Vol. 004 No. 1 Newtown Reporter January/February 2009



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Newtown Estates Community Association

Board of Directors

President: Donald E. Devaney
Vice-President: Amy Dela Cruz
Secretary: Diane Kazama
Treasurer: Shizuko Hanaumi
Directors: Dennis Hiu
Chris McDonald
Dennis Yuen

Association Staff

General Manager: Richard Yamasaki Program Director: Jenna Wong Athletic Coordinator: Wendell Oi Covenants Inspector: Melodie Beecroft

Recreation Center Hours of Operation

Administration & Bookkeeping Hours

Monday – Friday 8:00 a.m. to 4:45 p.m.

Information & Payment Hours

Monday – Friday 8:00 a.m. to 9:30 p.m. Saturday & Sunday 8:00 a.m. to 5:45 p.m.

Membership Application & ID Picture Taking

Monday – Friday 8:00 a.m. to 9:00 p.m. Saturday & Sunday 8:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m.

Health Club & Athletic Court Hours

Monday – Sunday 8:00 a.m. to 9:45 p.m.

Swimming Pool Hours

Monday – Sunday 8:00 a.m. to 9:30 p.m.

Lap swim hours:

Monday – Friday 8:00 a.m. to 10:00 a.m.

6:00 p.m. to 9:30 p.m.

Saturday & Sunday 8:00 a.m. to 10:00 a.m.

Contact Information

NECA

98-456 Kaahele Street Aiea, Hawaii 96701

Phone: 487-3806

Fax: 487-3000

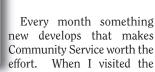
Email: newtownestates@hawaii.rr.com

Website: newtownestates.org

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EDYSCEM SANE CISERA



Recreation Center for the children's Halloween Party I saw the good things that we as a community do and it was reassuring.

Then in November, I witnessed another well staged event, the annual Turkey Shoot. Lots of children and families participated. There were many adult families assisting as well as dedicated staff. So we are on the right track in breathing fresh air into our Recreation Center. We are pleased that these activities for families have been regular programs for many years.

There are still downside issues that I must report to you also. On November 17, 2008, persons unidentified cut the wires to our access control machine, a malicious act of vandalism that required notification to the police. Then on November 19, the Recreation Center had a ballast fire in the Arts and Craft Room. The General Manager saw smoke coming from the room and when he entered he saw the light fixture had burned the ceiling slightly. The fire department was called and indicated the all clear concerning the fire.

Richard taped off the room for a more thorough inspection on the 20th. On the same evening of the 19th all of Newtown had a power outage that put the Recreation Center in total darkness. Power returned around 8:00 p.m. At 2:30 a.m. on the 20th the housekeepers (husband and wife) arrived. They smelled smoke

and thought the main room was hazy, but they did not suspect fire. Because of the earlier power outage, our local alarm system was not reset. Around 6:00 a.m. a staff member noticed smoke coming from the louvers in the Arts and Craft Room. He went into the Arts and Craft Room and noticed that the ceiling was smoldering. He extinguished the fire, but more serious damage was done. The insurance company and police and fire inspectors will make a thorough investigation to the cause of the fire. We have hired a licensed electrical firm to check the safety of other light fixtures in the Recreation Center.

By the time you read this in the Newtown Reporter, the Board will have already appointed three new directors for a term ending in August 2009. The third vacancy occurred when the Board regretfully accepted the resignation of Mr. Chris McDonald who resigned on 5 November 2008 for personal reasons.

At the regular board meeting on 3 December we had 5 applicants to fill the board vacancies. Mr. Harrison Wong, a business owner; Mr. Bob Young, an attorney and former board member; Ms. Lynn Park, an attorney for the C&C of Honolulu Prosecutor's Office; Mr. Sun Chong, a retired US Government Staff Accountant, and Mr. Randall King, a former board member. Elected by ballot were Ms. Park, Mr. Chong, and Mr. Young.

Sincerely,

Mahalo and Aloha,

Don Devaney

Questions & Answers—

Member Concerns • Board of Directors Meeting • November / December 2008

- **Q.** If homeowners may not participate in discussion during committee and Board meetings, what is the process for giving homeowner input?
- **A.** Homeowners are invited to participate in the Member Concerns portion of committee meetings and all Board meetings. The suggestion box located in the game room is available to homeowners. You may also write or email a letter to the Board of Directors: newtownestates@hawaii.rr.com. Your input is valuable to the Board. If the Board does not address your concern during the open forum portion of the meeting, the Committee Chairperson who receives your written note will respond to your concern. Thank you.
- **Q.** Would you consider establishing a policy that requires members of the Board to volunteer on committees before they can run for the Board?
- **A.** Experience is always welcome in applying for any position whether on this Board or in the work world. However, our organization depends on responsible volunteers who want to serve the community and the association in positive ways. We welcome all who want to serve.

