

Thatchfield NEWSLETTER

IN THE SPOTLIGHT:

Curro Matric Results!



We join the Curro Thatchfield High School community in celebrating the impressive matric results of the Class of 2022. Well done to the learners, the teachers, and the parents. We truly hope that Curro Thatchfield will continue to maintain, and even better, these high standards that have been set by the Class of 2022.

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From the Estate Manager's Desk

Welcome to our first newsletter for 2023! Compliments, and best wishes for the year.

What a rainy season we have had so far. Our rivers are in full flood and our dams are overflowing. However, Rand Water is struggling to meet the water requirements of its customers. So for us if it is not low water pressure, then it is loadshedding! To cap it all, we are also plagued by an aging City of Tshwane (COT) infrastructure and cable theft. In addition, there are also other serious issues the THOA has to deal with.

Rising Ground Water Levels within Thatchfield Estate

I have received many calls regarding this issue and have attended to many households during January and February 2023 to assist concerned residents. Rising ground water levels cause damping, structural damage, and wet gardens and driveways. Some residents report this as a burst City of Tshwane water pipe to our THOA offices. Home owners need to know that during the rainy season the underground water levels rise. Once the underground has reached a point of saturation, the water will then seep out of the soil as it has no where to go. This cycle will be observed during summer months, and the water will usually disappear during the dry winter months. Practical ideas like 'catch up pits' or even directing the access water to the Estate's storm water drains can assist in addressing this matter.

Rand Water and Poor Water Pressure to Thatchfield Estate

Rand Water already in 2022 published a notice to all its end-users that they could not meet the demand of

their customers. They also informed citizens that they will reduce their water capacity to all the councils they service by 20%. This means lower water pressure in our Bulk Water Supply. Residents in Thatchfield Ridge, Close, and Hills will be the first to notice poor water pressure in their houses during peak hours of usage. The water pressure will go back to normal after the peak hours. The THOA communicates with COT and Tshwane's Bulk Water Division on a weekly basis. The THOA has been informed that a 21 MEG reservoir is currently being built in Pretorius Dal. This is situated behind Olievenhoutbosch suburb. Completion date is 2023. This will help Thatchfield Ridge, Close, and Hills a lot as they are receiving their water from the bulk water pipe line. Therefore, once the reservoir is completed and is in full service, residents should have a stable water pressure supply.

COT MEC Meeting at Curro Thatchfield

Thatchfield Close, Ridge, Hills, and Ward 77 residents were notified that there would be a community meeting

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at Curro Thatchfield school on 30th January 2023. I also attended the meeting in my capacity as Estate Manager, together with 300 plus residents from Thatchfield Estate. The MEC, Darrel Johnson, and ward councillors attended the meeting to address the residents' concerns about poor water pressure and recent power outages and cable theft. Some residents requested to be exempted from the current loadshedding schedule due to the recent power outages which they experienced that are not part of the announced loadshedding schedules. It was clear that this was not going to happen, and the feedback given by the MEC to the Ward 77 residents left a lot to be desired. It was also clear that the MEC had no clue about what was happening in Ward 77 residential areas, as other concerns like cable theft and poorly maintained City of Tshwane infrastructure were not even mentioned. He had a prepared speech, but the community was not interested in listening to it. He was informed by the Ward 77 community that he was not on a campaign trail, and that they were disappointed that no COT management officials came to attend the meeting to explain why there were so many power outages. The MEC was requested to go back to his office and bring those responsible for Ward 77 power and water service delivery to explain why they are not addressing the concerns raised by the THOA office. Residents walked out of the meeting as they were disappointed and did not want to listen to any more false statements. Some residents also informed the MEC that should service delivery not improve dramatically, they would seriously consider withholding payment of COT rates and taxes. A date for the next Ward 77 meeting was not given.

Vandalism of Estate/COT Property



It is clear that we have individuals who take it upon themselves to vandalize our road curbs, street signs, and mini-substations through spraying and other forms of graffiti. This is unacceptable conduct. The perpetrators should know that the security team will deal with them, and criminal charges will be instituted against those who are caught. In the case of minors, parents will be held accountable for costs incurred by the THOA to repair vandalised items. Lastly, I would like to thank and appreciate the residents who volunteer to remove the graffiti.

