



SOUTHDOWNS RESIDENTIAL ESTATE

The Official Newsletter of the Southdowns Residential Estate Homeowners Association



CAN IT BE? IT'S 2023!

We are already in our second month of 2023 with time flying by so quickly. We have had a change of staff in the HOA Office with Karlie Strijdom, our Receptionist, leaving us. We thank her for the last two and a half years of exceptional service and wish her all the best in her future endeavours as she embarks on a new career challenge.

The roles and responsibilities of our reception position will be shared between Rita and Mignon in the interim.

We have also entered Valentine's Month - Camdeboo Day Spa has various promotions on offer so that you can spoil that special someone, more on this further into this newsletter.

"Spread love wherever you go. Let
no one ever come to you without
leaving happier."

- Mother Teresa



EXPLORE WHAT'S INSIDE THIS ISSUE:

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WELCOME TO OUR NEW RESIDENTS

We would like to warmly welcome the following new residents who moved into the Estate.

Niel & Erika Marais
 Zelna Paynter
 Ruhan & Carmen Olivier
 Helmut & Elizabeth Haber
 Jaco & Vicky Bekker
 Mark & Paula Schefermann
 Ed & Lerato Nyapholi
 Nick & Julie Vlok
 Dewald & Lumé Ferreira
 Wouter & Neteske Gerber



We hope you will enjoy living in the Southdowns Estate!

Please feel free to pop into the HOA offices, meet the team, and let us know if you require assistance.

BIN STICKERS

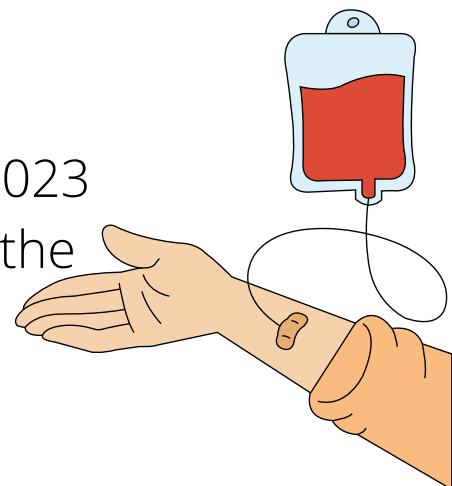
Please be reminded that bin stickers have been designed and printed for the Black Municipal Bins for all stands. There is no extra cost to residents and these can be collected from the SHOA offices during office hours. Monday to Thursday from 07h30 to 16h00 and Fridays from 7h30 to 15h00.

Stickers have been ordered for The Gables and we will notify residents as soon as they are available for collection.



SAVE THE DATE

Our first SANBS Blood Drive for 2023
 will be taking place on Saturday, the
4th of March 2023, at the
 Entertainment Area!



2023 SCHOOL TERMS

PRIVATE SCHOOLS	Date
Term 1 Starts Half-Term Closes	11 January 23 February 28 February 6 April
Term 2 Starts Half-Term Closes	2 May 23 June 3 July 8 August
Term 3 Starts Half-Term Closes	5 September 26 October 31 October 6 December



GOVERNMENT SCHOOLS	Date
Term 1 Starts Closes	11 January 24 March
Term 2 Starts Closes	12 April 23 June
Term 3 Starts Closes	18 July 29 September
Term 4 Starts Closes	10 October 13 December

BACK TO
school

IMMIGRATION ACT 13 OF 2002: SECTION 38(2)

Section 38 of the Immigration Act ("Act") provides that no person shall employ:

- an illegal foreigner;
- a foreigner whose status does not authorise him or her to be employed by such person; or
- a foreigner on terms, conditions or in a capacity different from those contemplated in such foreigner's status.

In terms of section 38(2) of the Immigration Act, a duty is placed on an employer to make an effort, in good faith, to ensure that no illegal foreigner is employed by it and to ascertain the status or citizenship of the persons it employs.

Furthermore, section 49(3) of the Immigration Act provides that anyone who knowingly employs an illegal foreigner or a foreigner in violation of the Immigration Act shall be guilty of an offence and liable to a fine or a period of imprisonment not exceeding one year for a first offence.

In the case of Zimbabwean Nationals, they have been granted an extension in terms of S31(2)(b) of the Act until June 2023 to have been issued with valid permits. Immigrants from other countries must be in possession of theirs by the time their current documents expire. This implies that all immigrants need to apply without delay. It is important to note that there are criteria in place that will be used when approving their applications.

These are:

1. The employer will need to demonstrate that the worker performs scarce and critical skills that a South African does not possess
2. That if proven, the employer will appoint a South African as an understudy to learn the skill and after a pre-determined time the immigrant will return to their Country.

