

Working with you, for you

Vorna Valley Residents Association

Newsletter



October 2020

VVRA Committee

- Marianne Nel - Chairperson
- Paul Veltman - Secretary, Infrastructure
- Hein de Kock - Treasurer, Infrastructure
- Wendy Redl - Green
- Varushka Singh - Liaison

Facebook Twitter Email Website



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



"We must learn to live together as brothers or perish together as fools."

- Martin Luther King, Jr.

Dear Vorna Valley Residents

As we enter the rainy season, our pot holed roads and blocked storm water drains leave much to desire. JRA has had issue after issue hence our roads have deteriorated tremendously and are in urgent need of repair.

Some potholes and dug up roads, due to water leaks, have not been attended to, some since 2019. A few major potholes were repaired during lock down, but since our recent heavy rains these have all opened up yet again, leaving motorists to dodge them, causing serious danger for other motorist.

We urge resident to be vigilant and report suspicious behaving people or vehicles to their security companies and on the Alert groups immediately. We have entered the silly season and crime has increased as criminals go shopping for Christmas bonuses.

Our VVRA LPR cameras have been able to pick up vehicles used in several crimes committed in Vorna Valley and nearby, and have been passed on to the right authorities.



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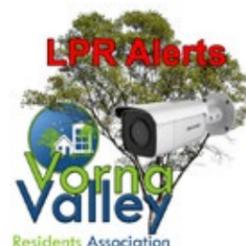
VVRA LPR Camera Project

Sadly contributions towards the monthly running costs of the LPR cameras have been slow and the Alert group which had security companies and CPF members on, was closed down, as there were no contributions coming from them bar Hawkeye Security, who has been added to the main alert group. **(Updated) Thank you to TRSS who will also be contributing towards the costs)**

This project was started +- four years ago having had meetings with Midrand SAPS, Sector 2 CPF and some security companies who, at the time were excited and positive about this project, yet now that it is all up and running, no one seems to be interested in contributing and supporting the project for the safety and security of our residents except for a handful of complexes who contribute monthly.

The VVRA can only finance the running costs for another two months, and will thereafter have to decide on the way forward.

We can not fight crime on our own, but need the support of everyone.



Wendy Redl

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People. Passion. Property



Phambili Services

Sadly Pikitup have not extended the Phambili Services contract to collect the recycling, as they will be doing it inhouse. We did speak to Pikitup to ask where they were going to take the recycling, but they didn't have a solution for this as yet, nor the trucks to handle this project.

After 3 years of Phambili getting Midrand residents to recycle, growing over this period, seems this project will fail dismally yet again. Phambili has however said that if residents pay them R16 per household per month, they will continue to collect. For more information please email jaco@phambiliservices.co.za.

Update: Phambili Services continues to collect the recycling until all the SLA's with residents are in place. So let us continue to support Phambili with the recycling please.



J Water

Sewerage blockage occurred frequently as did water leaks and burst pipes. Some roads that were dug up by JWater have still not been repaired by JRA, leaving residents with huge holes in front of their driveways or a "messy" road.



City Power

We have had several power outages and bad repairs where high voltage was coming down the power line into house, causing major dangerous situations for some households.

"CITY POWER UPDATE 1 November 2020

Unfortunately the City's Maintenance Labour Contracts came to an end on 31 October 2020. As far as we know the City is due to appear back in Court sometime in November 2020 to address the issue after having failed to comply with various extensions to correct the initial irregular contracts.

THUS City Power will only be operating with limited internal resources from today. This will affect turnaround times on the various power outages following last night's storm and going forward.

Internal teams are also busy with various clean up operations following the numerous fallen trees which took out electrical lines last night across Region C. Please bear with the technicians, this is not their fault and they are doing the best they can.

Cllr Nicole van Dyk, our Shadow MMC for Infrastructure, released a statement on this at the beginning of October 2020 and is following the matter closely.

She also put in Council Questions on this issue in the October Council meeting however we were advised by the MMC, Cllr Mpho Moerane, that responses would be provided in November's meeting.

Issued by
Cllr Leah Knott"



City Parks

City Parks is busy cut grass on our pavements and we hope that all roads get done. With all the rains and summer being here, pavements get over grown quickly. We thank those residents who take pride in their own pavements and who keep them neat, tidy and looking beautiful.

Most complexes also tend to their pavements and hopefully the rest will start looking after their pavements in the near future. Residents living in a complex with a unkept pavement are welcome to inform their Trustees and hopefully they will make the necessary arrangements to also keep their pavements neat and tidy.



JMPD

The Albertyn/Harry Galaun taxi stop has been a thorn in resident side for many, many years, and complaints keep on being sent to JMPD and council to do something about it. Unfortunately taxi's do not keep to rules and regulation. They do as they please and residents in the area are the ones that pay the price of this lawlessness.



Vorna Valley Specialist

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Property News



Advice to homeowners before trying to sell their properties:

Bring your home up to the best standard it can be, eg....

- 1) Pavement should be neat and tidy even if it isn't beautiful; it is the first impression
- 2) If you have a pool ensure it is clean and the water sparkling; a dirty or badly maintained pool is a liability not an asset
- 3) Clean your windows and replace broken window panes
- 4) Pick up after your dogs
- 5) Tidy your garden and pretty it up as much as possible
- 6) Repair and Paint where necessary; saying "it will be done" will not impress the buyers
- 7) Get rid of clutter
- 8) The better your house is presented, the more interest you'll get and therefore achieve a better price



THANK YOU ONCE AGAIN GOES TO APSS

We can always depend on APSS to fix our Vlei fence when vagrants and criminals break it. Big thank you to your team.

