



Yeovue news

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Free to all

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Dumpers have no respect for others

This week, YEOVUE NEWS received a call from a Yeoville Bellevue resident who is working as a street cleaner through the Extended Public Works Programme. She wanted YEOVUE NEWS to publish photographs and pictures of car parts that had been dumped on the street corner by a nearby informal car repair shop. We went to investigate.

Zanele Buthelezi and Nomahlubi Coseare Yeoville Bellevue residents. They are working for Pikitup as part of the government’s Extended Public Works Programme (EPWP). It’s not the greatest job in the world and it doesn’t pay very well, but someone has to do it and it does put food on the table.

Zanele and Nomahlubi take pride in their work, mainly because they are keeping their own area clean. They are happy at the end of the day that they have made a difference to the environment in their own community.

But they are not happy about the behaviour of some residents and business people in the area. Today they are angry about an informal car repair workshop in the parking area under a block of flats.

“These people dump all their old car parts, bumpers and things on the pavement. We are collecting the rubbish from the streets and we have to put it into plastic bags. What are we supposed to do with this. You can’t put it into plastic bags”, Zanele told us.

We walked into the basement of the block of flats. There were four or five cars, some clearly in the process of being repaired. We asked who the owner of the car repair shop was.

“He is not here”, someone said. “The owner of the car repair was chased away by the caretaker upstairs”, someone else said, pointing upwards.

When we asked who the cars belonged to, they insisted that they belonged to residents in the flat. After we left, we saw the same men push a car out of the garage, open it and begin to work on it.

Of course, because they said they were not the owners of the repair workshop, they said they could not be expected to

do anything about the pile of rubbish.

Outside, Zanele and Nomahlubi told us other stories. One which made them particularly angry was the one about the Ethiopian shopowner who refused to clean in front of his shop. He said it was not his job to clean the street, it was theirs. “Besides”, he said. “I did not come here to clean your country, I came here to make money.”

“This is not right”, Zanele told me. “Anyone who lives here must take responsibility for keeping the place clean.”

It doesn’t matter whether you come from Babanango in South Africa or Lagos in Nigeria. If this is your home, even your temporary home, you have the same responsibilities as someone who has lived here their whole lives.

I left them to carry on sweeping the streets, cleaning up the rubbish that we so carelessly throw down each and every day. Many of us complain that Yeoville Bellevue is dirty, even though Pikitup is here all the time cleaning.

But it is we, the community of Yeoville Bellevue, South Africans and people from elsewhere, who are the problem. The solution is in our hands - STOP LITTERING and STOP DUMPING!



The pile of car parts and other rubbish in the street. It is the job of a business with such waste to get rid of it themselves, not to expect the council to do it. Throwing it on the street like this is disrespectful to the cleaners and disrespectful to the community.



The car repair shop in the parking garage, It has been reported to the City of Joburg who will decide whether it is legal or not.

Editorial

Letters

It is exciting to see the number of letters coming in to Yeovue News from the community. This is what the paper should be about - the voices of the community being heard.

Elections

With elections coming, Yeovue News will use its pages to get information out to people so that they can make informed choices when voting.

We call on all parties fielding candidates in Ward 64, 66, 67 and 73 (all include a section of Yeoville Bellevue) - as well as independent candidates - to send us a photo and one paragraph about each candidate so that we can introduce them to the community. Yeovue News will also look at other ways of making the build-up to the election more meaningful for voters.

Our rights, our duties

The article on the cover and the comments in some of the letters remind us of something important: that we are all responsible for the state of our suburb. This Monday, the streets were very dirty. Pikitup was late or didn't come. But that is no excuse. On the corner of Regent and Bezuidenhout was a huge pile of black bags, some bursting open. It was the same in many other parts of the area.

How can we educate our community on how the Pikitup system works? How can we get people to use bins and not plastic bags? How many of us watch people throwing rubbish onto street corners and say nothing? How can we complain about dirt if we don't work together as a community to stop the bad habits of our families, friends and neighbours?

All of us - South Africans and migrants - who live and work in Yeoville Bellevue have a RIGHT to a clean and safe environment and we have a DUTY to help to make it clean and safe. No-one can say 'it's not my responsibility', no-one can fold their arms and say 'it's the job of the government or the police or anyone else except me'.

Letters to the editor

Last week, we published a response by Thembi Majombozi to an article by Obvious Katsaura about migrants. Here are more letters on the issue.

Please note: we will take further inputs on this issue from time to time, but we will not have a whole publication focusing on it. But let's continue the debate, let's use Facebook and blogs, let's have public meetings and community seminars. Let's talk about the issue in our organisations and at our supper tables.

Most importantly, let's understand the issue clearly and, through understanding it, find ways to live together in mutual respect.

