



Thatchfield NEWSLETTER



From Estate Manager's Office

This is a busy time of the year for the THOA offices!

Our walkway is progressing well, and we are at 80% completion. Our gardening team is busy pruning the trees within the Estate, making gardens in Thatchfield Hills as well as by the walkway near the river.

We also have the City of Tshwane's Department of Health and Water regularly testing our water to ensure that it is safe for consumption. Covid-19 is still our main focus and residents who follow the booking procedures with our office are attended to. Bookings and screening help limit the chances of spreading the virus. Our offices are sterilized before and after every consultation. Thank you for your support and patience.

Community Neighbourhood Watch Team

This initiative was long overdue and Thatchfield residents decided that it was time for them to start a Neighbourhood Watch team in and around our Estate. The Neighbourhood Watch falls under the Community Policing Forum which reports to the Station Commissioner at Olievenhoutbosch SAPS. Colonel Corbett welcomed this initiative and expressed his appreciation as the Neighbourhood Watch would work closely with the Sector Commanders in addressing crime. The Neighbourhood Watch team also forms part of the special operations clustering with other crime busters like the Business Against Crime Forum and other community-based initiatives. Every Thatchfield complex has their own Neighbourhood Watch leader, and you are welcome to volunteer to join and become part of the Neighbourhood Watch team. The

work of the Neighbourhood Watch does not interfere with the duties of our contracted security service providers, nor does it interfere with their operations. They are an entity on their own working hand-in-hand with the SAPS. They patrol in and around our Estate and when they see suspicious activities whilst patrolling, they report them to security who then take over and investigate. Should anyone be interested in joining the Neighbourhood Watch team please contact our security service provider contract manager, Mr. Pieter Koen on 082 401 8554. He will assist you and ensure you are linked with the Neighbourhood Watch group in your specific complex.

Penalties for Breaches

Issuing penalties is never a pleasant exercise. There are residents who have received letters from my desk that they are in breach of our THOA Rules of Conduct (regarding noise pollution, for example). This is followed by a letter informing you that a certain amount as stipulated in our Rules of Conduct will be charged to your levy account for not adhering to the Rules of Conduct. The THOA's procedure is to first warn/inform residents when a complaint is received at our Thatchfield Control Room. An Occurrence Book entry is made and kept as reference. If there is a second breach the resident in breach will receive a friendly letter informing them that they are now walking a tightrope. On the 3rd breach reported to our THOA office a penalty letter is issued. Our community must also remember that you are responsible for your visitors' behaviour. Ignorance is not an excuse. The THOA will always phone any resident in breach to inform

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him/her of a complaint received. Let us work together.

Should a tenant not adhere to our Rules of Conduct the owner of the property will be notified. Although the THOA reprimands the tenants, it is the duty of the owner of the said dwelling to bring their tenant to order and to ensure that the tenant complies with the Estate's Rules of Conduct. Please note that penalties are levied to a stand not a person. It is, therefore, important that when residents are leasing out their dwellings they ensure that their tenants have a copy of the THOA Rules of Conduct. Make sure they sign the Rules of Conduct and understand their responsibilities.

I know that I have the community's support on this, and I want to thank you all for your cooperation.

City of Tshwane Services

The THOA works closely with the various departments and role-players when it comes to Tshwane's service delivering structures. However, the THOA cannot report all Tshwane incidents alone. When the THOA logs a fault, we receive a job card number which then places us in a queue.

We need our residents to assist by also reporting faulty streetlights, potholes, blocked drains, burst pipes, water meters, and waste not collected.

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Ask for your reference number and forward the reference number to the estate manager on our Thatchfield social groups. I can then ask for the ward councillors' intervention.

In serious cases, send a small video of the incident as this helps to prioritize

and escalate the concern raised.

All Tshwane emergencies can be reported at 012 358 9999. Should residents want to email Tshwane related faults they can use the following addresses:

Water Leaks	customercare@tshwane.gov.za
Any Electricity related inquiries	customercare@tshwane.gov.za
Stormwater drainage & potholes	pothole@tshwane.gov.za
Faulty Street Lights	streetlights@tshwane.gov.za
Traffic lights	trafficsignalfaults@tshwane.gov.za

I also receive complaints from residents whose power supply would have been cut by Tshwane. I cannot reconnect the power nor can I get involved as this is a matter between yourself and the City of Tshwane.

