



# honolulu park place

NEWSLETTER • MAY 2017

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## We are all connected

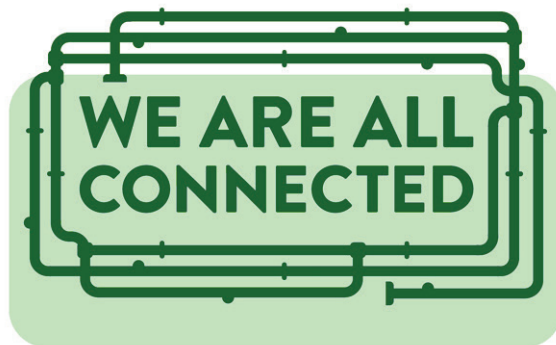
*We are all connected; To each other, biologically. To the earth, chemically. To the rest of the universe atomically.*

—Neil DeGrasse Tyson

Perhaps you were a little puzzled by the recent notice in the elevators about cleaning our drains. The fact is that residents at Honolulu Park Place are even more connected than you might think.

Here's an explanation of our plumbing structure, as described by General Manager, **Garry Belen:**

Plumbing drains in your apartment draining slowly? Perhaps it's time to have them cleaned. Examples of this are a shower that drains slowly when showering, a bathroom sink that tends to back up during use or even a slow draining kitchen sink. HPP periodically has the building's main drains snaked and cleaned using a professional, licensed, insured plumbing company and maintains history of any cleaning completed. The main sewer drains that serve HPP run vertically throughout the building. These pipes are on the average, 5 inches thick to accommodate a variety of waste water from the apartments. The drains that serve your units solely, meaning those that are only for your apartment use, are the responsibility of the unit owner. These drains that serve units are on the average 2 inches thick and can run for 9 to 15 feet prior to joining in with the main 5 inch drain line.



Many residents have registered concerns that one or more of their drains are draining slowly and request that the building perform required maintenance. The first question that we will ask is, "when was the last time that you the resident, had your drains cleaned?" Most residents cannot remember or state that they have never had it done. They are then directed to have their drains cleaned. The next question that will arise is if any other resident above you is having the same

problem. If so, then the clog could be one that is affecting more than one apartment. Under these circumstances the AOA will normally assume responsibility. If not, then the clog is most likely within the resident's 2 inch drain line.

It is recommended that residents have their drains cleaned periodically and maintain a record of the dates and times that the drain cleaning was performed. As many plumbers say, "The best time to clean your drains is when they are not bothering you at all."

The administrative office maintains a list of licensed, insured plumbing contractors that are familiar with our building drains and of which we have copies of their insurance and licenses on hand. HPP cannot and will not officially recommend a plumbing company, but can provide any tenant with a list to choose from.

## Speaking of water...

Do you plan on having plumbing work done within your apartment soon?

Do you really need to have the building's water shut off? Here's some information that may make the project go a lot smoother.

Water shut-offs are performed by the HPP staff at a cost of \$50.00.



The AOA does perform water shut-offs on an "as needed" basis. Many residents are requesting shut-offs that are not required, simply because they do not know that they have water shut-off valves within their unit. The only item within your apartment that should require a shut-off to make repairs is the kitchen and ice maker. All other sources of water within your apt., has shut-off valves related to it. Some sources have more than one shut-off. For example, every shower in HPP has a shut-off valve just behind the big round silver cover in your shower. If those do not work they must be replaced during a shut-off. HPP bathrooms have additional shut-offs in the ceiling for the bathrooms or under the sink, behind a panel.

Many residents have stated that they do not want to repair/replace the main valves that serve their unit, prompting the AOA to perform a water shut-off that affects at least a dozen or more residents.

This will no longer take place. All residents

## Speaking of water...continued

will be required to repair/replace the valves that they own. If a major shut-off is required to allow resident to have these repairs performed, then the AOA will perform a shut-off.

Replacing your valves within your apartment allows you the ability to turn off your own water within your unit, in the event of an emergency that you may experience. If an emergency does take place and your valves are not working, this can cause more damage to the adjacent areas since it'll take up to 30 minutes for the staff to be able to turn off then drain down the main water supply system that serves your apartment. Having your valves operating as they should can cut the time to turn off the supply water down to a few minutes as it is an item that must be operational according to our HPP documents.