All residents and Members of the Association are urged to take note of the above and to ensure that they, and all persons whom they employ, comply with the Act.

CHANGE OF ACCESS CONTROL SYSTEMS

With change comes uncertainty and the SHOA Board of Directors realise with the change in the access control system, residents are uncertain and do have questions on how the new system will operate, especially with deliveries. The SHOA can assure you that the new systems being installed are for the improvement of security as this is our main priority. Below is some feedback on questions raised on the various social platforms:

Service Level Agreement (SLA) & Tender Process

The Service Level Agreement with the previous service provider, ClickOn, was for a 36-month term (3 years) after a tender process was followed in 2018/2019 in the security market.

When the service level agreement reached the end of the term, and the SHOA again went out on tender. To ensure complete impartiality as with the prior process, an Independent Security Consultant was appointed by the Board of Directors to assist with technical compilation of the tender specifications, the process and the evaluation of the tender documents received. A total of eleven (11) companies were invited to submit their proposal of which seven(7) were received. The companies were requested to submit a proposal on both the wave access control system (which is currently being used) as well as facial recognition access control system technology.

The evaluation of the various proposals submitted was based on the following criteria:

1. Statutory compliance (VAT Registration and compliance, Tax clearance Certificate)
2. PSIRA compliance – Governmental Mandatory Registration = Private Security Industry Regulation Act 56 of 2001- Registration and Compliance
3. Current systems onsite - DvTel and Opgal certified installers
4. Reference sites
5. Proof of ability to Implement and maintain works.
6. Pricing

After evaluating the compliance of each company, price comparison of each company was drawn up, of which all well-priced companies were asked to present and demonstrate products to the SHOA Security Committee and thereafter the Board of Directors.

The Board of Directors decided to replace the existing wave access control readers with facial recognition due to the technology being more advanced, the system being more secure, as well as more affordable. With the wave readers, there are still residents, their family members and/or employees whose biometrics are unclear, and tags are issued. This remained a big security risk to the Estate as the tags can be handed to a third party, stolen or lost.

The appointed Service Provider, B-Safe Systems (BSS) have several large residential Estates at which they implemented access control Visitor Management Systems, surveillance solutions and Video Management Systems, and which they also currently maintain such as Ebotse Estate, Eye of Africa, Ryn-Oord Retirement Villages, etc. They have a proven track record dealing with Video Management Systems (VMS), AI Analytics and Thermal technology.

Their pricing on Visitor management and estate communication services tender was competitive and after the initial 36-month lease period, the equipment will become the property of the SHOA, reducing the cost of ownership over time to the estate. All communication costs are included, therefore there are no additional unexpected communication costs as was the case before. Facial recognition readers will replace all the existing wave readers, the old biometric readers at the turnstiles as well as the readers at the Dairy Farm Gate, Farm Gate and Pulpit Gate. The monthly cost for this upgrade is less than the monthly cost with the previous service provider when we still had old technology readers in some areas.

Access for Deliveries

On the application, there is a recognition menu for favourite delivery companies, Take-a-Lot, Checkers 60/60, RAM, Uber, FedEx, DHL, etc. Should your delivery company not populate, the name of the delivery company can be typed in. The estimated date of delivery will be typed in, i.e. between 7 February and 11 February. An access code will be sent to the security officers with the relevant stand number. When the delivery arrives at the security access gate, the security officers will have the relevant information about the expected delivery. The vehicle, driver's license, vehicle details, etc will still be scanned in as per normal security procedure. Once the scanning process has been followed, residents will receive a message confirming the entry of the delivery.

Training

The application of Be-Safe Systems (BSS) is user-friendly and has various functionalities to enable residents to manage their visitors, employees, trusted individuals, contractors, deliveries, etc., more effectively and efficiently instead of relying on the SHOA Office and/or the Security Administration Office. Residents can register their facial recognition on the application, instead of having to go to the security administration office for enrolment.

Four(4) training sessions have been scheduled – two via Microsoft Teams and two in person. The first two were held on Tuesday, 7 February 2023 and our next two will be on Wednesday, 15 February 2023. Should there be a need for additional training sessions, these will be scheduled.

We encourage all residents to please attend one of the training sessions. These training sessions will answer a lot of your questions and/or concerns. Training videos are also available on the following platforms:

- Bluetooth Access Video (<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=aRfXN92ZWG4>)
- Facial Enrolment Video (<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=cuvhehFn30A>)
- Video on How the System Works (<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=8zmfkxFer-g&t=48s>)
- User Manual (https://cdn.openitemapp.com/Content/Manuals/OpenItemAccessControl-VMS_App_Full_2020-08-27.pdf)
- Recorded Training Session (<https://drive.google.com/uc?id=1DI57dRvgoNAEFBxuw4pv-RIFICg8qO7c&export=download>)

The introduction of the new access system will mean less dependency on call-in visitors and will move toward Resident-managed access control to ensure that all your visitors and deliveries are properly recorded, and booked with your knowledge. Residents are encouraged to attend the training and will receive a video recording on request, should the scheduled times be missed for any reason.