- **Q.** Are NECA employees CPR-certified?
- **A.** All the lifeguards and the Program Director Jenna Wong are CPR-certified. The Personnel Committee is checking into offering a training class for interested staff and residents.
- **Q.** What is the lifeguard schedule during the weekend when there are a lot of children?
- **A.** Two additional lifeguards have been hired for a total of six. They are scheduled to work during the times of the week when children are not in school.
- **Q.** Can the ping-pong table be relocated for the safety of the players and the Recreation Center users passing in/out of the game area?
- **A.** This will be referred to the Building and Grounds Committee for discussion. Thank you for bringing the safety of all our Recreation Center users to our attention.

Note: Suggestions/questions may be left at the Recreation Center for the General Manager or the Board. A suggestion box is located at the exit doors to the lobby and you may leave a phone message. NECA also has an email: newtownestates@hawaii.rr.com.

GENERAL MANAGER'S REPORT



HAPPY NEW YEAR! We hope that everyone had a safe and enjoyable time with family, friends and neighbors.

It has been close to four months since I accepted the

job as your General Manager here at Newtown. It has been a very busy time for me and your new Board of Directors as we struggle to reorganize our Homeowners' Association. We feel much has been done in this short period of time. New employees were hired to staff the office and to handle various other duties, carpets and walls were cleaned, various plumbing repairs were made, misc. painting has been done and a host of other projects continue to be worked on. Needless to say, there is still much more work to be done, but we will get there.

A few weeks ago, we had a fire in the Arts and Crafts Room. This happened during the day and fortunately no one was injured. We were able to put out the fire ourselves. The Fire Dept. arrived a short time later. This fire started in an electrical light fixture in the high ceiling of the room. In checking, I discovered that we do not have an adequate smoke/fire detection system at the Recreation Center. We were very fortunate that the entire building did not burn down. If a fire had occurred at night when no one was at the Recreation Center, the fire alarm would not have sounded, and the Fire Dept, would not have been called until someone actually saw the building on fire. We are now in the process of having a security company install smoke detection devices and to hook the system up to a security monitoring service on a 24/7 basis. We are also having a licensed electrician change all of our old fluorescent light fixtures and to inspect our main electrical system for the entire Recreation Center. I think many homeowners should check their home for potential electrical problems and to

have a good smoke/fire detection unit installed.

New accounting and payment methods. Several homeowners have called to question the reason for hiring Hawaiiana Management to handle the accounting requirements for the Newtown Estates. There were several reasons why out-sourcing the accounting was the best thing for Newtown.

Newtown's collection methods were based on a manual system. All quarterly assessment payments were inputted several times with handwritten payment receipts, and then manually inputted into the computer. This tedious method was prone to errors, missing payments and the hiring of several part- time office workers who were tasked with doing this collection work.

The Board of Directors was not presented with timely financial statements and no general ledgers.

Newtown was not set-up to allow homeowners to make automatic payments via the Surepay method.

To have Newtown gear-up to have a fully updated accounting system, new computer software programs, hardware would have to be purchased with a specialized office personnel hired to run the system.

Hawaiiana Management offered Newtown a very attractive management fee. They also have a large accounting staff so Newtown will not have to worry again about their accountant leaving the job.

We realize that changes such as this will take some time to get used to. However, we will soon see that this is a much better system. One more thing: please do not drop off or mail in your payments to the Recreation Center. We do not want your checks to be lost or misplaced and our staff will be tasked with mailing your check on to the Bank of Hawaii lock box. To avoid any problems, mail your payments in the envelope provided.

Mahalo.
Until next time, take care.

Richard Yamasaki

Sub-Association Information

Sub-associations are separate entities subject to Newtown Estates Community Association governing documents. For questions or concerns regarding property or issues within a specific sub-association, please contact the managing agent for that association. Following is a list of sub-association agents and scheduled meetings. Please note: Dates and times of meetings may change without notice. If NECA members wish to attend a meeting, it is recommended they call the Managing Agent to verify the schedule.

Harbor Terrace

Management Specialists Lester Higa 949-7611 Meetings Jan. 22 & Feb. 26, 6:45 p.m.