Dear editor

I am a migrant (Zambian) residing in Yeoville Bellevue and I agree with most of the things that Thembi Majombozi wrote concerning the behaviour of some migrants. I have also noticed the following concerning my fellow migrants:

- a) Littering even when they see bins on the streets. Let us stop this bad habit and teach our children not to litter. I have taught my children (7 & 3 yrs) not to litter. They always throw rubbish in the bin and, if they can't find a bin, then they carry the rubbish home where it is thrown away. My daughter even educates her friends not to litter on the streets. As the saying goes, charity begins at home.
- b) Playing music very loud starting very early in the morning till very late.
- c) Having too many children. There are people giving birth as if they are in their own country. They are always complaining of how they are treated at the Yeoville clinic by the nurses and I tell them not to blame the nurses because they have too much work and stress dealing with people who go to the under-five clinic every day. On top of that, they want free medicine which is over-stretching the budget of the government. But they reject family planning and want free education for their kids.

The building I am staying in is mostly occupied by migrants, but we make sure the building is always clean. If a new tenant comes, we make sure they understand and adhere to the rules of the building. Failure to do so means eviction.

However, the tenants living next door to our building are very dirty. There is an alley between the buildings and some of the tenants, especially the ones facing the alley and those living in the upper rooms, throw rubbish through their windows into the alley, though they have bins down in the garage. Our caretaker has made an effort to contact the owner of the building, but the owner doesn't care at all. He is just interested in getting the rent.

The building next door is becoming dilapidated due to lack of maintenance by the owner and vandalism by the tenants. Tenants in our block have tried to clean the alley and talk to the tenants in the other building, but they don't listen at all. Personally, I am very tired of their behaviour coz the flat I am staying in overlooks the alley and the place is smelling. Where can we go to lodge in a complaint?

I have a lot to say, but for now this is all. Please, every migrant, young and old, let us be responsible and appreciate what the South African government is doing for us by being law-abiding citizens.
Mavis Mwila, Yeoville Bellevue

Dear editor

I have read the articles & correspondence and I would like to add some perspective from Louis Botha Ave (Orange Grove to Highlands North). Like Yeoville Bellevue, Orange Grove is a very mixed suburb. On the surface, our community is free of xenophobia and during the incidents elsewhere none of the issues affected us.

The primary problem that affects all our suburbs from Hillbrow to Alex is illegal land use. Property owners are getting away with murder because they know that enforcement (in all sectors) is weak or non-existent. The National Building Regulations, our Town Planning Schemes and Bylaws outline the rules and regulations that govern all aspects of land occupation and use, but are not enforced.

My experience is that many of our new immigrants are being exploited by slumlords who buy up blocks of houses and pack people in them. There is a consortium of white slumlords operating in Orange Grove whose main object is to make life impossible for the remaining property owners so eventually these harassed residents give up and end selling to the consortium. I will stake my life on it that similar forces are working in Yeoville.

The overpopulation of these residential properties is similar to business premises where greedy landlords illegally subdivide shops into smaller shops in order to make more money. We are working with SARS & Revenue to nail these slumlords who get their undeclared under-the-counter money from vulnerable immigrants.

As I write, there are, on one street in Orange Grove, 14 illegal accommodation establishments subject to legal action by Development Planning Enforcement. This is the tip of the iceberg.

So we have greedy landlords. We have migrants who say "*in my country we do what we please, so we will do it here*". Then you have unethical estate agents added to the mix.

The combination is lethal to our regeneration efforts. Our committee is overloaded with these issues and we cannot see any light at the end of this very long tunnel. The elephant is too big and our bites too small. Immigrants are being exploited by our own citizens and by their own compatriots to the detriment of our neighbourhoods and our country.

Roger Chadwick, Chair
Orange Grove Residents Assn.

Dear editor

I write this piece in the interest of fostering a spirit of coexistence and challenging some common animosities between South Africans and non-South Africans who live in Yeoville Bellevue. I have been following the debate spurred by Katsaura and Majombozi. In light of

this debate, I have five points that I need to make in responding to Majombozi.

Firstly, the fact of the presence of migrants who are criminals or who commit some illegalities should not be used as justification for the blanket hate and/or fear of non-South Africans. While it is true that there are non-South Africans committing crimes, illegalities and breaking by-laws, it is equally true that there are South Africans who do the same thing, sometimes in complicity with non-South Africans. I agree with Majombozi that crime is crime and the law should apply fairly, irrespective of the origins of the (suspected) offender. However, I think she is too quick to blame migrants for all the problems we are facing in Yeoville Bellevue.

Secondly, migrants are not just mere consumers in South Africa, but they are producers too. Migrants are also contributing towards the revenue bases of Johannesburg and of the nation at large. We have a lot of migrants gainfully employed and contributing to taxes and municipal services rates. We have those running businesses in South Africa and paying taxes.

