



The
Villager

Issue 4 • 2020

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SATURDAY
11 APRIL 2020**

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for 2020**

Levy increase for 2020

Autumn Splendour

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The Villager focuses on Irene Farm Villages. The magazine is delivered to the home of each resident on the Estate. The magazine is co-ordinated and published by Estates in Africa (Pty) Ltd on behalf of the Home Owners' Association of Irene Farm Villages. The opinions of workers and personnel of Estates in Africa (Pty) Ltd do not necessarily reflect those of the HOA of Irene Farm Villages.

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Easter Egg Hunt

Saturday · 11 April · 9am

At the Post Office Boxes



CANCELLED
due to Coronavirus

All estate children (12 years old and younger) are invited to our annual Easter egg hunt. Quality coffee will be available for Mom and Dad.

Hosted by Pam Golding Properties, in conjunction with Boshoff Inc and Irene Farm Villages HOA.



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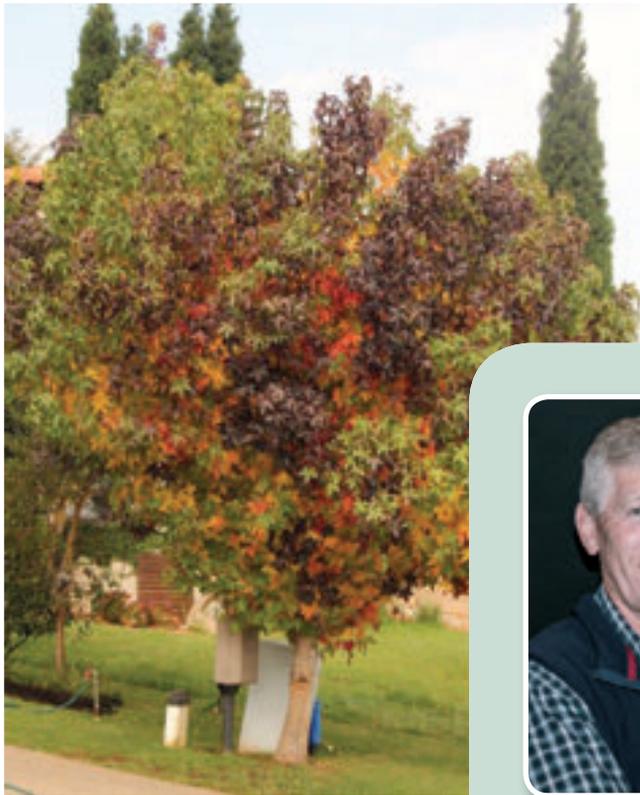
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Message from the Estate Office



At van Niekerk

Dear Residents

This issue is usually referred to as the Autumn issue as we are approaching Autumn 2020. Personally, this is my favourite season of the year. Characteristically on the Highveld, the purple, pink and white flowers of the Cosmos appear along the rural roads, and the foliage of the trees, (especially the Liquid Amber and the Witstinkhout trees), turns into the most beautiful colours, which are known as the 'Autumn colours'.

There are several topics that will be discussed in this issue, which are important for the members to take note of.

The Homeowners' Association (HOA) in conjunction with its sponsor, PAM GOLDING, and its legal support team, Boshoff Attorneys and Conveyancers, planned to host the Easter Egg Hunt on Saturday, 11 April 2020, but the COVID-19 pandemic caught up with us. Hence, in accordance with the Government's Disaster Plan, the Easter Egg Hunt has been cancelled.

The COVID-19 pandemic has caused the Board of Directors to take several precautionary steps to safeguard the health and safety of all residents. These are documented in the Contingency Plan. The action steps that flow from this plan were communicated to all our residents on Friday, 20 March 2020. The crux of the plan is to secure the safety of all the residents and at the same time to take precautionary steps to mitigate the spreading of COVID-19. Let us stay calm, be focused and work together as a community.

