



The Villager

Issue 11 • 2020



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in the city*



Family



Nature



Lifestyle

20th Anniversary Edition 2000 – 2020



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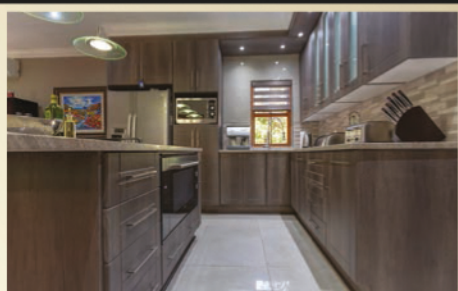
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Special cover design by Diane van Noort

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Dear Residents

It is a great privilege for me as the Estate Manager to be part of the 20th Anniversary of Irene Farm Villages (the Villages). In this issue, we have attempted to dig into the past of the Villages and to share some of the eventful moments with our residents. Hence, the front cover has been specially designed



Beverley Hermanson

for this 20th Anniversary edition. A special word of thanks to Beverley Hermanson from EIA Publishing, the publishers of *The Villager*, who assisted with the composition and interviews in this publication.



Reading through the Minute Book, one comes across some interesting facts and events, some being the following:

- The Irene Farm Villages Home Owners Association was incorporated on 7 December 2000.



At van Niekerk

- The Late Mr Hannes Holtzhausen was appointed as the first Estate Manager with effect from 1 May 2003.
- The levy per m² was 35c with effect from 1 February 2003.
- At the Inaugural Annual General Meeting on 5 September 2003 the first three home owners were elected onto the Board of Directors, namely Messers P. Chambers, A. Raseroka and F. Meintjies.
- In 2006, Business Butler Security (BBS) was appointed as the security company.
- Dirk Keyser replaced Hannes Holtzhausen as the Estate Manager. He was subsequently followed by Phillip Prinsloo.
- In 2007, the Developer, Irene Land Corporation, resigned from the Home Owners Association, leaving the home owners to manage the affairs of the estate by themselves.
- On 12 June 2007, ten estate agencies were granted accreditation, which rule has been followed since then.
- On 1 November 2007, the Board of Directors appointed a new Managing Agent, Account Ability.
- The Security in the estate was described by General Les Rudman, the Director of Security at the time in 2008 as "Providing

a secure family lifestyle in South Africa, where you can live, work and play with complete peace of mind".

- On 1 June 2008, Santa Roberts was appointed as the Estate Manager. Santa currently resides in Australia.
- On 27 May 2008, the Board approved the purchase of the new Toyota bakkie, which is still running.
- In 2008, the HOA engaged with MTN to install a mobile cell phone tower. However, subsequently, this did not materialise.
- In May 2008, the construction of the in-house post boxes was approved.
- The Irene Farm Villages logo was slightly redesigned to its present format.
- By September 2008 the website www.irenefarmvillages.co.za was up and running and further development followed.
- Rassie Erasmus was appointed as the Security Manager on 1 November 2008.
- In May 2009, the members approved the monthly donation towards the Community Police Forum (CPF), as it is now known.
- In March 2009, the HOA embarked on an awareness campaign, whereby the Board of Directors appealed to residents to comply with the speed limit and further speed humps were installed.
- Bidvest Protea Coin, then known as 'Protea Coin', took over the Security in January 2010.
- Garden Creations was appointed as the new garden maintenance service provider as from May 2010.
- A Recycling Project was established in 2010, which paved the way for the first recyclable waste to be collected in the estate in October 2012 by the Remade Recycling Company, which continues to collect the recyclables weekly on a Thursday.



The Irene Farm Villages' Toyota bakkie



Bidvest Protea Coin Security since 2010

During the ensuing years, the Board of Directors concentrated on establishing the Irene Farm Villages as a residential security estate with its own distinctive features. The aim to preserve a high-quality lifestyle for its members gave rise to a wide range of important in-house developments.



The first coming to mind was the securing of the estate's 4,5km perimeter boundary with the installation of a sophisticated CCTV thermal detection system which, over the past three years, proved to be of exceptional value in protecting the estate. The planning and installation of this system was carried out by NEC XON Systems.



After going through a long and tiresome tender process, Vodacom was awarded the contract to install internet fibre in the estate, which lead to the availability of fibre to the home (FTTH). The Board also entered into a contract with Vodacom to provide for an open access network to accommodate other internet service providers.



Traffic enforcement remained a challenge over the years. This led to the appointment of a Traffic Consulting Engineer, who drafted a Traffic Calming Development Plan for Irene Farm Villages. The plan, which was subsequently approved by the

Tshwane City Council, makes provision for the construction of speed humps at strategic locations. Over the years, several speed humps were constructed – these have contributed to the maintenance of the 40km/h speed limit, thereby making our roads safer.



In 2018, the Board realised that the access control system, which was in service for over ten years, required upgrading, as it had reached the end of its life cycle. Once again, without leaving a stone unturned, the Board approved the replacement of the spike-barriers, boom-gate system, biometric readers and cameras at all the vehicle access lanes. Included were the new licence plate recognition cameras, which added value to the security system in general, and especially when vehicles enter the estate.



In 2014, the Irene Farm Villages, with the support of its residents, embarked on its most important environmental project, namely the planting of trees. Many trees were donated or sponsored by the residents. Over the four years that followed, a total of 1 365 trees were planted in many parks and along Royal Oak Street, as well as along the North-East, South-East and South boundaries. As they mature, these trees will indeed one day be enjoyed by our children.



