



# Thatchfield NEWSLETTER



## From the Acting Estate Manager's Desk

### Neglecting Covid-19 Regulations when walking around the Estate

Thatchfield Homeowners Association (THOA) management would like to comment on a very concerning issue that has been observed and reported to the office daily for the past few months. It is truly disturbing that there are some Thatchfield residents who are still not taking Covid-19 seriously and are not adhering to the regulations. In Thatchfield, like anywhere else around the country, we are staying with residents who have been either infected or affected by the Covid-19 virus in a severe manner. Many people are still infected and struggling to recover from the virus, many are still in hospital, some are in quarantine in their homes here in Thatchfield, some have passed-on due to the virus, and most people have lost someone close to them due to this virus.

It is very disheartening that daily, one witnesses residents walking around the estate without masks and sometimes sitting/standing in groups **without putting masks on or observing any social distancing**. It becomes even more disappointing when they insult anyone who reminds them of the need to put on a mask, especially when security request them to put on a mask. Each resident has a right to walk around peacefully and safely without fear of meeting or passing some residents who intentionally decide to breach the Covid-19 regulations and put other residents lives at risk by not wearing a mask.

We are pleading with ALL Thatchfield residents to observe the Covid-19 regulations at all times, even

when walking around the Estate as it is still important to **RESPECT** and **PROTECT** your fellow-residents. This should be extended to the helpers or nannies who have a tendency of sitting in groups around the Estate when they are supervising children as they play. They need to always put on their masks and observe social distancing because they are putting their own lives, the children's lives and the entire Thatchfield community at risk. Should residents not comply please report them to the relevant authorities so that they may be held accountable for such breaches. Let us work together as a community and protect lives.



### Parents should take responsibility for their children's behaviour around the Estate

Thatchfield parents/residents, we have a serious challenge at hand which cannot be taken lightly. Children are misbehaving around the Estate and we plead for your intervention as parents. We have raised this matter in different platforms: in residents' WhatsApp groups, telegram, letters, notices at the gates, and in different newsletters but the incidents still continue.

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My fellow parents, this behaviour from our children is **unacceptable** and **it is getting out of hand**, hence **URGENT INTERVENTION** from parents is needed. We plead with parents to seriously talk to your children to **STOP** playing in the **MIDDLE OF THE ROAD** and to **STOP DISRESPECTING** other residents' properties. Some children may not be aware of the dangers and possible consequences of their actions hence they continue to misbehave, so parents need to discuss such possible consequences with their children. Parents should also talk to their helpers/nannies to ensure they offer full supervision at all times when the little ones are playing.

In each complex on a daily basis, there is always a group of children playing soccer/ball in the middle of the streets, kicking the ball against residents' garage doors/car windows/ house windows, damaging neighbours' gardens, riding bicycles/skateboards without helmets, running up and down and crossing streets without any adult supervision. Sometimes they do not even move out of the way when a car approaches. Some of the teenagers have worsened this behaviour by vandalizing empty properties, jumping over boundary walls, trespassing, spray-painting road signs, smoking dagga, drinking alcohol, and urinating at the corners of our streets and in the driveways. Most of these children **do not even wear masks** and this also raises many concerns. These children put their own lives at risk, and they also risk the lives of fellow residents. In the past few months, we have had

accidents where kids were hit by cars within the Estate, which is extremely traumatic.

Parents, we plead with you once again, let us stand united in this matter and discipline our children so that peace may continue to reign in Thatchfield Estate. Your urgent intervention and cooperation will be highly appreciated on this matter.

### Noise pollution

The security report from December 2020 up to this month is dominated by noise pollution reports (all sorts of noise: loud music, loud speaking, shouting, noisy equipment/cars, dogs barking non-stop etc.). Thatchfield residents are reminded that noise pollution is unacceptable and illegal. One can also refer to the Environment Conservation Act 73 of 1989 and municipal by-laws which protect residents from intolerable noise pollution. Noise is not acceptable at any time of the day or night. In some incidents residents argue that it is fine making noise during the day, and some say they are entitled to entertainment or fun and celebrations on their properties - that is all true. However, the fun/entertainment/celebration of one resident should not affect or steal the peace of the next resident because they are also entitled to a peaceful stay within their property.