The finances of the Homeowners' Association are sound. The Board of Directors increased the monthly levy by 5,25% as from 1 April 2020. This increase is required for the purpose of meeting all the expenses which the Association has incurred, or which the Directors reasonably anticipate the Association will incur in the attainment of its objectives or the pursuit of its business for the next financial year, from

1 March 2020 to 28 February 2021. There is no special levy for this financial year.

The approved operational expenses budget summary, which was shared with the members on 28 February 2020, is set out hereunder:

	Current Budget	Actual	New Budget
	R000	R000	R000
Normal Levies	13 297,8	13 297,9	13 938,0
Interest Received & Other Income	569,5	866,2	510,1
	13 867,3	14 164,1	14 448,1
Operational Expenditure:			
Professional & Administration	854,9	830,3	990,7
General Office	141,1	140,0	171,2
Operational Expenses	2 726,8	2 617,0	2 814,2
Security	6 895,9	5 589,8	6 869,3
Repairs & Maintenance	2 101,6	2 053,8	2 147,0
	12 720,2	11 231,0	12 992,3
Once-off Operational Costs	1 149,0	2 369,0	1 453,3
Net Profit / (Loss)	(1,9)	564,1	2,5

Major Projects included in Once-Off Operational Cost	
Environmental Development	50,0
Cash Provision	540,0
Speed Humps	75,0
Mountain Bike Track	20,0
Irrigation Automation	40,0
Perimeter Fence - Maintenance & Paint	400,0
Golf Cart Replacement	62,4
Social Welfare	65,9
Security Cameras & Facial Recognition	200,0



Due to the increase, the levy rate per square meter increases from R2,23221 to R2,34940, calculated on the total size of each member's property (stand size, not the house size). Members are reminded that levy accounts are due and payable upfront on the first day of the month.

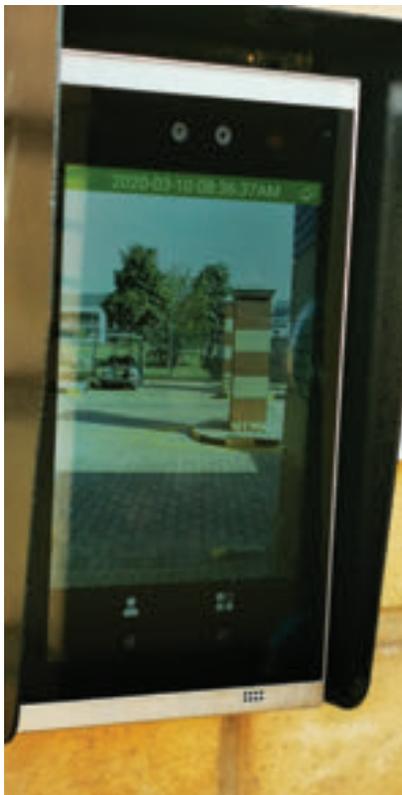
Here follows a short summary of the operational projects that were included in the budget:

- **Steel palisade perimeter fence:** The fence, approximately 4,6km, was last painted in 2011. The fence will be sanded down, repaired with anti-rust undercoat of the rusted areas, followed by the painting of the entire fence on the inside and the outside. The expected project time is three (3) months.



- **Golf Cart:** The golf cart has reached the end of its life span, after 12 years running, with more and more repairs required recently. The new golf cart will be financed over three years.

- **Security Equipment:** Provision has been made for new general surveillance cameras to be installed at strategic places in the estate. In addition, facial recognition cameras will be placed at the turnstiles, to assist with the identification of contract



View from a security camera

workers, whose biometric access at times fails, due to poor fingerprint quality.

- **Speedhumps:** An additional three (3) speedhumps will be constructed in accordance with the Tshwane Metro Council's approved Traffic Calming Plan.

- **Mountain Bike**

Track: The design and layout of the track will be done in consultation with the members, who are part of the initial support group, and any other members who have a keen interest in the matter.



- **Irrigation Automation:** The aim is to automate the irrigation of the flower beds at the two gate entrances. This will allow us to use water more sparingly and save on labour and diesel.

- **Social Welfare:** A Social and Welfare Fund will be established by the HOA with the prime objective being to assist with the social well-being of the security and garden service personnel.



The Board of Directors has approved the accreditation of the following nine (9) estate agencies for 2020/2021 - each will be paying an accreditation fee towards the Homeowners' Association:

Apple Property Connection A FRESH APPROACH TOWARDS REAL ESTATE



Apple Property Connection's aim is to support their clients in a holistic manner. They abide by their ethos of ethical conduct, focused marketing, and service excellence. www.appleproperty.co.za is a user-friendly, up to date website which is also linked to various other websites. Their agents are successful SELLING and RENTAL agents with many years of experience in all sectors of the market. Enjoy maximum exposure of your most valuable asset with their large team of agents.

