

Working with you, for you

Vorna Valley Residents Association

Newsletter



January 2020

VVRA Committee

- Marianne Nel - Chairperson
- Paul Veltman - Secretary, Infrastructure
- Hein de Kock - Treasurer, Infrastructure
- Mark Straw - Illegal Signs/Greens
- Varushka Singh - Liaison

Facebook Twitter Email Website



Whatsapp your details and email address to 082-460-8662 to join the VVRA council issues

Contact details for Sector 2:
Sector Commander - Sergeant Benji 079 877 6504 (Office Hours)
Sector 2 Vehicle 071 675 6110 (24/7)
Areas: Vorna Valley, Waterfall Park, Carlswald, Halfway Gardens, Kyalami Hills.



VICTIM EMPOWERMENT
076 445 2451

The Victim Empowerment Centre comprises of volunteer counsellors who assist victims with debriefing and trauma counselling. If you need counselling after a traumatic violent crime, please contact the VEC on 076 445 2451 to set up an appointment. All counselling is confidential and no charge!



Swiss Country Club
JOHANNESBURG

We would like to let residents know that the **The Courier Restaurant** at the Swiss Country Club on Moerdyk Street is not just for members. Anyone can go there for a good meal. They support the VVRA and it would be wonderful if residents supported them.

Email: courier@hot.co.za
Cell: 082 561 0063 (Wolfgang)



HEAVEN'S KITCHEN
FOOD SO GOOD... IT'S TOUCHED BY AN ANGEL

Contents

Dear Vorna Valley Residents 1

Council Issues 2

Council Issues cont. 3

Advertisements 4

Advertisement Pricing 5

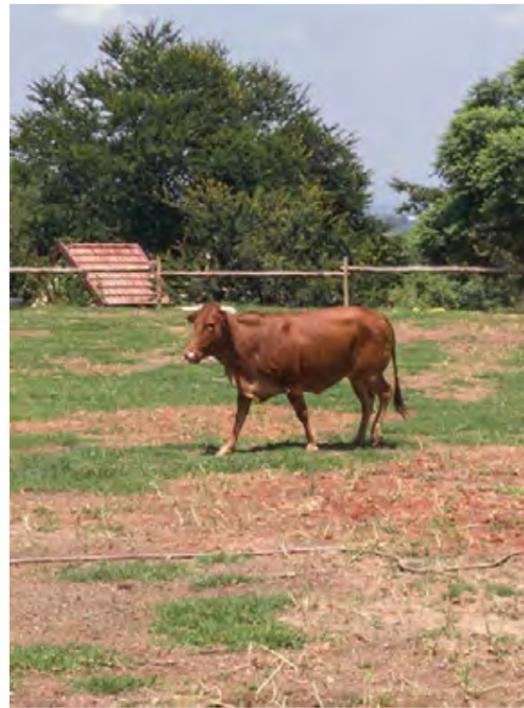
Recycling 6

Pikitup broken or stolen bins 6

What happened in Vorna Valley 7

Safety tips from the police: 8

Invasive Plants and Trees 9



The mystery of the Brown Cow in Vorna Valley.
Read more on page 7.

Dear Vorna Valley Residents

We hope that you all had a relaxing festive season, and wish you a Happy New Year, may it be a good year for everyone.

We have had a lot of rain for December and January, and our river flooded several times, and the heavy rains caused some trees to fall over.

Load shedding commenced again in January 2020, but now seems to be on hold.

Our roads are full of potholes so please report them to JRA. JRA has start fixing many of them already.

Burst water pipes where also experienced, leaving residents without water for prolonged periods and sewerage flowing into storm water drains, which all ends up in our river in the vlel.

Blocked sewerage has been ongoing in Vorna Valley and surrounding areas. Residents need to remember that sometimes blockages can be attributed to improper disposal of personal items, such as diapers, feminine hygiene products, grease and

fat from cooking, towels, rags, etc. into the sewer system. Everything you flush down your toilet, ends up at the treatment works (though, not in its original form).

Joburg Water's sewer system is not designed to collect garbage. Human waste and toilet tissue are the only products the wastewater system was designed to handle.

Please ensure that you do not flush the following items in your toilet:

Nappies, Food, Garbage, Hair, Personal hygiene products, Toys, Paper towels, Toothbrushes, Baby/



Cleaning wipes,

With everyone's help Joburg Water can limit the number of sewer overflows due to blockages in the system thereby eliminating the need for costly clean-ups and possible contamination of our rivers/dams and endangerment of public health.

