



Thatchfield NEWSLETTER



From Estate Manager's Office

Covid-19 Pandemic Level Adjustment Anticipated During Festive Season

If one follows the media predictions, one is expecting another spike in Covid infections country-wide before the current year ends. I anticipate that our president will announce newly adjusted restrictions during the December 2021 festive season. My plea to all our residents is to adhere to all Covid regulations and keep safe at all times. Keep your social distance, wash your hands regularly and wear your mask. Avoid any form of human contact, e.g. shaking of hands. A wave of the hand is just as good, so also is a smile. Isolate yourself should you suspect that you have been in contact with a person who tested positive, so that you can contain this deadly virus. Our future cannot be determined by our fears, but by our diligence in approaching our current challenges. I strongly believe that we shall be victorious.

Water Usage

Rand Water has announced various restrictions on water usage and has even reduced the water pressure in various townships and suburbs in Gauteng. Please use water wisely and report all water and meter leaks to the City of Tshwane on 012 358 9999. Request for your reference number from CoT and forward it to me with your street address as well as a picture of the leakage. I will then forward your message to the Ward Councillor for his assistance and intervention.

Power Outages

I have discussed this issue on several occasions on all our Thatchfield social platforms. Thatchfield Estate falls within two different power grids: Thatchfield Ridge, Thatchfield Hills 1 & 2 and Thatchfield Close 1 & 2 belong to one grid, while Thatchfield Gardens, Thatchfield Glen, THOA Office, Golf-Course, Thatchfield Manor and Thatchfield Crescent belong to the other grid. When we experience load-shedding, these two grids alternate, which means that when one grid does not have power, the other has. Residents have to also take note that all Thatchfield security gates and all other security systems are integrated, and their main frame is situated at the THOA Control Room. This whole system communicates with the main frame and towers as explained. This in short means that when there is no electricity or signal, the biometric system is also not working. Even though we have generators in place, they are not an absolute solution to load-shedding or power outages. They can only assist to a certain extent, hence we beg for patience from residents.

It has to be noted that when there is no network coverage, the THOA is under huge strain. The biometrics system communicates with the booms at all our gates. Sometimes the challenge that is experienced at the gates is not that of electricity/power, but the unavailability of the signal from the tower. When there is no signal, our biometrics at the Estate entrances are

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not able to communicate with each other. If there has been load-shedding or power failure it takes time to get our biometric systems up and running again. We plead for your assistance, patience and co-operation during these trying times.

Resignation of THOA Board Chairperson

Our Chairman, Mr Charles Lloys Ellis, has informed the THOA of his decision to retire. Charles indicated that he wanted to retire and spend more time with his family and grandchildren. There are no words to describe how we will miss him. Charles was a huge asset to our community, and he had the determination to always get the job done, irrespective of obstacles. My first impression of Charles when I met him was that he was a man of his word who speaks his mind. Charles had only one mission – Thatchfield! When we needed finances to get things done, he dug into his own pockets. Nothing was ever impossible for our chairman. He believed that if you could dream it, you could achieve it.

Charles' entrepreneurship, energy, aura, input, and guidance will be missed. Though Charles indicated his

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retirement, knowing him he will always knock at the THOA doors to give us a surprise visit and some advice as he always did during his tenure as a chairperson. We want to say to Charles we are forever grateful to you for your guidance, leadership and support. Your leadership helped build our character and equipped our THOA personnel with the skills they need to deliver a professional service at all times.

To members of the Board, we want to say thank you for your hard work and

dedication to serving the community throughout the year. Your dedication and guidance ensured that Thatchfield Estate stays competitive and that our security network systems keep the Estate a crime-free zone.

To Thatchfield residents: I will always remember 2021 as one of the most challenging years because of Covid. I will never forget how you as residents have stood together throughout this pandemic. I thank you for your support, unconditional love, and kind

words of encouragement throughout the year. We will not be held hostage by our current circumstances. Our current circumstances, which are challenging, are the victories of tomorrow.

Merry Christmas and a Prosperous New Year to you all!

Kind Regards,

Mossie Mostert – Estate Manager



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.

It's that time of the year again and everybody can't wait for the festive season and a bit of rest.

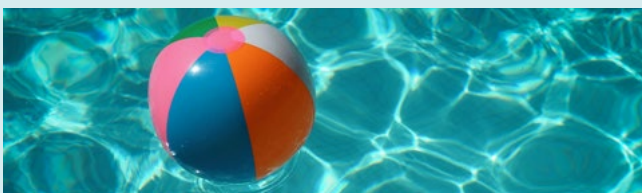
However, before we all pack and go, there are a few points to take note of:

Access control



- Please make the necessary access arrangements for the people that will look after your property and pets.
- Please keep in mind that you will be responsible for all the visitors you allow into the Estate.
- Keep your gate access card with you at all times, and don't leave it about for unsavoury elements to get hold of.
- If an access card gets misplaced or lost, please report it immediately to the THOA to block the card.