Planting the trees at the south boundary – day 1



South boundary – today



Planting trees at the south-east boundary – day 1



South-east boundary – today

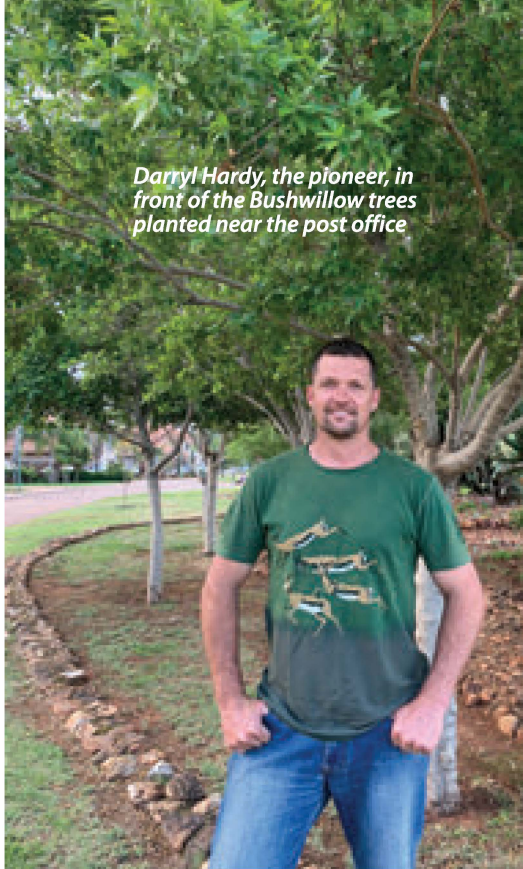


Planting the north-east trees – day 1



North-east boundary – today

Darryl Hardy, the pioneer, in front of the Bushwillow trees planted near the post office



Planting of indigenous trees along Royal Oak Street



The trees along Royal Oak today



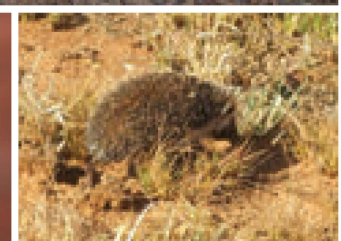
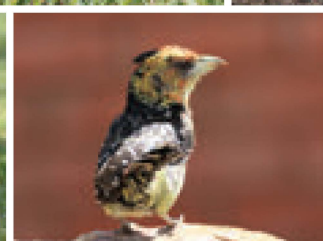
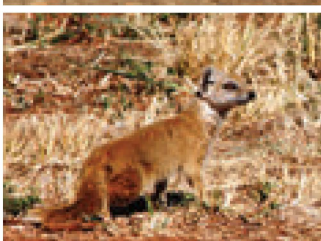
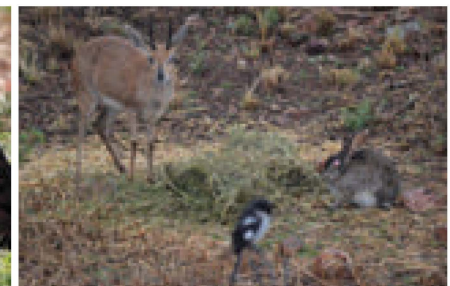
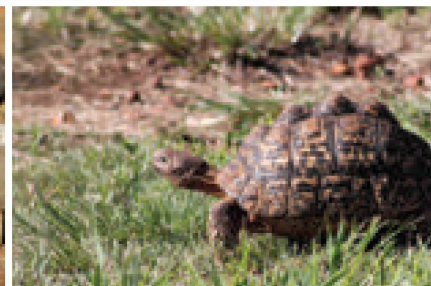
And then a special event took place. On Friday, 12 December 2012 at 12h00, twelve baby olive trees were planted at the corner of Country Club and White Heart Street. A hundred years later, in 2112, these trees will be fully grown, and looked upon in astonishment by our descendants, valuing their shade and aesthetic beauty. Maybe they will also ponder over the thought of their predecessors' vision a hundred years back.

Irene Farm Villages is known for its love and care for the wildlife in the estate. Today still, one will come across Duiker and Steen buck, especially at night, and a fair number of guinea fowl, mongoose, hare, hedgehog and tortoise in the open veld. It is also for this reason that no vehicles are allowed

12th December 2012 at 12 noon



The 12 Wild Olives today





The Irene Farm Villages 4km walking trail



in the open spaces and veld. As a community, we have allowed the wildlife to be protected over the past 20 years. Hopefully, we will be able to say the same over the years to come.

As part of an environmental study that was carried out for the estate during 2016, the walking trail of 4km was developed. It covers most of the open spaces in the estate, is well marked, and is well supported by the residents.

As there are many pet lovers in the estate, the first doggy-walk was organised in 2014 with the support and sponsorship by the Pam Golding Group, the Estate Management and the Wet Nose Animal Rescue Centre.

Taking this event one step further, Peter Varrie from the Pam Golding Group came up with the idea to host a pop-up movie after the annual doggy-walk. Our first pop-up movie night was held in 2018 with the *Jock of the Bushveld* movie entertaining young and old.

Sadly, due to the COVID-19 pandemic, the 2020 annual doggy-walk, pop-up movie night and the fun-day were cancelled. However, Santa Claus will still be visiting the estate as in the previous years.





Typical of an estate which is vibrant and keen to take up new challenges, a market day for kids is planned for Friday, 27 November this year. It will be held in the Yellow Wood Park. This will be the first of its kind for Irene Farm Villages and we believe that it will be as popular as all the other events. All the children are invited to take part in this late afternoon market which has received great support from the residents.

In 2021, the Home Owners Association will commence its biggest ever project, which is the upgrading of the North gatehouse and the Main gatehouse. This project will continue over several months and will be completed in two separate phases. It is anticipated that the project

will be completed before the end of 2021.

For the reader of this issue of *The Villager* it should be clear that Irene Farm Villages was developed to be a sustainable security residential estate of real value, not only of fiscal value, but also a lifestyle value.



Ian Hirschfeld

As we as an estate step into the future, the current Chairman of the Home Owners Association, Mr Ian Hirschfeld, has shared the following words of encouragement:

"When one looks back at the vibrant history of the Villages over the past 20 years, it is indeed humbling to be part of this special place with special people! At's recounting of the history of our Villages illustrates how the countless contributions, large and small, by so many people over 20 years, have combined to create the beautiful estate we know and enjoy today.

May the next 20 years bring continued contributions from all the members and may we continue to see the Villages grow from strength to strength and remain always a safe, happy and welcoming home to the residents!

Congratulations, and happy country living in the city."