BuySell Real Estate Agents in Pretoria.



BuySell is a residential, sales and renting agency. Nina Antoniou, a Master Property practitioner in Real Estate since 1997, started BuySell in March 2003, after having sold Pre-vue Properties in November 2001. BuySell specialises in selling and renting residential property. They sell in the Irene area, namely Irene Farm Villages Estate, Cornwall Hill Estate, and Irene Proper. Their rentals cover Centurion and the East of Pretoria. Eunice Engelbrecht is their very reliable rental agent. They endeavour to provide an honest and reliable service to all their clients.

Léane Graaff Properties



As a residential property principal, Léane Graaff aims to provide the best service and support to her clients throughout the process of buying, renting or selling their homes. The team behind Léane Graaff Properties utilises the most current real estate technologies to effectively and efficiently market homes and communicate with buyers and sellers, driving a win-win scenario for all parties involved. Léane has operated in the same residential area for the past 12 years, and solid and sustainable relationships with her clients have been cemented over the years. Providing a superior residential real estate service to all clients remains her passion.

Leapfrog Property Group "Keep calm, I will sell your house!"



Because of his many years of experience and his successful image in the neighbourhood, Steven Kruger says Leapfrog is your best choice for selling your home. Whether you're ready to move out of your starter home, would like to relocate closer to work, or want to invest in another property, give your Leapfrog agent a call to get you moving!

Pam Golding Properties



Built on family values and a culture of service excellence, Pam Golding Properties is recognised as Southern Africa's leading, independent real estate group. They provide a full spectrum of services to local and global clients through a worldwide network of over 300 offices and more than 2 000 professional staff and agents.

RealNet



RealNet Ultimate is a proud member of the RealNet Property Group which has national representation through its franchised network. They have an extensive database of customers looking for upmarket properties in the estate lifestyle category and are therefore able to offer property owners in Irene Farm Villages the opportunity to leverage from those enquiries. They are proud to be of service to you.

RM Realtors



Based in Irene Farm Villages Estate, RM Realtors is an experienced company that has already been in the property industry for twenty years. Rental incomes for investors form an integral part of their service and they are therefore in a position to help tenants and owners quickly and efficiently. Their goal is to provide exceptional service to their clients and build good, solid and lasting relationships with satisfied clients whilst improving their market share continuously. They subscribe to high ethical standards and abide by a strict code of conduct to ensure peace of mind.

Seeff



As property experts, Seeff knows everything that Centurion has to offer. It is a fast growing, thriving area that is well positioned. Looking to buy or rent? They are here to help you meet your goal.

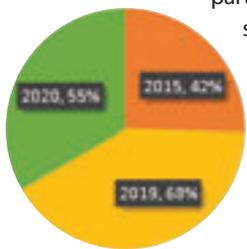
Seeff Centurion gives you the services of area specialist agents. Their Managing Director and Principal, Steve van Wyk, took over in 2003. He started with 16 agents and has grown the team to over 50 people. When you call, email or step into their office, you'll see the difference in the way they assist you.

Superior Realty



As a resident agent with over 7 years' experience and record sales in Irene Farm Villages, Jonathan Koen of Superior Realty will provide unsurpassed marketing, focused on your specific needs as a seller. His goal is not only to ensure a successful sale but to work tirelessly to get the best price for the sellers. He only works with the finest photographers and experts to present your property in the best possible way to his extended database of qualified and new buyers entering the market every day. Superior Realty will provide a free, researched valuation in order to secure sellers their desired results.

As you will know by now, recycling remains one of our priorities as a community in the race to ensure a safer environment for the future. Our appointed recycling service provider, Remade Recycling, which is part of the MPACT Group, undertook a participation survey on 13 February this year. The survey showed that Irene Farm Villages had a 55% participation for 2020, compared to the 68% in 2019 and 42% in 2015, (the last mentioned was a year after we started with the recycling programme). The survey also indicated that amongst thirteen estates, where they collect recyclables, the Irene Farm Villages achieved the fourth highest participation. It is clear from the survey that there is room for improvement, especially if we want to get back to 68%, or more. We urge you to become part of the recycling initiative in our estate.



