

Southbroom

Kwa Zulu Natal, South Africa

NEWSLETTER AUGUST/SEPTEMBER 2017

The Official Newsletter for the Southbroom Community comprising Southbroom Ratepayers Association, Southbroom Conservancy and Southbroom Community Policing Forum with contributions from various community initiatives and sports clubs.

Hello Everyone,

There is absolutely no denying that the South Coast of KZN, especially of course Southbroom, is the best place to be in winter. At the time of our last Newsletter at the end of June we were just starting to feel a bit of a nip in the air but continued to enjoy some amazing days right through July and August, with a few cold snaps in between just to remind us it was actually winter. The photo above was taken from "The Outlook" on a beautiful Sunday morning in July. Now we are into September and spring is in the air.

Although this is a pretty quiet time of year we have seen quite a few Gauteng visitors enjoying the milder winter at the coast during the private schools long break; the Golf Club has been humming with regular tournaments and social activities and it is good to see more people making use of the tennis courts.

Meantime your committee have been very busy dealing with on-going issues especially roads and water (see our Chairman Brian Thompson's report below). Conservancy must be congratulated for taking on the mammoth task of clearing out enormous piles of rubbish from the verges and bush, especial thanks to Brad Vervey for leading this team.



CHAIRMAN'S REPORT *by Brian Thompson*

RATES

I received many complaints about the large increase in rates in the July rates bills which were issued in August. The increase arises from both the rates randage imposed by the municipality (RNM), and the increase in property valuations for the five year period from 2012 to 2017, which were implemented on 1 July 2017.

The increase in the rates randage on 1 July 2017 for residential properties went from 0.00926 to 0.10273 (3.5%), and the rest of the increase was for property valuations.

The overall market value of Southbroom properties increased by 6% in 2017. Therefore, the average Southbroom increase should be 6% plus 3.5% randage increase = 9.5%. However, the average market value of residential properties increased by 12% (compared with 0% for sectional title properties and a 37% decrease in vacant stands), which gives an average rates increase of about 15.5% for residential properties. If your rates increase for a residential property was more than 15.5% then it means that your property valuation was higher than average.

It should be noted that if you lodged an objection against your property valuation (there were about 80 objections in Southbroom), many of these will not been finalised until 30 September 2017. The municipality is still in the process of dealing with these objections, and if the objection is successful then the rates will be recalculated from 1 July 2017.

BEACHES AND POOLS

The tidal pool was leaking following the heavy seas in May, which was found to be caused by cracks around the top of the walls. RNM appointed a contractor who has provided a quotation to repair the walls, and we are waiting for approval.

RNM have approved a budget to refurbish the ablutions at the main beach, and we are monitoring progress to try and ensure completion before the December holidays.

We approved a proposal by a Surf School to operate at the main beach in the December holidays

ROADS

Margate Asphalt completed 100m² of pothole repairs in May, mainly on Southbroom avenue, Imbezane drive, Lewin road, Beach road and Francis street. We funded this as RNM had run out of budget until new funds became available in July. RNM started repairs to Radstock road in August, and have a program for other roads, but are behind schedule.

I have advised the RNM Municipal Manager that the condition of Southbroom roads is totally unacceptable and requested a meeting to make a presentation in this regard. A meeting was originally agreed on 4 July 2017, but was cancelled at short notice and another meeting has been requested urgently.

We have had favourable comments on the new traffic circle and signage that we installed on Southbroom drive to replace the Ponytail tree that was damaged by a reckless driver. We are also investigating a solar light to be added to the sign pole.

We have requested a quotation from a contractor to install a "raised" pedestrian crossing on Southbroom Avenue in the village centre, which should reduce speeding in this area, and improve the safety of pedestrians. RNM have now agreed to do this, and we will monitor progress.