IRENE FARM VILLAGES HOME OWNERS ASSOCIATION

Summary Income Statement – September 2020

	September 2020		Year to Date		YTD Variance	
	Actual	Budget	Actual	Budget	Value	%
Operational Income						
Levy Income	1 166 332	1 166 333	8 106 150	8 106 153	(3)	0.0%
Other Income	50 421	32 500	381 839	347 800	34 039	9.8%
	1 216 753	1 198 833	8 487 989	8 453 953	34 036	0.4%
Operational Expenditure						
Professional /Administration	79 435	90 116	596 278	598 412	2 134	0.4%
Accounting and Auditing	41 237	41 237	352 366	357 659	5 293	1.5%
Insurance, Legal and Admin	38 198	48 879	243 912	240 753	(3 159)	-1.3%
General Office	8 708	10 306	33 571	79 142	45 571	57.6%
Office Administration	8 708	10 306	33 571	79 142	45 571	57.6%
	199 366	225 568	1 403 592	1 592 600	189 008	11.9%
Operational Expenses						
Municipal Charges	33 315	50 244	253 326	340 332	87 006	25.6%
General Operations	0	21 003	96 021	151 021	55 000	36.4%
Salaries & Wages	166 051	154 321	1 054 246	1 101 247	47 001	4.3%
Security	483 099	487 647	3 313 162	3 404 447	91 285	2.7%
Security Operations	61 309	62 190	354 221	454 542	100 321	22.1%
Guarding Services	421 790	421 257	2 952 529	2 920 505	(32 024)	-1.1%
Insurance Claims and Excess	0	4 200	6 413	29 400	22 987	78.2%
Repairs & Maintenance	158 988	183 084	889 365	1 247 099	357 734	28.7%
Repairs & Maintenance	15 915	40 010	180 810	266 020	85 210	32.0%
Park Maintenance Contract	143 074	143 074	708 555	981 079	272 524	27.8%
	929 597	996 721	6 235 969	6 921 700	685 731	9.9%
Operating Profit / (Loss)	287 157	202 112	2 252 020	1 532 253		
Non-Recurring Revenue	2 475	0	56 020	0	56 020	100.0%
Non-Recurring Expenses	30 208	155 200	470 822	476 400	5 578	1.2%
Net Positive/ (Negative)	(27 733)	(155 200)	(414 802)	(476 400)	50 442	
Net Profit / (Loss)	259 424	46 912	1 837 218	1 055 853		

“Rich people believe ‘I create my life.’
Poor people believe ‘Life happens to me.’”

– T.Harv Eker

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IRENE FARM VILLAGES HOME OWNERS ASSOCIATION

Summary Levy Statements – September 2020

	120+ Days	90 Days	60 Days	30 Days	Current	Total		Previous Month
Normal - Self Pay	-	-	0	17 084	-345 677	- 328 592		-374 917
Normal - Debit Order	-	-	-	-	-12 761	-12 761		-15 187
	-	-	0	17 084	-358 438	-341 353		-390 105
Debt Collection - AA (30/60 days)	64 984	9 814	13 583	28 643	28 200	145 224		162 720
Debt Collection - JJR (90+ days)	174 637	10 216	10 569	10 644	11 647	217 711		298 246
Debt Collection - KSB (90+ days)	19 744	7 330	7 419	7 396	7 070	48 959		51 256
Sold - Previous Owner Accounts	-	-	-	-	-66 324	-66 324		-58 772
In Transfer	-	282	2 310	3 251	-12 140	-6 297		-8 037
Other	-	-	1 458	2 478	1 648	5 584		3 083
	259 365	27 642	35 338	69 496	-388 338	3 503	-94.0%	58 391
Debt Collection - Accounts > R200,000	1 004 305	62 286	29 412	28 917	14 277	1 139 197	-6.6%	1 219 751
	1 263 670	89 928	64 750	98 413	-374 061	1 142 700	-10.6%	1 278 142

We want to thank all members who continue to pay their monthly levies so diligently. Throughout the COVID-19 lockdown, members have been paying and now, post lockdown, members really have come forward and settled their accounts. The current debtors book is at the lowest point in many years. Last month there was some movement in the number of accounts outstanding, but all in the right direction. The number of accounts owing more than 3 months remained constant at 20; 60 days decreased from 25 to 22; 30 days from 55 to 54. Account Ability and the Estate Management are continuously driving collections to ensure adequate cash flow to fulfil the HOA obligations. Great news is that we reached settlement with one of our > R200 000 accounts, and received final payment in October 2020.

Irene Farm Villages Home Owners Association – Capital/ Development Projects

	Current Stage	Current Status	Approved Budget	Actual Spend To Date	Available Budget
Infrastructure Development	Planning		8 797 910	820 311	7 977 599
Security Upgrade Project	Define		1 700 000	1 583 234	116 766
Total			10 497 910	3 128 344	8 094 365

Account Ability

Office Address:
Sovereign Drive,
Route 21
Corporate Park

Accounting
Office Hours
8:00 to 13:00
Monday to Friday

Office Tel: 082 780 0059

Accounts Email:
accounts@aams.co.za

IFV Accounts:
Winnie Boshoff

Summary Income Statement by Account Ability



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May 2010



Bidvest Protea Coin is a proud security partner to Irene Farm Villages and has experienced enjoyment over the years by witnessing and in some instances, participating in all that the Estate has to offer.

We have participated in various fun days and been given the opportunity to display our branded vehicles and other technical products and services. On a couple of occasions, we were also able to land our Helicopter right in the Estate, giving adults and children



2010 Domestic Watch | 2014 Dog Show | 2015 Dog Show

alike the opportunity to view our spectacular Airwing, with some of the excited children even getting a chance to sit in the chopper right next to the pilot!

The Wet Nose Day was also very memorable, watching families walking their dogs through the Estate enjoying the beautiful, peaceful environment. On this occasion BPC was also able to host a 'Grand Finale' dog show, where we 'showed off' off our highly trained and specialized dog unit and their capabilities.

Our hi-jacking simulation demonstration a few years ago had residents talking for weeks about the experience, not to mention the enjoyment and sense of community shared when everyone dug in to plant trees across the Estate.

The true sense of belonging felt by being a part of this Estate Community has not been lost on us or with our Marchell Galant, the first Security Contract Manager to work on the Estate.

The Bidvest Protea Coin Management and dedicated staff wish to congratulate the Irene Farm Villages Homeowners Association on their 20th Anniversary and on the successful production of your special edition.





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2. Improved community benefits

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Other services provided include tree-felling and tree trimming; residential garden and estate landscape maintenance; and refuse removal.

"We have specialised in residential and commercial garden maintenance and landscaping services in the greater Gauteng area for over 30 years," says Garden Creations' owner, Jason Fick. "As service providers to Irene Farm Villages since 2010, we wish them everything of the best for their 20th Anniversary."