As with any new system, we expect that the change will likely need some getting used to the new technology in a short time with continued use and system improvements.

BAT HOTELS

Six bat hotels have been installed throughout the conservation areas in the Estate. Residents will be able to identify the bat hotels by the below information boards that have been put up at each hotel.

DID YOU KNOW?

Your bat hotel has been installed as part of the Southdowns Residential Estate Conservation Programme.

This bat hotel is made from 100% recycled wood and is designed to attract crevice dwelling bats such as the Free-tailed, Cape Serotine and Yellow House bat. Occupancy will most likely take place in spring or early summer after the bats have returned from winter migration/hibernation.

Insectivorous bats are the primary predators of flying insects.

Common Misconceptions about Bats

Bats do not attack humans: Like any animal that feels threatened, bats may bite in self-defense when picked up. However, bats are naturally non-aggressive animals and unprovoked attacks by bats on humans have never been recorded.

Bats do not carry rabies: In Southern Africa, "typical" rabies is carried by dogs and wild animals, but has never been detected in bats. A recent study of 760 bats in South Africa found that of the sample group, not one tested positive for rabies.

Bats and their droppings do not carry parasites that cause disease: Bats harbour some fascinating, but completely harmless parasites. Bats do however carry "insects" similar to fleas, which rarely bite any other animal except other bats.

If you see any activity around your bat hotel or if you would like information on how to set up a bat box on your property, contact your site office or visit www.ecosolutions.co.za.

Good luck with your bat hotel project, here's hoping you have a batty year ahead!

ENVIRONMENTAL KIDS CLUB

We are excited to inform you that this year we are launching our Environmental Kids' Club. Our first session will be hosted in March and will be every second month thereafter. We will have educational sessions about Owls, Bats, Snakes and the Hennops River to name a few. We have included an application form, should you wish to enrol your child in our Environmental Kids' Club, please complete the form and send it back to Mignon at communications@southdownsestate.co.za. The dates of the sessions will be sent to once they have been finalised.



ENVIRONMENTAL KIDS' CLUB

Enrolment Form:

Parent Name :

Stand:

Child Name: Gender :

Age: Birthday:

Child Name: Gender :

Age: Birthday:

Child Name: Gender :

Age: Birthday:

Child Name: Gender :

Age: Birthday:

Child Name: Gender :

Age: Birthday:

Signature

SAVING THE LIMPOPO RIVER HEADS: GOOD TIDINGS ON THE KAALSPRUIT FRONT

- Willem Snyman from Fresh. Ngo

The spring water origin of the Hennops river and by extension the Limpopo are part of the high watershed sources of the Witwatersrand. Some of the most important sources of our country. The strongest and most beautiful fountains grace this ridge, bringing life to the Cradle for millennia. Now they lie forgotten, their streams neglected and polluted. The most embattled and polluted streams in the country, probably amongst the worst in the world, over the last decade.

A rising tide of action is emerging to save these freshwater sources. Positive projects and powerful forces are emerging, and progress made in this battle against aquatic pollution.

The main problems are:

Massive pollution at the source:

Rising in densely populated areas of Tembisa, they are abused for domestic waste disposal and sewage. Wetland sources and stream banks are levelled with building rubble for houses. When the rains come, huge floods wash everything out including houses. Draining a large, urbanised catchment, the streams rise fast and high. Few wetlands and reed beds survive intact for flood attention.

Toxins from failing sewerage infrastructure and treatment works, (most of which switch off during load shedding) are flushed across the land. Gauteng's richest, most urbanised areas are poisoning ours and three neighbouring countries. Pollution impacts the health of millions, especially the rural poor.

Finding solutions:

The world bank has recently taken an interest in the poor Kaalspruit, starting a project on this important stream. They seem very resourceful and adept at fostering connections between various parties, both civil and governmental. A few weeks ago, we showed a Swiss delegation around some of the worst catchment areas in Tembisa. The levels of pollution are shocking, mostly large piles of domestic waste lying every block or two. The effects of improper services for many years. We showed them the polluted Kaalfontein, one of the strongest sources, where a massive wetland invasion going on for years was thankfully recently halted.