WATER AND SEWERAGE

We attended a meeting with senior Ugu management (including the mayor and municipal manager) on 17 August, at which they presented the major water projects in the district. The important project for Southbroom is the upgrade to the main water supply from the Umtanvuma water works which will increase capacity from 20 MI to 30 MI and is scheduled for completion in March 2018.

The new mayor appears to be focused on service delivery and cooperation with ratepayers, and gave me the opportunity to express our main issues, which are:

- The reliability of the main water pipe from the bulk water supply from the Umtanvuma water works to Southbroom, particularly leaks near the Mpenjati river. The mayor advised that this was in the program, but waiting for funds to be allocated.
- Ugu water tankers are damaging Southbroom roads when they fill up the tankers at the Lewin road hydrant for emergency water supply in other areas. The mayor agreed to investigate a water refill site outside of the Southbroom village.
- Southbroom has numerous water outages from breaks from ageing asbestos pipes which need to be replaced with PVC pipes. The mayor advised that there are limited funds, but they will consider this request in future.

COMMUNITY POLICING REPORT *by Bennie Kruger*

There was a significant increase in criminal activity in July and August, following a low period of crime in the first half of the year. The main crime is housebreakings and the theft of flat screen televisions. During our investigations we were concerned to note that in many instances alarms were not activated and attempted housebreakings are not reported.

However, we are pleased to report that SAPS made five arrests in Southbroom during the last three months. The cameras installed by the CPF are still very effective in identifying and convicting criminals. The CPF arranged a meeting on 17 August 2017 with senior Margate SAPS officials and representatives from all private security companies operating in Southbroom, and the following initiatives were agreed:

- Improved liaison between Southbroom police and the security companies
- Increased patrols at night
- New high tech cameras will be installed at both entrances in September
- SAPS will continue to photograph all building contractors, but will also take fingerprints electronically.
- Promote the use of the CPF WhatsApp group to report attempted break ins and suspicious activity.
- Implement a confidential register with local SAPS for people living alone (who may be targeted by criminals). SAPS will meet with them and ensure regular patrols.

Residents are encouraged to assist the SAPS in combatting crime as follows

- Check alarm systems regularly.
- Request security companies to respond to all alarms immediately (there are sometimes long delays when they call to check on alarms)
- Report all attempted break-ins and suspicious activity on the CPF WhatsApp group.
- Secure flat screen televisions by locks on brackets or safe storage during absences.
- Sponsor security cameras. The CPF will install a permanent security camera in your street at a cost of about R8600

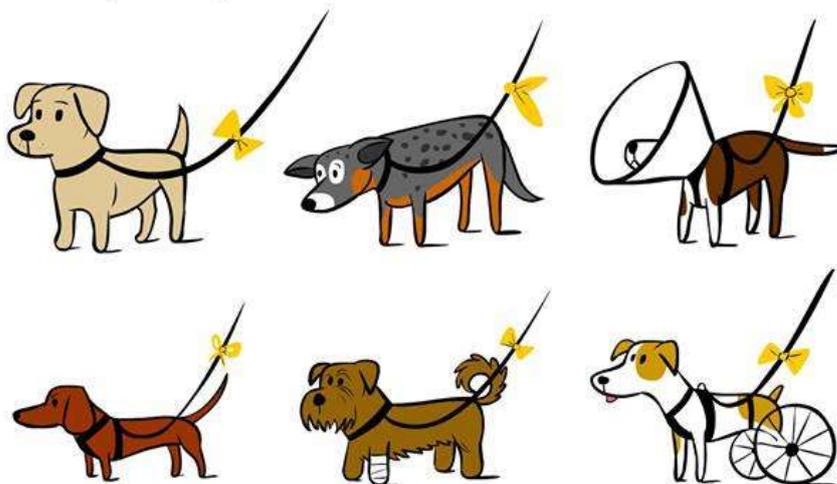
- Advise Comfort Mlambo (Mlambo27@gmail.com or phone 0393166760) if you want to be included on the register of people living alone.
- Attend a CPF meeting at 1600 on the first Monday of each month at the Southbroom Community Centre (on Imbezane Drive next to RNM depot).