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in Irene Farm
Villages Estate
since 2010!

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TOGETHER, WE ARE MAKING A REAL DIFFERENCE

Celebrating over 9 years of a strong relationship
and 600 tonnes of recycled waste.

As Irene Farm Villages celebrates its 20th Anniversary, we at Remade Recycling are taking this opportunity to look back at what has been a long, trusted relationship with the estate. What better way to bid farewell to the final print of their expertly curated magazine as they move to a digital format than to pay tribute to the impact that we have made together in this community.

Irene Farm Villages is a peaceful, picturesque estate which has marvellously captured the balance between embracing modern advances while maintaining country style living, as proven by the abundant bird and wildlife. For years, the estate has uniquely served its vision of preserving the environment, by introducing sustainable initiatives that each member of the community can participate in, like the recycling programme started with Remade Recycling in 2011.

Just about 9 years ago, Irene Farm Villages became the first estate to initiate Remade Recycling's Residential Estate Recycling Programme and enabled Remade Recycling to fulfil its purpose of helping communities transform the future of waste and protect our planet. This relationship was strengthened when, in 2016, Remade Recycling was bought by Mpac. As the sister brand to Mpac Recycling, Remade Recycling now has direct access to the paper mills, and the off-take outlet for paper products has provided suppliers like Irene Farm Villages with the added assurance that their recyclables are being responsibly disposed of.

A STRONG PARTNERSHIP TACKLING A GROWING CONCERN

Waste is part of our daily lives and while we have the power to help the planet heal by taking decisive action, the biggest barriers are often education

and access. Many communities struggle to help people understand the need for recycling, how to recycle effectively, and how to make it a regular activity. They also struggle to find the right partner to assist them in regular collections.

Thankfully, Irene Farm Villages is one such community that understands the need for a relationship with a trusted service provider who can help with both challenges. Says Marinus van Vollenhoven at Remade Recycling, "Our fully-inclusive Residential Estate Recycling Programme was successfully launched on 16 September 2011 during an advertised, interactive event at the estate where we could properly engage with residents and begin the recycling conversation with them. We also aimed to keep the new programme top of mind for residents and took the time to distribute information flyers and erect eye-catching posters."

Happily, this strategy worked and, by 2015, collections were averaging 5,5 tonnes per month. To date, the estate has diverted over 600 tonnes of recyclable material away from landfill.

JOINING THE RECYCLING REVOLUTION, ONE HOME AT A TIME

Joining the recycling revolution in the estate couldn't be easier, because it's quite literally a case of, "You do the

recycling and we do the collecting."

Here's how it works:

- Green-branded bags are supplied to residents.
- We collect all grades of recyclables (paper, plastic, cans, glass), all forms of e-Waste, large appliances, and moving boxes.
- No sorting is required.
- Collections are made weekly by Remade Recycling.
- There's no registration and all costs are already included in the levy.

Says At van Niekerk, Estate Manager at Irene Farm Villages, "Thanks to the convenience and effectiveness of the programme, we are pleased to see that the community spirit and participation is higher than ever, with more and more households making recycling a regular activity. The cumulative collection volume has risen to over 600 tonnes of mixed recyclables since we first started."

This is both cause for celebration and a sign of the strong relationship between Remade Recycling and Irene Farm Villages. Recycling is a powerful way to prevent pollution, save energy, and conserve natural resources and it's also something that every household can do. Together, we can make a real difference, close the loop on waste, and restore our planet for future generations to enjoy.

Contact the HOA Office for more details and start recycling today.





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A HARMONIOUS AND NEIGHBOURLY VILLAGE LIFESTYLE

It was the start of a new millennium. Property values were rising steadily and secure residential estates were attracting families looking for a quality lifestyle. This was the context within which Irene Farm Villages was founded.

For a secure residential estate to be successful, a great amount of preparation and planning has to be done before the first stand is sold and the first foundation is laid. As with any flourishing property venture, location is of paramount importance, but even more important – the development needs to make sense. Irene Farm Villages ticks all the boxes when it comes to convenience and benefits and now, twenty years after its launch, we get to celebrate all that has been achieved.

Originally owned by the Erasmus family during the 19th century, the land changed hands when, in 1889, Hugo Nelmapius bought it, naming the farm after his daughter, Irene. Another change of ownership ensued six years later when, after Nelmapius passed away, the farm went up for auction and was purchased by Johannes van der Byl and his two partners. Van der Byl later bought the partners' shares and established a dairy farm, which we now all know as the Irene Dairy Farm.

A century later, we find that the 1500ha farm had been reduced substantially in land size, and a bustling suburb had sprung up, with its own country club, shops and schools within close proximity. Cousins Adrian and Henry, fourth generation Van der Byl



owners of the Irene Dairy Farm, realised the value of utilising some of the farm land for commercial and residential purposes and that is where the journey of developing the Irene Farm Villages as a residential estate started.

"Prior to selling off that section of the farm, we had used the land for cattle grazing. There was a 400-head beef herd that freely roamed the whole area. They were only brought back to the farm occasionally – all the way down



These trees that were brought from elsewhere on the farm are happily growing in the park in front of Pheasant Lane.



Jill Varrie with some of the earth moving staff.



Road works inside the estate.



Nelmapius Drive – for dipping and de-worming,” recalls Adrian.

“We were busy developing the Route 21 Corporate Park when the idea of building a residential estate came up. There was a big debate over what to name the estate, but eventually it was agreed that calling it Irene Farm Villages would help to sell the stands.”