What all residents can expect now when they call the office for a water shutdown, is a visit from one of our friendly staff members to verify that a water shut-off is required.

### HPP Security Staff

## Halen Bargas

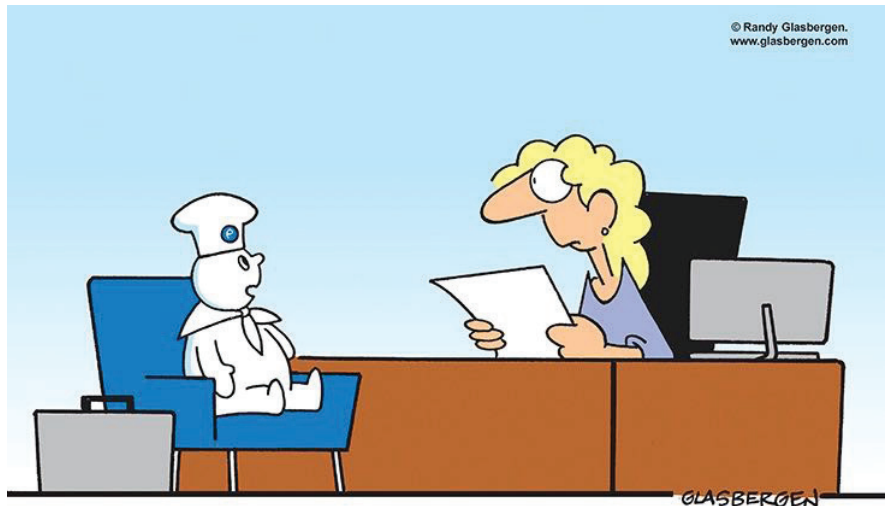
**Halen Bargas** is familiar to many residents because he has been a security guard at Honolulu Park Place since 2011, and he has worked all the three shifts serviced by security guards. When he worked in the morning shift, he learned much from **Emory Tai**, and he has had the opportunity to mentor colleagues who joined the security staff after him. He derives much satisfaction from interacting with HPP residents and being of assistance to them.

What residents may not know is that Halen has a Certificate in Human Services and a Bachelor's Degree in Criminal Justice Administration.

Halen respectfully observes that HPP's Chief of Security, **Nate Dudoit**, has elevated the security department "a notch higher." He has created a culture of brotherhood and of excellence in work performance.

Outside of work, his priority is being actively involved in the lives of his ten year old son and three year old daughter.

*-Interview by Mimi Yoshikawa. Painting by Gary Everest*



*I don't know what kind of salary you're offering, but at my last job, I made a lot of dough.*

## Meet your Neighbors

**Gary Everest** is the painter of the portrait of Halen Bargas featured in this issue of the HPP newsletter as well as the painter of Michael Fua whose portrait appeared in the March issue of the newsletter. As an oil painter, he focuses on portraiture.

Gary has taken photos of the residents and staff members for the HPP newsletters since February 2016.

One would not have guessed that he was a naval aviator for twenty years before he retired in 1994.

During his naval career, Gary visited Guam, Philippines, Korea, Hong Kong, Japan, Okinawa, Midway Island and Wake Island.

He enjoys golfing, jogging, and swimming in the ocean.

He is married to **Michelle Vagnerini** who was a naval reservist for twenty three years. As a volunteer for the Hawaiian Humane Society, she works with cats to socialize and transition them to their new owners. She is a fabulous cook specializing in Italian cuisine. Friends at HPP have enjoyed their hospitality.

Michele and Gary appreciate the friendships they have cultivated at Honolulu Park Place. They also revel in the "priceless" view they have from their lanai on the thirty-ninth floor. *-Interview by Mimi Yoshikawa*



## Lose the stress—have a massage!

Right here in the building!

**Stan Sugai**, 10 am to 5 pm, Tuesdays, Thursdays and Friday. Phone 808-536-6979.

**Susan Lovinger**, phone 808-342-6402. Mondays and Wednesdays, 4 pm-9 pm; Saturdays, Noon to 6 pm. By appointment only. \$50/hour massage; \$80/hour & half. Gift certificates are available.

## Too tired to cook?

The Real Food Cafe is open Tuesdays through Saturdays, 11am-2pm and 5-9pm. Call Heidi at **271-7052**, for your catering needs, personal chef services, wine pairing dinners and for off-the-menu items.