



Yeovue news

your news your views

Free to all

28 April 2011 Volume 4 No 15



UNHEALTHY Rubbish spread across the road by angry SAMWU workers

What a mess!

Johannesburg has just experienced a strike by Pikitup workers. For nearly two weeks our streets were not cleaned and rubbish was not collected. YEOVUE NEWS looks at some of the related issues.

Residents, business people and visitors to Johannesburg are all relieved that the Pikitup strike is over (temporarily - SAMWU say they are planning a nationwide strike of all municipal workers in the next weeks). Slowly the streets are being cleared of all the rubbish that was put out over the past 15 days.

The right to strike is entrenched in our constitution and must be respected. No-one should therefore argue that SAMWU was wrong to go on strike, especially when some of their concerns were that alleged corruption in Pikitup was not being addressed. However, the strike did create certain problems, some caused by SAMWU and some caused by us, the people of Johannesburg, especially in high-density areas like Yeoville Bellevue.

Many people were aware that there was a strike. It was in the news, people spoke about it on taxis, on buses and in workplaces. Within a couple of days, it was obvious that rubbish that had been put outside was not going to be collected.

Despite this, people continued to put their rubbish out, creating piles and piles of bags - some properly closed, others open - and loose waste that was also picked through by unemployed people looking for things to use or sell.

Then the rains came - and rubbish was washed into the storm water drains, blocking them and causing flooding.

Then SAMWU came - perhaps in frustration with the lack of a settlement, they moved through the inner city, including parts of Yeoville, and threw rubbish that was piled on pavements into the streets. In some places in Hillbrow, it became impossible for vehicles to pass.

And the rains came again.

The trashing of the streets by SAMWU made life difficult, ugly and unhealthy for ordinary citizens, especially for those without vehicles who have to walk.

But we are also responsible for some of the problems. Why do we put our rubbish out (and leave it out) when we know there is a strike? We should rather keep our own rubbish inside our flats and houses until the strike is over or - if we have transport - take it to a municipal dump. There is already a problem of rats and cockroaches in the city - rubbish lying in the street in great piles for two to three weeks would have made the situation even worse.

Perhaps next time we'll do things differently. Maybe we can even begin to think of other waste management solutions like recycling, which will help reduce the amount of waste Pikitup has to remove.

Yeovue News to host political debate

Although elections are open and democratic in South Africa, there are many people who are not properly informed about the election process and about the candidates and parties that are contesting the elections in their area. YEOVUE NEWS aims to change that in Yeoville Bellevue by helping people to get a little more information, a little more knowledge.

In the last issue of Yeovue News, we published information about the elections, about the new ward breakdown, and about the candidate list for the Yeoville Bellevue area. We also included the faces and short manifestos of some of the candidates. This week we include more.

In addition to this, Yeovue News is planning to host a debate between candidates standing in Wards 64, 66, 67 and 73. This is because these three wards all include a portion of Yeoville Bellevue within their boundaries.

The debate - details of which appear elsewhere in this paper - will not require people to explain what they will do for their whole ward if elected, but rather what they will do for the people of Yeoville Bellevue. Each will be presented with three questions to answer. There will also be an opportunity for additional questions, time permitting.

This is not a new thing for Yeoville Bellevue. In 1994, the then Yeoville Residents Association arranged for a debate in the Recreation Centre between all political parties that were standing in the first-ever democratic elections in South Africa. Their aim then - and this is what Yeovue News hopes to achieve as well - was to give people a chance to ask questions about the election process itself and to allow them the opportunity to hear first-hand from each of the candidates what they stood for.

This debate is similar too to the debates taking place on SABC at the moment, debates in which participating representatives speak about their party's policy on a particular issue.

We hope that as many candidates as

possible from the four wards will participate. We also hope that voters will turn out in their numbers to take this opportunity to hear from those who hope to serve the community of Yeoville Bellevue over the next five years.

We call on those who attend to come to the event with respect and restraint. While we hope there will be robust debate with people speaking freely and with commitment - both the candidates and the public - we would not wish the occasion to be marred by antagonism or violence.

We will invite the media to cover the occasion and we will also ask the SAPS to be on duty and to deal with anyone who misbehaves. We hope therefore that the voters of Yeoville Bellevue will be mature and responsible and behave in a way that will make the community of Yeoville Bellevue proud.