DODGY DOGS

Southbroom dogs and their owners are generally a peaceful lot but we have, at times, had some nasty incidents of dogs and/or their owners being attacked. The majority of owners are responsible and if they know their dog is not friendly, they keep it on lead at all times and away from other dogs and people.



If you see a dog with a **YELLOW RIBBON** or something yellow on the leash, **this is a dog who needs some space**. Please do not approach this dog with your dog. Please maintain distance or give this dog and his/her person time to move out of your way.



There are many reasons why a dog may need space:

- HEALTH ISSUES
- IN TRAINING
- BEING REHABILITATED
- SCARED OR REACTIVE AROUND OTHER DOGS

THANK YOU!

Those of us who own these dogs appreciate your help and respect!



However it would help owners whose dogs are friendly and socialised to be able to identify a dog with aggressive tendencies so they can ensure they give the other dogs a wide berth and keep their own dogs on a leash.

I recently picked up this article which I think is a brilliant idea and would like to encourage all owners of aggressive or unpredictable dogs to take up the "Yellow Ribbon" initiative.

Many adopted dogs have been abused or were poorly trained; therefore it is difficult to know how they will react in any given situation. Better be safe than sorry.

THE “MISSION” CHURCH

Many people may not be aware that Southbroom actually has its own church. For those of you who have never heard of it or know little about it, here is a little bit of history edited from an article Libby Cochrane wrote for the South Coast Herald.

Bell rings out at mission church



THE history of the century old mission church on Bushy Vales Road near Southbroom has been the subject of several Herald articles but just to refresh memories, it was established in 1907 on five hectares of land given to the Swedish Holiness Mission Society by Alfred Eyles, Southbroom’s first pioneer.

As well as a church, the mission was home to a school, clinic, private cemetery, outhouses and the official residence of the serving missionary and his family.

For sixty years, missionaries came and went until 1972 when the school closed and the church the following year. Eric Peckham whose banana plantations borders the mission, purchased the property in 1981 and along with maintaining the five hectare parkland, assumed the duties of registrar of the cemetery.

In 2008 a young couple with close ties to the area, approached Eric Peckham with the idea of opening up the church for their wedding. As it had been closed up for many years it needed a really good clean up, however after a good scrub, a coat of paint, some chairs and of course flowers, it looked absolutely stunning on the day. Thereafter several other local couples were married in the “Little Mission Church”.



The year 2012 saw the beginning of a new chapter in the history of the mission following Allen and Racquel Peckham’s invitation to the congregation of the Trafalgar Presbyterian Church to make a new home at Imbizane Mission.

They came with a pulpit, font and what Pastor David Thorburn-Humphrey calls their ‘infamous’ white plastic chairs to start a new beginning. The very first service was held on 16th September 2012. In the five short years the congregation has grown from a mere 25 worshippers to close to 100. The plastic chairs have been replaced by wooden pews crafted by Africarve in Banners Rest and fitted with attractive cushions thanks to new member Esme Derksen. All paid for from money raised at a successful fund-raising golf day at Southbroom earlier this year.

The new pews have made a significant difference to the church's interior but outside, at the entrance, it's the new belfry that swells the hearts of the congregation.

Pastor Thorburn-Humphrey said that after what he calls a 'bell hunt' which started off in foundry in Potchefstroom the search ended much closer to home in nearby Uvongo after a congregant spotted a solid brass bell in what was then trading as a pawnshop. The good pastor set off only to find the pawnshop had closed its doors but after further enquiries found that the owner had rehoused some of the stock including the brass bell in an adjoining business specialising in reptiles!

The happy ending is that the church found its bell and while the pastor went to great lengths to describe the difference between a ship's bell and a church bell, in his opinion, it is a combination of both.