Parts of Vorna Valley were plagued by power outages due to trips or faulty cables. The highveld lightning storms did quite a bit of damage with several direct hits.

This truck is used to unblock severely blocked sewerage lines.



Harcourts

Here we are.
With you all the way.

Wendy Redl

Property Specialist
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harcourtsmidrand.co.za

Harcourts Midrand

TFT House Challenger Avenue, International Business Gateway, New Road, Midrand, 1685




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Council Issues

The past several month, residents have had to put up with non collection or partial collections of waste by Pikitup. Workers go on strike, truck break down, the landfill site is too muddy to off load, etc.

AMABHUNGANE (<https://amabhungane.org/>)

Firm that won R1bn Joburg fleet contract paid Malema-EFF 'slush fund'

By amaBhungane • 29 November 2018 Julius
(Click to read the full article)

Fleet company that paid Malema fails to deliver on Joburg contract

It's a year since amaBhungane exposed how fleet company Afrirent funnelled money into a Malema-EFF slush fund – as it scored a R1.3bn City of Joburg contract. Now Afrirent is way behind delivering on that contract.

02 December 2019 - Micah Reddy, Stefaans Brümmer and Sam Sole
(Click to read the full article)



City Power contractors working on replacing a power cable on le Roux/Berger, hit the water pipe leaving many residents without water.

In May 2018 we had a major water pipe burst and JWater had to lift the big concrete slab to access the pipe to repair it. This has still not been repaired and we are noticing that the integrity of the bridge is being compromised.

Before and after this we have had many water pipe bursts and requested that JWater replaces this stretch of pipe from Pretorius to Albertyn. The paper work and EIA was done and this was supposed to happen last year but we are still waiting. (le Roux near Berger bridge). This was ear marked as an "Emergency Water Pipe Replacement project in April 2019.



Thank you to Joe of City Parks for always responding quickly, no matter what time of day or night, when a tree has fallen over.

Joe also responded quickly when a local resident allegedly used a City Parks truck and equipment to have trees inside his property cut and removed. City Parks is only responsible for pavement and council property.



Open or broken power boxes is still on going. Residents sent details of boxes that are open or broken and the VVRA did a drive around, and a list was sent to City Power so that they could start fixing or closing them.



A contractor is going street by street to fix all these problematic boxes.

We ask residents to keep reporting problematic boxes and hopefully it will be resolved.

0835783511

WHAT IS YOUR HOME WORTH?

PLATINUM residential

0836518888

Council Issues cont.



With the onset of our summer rains, potholes appeared all over our suburb. Sadly, the bitumen factory and JRA closed, leaving residents to fight their way around potholes.

Some residents took the initiative to warn motorists where a large pothole was on Harry Galaun as several motorists had already damaged their tyres.

Thankfully the Bitumen factory opened on Monday, 13 Jan 2020 and Vusi of JRA sent out the repair team as soon as possible., but some roads have still not been fixed.

With all the heavy rains, our roads and river flooded and the storm water drains, of which most are blocked, could not cope.



This is what Harry Galaun/Elias looked like, with the storm water drain not coping. (taken from video footage a resident posted) One can't help but wonder if the new development on Elias has something to do with this.



This is what le Roux looked like on the same day. (taken from video footage a resident posted).



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Happy New Year 2020



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Please contact info@vvra.co.za

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Small Ad : R50/month

Small Ad : R85/month



Recycling

A reminder that recycling is compulsory. Phambili Services collect recycling in Vorna Valley on behalf of Pikitup, every Wednesday.

If you are not yet recycling with Phambili, please contact marianne@phambiliservices.co.za via email or via whatsapp on 082 460 8662 so that we can make the necessary arrangements.

