



# Thatchfield NEWSLETTER



## From the Board Chairman

### Electricity outages and low water pressure

#### Electricity

Apart from country-wide Eskom load shedding, Thatchfield residents have experienced several power interruptions over the past few weeks, most of which have been caused by cables and substation switchgear and equipment being stolen by well organized criminals.

Glen, Gardens, Manor, and Crescent get their electricity from the Reeds substation, which in turn is fed from the Rooihuiskraal substation.

Hills, Close, and Ridge are fed from the Rua Vista substation, which is located inside Ridge and is fed from the Olievenhoutbosch substation.

All of these substations and their feeder cables belong to the City of Tshwane and most of them are secured by locked gates, off site monitoring cameras, and pepper spray canisters which are activated when there is a break-in.

The recent outages in Glen, Gardens, Manor, and Crescent were as a result of break-ins at the substations. Copper theft is destroying infrastructure all around our country and sophisticated gangs of criminals break into substations where they can cause hundreds of thousands of rands' damage in a few minutes. The criminals wear gasmasks to negate the effects of the pepper spray and they know exactly how to dismantle the electrical equipment without getting electrocuted.

They are also often dressed in City of Tshwane overalls.

The switchgear in substations is purpose-made and takes time to repair.

The power outages which affected Hills, Close, and Ridge recently were as a result of cable theft and cable damage caused during the subsequent repairs to the main feeder cables in

Olievenhoutbosch. In addition, there was a damaged underground cable along Brakfontein Road. Underground cables are stolen at night by large gangs of criminals digging open the cable route to expose the main cables which are as thick as an arm and which cost over R1000 per running meter. Once they have exposed sufficient cable they short the cable by hitting it with the sharp end of a pick, or shooting it.

These gangs are normally well armed.

This causes the breakers in the substation to trip; enabling the criminals to cut the cable, roll it up and drive off with it in the back of a truck.

Repairs take some time as the trenches must be carefully opened by hand, all the other cables in the trench must be inspected for damage, and then a new piece of cable must be spliced in to replace the stolen length. Trenches often fill with water, which makes the repair work much more difficult and slower.

Once that is done substation crews must come out to check that all is in order, and to turn on the breakers.

In order to protect our electricity supply, our armed response vehicle patrols the external Tshwane feeder cable routes and visits each substation once during the day and twice during the night. Apart from the Rua Vista substation, the others are located several kilometres away from Thatchfield.

Tshwane does their best to undertake repairs but until such time as the criminal copper theft gangs are arrested and that the sale of scrap copper is better controlled, we will all continue to suffer under these unscheduled power outages.

This is a country-wide problem and it is not only specific to Thatchfield.

Volume 3 | Issue 3 | July 2020

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#### Low water pressure

The high lying parts of Hills and Close have been experiencing water outages, or very low water pressure, at certain times of the day.

This is caused by insufficient pressure in the main feeder line from Olievenhoutbosch. This feeder line is connected directly into a main Rand Water line where a pressure-reducing valve at the connection point reduces the normally high Rand Water pressure to an acceptable municipal pressure.

In the past when similar problems were experienced we found that someone had tampered with the settings in the valve chamber.

All residents who are affected must please report the problem to Tshwane Faults so that the matter can be attended to. Please inform the Thatchfield Office as well so that we can be aware of the issue and undertake a follow up if necessary.

Tshwane was supposed to have built a water reservoir on the high lying land to the west of Olievenhoutbosch several years ago, which would have solved all the water pressure issues in the area. The project keeps on being delayed notwithstanding the fact that several developers have made cash contributions towards the development of the reservoir.

The current political impasse within the City Council has caused critical projects such as this to be delayed.



## From the Editor's Desk

In this July Issue we address the irksome problem of constant electricity blackouts within the Estate, as well as low water pressure in some sections of the Estate. The Board Chair has the leading article on these twin challenges.

I want also to thank the Medical Officer of the Panorama Medipark - Tobie Lerm - for the information article he kindly agreed to do for us around COVID-19 response at Medipark. Please be reminded again about the following guidelines that we should adhere to for our safety regarding the epidemic:

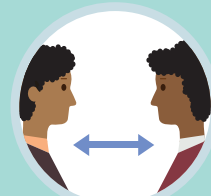
Remember, for any letters or queries to the editor, please email: [editor@thatchfield.co.za](mailto:editor@thatchfield.co.za) (Alison Ziki). You can also Whatsapp on 082 084 4839 to ask for an interview if you have something to share with the community.