Back in the day

While cleaning out his home office during the Easter Weekend, Yeovue News Managing Editor, MAURICE SMITHERS, found some stickers produced by some proud Yeovillites in the 1980s or the 1990s. We take a quick look back.

In the 1980s, Yeoville Bellevue went from being a sleepy city suburb to the most popular cultural destination in Joburg for local people and international visitors. Although it was still very much an apartheid area (85% of the population was white), Rockey Raleigh St was almost a liberated zone, with whites and blacks rubbing shoulders in defiance of the country's laws.

The area became so popular and so meaningful to people living here that someone made stickers celebrating Yeoville and Rockey St.

While times have changed and Yeoville Bellevue and Rockey Raleigh St are today seen very differently, there are still 'real people' living here and many residents will also say they love the area. We are unlikely to become a republic, but we can go back to being the 'greatest village in the city'.

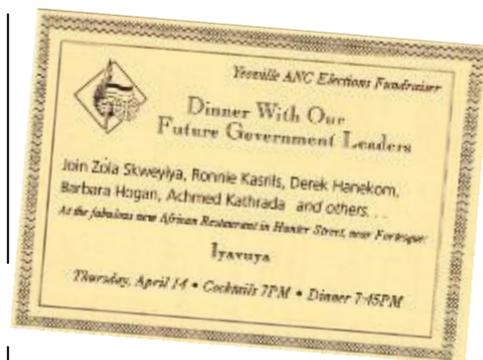


Another piece of history

Another piece of memorabilia is this 1994 invitation to a 'Dinner with our Future Government Leaders' sent out by the then Yeoville ANC Branch. The dinner was being held to raise funds for the ANC in the build-up to the first-ever democratic elections of April 1994 (17 years ago today - Freedom Day - as I write this).

The event took place at Iyavaya Restaurant in Hunter St - in the Olympic Mansions building that is so sadly standing empty and in terrible condition. Iyavaya was a very popular pan-African restaurant which attracted visitors from all over South Africa and the world. It was also known as the place where the 1990s Yeoville rapist worked as a chef.

Also of interest in the invite is the special guests, most of whom were residents of the area at the time. They



did indeed go on to become government leaders, all but Achmed Kathrada who chose not to go into government. But the rest - Zola Skweyiya, Ronnie Kasrils, Derek Hanekom and Barbara Hogan - all served as ministers in government between 1994 and the present. The only one in the list who is still in government is Derek Hanekom.

We yearn for a tolerant and peaceful coexistence of South Africans and migrants

ADF's response to the article entitled "Migrants must be more responsible", as published in Yeovue News, Volume 4 Number 10.

The African Diaspora Forum (ADF) is a federation of migrant associations and individuals (migrants and South Africans) who are willing to share the vision of and contribute to a diverse and more inclusive society. The Forum was officially founded on 26 June 2008 to respond to the xenophobic violence that rocked South Africa in May the same year.

Since then, the ADF has rolled out a programme of action that revolves around crisis management, awareness campaigns, city workshops, education and policing and safety, all predicated on serving the interests of building communities in South Africa that are friendly to migrants. The ADF has a broader mandate to inform and tackle violent manifestations of xenophobia as well its symbolic and cultural manifestations. The definition of xenophobia, as we can find in the Merriam-Webster's Dictionary and Thesaurus, is "the fear or hatred of other people considered to be strangers or foreigners".

In responding to the article in Yeovue News Vol 4 No 10, the ADF is giving a voice to all those migrants, whether belonging to the Forum or not, trying to live in and make a living in South Africa.

We felt it important to do this because the article contains many questionable statements that are only based on personal perception - there is no reference to any scientifically-researched information or data which supports the statements made

by the writer.

We are also responding because we feel that the article contributed to a general feeling of dislike of migrants and non-South African people. This is worrying considering that there are already xenophobic tensions existing in Yeoville Bellevue.

We understand that the Yeovue News (YN) editor was confronted with a dilemma in handling the article in question, as the mandate of the paper includes publishing a diversity of views from the community. But we disagree with the decision to publish this article because we feel that it does not contribute to meaningful and constructive debate in and about our neighbourhood. We believe, in fact, that publishing this article runs counter to the mandate YN has executed beautifully so far: building a united Yeoville Bellevue community, creating a space where all of us, all people from Yeoville Bellevue, can build a common future, learn to live and make our lives better, together.