The THOA Office has observed that whenever there is noise pollution, security is informed but in some cases the residents **DISRESPECT** and **CHASE** security away when they request them to reduce the amount of noise. We urge residents that when their peace is disturbed in whatever manner, they try to address the matter with the resident who is disturbing their peace; if that fails residents have every right

to inform the South African Police Services (SAPS) to come and address the matter on their behalf and hold accountable the culprits in question. Residents, you are urged to **RESPECT** and be **CONSIDERATE** so we can all enjoy peace in the Estate.

### A plea about walking dangerous dogs around the Estate

The THOA management is raising this matter with all the sensitivity and seriousness it deserves. All Thatchfield residents are aware that Thatchfield Estate is a 'pet friendly estate', so pets are permitted. However, rules pertaining to owning a pet are still applicable and must be adhered to at all times. The THOA office has observed that not all pet owners are taking care of their pets as they should. Sometimes the office is phoned because of constant barking, only for security to get there and find a pet locked-in alone without any water or food and the owners away on holiday. We also receive complaints daily regarding stray pets. Some residents expect the THOA office to keep their pets for them when they are found. Unfortunately, the office does not have the facilities nor staff members with the expertise to keep those pets.

Some of the pets that are found are sick and require medical attention when they are picked-up from Thatchfield streets; the question that then arises is: Who should incur the medical costs for treating the pet? There is also the danger that the sick pets may infect whoever has to pick them up.

The other concern is about pet owners who constantly leave their gates open, which allows their pets (especially dogs) to sneak out and roam the streets. Some of the dogs end up

chasing and threatening residents who are walking or jogging; or they chase children playing in their driveways.

Also of concern is the issue of residents who walk their dogs around the Estate without a leash. No resident is allowed to walk a dog without a leash in the Estate. Currently, the THOA management is considering gazetting extra measures regarding the walking of dangerous dogs especially pitbulls etc. Once that discussion is concluded then all residents will be informed accordingly. The need for harsher measures has come about after a few incidents of people being attacked by these dogs in the Estate. Should any pet be a threat to a fellow resident then the resident has a right to hold the pet-owner accountable (not the THOA office). The THOA office will not be held accountable for any Thatchfield resident's pet. The office tries to stay clear of disputes between neighbours, and we urge residents to try to resolve issues with their neighbours peacefully. To all pet owners, you are reminded to be accountable and take full responsibility for your pet so that it does not become a nuisance or a threat to fellow residents. You are welcome to refer to the municipal by-laws and THOA Rules Of Conduct on this matter.

### Operating a business in the Estate is not allowed

THOA management would like to remind all residents that when they purchased a property in Thatchfield they were made aware that this is a residential estate, not a commercial/ industrial estate. In the past year we have received many complaints regarding some residents who were conducting businesses such as spaza shops (selling sweets, cigarettes etc.)



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and some fixing cars in front of their garages. We spoke to the residents in question and those operations were closed down. The THOA office, however, still receives complaints from residents about businesses. In some incidents, residents are bringing their big business trucks into the Estate and are parking them in shared driveways, blocking or damaging the driveway. There is no business that is allowed within the Estate. Again be reminded: Thatchfield is a residential estate, not an industrial estate.

### Policy on sharing of camera footage and occurrence book information

The THOA Office has been receiving requests from residents for either camera footage, occurrence book copies or contact details of another resident. THOA management would like to inform residents that THOA personnel are not allowed to share this information with any resident or service provider or supplier. The THOA office can only share this type of information with a request from either the South African Police Services or a Court Order. A formal written request should be forwarded to the management, clearly stating the reasons for such a request.

### Respecting each other's properties and parking areas

The THOA office has received a lot of complaints regarding this matter. There are residents who have been reported for parking their cars (or allowing their visitors to park their cars) either in their neighbour's driveways, sidewalks, lawn, gardens and sometimes even in front of their neighbour's garages without any permission or prior arrangement with the owner of that property. This behaviour is unacceptable, and it is not neighbourly at all. It is very important for neighbours to **RESPECT** each other, should a neighbour expect visitors who require parking space other than their property as a host, then they should approach their neighbour and have their consent regarding parking space, and if their request is refused then they should accept it peacefully and make another plan. Once again, should a resident experience this situation they must address it with their neighbour; the THOA office tries not to interfere with neighbourly disputes especially regarding the parking areas on private properties. Let us follow the values of neighbourliness and respect.