### Safety Guidelines:



Wash your hands often with soap and water for at least 20 seconds. Use an alcohol-based hand sanitizer if soap is not available.



Practice physical distancing. Keep 1.5m distance from everyone at all times.



If you suspect that you or any of your family members have contracted the virus you should immediately consult your practitioner for assistance.



Cough or sneeze into the crook of your arm, into a tissue, then throw the tissue in a rubbish bin. Avoid touching your eyes, nose, and mouth with unwashed hands.



Clean and disinfect frequently touched objects and surfaces.

## Letters to the Editor

Dear Editor,  
Thanks for the ever so informative newsletter. Keep up the good work. There was an article on a food parcels initiative - is this still on? Could you please inform us in future of similar charity initiatives?

I'm aware there are a number of social media platforms for communication for Thatchfield Estate. The newsletter and email communications are the primary sources of information on events in the Estate. I would, therefore, request that such initiatives be communicated on the email channel in future.  
Best regards,  
Chiweni.

### Response

Thank you Chiweni. We are happy that you find the newsletter informative. Your suggestions about communication channels are noted.

The food parcel initiative is over. The food parcels were collected and distributed.

Dear Editor,  
**Are Pets Allowed in the Estate?**

I stay in Thatchfield Close. I just read the Editor's Desk from the February newsletter and I have learnt that most residents have complained about management of pets within the Estate. When I purchased a house in 2008 I was told that pets are not allowed. Have the rules changed?  
Kind Regards,  
Magadi Gainewe (Ms)

### Response

Thanks for enquiring, Magadi. Yes, pets are allowed in the Estate. The matter of pets is addressed in the THOA Conduct Rules, Section 1.4 – *Dogs and Other Animals*:

- 1.4.1 All residents have a responsibility to ensure that their dogs and/or animals are not the cause of disturbances during reasonable night time sleeping hours.
- 1.4.2 Dogs will not be allowed into open areas without the use of a leash.
- 1.4.3 Defecation of pets must be removed by the owner immediately otherwise a removal fee of R150.00 will be charged.
- 1.4.4 Owners / residents must address complaints of disturbances caused by dogs to the owner or person who provide accommodation to the dogs, or to the SPCA / SAPS, or Metro Police Services.



## From the Estate Manager

### Thatchfield Access Cards

Since the announcement and outbreak of the COVID-19, our service delivery at the THOA has been a roller-coaster ride. Access cards were delivered to all residents through our Security team – kudos to the team. Their eagerness and determination to get this project done as expeditiously as possible was heart-warming; it also relieved me from the anxieties I had about the matter. I, therefore, would like to use this opportunity to thank Fidelity Thatchfield and their contract manager/trainee officer for their dedication in getting this job done. I also want to recognise the Thatchfield control room operators for ensuring that each access card was accounted for; and AMAX Security Solutions who went all out to issue the 4 600 cards and assisted in addressing challenges around faulty cards.

### Fibre within Thatchfield

After our fibre installation project went to 'sleep', Open Serve gave the THOA feedback that this project will be resumed during July 2020. Open Serve requested for bids and Huawei was appointed to do the roll-out of fibre within Thatchfield Glen, Gardens, Crescent, and Manor. This project is expected to be finalized by the end of December 2020.

Residents are reminded that Open Serve brings the fibre into the manholes situated along our streets. Should any resident wish to have fibre installed at their home, as the homeowner they are responsible for the cost of the trunking done from the manhole to the house.

No trunking is permitted to run above the ground. Should trunking be necessary on shared commune areas please inform all parties sharing the commune area of your intentions. It is

not the responsibility of the THOA to install trunking from the connection point to your dwelling, neither is it the THOA's responsibility to supply you with a service provider.

### Illegal Vendors

I have noticed that illegal trading is being done at the corner of Brakfontein and Drakensberg roads. I approached all the vendors and requested them to stop the practice, as trading on streets is not permitted by the Road Act. None of the traders had Tshwane trading licenses nor any SANS Act Health and Safety certificates. What is of concern is that these traders were Thatchfield residents, or people working for Thatchfield residents. I have received several complaints and instructed Thatchfield Fidelity Security to address this issue and will be handing this matter over to Tshwane Metro as a matter of urgency.

