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# Yeovue news

your news your views

27 January 2011 Volume 4 No 3

Free to all

## Churches show no charity towards community

There has been a big increase in the number of faith-based establishments in the Yeoville Bellevue area over the past few years. For some people, this is a good thing. For others, it just adds to the problems we face in Yeoville Bellevue. YEOVUE NEWS reports.

Up until 1990, there were only Christian and Jewish spiritual centres in the Yeoville Bellevue area. The main Christian churches were Anglican, Catholic, Presbyterian and Congregational. There were also one or two smaller ones.

There were a number of synagogues representing the Orthodox and Reform traditions of the Jewish community.

After 1990, this changed. By the end of the 1990s, most synagogues had closed down. At the same time, the number of Christian centres increased, some of them based in the now-empty synagogues. The change in the population of Yeoville Bellevue also saw the opening of a small mosque to serve the spiritual needs of the Muslim community.

Today, there is one remaining Jewish facility, one mosque and an ever-increasing number of Christian-based centres.

### A good thing?

Some people believe this is a very good thing as it shows that the spirituality of the community is increasing. Others are not so sure. They point to the social problems that some of these so-called churches have caused for the community.

Still others say that the churches do very little to help the community of Yeoville Bellevue to improve their lives. They say that the churches do not involve themselves in community affairs and that some of the churches actually make life worse for the community.

In a recent case which was reported to the Yeoville Community Policing Forum, a new church has been accused of playing very loud music almost every night of the week, disturbing the neighbours and making it difficult for them to sleep.

"This is not right. Our children cannot sleep, working people cannot sleep," says Bab' Wilfred Dudula, one of the affected residents who is also a member of the Community Policing Forum.

"One night when we went to complain, the people tried to bribe us, offering us money to leave them alone. How can a church offer a bribe? Are these really church people?" he asks.

### Rights and wrongdoing

This is a problem across the area. It seems that some churches believe that they have the right to open wherever they like, in the business area and in the residential area. They also seem to think they have the right to do whatever they want, even if it causes problems for other people around them.

Before the Recreation Centre was upgraded, churches used the building for services throughout the week and weekend. It became very difficult for community organisations to get space - even when they did, it was difficult to have meetings and do their work because of the noise from some of the churches. Because of this, there were also very few community programmes in the Recreation Centre.

This has changed since the upgrade of the building and the appointment of a new manager, David Maredi, who has made it clear that the Recreation Centre is a community facility and not a church building. As a result, churches are no longer allowed to hold services there and there are many community programmes now taking place in the building.

Maybe that is why there are now churches in business premises and houses across Yeoville Bellevue. This not in itself a problem - people have the right to offer

spiritual guidance to those who are looking for it. But there are rules.

### Churches and the law

Many new churches are illegally occupying residential properties - a church is not allowed to operate from a residential property without applying for permission from the City Council.

Many have made illegal changes to the buildings they are in. Again, they should have asked for approval from the City Council to make changes to their properties, especially those buildings which have heritage status.

Many use loud sound systems for their services, disturbing people living around them. There are laws which say it is illegal to make such a loud noise that it disturbs the peace.

Some churches are running illegal businesses from their premises - one even has a shebeen in the church grounds.

Open-air churches on the hillside behind the water tower litter, break bottles and allow their members to urinate in public.

Some people say that many of the new churches are not real churches at all - they are just money-making operations which are enriching the 'pastors'.

Faith-based institutions are normally expected to improve the lives of people - spiritually and physically - not to make their living conditions worse. Faith-based institutions should be discouraging people from breaking the law - instead some are involved in illegal activities themselves. Faith-based institutions are supposed to provide moral and ethical guidance to their congregations, not to exploit them and show disrespect to others.

We suggest that it is time for the City of Johannesburg and the SAPS to:

- check all churches to see whether they are complying with zoning and building regulations
- enforce the noise bylaws in the interests of protecting the rights of the community
- investigate the business activities of some of the churches.

We also suggest that churches should

- show respect for the law and for the community
- organise themselves and begin to regulate each other, otherwise all churches will get a bad name because of the actions of a few.

# Steven Lutz: an unsung hero

The Reverend Tsepo Matubatuba, HIV and AIDS coordinator for the Anglican Diocese of Johannesburg and resident in Yeoville Bellevue, says we would really be remiss and show a lack of appreciation as the Yeoville Community and as individuals not to say a word about the passing of our beloved friend and businessman, Steven Lutz of Bellevue Pharmacy.