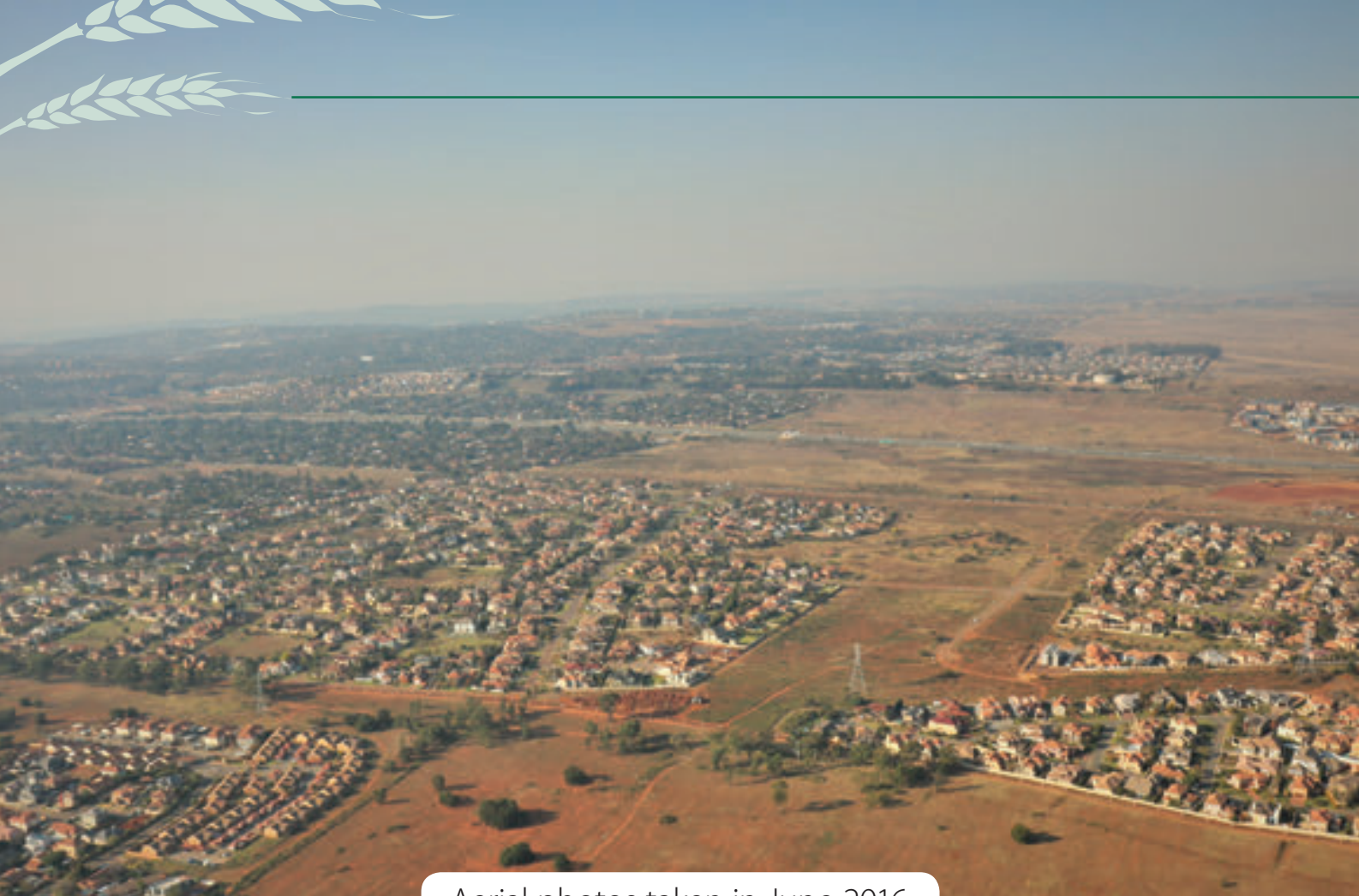
Estate agents, Peter and Jill Varrie, who were there right from inception, describe how they started marketing the raw veld. “Jill was working on the Route 21 Corporate Park development at the time. I had left my position as Works Manager at Independent Newspapers and together we started our own estate agency. We secured the mandate to do all the sales at Irene Farm Villages and, working closely with Investron, the development partners, we literally designed all the marketing material from scratch. We had a ladybird as our emblem, which we had printed at the bottom of all the contracts,

and we gave each purchaser a wire and bead ladybird as a memento.”

“Because the development hadn’t yet been proclaimed when we started selling, the land was cheap. And we allowed the buyers to pay off their deposits by giving us a down payment followed by post-dated cheques,” Peter continues.

As the launch coincided with the onset of a residential property

boom, sales were brisk. “At times, the scrum around the estate model on a Saturday or Sunday was quite hectic. This was before any of the roads had been laid out or the installation of services had begun. Only the main guard plaza had been built. There was great excitement when the big yellow earthmoving machines came on site and started digging the trenches for



Aerial photos taken in June 2016





Aerial photos taken in October 2020.



the services and started scraping the roads. There was even more excitement when the building of the first houses commenced."

"Our first sale was concluded on 11 November 2000. Twenty years later, there are still around 50 families living here who are original buyers."

Peter and Jill managed to sell all the stands in Phases 1 and 2 within a period of 18 months. They also built one of the first houses on the estate and Peter was voted onto the Home Owners Association's Board as Chairman for two years and remained on the Board for a further year after that. Jill had her own part to play, as she started *The Villager* magazine and produced it for a number of years before passing it on.

Everyone involved in the early stages worked closely together. In consultation with the architects, the developers sorted out important criteria, such as the floor area to land area ratio, and determined the four architectural styles to be recommended: Tuscan, French Provençal, Georgian and English Country.

The estate currently has 654 full title residential stands that are developed with sixteen new stands that have been released for further development. Residents enjoy the benefit of being a mere 20 minutes away from the OR Tambo International Airport, in addition to being centrally positioned between Pretoria and Johannesburg and within easy reach of Centurion. The Irene Village Mall and the Rietvlei Nature Reserve are a stone's throw away and residents have access to excellent private and public schools, two golf clubs and other sport and recreation facilities, and top private hospitals.

Peter Varrie

It is a credit to the residents of Irene Farm Villages, the management, and the many HOA Directors that the estate has become the quality estate that it is – one of the best, if not the best, family lifestyle estates in Gauteng. Many try to claim the crown but none are, I believe, as worthy as this estate. Conservatively valued at way over R3-billion, property values continue to maintain a steady return on investment.

There were initially many teething and growing pains as the HOA weaned itself off the developer, but Irene Farm Villages has now grown into a safe and desirable place in which to live. The original concept for the residential estate focussed on creating a peaceful and safe neighbourhood for families and we can all agree that this objective has been achieved. Visitors have commented on the calmness they experience, the delight in the beautiful gardens, and the abiding sense of a well-groomed environment.

I raise a glass to every one of the residents for your continued commitment to the numerous estate events that foster the sense of community, and your dedication to ensuring that the physical environment remains as beautiful as it is.