We also know that it is not only professionals and the rich who are migrants. The poor are increasingly migrating too. Criminalising poor migrants is tantamount to the denial of their human rights. Should we say the poor are no longer welcome in South Africa simply because of their poverty? Poverty is not a new issue in South Africa. We have a lot of poor South Africans living in inhumane and squalid conditions. Why does it become a big issue to be poor and non-South African?

It is also unfair to suggest that foreign nationals as mainly ignorant, irresponsible and uncaring. There are certainly some migrants breaking by-laws and committing crimes, but it doesn't mean that all migrants do the same or that these migrants are necessarily ignorant because they come from poorer countries and 'unplanned, underdeveloped cities' as Majombozi calls them. Some migrants break by-laws as a result of the need to survive (eg selling in the streets) in the same way that some South Africans do.

Thirdly, grumbling and being petulant about the presence of migrants will not help the creation of a better community in Yeoville Bellevue. Instead we should accept their/our presence and learn to coexist as human beings. This is because the presence of migrants is a reality that South Africans cannot wish away. Johannesburg has a very long history of migrancy, starting from the discovery of gold in the Witwatersrand in 1886. It is also worth noting that we are living in a

rapidly changing world where people are increasingly living transnational lives and it is expected that South Africa, with a bigger economy and a relatively stable polity, will attract migrants from other parts of Africa. Migrancy is therefore to be expected in South Africa and the sooner we accept that the better. This is not to say that the state shouldn't regulate the immigration of people into its boundaries; it should and it is doing that, viz. the recent campaign to document Zimbabweans living in the country without approval.

Fourthly, I urge South Africans participating in community forums to continue trying to create a friendly environment in which migrants can contribute to dealing with the problems faced by Yeoville Bellevue without fear. This could be done through avoiding hate speeches against migrants, and rather promoting constructive engagement. There are international migrants who are interested in community issues and are keen to come out of spaces of invisibility and participate in public forums. I therefore strongly urge migrants in Yeoville Bellevue to take responsibility and participate in community building initiatives as much as possible.

Fifthly and lastly, Yeoville Bellevue can be a good example of how South Africans and non-South Africans can coexist. We already have a reasonably good record in that we did not see the massive physical violence against international migrants of 2008. We also have some potentially progressive and inclusive forums such as Ward Public Meetings, CPF public meetings, Sector Crime Forums, Yeoville Stakeholders Forum (YSF), Africa Diaspora Forum (ADF) and NGOs such as YBCDT which are operating to enhance the building of a tolerant community in Yeoville Bellevue.

Nkulumane, Yeoville Bellevue resident

Dear editor
World-wide, there is no country without foreign nationals. Foreign nationals can be immigrants, refugees, businesspeople or embassy representatives, etc.

In term of (migrants) violating and disrespecting the law, rules and regulations, please report to us and other migrant bodies for (attention) and let us work together on law enforcement with Yeoville Police Station as well as other authorities concerned.

Please be aware that (there is) no place like home. For all of us, Africa is our first home and if you don't respect the law, rules and regulations of any state, you must face the consequences. Please love and respect our continent.

In term of meetings, let all attend in big numbers so that we can sort out our problems and make Yeoville Bellevue a better place for all! All together we can achieve more as the power is in our hands. Never give up!

*Mr. M. Moussa Dominique
Chairperson & Chief Advocacy Team:
AYRD and Activist.*

Dear editor

Building social cohesion is vital for our neighbourhood. Obvious Katsaura has made a valuable contribution to the Yeoville Bellevue community by encouraging migrants to participate in the ongoing struggle to avert decay in our neighbourhood.

The foundation for this social cohesion is not, however, strengthened by his line of reasoning that the borders of African countries were made by colonialists and can therefore be ignored.

All borders have histories. Governments consider their borders to be the definition of their spaces agreed by their neighbours. The borders that are in place today are ones which, by agreement, define sovereign states. If the borders are dissolved, then there cannot be nations, or citizens. Division into states, in Africa and elsewhere, is a reality that cannot be wished away by migrants who are seeking to establish an irrefutable claim to permanent residence in South Africa.

A person from one African country cannot go to another country and become a citizen by simply stating: *This country is my home*. That there has always been movement of peoples is not a justification for entering or leaving countries without respecting their laws and formalities.

The Freedom Charter statement - that South Africa belongs to all who live in it - is being misused by Obvious Katsaura.

That statement has been taken out of its historical context and used opportunistically to make a claim that is unsupported by the laws of South Africa. The people being addressed in the Freedom Charter statement were South Africans. The ANC was not speaking to the whole of the African continent.

