



Yeoville Community School robbed

Two weeks ago, Yeoville Community School was broken into and robbed. Amongst the items stolen were the principal's computer, a flat screen TV and 28 plastic chairs. YEOVUE NEWS went to the school to find out more.

On a recent Friday night, Yeoville Community School principal Martha Mente was woken at 1am by the school's armed response service provider. The school had been broken into.

The thieves had broken their way through a series of gates and doors, eventually stealing a number of items, including the principal's computer and a number of plastic chairs.

The caused a lot of damage to the school, including to the ceiling of the computer room, where they tried to remove the overhead projector (see main pic).

Fortunately for the school, the thieves could not steal the computers from the computer room because they were all secured to each other with a very strong cable.

Last week, Ms Mente called the Community Policing Forum (CPF) and Yeovue News to come and see what had happened. CPF chair Mbuyiseni Khoza, deputy chair Simphiwe Naki and treasurer Maurice Smithers, went around to the school.

After showing them the damage to the school, Ms Mente said she had heard that the plastic chairs were being sold in the Yeoville Market. The CPF members went to investigate.

At the Market, they found four of the chairs that had been bought by traders. The traders said they did not know the person who was selling them. They also did not know the chairs had been stolen.

The CPF reported to Ms Mente who called the investigating officer dealing with her case. The SAPS came around and confiscated the chairs, telling the traders that they could be arrested for buying and possessing stolen goods. The police warned traders to avoid

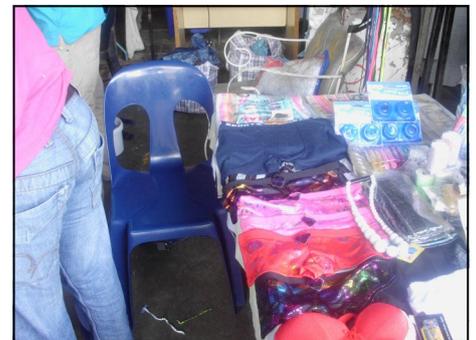


CPF chairperson Mbuyiseni Khoza (middle) and deputy chairperson Simphiwe Naki (right) listen as principal Martha Mente explains what happened. Above them is the damaged ceiling.

buying second-hand goods, especially if they didn't know where they came from. The manager of the Market promised to have a meeting with all the traders and to encourage them to call the police if they were suspicious about anyone coming to try and sell goods to them.

The sad thing is that the children of some of the traders in the Market go to Yeoville Community School. Therefore, when they bought chairs from the thieves, they were actually buying from people who had stolen from their children, affecting their education.

No-one has been arrested for the theft as yet. Meanwhile, the school faces the cost of repairing the damage done to gates and doors and the ceiling of the computer room.



One of the stolen chairs in the Market

The SAPS and the CPF call on all residents and working people in Yeoville Bellevue to avoid buying stolen goods. You never know who was robbed or might be hurt or killed by the person selling the stolen goods to you. **YN**

Watch out for those sugar daddies

A Yeovue News reader gives some serious advice to young girls

What is it about these sugar daddies out there? It seems they really want to ruin young girls' lives. They have ruined their own lives, now they want to ruin everybody else's using their flashy cars, gifts and money. They know that many young girls are after material possessions and they use this to prey on them. Once you say yes to that, that's it, that's the end of you.

It happened to me and I would like to share my story with you. This has been haunting me for years and by sharing my experience, I feel I will find closure. It was in 2005 - when I was still a naive 18 year-old virgin - that I met a 48 year-old man at my place of work in Joubert Park. Due to peer pressure from my friends, I fell for his trap. He showered me with gifts, gave me money and even paid my rent for me.

One stupid day while I was at home, he phoned me and asked me to accompany him as usual. I did so. Then, I used to stay in Joubert Park and we were headed for Braamfontein. From his breath, and the way he conducted himself, I could tell he had one too many to drink. We got to a dingy, dilapidated flat where he made a phone call and, a few moments later, some stranger came and gave him some keys. He asked me to go upstairs with him and when I questioned him he told me not to question him.

We got to a room upstairs where he undressed and ordered me to undress, but I refused. He wanted me to get into bed with him, but I refused. He got agitated with me and took out a gun, unknown to me at that stage, and put it under the pillow. I asked him if he had any condoms and he said he never uses them. We had a scuffle and he threw me on the bed and then I managed to break free and ran away.