As ADF, it is our view that the **Us** and **Them** attitude dominating the article in question, as well as the very common misperceptions concerning migrants contained in it, do not profit the South African community. They undermine the spirit of coexistence and are against the principle of a rainbow nation that is supposed to bind South Africa together, irrespective of people's colour, creed,



gender, origins or any other social category.

The vision that ADF is willing to promote does not belong to migrants only, but it is shared among South Africans as well, and it is nicely summarised by the words of Nelson Mandela when he says: *“Never, never and never again shall it be that this beautiful land will again experience the oppression of one by another”*.

One of the most sensitive issues raised in the article is that migrants are not participating in community initiatives such as summits and forums.

First of all, this is an incorrect view. While they may not be there in great numbers, migrants are almost always represented in public meetings and forums such as the YSF and in community policing forum and sector meetings.

Secondly, if migrants do not attend in large numbers, do we understand why? For instance are the commonly-used means of inviting people to the meetings effective in reaching people? This is an important question, given that most meetings are poorly attended, even by South Africans. So why have the methods of advertising and promoting meetings never evolved to more successful ones, ones that will ensure that more people, migrants included, attend?

Lastly, is there any real evidence that migrants are not interested in attending meetings or are the organisers themselves not really interested in getting migrants to their meetings? Take for example the use of language. In many meetings, official ones included, the languages used are not the internationally-shared ones, and as such are not understood by the majority of migrants. South Africans could do more to embrace non-South Africans by consistently using a shared language such as English (using translation where appropriate) and avoiding the use of offensive terms and hate speech. Only then will these forums be friendlier to migrants.

Having said that, it must be noted that we **are** encouraging migrants to learn local languages as much as they can to ease their integration into South African

society, and it would be a very positive step to have volunteers to teach migrants the local languages, as many countries in Europe are currently doing.

There are also migrants who have an immense interest in community activities and forums, but are not accorded the opportunity to participate because their employers do not allow time off to attend community meetings that happen during working hours.

There are also those migrants who attend community forums, but rarely vocalise their thoughts because of a fear of being publicly disdained. In fact, we would argue that the majority of interested migrants choose not to attend because in most cases they simply feel unwelcome.

So we, as ADF, appeal to migrants to come out in numbers and be more involved in community initiatives. And we urge South Africans convening and participating in these forums to embrace them as much as possible.

ADF initiates awareness campaigns, city workshops and other activities to foster the integration of migrants into South African society. One memorable community workshop in Yeoville Bellevue was carried out jointly with the Yeoville Stakeholders Forum (YSF) on 22 November 2008 under the theme “Living together”. During this workshop, South Africans and non-South Africans shared their experiences of migration and dialogued on the theme of coexistence. Important activities in which the ADF is involved are celebrations of important days such as Human Rights Day and Africa Week. IN Africa Week, The ADF, YBCDT and YSF promote programmes of cultural events which bring people together with the purpose of nurturing the spirit of “Ubuntu”.

In conclusion, we would like to remind the community as a whole that Johannesburg itself has always been a cosmopolitan city. There are many pictures of Johannesburg’s initial population showing very different ethnic groups, arriving from all over the world. These very same people have never been sustained by the South African government per se. On the contrary, they have contributed to South Africa (and Johannesburg in particular) by paying taxes, and by bringing in an extraordinary variety of trades, food, music, culture and history that makes Johannesburg so interesting and appealing, and, in the language of the City of Johannesburg, “a world class city”.

Editor’s note: it is important to point out that the article in Vol 4 No 10 was itself in response to a previous article. It was published in the interests of further debate. Yeovue News does not necessarily subscribe fully to the views of the ADF or the other contributors to this debate.

Vivre a l’etranger

Médard Abenge Yega, Candidat en Maîtrise: Traductologie et Interprétariat (Wits), Directeur des Relations Publiques African Diaspora Forum (ADF)

Beaucoup d’immigrants se souviendront qu’ils ne sont pas les premiers à vivre loin de leur pays natal ou d’origine. Nous lisons tous dans la Bible qu’Abraham avait reçu l’instruction Divine d’aller s’installer hors de son territoire ancestral et là, il y avait été abondamment béni.

