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Yeovue news

Free to all

your news your views
5 May 2011 Volume 4 No 16

Looking for your vote

On 18 May, 14 political organisations and four independent candidates will be hoping that you vote for them. Who are they, what are they saying they will do for you and what have they done for you over the past five years? YEOVUE NEWS investigates.

Yeoville Bellevue is yellow - with a bit of black and green as well. At least that's the impression you get when you move around the area and see what political posters are up.

The yellow - some say gold - is the ANC posters which are distributed all over Yeoville Bellevue, swamping those of the DA, COPE and IFP. (COPE is also yellow, with red and black, but they only have a few posters up.)

So how many parties are contesting the election in Yeoville Bellevue, ie in Ward 64, 66, 67 and 73? 14 different political organisations and four independents.

However, judging by the numbers of posters, the contest looks like a race between the ANC and the DA, with COPE coming up behind and the IFP a distant fourth.

There are posters (I saw two) for one of the independent candidates. But there is absolutely no sign of the rest.

However, one should not judge the potential of parties to win simply by the number of posters they have up. They could be reaching people through other means.



The fact is that there are only three parties that have any presence in the area - these are the ANC, the DA and COPE. Each of them has a structure, each has a Yeoville Bellevue representative, each is listed in the Yeovue News.

The other 11 do not, as far as we are aware, have any sort of structure or presence in the area at all. In fact, it makes you wonder why they are

contesting the elections here at all. After all, there is a cost attached to standing. The more wards you stand in, the higher the cost to your organisation. And their chance of winning is - to put it bluntly - zero. But when you come to the voting station on 18 May, how will you decide who to vote for? Will you vote for a

particular party because you are a member of that party and you have a fierce loyalty to it? Will you vote for a particular party because your family has always voted for that party and you are not planning to change the tradition?

Perhaps you are voting for a party that you believe has a good and important track record, in some cases its national track record, in other cases its record at local level. Maybe your choice will be based on the racial composition of the party?

Some people will read all the manifestos of all the parties and will choose the party that they feel has the best policies and programmes.

Which, if any, of the various parties has done something meaningful in Yeoville Bellevue that has helped to improve your life?

Will you vote for a party just because you know it's going to win anyway, and you don't want to 'waste' your vote on

someone or a party that can't possibly win.

Let's look at the posters again and see if there is anything there to help persuade you. As indicated previously, the ANC dominates with the largest number of posters, the DA coming second with COPE close behind, and then it's the IFP with a few posters dotted around.



Yeovue News was disappointed to note that two political parties had decided to ignore bylaws and paste posters directly on walls. One party has no street pole posters, only those stuck illegally on walls. The other party has pole posters as well. Does this mean these two parties think bylaws are not important? We hope not!

The ANC has two types of posters - one type has a general message, with a picture of the president or a picture of some example of service delivery taking place, the other type is specifically promoting the candidate in the ward.

The general posters have the ANC's election slogan - "Together we can build better communities." This is a good, clear, bold message. What will it mean? Well, that we will have to see in practise. We would like to believe that it means that everyone in the ward or area,



African Christian Alliance
African Christian Democratic Party
African National Congress
African People's Convention
Azanian People's Organisation
Christian Democratic Party
Congress of the People
Democratic Alliance
Freedom Front Plus
Independent x 4
Inkatha Freedom Party
National Freedom Party
Pan Africanist Congress of Azania
SA Progressive Civic Organisation
United Democratic Movement

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

regardless of political affiliation (if any), should work together to build a better community.

The ANC has two types of candidate posters. One has a similar message encouraging people to work together, the other simply have the candidate's name and picture and calls on people to vote ANC. Those without a message are not as powerful as those that give the voters some idea of what the party stands for. (There is a slogan that appears with the ANC logo - "A better life for all". But this is not the major 2011 message - it has been used for some time.)

The SACP also has a few posters up in support of the ANC, calling for "People-driven local development". COSATU has no posters, but in a weekend article, general secretary Zwelinzima Vavi is quoted as calling on workers "to vote



claim to be reliable.

The IFP slogan seems to be "It's about you!". But you wouldn't know that from the posters in Yeoville Bellevue, because they just say "Vote IFP".

The slogan seems a good one - after all, local government is supposed to be about changing people's lives for the better - directly, not indirectly as is usually the case with provincial and national government. But if you are not there, on the ground, working with the people that you want to vote for you, then the message does not mean anything.

The slogan the UDM has decided on is "Back to basics. Towards a winning nation" and one of their posters has building blocks with each block reflecting one of the 'basics' we need to work on to if we are to develop the country.