Garden Creations, our service provider that is tasked with maintaining our parks and the entrances at the two gate houses, did a great job during the past summer season. They were especially challenged by weeds that invaded the park lawns and some dry periods during the summer months. This called for additional backbreaking tasks to be carried out. We will share the winter programme with you in the next issue of *The Villager*. The gardener of the month for March is



Cosmos Scout



Cosmos Scout.

From the Security Desk, we can report that, during the past month, there was no breach of the perimeter fence, mainly because of the CCTV camera system and the due diligence from the Security personnel. However, on Saturday, 29 February 2020 at 17h10 a visitor to the estate was hi-jacked at the entrance to the North (second) gate by two armed men, who stole their BMW X5 vehicle. No shots were fired and luckily nobody was injured.

Residents are always reminded of the dangers of hi-jackings and other crimes and requested to generally remain alert. The modus operandi of hi-jackers is to target a specific vehicle or person and to follow such vehicle to a spot where the hi-jackers deem it suitable to hi-jack the person or vehicle. It is usually a spot where the vehicle is required to make a stop.

If you suspect that you are being followed and are close to the Joint Operational Centre (JOC) next to the TOTAL garage in Van Ryneveld Road, stop at the JOC and report the matter. There are usually private security armed response vehicles there that can respond and assist immediately.

When you are approaching one of the entrance gates and suspect that you are being followed, try to draw the attention of the Security by raising the alarm and hooting, whilst you keep on driving around the traffic circle at the main gate or around the centre isle at the North

gate. It is important you do not come to a complete stop in such circumstances until assisted. Once Security has been alerted, they will follow a standard operating procedure that is in place to assist in such an event.

The HOA's Security Sub Committee in conjunction with the Board of Directors will again address the matter with the security service provider and will consider any additional steps which can be implemented to enhance the safety of all.

The progress with the Infrastructure Development Plan (IDP) is progressing, although slowly. We are still waiting for the Tshwane Metro Council to approve the building plans for the main gatehouse. The Quantity Surveyor (QS) has completed the draft Bill of Quantities (BOQ). Once the Board of Directors has approved the implementation of the BOQ, the QS will send out the tender invitations to the building contractors.

In this issue, Knight explains the value of the chess symbols, looks at the 'knight fork' chess tactic, and gives some advice to avoid a few women chess players.

Greetings
Estate Management

"However long the night, the dawn will break"

An African proverb.



IRENE FARM VILLAGES HOME OWNERS ASSOCIATION

Summary Income Statement – February 2020

	February 2020		Year to Date		YTD Variance	
	Actual	Budget	Actual	Budget	Value	%
Operational Income						
Levy Income	1 108 155	1 108 154	13 297 855	13 297 848	7	0.0%
Other Income	46 095	18 250	920 689	569 460	351 229	61.7%
	1 154 250	1 126 404	14 218 544	13 867 308	351 236	2.5%
Operational Expenditure						
Professional /Administration	63 876	63 690	834 413	848 889	14 476	1.7%
Accounting and Auditing	42 779	39 274	539 220	540 288	1 068	0.2%
Insurance, Legal and Admin	21 097	24 416	295 193	308 601	13 408	4.3%
General Office	15 753	8 311	150 323	141 082	(9 241)	-6.6%
Office Administration	15 753	8 311	150 323	141 082	(9 241)	-6.6%
Operational Expenses	178 397	212 934	2 573 712	2 726 784	153 072	5.6%
Municipal Charges	18 563	49 738	552 618	585 604	32 986	5.6%
General Operations	15 135	16 103	183 225	193 669	10 444	5.4%
Salaries & Wages	144 698	147 093	1 837 869	1 947 511	109 642	5.6%
Security	480 233	496 534	5 570 888	5 827 882	256 994	4.4%
Security Operations	76 482	59 029	641 462	736 216	94 754	12.9%
CCTV Equipment Rental	10 787	19 000	168 866	248 400	79 534	32.0%
Guarding Services	392 963	418 505	4 760 560	4 843 266	82 706	1.7%
Repairs & Maintenance	183 921	176 213	2 055 752	2 101 581	45 829	2.2%
Repairs & Maintenance	47 660	38 655	440 091	496 281	56 190	11.3%
Park Maintenance Contract	136 261	137 558	1 615 661	1 605 300	(10 361)	-0.6%
	922 179	957 682	11 185 087	11 646 218	461 131	4.0%
Operating Profit / (Loss)	232 071	168 722	3 033 457	2 221 090		
Non-Recurring Revenue	16 670	0	403 196	0	403 196	100.0%
Non-Recurring Expenses	21 179	50 500	377 289	1 149 000	771 711	67.2%
Net Positive/ (Negative)	(4 509)	(50 500)	25 908	(1 149 000)	(368 515)	
Net Profit / (Loss)	227 562	118 222	3 059 365	1 072 090		

"We are only as strong as we are united, as weak as we are divided."