### Fiber installation update



There have been a lot of queries regarding the completion of fiber around the Estate. Thatchfield residents have been looking forward to having fiber within the Estate for many years now, so each delay tested residents' patience. It is also sad that the more the delays on the installation of fiber in Thatchfield Estate, the more the anger directed to the THOA staff even though there is no link between them and the fiber companies. The fiber companies are independent service providers.

On a happy note, the good news is that the installation of fiber has been completed in Thatchfield Hills, Close and Gardens. The Openserve technical team indicated that they are currently busy with a few touch-ups in Thatchfield Glen, Crescent, Manor, Riverview and Thatchview and these will be completed by the end of March 2021. Now the responsibility lies with each resident to choose their preferred service provider and connect fiber to their homes thereafter. I would have wished for this news on fiber to be presented to you by our Estate Manager, Mr Mossie Mostert, because he worked so hard in following-up and pushing the fiber companies to meet their deadlines. Should you wish to follow-up on the fiber installation progress you are welcome to contact Mr Michael Ncube on: 081 578 6221.

### Announcements: THOA Office and Sport facilities

We would like to inform residents that after the President's announcement of Lockdown Level 1, the THOA Board of Directors has decided to re-open the THOA offices. However, strict rules of operation and safety when rendering services to residents will be implemented. Therefore, our residents

are requested to cooperate, respect and adhere to these rules accordingly.

#### THOA Office Operating Hours:

- Monday – Thursday, 07:00am – 16:00pm: (Residents will ONLY be assisted until 15:00pm everyday. The THOA office will reserve the last hour to sanitise the office in preparation for the following day).
- Fridays - 07:00am – 13:00pm: (Residents will ONLY be assisted until 12:00pm. The THOA office will reserve the last hour to sanitise the office in preparation for the following day).
- Saturdays, Sundays and Public Holidays, THOA office is closed.

**NB:** For ACCESS CONTROL SERVICES like access cards and finger-prints for new residents, you will strictly be assisted on an appointment basis only. Make an appointment 24 hours before proceeding to the THOA office. Contact Ms Lizette De Wet at: admin2@thatchfield.co.za or for any other ACCESS CONTROL SERVICES for Domestic Workers/ Gardeners/ Contractors/Service Providers etc., please call 012 661 1952 to enquire.

Sports facilities are now open, but there are rules that need to be adhered to if anyone wishes to use them:

- All Covid-19 Regulation rules to be observed.
- Only limited numbers can be allowed to book per day.
- Walking, jogging, exercising is allowed.
- No Access will be granted if NO PRIOR BOOKING is made before arrival at the THOA office gate.
- No matches or group games allowed at the soccer/rugby field.
- Only four people allowed per session at the tennis and basketball court.

Contact numbers for Sports Facility Bookings is Control-room at 073 697 1990 or THOA Office at (012) 661 1952.



Thatchfield Acting Estate Manager (Ms Vuyo Mbeki)



## From the Editor's Desk

Compliments of the new year! In this first issue for 2021, we carry a lot of valuable information around Covid 19, fibre, and other matters of general concern to us as residents.

For contributions to the newsletter, please email me at: [editor@thatchfield.co.za](mailto:editor@thatchfield.co.za). (Attention Alison Ziki). You can also Whatsapp me at 0820844839 to set up an interview if you have a story to share. We encourage residents to share their special events like weddings and other achievements with the community through this platform.

