

Thatchfield NEWSLETTER



From Estate Manager's Office

Covid-19 Pandemic – Level 4

President Cyril Ramaphosa moved the country to alert Level 4 lockdown, with stricter restrictions. Escalating Covid 19 cases forced him to place the country under alert Level 4. Gauteng, which accounts for 60% of the cases, has been severely impacted. With the additional restrictions, President Ramaphosa issued a dire warning about the devastating Delta variant.

The THOA offices are closed, and we had to adjust our hours to make provisions for regular sanitizing and sterilizing of our offices and equipment. The Delta variant is rapidly displacing the Beta variant. We are concerned of the rapid spread of this variant because it is more transmissible than previous variants, meaning it is easier to catch through person-to-person contact.

Volume 4 | Issue 3 | June 2021

In this Issue:

From the Estate Manager's Desk	1
From the Editor's Desk	2
How to Avoid Becoming a Hijack Victim	2
Letters to the Editor	3
Effects of COVID-19	3
A Pastor's Perspective	3
A Doctor's Perspective	3
From the Board Chairman	5



No resident/contractor/domestic/gardener/agent or visitor will be permitted to visit our office without making a booking at the relevant desk. Should you wish to make use of our limited services, bookings can be made as follows:

- Register or extend your domestic/gardeners/transport services access please mail Lucy at: admin3@thatchfield.co.za. Lucy will assist you and guide you with necessary info required to register the above.
- To register new residents, tenants and all biometrics related queries, you can email Lizette at: admin2@thatchfield.co.za.
- For all estate agents registrations, plans, general THOA enquiries and Thatchfield Ridge registrations please email Carien at: admin@thatchfield.co.za

- Any complaints, disputes, and gardening concerns can be addressed with our Deputy Estate Manager Vuyo at: deputy@thatchfield.co.za
- Any security related incidents and urgent matters, complaints, inquiries for Fibre, City of Tswane (COT) related problems, power, waste, streetlights, poor water pressure, approval of plans, illegal water and electricity connections, estate related disputes, Gautrain inquiries, projects, neighbour disputes can be addressed to my desk at: estatemanager@thatchfield.co.za.

Please note that the policy of 'no mask no entry' will still apply and every person visiting our offices will undergo a temperature scan/test.

Suspension of City of Tshwane's (COT) Power Supply

I receive daily calls from residents informing me they do not have power at their houses. I am always eager to assist and make use of Ward Councillors to assist me in escalating your concerns to COT for assistance. The THOA cannot get involved in disputes of non-payment or revenue owed to COT. Our security guards at the gates cannot stop City Council officials at our gates and refuse them access to do their work when they are in possession of a City Council notification letter to cut the power supply to a dwelling. I cannot involve myself as I am a third party and cannot make arrangements on your behalf. Residents whose power supply is suspended must phone COT themselves. I cannot speed the process.

Continue ➔

COT is also severely affected by the Corona virus pandemic. Therefore, reconnections will be done depending on the availability of qualified staff. The THOA cannot assist with reconnections once the power supply to your dwelling has been suspended by COT.

Security Concerns

Thatchfield residents visiting public places like malls must be alert, especially when returning home. I have shared crime tips on all our social groups, and on this page we have more

tips on how to keep safe on the roads and avoid hijackings. Regular incidents are observed on our Thatchfield cameras of residents being followed, and of hijacking attempts at our gates.



From the Editor's Desk

Security remains a hot topic in our Estate and in the greater community. In early June a meeting was held between THOA Management, residents, security providers, and the Olivenhoutbosch police. The meeting was prompted by a hijacking attempt at Ridge Complex gates. The main purpose of the gathering was to look at what can be done to reduce the level of crime opportunities around the Estate, but also to look at community involvement and participation.



Below we share some tips on how to keep safe while driving.

For contributions to the newsletter, please email me at: editor@thatchfield.co.za. (Attention Alison Ziki)

How to Avoid Becoming a Hijack Victim

With an ever-increasing number of hijackings reported across South Africa, it is an unfortunate reality that motorists are at risk of facing this commonly violent criminal act when commuting.

This is according to Greig Hains, managing director at motor warranty underwriters, MotorVaps, who notes that while the will of perpetrators isn't something the average citizen can control or predict, there are precautions they can take to reduce their exposure to high-risk situations.

The Statistics South Africa Victims of Crime Survey 2016/17 revealed that at least 85 hijackings take place in SA each day. So, what can you do to avoid becoming a statistic?

1. Be vigilant and alert - be aware of you environment

One of the most important habits to form as a motorist on South African roads is to be aware of your surroundings at all times. You want to take note of anyone (pedestrians or other motorists) who are acting suspiciously and avoid them if possible. This may mean rerouting or switching lanes to increase the space between yourself and the potentially risky situation.

You also want to check your rear-view mirror regularly to make sure you are not being followed. This is a common modus operandi among hijackers to find the vehicle make and model they are looking for and



then follow the car to a quieter area which often ends up being the driver's neighbourhood or their driveway. If you suspect you are being followed, make a couple of false turns. If the car is still following you, drive directly to the nearest police station.

