



Yeovue news

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New Year's Eve in Yeoville Bellevue

Yeovue News took a trip down Rockey Raleigh St just before midnight on New Year's Eve and were surprised to see every bar, restaurant and club was closed. We spoke to the SAPS in Yeoville and got the full story.

In most places around the world, people celebrate New Year with music and dancing and fireworks. And liquor.

In fact, many people think it is impossible to enjoy themselves without liquor. This is why so much liquor is sold over the festive season.

Yeoville Bellevue - Rockey Raleigh St in particular - is usually very busy on New Years Eve. People from the area and from outside the area come together on New Years Eve - and the liquor flows.

However, as part of their efforts to rid the streets of crime and to make South Africa a safe place for all, the SAPS launched a major campaign called Operation Duty Calls in November 2010.

Constable Malatji, communications officer in the Yeoville Police Station, told Yeovue News about how Operation Duty Calls was implemented in Yeoville Bellevue at the end of 2010.

"There were a number of operations," he explained. "And we were very successful. We managed to reduce the number of crimes in the build-up to New Year and on New Year's Eve. There were very few reported cases in the area as a result."

As part of Operation Duty Calls, most police officers were not permitted to take leave over the festive season. And SAPS members were brought in from other areas to increase the number of officers deployed in hotspots like Hillbrow.

Malatji explained that, on 30 December, all liquor outlets in Yeoville Bellevue were asked to close at 12 midnight instead of at 2am. Those that did not comply were forced to close down and in some cases their liquor supplies were confiscated.

On 31 December, the SAPS went further. All liquor outlets were advised that they would have to close by 6pm. Leaflets were distributed to all outlets, especially those in Rockey Raleigh St.

Most outlets willingly agreed to comply

with this instruction. Some were not happy and the SAPS explained to them that they were trying to reduce the number of liquor-related crimes in the area. Closing outlets early on New Years Eve would help.

"All of the liquor outlets we spoke to eventually agreed," said Malatji. "But there was a situation in Rockey St, between Bezuidenhout and de la Rey.

"One of the outlets stayed open, claiming they had permission from someone at the police station. But Provincial Commissioner General Petros was amongst the police members in the area on the night and he insisted that the place be shut down.

"A further problem was that the place was unlicensed and so the SAPS confiscated all of their liquor. This place has been giving problems before and we building a case against them with the aim of closing them down permanently."

As a result of the operation, there was almost no crime on New Years Eve. Unfortunately, in the early hours of New Years Day, there was a bad incident.

"A man wanted to join a braai that was taking place. He was not wanted. So he left, fetched a knife and came back and stabbed three people, killing one. Then he ran away," Malatji said.

"But a community member followed him and saw him board a taxi in Alexandra. He was going to Zimbabwe.

"The SAPS received a tipoff from the community, which included the registration number of the taxi. So at Beit Bridge the man was arrested and brought back to Yeoville.

"This is a good example of the way in which community involvement and support helps to deal with crime, said Malatji. "We therefore urge the community to report cases of criminality and the SAPS will do follow-ups based on the information."

VEC upgrade

The Victim Empowerment Centre (VEC) at the Yeoville Police Station has a new look.

The VEC is a community service to provide counselling and support for the victims of crime. The VEC is staffed by volunteers from the community.

In 2010, we reported that the VEC was facing challenges and so a VEC Support Committee was set up through the Yeoville Stakeholders Forum (YSF). It has had three successes so far.

- Ongoing training has been arranged.
- Through the YSF, an amount of over R10 000 was donated to the VEC by members of the public. So a financial award was made to the volunteers as a small thank you for their contribution to the VEC. The balance will be used for supplies and other requirements.
- Even more exciting was the upgrade of the VEC by local developer Vuka Jozi. Through the Yeoville Bellevue Community Development Trust and Yeovue News, who rent offices from Vuka Jozi, an agreement was made for them to fix up the VEC, to paint it and to secure it with burglar proofing. This was done in the week between Christmas and New Year and so we start the year with a much improved building. Thank you to Mike Dick of Vuka Jozi for your support.



Before (top) and after (below)

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Liquor License Application

1. Nnamdi Emmanuel Okoro.
2. Harrow Inn Pub & Club.
3. ID No: 6510206007181.
4. Shop No. 1, Ground Floor & First Floor, Harrow Centre, No. 1 Saunders Street, cnr. Old Harrow Road, Yeoville, Johannesburg, 2198.
5. Tavern Liquor Licence
6. To the best of the applicant's knowledge, there are no educational Institutions within a radius of 1 kilometer from the premises.
7. To the best of the applicant's knowledge, there are similar licensed premises (issued with a tavern liquor licence) within a radius of 1 kilometer from the premises.
8. To the best of the applicant's knowledge, there are no places of worship within a radius of 1 kilometer from the premises.

The applicant has been operating a liquor outlet for some time, apparently without a license (they were raided by the police in late 2010). There is a bottle store to the right of the place and a tavern or pub to the left.

The application appeared in Gauteng Government Gazette No 1, on 5 January 2011.

If you want to object to the application, please write or deliver your objection to the Gauteng Liquor Board, Johannesburg Regional Office, 3rd Floor, Nedbank Building, 85 Main Street, Marshalltown, Johannesburg. You can call them on 082 3791925.

You should also send or deliver a copy of the objection to the applicant.

Objections must be in by 25 January.

Editorial

It's 2011. In this year, we begin the fourth year of Yeovue News. It's hard to believe we have achieved so much with so little. But we hope to take the publication to new heights this year with more pages, a bigger size and colour.

Yeovue News needs advertising. For now we rely on funding, but we would like to be self-sufficient. For that we need advertising. 10 000 copies guaranteed with each print run, reaching up to 40 000 people. Surely it makes good business sense to use Yeovue News to promote your products and services to this community. By so doing, you will also help to keep Yeovue News publishing.

We call on government, NGOs, CBOs and others to use Yeovue News to reach the community with your information. We salute **Flavia Masekwameng**, Environmental Health Operations Manager in the City of Johannesburg, for being the only government official to regularly make free use of Yeovue News to reach the community by sending us articles. You are an example to your colleagues, especially in communication, who still fail to see the potential of Yeovue News for disseminating information.

It's also the year of local government elections. The most important message coming out of this process is: choose wisely if you want good service delivery over the next five years. The ANC has made it clear that it does not want councillors who are there just for position and power. They want councillors who are

true public servants, willing to fulfil their mandate to serve the community. This hopefully is true of all political parties. Let's do what we can to make sure this happens. So register, read, listen, ask questions - and vote wisely.

Classifieds

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Professional, married couple looking for secure and spacious stand-alone 3-bedroom house to rent in Yeoville and surrounding areas. Our work field is in human resources and community development. Reliable payers. Excellent references. Ph: 082 5449417

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I am a traditional healer using herbs, powders, creams, balms, magic stones and sticks. I can help you with many of your health, family and life problems. drmark@webmail.co.za Call **Dr Mark** on **083 7131493** anytime.

Yeovue News

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