Astonishing waste removal:

A huge cleanup drive has now been started by the authorities in Ekurhuleni, our guys were amazed to see it all over Winnie and Tshwelopele. A team arrives, and the rubbish heaps are packed up in bags, piled up and then taken away. For the first time in many years, some of the biggest rubbish heaps have been tackled, even the massive one at Duduza has been reduced to a pile of sand. If this astounding effort can be sustained, and with proper waste management, the plastic pollution problem can be solved.

Threatened Central wetland:

A major point in this perennial source system is the confluence area of the Kaalspruit, Clayville tributary, and the Olifantsfontein. The last stream is still pristine and full of life, as it has been for

ages until it merges at the worst foaming place - right opposite the outlet of ERWAT Olifantsfontein WWTW. This floodplain area at the triple confluence of the Hennops river's sources has been miraculously preserved and would make an amazing Central Park. Surrounded by various and diverse communities, from the poorest areas of Tembisa to the more affluent of Midstream. Here diverse people can come together in beautiful natural surroundings.

Alarming, however, a massive low-cost housing development is planned for most of this large floodplain. A thousand units here will level this major wetland and river source, residential zoning has already been approved.

Diverting the Kaalspruit:

We were shocked when we recently went to repair our litter traps situated at the top of this last natural floodplain area. Huge diggings were going on in the middle, we feared the development had started.

After a hairy encounter with the security, it became clear that it is luckily the council project. There's been a long-standing directive to fix the deep erosion here. The plan on the map seems to divert the Kaalspruit and install a wetland and litter trap in this canal. Not much is known, some say a temporary diversion to work on the stream, but the diggings are massive. More erosion can be caused if this new canal is not immediately stabilised and planted with wetland plants. It is hoped that this ambitious, though the somewhat heavy-handed project can succeed, a second canal can reduce flooding and better cope with the huge floods here.

The place where pegs indicate the canal will be dug through is right on the bend below our traps and above the old bridge.

Catching the plastic:

The Fresh Polystyrene traps can hopefully form part of the new trap. We've been experimenting here for about five years, to catch and remove the gigantic plastic load. Witnessing the awesome power of the tempest so-called which becomes swelling streams into large Rivers. With the massive plastic load thick nets are blocked and torn out, cables snapped, and poles uprooted.

Recently we overhauled the traps, the latest ones are by far the biggest installed so far. Called 'Giant River Snakes' eighty meters long and over a meter in diameter, they resemble two enormous floating snakes, their length is necessary to accommodate the very wide angle stretched across the river. So, they can rise with the high water and ride out the big floods - catching when most plastics are being washed down. Already they have survived huge storms and we can catch most of the floating plastics. The challenge now is storage; already situated so that the floating plastic can be deposited high on the banks during floods. Unfortunately, everything in the water can be washed out in the next flood.

Polystyrene needs to be removed between storms, a dedicated cleaning team is necessary here. Many other positive projects are going on all along the River, still to be highlighted, including a study by Wits. It is hoped that all these projects will grow and find fruition in the new year. Approached from various angles a harmonious solution can be found together. If our most polluted River can be restored, our land will sigh in relief - we can breathe hope again.

HENNOPS RIVER COMMUNITY VOLUNTEER CLEANUP EVENTS 2023

World Social Justice Day - Saturday 18 February

World Water Day - Wednesday 22 March

Mother Earth Day - 22 April

Biological Diversity Day - Monday 2 May

World Environment Day - Monday 5 June

Mandela Day - Tuesday 18 July

Womann's Day - Tuesday 9 August

World Rivers Day - Sunday 24 September

Disaster Reduction Day - Friday 13 October

*dates are subject to change in the event of unforeseen circumstances



CERTIFICATE OF APPRECIATION



THIS CERTIFICATE IS PROUDLY PRESENTED TO

◀ SOUTHDOWNS HOA ▶

Thank you for your contribution to the success of Hennops Revival over this past year.
We appreciate your continued support and would like you to share in our achievements.
In 2022, we had 161 clean-ups, with over 110 000 bags of waste removed (42 000 in 2021). Bringing
our estimated lifetime total waste removed to over 2,300 000kg

21 December 2022

DATE



TARRYN JOHNSTON
FOUNDER - HENNOPS REVIVAL

Delicious eats and treats from The Deli

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Produced in Pretoria
LOCAL IS LEKKA! 95% of South African
sold Charcoal is made in Namibia.

Our wood charcoal is only wood. Our
production pollution is a 72% less of
the industry standard.

Burns Longer & Hotter
Less Ash!



Simanga

Simanga is a hard-working domestic worker who never takes sick leave and is always on time. She starts early in the morning 6h45 and can do everything. She is not afraid of heights and has used ladders to clear our house inside. She has one day available on a WEDNESDAY.

Please contact Almarie Rogers:
082 558 0353