Holiday goers



- Please close / lock all your doors, safety gates, windows and main entrance gates to keep uninvited guests out of your premises while you are away.
- Make sure all taps are closed and all geysers, stoves, ovens, toasters, etc. are switched off.
- Arrange for someone to do random spot checks in and around your premises, if you are going away for a long time.

- Notify those whom you trust (neighbour, friends, or family) about how long you will be away and give them a way in which they can contact you, if they need to get hold of you.
- Please save the following numbers on your phone, if you need to contact the THOA security control room at any time. The personnel are on site and on standby 24/7.
 - Control room: 073 697 1990
 - FSS Shift Manager: 072 952 8903
 - FSS Reaction Officer: 060 567 0416
- Please arrange for someone to look after your pets, if you're not going to book them in at an animal shelter.

Fireworks



- For those of us that are staying home during this holiday season, please keep in mind that no fireworks are allowed in the Estate.
- Please make use of alternative places other than the Estate should you feel the desire to make use of any fireworks.

We have several very important contributions in this edition, please take time to peruse them. If you need to share any views, news, or events with the community please write to the editor at: editor@thatchfield.co.za (Attention Alison Ziki). If you need an interview, feel free to send a WhatsApp message to the editor on: 082 084 4839.

I wish you all a happy festive season, travel safely and may you all come back well rested. We hope that 2022 will be a happier year for all of us. God bless!



Farewell from the Outgoing Board Chair

It has been a great privilege to serve as the THOA chairperson for the past 17 years (2003-2021).

Most residential township developers sell their stands and then run for the hills - I decided to stay involved and guide our Estate through all of its growth phases.

When I celebrated my sixty-ninth birthday recently, I realized that my work at Thatchfield was done and that it was time to step aside to allow for others to lead our vibrant community into the future. I do so in the knowledge that the THOA stands on a sound foundation and that there are very capable individuals on the Board.

Looking back, there are some memories which stand out:

- When I launched the first phase in 2003 people queued and slept in their cars for days to buy a stand. Sales were limited to two stands per person and because there were not enough stands to go around people at the front of the queue were selling

the stands which they had just bought to people at the back of the queue for a quick profit.

- Securing Curro to develop a school at Thatchfield meant a lot to me. As the township developer I offered a free piece of land to Curro for the construction of a junior school. At the time, Curro was a little known education group based in the Western Cape and after doing some homework I flew down to meet them. I was immediately impressed with their integrity and enthusiasm, and the rest is history.

Over the years, as the 'thatchfields' were transformed into the residential estate which is now home to over 2000 families, I worked with numerous board members elected by our community. We managed to guide our Association through many difficult periods - the economic crisis of 2007-2009, the building phase where there were hundreds of builders on site every day, load-shedding and service delivery issues, and finally Covid. There will of course be many other challenges in future, but our capable staff and service

providers under the guidance of the Board have the capability to tackle them head on. I would like to thank all Board members, both past and present, for giving their time, without remuneration, to serve our community.



Finally, a big **Thank You** to all the THOA staff who made my work so much easier as I knew that I could always rely on them. Mossie Mostert, in particular, deserves a special mention for his tireless commitment to the management and security of our Estate.

I am extremely proud of what we have achieved. May Thatchfield grow from strength to strength.

Kind Regards,
Charles Lloyds Ellis.

Please Meet the New THOA Board Chairperson



Following the retirement of the long-serving Board Chairperson, Mr Charles Ellis, the Thatchfield Home Owners Association (THOA) is pleased to introduce to the residents the new Board Chairperson, Mr Sydney Maluleka. Mr Maluleka is a veteran of the THOA Board, having served on the Board as Chairperson of the Finance Risk Audit Committee since 2008.

Mr Sydney Maluleka: The New Board Chair

These appointments are in line with the current Memorandum of Incorporation of the Thatchfield Home Owners Association. Mr Maluleka and Ms Manzini have committed to serve the THOA guided by the key values of innovation, integrity, fairness, and professionalism.

On behalf of the new THOA Board, Mr Maluleka would like to express their deepest gratitude to the outgoing

Chairperson, Mr Ellis, for serving the THOA with passion and commitment for 17 years.

Over the 2020/2021 financial year, three positions fell vacant on the THOA Board. These positions need to be filled. There will soon be communication regarding this from our managing agent, JM Venter.

The THOA Board would like to wish all residents and staff members



Ms Thilisile Manzini, who was Head of the Human Resources portfolio, becomes the new Board Vice Chairperson.

Ms Thulisile Manzini: Deputy Board Chair

happy and safe holidays. South Africa remains on Alert Level 1, and is in the middle of the fourth wave. The Board would like to urge all residents to remain vigilant and to follow faithfully all the Covid-19 protocols recommended by the national government.

Merry Christmas, and best wishes for 2022!

Look After Your Mental Health During the Holidays!



With the summer holidays comes an increased rate of depression and anxiety, which will unfortunately be worsened by the effects of Covid-19 this year. There are several organisations to help you through this time and support your mental health.

Mental health is important no matter the time of year. However, with the summer holidays around the corner, it is particularly prudent to look after one's mental health.