2. Avoid distractions and hide temptations

Not only does being distracted by your phone or other objects while driving put you at higher risk of causing an accident, it also takes your eyes and mind off of what may be happening around you. Being distracted makes

you vulnerable to some of the country's most common crimes including hijackings and smash-and-grabs.

In addition to keeping your belongings out of reach so you aren't distracted, it is recommended that all valuables be kept out of sight. Having a laptop on your passenger seat or cell phone in the centre console puts you at greater risk of being a target for opportunistic criminals.

3. Know what may be 'high risk'

If you are able to avoid a road or intersection which is known for being a hijacking or smash-and-grab hot-spot,

it is definitely worthwhile – especially in peak traffic when you are boxed in by other cars, unable to get away if you need to. Security company Fidelity ADT's latest crime trends pinpointed early morning and early evening as the peak time for hijackings and common theft.

In addition to these being peak traffic times, it is likely that many of these hijackings take place in residential areas, outside people's homes. With this in mind, and because you are likely to be unable to control your working hours, it is advisable to not

remain stationary outside your gate for very long. The best approach would be to open your gate electronically while approaching it. Scanning your surroundings and ensuring you have enough space to drive away are also essential considerations.

4. Keep your car in good running order

Ultimately, a car that is not well maintained is far more likely to break down and when you are alone on the side of the road, you are vulnerable. While

service and maintenance plans may come at a cost, they make keeping your car running optimally easy to budget for and should definitely be a priority.

(This is reproduced courtesy of Pro-Active SA)

Letters to the Editor

Dear Editor,

Covid Compliance and Estate Rules



How irresponsible are some of our Thatchfield residents! Some residents in Thatchfield Close where I stay are not adhering to Covid protocols, regulations that are there for everyone's safety and protection.

On the evening of Friday the 25th of June, a resident in Thatchfield Close (Quail Avenue) had a party from 18h00 until 00h30 at their property. More than 10 vehicles parked on the pavements. Curfew started at 23h00 but they ignored it. The people had no consideration for neighbours trying to sleep and rest. As neighbours we thought that it was going to be a one-off thing, and that we could cope with it; but on the Saturday morning from 11h00 the party started again – with lots of noise and music. At 23h00 on the Saturday night I contacted the control room. Fidelity guards visited

the property and reported 'nothing wrong'. This despite the fact that it was after 23h00: curfew time!

At 24h00 the party goers started singing and with alcohol bottles in their hands they went to their cars. The last revellers left at 00h45. I tried in vain to contact the SAPS. Sunday morning at 11h00 the party started again...

Here are my questions/observations:

1. Did the resident not think/realise what the effect would be on their neighbours? Or was it sheer selfishness?
2. There was no social distancing.
3. No one was wearing a mask.
4. Noise after 23h00 – as if the noise we suffer from Olievenhoutbosch taverns over the weekends is not enough?
5. Fidelity guards regarded this behaviour and the noise as 'normal'.
6. Why do we need rules if residents break them willy-nilly?

I am just a concerned resident who wants to inform you that some of our fellow residents have no sense of responsibility, and take no accountability for their actions. It seems the THOA laws, rules, and protocols are just for some residents. This is not fair to the majority of residents who adhere to the rules and regulations.

Thank you,

Ernest Fourie.

Dear Estate Manager,
Noisy Generators



As discussed, this is a reminder about the noise pollution caused during load shedding.

I do not want to seem like I am complaining, but as a resident it can't be that when we have load shedding every time we have to suffer the unbearable noise of generators.

Imagine if all the houses in the Estate were to use generators during load shedding? I am proposing that the use of generators be regulated, and noise insulation be made mandatory. Alternatively, residents should consider other sources of energy.

Kind regards,

M.T Makgae

We have space available for adverts.

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

Effects of COVID-19

A Pastor's Perspective



Pastor M. James

This disease has not only led to many deaths but has also caused economic, social, and emotional havoc on communities. The pandemic has highlighted the dire need for cooperation between people, communities, and countries.

According to the word of God, humans are encouraged to cooperate and to look after each other. Covid-19 has shown how we fall short. We need a change of mindset; we should focus more on our wellbeing and on health security for all, but also on eradication of poverty

and the achievement of justice and peace. It has been very tough spiritually for many communities globally, and spiritual leaders have struggled to spiritually nourish, comfort, and conduct funerals for the deceased.

The closing of churches or limiting the number of people that can attend at any given time has caused a spiritual wilderness of sorts, especially for those not able to fend for themselves spiritually. Going to church is for many a spiritual boost, a recharge. The closure of churches has left many people running low on gasoline spiritually. It has baffled many spiritual leaders why the government's measures on churches have been more strict than on public places like malls, and yet both are in the business of nourishing – one spiritually, the other bodily.

