert, as emergency preparedness and response remain front of mind for our community," said Sugimura, who is also the vice-chair of the council. "I want to thank our county departments for their participation in our evening meeting to keep our residents updated and informed."

Sugimura holds the council seat for the Upcountry

residency area. She is also the chair of the Budget, Finance and Economic Development Committee.

For more information please feel free to contact Councilmember Yuki Lei Sugimura's cell (808) 830-0344, office (808) 270-7939 or by emailing Yuki Lei.Sugimura@MauiCounty.us.

■ Yuki Lei Sugimura holds the Maui County Council seat for the Upcountry residency area



Courtesy photo

Councilmember Yuki Lei Sugimura will host a community meeting on Tuesday in Pukalani from 6 to 8 p.m.

Webinar for impacted Lahaina homeowners to be held July 25

The Maui News

Lahaina homeowners impacted by the August 2023 wildfire are encouraged to attend the County of Maui Office of Recovery's Homeowners Webinar on Thursday, July 25, 2024, at 5:30 p.m.

Officials will discuss topics related to rebuilding and housing including

permitting, temporary structures, permanent housing, interim housing, and financial assistance and programs. Among those available during the Q&A portion of the webinar will be representatives from the County Department of Public Works, Department of Water Supply, Department of Environmental Management, Planning

Department, and 4LEAF Inc., which has been contracted by the County to process emergency building permits.

Registration is required. To register for the webinar and submit questions prior to the meeting or to view past Homeowners Webinars, visit <https://MauiRecovers.org/events>.

Democrats are rallying around Harris as she vows to 'earn and win' party nomination for president

BY LISA MASCARO and STEVE PEOPLES

The Associated Press

WASHINGTON – Democrats quickly rallied around Vice President Kamala Harris as their likely presidential nominee Sunday after President Joe Biden's ground-shaking decision to bow out of the 2024 race, a volatile fast-moving political situation just months before the November election.

Shortly after Biden stepped aside he firmly endorsed Harris, who would make history as the nation's first Black and South Asian woman to become a major party's presidential nominee. Other endorsements flowed from former President Bill Clinton and Hillary Clinton, the first major female presidential nominee, and prominent U.S. senators, a wide swath of House representatives and members of the influential Congressional Black Caucus.

Would-be challengers for the job became instant Harris supporters.

As Democrats organize to confront Republican Donald Trump this fall, Biden said choosing Harris as his vice president had been the first and "best decision" he made.

"Let's do this," he said.

"My intention is to earn and win this nomination," Harris declared in a statement.

Yet, the political and logistical situation ahead for Democrats remains somewhat uncertain as the party that had expected to sail to November's election portraying Trump as a quasi-authoritarian leader and threat to American democracy, now must rearrange the top of its ticket in a matter of weeks – before the party's nominating convention begins Aug. 19.

A groundswell appeared to be gathering for Harris to lead the party – within hours Biden's campaign formally changed its name to Harris for President, reflecting that she is inheriting his political operation – but there are notable holdouts.

Former President Barack Obama and Speaker Emerita Nancy Pelosi, who are widely seen as engineering Biden's withdrawal from the race as they worried about not only keeping the White House but winning control of Congress, did not explicitly endorse Harris, and Pelosi favors an open primary to strengthen an eventual nominee.

And West Virginia Sen. Joe Manchin, who left the Democratic Party earlier this year to become an independent, is considering reregistering as a Democrat to vie for the nomination against the vice president, according to his longtime adviser Jonathan Kott.

Key Democrats believe Harris would benefit from what some call a "mini-primary." They argue a fast primary campaign would showcase to the American people, party donors and skeptics that Harris is best for the job, and give would-be contenders a chance to compete – or at least debut as potential running mates.

Harris was making calls late in the day to congressional lawmakers and racking up support, including from Rep. Annie Kuster of New Hampshire, the chair of the New Democrat Coalition, a moderate caucus on Capitol Hill, who endorsed Harris Sunday.

Democratic National Committee chairman Jaime Harrison promised a "transparent and orderly process."

With early voting underway in a matter of months, Democrats have no time to spare if they hope to compete against an energized

GOP that has embraced Trump's return. They must quickly pivot to unify a shaken Democratic party, refocus an entire campaign apparatus around a new presidential ticket and organize the ground game to get out the vote.

Trump's team faces its own challenge, refocusing its relentless attacks, from Biden's age, 81, stamina and ability to govern, to a yet-to-be-named Democratic nominee, which appears increasingly likely to be Harris. Among top potential contenders, Michigan Gov. Gretchen Whitmer has said she won't run, and Govs. Gov. Gavin Newsom of California, Josh Shapiro of Pennsylvania and Roy Cooper of North Carolina all endorsed Harris on Sunday.

"She has what it takes to defeat Donald Trump and lead our country thoughtfully and with integrity," Cooper said on social media.

Before Biden's announcement, Republicans had already signaled their early strategy of criticizing Harris as complicit in standing by him, despite his fumbles, and they are working on legal challenges to the 2024 election.

County announces amended sewer service status for several areas of West Maui

The Maui News

KAHULUI – The County of Maui Department of Environmental Management's (DEM) Wastewater Reclamation Division announced that it has amended the Sewer Service Status

from "red," which indicates a property does not currently have active sewer service, to "green," meaning the sewer service is active for a property, in the following areas:

Area near Pu'unoa Place and Ala Moana Street near

the Jodo Mission

Area South of Lahainaluna Road near Paunau Street

DEM Director Shayne Agawa first announced the updates on Wednesday, July 17, at the Weekly Disaster Recovery Community

Update Meeting at Lahaina Civic Center.

Some wastewater infrastructure was damaged during the fires, which cut off wastewater service for many properties in fire-impacted areas. To determine if wastewater

service for your home or business is impacted, please visit mauirecovers.org/wastewater and type your address in the search bar on the County of Maui Sewer Service Status interactive map.

DEM anticipates continu-

ing to amend areas in Lahaina impacted by the August 2023 wildfires in coming weeks and months. For questions regarding sewer status, please call the Wastewater Reclamation Division at (808) 270-7417.