Thatchfield Social Media Groups



The aim of the groups established on Telegram and WhatsApp was to enable the THOA to communicate with residents, but also to give Thatchfield residents a platform to raise their concerns and bring matters to the THOA's attention. This two-way communication works extremely well, but please note that the platforms are not monitored by the THOA staff on a 24/7 basis, especially after hours and over the weekends. Serious security issues must be reported to our 24/7 Thatchfield Security Control Room on 0736971990. Remember to request your OB number for future reference. Power and water related concerns must be addressed to the City of Tshwane on 0123589999. Remember that if a home owner's power or water services were suspended, the THOA cannot resolve this issue. When phoning the COT remember to ask for a reference number. Our staff work from 07:00hrs to 16:00hrs. **Please do not phone them after hours as they also have their families to attend to.**

Security and Access Control



I have always informed residents that what you think you see at the gate is not always what is happening. Give our guards the space to do their work. They are stretched to the limit. Loadshedding and unannounced power outages place a huge strain on their work. Residents who shout and throw tantrums and are disrespectful towards the guards are going against the spirit of Ubuntu. If anyone wants to raise some concerns please visit our offices and speak to the security manager who will investigate your concerns and give you feedback. Should a security officer not have followed the Service Level Agreement, they will be dealt with accordingly.

Housebreakings, Theft, and Fence Breaches



It is always heart-breaking to hear from security that there has been a breach. When I visit the scenes I am always disappointed to see how our systems would have been breached. Thieves are well equipped and know their targets. They either will have inside information, or have worked in the Estate as they know exactly which household to target. Thatchfield is not in the fortunate position to have neighbouring communities around our walls. Instead, we face daily challenges from the N14, R55, and Sandton backwall. The combined distance that security needs to patrol is about 7 km of perimeter wall.

Crime is on the rise in South Africa. Every citizen staying in SA has the

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responsibility to put security measures in place to prevent becoming a victim of crime. Staying in a gated community with security does not exclude one's house from being broken into. I attend SAPS meetings, and all over Tshwane households are being targeted. Estates are targeted as well. Our THOA Rules of Conduct make it clear to residents that our security and perimeter systems are a deterrent, and do not guarantee absolute immunity from break-ins. The THOA office attends the yearly Security Expo in Midrand to brainstorm new security technology and to find solutions to the ever-growing levels of crime. Please ensure that your dwellings have adequate burglar proofing and burglar doors on the entry and exit points. Do not leave valuables unattended to and lock your doors always. Make it difficult for thieves to target your household.

Security monitors the daily threats, and arrests are made. Valuable security information is also shared on our Thatchfield social groups. Arrests have been made after residents bring in unregistered gardeners into the Estate. Most of them are foreigners with no identification papers or fixed addresses, so tracing them is a challenge. Again, I will request residents not to pick up job seekers in front of our gates. Should you wish to do so, please register them

at our THOA offices. Remember there are criminals among the job-seekers. How many of us do security background checks before we bring strangers into our dwellings? Use the community group to scout for reliable and trustworthy gardeners and domestic workers.

Projects

There are a few projects planned for this year. Keep your ears to the ground. The Thatchfield Mall is nearing its completion. The expected dated of launch is around June 2023. I also receive a lot of requests for office space at the mall. This project is not a THOA project, neither is it managed by the Thatchfield Homeowners Association. Once the mall is completed and a centre management is appointed by the owners, interested parties will have to enquire from them for office space availability.

The road will be widened by the river for traffic. The circle that was removed will be replaced by a much bigger circle. Regular meetings are held with the contractors responsible for the road improvements. Let us be patient with the development of the mall, as it adds great value to our Estate. Concerns raised will be addressed once a platform for such is established.