I had to run all the way to Joubert Park as I was scared of what this man was going to do to me. He called me a few times and I evaded him. Then I changed my number and moved from where I was staying. A few months ago, I met his friend who told me that he had had HIV/AIDS and had since died. I realised how lucky I was to escape when I did.

I would like to advise all the young ladies out there to be careful of these sugar daddies as they want nothing more than to ruin our lives. You have a bright future, so please don't waste it on these sugar daddies. **YN**



Last week, the SAPS organised a meeting between police officers, the Community Policing Forum and the Yeoville Liquor Traders' Association to discuss the problem of illegal and non-compliant liquor selling in Yeoville Bellevue. This comes at a time when national government has made it clear that something needs to be done about the liquor problem in our country. All parties have agreed to work together in the best interests of the broader community.

Pic: Maurice Smithers

What has happened to the inspectors?

Concerned Muller St residents have written a piece for Yeovue News

It is with great concern that we see people turning houses and flats in Yeoville and Bellevue East into disastrous human settlements. People transform houses without following procedures and open spazas, churches, shebeens and brothels without officials even taking note. We know there are by-laws in each and every municipality but do they really mean anything? We don't see any enforcement of these laws, it's like they don't exist.

The Local Council should dispatch inspectors in Yeoville, Bellevue and Bellevue East with immediate effect to control this disastrous situation and also identify the real owners of these properties and to make them take full responsibility.

One problem we have is owners renting houses and flats without taking responsibility. They don't care because they don't live around our area. They stay in other suburbs and are only interested in the money they make, which is a selfish and greedy mentality.

We need council to stop paying lip service and deliver a better service to our communities. In this way, it would be easier to control crime because some of it emanates from these properties that are uncared for, and will also assist in keeping our streets clean from littering. In Muller Street, we have taken full responsibility to clean our street because we have not received adequate service from Council. Every Saturday at 8am, we make sure we sweep and keep the street clean although is not easy because there are people who have made it their mission to make sure that the streets are dirty, but we are trying.

Last year in June, we had a problem where lights went off for sometime. The guys from City Power came to dig and fix the lights, but till today they left holes in the pavements. They have never bothered to close these holes, even after we have made several calls. They even refused to give a reference number to our query. Some of us had to buy material to close

the holes so as to have access to our main gates protect our vehicles from damage.

On several occasions, we complained about the noise pollution created by some churches especially at the corner of Muller, Joe Slovo and Louis Botha (behind the Post Office Depot). These churches have invested a lot of money in a sound system to make sure we don't sleep, children don't read and do their school assignment and those working night shift don't have an opportunity to rest.

These churches operate from Monday to Monday and we are appealing to the Council and the Police to stop this irresponsible behavior. Not even one person from these churches has bothered to ask for permission from residents to open these churches. We have had police visiting the churches on several occasions to appeal to them to respect the rights of residents without success; there is no co-operation at all. We want these churches to be closed. Most of them operate like businesses any way, while some harbour their dirty activities behind these churches, because they know no one will question them, because they are a church. We are saying they should be questioned and that churches should also be regulated.

We are also appealing to Lepro Cleaning House to control its staff. They have a tendency of parking their cars in front of people's gates and washing their cars in the street which is illegal. They also litter. They should lead by example because they are a cleaning company.

We agree that if we all work together yes, we can do more. **YN**

URGENT NOTICE

Someone is slowly stealing the palisade fence next to the park on Muller St. We call on those living around the park to monitor the situation and to try and catch these *izinyoka* who are stealing from the community. We must not turn a blind eye to crime.

Martial Arts action in the Yeoville Rec

CHRIS BOMPAS reports for Yeovue News

While karate is primarily known to be a self-defense system and art form, its true power lies in bringing people from diverse backgrounds together. On 12 March 2011, a group of karatekas – a term used in the karate community to refer to its practitioners – gathered at the Yeoville Recreation Centre for belt grading. Parents and guardians also came to support their loved ones as they were put through their paces to test if they were ready to advance to the next even more challenging stage of their training.

This was the second grading of the Yeoville Recreation Centre Shitoryu Shokukai Club under Mr. Edmore Kandava, referred to reverently as Sensei Eddie. While the club is very young, having only being founded in August 2010, the standard of grading candidates was impressive. They were assessed by Sensei Chila, head of the South African Shitoryu Shukokai Union and club head of the Rhodes Park Shitoryu Shukokai, and Sensei Kiddo, head of the Shotokuntai Karate Union South Africa and instructor at the Hillbrow Shotokuntai. In solidarity with those being graded, several members from their respective clubs attended.