D’aucuns n’ignorent qu’il est pratiquement pénible et douloureux de résider dans un pays où l’on a presque pas de racines socioculturelles. Un adage populaire le souligne en ces termes : « On est mieux que chez soi (There is no place like home) »

Alors qu’est-ce qu’il faut faire lorsqu’on a eu ce défi de vivre à l’étranger ? Ma réponse à cette question est très simple : (1) *il faut apprendre*, (2) *il faut s’intégrer*, (3) *il faut se rendre utile au pays hôte*. Je vais brièvement élaborer sur ces trois stratégies. On apprend la langue, la culture (les us et les coutumes), les normes et les lois qui régissent le pays hôte. On s’intègre par l’interaction avec le peuple local. On se rend utile en contribuant aux besoins de la communauté d’accueil.

Lorsqu’on échoue d’être membre à part entier dans le pays d’accueil, on finit souvent par créer de sous-Etats dans un autre territoire ; c’est pourquoi vous avez en France un Quartier Rouge, en France du Sud des Quartiers de Haut Risque (Hillbrow, Berea, Yeoville). C’est généralement des quartiers dont les autochtones se méfient parce que là vivent des gens qu’ils comprennent très peu les langues, les manières, les cultures et le *modus vivendi* en général.

Il est ainsi impérieux à tous les étrangers qui vivent non seulement ici en Afrique du Sud, mais aussi dans d’autres coins du monde de revoir leur façon de vivre avec les peuples de leurs pays de résidence. Dans l’histoire des migrations, aucun(e) étranger(ère) n’a été, de prime à bord, accepté(e) le jour, le mois ou l’année même de son installation dans un autre pays. Emigrer dans un autre pays n’est jamais un fait, mais plutôt un processus. Essayons donc d’apprendre, de nous intégrer et de nous rendre utile pour nous sentir chez nous hors de notre territoire natal.

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

Community Directory

Community-based organisations

- **African Diaspora Forum** 17 Rocky Alley, 24 Rocky St, Yeoville Bellevue - Marc Gbaffou 083 5147367
- **ANC Joe Slovo Branch (Ward 67)** Sihlewe 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** Johannesburg 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 17 Rocky Alley, 24 Rocky St, Bellevue 083 8751256 refugeesa@gmail.com
- **Union for the Reconstruction of Congo (UREC)** Claude Kabambi 083 4865795 clkabambi@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** 17 Rocky Alley, 24 Rocky St, Bellevue 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 Rocky 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 Zaremba 072 1416411
- **Lesbian and Gay Equality Project** Phumi Mletwa 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 School** 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 Rocky Alley, 24 Rocky 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

Classifieds

Get rid of cockroaches & bed bugs

Fumigation without a smell. Non-poisonous to humans and animals. Six months guarantee. Phone **Timothy** on **083 6712359**

Appliance repairs

Fridges (all types); washing machines, CCTV cameras, microwaves; cold rooms; ice cream machines. We also do plumbing repairs. Call **Dumie** (technician) on **0799071046** or **0748449970**

Community notices

Launch

Yeoville Library

The City of Johannesburg is proud to announce the official opening of the new Yeoville Library by the Executive Mayor Amos Masondo.

Saturday 7 May 2011

Official opening: 10am

Community activities: 11.15am (including poetry, story-telling, music)

Yeoville Library, Raleigh St (opp. the Recreation Centre)

All welcome

Pre-election debate

Hosted by Yeovue News

Main Hall, Yeoville Recreation Centre
Saturday 14 May 2011
2pm - 5pm

All political parties standing in Wards 64, 66, 67 and 73 are invited to participate. All residents and business people in Yeoville Bellevue are invited to attend.

Hosted by Yeovue News to promote democracy and public participation

Contact us on 011 4870269 or 082 3737705 or yeovue.news@yeoville.org.za

Yeoville
33 Rocky Street
Rockey Corner
Cnr Rocky & Bezuidenhout Sts
Yeoville Bellevue
Tel: 011 6486448
Fax: 011 6486408
ccy@telkomsa.net
www.cashcrusaders.co.za

YOU CALL WE COLLECT
For larger multiple item deals, our team will collect directly from your house.

SANDWICH MAKER \$89⁹⁵
17 Month Guarantee

1.7L STAINLESS STEEL CORELESS KETTLE \$129⁹⁵
12 Month Guarantee

BEVER \$124⁹⁵
12 Month Guarantee

BEVER \$1599⁹⁵
12 Month Guarantee

SANCHEZ \$429⁹⁵
38" CLASSICAL GUITAR