## Maintenance of gardens and driveways



Mr Simbini

Greetings Thatchfield residents. I am Godfrey Simbini, Site Supervisor for SSG Gardening Services. My team and I are working in the Estate. I started working in Thatchfield in 2014. When I started I used to work for a company called Servest Gardening Services as a supervisor for Thatchfield. In February 2019, I was then employed by SSG and continued to work in Thatchfield as a supervisor. I am very passionate about

gardenings and always willing to go the extra-mile when it comes to gardening. It is that time of the year once again when God blesses us with rain to make our environment look green and beautiful. As we celebrate the rainy weather, let us remember that our gardens, lawns, plants, and trees are growing rapidly so they need some maintenance and caring for. I would like to urge Thatchfield residents to take good care of their gardens by cutting their grass and taking care of the sidewalks, spraying weeds on their driveways, and pruning their plants and trees. We send our appreciation to all residents who are consistent with taking care of their gardens and

we encourage everyone else who has neglected theirs to start taking care of their gardens.

My team and I would like to say there is no other perfect time than right now, so let us work together and keep the Estate green. I thank you.



## From the Board Chairman



Good News!

The best news this year is that our estate manager, Mossie Mostert, is well on his way to recovering from COVID.

Mossie contracted COVID during

December and ended up being in hospital on a ventilator for 17 days! He was nursed back to health by amazing healthcare workers, some of whom live in Thatchfield, who are the true heroes in our fight against this pandemic! If any of you has a neighbour who is a healthcare worker please acknowledge them by taking them flowers or a small gift as a token of appreciation.

In true Mossie spirit, he wanted to return to work a few days after he got home from hospital and it took some convincing to get him to take his

accumulated leave to rest and recover fully. He really appreciated the boxes of get-well cards and gifts sent to him by Thatchfield residents, and we are all looking forward to having him back at Thatchfield in the near future.

### Definitely not the time to let our guard down!

Speaking to Mossie about his experience with COVID makes one realize how ignorant some people are when they walk around Thatchfield without wearing masks and without keeping the necessary social distance apart. We all still need to adhere to strict COVID protocols if we are to avoid a third wave. No parties please!

### Projects for 2021

We have purchased over a hundred trees which will be planted in the streets of Thatchfield in the coming weeks.

The paving bricks for a jogging/walking track on the west bank of

the river opposite our office have been delivered. The track will be laid down during this winter. We also plan to install more cameras along our perimeters which will enable us to cut down on foot patrols, with a resultant saving in our monthly guarding cost.

### Levies

We have honoured our undertaking to our members to keep our levy increases as low as possible, with a 2% increase as from the first of March this year. We thank all our members who have kept up to date with their levy payments during these difficult times.

### A.G.M.

As we have close to 2500 members we will only be able to hold our next AGM when permitted to do so in terms of COVID regulations.

Stay Safe and Stay Well!

Charles Lloyds Ellis.

# Curro Thatchfield Matric Results 2020



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**TOP achievers**  
IEB examination

**The Class of 2020**

**Ayanda Fezeka Ncwane**  
5 distinctions  
A aggregate

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**TOP achievers**  
IEB examination

**The Class of 2020**

**Nicole Ruvimbo Zimbodza**  
A aggregate

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**TOP achievers**  
IEB examination

**The Class of 2020**

**Sameet Keshav**  
4 distinctions  
A aggregate

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## Message from Danie van Schalkwyk, Executive Head: High School

Through all the strife and uncertainty of last year, our Class of 2020 rallied and showed immense amounts of courage and resilience to give us a **100% IEB pass rate**, with a 76% bachelor's degree pass rate and 53% of all matrics receiving 60% or more as an overall average for their subjects.

Congratulations to each and every one of these fine, hardworking young adults. I wish them the best of luck and know that they will be successful in their future endeavours. If they were able to weather this storm so well, the world is their oyster!

Added to this, our Grade 8s had a 97% pass rate, Grade 9s 100%, Grade 10s 98% and Grade 11s 97% pass rate. If you

throw into this mix the number of A-averages we attained per grade last year, I am really excited as to the prospects we face for our matric groups to come. Curro Thatchfield is destined for great academic results.

There is of course a group of people I always pause to thank, because I know and see the effort they put into 'their children' many times to the detriment of their own children and families. A very big thank you to our unsung heroes – our teachers. I see what you do and I applaud you for that.

Should any of our parents/prospective parents want to discuss the 2020 results in more detail, they are welcome to make an appointment with me. I will be more than happy to share a more in-depth view of these results.