Candidates ranged in age from 6 to 32. The first half of the session examined those under the age of 15 for their basic movements, combinations and kata – a kata is a series of arranged movements that are meant to prepare students for real life combat situations. After this, those older than 16 and adult learners were examined rigorously. The standard was generally excellent.

Why would an individual dedicate so much time and energy to the challenging task of mastering karate? Mduduzi Michael Ncube, who graded to green belt on 12 March explains. "I train karate because it keeps me fit and healthy. It develops my mind, teaches discipline and respect for others, and is a great way of connecting with like-minded people". Karate offers a powerful means for an individual to develop holistically – ie physically and mentally – and it creates friendships that endure.

Sensei Eddie, a licensed instructor and martial arts veteran with 25 years experience in Karate, says: "When I founded the club, it was with the intention of adding positivity into the community of Yeoville. Providing quality, affordable and practical self

defense training to anyone willing to learn is not our only objective. We are also helping people to move towards lives that are purposeful and building characters strong enough to overcome negative environmental influences.

"We consider the community of Yeoville our partner and look forward to creating new projects which benefit them. Today our club is thriving because of the untiring dedication of our members and the parents that support us. Special thanks must also go to Yeoville Recreation Centre Manager, David Maredi, for his constant assistance and for allowing us to host this grading in the Rec. We call upon more to join us so that the impact that we make on the community may expand. We particularly encourage parents to bring their children". **YN**

If you would like to find out more about karate or the Yeoville Recreation Shitoryu Shokokai Karate Club, please speak to Sensei Eddie on 073 2270762 or email yrscskc1@gmail.com. Junior classes (under 15) are Monday, Tuesday and Friday, 15:00-1600, and Saturday 10:30 to 12:00. Senior Classes (over 15) are Monday, Tuesday, Thursday, Friday, 19:30-21:00 and Saturday 10:30 - 13:00.

Migrants must be more responsible

Yeoville Bellevue resident THEMBI MAJOMBOZI responds to the article written by Obvious Katsaura in last week's Yeovue News.

The first priority of any country in the world is its citizens. Organised countries have a budget and they know how much they can spend on indigenous citizens concerning health, job creation, education, to mention a few.

They would also know how many migrants a country's resources can support. South Africa recognises the international rights of migrants which is why we accommodate so many migrants, particularly from Africa. However, most countries in the world would be alarmed by the number of migrants coming into our country every day, especially those who arrive without proper documentation. Given the same influx and their scarce resources, many African states would have long stopped the flow.

Every self respecting migrant should abide by the laws, by-laws, rules and regulations in their host country, in this case, South Africa. Migrants must not expect to do in a host country what they were doing in their original countries or, indeed, things they were not allowed to do in their countries because of stricter law enforcement.

When migrants violate and disrespect the laws of their host country, it portrays them negatively, thus creating a poor image of people coming from their country of origin. This applies in the case of apparently minor cases like littering as well as in respect of criminal activities such as robbery or hijacking of buildings.

Government has shouldered financial burdens running to billions of rands because of fraudulent pensions and grants activities committed by immigrants (as demonstrated in newspaper reports).

Lest you get me wrong, I am not saying South Africans are saints - many migrants who commit fraud do so with the help of South African accomplices. But it is easier to trace a local with an ID than an immigrant with multiple identities.

Crime is crime, whether perpetrated by migrants or by South Africans. Our laws apply equally to everybody.

What Katsaura referred to as an "allegation that migrants do not take part in community initiative" is no allegation - it is a reality. I have observed that migrants usually only attend when there are rumours of xenophobia. For more than a decade, Yeoville Bellevue has called for the involvement of the migrant community in vain.

A recent example is the City of Johannesburg Regional Summit held at the Recreation Centre where even the African Diaspora Forum (ADF) was absent. Why apply double standards? South Africans attend meetings for community building. If they didn't, there would be nobody there. That's where ubuntu starts, when you show that you care about people around you and not just yourself.

The reality we must boldly face is that most migrants in Yeoville Bellevue come from unplanned, underdeveloped cities with little infrastructural development and no effective by-laws or enforcement.

Migrants need to orient themselves to life in South Africa. They need to understand by-laws, environmental health standards and other basic requirements for safe and healthy living.