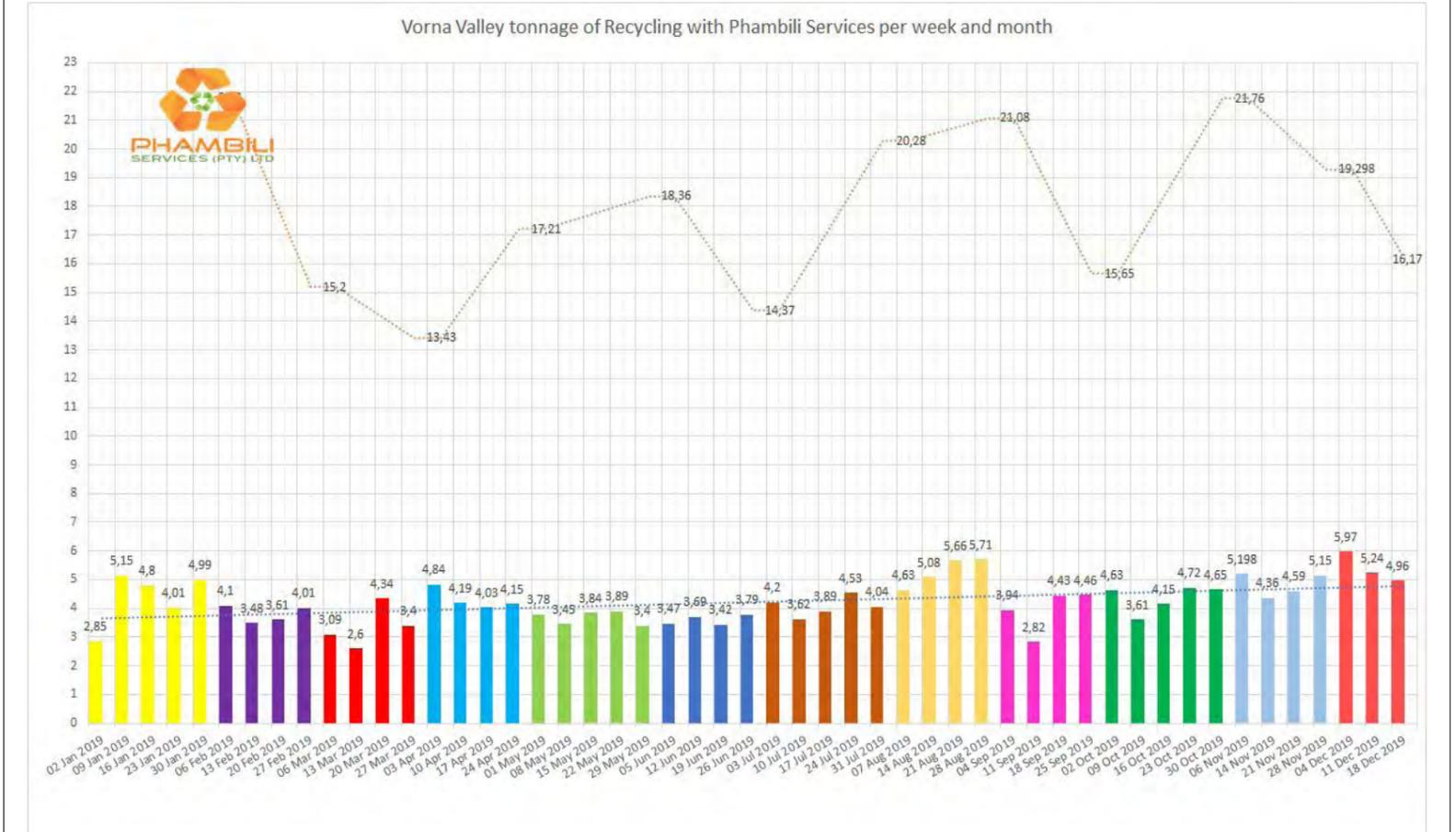
Phambili Services supply blue bags and collect weekly.

All recycling material goes into one bag. (Paper, Cardboard, Magazines & Newspapers, Plastics, Glass, Bottles, Milk and Juice Cartons, Cans, Jars.

Phambili Services now also place informal reclaimers into complexes to do the recycling on their behalf. Phambili then buys back all the recycling they collect, taking them to the depot to weigh and pay.

This will hopefully take many of the informal reclaimers off the streets and afford them a monthly income.

If you would like your complex to join this project, please email your details to marianne@phambiliservices.co.za, so that Phambili can come and setup your complex with a picker to start your recycling.



Recyclables to be placed in plastic bags are:								
Paper	Cardboard	Magazines & Newspapers	Plastics	Glass	Bottles	Milk and Juice Cartons	Cans	Jars



Pikitup broken or stolen bins

Pikitup the waste management company of the City of Johannesburg has addressed the bin shortage issue and advises residents whose bins are damaged or stolen to apply for replacements.