Hillside Terrace I Certified Management Lynn Germain 237-3335 Meeting Feb. 12, 6:00 p.m.

Hillside Terrace II Certified Management Reiko Marino 837-5232 Meetings Jan. 22 & Feb. 26, 6:30 p.m.

Hillside Terrace III Certified Management Reiko Marino 837-5232 No standing meetings

Hillside Terrace IV Par Management, Inc. Don Brough 951-8870 Meetings Jan. 15 & Feb.19, 7:00 p.m. Chateau Newtown

Hawaiiana Management Kevin Cole 593-6369 Meetings Jan. 22 & Feb. 26, 7:00 p.m.

Newtown Villa I King Street Properties LLC Rand Totoki 531-0221 No standing meetings

Newtown Villa II Hawaiian Properties Chentelle Ramos 539-9548 Meetings held quarterly

Newtown Meadows Hawaiiana Management Ron Kobashigawa 593-9100 No meeting information

Ke Kumulani Certified Management Jennifer Alcantar 837-5202 Annual Meeting January 27, 6:15 p.m.







Have Your Best Year Ever!

Much Mahalo to My Newtown Friends & Neighbors For Your Continued Support



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Message from Representative Takai



Dear Neighbor:

Throughout the year, elected officials in Aiea and Pearl City hold several community town meetings on

issues that are important to the residents. I am writing to inform you about our next town meeting, scheduled for Wednesday, January 28, 2009 from 7:00 p.m. to 8:30 p.m. at the Waimalu Elementary School cafeteria. The topic of discussion will be transportation issues.

Representatives from the State Department of Transportation and the City Department of Transportation Services will be making presentations at the meeting. The State Department of Transportation will give an update on the Kamehameha Highway Improvements Projects. The Department of Transportation Services will update us on current and upcoming projects, including the Kaahele Street Improvements Project and the Honolulu High Capacity Corridor Project.

As a resident of this community, I am sure you are aware that our roads are some of the most

heavily traveled areas on Oahu. As a result, the work and projects of these departments greatly impact you and your fellow residents. I strongly urge you to attend this meeting to learn about these projects, ask questions and share your concerns. Also, I would appreciate it if you would share this information with your neighbors and friends, and if possible, post the flyer on bulletin boards or in newsletters.

This community town meeting is being cosponsored by Senator David Ige, Senator Donna Mercado Kim, Senator Clarence Nishihara, Senator Norman Sakamoto, Representative Blake Oshiro, Representative Roy Takumi, Councilmember Gary Okino and myself.

If you have any questions regarding this meeting, please contact my office at 586-8455. We look forward to seeing you there.

With warmest aloha.

K. Mark Jakai State Representative 34th House District

AIEA/PEARL CITY COMMUNITY TOWN MEETING TRAFFIC & TRANSPORTATION ISSUES

WEDNESDAY, JANUARY 28, 2009 7 - 8:30 P.M.

WAIMALU ELEMENTARY SCHOOL CAFETERIA

Please join us to get an update on current and upcoming State & City Transportation projects impacting our community.

For additional information, please call 586-8455

Sponsored by: Seantor David Ige, Senator Donna Mercado Kim, Senator Clarence Nishihara, Senator Norman Sakamoto, Representative Blake Oshiro, Representative K. Mark Takai, Representative Roy Takumi, and Councilmember Gary Okino

Neighbors Helping Neighbors

Estates & Newtown Community Association would like to sponsor a "Neighbors Helping Neighbors" program and is seeking association members who interested in helping. Initially, the program would offer a grocery pick-up or pick-up prescription service from a nearby

store for our disabled or senior neighbors needing transportation assistance.



"Neighbors Helping Neighbors" is modeled on programs that have been implemented successfully in various mainland locations. These programs provide services that help disabled and/or elderly people to live independently. If you would like to volunteer to participate in a trial program in Newtown Estates, please

contact Amy Tsuhako at 255-6907 for more information.

more information.

BOARD AND COMMITTEE REPORTS

Board Action

At the November 5 BOD Meeting, the Board acted upon the following motions (as recommended by the committees):

- cancelled the \$5 assessment charge for collecting the deeds from those who did not submit their deed (Membership Policy Committee)
- cancelled the Recreation Center \$5 user fee (Membership Policy Committee) effective immediately
- transferred \$100,000 for operating expenses from the Smith Barney Money Market account back to the CPB Money Market account (Budget & Finance Committee)
- accepted the Auditor's 2006-2007 Report (Budget & Finance)
- · hired Hawaiiana Management Company to handle fiscal affairs effective immediately

Minutes of the December 3 BOD Meeting will be approved at the January meeting and action taken at this meeting will be printed in the next Newtown Reporter issue.