The announcement of Steven's death a few weeks ago came as a shock and setback for many in Yeoville Bellevue who knew him as a healthy and lively man. It was a great shock for the whole of my family who came to know him and the staff well over the years of our stay in the area

I believe and hope I will be expressing the sentiments of many in Yeoville Bellevue when I say Steven's departure is a great loss to our community.

Steven was a good natured, humble, friendly and cheerful person at all times. He lightened the hearts of many people who visited his chemist troubled by their illnesses. He went the extra mile in enquiring about the details of his customers' ailments and gave them passionate and honest advice on how to treat them. Where necessary, he did not hesitate to refer people elsewhere, instead of just seeing an opportunity to make an extra buck for his pocket.

Steven was also interested in what is going on in the community and participated where possible. I remember when the Yeoville Market opened in 1999 and I was its first manager, Steven offered to put an advertisement board for his business in the market and pay a monthly advertisement fee. He also offered to help local schools with the checking for and treatment of head lice when there was an outbreak some few years ago.

When I was in the Yeoville Community Policing Forum, he used to donate for our events. Community members also enjoyed free or very cheap health screening for conditions like blood pressure and cholesterol.

To Steven's family, colleagues and friends, I send sincere and deepest condolences for their untimely and sad loss, especially considering Steven's young age - he was only 48 years old.

It should be comforting to you to know that he did not live in futility. He was a dear friend and an asset to our community, where he chose to stay even as other businesses disinvested when the social and economic conditions in Yeoville Bellevue deteriorated. . He

really lived the often mythologised African principle of Ubuntu, as he respected the dignity of every person, young and old he interacted with.

In my Christian tradition of bidding the departed person who has lived a worthy life farewell, I say 'may his soul rest in peace'. His laugh and good sense of humour will be sorely missed by us when we visit Bellevue Pharmacy.

To those left in the Pharmacy, may you continue doing the good work you have been doing for our community over many years.

## A further tribute after the passing of a true citizen of Yeoville Bellevue

Cordial greetings to you all, and best wishes for 2011.

Yes, it's sad indeed that the community of Yeoville Bellevue has lost a good person like Steven Lutz so early in his life. It is, of course, an even greater loss for his widow and family.

His smile is a loss to us, his kindness, his helpfulness, his total personality ... his image and the part he played so well in our community.

I have a personal memory of the day I walked into the pharmacy, bent double with sudden pain, and asked for some medication. Instead of handing me a pill, Steven put me in his car and took me to a doctor. On my return from a major operation (the pain signalled a serious problem), I came to pay Steven and he would not allow me to do so. That's the kind of person he was.

Steven was interred on the Sabbath, and the next day, Sunday, residents of Yeoville Bellevue, including Johannes Dube of the South African Disabled Musicians Association, Maurice Smithers of YBCDT and myself, attended a memorial service at his family home.

We shall all miss him dearly. May his soul rest in peace.

George Lebone  
Chair, Yeoville Stakeholders Forum

## Toilet problem continues

*In our last issue of 2010 (Vol 3 No 26), we reported on complaints about dirty toilets in a well-known building in Raleigh St. We did not publish the name of the building because the caretaker asked us not to, promising to improve the situation. We tried to speak to one of the owners, but after saying he was an owner, he denied it when we said why we were calling. Today we publish a letter from a resident who says the condition of the toilet remains bad. We also reveal the name of the building because the caretaker did not keep his promise to us.*

Dear editor

On the scale of filth that is Time Square's toilets, I can truthfully say the toilets were not quite as bad on Saturday 22 January as they once were. Someone seems to be making an effort to keep the urinals cleaner. As for the actual flush toilets, most seem to be as unflushable as ever; and anybody valuing his or nostrils is advised to keep out of these facilities.

So our great investor, the owner of Time Square, seems to have done the barest minimum to keep his toilets clean. They must still rank among the filthiest you can find anywhere in Johannesburg. The health inspectors need to tighten the screws on the owner, with more fines issued more regularly. Of course, these fines need to be paid, and it would be helpful if Yeovue News can find out if the fines previously issued have actually been paid. In an open society, as ours aspires to be, surely it would not take more than a few minutes to check if a person has actually paid a fine. Or is this a state secret?

While at Time Square, the health inspectors may also want to have a word with some of the worshippers who attend one of those West African money-making churches somewhere in the building. I've seen a good many men in designer suits unzip their trousers and pee in the drains. Maybe it is one of the rituals of this church: piss in the drain and Jesus will reward you with blessings and riches. Whatever the case, these people should be told that some of their habits are a disgrace and that they are expected to respect the laws of their adopted city.