Pikitup has stockpiled a significant number of bins and residents who need their bins to be replaced must follow a certain process in order to have their bins replaced. The process is in line with Pikitup's bin management policy and this is what is required when making an application for a new bin:

1. What to do if your bin has been stolen Report your bin as stolen at a police station nearest to your place of residence, obtain a case number and have your municipal account ready before calling the City's Call Centre to make an application for a bin replacement. This process applies to domestic as well as business customers

2. What to do if your bin is damaged Report the damaged bin through the City's Call Centre number and also be in possession of your account number when applying for your bin to be replaced

3. What to do when requesting for an additional bin Call the City's Call Centre number and remember to have your account available and a reference number will be issued to you which will be used to issue an additional bin. However in such incidences residents will be required to pay for the cost of the additional bins.

The reference number will then be referred to a Pikitup official who will attend to a customer's request. Customers should always sign the bin delivery document as proof that they have received the bin.

Residents and business should also note that no bin request will be processed without a reference number. Furthermore, in terms of Pikitup's bin management policy, a damaged bin will be replaced at no cost to the customer but lost or stolen bins will only be replaced for free once in a bin's useful life. The current useful life span of a bin is eight (8) years.

In relation to sectional title properties, Pikitup will provide bins equal to the lower number of units in the complex or bins equal to the space available to store bins in such properties. Residents living in such properties should note that only the property owner or the managing agent may apply for a bin on their behalf.

In the event, tenants would like to make applications for bins, their applications will only be entertained once they have a letter of authority from the owner or the managing agent of the property.

Pikitup appeals to residents to immediately place their bins inside their properties after the bins have been emptied to prevent criminal elements from stealing their bins.

The City of Johannesburg Call Centre number: 011 375 5555 or 086 0562874 and press option 4 for Pikitup

What happened in Vorna Valley



This is how not to drive a truck in Vorna Valley.

Apparently the trucks brakes failed. Thankfully no one was hurt.



When residents decide to have a cell phone mast put up in their property, it is only neighbourly to at least inform their neighbours.

Sadly Council has changed by laws giving residents very little leverage to stop cell towers, but the companies putting up the towers DO NOT follow the by laws and work without wayleaves, so we urge residents to keep an eye open, as this will not be the last.

Yet another illegal school opens up on Anton Hartman. The VVRA spoke to the owner when they started and he confirmed that they had not applied to council to open this school, not did they apply to put up the sign on the pavement.

This matter is with council and JMPD advised them to take down the sign.

Residents should refuse to use these illegal schools as in the end you may have to move your child to another school if council does their work to shut them down.

No one is above the law but many think they are.



We will probably never know why this driver decided to connect with a street light pole on Anton Hartman. Car to fast for the driver? Under the influence? Lost control of the car?

Vorna Valley has become a race track for many motorist, many don't even stop at STOP streets, let alone at a red traffic light.



Residents spotted a brown cow strolling along Anton Hartman and the VVRA called Theo from the SPCA. A patroller went looking for the cow to no avail. It was later spotted in several places in Halfway Gardens and then on Lever Road near McDonalds. Poor cow must have been hungry and thirsty and stopped over at McDonalds to have breakfast.

SPCA hunted high and low for a few days and finally it was spotted on Whisken. The SPCA, Animals in Distress, SAPS, and local residents were on the scene to help catch the brown cow. We blocked of a road so

that it could be chased into a property nearby. The brown cow is safe and sound. Thank you to all who assisted in caught the cow.



We have seen several house break-ins again, pedestrians robbed, domestic violence, ATM scams, etc.

Follow home crime is on the increase so please be aware of

Safety tips from the police:

Never give your card or PIN (personal identification number) to anyone, for any reason.

Don't write your PIN on the card or anything that is kept with the card.

Do not insert your card until asked to do so by the display screen.

Never use an ATM with a blank screen and, if the ATM is obscured from view or poorly lit, leave immediately and find another ATM.

Stand close to the ATM and use your body and hand as a shield to make sure nobody sees you keying in your pin.

Keep your hand over the card slot to make sure nobody can swap or take your card.

Never accept help from strangers when using an ATM. You should be wary of strangers asking for help.

Criminals work in teams – one to distract you while the other steals your card or money.