The Freedom Charter, so valuable and important a part of our development, cannot be adopted by Obvious Katsaura and others to suit the needs of migrants who are desperate because they have no legal standing in our country.

In his desire to combat xenophobic hostility, he has conflated the movement of ancient peoples with the contemporary movement of people of different nationalities leaving their home countries for reasons of work or persecution. Just as one cannot go back to biblical times to seek legitimacy for a modern state, so one cannot justify the movement of migrants

on the basis that in the long distant past, there were movements of man out of Africa to other parts of the world. It is now the 21st century. The entire globe is divided up into nations whose laws pertaining to citizenship and residence must be respected.

But there is one view that will stand up no matter what, and that is that we are all human beings. Together with this goes kindness, tolerance, helpfulness and compassion. Our humanity can express itself in practical and creative ways to foster our neighbourhood and make all who live here feel secure.

Joyce Ozynski

On the robbery at Yeoville Community School

Dear editor

I was shocked to read about the robbery at Yeoville Community School. This is the second time recently we have had a report of goods being stolen and then people in the community buying the stolen items (the first was when someone took off the back lights of the YN editor microbus in broad daylight and allegedly sold them to taxi drivers at one of the local schools). People never question where things come from. Instead they support thieves and robbers by buying stolen items from them.

Remember that we have a library, a recreation centre, schools and other community places with valuable things in them. But we don't seem to care about them. We have worked hard to get some of these things, so please let us be jealous and protect what makes our area special.

If we don't, we will soon have robberies in school yards and our children and teachers will not feel safe. Our area, which is still regarded as a good place to live and has improved, will be badly affected. People, we have street patrollers and we have police. Let's support them and prevent crime in our area.

Hopefully this message will reach business people too, because crime also affects them negatively and they will start thinking of moving out again. I think they should start thinking of coming together in an organization of business people and discussing how they can support the leaders of the area, especially the patrollers who risk their lives to help community members to feel safe to go shopping even late in the evening. So everyone benefits.

Don't forget to report any patrollers or police who are corrupt to the Yeoville Community Policing Forum (YCDF) so that the matter can be taken up to the higher level. Remember, it is time to deliver and we need to work hard - all of us - irrespective of our political affiliation or our nationality. Crime affects us all.

Joseph Setloboko, Regent St

Community Directory

Community-based organisations

- **African Diaspora Forum**
17 Rockey Alley, 24 Rockey St, Yeoville Bellevue
Marc Gbaffou 083 5147367
- **ANC Joe Slovo Branch (Ward 67)**
Sihlwele Myeki 076 5174596
- **Congo Heart of Africa**
Bienvenu Ingila 082 6675969
- **Congress of the People (COPE)**
Nolitha Majola 082 0509464
- **Democratic Alliance (DA) Ward 67 Branch**
Jerry Moseta 079 0694188
- **SA 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 Mathias Folabi Sagbo,** Secretary (Gauteng) 0833033007
- **Observatory Ratepayers Association** Louise Denysschen 011 2746825 secretary@gmail.com
- **Refugee Help Desk** Jean Pierre A Lukamba Om - 083 8751256 refugeesa@gmail.com
- **Union for the Reconstruction of Congo (UREC)** Claude Kabambi 083 4865795 ckabambi@webmail.co.za
- **Urania Village Community Forum** Sector 3 Community Policing Forum 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** George Lebone (chairperson) 079 3894409 Cate Bompas (secretary) 079 6105909
- **Yeoville United Artists** Bongzi 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
- **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 Zarembe 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 claude.nkebi@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:
Basetsana 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
Maurice Smithers 082 3737705 maurice@yeoville.org.za
Thammy Jezile 0730222421 thammy@yeoville.org.za
- **Yeoville Community Clinic**
Kenmere Rd, corner Hopkins St Tel: 011 6487979
- **Yeoville Police Station (SAPS)**
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 Maredi 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**
0860 111381 innercityhotline@joburg.org.za
William Tudikavekewa 011 3768645 083 4612996
- **Joburg Connect**
Tel: 011 3755555 (always ask for reference no.)
joburgconnect@joburg.org.za
- **Toll-Free Presidential Hot-line**
Tel: 17737

City of Joburg Migrant Help Desk

Mondays 9am - 12pm
Office 17, Rockey Alley
24 Rockey St, Yeoville Bellevue
Bringing Joburg services to you!

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yeovue.news@yeoville.org.za

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Yeoville Bellevue Community Development Trust

P O Box 94146, Yeoville, 2143
18 Rockey Alley, 24 Rockey St, Yeoville Bellevue
Tel: 011 4870269 or 082 3737705 or 073 0222421
Fax: 086 5514992 or 086 5514990
ybcdt@yeoville.org.za
www.yeoville.org.za