George Starita

**Editor's note:** once again we have to call on the City of Johannesburg to do their job properly. This has been a problem for a long time. It is the responsibility of the municipality to protect ordinary people by ensuring that health and other by-laws are obeyed at all times. We are always happy to cooperate with inspectors who visit our area by helping identify problem buildings.

## Letters to the editor

**Note:** In our last issue, we ran a story on the ANC's recent public meeting to get community input on the party's nominees for ward councillor for Ward 67. In the article, we mentioned that someone had asked one of the candidates if, as a blind person, he would be able to be an effective councillor. This letter is a response to that article.

Dear Editor

I would like to disagree with you on the fact that you saw the question as a negative one! I think it was a very good question as lots of ordinary community members are unaware of what technologies are available especially for challenged individuals.

A lot of ordinary citizens would have disadvantaged the candidate you have mentioned based on his own physical challenges. After his well-articulated response, the community can now rest assured that he is not disadvantaged by his disabilities. He is capable of delivering as equally as the other two candidates, if not better.

The biggest challenge we have in our beloved country is that those of us with knowledge do not share it with the less fortunate. Equally the media is to blame for not sharing information.

Tleane Tiisetjo

**Editor's reply:** You are right, Tleane - it was a good question and I too am glad it was asked. However, what I didn't say in the article is that I was aware that there were a number of people who were saying in the weeks before the meeting that it is not possible to have someone as councillor who is blind. Someone said this to me directly and we had a very intense discussion about why it was a reactionary viewpoint and against the principles of the ANC and the constitution of the country.

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## No more free parking

For the past six years, Joburg motorists have been parking free of charge, but all of this comes to an end on 1 July.

In The Star of 21 January 2011, Anna Cox wrote that motorists will have to pay R4.50 for 30 minutes, R7.50 for an hour and R15 for two hours for on-street parking in the inner city – including Newtown, Hillbrow, Berea and Yeoville – as well as in Randburg and Midrand.

This comes after a pilot project began in Braamfontein last month.

Making the announcement, City of Johannesburg member of the mayoral committee Elgina Ndhlovu said: "The reason for introducing the system is that parking can be managed by the city to ensure there is adequate parking for everybody. The city is losing a lot of business because motorists park free of charge the whole day, paying car guards a few rand."

Previously, motorists paid through parking meters, but they were often vandalised. Ndhlovu said that was costly for the council – to fix one meter cost R1 000.

The new system will be monitored by marshals dressed in black-and-white uniforms and carrying a mobile parking machine. Motorists will have to pay after parking their vehicles.



An example of a hand-held parking meter  
Source: Google

They will then be issued with a receipt that must be displayed on the dashboard. Those who do not pay will face a R200 fine.

"If people have to park for longer than two hours, we advise them to find parking garages," said Ndhlovu. Article courtesy of The Star newspaper

**Editor's note:** Back in 1999, we were requesting the municipality to bring parking meters back to Yeoville Bellevue. We said this would help to control parking in the area. We also said that it would make the area safer because parking meters used to be

checked by traffic police or metro police. This meant there would be police officers on the street checking the meters and also helping to control crime.

We would like to suggest the following to the CoJ:

- Employ local people as parking marshalls - if possible, use some of the existing car guards as long as they do not have criminal records and are reliable.
- Give the parking marshalls the power to control parking in the street. Too many people double park or park diagonally in parallel parking. This causes traffic jams and is an inconvenience to the community and to people driving through the area.
- Instruct the parking marshalls to watch for possible car theft and car break-ins. We don't say they must be held responsible if a car is stolen or gets broken into, but they can help people to feel that their cars are safe.
- Prepare a plan for removing existing car guards. It is going to be confusing and inconvenient if there are parking marshalls and car guards. We also don't want parking marshalls to be accused of 'taking jobs' from car guards or to be attacked by car guards.
- Communicate well with the community before you introduce the parking marshalls. This will prevent people from fighting with parking marshalls when they come and ask for payment for parking. We are happy to assist with communication in the Yeoville Bellevue area.
- Look at the shortage of parking in the area. If there are going to be parking meters, people are going to need off-street parking. At the moment, there are only 3 or 4 small parking areas and they are privately-owned. The CoJ should either build parking (eg above the Yeoville Market), or enter into public-private partnerships with the private sector to create more parking. This includes creating parking for minibus taxis.

## Update

### Demarcation process

Still waiting for documents from the Demarcation Board before we decide whether to go to court or not.

### Gambling Board

Have asked for reasons why the community's objection was not supported and why the license was granted

### Liquor

Still waiting for a response from the Liquor Board to our community petition against the issuing of new licenses.