If your card is retained (swallowed) by the ATM, it is advisable to phone your bank's toll-free stop card line

Immediately and stop your card.

Never allow a bystander to call the toll-free stop card line on your behalf – they could be tricking you into thinking your card has been stopped.

Security guards are placed at ATMs to discourage criminal activities and therefore cannot help you with transactions.

your surroundings at all times. Look to see who is behind or in front of you or coming from a side street. Rather be safe and drive around the block if you are unsure, and you can even call your security to escort you home safely.

If you need help, ask a bank official.

It is advisable to set a daily ATM withdrawal limit at your branch.

Important telephone numbers for reporting ATM related incidents:

ABSA 0800 111 155

Bidvest Bank 0860 111 177

Capitec Bank 0860 102 043

Citi Bank 1 800 950 5114

FNB 0800 110 132

Investic Bank 011 286 9663

Mercantile Bank 0860 119 925

Nedbank 0800 110 929

Standard Bank 0800 020 600

Post Office (Postbank) 0800 535 455

U Bank 0860 00 8322.



The Johannesburg Metropolitan Police Department (JMPD) has introduced a WhatsApp-based hotline to report reckless and negligent driving behaviour, as well as by-law infringements across the City of Johannesburg.

Dubbed "Buya Mthetho", which means bring back the law, the hotline allows residents to upload footage of infringements via WhatsApp, after which the JMPD will follow up and take the necessary action.

The reckless driving hotline WhatsApp number is 081 410 6338, and to report incidents, residents should follow these steps:

Take a clear photo or video of the subject of complaint with registration number of the vehicle and other relevant information. Upload to the hotline with a short description, including date, time and location of the incident. Provide name and contact details, which will be kept anonymous.

The department explains:

"The photo or video must have been taken by the complainant themselves, and not forward photos or clips taken by a third-party

or downloaded from other sources. The complainant must also be able and willing to testify against the offender if required in terms of the legal process. Once the complaint is received, JMPD will analyse the evidence and deal with it accordingly, including submission of the complaint to the National Prosecuting Authority for prosecution."

According to JMPD, voice complaints for reckless driving can still be reported on 011 375 5911 / 081 410 6338

<https://twitter.com/hashtag/BuyaMthetho> is also illegal to park trucks on pavements. Residents are urged to report such cases to JMPD immediately on 011 375 5911 and make sure you get a ref no.

If you see anyone driving badly in Joburg, take a video or picture and send it via Whatsapp to JMPD reckless driving hotline 081 410 6338 with details of where, when and what.

Invasive Plants and Trees



The oleander (*Nerium oleander*) is a Category 1b invasive plant that competes with indigenous species. All parts of the plant are highly toxic and lethal to humans, birds and other animals.

From: <https://www.facebook.com/invasivespeciessouthafrica/photos/a.662708167147455/662708533814085/?type=3&theater>



Four-o'clock (*Mirabilis jalapa*) is listed as Category 1b invader on the National List of Invasive Species, meaning it must be removed immediately.



Flowers open in the late afternoon (around four o'clock) and stay open only until the following morning. Five-petal flowers come in pink, red, yellow, white and some bi-colours.

From: <https://www.facebook.com/invasivespeciessouthafrica/photos/a.1615705215181074/1615705255181070/?type=3&theater>



The majority of records of *Jacaranda mimosifolia* (jacaranda) being introduced into a new area come as the plant is intentionally introduced for its ornamental purposes. As such a risk assessment in the Pacific scored *J. mimosifolia* 1, indicating that it posed only a very low risk of future invasion

(PIER, 2014). Nevertheless *J. mimosifolia* has been listed as a Category 3 invader in South Africa (Henderson, 2001), meaning that no further planting or trade in propagative material is allowed, except with special permission and existing plants must be prevented from spreading.

From: <https://www.cabi.org/isc/datasheet/29212#toriskOfIntroduction>



Bugweed (*Solanum mauritianum*) – Category 1b

This tree replaces indigenous riverine and forest margin species. It also competes with young trees in plantations, particularly pines and black wattle, inhibiting growth and causing stem deformation.

It is a host of the KwaZulu-Natal fruit fly which is an economic pest. The unripe fruits are poisonous and the hairy leaves and stems can cause allergic dermatitis and asthma.

From: <https://www.lifeisagarden.co.za/top-12-invasive-trees-found-in-gardens/>