Personnel Committee

The Personnel Committee plans to complete the review and update of the NECA Personnel Policies adopted in August 2003. We will be addressing employee issues: job descriptions, dress code, quality of service, pay raises, and more. We are gathering forms mentioned in the 24-page document, Articles 1-20, to be part of the policies.

Program Committee

The Program Committee has had three successful special events for Newtown families. Photos and short summaries of these events are featured in this issue. The volunteers on the committee plan, participate, and evaluate each activity to create fun and safe events for our residents. We are hoping to offer a few new programs next year in addition to the five special events held each year: March or April's Easter, August's Basketball Shoot-out, October's Halloween, November's Turkey Shoot (archery), and December's holiday activity. We welcome homeowner suggestions through the Rec Center Suggestion Box.

Budget and Finance Committee

The Budget and Finance Committee reviewed and updated its Charter and Accounting Policy for Expenditure Authorizations for Fiscal Year

The Committee forwarded four recommendations to the Board of Directors for consideration at their meeting on November 5th:

Covenant Enforcement Committee

The Covenant Enforcement Committee performs a vital role in enforcing the restrictions as set forth in the Master Declaration of Covenants, Conditions, and Restrictions (MDCCR). The MDCCR sets the standards of the community and helps maintain the aesthetics and value of our property.

Each homeowner should have a copy of the MDCCR. Most violations occur when the homeowner is unaware of the restrictions. An affable letter from NECA usually results in the violation being corrected. Legal action is taken against the homeowner only as a last resort. Please check your MDCCR or call the office to speak with the Covenant Inspector to avoid any violations. Mahalo.

Membership Policy Committee

The Membership Policy Committee worked on revisions of the Newtown Recreation Center Homeowner Facility Membership Form and its Tenant Membership Form. Final review and acceptance of both forms were presented at the Committee meeting on December 11, 2008.

The Committee forwarded two recommendations to the Board of Directors for consideration at their November 5th meeting.

Communications Committee

The Communications Committee is currently working on the NECA web site, www.newtownestates.org. We hope to have it fully functional by mid-January, but it will take a while to post all of the items and articles of interest to the community. If you have a suggestion on what information should be posted, please let us know by email. In the meantime, we hope you enjoy this second issue of the new Reporter. Remember. we're looking for cover photos for future issues. If you have a photo that you'd like to share with your neighbors, please send it in.

Installation of the 2008-2009 NECA Board of Directors

The 2008-2009 NECA Board of Directors was installed on November 5 before the start of the third Board meeting. Bishop Shane Kaopua of the Newtown Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-Day Saints administered the oath of office and blessed all who attended. Bishop Kaopua prayed that the new Board and the community will work together during this critical transition time.

L to R: Don Devaney, Amy Dela Cruz, Dennis Hiu, Bishop Kaopua Shizuko Hanaumi, Dennis Yuen, Apolei Bargamento, Diane Kazama



COVENANTS

Reminder from the Covenants Inspector:

CHRISTMAS DECORATIONS SHALL BE REMOVED BY JANUARY 9, 2009!

Architectural Rules & Guidelines (ARG). Section 26 states "tacked-on house decorations should not be approved. However, decorations for special holidays are exempted and need not be submitted for approval provided that they are not installed sooner than 30 days before the event and are removed no later than fifteen (15) days after the event."

U Mariani Manansi ru

We are sad to report that in the late evening or during the night of December 4th, an unidentified person or persons opened water valves that service the swimming pool, flooding the area with an estimated 1.000 gallons of fresh water.

Not only is this an expense to the community but a waste of one of our precious resources. The Honolulu Police Department is investigating this matter.





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NECA Programs & Activities

NECA Board and Committee Meeting Schedule

Please note: Dates and times of meeting may change without notice. If NECA members wish to attend a meeting, it is recommended they call the NECA Front Office 487-3806 to verify the schedule.

Board of Directors January 7 & February 4, 7:00 p.m.

Architectural Committee January 21 & February 18, 6:30 p.m.

Covenants Enforcement Committee January 21 & February 18, 7:00 p.m.

Budget and Finance Committee January 27 & February 24, 7:00 p.m.

Building & Grounds Committee January 20 & February 17, 7:00 p.m. Greenbelt Committee January 14 & February 11, 7:00 p.m.

Membership Policy Committee January 8 & February 12, 7:00 p.m.