Related to this, we still have cases of residents running their business from their homes – using their garages and backyards as workshops. Please be advised that this is against Estate rules and we will soon be taking sterner measures against such.

### COVID 19 Epidemic

Thatchfield residents have not been spared from this plague. I receive regular notifications of residents who have been infected by the virus and who are now under quarantine. My concern is not these infected residents, as they do cooperate with all the health workers and observe their isolation. The main worry is that we still have residents violating the lockdown regulations. I still receive regular complaints of parties at houses, and illegal visitors. It is time that we as a community took this virus seriously. Our hospitals are full, and our health workers are exhausted. Please

do the right thing and observe the guidelines and regulations. December is around the corner. We all want to go on the much needed holiday. If we as a nation/community cannot moderate our behaviour we will not be able to go on holiday due to the COVID-19 epidemic.

### THOA Office

The THOA reports faulty streetlights weekly to Council. I urge our residents to do the same. The more the complaints the quicker the response. The maintenance of streetlights is City of Tshwane's responsibility.

The THOA had to close the office due to a resident who visited the offices and later tested positive for COVID-19. However, as from the 20<sup>th</sup> July 2020 our personnel are back at the office and they will be dealing with your emails and queries. We, nevertheless, cannot see any residents until it is safe to do so. For access cards, changing of telephone numbers for the intercom, and biometrics please send your inquiries to: [admin2@thatchfield.co.za](mailto:admin2@thatchfield.co.za). For domestic workers, gardeners, and contractors send the emails to: [admin3@thatchfield.co.za](mailto:admin3@thatchfield.co.za)

The good news is that spring is around the corner. Residents staying along our boundary walls can assist us by pruning their vegetation touching our electric fences. Regular alarms are received at our control room just because residents forgot to maintain the vegetation in their erf.

Thank you all for the calls we received daily, and for your support and kind words of encouragement. We are here to serve you and assist you as best as we can.

Kind Regards,

Mossie Mostert

We have space available for adverts.

Please contact Carien for details: **012 661 1952/admin@thatchfield.co.za**



# Curro Thatchfield Returns to School!

On Monday, 1 June 2020, Curro Thatchfield welcomed its Grade 7 and Grade 12 learners back with screening, per current legislation; their temperature was recorded, and learners received face masks.

Schools were shut down when the country went on lockdown in March - with a heavy impact on schools that were unable to provide normal classroom teaching. In line with group policy, all Curro schools provided remote learning to ensure that no learner would be left behind and that all Curro learners would be equipped to write their exams at the end of 2020. Curro Thatchfield immediately switched to remote learning, using electronic devices to communicate with learners for live sessions, to complete homework tasks, and to submit assignments.

The Minister of Basic Education, Ms Angie Motshekga, announced at the end of May the gradual return of learners to school, starting with the Grade 7 and Grade 12 learners in the first week of June. In her announcement of the reopening of schools, the minister emphasised strict health and safety guidelines to be adhered to, which included adequate personal protective equipment (PPE), the adherence of social distancing (1,5 metres), and the screening of both learners and staff

at schools. Curro has complied with all requirements for the safety of its learners and staff across the country.



Curro Thatchfield staff, teachers, and learners have been informed of and trained in these procedures. Learners who have chosen to stay home are supported by the hybrid teaching style, where some learners study remotely

from home while some are in physical classrooms at school. Each lesson is recorded for learners to participate in or refer to later. Curro Holdings published standard operating procedures for all its schools. These procedures include that no learners can enter the campus without a mask. All learners undergo temperature checks as well as sanitise before entering the school; this happens daily. Parents and visitors are not allowed to enter the school premises without an appointment. Learners are required to observe social distancing of 1,5m. Classes, offices, and the staff room are sanitised daily.

Curro Thatchfield is dedicated to giving its learners full support during this time with the help of all staff members. Our learners' safety takes priority and we are prepared for the new normal. Rest assured, the quality education we provide will not be compromised during this time.