## Jumble sale

Yeoville Stakeholders Forum (YSF)  
Social Welfare Committee

Place: Yeoville Recreation Centre  
Date: Saturday 29 January  
Time: 8am – 11am  
Thammy - 011 4870269  
Donations of jumble welcome.

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## Street patrollers

Street Patrollers are community members who volunteer to assist in reducing crime in the area where they live or work. Street Patrollers report to the Community Policing Forum (CPF). They also work hand-in-hand with the police. The CPF would like to hear your views on the Street Patrollers in Yeoville Bellevue. If you have had good experiences or bad experiences with them, please let us know.

Email [ycpf@yeoville.org.za](mailto:ycpf@yeoville.org.za). Call chairperson Mbuyiseni Khoza on 082 2657435. Leave a note at 18 Rockey Alley, 24 Rockey St. Inputs can be anonymous. Help us improve the Patroller service.

## Yeovue News

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Published by

### Yeoville Bellevue Community Development Trust

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Fax: 086 5514992 or 086 5514990  
[ybcdt@yeoville.org.za](mailto:ybcdt@yeoville.org.za)

## Yeoville Bellevue on the web

[www.yeoville.org.za](http://www.yeoville.org.za)  
[www.hotelyeoville.co.za](http://www.hotelyeoville.co.za)

## Yeoville Recreation Centre Programme of activities

**Aerobics Daily.** One hour sessions starting 12h00, 17h30 and 18h30

**Table tennis** Mon - Fri 15h00, 13h00 weekends

**Karate** Mon - Fri 15h00, 10h00 weekends

**Dance** Mon - Fri 15h00, 10h00 weekends

**Weight lifting** Daily. Mornings and evenings

**Soul Buddies (Yeoville Youth Club)** Mon - Wed, Fri and Sat 15h30 - 16h30

**Adult English Language Training** Mon - Thurs. 9h00 - 12h00

**Maths extra lessons** Weds 15h30, weekends 8h00 - 13h00

**Netball (outdoors)** Mon - Fri 17h00, 10h00 weekends

**Tennis (outdoors)** Mon - Fri 17h00, 10h00 weekends

**Chess** All who would like to play chess please register at the Recreation Centre office

**Aerobics for people with disabilities (those in wheelchairs)** Please register at the office.

**Alcoholics Anonymous** Fridays 7pm

Yeoville Recreation Centre: 011 6489176

### Community-based organisations

- African Diaspora Forum**  
17 Rockey Alley, 24 Rockey St, Yeoville Bellevue  
Claire Benit-Gbaffou 083 9685444
- ANC Joe Slovo Branch (Ward 67)**  
Sihlwele Myeki 076 5174596
- Congo Heart of Africa**  
Bienvenu Ingila 082 6675969
- Congress of the People (COPE)**  
Noliitha Majola 082 0509464
- Democratic Alliance (DA) Ward 67 Branch**  
Jerry Moseta 079 0694188
- Disabled Musicians Association**  
Johannes Dube 083 6897194
- Ivorian Community**  
Marc Gbaffou 083 5147367
- National Association of Yoruba Descendants, Southern Africa** Prince Adesina Al-Amin, National Youth Leader 076 6928060
- Nigerian Union South Africa** Prince Adesina Al-Amin, Secretary General, Gauteng 076 6928060
- Observatory Ratepayers Association** Louise Denysschen 011 2746825 [secretary@gmail.com](mailto:secretary@gmail.com)
- Refugee Help Desk** Jean Pierre A Lukamba Om - 083 8751256 [refugeesa@gmail.com](mailto:refugeesa@gmail.com)
- Union for the Reconstruction of Congo (UREC)**  
Claude Kabambi 083 4865795 [clkabambi@webmail.co.za](mailto:clkabambi@webmail.co.za)
- Urania Village Community Forum  
Sector 3 Community Policing Forum  
[keithspeacock@gmail.com](mailto:keithspeacock@gmail.com)  
011 6480367 082 4649458
- Ward 67 Ward Committee**  
Nomaswazi Mohlala 083 2972936
- Yeoville Community Policing Forum**  
Mbuyiseni Khoza 082 2657435
- Yeoville Environmental Organisation**  
Joseph Setloboko 073 7339083
- Yeoville Muslim Community**  
Hussein Musa Baza-Awe 083 9565363
- Yeoville Stakeholders Forum**  
Cate Bompas (secretary) 079 6105909
- Yeoville United Artists**  
Bongi Kubheka 082 7594987
- Zimbabwe African Peoples Union (ZAPU)**  
9a Raymond St (corner Rockey St) 073 3718741