Personnel Committee January 15 & February 19, 7:00 p.m.

Program Committee January 22 & February 26, 7:00 p.m.

Communications Committee January 21 & February 18, 6:00 p.m.

Why Kempo-Karate for Youth?

Kempo-Karate is both a physical and mental discipline. As a mental discipline, training can be helpful in a variety of everyday situations. For example, think about confrontations many youth face daily with peers. Did you know bullying is the most underrated and enduring problem in schools today? Unless you have discipline over your mind and are

able to control your actions, it is easy to become upset, frustrated, angry, and even enraged by other people's words or actions. Self-control is learned through kempo training and is an invaluable asset to be applied throughout life. On the other hand, negative messages repeatedly inflicted by others can easily create feelings of self-doubt, insecurity, and worthlessness. This can be prevented by a strong disciplined mind that overcomes adversity through positive self-messages and a greater understanding of self. Martial arts training builds up the inner person as well as the outer person as youth learn to handle conflicts within themselves as well as what they may have to



endure out on the street. When students achieve success through goal setting and perseverance their self-esteem increases and their sense of self-worth grows; progressing through belt ranks facilitates this experience. Youth come to realize that it is only through internal strength that one succeeds at a task; a lesson to be applied throughout their life time.

Universal Kempo-Karate Schools Association has been part of the Newtown community for over 30 years. Youth classes are offered weekly at the recreation center under the guidance and teaching philosophy of Professor Martin T. Buell; Newtown Branch Instructors Anthony and Terri Smith invite you to join them for a complementary introductory lesson. Please call 454-2144 for more information.

Tuesday and Thursday 4:30 - 5:20 / 5:25 - 6:15

Saturday

9:15 - 10:15 / 10:20 - 11:20 / 11:25- 12:25

Classes, Seminars & Workshops

Please drop by or call the Newtown Front Office at 487-3806 for more information regarding the activities listed below.

Aerobics

Instructor: Cindy Okido Tuesdays and Thursdays 6:45 p.m. to 7:45 p.m.

Iudo

Instructor: Max Otani Mondays & Wednesdays 5:00 p.m. to 6:30 p.m.

Kempo-Karate

Instructors: Terri & Anthony Smith Tuesdays & Thursdays 4:15 p.m. to 6:15 p.m. Saturdays 9:00 a.m. to 12:30 p.m.

Yoga

Instructor: Keith Howe Fridays, 5:30 to 6:30 p.m. January 9 to February 27, 2009 Cost: \$24.00 Registration deadline: January 7

Ballroom Dance

Instructors: Richard and Ruby Kazunaga Mondays, 7:00 p.m. 8-week session starts January 26 Cost: \$16.00 Sign up first evening of class

Power Yoga

Instructor: Kiyoko Šieradzki Tuesdays and/or Fridays 9:30 – 10:30 a.m. Please call the front office for dates.

Personal Training

Trainer: Aaron Sakai
By appointment only.
Call 398-4181 or email aaron-sak@yahoo.com

Refund Policy: Refunds are not given within two weeks of the activity's start date. Exceptions may be made for medical situations in which a doctor's note is presented.

Newtown Annual Turkey Shoot 2008 Winners

2nd Place Category 1st Place 3rd Place 6-8 years old Kelsy Chong Natalie Kwon Nicky Kwon 9-10 years old Keely Hiraoka Kaysen Takenaka Alan Nakaniole 11-13 years old Kenn Chong Clarissa Nunes Jorge Nunes, Jr. 14-17 years old Cassandra Park Jamie Young Jordan Sumida Ladies (18 years & up) Keiko Hiraoka Kathy Young Louise Nagata Men (18 years & up) Jeffery Strona Kent Okihiro Keevin Minami Family - child Matthew Takai Sari Kwee **Brittany Park** Family - adult Sam Kwee Mark Takai Lynn Park

NECA Sponsored Programs Meeting Schedule

Boy Scout Troop #488 Fridays, 7:00 p.m. to 9:45 p.m.

Cub Scout Pack #488 Fridays, 7:00 p.m. to 9:00 p.m.

NECA Senior Citizen Club Tuesdays, 10:00 a.m. to 12:00 p.m.



LET'S DANCE THE FOXTROT

We begin our New Years dance class with the Foxtrot, starting on January 26, 2009. We will meet every Monday night for 8 weeks at the Newtown

Recreation Center from 7:00 p.m. until 8:30 p.m. The instructors will be Richard and Ruby

The Foxtrot is one of the first truly American

ballroom dances. If you are interested in ballroom dancing, please join us at Newtown Recreation Center. This is a great way to get some exercise, meet your neighbors, and just have fun.