Residents with prepaid meters who experience connection issues must phone COT on the numbers supplied. Usually, they will supply you with a code to reactivate your electricity meter. If it is more serious, they will supply the resident with a fault reference number and dispatch an electrician from COT to investigate and repair your unit.

THOA Sports Facilities

The THOA sports field is still closed for group activities. Once we are back to a Level 2 Covid-19 lockdown the THOA will re-visit this decision. Our tennis courts are open but are limited to four players on the court. All bookings can be made at our Thatchfield Security Control Room (073 697 1990).

All Thatchfield Golf Course facility bookings can be made with Henk Buitendach on henk@thatchfieldgolf.co.za or Golf Shop reception 072 759 7922 or on their website: www.thatchfieldgolf.co.za

Thatchfield Estate Best Garden Competition

It is spring. Let's start getting our gardens and common areas cleaned. Every resident is encouraged to participate in the THOA Best Garden Competition. A monthly 'Best Maintained Garden' winner will be announced and will receive a trophy. Coverage will be given to the winners in our Thatchfield newsletter. Those who wish to participate in our Thatchfield Garden Competition can email Carien on: admin@thatchfield.co.za

Your garden will be evaluated on aesthetics, layout, overall neatness, and maintenance.

Let the gardening begin!

Kind Regards,

Mossie Mostert (THOA & TRHOA Estate Manager)



From Deputy Estate Manager's Office

Operating procedures during Level 3 lockdown

We would like to inform all Thatchfield residents that Thatchfield Homeowners Association (THOA) staff have been working from the office since the announcement of Lockdown Level 3. However, there are new rules in place. Due to the Covid cases that the THOA office experienced as well as the daily increases of Covid cases in our country, extra measures had to be put in place. Currently, the number of people who

are attended to on a daily basis has been reduced. Residents, clients, and service providers can only be assisted on an appointment basis.

Please note that we are still experiencing challenges with our telephone system. Service providers are still attending to it. The alternative means available to make appointments is via e-mails to the relevant personnel: admin@thatchfield.co.za, admin3@thatchfield.co.za, deputy@thatchfield.co.za, and estatemanager@thatchfield.co.za.

Illegal erection of wendy houses

The THOA office has noticed that there is now a growing trend by some residents to put up wendy houses

without following the proper City of Tshwane bylaws or the THOA Rules Of Conduct for approval (which include consent from fellow neighbours). In most cases, some of these wendy houses do not even comply with the specifications of COT bylaws or THOA Rules Of Conduct which also include the requirement that the wendy house be included in the house plans. Kindly note that after your wendy house has been approved, the rules below should be taken into consideration:

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2.5.2.2.4 Wendy houses and tool sheds will only be allowed under the following conditions:

2.5.2.2.4.1 The area of the wendy house shall not exceed 7.5 Square metres.

2.5.2.2.4.2 The roof of the wendy house is to be painted in a colour to match the colour of the roof of the residence.

2.5.2.2.4.3 Written approval of the position of the wendy house must be obtained from all immediate neighbours and submitted with the plan for approval.

Should you notice that you have not followed any of the above requirements, kindly contact the office immediately so that the matter can be addressed.

New gardens planted

We are grateful that winter is over! We cannot wait to see our gardens growing green and plants blooming once again. The SSG Garden Team is doing a great job and is currently planting new gardens, while revamping all the gardens at the entrances of complexes. I am sure that our residents have noticed that the team has also started new gardens at the THOA offices around the newly constructed walkway,

and the team is slowly extending all gardens along Brakfontein Road as



well, but that will take a bit longer to be completed. To be celebrated is that not a single cent was spent from THOA

coffers to purchase these plants - all the plants which are being planted are from the THOA office nursery which was started by the estate manager in 2018. Should you wish to donate plants for our gardens, kindly do so and drop the plants at the THOA offices. In celebrating the spring season kindly support Mr Mossie in the endeavour mentioned in his article above regarding the Garden of the Month Competition. Let us take care of our gardens and ensure that our Estate looks good and attractive. Happy spring to you all!