### Non-governmental organisations

- ACTION Support Centre**  
Positive action to transform conflict 011 3396332

## Community Directory

- Mother Johnson International**  
Mother Johnson 011 4870309
  - People Opposing Women Abuse (POWA)**  
011 6424345/6
  - Self Help Christian Refugee Association**  
Xavier Bulimwengo 078 4251650
  - Curriculum Development Project**  
Charlotte Schaer 011 6241025
  - Christians for Peace in Africa**  
Pastor Thomas-Rene Kitutu 072 2625302
  - Yeoville Market Micro-Retailers**  
Sebastian Zaremba 072 1416411
  - Lesbian and Gay Equality Project**  
Phumi Mtetwa 011 4873810/1
  - NOAH's Ark Resource Centre, Yeoville**  
Gloria Nhlabathi 079 2330030
  - Nazareth House**  
Sister Lorraine 011 6481002
- Institutions**
- Grace Community Centre** Claude Nkebi 076 6310180 [claudenkebi@yahoo.com](mailto:claudenkebi@yahoo.com)
  - Observatory Girls Primary School**  
Cnr Regent St and de la Rey St Tel: 011 4871100
  - St Aidan's Anglican Church**  
Father Neo 011 4871112
  - St Francis Catholic Church**  
Cate Bompas 011 6488794
  - St John's College** Tsepo Matubatuba 083 7737382
  - Sheikh Anta Diop Schools**  
Jemadiri Kilele 011 6488122
  - Sophiatown Community Psychological Services**  
Children and Families on the Move  
20 Derby Street, Bertrams. Tel 011 6145242
  - Trinity Congregational Church**  
Zama Mpambani 079 4274838
  - United Church Schools**  
Helenne Ulster (principal) 011 6484727
  - Yeoville Baptist Tabernacle Church** 011 6487325
  - Yeoville Baptist Tabernacle Youth Dept** 011 6487325
  - Yeoville Boys School**  
Lindelani Singo (principal) 011 6489901
  - Yeoville Community School**  
Martha Mente (principal) 011 6489163

### Public services and facilities

- Region F Stakeholder Management & Liaison**  
Zaabe Magwaza 082 4679411

- Urban Inspectors**  
**Yeoville North:** Fikile Mdlalose 083 4448517  
**Yeoville South:**  
Basesitana Bogopane 083 3811359  
**Bellevue/Bellevue East:**  
Lettie Rasebeka 083 3811435
- Ward 67 Community Development Worker (CDW)**  
Neo Setloboko 083 9537053
- Ward 67 Councillor**  
Nomaswazi Mohlala 083 2972936
- Yeoville Bellevue Community Development Trust**  
18 Rockey Alley, 24 Rockey St, Yeoville Bellevue  
Tel: 011 4870269 Fax: 086 5514992  
[ybcdt@yeoville.org.za](mailto:ybcdt@yeoville.org.za)  
Maurice Smithers 082 3737705 [maurice@yeoville.org.za](mailto:maurice@yeoville.org.za)  
Thammy Jezile 0730222421 [thammy@yeoville.org.za](mailto:thammy@yeoville.org.za)
- Yeoville Community Clinic**  
Kenmere Rd, corner Hopkins St Tel: 011 6487979
- Yeoville Police Station (SAPP)**  
23 Kenmere Rd, corner Yeo St Tel: 011 4875900
- Yeoville Post Office**  
Kenmere Rd, between Raleigh St and Hopkins St, inside the arcade Tel: 011 6489103
- Yeoville Public Library**  
49-51 Raleigh St Tel: no phone at present
- Yeoville Recreation Centre**  
36 Raleigh St (between Kenmere and Fortesque)  
David Mareidi 011 6489176
- Yeoville Swimming Pool**  
Corner Raleigh St and Kenmere Rd Tel: 011 6489359

### Other contact numbers

- Black Sash**  
Tel: 011 8348361/5  
For advice and help with your rights
- City Power**  
Tel: 011 4907900
- Emergency Connect**  
Tel: 011 3755911
- Emergency Management Services**  
Tel: 011 4076374
- Hijacked Buildings hotline**  
Tel: 011 3768640 Email: [patrickpho@joburg.org.za](mailto:patrickpho@joburg.org.za)
- Joburg Connect**  
Tel: 011 3755555 (always ask for reference no.)  
[joburgconnect@joburg.org.za](mailto:joburgconnect@joburg.org.za)
- Toll-Free Presidential Hot-line**  
Tel: 17737