Blocked Storm Water Drains

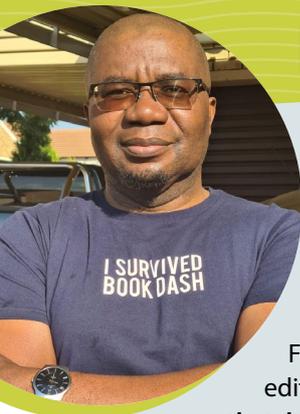
Every year the gardening team cleans all the storm water drains within our Estate. Unfortunately, the drains are used as a dumping area for garden waste and plastics by some residents. The storm water drains flow to our man-made dam, and the water is used to water the golf course and THOA gardens. Residents must speak to their gardeners not to dump garden waste into the stormwater drains. When a drain blocks it puts huge strain on the remaining stormwater infrastructure and we then have pressure points popping up, causing damage to gardens and drive-ways.

Should any resident want to raise any concerns not attended to by the THOA please do not hesitate to book an appointment with me so that we can address the issues.

Let us keep communicating. Introduce yourself to your neighbours as they are the closest to you in times of need. Remember that we all need each other. Unkulunkulu asibusise sonke.

Kind Regards
Mossie Mostert
Estate Manager : Thatchfield Estate

From the Editor's Desk



Welcome to the first issue of the newsletter for 2023. As usual, we cover matters pertaining to the running of our estate, and bring to your attention issues that you need to be aware of as residents.

For contributions or letters to the editor, 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 with the community their special events like weddings, graduations, and other special achievements through the newsletter. Our goal is to make this platform as interactive as possible, so we encourage you to freely share your views and experiences through the newsletter.



The Thatchfield Newsletter editorial team. **From left:** Carien Roos, Vuyo Mbeki, Mossie Mostert, Alison Ziki.

From the Head of Curro Thatchfield Primary School



Executive Head of
Curro Thatchfield
Primary School,
Mr Dean Verwey

Since May 2022 I have had the absolute privilege of serving the Curro Thatchfield Primary School and the Thatchfield community at large. When I arrived at the school I was in awe of the efficient organizational structure and the programs of the school. Accountability is a lost virtue in our society but at Curro Thatchfield Primary all stakeholders can rest in the fact that people are always held accountable, not with a spirit of judgement but rather with a sense of development and raising of standards. Certainly, nothing can be too good for our children. Curro Thatchfield Primary has the potential of becoming the leading primary school in South Africa. We have a strong staff complement and, with the support of Curro, we are working purposefully to give our children a world-class education. One of our basic precepts is that the community does not exist for the school but rather the school exists for the community. In the spirit of Ubuntu, we have a 7-day week program not only for our school families but also for the families of the community. Our Saturday program includes free zumba and fitness classes for all our community members. We want our campus to be a hub of community activity, so even on Sundays we have church services.

Our school is preparing our children for the world of work. Together with our parent body, we must be creative in preparing our children to take on the challenges of society and give them all the skills, knowledge, and virtues that will enable them to solve societal problems.

Our purpose is to build strong, creative, caring, and concerned leaders who will with strong hearts and great courage change our world for the better.

Curro Thatchfield High School - Analysis of Matric results

Curro Thatchfield High School was delighted to announce its top achievers in the Class of 2022 on 18 January 2023. Mr Danie van Schalkwyk, Executive Head of Curro Thatchfield High School, said: "We congratulate our Class of 2022 for their outstanding set of results. This includes a 99% pass rate, and 10 A aggregates. Thank you to the parents and teachers who have supported our learners throughout their school career. You have all had a hand in their success. Our school motto rings true: 'Per ardua ad alta' – through hard work great things are achieved."

Top 5 Achievers

- **Dux scholae, Nyasha Ziki**, achieved 8 distinctions!
- **Tiisetso Matlala** achieved in the top 1% of candidates nationally for Business Studies.
- **Isabella Louw** was in the top 5% nationally in five or more subjects (i.e. Afrikaans FAL, Business Studies, Computer Applications Technology, Consumer Studies and Life Orientation). She was also in the top 1% of candidates for Life Orientation nationally.



Nyasha Ziki
8 distinctions

CURRO
Thatchfield



Tiisetso Matlala
7 distinctions

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Isabella Louw
5 distinctions

CURRO
Thatchfield



Tsolofelo Seaposengwe
6 distinctions

CURRO
Thatchfield



Tendani Nemudivhiso
6 distinctions

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