Before and After photos.



Illegal building, schools and businesses

Sadly too many residents do not believe in building or renovating with councils approval first. Several have been reported over the years, for building illegally, but the process through council is very slow. We have had a few cases where council eventually did send out a team to demolish an illegally built structure, or took action to stop the owner from building until such time as it was approved by council the legal way.

We see the same with schools and business popping up all over Vorna Valley. People start up businesses and schools without first doing the legal work with council and neighbours next to such properties are never considered as to how they feel about having a noisy school or business next door to them. We seem to live in a society of "each to his own" no matter the next person", and the neighbourly spirit does not exist anymore in most cases. Several illegal schools and businesses were shut down over the last few years but more pop up all the time.

If residents stand together, report such properties, businesses or schools to the VVRA, we can make a difference, but the VVRA can not fight it alone.

Sadly, we also have several properties that have been left empty, some for years already. The process with council is slow and such properties affect neighbours by bringing crime to that area as these properties are vandalised and left unkept. They pose a security and a health risk to their neighbours. If you know of a property that has been left vacant, please report it to the VVRA, as these owners have probably left the country, and don't pay their property taxes anymore. One such property we discovered, owed council more than R550 000 a while back.

IF YOU SEE SOMETHING, SAY SOMETHING

"He who experiences the unity of life sees his own Self in all beings, and all beings in his own Self, and looks on everything with an impartial eye."

– Buddha



Advertisements



For all your security related services, you most welcome to contact us on **083 796 4303**

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- ACCESS CONTROL (GATE MOTORS, ELECTRIC FENCING, INTERCOM SYSTEMS, ETC)
- SECURITY RISK ASSESSMENTS

ANONYMOUS REPORTING NUMBER: 082 998 4303

We also encourage the community to report any suspicious persons or vehicles that they suspect to be involved in criminal activity such as (Drugs related, Stolen Vehicles and/or property) which will be followed up by us together with the relevant authorities



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SUSAN JONKER

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T's & C's Apply

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Invasive Plants, Trees, Birds



Ligustrum japonicum

(wax-leaf privet or Japanese privet) A declared Category 3 invasive plants in South

Ligustrum japonicum, known as wax-leaf privet or Japanese privet is a species of *Ligustrum* (privet) native to central and southern Japan (Honshū, Shikoku, Kyūshū, Okinawa) and Korea. It is widely cultivated in other regions, and is naturalized in California and in the southeastern United States from Texas to Virginia.

It is an evergreen shrub or small tree growing to 2–5 m (rarely 6 m) tall, with smooth, pale grey-brown bark on the stems. The leaves are opposite, 5–10 cm long and 2–5 cm broad, glossy dark green above, paler glaucous to yellowish green below, thick and leathery textured, and with an entire margin. The flowers are white, with a four-lobed corolla 5–6 mm long; they are borne in clusters 7–15 cm long in early summer.[4] The fruit is an oval drupe, 10 mm long, ripening purple-black with a glaucous waxy bloom in early winter; in Japan they are popularly likened to mouse or rat droppings. The species is closely related to the Chinese *Ligustrum lucidum*, differing in its smaller size (*L. lucidum* making a tree to over 10 m tall), and elongated oval (not subglobose) fruit.

From: https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Ligustrum_japonicum



L. lucidum is an evergreen shrub or small tree 2-10 m tall (in some cases up to 25 m). The leaves are glabrous (i.e. hairless) and vary from ovate (egg-shaped) to elliptic in shape. Leaves are 6-17 long and 3-8 cm wide, leathery or papery with the base rounded or sometimes attenuate and the apex acute to acuminate or sometimes obtuse. Leaves have between 4 to 11 primary veins on each side of the mid-vein, slightly raised or obscure. Flowers are sessile or nearly so with four white or cream petals (calyx 1.5-2 mm, corolla 4-5 mm) that are fused at the base into a very short tube. Flowers have a sickly sweet fragrance. Flowers have two stamens approaching the apex of corolla lobes with anthers of 1-1.5 mm long and hold pyramidal panicles 8-20 cm long and 8-25 cm wide. Fruits are deep blue-black, ripening becomes red-black (7-10 × 4-6 mm) (Nesom, 2009; Flora of China Editorial Committee, 2015).

From: <https://www.cabi.org/isc/datasheet/30751#tosummaryOfInvasivenessand>
https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Ligustrum_lucidum



Ligustrum lucidum

(broad-leaf privet) A declared Category 3 invasive plants in South

PLANT INVADERS OF CATEGORY 3

These plants are undesirable because they have the proven potential of becoming invasive, but most of them are nevertheless popular ornamentals or shade trees that will take a long time to replace. A few of them were placed into this category instead of into category 1 because they do not cause problems in all situations. In terms of Regulation 15 of CARA, Category 3 plants will not be allowed to occur anywhere except in biological control reserves, unless they were already in existence when these regulations went into effect. The conditions on which these already existing plants may be retained are that they do not grow within 30 m from the 1:50 year flood line of watercourses or wetlands, that all reasonable steps are taken to keep the plant from spreading, and that the Executive Officer has the power to impose additional conditions or even prohibit the growing of Category 3 plants in any area where he has reason to believe that these plants will pose a threat to the agricultural resources.

Propagative material of these plants, such as seeds or cuttings, may no longer be planted, propagated, imported, bought, sold or traded in any way. It will, however, be legal to trade in the wood of Category 3 plants, or in other products that do not have the potential to grow or multiply. The Executive Officer will have the power to grant exemption from some of the above requirements.