But we found that on their website. They have no posters in Yeoville Bellevue as yet, so most people don't know what their election message is.

The only other poster we have seen is that for one of the Independents. Her message: "Turn around Joburg. We want change now!"

Once again, the idea of change. What change and how is it to happen? She is not saying, at least not on her posters.

The other independents have no posters yet, but in Yeovue News they said that local government must not be about politicians, but about the people. They would like political parties to put aside party interests and serve the community, regardless of their party affiliation.

At the end of the day, you will be alone with your ballot papers on election day, You will have to make your mark. No-one will be there to help you or to advise you.

Don't waste your vote. Use it wisely. Use the next two weeks to find out about the candidates. Ask questions. Demand answers. It's your right.

ANC ... and hold this people's government to account". Both calls will appeal to voters - but will they translate into reality? The DA has its general posters too. There is the one with the



three leading women of the organisation. This one simply says "Vote DA" - these posters appear in different languages. There is the other general one which has the logo of the party and their message which is: "We deliver for all!"

This too is a strong message, especially given the service delivery protests around the country. But there are some who doubt this slogan and others who argue that the DA does not care about poor people, that they only deliver to the better-off. Such a slogan needs supporting evidence, which is why the DA focuses on places where it is in control such as Cape Town and Midvaal. Do voters believe their slogan? The election results will tell.

COPE has a message on its posters: "Your partner for real change! Reliable. Incorruptible. Accountable."

This too sounds strong, though it is not clear what sort of change is real. Perhaps it's a change from what they believe is a situation where there is corruption and lack of reliability and accountability?

Will voters buy into this message? COPE does have a credibility problem to overcome, given the very public divisions they have experienced. As a result, some voters will wonder whether COPE can

Another election candidate



Ward 64
ANC
Matsemela Phineas Madisha
082 5371564
iketle.matsemela@yahoo.com

If I get elected in the ward, the first thing I will do is to start a Know Your Councillor Campaign, visiting all stakeholders so that they can be part all activities and decisions in the ward. Setting up the Ward Committee is also important and I will make sure it represents the broad community, including people from other parties. I also want to educate people about bylaws - lack of enforcement is a big problem in our area. Finally, I strongly believe that the formation of cooperatives will ease unemployment levels in our ward.

Shoprite improves the Yeoville Bellevue environment

Shoprite and its predecessors - OK Bazaars and Checkers - have been in Yeoville Bellevue for a long time. They are part of our community. It is therefore good to see that they are taking an interest in the community and responding to issues raised by the community.

For years now, community members have used the Shoprite wall in Bedford Rd to advertise for places to stay. Shoprite could have chased people away and stopped them using the wall. Instead, they have mounted a large community board on the wall for people to use for their adverts.

At the back of Shoprite, there has been a problem with the dirtiness and untidiness, some caused by homeless people. Shoprite first laid down razor wire on the ground, which did not look good.

They have now erected a fence along the back of the building, which should help to the keep the area under control.

We commend Shoprite for their efforts and encourage them to continue helping Yeoville Bellevue to be a clean, safe and caring community.



The improved back of Shoprite. Two issues: the razor wire still looks ugly - and where do people walk?



The old and the new - community communication

Pre-election debate

Hosted by Yeovue News
In association with Yeoville Stakeholders Forum

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 & YSF to promote democracy and public participation

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

Helping people to do the right thing

Yeoville Bellevue is known as a place where 'anything goes'. It seems it is possible to do things here that cannot be done elsewhere. This may sound like good thing, but unfortunately a lot of the things people do are not legal.

Many people coming to Joburg from other parts of South Africa and from other countries live in Yeoville Bellevue. This is partly because they know friends and family here. But it is also because people can do things here that they cannot do in other suburbs of Joburg.

This includes finding a cheap place to live, making money in the informal sector, opening a spaza shop, selling liquor, fixing cars, buying property and renting out to a lot of tenants, and so on.

The problem is that many of the things that are done on a daily basis by people in Yeoville Bellevue are against one or other law - either City of Joburg by-laws, or provincial or national laws, some of which are laws preventing criminal activities.