Yes, having so many migrants causes overcrowding. Yes, many people do not have basic property maintenance skills. I cannot try to be politically correct here when reality dictates otherwise.

Education around such things needs to take place without ill feelings. Do not use South Africans as scapegoats for your shortcomings. Visit Soweto, Soshanguve and compare the standards of environmental cleanliness there. But some migrants become aggressive when

they are challenged on these things, even saying 'this is a free country, I can do what I want.'

Katsaura blames colonisers for undemocratic decisions made by African leaders. The issue of African boundaries he raises is hypocritical because bodies like ECOWAS and SADC recognise these boundaries.

Stop pointing a finger at white people who are running their countries well. What have you done back home to improve the lives of your countrymen? When will you sacrifice yourself as an instrument of democracy in your country? South Africa cannot always be an economic panacea for African immigrants in a perpetual flight. Surely migrants would do better to work for positive economic development in their own countries?

We welcome legally accepted migrant professionals. What is the point of being a migrant if all you do is loiter and do crime?

South African migrants in other countries are in small numbers, mostly on assignments by their companies or in other gainful employment.

Most of our exiles who left during struggle years have returned, their mission accomplished. Very few felt the need to stay on in their adopted countries.

Can I suggest that ADF run constructive orientation workshops and discourage migrants from trying to make us feel guilty for owning South Africa? While you are at it, you could assist migrants to understand our laws, so that they can respect and follow them.

Perhaps, too, you could instil in male migrants an understanding that their female partners are not tools and punching bags, that a woman's place is where she wants to be, not under the economic control and manipulation of her husband.

Set an example for how people who come to South Africa should behave rather than ignore bad or unacceptable behaviour. For example, in articles in The Migrant Star last year and 2009, there was praise for certain migrant businesses. But nothing was said about the total disregard and disrespect for the community practised by some migrant businesses.

This is especially the case with places like restaurants and guest houses. Some sell alcohol illegally, some have licenses but don't follow the conditions of their license. Many are noisy and cause disturbances. There are some that are abusing our girl children and women, using them to sell sex. In some of these places, drugs are also very common. **YN**
Thembi Majombozi 083 9402587

Editorial

As Editor, I was faced with some difficulty when preparing this issue of Yeovue News. Last week we carried a piece by Obvious Katsaura, a Zimbabwean student who made some points about migrancy in South Africa. This week, there is a strong response from Thembi Majombozi, a South African resident in Yeoville Bellevue.

Obvious and Thembi agree on some issues - for example, they both say that migrants are not involved enough in broader community issues. Both have said that migrants are usually not well-represented at community meetings, eg ward public meetings, YSF meetings and CPF meetings.

Thembi speaks strongly on a number of other issues. Some would say that she is being xenophobic. Others would say that what she is saying is correct.

Note that I do not say that migrants would say she is being xenophobic, nor that South Africans would say she is right in what she says. I think there are also South Africans who might see xenophobia in her words, and there are migrants who would agree with some of the things she is saying about migrants.

The difficulty I faced was whether I should publish Thembi's words and, if so, how much I should edit them.

The problem is that we do not want Yeovue News to be called xenophobic or irresponsible, but we also do not want to be scared of allowing people to express themselves, even if we and others might disagree with what they have to say.

In the end, I decided to publish Thembi's piece (after some editing with which I hope she is happy). My wish is for people to see this as part of an ongoing debate on how we confront some of the realities in our community.

We cannot and should not say there is no problem. It is clear that there is. Admitting there is a problem is very important, because only then can we find a solution.

At Alcoholics Anonymous, people greet each other by saying: 'Hello. My name is so-and-so. I am an alcoholic.'

By saying 'I am an alcoholic' he or she is admitting there is a problem and opening the way to finding a solution. If someone denies being an alcoholic, it means they don't see there is a problem, so they won't see the need for a solution.

So too with the challenges we face in our community. Whether it is differences between migrants and South Africans, between tenants and landlords, between street traders and the community, between men and women - we must all first understand and accept that we might have some problems - and then we can work together to find the solutions. **YN**

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The summit will cover the following:

- Mayor Amos Masondo's reflections on the City's development priorities achieved and challenges faced
- Discussions of the City's plans for the next financial year

Date: Saturday, 26 March 2011

Venue: Gallagher Estate, Midrand

Time: 10h00 – 14h00

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