



honolulu park place

NEWSLETTER • MAY 2018

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Summer is coming ...

Are you going away on vacation?

We live in a great condo, Honolulu Park Place, and it's easy to just shut the door to our apartments and forget all about it. Maybe you're headed to a week of relaxing at a resort or perhaps you're off to an exotic international destination.



But before you start packing, there are a few things to take care of before you leave.

1. Fill out the **Resident Vacation Form** in the HPP Administrative Office. You can list your departure and return dates, where you can be reached while you're away, whether you have given permission for someone to enter your unit and have given them keys, and who can be reached locally in case of an emergency. The form can be downloaded from the website under **Resource Center**, then **Commonly Requested Forms**.

2. Put your mail on hold. You can easily do this online by going to usps.com, and under Track and Manage, select the Hold Mail option.

3. Put a vacation stop to the daily newspaper if you are a subscriber. Papers you've missed can be delivered on the day you return, or you can donate undelivered papers to charity.

4. Unplug electronics. Appliances use energy if they're plugged in, even if they're turned off. Before you take off, unplug things like your toaster, coffeemaker, television, and computer. No need to pay for energy consumption when you're not home to use it.

5. If you've got houseplants, someone needs to keep them watered. Tell the office to whom you've given a key.

6. Arrange for pet care. Make a reservation at

a boarding facility or arrange to leave your furry friend with a family member or friend. Print out a list of what kind of food and time of day your pet eats, as well as instructions for medications.

7. Most importantly, **turn the water shut-off valves to the Off position**. That includes the water shut-off valves for the laundry, the kitchen sink and bathroom(s). Please call the Administrative Office to arrange for HPP Maintenance to assist with turning off the shut-off valves.

New Security Supervisor

Halen Bargas was recently appointed Security Supervisor for HPP. Halen, a HPP security guard since 2011, is well prepared for the job. According to Chief of Security **Nate Dudoit**, Halen has a thorough knowledge of building security, a history of interacting positively with both residents and staff and the ability to keep his cool in crisis situations. No doubt many residents have witnessed Halen's strengths first hand.

As Security Supervisor, Halen will be involved in the training, supervision and scheduling of security staff.

He will also follow Nate's lead in promoting a work environment of "trust, respect and teamwork." Congratulations on your promotion, Halen!

-by Christine Trecker (Photo: Katherine Crosier)



All vehicles must be registered with the HPP Administrative Office and must display a parking decal. HPP Security will check for any unregistered cars and trucks in the parking garage. **Please be sure to bring the certificate of motor vehicle registration with you to the office.**

Meet your Neighbor



Creighton Higa is a multi-talented individual who engages life with passion. He embraces his late mother's philosophy that if we focus on the good in the people we interact with, we can enhance our character development. One of his core values is the importance of nurturing and maintaining key relationships in his life. He has four grandsons and two daughters, one of whom lives in Japan and the other in Las Vegas.

Creighton spent thirty years in federal service as a machinist and in nuclear inspection, nuclear ship scheduling, and in crane scheduling. From his work, he learned useful practical skills, which he has applied in his daily living.

By day, he worked at the Pearl Harbor shipyard, and by night, Creighton enjoyed performing as a solo singer and solo guitarist (self-taught) at private parties, dinner cruise ships, and night clubs. He strove to create a level and quality of sound which allowed his audience to interact with one another while he was performing.

After his mother died, he took over her property management business from 1997 till December 2017. As of six years ago, he also gave up his avid sports activities as a surfer and snowboarder.

During this season in his life, Creighton is teaching himself to play the piano. Music continues to be an art and passion in his life.

As we walk away from our interview venue, he stops to greet some HPP staff members. He appreciates the well-maintained grounds and facilities, the security, and the friendliness of the staff.

Interview by Mimi Yoshikawa; Photo: Gary Everest

Chinatown's bulb-outs under threat

Did you know the Chinatown bulb-outs – also called “curb extensions”—are under threat of removal?

The existing bulb-outs in Chinatown were installed last year to comply with Complete Streets policy to increase pedestrian safety. They have reduced pedestrian crossing distance, resulting in less exposure to vehicles and shorter pedestrian clearance intervals. They act to “calm” traffic by slowing vehicular traffic, and they provide a safe and protected holding area for pedestrians waiting to cross the street. The Complete Street plan is for these curb-extensions to ultimately be actual at-grade sidewalk extensions like the one in front of Hawaii Theatre on Bethel Street.

Since bulb-outs increase pedestrian and motorist safety, why would the City Council even consider removing them? The reason: Chinatown Business and Community Association contends the bulb-outs harm business. In response to this concern, our District 6 Councilmember Carol Fukunaga has submitted a bill making the bulb-outs illegal in Chinatown. The City Council Planning passed this bill on Tuesday, May 1.

Chinatown Business and Community Association has been tireless and forceful in demanding the bulb-outs' removal. Since pedestrians and area residents have not similarly organized in support of the bulb-outs, our Councilmember may be unaware many of her constituents' value the additional safety they provide. If you would like your voice to be heard on this, please contact Councilmember Fukunaga. Here's her contact information: **Councilmember Carol Fukunaga**, Councilmember, District 6 Phone: 768-5006, Email: cafukunaga@honolulu.gov, 530 S. King Street, #202E, Honolulu.
(Submitted by Elizabeth Winternitz)

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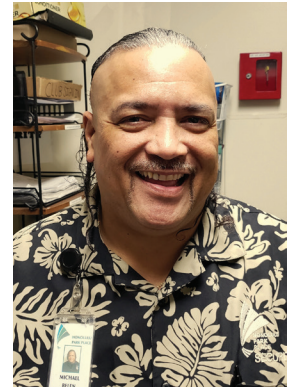


“Of course I know how to communicate without a phone. I have an app for that!”

Meet Michael Belen

Some residents at Honolulu Park Place have never met **Michael Belen** even though he has been a full-time employee in security since October 2012. The reason is that Michael has worked the graveyard shift (10pm to 6am) during the entire period of his employment.

Michael began his career in security at Don Quixote where his job was to arrest customers for shoplifting. At HPP, an important part of his job is to patrol the external premises of the condo as well as the facilities within the condo. He believes that by actively patrolling the external premises of the building, security personnel create a presence that is a deterrent to illegal entry into the building.



Living in Mililani, Michael finds it convenient to ride the bus to and from work. On weekends, he enjoys going to the movies and to dinner with his 26 year old son. He has adapted well to working the graveyard shift, and appreciates the good working environment at Honolulu Park Place.

Handy Phone Numbers

Real Food Cafe, 271-7052. Sandwiches, salads, personal chef services, catering, cooking classes, wine pairing dinners and more.

Massage: 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