All Newtown members are allowed to bring in a guest to have as a dancing partner. The cost for the entire 8-week session is \$16 per person. This payment is due in full upon registering for the class. Non-members must also pay an additional guest fee of \$2 per class. This payment will be made upon entering the Center to attend class. We must have a minimum of six (6) couples to hold the class. Please register with the Kapiolani Ballroom Dancers of Honolulu Lions Club starting on the first Monday of the class, January 26, 2008.



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The Annual Newtown Halloween Happening



annual Newtown Halloween Happening October 24th was an amazing night full of fun and excitement! Fifty-one children and some parents dressed in costume and 'trick-or-treated' through the Newtown pumpkin village "houses," and each child received goodies. The children decorated their own pumpkins with colorful paints and stickers and enjoyed clowns who air-brushed body tattoos and created balloon creatures. The children also indulged in shaved ice, popcorn, and cotton candy. Thank you to the families who participated, and thank you to the volunteers who helped: the seniors, the Boy Scouts, and the staff.



Boy Scout Troop 488 News

By Jensen Lee, Troop Senior Patrol Leader and Life Scout

SURVIVAL TRAINING CAMP - In September, seven Scouts (Ethan Chow, Matthew Howell, Travis Joe, Jarett Lau, Jensen Lee, Shaun Sakai, and Christian Tenguan-Horcajo) and six adults hiked into the hills above Newtown to practice their backpacking skills in preparation for the upcoming Kaala District Camporee. The Troop spent the night using only a tarp for shelter. The camp taught the younger Scouts to carry only the essentials (water, food, shelter, knife, compass, first aid kit, etc.) to keep their pack as light as possible.

EAGLE SCOUT PROJECT -Life Scout Ryan Ebisu constructed

and installed six half-mile markers on the Pearl Harbor bicycle path covering 2.3 miles from Lehua Avenue almost to Waipahu Depot Street. The effort taught Ryan how to plan and organize a large project and how to demonstrate leadership. Ryan had to direct his fellow Scouts, friends, and adults on the project and ensure that it was a success.

SERVICE PROJECT - On Friday, October 24th, the Troop assisted the Newtown staff with their annual Halloween Happenings event. Scouts Ethan, Ryan, Chasen Hamasaki, Matthew, Travis, Jarett, Jensen, Jody Okamoto, and Christian manned the booths and passed out treats to the trick-or-treaters. They also participated in clearing out the Newtown Pumpkin Village.



Scout practice orienteering.

CAMPOREE - This year's event was held from November 14th to November 16th at Camp Wallace Alexander which is located about eight miles above Haleiwa. The theme for the Camporee was adventure racing. Six Scouts (Ethan, Ryan, Matthew, Cedric, Jarett, and Jensen) had to use their orienteering and backpacking skills to complete the race. They also had to utilize their Scouting skills in first aid, knot tying, pioneering, and fire building. The Scouts were given a map with 25 predetermined checkpoints and they had six hours to locate as many of these checkpoints as possible. The adult leaders were not allowed to provide any guidance. Lunch was eaten on the trail. The event provided an excellent opportunity to practice the principles of Leave No Trace and to uphold the Outdoor Code.

CHANGE OF SCOUTMAS-

TER - At the end of December. Scoutmaster Alton Motobu retired from his position after leading the Troop for five years. The Troop would like to thank Alton for his dedication and commitment in developing our youth. Walt Howell has taken over the reigns as Scoutmaster. He has been involved with Scouting alongside his son, Matthew, for the past four years. Walt is currently serving in the United States Army as he has been for the past 20 years. He is looking forward to the challenges and with the support of the assistant leaders and parents, it will be a smooth transition. Walt is hoping that the youth in the Newtown community

will take a chance and come to a meeting to discover what Scouting can offer them.

NEW RECRUITS WELCOME - Troop 488 welcomes new boys into the Troop year round. The Boy Scout program is designed so that a boy can join anytime during the year and progress at his own pace. To join the Boy Scouts, a boy must meet just one of the following: (1) be at least 11 years old, (2) complete the fifth grade, or (3) achieve the Cub Scout Arrow of Light. Meetings are held on Fridays at 7:30 p.m. at the Newtown Recreation Center. Troop 488 also welcomes adult volunteers who can help with teaching Scouting skills. For further information, contact Scoutmaster Walt Howell at 888-3619.

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