It is believed the bell is from Australia, but exactly where and for what purpose it originally served remains a mystery. Do we have a local campanologist, bell forger or expert on bells on the South Coast? PLEASE step forward and help make an accurate identification!

Weighing around 40kgs it required the strength of three men to lift the solid brass bell into position and haul it up to the belfry constructed by church member, Arthur Lindeque, using reinforced concrete.

And now, every Sunday, before morning service, the elder on duty has the privilege of ringing the bell, precisely seven times, as this is the perfect biblical number.

This is not the first bell to ring out at Imbizane Mission. Cedric Nhlumayo was a pupil at the mission school up and until it closed in 1972. He could even remember the head teacher's name was Miss Khwela. Cedric had no problem in remembering that in those days, the mission belfry stood slightly to the rear of the church and not only was it rung on Sundays for church but every morning at 8am to announce the start of a new school day.

Church services are now held at the Mission Church each Sunday at 9am and Holy Communion on the third Sunday of each month. On Sunday September 17th 2017 at 9am Pastor David would like to extend an invitation to a special service followed by a tea to commemorate the 5th anniversary of the church.

For details of other up to date events and group meetings check out the website : www.trafalgarpresbyterianchurch.co.za



PASTOR DAVID RINGS THE BELL

SOUTHBROOM CARES

Many of you may not be aware that we have a wonderful group of ladies in Southbroom who are available to assist any resident who may be require care due to an accident, post-operation or perhaps just battling to cope alone. They are able to assist with dressings and hospital visits and also try to maintain a supply of pre-cooked frozen meals supplied by members of the community.

If you are in need of assistance or if you would like to help by supplying meals, visiting, lifting etc, please contact Debbie Derman Cell: 072 537 4848 Email deb.derman@gmail.com

TOURISM

Southbroom is not only a wonderful place to live but also a very attractive holiday destination, therefore an active area sub-committee who work together with UGU South Coast Tourism is essential to attract visitors but also ensure any proposed events and development are relevant to this unique area.

It is extremely important that every business is registered with tourism as all businesses in a seasonal holiday area like Southbroom are directly or indirectly involved with tourism. It is only if you are registered and compliant with Tourism that you can benefit from national and international marketing as well as funding towards events and improvements in tourism oriented infrastructure.

The area sub-committee needs enthusiastic people to help drive initiatives such as a website specific to Southbroom/Mpenjati and the many events in the pipeline for the coming months.

If you are a member of tourism and keen to get involved please contact admin@southbroom.org.

If you are not a member contact UGU South Coast Tourism :

Tel: 039 682 7944 Email : southbroom@tourismsouthcoast.co.za



SOUTH COAST SPRING WINE FESTIVAL 2017

Venue: Riverbend Crocodile Farm Southbroom

21st September – 25th September

“Portraits of Africa” | Art Exhibition

22nd September – Friday

Wine Festival | 35 Top Estates, 160 Fantastic Wines

23rd September – Saturday

“The Gentry” | Light Acoustic Rock Evening

24th September – Sunday

“Jazz and Shiraz” | Jazz and Champagne Brunch

Visit www.crocodilecrazy.co.za for more details

Ticket info 039 3166204



Remember that Southbroom has a Facebook group “Southbroom News Updates” which is exclusively for residents, homeowners and regular visitors.

Residents can also join the CPF WhatsApp group by sending a WhatsApp with your name and Lot number to Comfort on 076 152 4479, this group is strictly for crime reporting. There is however a more general group “Southbroom Pets and chats” which is mainly for locating lost pets or reporting roaming dogs.

Contact Petra Klein: 082 387 3999 to join.

If you have any queries regarding community matters or wish to make and suggestions or contributions to this newsletter please contact us at admin@southbroom.org and if you have a business and it is not listed on our website please contact us to add your details.

Jackie Pratt

Southbroom Ratepayers Association : www.southbroom.org