Written with fond memories by Peter Varrie.



Dirk and Dawn Keyser

In 2002, our dream to run a B&B in IFV began to realise when construction of our home started in Pheasant Lane. At that stage, the estate consisted of a guardhouse, streets, lights, about 12 trees and 3 houses in different stages of construction.

Being an owner builder I was very much hands-on during the entire construction process and got to know most of the new owners as houses started to pop up like mushrooms in Phase 1. Although we had our fair share of trials and tribulations, it was a wonderful experience. In March 2003, we finally moved into our home.

The estate started to look great but unfortunately it soon became evident that the developer had no intention of developing the parks as had been promised. The trustees

therefore decided to develop the parks in phases. My involvement in this project started in 2004 mainly with the planting of trees and grass. Over a period of 5 years, more than 400 trees were planted and the parks had started to take shape. The support and participation of residents, whether it was giving advice or donating trees and plants, was absolutely amazing. The years I spent being part of the development of IFV were probably the best and most fulfilling years of my life. We loved living in IFV and it was with sadness that we moved in 2015.

I firmly believe that IFV is still one of the top estates in Gauteng and wish all who are involved with running the estate, as well as the residents, prosperity and happiness for the next 20 years.

Greetings from Dirk and Dawn Keyser





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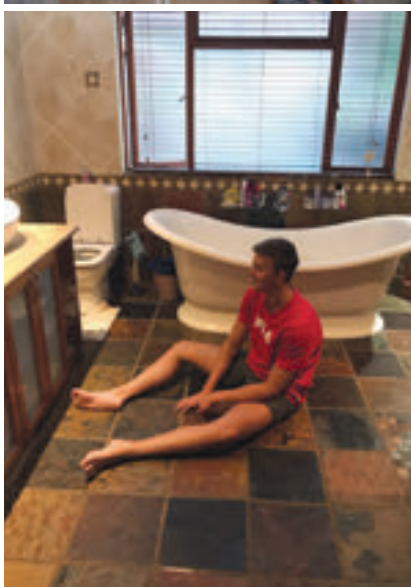
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The Van der Merwe Family

We moved to Pretoria in 2000 and settled in neighbouring Pierre Van Ryneveld. Shortly after that IFV was proclaimed and we bought 2 stands in the estate.

The great view over the Waterkloof Airforce Base landing strip and the Centurion night lights made living in the estate even more attractive. We developed the first stand and sold it, and then we started building our current home towards the end of 2005. During that time our first son was born and in 2006 our second son arrived. Our home was finished just in time to celebrate his 'first month's birthday' as we moved to the estate in December 2006.

Ever since, we have enjoyed our stay in the estate. The safe and quiet surroundings between the busy highways with the occasional air show that we view from our balcony has kept it attractive for us to stay here for the last 14 years.

We have made good friends over the years. They have become close, almost like family to us. We saw the kids growing up playing in the quiet streets and parks, just like in the 'old days'!

There's still the occasional lost meerkat or steenbok that frequents our garden and there are lots of colourful birds that find spots to sit in the big trees around us.

We also enjoy the 'bush walks' and bike trails in the estate and wish for more development of the open spaces in this regard.

The Van Der Merwe's

Stand 2144



The Grebe Family

Lindie and Egmont Grebe bought a stand, 2413 Silk Oak, in 2000 from the developer, Irene Land Corporation with a view of a long and happy stay in Irene Farm Villages. They jointly designed a house with a local architect. Plans were approved and the building started. The building was an exciting experience and they were on site daily to view the progress from laying an expensive raft foundation, to selecting the finishes for the bathrooms and kitchen.

Grass was planted both in the park, and around the house. Indigenous stinkhout trees and a yellowwood tree were planted in the park and, today, these trees have a significant presence there. From that time on, a wonderful journey began over

the ensuing 17 odd years. They saw the growth of the estate through the years, and experienced the joy which neighbours and other residents brought to the estate.

A sense of Ubuntu among all the Villagers gave them comfort and led them to realise that this is where they want to belong. Their children, Cara, Matthew, and Leo, made friends with other children in the Village, and they came to care for these kids as well.

The Grebe family bought and moved into a house in Sand Olive Street in January 2019. They have lived there since then and have made wonderful new friends that they visit and interact with on a regular basis.

Things that stood out over the years:

- Sense of Ubuntu
- Safety
- Parks
- Long walks, bicycle rides
- Friendly residents
- Friendly, and competent staff, and management.





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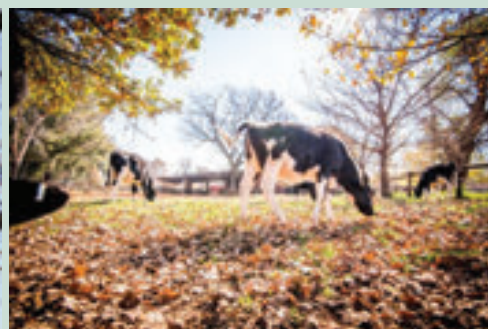
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IRENE DAIRY FARM

When you visit the Irene Dairy Farm, you may feel like you're stepping back in time, especially given the farm's rich history, but actually, this is a progressive, working dairy farm – that just happens to be within a bustling urban setting.



The Irene Dairy Farm is one of the few dairies that is certified to be able to produce and sell raw, unpasteurised milk. The cream is just like the Devonshire cream you'll find in England. And their Deli is packed full of interesting and unusual locally-produced products, from home-made jams, pickles and snacks to home-brewed beverages, as well as all the daily essentials, such as fresh eggs, breads and cakes from the bakery and, of course, milk, cream, yoghurt, butter and cheese.

If you're stretched for time or if you prefer to stay home for safety reasons, you can shop online and have your platters for entertaining and home-cooked ready-made meals delivered to your door – and you can even buy Deli gift vouchers to hand out to your friends and neighbours.

The farm is a great place to bring the whole family. The kiddies can get a feel for farm life and there are two restaurants: The Deck is a bistro-styled covered outdoor terrace situated right next to the Deli and The Barn has indoor and al fresco dining facilities that can take bookings for fairly large groups (subject to the prevailing lockdown restrictions).