The impact of the two years of lack of spiritual nourishment can be compared to the impact Covid-19 has

had on students. There has been lost time and lost learning which is hard to recover. The death of teachers, academics, and spiritual leaders has also been a huge blow. It takes a long time and a great deal of effort to make a man or woman of God. It is a project that God invests a lot of patience and time in. God does not mass-produce servants of God, but painstakingly moulds each into a unique masterpiece, for His ultimate glory. Like the death of a teacher or academic, the passing away of an apostle, prophet, evangelist, or pastor is a tragic loss.

I have personally not totally recovered from the death of several servants of God and friends whom I knew, people who made an unforgettable contribution in my spiritual journey. They have left a vacuum that is difficult to fill. To make matters worse, I could not attend some of their funerals because of travel restrictions, Covid-19 protocols, as well as financial difficulties caused by the Corona pandemic.

In my work I assist many people who are having to deal with emotional trauma from losing multiple loved ones all at the same time, and they are dealing with all this without any support structures to ease the pain and the emotional trauma because these structures have been decimated by the pandemic. Too many deaths in families have been happening back-to-back, denying those left behind enough time to mourn and find closure.

The age group that the Corona Virus is taking away is mostly the 'mature' citizens, the kind of people whose death leaves dependents without material, spiritual, and social provision. There is an emotional emptiness in communities and in families because 'huge trees' that were giving shelter to so many have been cut down by the deadly virus.

Governments need to approach the pandemic and its effects in a more holistic way to help families and communities to heal. It is a shame, for example, that governments are disregarding critical resources like spiritual leaders in the fight against Covid-19, and yet there is dire need in individuals, families, and communities for spiritual and emotional healing. The question that arises is: Why does government not regard spiritual leaders as essential workers?

A Doctor's Perspective



Dr Rochelle Lee

What has been the emotional toll of the 3rd Wave on frontline workers?

For the medical teams this wave has been emotionally very difficult; we are tired, burnt out. Compassion fatigue is real, and time of death has become a number we call out

numerous times a day. The hospitals are full to the brim and we do not have beds or the capacity to make more beds. We are running out of ventilators to the point where we have to decide who is eligible for a ventilator, and using every other form of high flow oxygen for other patients. Resources are scarce and families are left out. There are no visiting hours,

family members are only allowed to 'see' the patient if the nursing staff can assist to video-call; and the only voices patients sometimes hear for weeks are those of nursing staff trying their best to give feedback, and reassuring the families. As medical staff we cry with the patients and families, and we rejoice at every recovery. Sometimes we are called to the bed of a Covid patient, donned in full PPE to attend, give everything we can but the patient still passes away. We have to wipe away the tears and go back to the Emergency Department (ED) and see the next patient who, by this time, is quite annoyed by the waiting time. We attend to them as if we did not just lose a life. It is a war out there, we are doing everything we can with what we have. A lot of colleagues and friends have been infected and passed away and most of us can name a few names - not numbers - once the statistics for the day are released. It is people we know who die, not just numbers. It is colleagues who are tirelessly fighting for patients and risk getting infected and infecting their families, for people who did not understand why they cannot have a braai with friends on a weekend. We are exhausted, but we still fight for every patient.

Is the 3rd Wave different in any significant way from the 2nd Wave?

If we have to compare the 3rd Wave to the 2nd Wave, the biggest differences I have noticed is that patients are presenting to ED with shortness of breath and respiratory distress around day 9-11 vs day 5-7 during the 2nd Wave. Unfortunately, the patients presenting late are quite sick, there are no beds in the hospitals and they sometimes stay in ED for 24-48 hours on a stretcher while we phone the 63 hospitals in Gauteng and surrounding areas. Patients sometimes then end up being transferred to other provinces, as far as KZN and Western Cape, away from friends and family as these are the only beds we could find. The 3rd Wave also hit Gauteng first, and it hit harder than the 2nd Wave where Western Cape was the first to be hit. We find that more patients need admission, and the private sector is saturated with very ill patients.

What advice would you share with residents about the 3rd Wave?

Please wear a mask and practise social distancing. Friends and family visiting are the biggest spreader of Covid as we hug and kiss because they don't have symptoms, only to find they test positive 48 hours later. Please stay home if you can, sanitize when you have to go to the shops and wipe down your groceries with sanitizer, and wash your veggies. Don't touch your face without sanitizing your hands. Keep in touch with friends and family via phone and video call etc., but please don't visit unnecessarily, just stay with your family at home over weekends and work from home if you can. This too shall pass, and we will then be able to gather with everyone again. I know that gatherings have been limited to 50 people, but it takes one visitor/person to make you sick and that one ventilator might not be available.

Any final words?

Wear your mask the correct way. Buffs do not protect you, make sure your mask fits snug and avoid touching your mask to lift it over your nose. If you touch the outside of your mask, sanitize your hands before touching anything else.

If you had positive contact i.e. closer than 1.5m and for



longer than 15mins without a mask, you are high risk and have to isolate. Please do not go to work or go outside your home, isolate!



From the Board Chairman

The scourge of Covid is back with a vengeance. I appeal to all Thatchfield residents not to let your guard down during these challenging times. Please adhere to the guidelines outlined by our estate manager in order to keep your family and fellow residents safe.