Ms Vuyo Mbeki – Thatchfield Deputy Estate Manager



From the Board Chairman

Water Woes

After years of load shedding, it now looks as if we will all need to get used to 'water shedding' thanks to Rand Water! We have addressed an urgent letter to the Executive Mayor of Tshwane in an effort to get to the root of the water supply problems facing Thatchfield so that lasting solutions can be found.

Neighbourhood Watch

Thank you to all of our residents who came forward with the initiative and those of you who joined the Neighbourhood Watch.

Annual General Meeting

Our AGM will be held as soon as Covid-19 regulations allow for meetings of our size.

Regards,

Charles.



We have space available for adverts.

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



From the Editor's Desk

For contributions to the newsletter, please email me at: editor@thatchfield.co.za. (Attention Alison Ziki). You can also Whatsapp me on 082 084 4839 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.

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

Saving Water

Residents must have noticed the numerous water alert notices that have been distributed by THOA lately. We need water for drinking, cooking,

sanitation, and washing. Water is also used for the production of goods, such as food products. Sea water makes up 97% of water on our planet, with the

remaining 3% being fresh water. Less than half of that can be used for human consumption.

How to save water in your home

Here are a few tips for you to manage water restrictions in your home:

When washing your hands or brushing your teeth, make sure you turn the tap on only to rinse.	Use less water when filling your bath and take shorter showers.	Don't waste water when you flush the toilet after use. Once you are done flushing the toilet, lift the handle up immediately in order to reduce the amount of water running down the drain.	Make sure you put a full load into your washing machine and dishwasher before starting a wash cycle.	When washing dishes by hand, don't leave the water running to rinse the dishes.
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By following the above steps, you can reduce the amount of money you pay on your water bill.



COVID-19 Vaccines – The facts and the Myths

Although experts are still learning a lot about the COVID-19 vaccines, there are some clear benefits to getting vaccinated.

1. The vaccine reduces your risk of infection

Once you receive your first shot, your body begins producing antibodies to the coronavirus. These antibodies help your immune system fight the virus if you happen to be exposed, so it reduces your chance of getting the disease.

It's true that you can still become infected after being vaccinated, but once more of the population is vaccinated, those chances are further reduced thanks to something called herd immunity. So, getting vaccinated not only reduces your chance of being infected, but it also contributes to community protection, reducing the likelihood of virus transmission.

2. The vaccine protects against severe illness

During studies, the authorized vaccines have shown to be effective at preventing severe illness from COVID-19. So even if you were vaccinated and become infected, you are very unlikely to become severely ill.

Studies have shown vaccinated people who do get infected have mild to moderate cases of COVID-19 compared to those who aren't vaccinated. So, your risk of hospitalization and death because of COVID-19 is nearly eliminated once you are fully vaccinated.



Breaking Down Covid-19 Myths

Vaccine hesitancy has increased as people are wary of taking the vaccine due to false news and miseducation around the potential side-effects vaccines may pose. This hesitancy then has a negative impact on the possibility of herd immunity, a strategy the South African National Department of Health believes is a possible solution to preventing the rate of spread amongst its population.

Myths have also run rampant and have fuelled hesitancy to taking the vaccine.

Addressing some of the myths in South Africa

1. One of the myths that have been most prominent is that contracting COVID-19 is an instant death sentence and will cause serious illness or death in the individual who has tested positive. This is not true as an estimated 80% of individuals who test positive for the virus often only experience mild symptoms with no long term side effects (Spotlight, 2020).
2. Another myth is that Africa has not experienced a high rate of infection as a result of the hot and humid climate that is prevalent in most African countries. This is simply not true as the rate of spread is not affected by climate conditions and the prevalence of the disease within a population is affected by several different factors, these factors include the density of a population in a given area, the spread of infection through vulnerable populations and the safety measures taken within public spaces (WHO, 2020).
3. A very common myth circulating in South Africa is that the COVID-19 pandemic is a myth and that it is actually 5G technologies that are the root cause of illness in individuals. This is grossly untrue, and this spread of false

information has resulted in physical damage to existing towers and has created false perceptions around the pandemic thereby endangering the general public.