In addition to its a la carte menu, The Barn also lays on a Saturday All Day Brunch Buffet between 8am and 3pm; a Sunday Breakfast Buffet from 8am to 10.30am; and a Sunday Lunch Buffet from 12noon to 3pm. For the Buffets, children under 5 years eat for free and children from 6 to 11 years are charged half price.

Favourite activities enjoyed by young and old include: watching the milking of the cows; visiting the cows' maternity ward and the crèche for the baby calves; feeding the calves and the birds; visiting the wishing well; floating miniature boats down the moat to the dam; and taking a stroll along the River Walk. If after all these activities, the kiddies still have lots of energy, there's a jungle gym and old tractors and other old farm equipment that they can explore.

To ensure the safety of the patrons, and the staff at the Irene Dairy Farm, the property is a cashless environment. All major credit and debit cards are accepted and they request that all food and beverages consumed during your visit should be purchased either from the Deli or one of the restaurants.



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IRENE COUNTRY CLUB

Set amongst shady trees and rolling lawns, the Irene Country Club (ICC) is a place where sports lovers go to unwind and enjoy playing their chosen sport – be it golf, cricket, bowls, squash or tennis.

The 18-hole golf course is reputed to be a course for everyone. It's challenging without being intimidating, a course where you can develop and build your game from strength to strength. There's also a driving range where you can practise your swing and lessons are offered, customised to your abilities and skills level.

The tennis club has six tennis courts, four of which have floodlights. The club has a large, active membership base and is a popular venue for many local tournaments. Under normal circumstances, once a year, a lawn tennis tournament is played on grass to coincide with the main events played at Wimbledon in England. The ICC has also hosted Davis Cup tennis matches at the courts on a number of occasions over the years.

The two squash courts at the ICC are well maintained and there are men's and ladies' league teams as well as social teams that play regularly. Prior to the lockdown, there were various tournaments played throughout the year.

The ICC is also home to the Irene Bowling Club. There are two bowling

greens and the club welcomes visitors, as well as juniors, students and seniors. This is a very social club that offers fun for the whole family.

The Irene Villagers Cricket Club which is based at the ICC is one of the biggest cricket clubs affiliated to the Northern Cricket Union (NCU). The club has teams playing in the men's, ladies' and seniors' divisions and social teams are also

welcomed at the club.

The cricket club has various strategic alignment initiatives in place and collaborates with several schools, NCU, the Titans and Cricket South Africa (CSA) to encourage and develop talented players. These initiatives have made the Irene Villagers Cricket Club one of the key feeder clubs for the Titans provincial teams.



Irene Village Mall

The Irene Village Mall is the closest and most convenient shopping destination for residents of Irene Farm Villages.



This shopping centre is not so much a mall, but a quaint village square with fountains, sculptures, trees and an outdoor, refreshing ambiance that is suited to our Highveld climate.

In addition to the anchor grocery stores, there are loads of speciality stores as well as fast food outlets, restaurants and coffee shops.

On the third Thursday of the month, The Good Mood Night Market takes place in the mall, with entertainment for the whole family. The market starts at 5.00pm, runs until 10.00pm, and has amazing local crafts and artisanal foods available.

The mall is open every day from 9.00am, including Public Holidays.



Smuts House Museum

The Smuts House Museum is housed in the corrugated iron and wood home where the late General Jan Smuts and his wife, Isie, lived for more than 40 years.

Jan Christiaan Smuts was born on 24 May 1870, at the Smuts family farm in Riebeeck West, near Malmesbury and this year marks the 150th anniversary of his birth. To say that Smuts was a great South African statesman is almost an understatement and, therefore, for anyone even remotely interested in the history of this country, a visit to the Smuts House Museum is a must.

The museum contains, amongst other exhibits, the timelines of: Smuts as ZAR attorney general before 1899; his contribution to the Anglo-Boer War; his political career from 1907 - 1949; the role he played during WW1 and in the Commonwealth; WW2 and the role he

played in establishing and presiding over the first meeting of the United Nations; and establishing the SA army, maritime force and air force. You will also be able to view United Party memorabilia; Smuts' link with the Windsor family; and his own memorabilia.

After visiting the museum, be sure to take a walk along the 2,3km Oubaas Trail up to Smuts Koppie, and stop at Ouma's Tea Garden for some tea and scones before you leave.

The Museum operating times are Wednesdays, Fridays, Saturdays and Sundays - 9:00 to 16:00. Special visits on other days may be made by prior arrangement with the Liaison Officer.





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IRENE VILLAGE MARKET @ BIG RED BARN

The Irene Village Market is an outdoor market that is held on the second and last Saturday of every month. The market, which has received many accolades from the likes of *Getaway* magazine, provides an environment that brings together artists and patrons alike, contributing to the rich historic and natural heritage of Irene village, while also offering excellent family entertainment.

The first Irene Village Market was held on 13 May 1989 at Smuts House with 34 exhibitors. After successfully operating there for 27 years, in 2016, the market relocated to the BIG RED BARN.

The winning recipe is still the same – all exhibits and products are carefully evaluated and selected to ensure

authenticity. You will find original clothing, jewellery, furniture, antiques, toys, plants, flowers, art and crafts, woodwork, steelwork and many more stalls. You can browse through the antique section and buy collectables at bargain prices and visit the food stalls in the deli section where you can sit and relax and enjoy something to eat while you listen to live music under the Blue Gum trees. The deli section boasts freshly made food and delicatessens, drinks, bakes, sauces, fruits, meat, herbs and spices, craft beer etc.

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RIETVLEI DAM AND NATURE RESERVE



Get close to nature – visit the Rietvlei Dam and Nature Reserve, a mere 5km from Irene Farm Villages.

The farm Rietvallei was first registered as such in 1841. Despite its valuable fountains, large tracts were at the time treacherous to farming, as some of South Africa's largest and deepest peatlands are found there.

The farm was bought by the Government in 1929, and the building of the dam was not only to supply water to Pretoria, but also to create work during

the Great Depression.

Fast forward nearly 100 years, and the dam currently supplies about 40% of Tshwane's water, whilst the 4 000ha Reserve has become a popular destination for a day's outing. You can view Buffalo, Springbok, Blesbok, Zebras, Wildebeest, Hartbeest, and several other game, and you will most likely also spot some of the Rhino's there, of which Oortjies is currently the oldest.