Every day the following unlawful activities take place in Yeoville Bellevue:

1. Running spaza shops without approval
2. Selling liquor without a license
3. Washing cars in the street
4. Fixing cars in the street
5. Running businesses in properties zoned for residential
6. Drinking in public
7. ID fraud
8. Selling dagga and other drugs
9. Using dagga and other drugs
10. Gambling in public
11. Selling liquor to underage children
12. Hijacking of buildings
13. Selling of stolen goods
14. Buying of stolen goods
15. Contravention of health by-laws
16. Selling of smuggled cigarettes
17. Selling loose cigarettes
18. Parking on pavements
19. Parking diagonally in parallel parking bays
20. Double parking
21. Selling on the streets
22. Selling on street corners
23. Making fires in public spaces
24. Selling liquor after 2am
25. Loud and disturbing noise from shops, liquor outlets, churches etc
26. Illegal electrical connections
27. Illegal water connections
28. Selling pirated CDs and DVDs
29. Running a hair salon on the street
30. Operating food outlets that do not comply with health regulations
31. Not complying with the conditions of a liquor license
32. Running unauthorised crèches

33. Running unregistered schools
34. Keeping and selling live chickens in an urban area
35. Urinating in public
36. Overcrowding properties
37. Illegal building operations
38. Breaking of heritage laws
39. Noisy dogs
40. Illegal use of parking garages in flats for car repair activities
41. Illegal receipt of stolen metal, including electrical cables
42. Speeding along streets, putting pedestrians and others at risk
43. Not paying municipal accounts
44. Allowing waste water from your property to run out into the street
45. Putting rubbish out on the wrong day and in plastic bags instead of a dustbin
46. Using litter bins in the street for domestic rubbish
47. Dumping
48. Sticking up posters on walls
49. Hanging washing on balconies of flats
50. Parking overnight on the forecourt of petrol stations

Why do people do these things? Is it because they are criminals? Because they have no respect for the law? Is it because they don't care about other people? Or because they don't know they are doing wrong, but are just doing what they see other people doing? Is it because they know they won't get caught or punished?

The reasons are different for different people. But probably the main reason is that most people do not know what the laws are - because no-one is telling them what the laws are. Also, if they break the law, no-one is telling them they are breaking the law and no-one is punishing them for doing so.

Yeovue News would like to suggest that organisations and institutions in Yeoville Bellevue begin to take responsibility for helping to educate people about by-laws and regulations.

Organisations can tell their members, priests can tell their congregations, schools can tell their children, cultural and ethnic groups can tell their affiliates. This should be done by South African groups and by organisations representing migrants.

It is very difficult for government or the local councillor to reach everyone with information. It is much easier for organisations which regularly meet with their members.

Yeovue News is happy to assist any organisation or institution to get hold of information about bylaws and regulations which they can use to advise their members.

If all organisations helped with this, it would be much easier to build a safe, clean and caring community. It would be possible to develop the area more easily and to attract investors.

Most people want to obey the law. They want their children to grow up respecting the law. Let's work together to educate our community and to change the way people behave.

Let's build trust between the different peoples who live in Yeoville Bellevue. It doesn't matter where we come from - what matters is how we live together here.

We look forward to working with you in building a better, more caring community.

Letters to the editor

Dear Editor

Re your article "What a mess" I find your suggestions quite silly. I am a homeowner and EXACTLY because of rats and roaches, I insist the rubbish be bagged and put outside.

Who on earth can live with ALL that trash in your face? Not me, that's for sure. Rather suggest to the local council to employ private collectors when there is a strike. Anyway, there is NO space for weeks of trash.

Alex Furnsinn (Lifetime Citizen)

Editor replies: *Well, Alex, I live in Yeoville Bellevue on a property which has a shifting population of between seven and nine people and we had no need to put our rubbish out throughout the strike. Maybe this is because we separate our waste for recycling. (By the way, we in Yeoville Bellevue are not supposed to put bagged rubbish on the streets. We are only supposed to use the wheelie bins).*

On your suggestion of using private collectors, council did exactly that in some areas. However, there are allegations that these private collectors were attacked by strikers. It is also possible that the reason that the workers trashed the streets was that they had heard council announcing the day before that it intended to use private collectors in some areas - striking workers don't like 'scab' labour.

No, I'm afraid there are no easy solutions. But I remain of the view that it would be better to keep rubbish in our yards. At least if a bag is securely tied in your yard, it is not going to get broken into, as would happen to one in the street, either by dogs or pickers' (people who look for useful items in other people's rubbish). And the rats and cockroaches in the bags in the street are going to find their way into your house anyway.

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

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
- **Nigerian 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 Tammy Jezile 0730222421 tammy@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

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**At BELLEVUE PHARMACY, Shop 63a
Raleigh Street, Yeoville 073 859 7598**

Community notices

Calling all dealers in African crafts

Do you sell African crafts? The Yeoville Bellevue Community Development Trust (YBCDT) would like to work with African craft dealers on ways of getting buyers to come to Yeoville Bellevue to trade, not only to places like Rosebank. Interested people should contact us using the contact details listed in the box below.

Yeovue News

yeovue.news@yeoville.org.za

Published by

Yeoville Bellevue

Community Development Trust

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