4. Another myth that exists is that should you have a mask on, then you will not get COVID-19. There are several additional precautionary steps that need to be taken into account on top of mask use to ensure that the possibility of infection is minimized as far as possible. Wearing a mask correctly over both the nose and mouth is the first step, followed by minimal touching of the face in public spaces and consistent hand sanitization (Spotlight, 2020). Accompanying this is social distancing measures in public and avoidance of physical contact with others.
5. Another myth suggests that there are serious side effects of taking a COVID-19 vaccine. This has been spread through misinformation and false news as there has been no scientific evidence to support these claims.
6. There is also a common belief that masks will not be required immediately after the vaccine has been received. This is not the case as there is a period before the vaccine takes effect within the body.

Conclusion

It is ultimately the onus of the individual to ensure that they are properly informed, are not spreading false information, and serve their fellow man by being vaccinated when the time arises. It is only by working together and taking individual responsibility that the pandemic can become a thing of the past.

(Published courtesy of the National Department of Health)

Meet Hermann



Greetings! My name is Hermann Groenewald. I have been working at Thatchfield Estate almost 5 years now. I started out as a Fidelity controller, relieving the duty manager and reaction officer when needed. I then got the post in the Thatchfield Control Room around February/March 2020. I am also currently assisting in the biometric office and reception. In my tenure here, I have made the following observations which I wish to share with the community:

- Please make sure you have your access card ready at the security gates when entering the complexes. Not only does this help with preventing traffic jams at the gates but it also minimizes the chances of getting hijacked, especially after curfew hours as we have plenty of residents entering and leaving the Estate after curfew hours. Brakfontein is an open public road and is not safe during late hours.
- Tailgating/bumper to bumper - please note that this is a security breach from the Control Room's side. When it does take place, we will send a vehicle to find out why the visitor or resident did not make use of our security procedures at the gate, and residents must take responsibility for their visitors.

- Please for those residents whose access cards or fingerprints are not working, make use of the visitors' entrance lane to minimize convoys at the gates.
- Due to the Covid-19 pandemic please note that we have regulations when it comes to the security staff for their protection. I urge all resident to stay out of the guardhouses to avoid the spread of the virus; please also make use of the sanitizers, thermometer and social distancing when dealing with the security staff.
- When it comes to your visitors, please advise them to comply with all security procedures at the gate, especially regarding their details as these help a lot when investigating an incident or complaint.
- Please look after your pets. We receive countless calls and texts about loose dogs, cats, chickens, rabbits, etc.
- The Control Room operator does a streetlight report on a weekly basis and the City of Tshwane is informed of any lights that are not working.

Lastly, I wish everyone staying in Thatchfield the best during these difficult times. Let us stick together and try our best to observe the Covid rules and regulations. If any help around the Estate is needed, please do not hesitate to call us in the Control Room. God bless.

Curro Thatchfield Grade 10 learner reaches Miss Teen Pretoria finale

Naomi Stokwe, a Grade 10 learner at Curro Thatchfield High School, has qualified as a finalist in the Miss Teen Pretoria pageant.

Naomi lives her life according to Acts 20:35 - 'In everything I did, I showed you that by this kind of hard work, we must help the weak, remembering the words the Lord Jesus himself said: "It is more blessed to give than to receive"'.

Together with her family, she identified Dimphonyana Tsa Lapeng, a local children's home in Olievenhoutbosch, Centurion, as her care cause. Here she interacted with the children by spreading love, dancing, and making sure they were having fun and enjoying themselves. Naomi also initiated a food-and-clothing drive when she realised that the children didn't have proper clothing to wear and that they did not necessarily receive a nutritious meal every day. 'It was a wake-up call for me when I realised how we tend to take a lot of things we have for granted and don't show proper appreciation. Seeing how these children were so happy for the little things that we did for them was truly heart-warming,' says Naomi.

Mr Danie van Schalkwyk, Executive Head: High School says, 'We wish Naomi well, she has already proved that through hard work and determination the sky is the limit.'

This is the first time that Naomi has entered a beauty pageant. The grand finale of Miss Teen Pretoria will take place at Pretoria Central, 294 Francis Baard on Saturday, 23 October 2021.



Naomi Stokwe, a Grade 10 learner at Curro Thatchfield High School will take part in the Miss Teen Pretoria grand finale at Pretoria Central, 294 Francis Baard on Saturday, 23 October 2021.

Daily voting counts! Please vote for Naomi Stokwe (contestant no. 1) by clicking on the link below: <https://pageantvoteafrica.online/pageants/839/contestants/9062>