



July 2023 Newsletter

Good News, Sad News

Ruth Bennett
PMKCA VP

This issue of our newsletter will be a bit different from others. We are coming to terms, sometimes very sadly, with losses in our community, and with changes in our delivery of information to our readers and others on the Hāmākua Coast. We also have a success story to tell, and a reminder that our annual picnic meeting is coming up!

The sad news first...

In June, we lost two significant members and friends of PMKCA who have contributed to our community and its residents in meaningful ways over many years.

Dr. Robert “Buzz” Hollander

PMKCA has recently learned of the unexpected death of one of its longtime members, Dr. Buzz Hollander. Many in PMKCA and our communities who have known Buzz as neighbors, friends, and patients, are grieving his passing. The following tribute to Buzz and his family was written by another PMKCA member, Duncan Dempster, with the approval of Buzz’s wife, Dr. Michelle Suber.

We take a moment now to reflect on the untimely passing of a neighbor, a friend, and a true Renaissance man who once lived in our midst here in Pa’auilo Mauka. Robert B. Hollander or, as many of us knew him, Doctor Buzz or just plain Buzz, passed away on June 25th as he flew from Hawai’i to Seattle for continuing

medical care after being diagnosed with throat cancer late last year.

Buzz and his beautiful, close-knit family have been nearby residents up on Waika'alulu Road, and more recently on Kukuipapa Road, for many years. Some of us knew him as the friendly neighbor across the street, others as an attentive and well-informed primary care physician, and still others as a devoted father who prioritized family over all else even as he focused his care and attention on his patients and beloved medical practice.



Buzz was also a prolific thinker and writer on a wide range of topics, be they vaccination, insurance, cancer therapies, Artificial Intelligence, or the human tolerance for pain. His literary output ranged from his informative technical blogs on substack.com to the wonderfully newsy articles in his Iris Integrative Health newsletters.

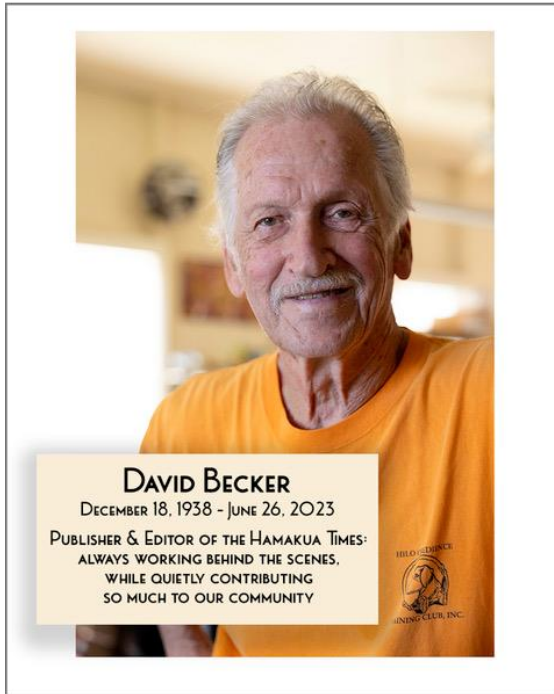
Those who knew Buzz Hollander in any capacity, whether as a neighbor, a patient, or a friend, can look back at having been touched in one way or another by the very epitome of human dignity and goodness. Kind, caring, and well spoken. Buzz has left an indelible mark on all of us who knew him and even many who did not.

If you would like to share a memory of Buzz with his family and the Pa'auilo Mauka and Kalōpā community, please reply with your thoughts to this email (news.pmkca@gmail.com) and we will compile the replies into a memorial for Buzz.

David Becker and the Hāmākua Times

David Becker, the publisher and editor of the Hāmākua Times, passed away unexpectedly in late June, after a short illness. Sarah Anderson, photographer for the paper, sent an email to contributors and others informing us of his passing. She wrote:

“He will be missed by so many; not only those who knew him personally, but by the larger community as well, who may not have even known that he was the Man Behind the Hāmākua Times.”



