



Yeovue news

your news your views

Free to all

30 June 2011 Volume 4 No 24

Joburg: caring about its citizens

The City of Johannesburg held a Mens' Health event at Park Station on 24 June. MNCEDISI NTULI reports.

Early on a cold Friday morning, the City of Joburg Health Department, together with stakeholders Khula Ndoda, Anova Health Institute, Health 4 Men, Soweto HIV AIDS Counselling (SOHACA), Sonke Gender Justice, Wits Reproductive Health and Lifeline, were at Park Station to promote men's health. There were displays by the different NGOs and a desk where men gave blood to be tested for medical factors related to hypertension. Also available was an HIV mobile testing centre (which even young women were using to test their status).

The main aim was to show men the importance of looking after their health. This includes having regular checkups to see if they have any medical problems.

The event was a success, thanks to the efforts of the people from the CoJ Health Department and the NGO representatives, all of whom arrived very early to catch the morning commuters on their way to work.

Sylvester works for Khula Ndoda, a Gauteng Provincial Government initiative that offers free circumcision for people between the ages of 12 and 60 years old. Khula Ndoda is based at Chris Hani Baragwanath Hospital. He said that if someone wanted a circumcision, the only thing they had to do was make an

appointment. It is strongly believed that circumcision helps in the fight to reduce the spread of HIV. He said their target is to do at least 66 people every day.

SOHACA's director Oscar explained the role they play in helping men stay healthy and knowledgeable. He said most men are scared to go to local clinics and talk about their sexual health, so they have opened a men's clinic called Men 4 Health together with Anova Health Institute.

SOHACA also provides counselling for members of the LGBTI (Lesbians, Gays, Bisexuals, Transgender and Intersex people) community, as they still experience discrimination when they go to public health clinics. This service is based in Orlando West in Soweto.

Oscar is also Anova Health's Senior Medical Manager for Johannesburg and Pretoria. He said Anova's role is to support the City of Joburg with medical training and advice on ARV distribution.

Some contact details:

Khula Ndoda - 011 9330409 or 082 5765952

Anova Health Institute - 011 7155800 or www.anovahealth.co.za

Health 4 Men (for gay men) - 011 9899756/9865

CoJ Health - Lesego Lala 011 6818016 or 074 1139416



Men crowd around one of the display tables at the Men's Health information event held at Park Station which was organised by the Health Department of the City of Johannesburg.

Photo: Mncedisi Ntuli

Correction

Telkom land issue

Plans are still underway to try and get the old Telkom land for possible use as an additional Market.

YEOVUE NEWS gives an update.

In last week's issue of Yeovue News, we reported that the planned auction of the Telkom land in Raleigh St (between Bedford and Kenmere) has been cancelled (*"We spoke - and we have been heard"*, 23 June 2011).

Yeovue News was told by the auction house that the auction was stopped because 'the land might be donated to the community'.

However, Telkom says they did not stop the auction because of the appeal by the community of Yeoville Bellevue. They stopped it because they wanted to clear the site before they the auction.

We apologise to Telkom if our article was incorrect or caused any confusion. We only reported what we were told.

In the meantime, people continue to write in to Yeovue News to say what they think about the Telkom land. Here are some of your comments:

Hi, my name is Dimi Okandza. I like the idea of a new market in that old Telkom place. *I agree to a second market in Yeoville. From Sotamah.*

I support the building being used for small business, and I think it is really worth exploring small workshops and micro manufacturing like furniture, clothing, leather, metal working, TV repair etc rather than just trading. Such businesses could more likely grow and create jobs etc especially if it was a kind of business incubator with training and business support. Karl von Holdt

There are so many self-sufficient people in Yeoville Bellevue and not enough facilities, so its a step in the right direction. Anon.

Why not use the space for a new police station? Klaus

It is a good idea to use the Telkom site as a market. The community will get jobs developing the site and street traders will get shelters to hide themselves from rain, cold and Metro police. Chris N M Mphakathi

I like the idea of a market. Less people on the street selling (I really hope so) and so less chance of being robbed by thugs when it is crowded. JC Bothma

Invitation to a language campaign

Joburg is a cosmopolitan city that reflects a myriad of communities, languages, cultures and nationalities. The policy of the City of Johannesburg (CoJ) on the integration of migrants into South African society is based on the idea that the process of integration is as a two-way process that involves both new arrivals and local people.

New arrivals need to make a genuine effort to integrate, which amongst other things entails learning South African languages, understanding the socio-cultural context of the host city, and respecting and complying with legislative requirements and the norms and standards of the community in which they live.

Locals need to make a genuine effort to welcome newcomers and to get to know and understand their cultures and histories, perhaps learning their languages as well. Locals also need to understand their own city and to respect and comply with the law and with community norms and standards. In so doing, they can help newcomers to understand our city more and to integrate more easily.

The CoJ aims to provide newcomers with the basic tools that they need to find their place in South African society. This includes training opportunities in local languages, a basic knowledge of Joburg, civic training (understanding bylaws and how Joburg works) and other tools that will prepare them for full participation in South African society in Joburg. In order to inform the community about the establishment of the Language Centre, there will be a Language Awareness Campaign. See below for the details of when and where it will happen.

DATE: THURSDAY 7 JULY 2011

VENUE: YEOVILLE RECREATION CENTRE, RALEIGH ST

TIME: 10am to 12pm

COME ONE COME ALL, YOUR OPINION IS MOST VALUABLE!!!



The YBCDT was nominated for a JDA Halala Award this month. We did not win, but it was an honour to be nominated. Attending the ceremony from Yeoville Bellevue were (back from left): Simphiwe Naki, Rita Thamae and Maurice Smithers; (front from left): Thammy Jezile and Mbuyiseni Khoza.

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Yeovue News

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Editorial

The Telkom land issue continues to dominate our publication. We hope that, together with the City of Joburg and other partners, we can find a solution.

Yeovue News welcomes the initiative by the CoJ to encourage social cohesion through their 'language campaign' (see above). But 'civic training' is also necessary for South Africans. Many South Africans in Joburg come from other cities, towns and rural areas. They also need to understand 'how Joburg works', the bylaws of the city, and their own rights and responsibilities. If all of us, South Africans and migrants, know and understand these things, we can build a better, safer more caring community.

Talking about our future

There are many challenges facing the community of Yeoville Bellevue. But are we, as the community of Yeoville Bellevue, thinking about solutions?

The YBCDT and Yeovue News will be hosting discussion groups every month on key issues facing our community. We will have speakers from the community, from the City of Johannesburg, from universities, NGOs and the private sector.

It is time to stop coming to meetings to complain. We need to understand what is happening and we need to talk about solutions.

All are welcome. Watch Yeovue News for details. You can also send an email to ybcdt@yeoville.org.za and we will put you on our mailing list.

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