Applications for 2020/21 are still open and parents are welcome to apply online at <https://enrolment.curro.co.za/>. We are also very excited to announce that we will be adding IsiZulu

First Additional Language to the curriculum for Grade 8 and Grade 9 in 2021.

For more information, please contact the marketer, Shongi Mudabula, on 087 286 8268 or at [info.thatchfield@curro.co.za](mailto:info.thatchfield@curro.co.za).

## Sectional Title Scheme and Home Owners Association Levies



One of the features which make a sectional title complex attractive to property owners is the sense of security it provides.

The Thatchfield Home Owners Association employs Fidelity Security to attend to security issues in and around the estate. Fidelity is doing patrols in the Estate and along Brakfontein Road. The perimeter electric fence is maintained by the HOA. Fidelity Security man the eight entrance gates to the Estate and control access.

In the past, sectional title schemes made bulk levy payments (based on the number of living opportunities) to the Home Owners Association (HOA) and were responsible for recovering these levies internally from the unit owners, which was part of the body corporate levy account.

On 20 June 2018 during a Directors' Meeting the directors resolved that with effect from 1 March 2019 the Home Owners Association will recover HOA levies directly from individual owners within all sectional title schemes associated with Thatchfield Home Owners Association NPC. The above was confirmed at the Annual General Meeting held on 12 December 2018.

Levy accounts are sent out via email or post by JM Venter Property Services CC, the HOA's managing agents, to all the registered homeowners of units within sectional title schemes.

There are still owners who are not paying these levies to HOA monthly. The HOA wish to urge all sectional title owners to pay their levies to the HOA as non-payment impacts negatively on the operations of the Thatchfield HOA.

Sectional Title Schemes are an integral part of the Estate and are serviced by the HOA in the same manner as other residences. Your co-operation in this regard is highly appreciated.

Mernette Swanepoel – *Director Sectional Title Finances*

# Medipark: Dealing with the COVID-19 Risk



Medipark (Panaroma) is not a COVID testing facility. It is a family practice where we treat patients and do COVID-19 testing on our patients, if needed.

Since the start of the exponential increase in COVID-19 infections, our most important priority has been to keep our healthy patients and our health care workers safe. In order to separate those individuals with a high-risk of being infected with SARS-COV-2 from the healthy and vulnerable

after every patient, and have the best ventilation for decreasing the spread of the virus between health care workers and patients. Most importantly, we can consult healthy and vulnerable patients (elderly, pregnant, immune-compromised, diabetic, etc.) inside our rooms, with much less risk.

One of the biggest problems that we currently experience is patients neglecting their own chronic medical care and serious possible life-threatening symptoms like chest pain. The fear of contracting COVID-19 at a health care facility causes people to ignore serious symptoms and postpone seeking emergency medical care. This can be fatal. It is extremely important that the community be made aware that our practice and all the hospitals in the area can safely treat all non-COVID-19 patients.

When a patient arrives at Medipark24, they undergo screening. This includes a small questionnaire and a temperature reading. If you have any symptoms of COVID-19 or an elevated temperature, as defined by the National Institute for Communicable Diseases, you will be allocated to one of our tented consulting rooms. Here you will be consulted and examined by a doctor, dressed in full protective gear, to keep yourself and the doctor safe. If NICD and laboratory criteria are met for a COVID-19 PCR test, the doctor or laboratory staff will take a nasopharyngeal swab. This is,

unfortunately, a very uncomfortable and sometimes painful procedure. Symptomatic treatment and isolation is prescribed for mild cases. For patients who have symptoms of respiratory distress, admission to a hospital may



Dr Marie Landman (left) and Dr Chandre Balie in full PPE

patients, we have a rigorous screening process and have set up temporary consulting rooms in tents outside the practice. The tents are easy to disinfect

be arranged. Test results become available after approximately 24 hours, but may be significantly delayed as the national availability of testing reagent varies. Current NICD isolation criteria states that patients with mild disease symptoms may return to work 14 days after their positive test. Re-testing is not done at all, due to international test shortages.

Patients who pass the screening enter the practice rooms and receive treatment as always. We urge the public to wear masks at all times when leaving their homes and to seek medical care before they become severely ill. Patients at risk of severe diseases must be especially vigilant.

By Dr. Clive Landman & Dr. Marié Landman

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