David owned “Illuminations”, a business offering a variety of printing and electronic services to the community from its office in Honoka’a. His deep love for the Hāmākua Coast and its charms and challenges was represented in the 25 years of monthly newspapers delivered free to every mailbox or PO box from Kukuihaele to Ninole.

Many of us in PMKCA mourn his passing and regret the loss of the opportunity that the Hāmākua Times provided to send our monthly newsletters to a wider audience. We will contribute to the final “Memorial” August issue of the Times planned by David’s staff and friends.

On happier notes...

County Funding Allocated for Improved Emergency Notifications

In the aftermath of the May 3, 2023, wildfire in Pa’auilo, PMKCA members and other residents were frustrated with the lack of notification to the affected mauka Pa’auilo and Kalōpā communities. PMKCA officers and another interested community resident, testified at a May 16 County Council meeting about the impacts of the fire and the lack of information during the fire’s advance. They asked the Council for allocation of funds to develop a timely, comprehensive, and accurate notification system for such quickly developing emergencies.

We have learned recently from Heather Kimball, our representative on the County Council, that funds were actually allocated to Civil Defense and the IT departments to “get something going” regarding emergency notifications to

communities in quickly emerging, often localized, dangerous situations like wildfires.

We'll keep in touch with the County Council and agencies to find out, and maybe influence, how these funds will be spent. We'll pass on what we learn to you.

New PMKCA Website in Development – Contribute your Suggestions.

We are working on a complete renovation of our PMKCA.org website, increasing the information available to you as well as improving our ability to provide services to the community. We would like your input:

- *Send us your thoughts on what you would like to see on our website, and what could be improved.*
- *Go through your electronic collections of photos for the best views of our mauka communities, or the activities that you have been involved in that show how PMKCA has served our communities and its residents.*

You can send your thoughts and your photos to our email address:

news.pmkca@gmail.com.

Annual *PMKCA Picnic and Bingo Bonanza* on Saturday, July 29

Get ready for another happy, informative, fun-filled, and food-laden community event at the Main Pavilion in Kalōpā Park! Bring a neighbor – *everyone in the mauka Pa'auilo and Kalōpā areas is welcome.*

- We'll gather at the pavilion starting at **11am** to greet old friends, fuss over newcomers, and remember those who have left us in the last year.
- Invited guests will inform and educate us – and answer our questions – on subjects of interest and concern to our residents.
- We'll have a brief business meeting and hear reports from our committee chairs.
- And, finally, we'll indulge our playful selves with BINGO until everyone has won and all the donated prizes are gone.

So, save the date and time – **Saturday, July 29, 11am!** Locate your unwanted, but useful or beautiful, treasure to donate as a Bingo prize. Dig out your favorite recipe and the pot to cook it in. Oh, and if your \$20 PMKCA dues are unpaid for 2023, bring your checkbook or some cash and rejoin!

PMKCA will provide drinks, paper products and utensils (or bring your own plates and service), and the BINGO paraphernalia. We'll do the set-up and clean-up. We'll organize the speakers and presentations.

We'll be looking forward to seeing you again!

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## **PMKCA Meetings & Events**

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Board of Directors Meeting

Thursday, July 13, 2023 - 6PM

Location: **TBD (call a Board Member)**

If you have any interests or concerns, we encourage you to email any Board member and to attend the Board meeting.

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## **Annual July Kalōpā Park Meeting**

**Potluck Lunch and Bingo Bonanza**

**Saturday, July 29, 2023 – 11 am**

*in the*

**Kalōpā Park Main Pavilion**

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Join PMKCA or Renew your Membership for 2023

PMKCA dues are only \$20 per calendar year and help support so many great community activities. Click the "Visit "PMKCA.org" link below and choose Membership/Dues. We offer a PayPal option, or mail a check made out to PMKCA, PO Box 408, Pa'auilo, HI 96776.

[Visit PMKCA.org](https://www.pmkca.org)