Rietvlei also forms part of the southern African Cheetah Breeding Programme, and has recently introduced its latest pair of Cheetahs, Njozi and Joe.

The reserve offers various viewing hides, which have been built and maintained by the Friends of Rietvlei.

Together with the Honorary Rangers, the Friends of Rietvlei assist with removing alien invasive plants and help to maintain the reserve, in addition to contributing to keeping it safe. They have a hut that is available for members to stay over in the reserve, hold regular work-sessions and use as a base for hikes. Members of the public are also welcome to join some of the hikes and tours of the reserve that are organised by the Friends of Rietvlei.

If you would like to find out more about the Friends of Rietvlei and join their activities or bring a group of students, children or friends for an activity, visit their website at www.friendsofrietvlei.org or send an email to: rietvlei@mailbox.co.za.



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Founded in 1998, Cornwall Hill College is a private IEB college that provides education for boys and girls from entry-level Grade 000 to Matric. The college's educational philosophy is to create a solid foundation for its pupils while honouring the traditional values of honesty, integrity, compassion and responsibility. The college prides itself on having achieved a 100% Matric pass rate since inception and strives to continue achieving this in the years to come.

The college's facilities include science and computer laboratories; a music academy; netball and tennis courts; hockey, rugby and cricket fields; and two swimming pools. Students are also able to play golf, and participate in equestrian activities, athletics, cross country running, chess, drama, art, singing and public speaking.

The college offers boarding facilities and has the capacity to take up to 1800 students.

Other schools and colleges in the area include:

CENTURION & IRENE

Centurion Academy
Centurion Christian School
Hoërskool Centurion
Hoërskool Eldoraigne
Hoërskool Zwartkop
Irene Primary School
Irene Middle School
Sutherland High School
Trinity House Heritage Hall

PRETORIA

Afrikaanse Hoër Seunskool (Affies)
Afrikaanse Hoër Meisieskool
American International School of Pretoria
Christian Brothers College

Crawford International School
Garsfontein Primary
Hatfield Christian School
Hoërskool Garsfontein
Hoërskool Menlopark
Hoërskool Waterkloof
Lyttelton Manor High School
Menlopark Primary
Pretoria Boys' High School
Pretoria High School for Girls
Pretoria Technical High School
Pro Arte Alphen Park Art School
St Alban's College
St Mary's Diocesan School for Girls
The Glen High School
Village Waldorf School
Willowridge High School

TERTIARY INSTITUTIONS

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INTEC College
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Need someone to look after your dogs while going away? We can help! Our service includes feeding, walking and loads of love, cuddling and playing. We love dogs! Whatsapp Nico 082 799 5887 or Willem on 082 799 5884. We both live in the Estate. Nico (24) works from home and Willem (21) is a student. #TheCollarClub

FOR HIRE

Jumping castles, tables and chairs, gazebos, kiddies' tables and chairs for hire @ 42 Country Club Avenue, IFV. Contact Werda on Tel: 082 822 8659 or visit www.creativecastles.co.za.

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DOMESTIC WORKERS

Blessing is looking for work as a domestic worker on Mondays, Tuesdays, Wednesdays and Thursdays. She

works for a family in the estate on Fridays. Blessing is a young reliable worker with a joyful personality. She cleans well and is not afraid of hard work. Please call her on 081 447 4954. For a reference, please call Vangi on 072 731 0172.

Silvia seeks employment for Tuesdays, Wednesdays and Fridays. She is hardworking, thorough and loyal. Her home language is Sepedi and she speaks basic English. Please contact me for a reference at 083 769 2825, or call Silvia directly on 072 495 1139.

Emma is looking for work two days a week, on Mondays and Thursdays. She is a hard worker, trustworthy and reliable. You can contact her on 072 871 7771. You can also contact Betsie for a reference on 082 7400 274. She has been working for me for 6 years.

Sina Ntokolaim, 43years old, looking for work Monday to Friday, for cleaning, washing, and ironing. Sleep out. Contact her on 071 270 8457.

Louisah is looking for a job as a domestic worker or a nanny. She is a hard worker, reliable, honest and good with looking after the kids. She also pays great attention to detail when cleaning and treats your belongings with respect. For references contact Condrat Brits on 082 922 9323 or Nicky on 083 259 6663.

Hardworking, faithful and honest domestic worker available to work for someone on Mondays, Wednesdays or Thursdays. Already registered at IFV. She can speak, read and write Afrikaans. Please contact Lize on 083 633 2881.

GARDENERS

Angelo seeks employment for Fridays. He has been working for us for over 3 years. He is a loyal worker, and proud of his work. His previous employers have relocated. For references, please call Louanda on 083 769 2825, Frank on 083 725 7449 or Brandon on 082 496 6300. Or call Angelo directly on 073 462 5418.

Philimon has been working for us for more than 6 years and is also working for other families in the estate. He has Thursdays and Fridays available to take on work. He is good at doing all kinds of odd jobs around the house and he also does waterproofing of roofs in the estate. For more details and a reference, please phone me, Susan on 082 851 5711, or call Philimon directly on 083 540 9365.

Our gardener, **Andrew Kwalila**, is looking for additional work in the estate. He has been working for us for 12 years, is reliable, efficient and proactive. He has four days open and is keen to fill them. Please contact him on 082 717 7432.

A promotional graphic for 'Church Online' featuring a man and a woman singing into microphones. The text 'my at home' is written in a stylized font above the 'EC' logo. Below the logo, it says 'PASTORS BERT AND CHARNÉ PRETORIUS'. The main text reads 'JOIN US FOR CHURCH ONLINE EVERY SUNDAY'. At the bottom, there are two boxes: one for 'GAU TV DStv CHANNEL 265' with a '10am' time slot, and another for 'MY3C.TV' with social media icons for Facebook and YouTube, and a time slot of '08am | 10am | 12pm | 05pm'.



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Professional advice on all personal and business-related insurance needs. **Personal:** Medical Aid, Funeral, Life Cover, Short Term Insurance, Investments. **Business:** Group Benefits, Company Agreements, Business Contingency, Commercial Insurance. Contact us: riaan@netactive.co.za / hilda.muller@netactive.co.za 084 653 6299 / 083 653 6299 / 012 348 1239. Office hours: 08h00 – 16h00.

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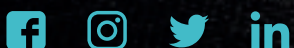
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
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