Some people will be entering the festive season without loved ones who succumbed to Covid-19. And while a portion of South Africa's population is already vaccinated against Covid-19, a fourth wave of the virus is predicted to reach the country between November and January, worsening an already difficult time. These uncertainties and losses could all have a negative impact on our mental health.

Suicide rates increase in summer holidays

If you suffer from a mental illness, you're not alone. During the first lockdown period, a study published in the South African Journal of Psychology reported that 33% of South Africans experienced depression during this first lockdown period. Patients attended psychotherapy sessions because they experienced sleep disturbances, anxiety, depressive symptoms, and substance withdrawal symptoms.

Unfortunately, another study that was published in the International Journal of Environmental Research

and Public Health, found that suicide rates tend to increase over the summer holidays. Suicide deaths are more prevalent in South Africa in December (11.7%) and January (9.2%). The study suggests that changes in social activities and the possible influence of the festive season may increase the risk of suicide. This is thought to be true especially among those living in less urban areas and with lower socio-economic status.

Some people might be experiencing mental health problems for the first time, given the challenges that come with the pandemic. Others with existing mental health problems might have found that the pandemic elevated their condition.

Symptoms of mental illnesses

There are many types of mental illnesses such as anxiety disorders, depression and bipolar disorder, eating disorders, personality disorders, post-traumatic stress disorder, and psychotic disorders. The symptoms may differ depending on conditions and circumstances. Here are a few examples of some of the symptoms of mental illnesses:

- Dramatic changes in sleep patterns and appetite
- Decline in personal care
- Rapid or dramatic shifts in emotions
- Withdrawal from social activities that the person previously enjoyed
- Loss of initiative or desire to participate in any activities

- Uncharacteristic behaviour
- Suicidal thoughts.

Signs of a possible mental illness in children and teenagers may include:

- Loss of interest and persistent sadness
- Being angry or irritated more often
- Frequent crying
- Spending a lot of time alone
- Missing school often
- Sudden change in behaviour and school performance.

Get help for your mental illness

There are several organisations that provide support for mental health illnesses.

- The South African Depression and Anxiety Group (SADAG) | www.sadag.org | 0800 567 567
- PsychMatters Centre | www.psychmatters.co.za. You can also contact 011 450 3576 or email at info@psychmatters.co.za for psychotherapy, parental guidance, group or family therapy, or the Living Legend teen workshop to empower your teen with life skills.
- Lifeline | www.lifeline.co.za | 0861 322 322
- ChildLine | www.childlinesa.org.za | 0800 055 555

(This article has been reproduced courtesy of Health Pillar – Discovery)



Children Playing on the Streets over the Holiday Season

The plea to all parents still stands even during this festive season. School holidays are approaching, so we urge all parents to find relevant and proper ways to entertain their children during the holidays. We have had issues of misbehaving children on a daily basis, and our observation is that it gets worse during the weekends and over school holidays. Some children misbehave during this time because they are bored; hence I plead with parents to arrange entertainment for your children.

The little ones are usually caught destroying neighbours' gardens and lawns, throwing stones at houses/garages, knocking on doors and running away, drawing on walls with crayons, etc. The teenagers are caught either trespassing, jumping over the walls as a short-cut to their homes, throwing stones onto roofs, and knocking and

scaring residents who stay alone. The teens are also known for more serious delinquencies such as bringing drugs into the Estate, smoking dagga in empty properties, vandalizing electric



boxes, spray-painting walls and street signs, and insulting and disrespecting security guards when reprimanded. Our security have a lot of other responsibilities and cannot be wasting

their time chasing children on the streets. Parents please kindly intervene.

In the past few months, we have had the sad incidents of children being hit by cars within the Estate due to speeding, and drinking and driving. We would like to urge all parents to ensure that they caution their children not to play in any of the streets within Thatchfield over the festive season because it is during this time that bad driving is at its worst.

The THOA management has taken it upon themselves to ensure that the Thatchfield sports field remains open to accommodate children to play as they wish, away from the streets. The only responsibility for parents is to book the field in advance for their kids. We hope for your cooperation.

Wishing you a Blessed Christmas and Prosperous New Year!

Ms Vuyo Mbeki
(Thatchfield Deputy Estate Manager)

Meet the THOA Technicians!



Mr Petrus Lamola

My name is Petrus Lamola. I am working for the Thatchfield Homeowners Association Office as a senior technician. I started working in Thatchfield in 2015 as a junior technician and then I got promoted in 2018 to the position of senior technician. We are only two technicians working in the entire Estate.

The colleague who works with me is Mr Sam Maseko.



Mr Sam Maseko

Mr Maseko joined in 2019 and he is working as a junior technician.

We work closely with the security, doing the maintenance of the electric fencing, cameras, boom gates, and the guard houses. I would like to state that we truly enjoy serving the community of Thatchfield and making sure that all the electric fencing surrounding the boundary wall is maintained. As the technicians we are determined to ensure the safety of the community of Thatchfield. We are grateful for the opportunity granted to us to serve the community.

We wish all the residents of Thatchfield a Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year!