– JK Rowling

Irene Farm Villages Home Owners Association - Project Income & Other						
	Actual	Budget	Actual	Budget	Value	%
Revenue						
Special Levies	0	0	1 824 265	0	1 824 265	100.0%
CSOS Levies	15 275	0	183 295	0	183 295	100.0%

IRENE FARM VILLAGES HOME OWNERS ASSOCIATION								
Summary Levy Statements – February 2020								
	120+ Days	90 Days	60 Days	30 Days	Current	Total		Previous Month
Normal - Self Pay	-	-	-	21 739	-263 783	-242 044		-160 978
Normal - Debit Order	-	-	-	441	-6 786	-6 345		-7 559
	-	-	-	22 181	-270 569	-248 389		-168 538
Debt Collection - AA (30/60 days)	63 470	166 632	42 978	62 523	45 338	380 941	171%	301 466
Debt Collection - JJR (90+ days)	97 548	3 298	3 327	3 256	2 444	109 872	49%	106 517
Debt Collection - KSB (90+ days)	29 569	4 994	4 930	4 803	4 531	48 827	22%	51 924
Sold - Previous Owner Accounts	-	-	-	-	-49 861	-49 861		-42 896
In Transfer	-	-	-	-	-18 895	-18 895		-16 680
Other	830	-	-	1 097	-1 728	199		22 595
	191 416	174 925	51 234	93 860	-288 740	222 695	-12.5%	254 387
Debt Collection - Accounts > R200,000	1 084 898	19 677	19 623	20 207	9 708	1 154 113	0.9%	1 143 981
	1 276 314	194 602	70 857	114 067	-279 032	1 376 808	-1.5%	1 398 368

Another successful month of collections with overall debtors declining by 1.5%, excluding our 3 debtors owing more than R200,000 a reduction of 12.5%. In total, 16 debtors owe the HOA more than 120 day, and only 19 more than 90 days. The Board is continuously driving collections to ensure adequate cash flow to fulfil the HOA obligations. A number of members have not paid for a second month in a row, resulting in their biometric access being suspended. This process continuous to work very successfully for the HOA in ensure ongoing payment of levies by members.

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	690 861	8 107 049
Security Upgrade Project	Define		1 700 000	1 583 234	116 766
Total			10 497 910	2 274 095	8 223 815

Account Ability

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Route 21
Corporate Park

Accounting
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Monday to Friday

Office Tel: 082 780 0059

Accounts Email:
accounts@aams.co.za

IFV Accounts:
Winy Boshoff

Summary Income Statement by Account Ability

CHESS BY



The first step in learning to play the game of chess is to learn the relative values of chess pieces.

This is an important part of the tactics used in chess. No one will give up something of a high value to something of a lower value unless forced to do so. The value is 'relative' insomuch that the value of the pieces is measured in terms of pawns and the mobility of the pieces. The following is a rough guide to indicate the relative value of the pieces:

Symbol					
Name of piece	Pawn	Knight	Bishop	Rook / Castle	Queen
Abbreviation	P	N (Kt)	B	R	Q
Value	1	3	3	5	9
Explanation	Pawns are considered the least mobile and can only move one square after one or two moves initially.	The knight moves in an L-shape and jumps over other pieces.	Bishops can move backward and forwards diagonally an unlimited number of squares provided that there are no pieces in front of them.	Castles can move backward and forwards horizontally or vertically an unlimited number of squares provided that there are no pieces in front of them.	The queen is the strongest piece on the board and moves like both the bishop and the castle. It combines the power of both the castle and the bishop.
Mobility of pieces on an open board if the piece is placed on one of the four central squares	Two on the first move, one thereafter	8	13	14	27

The king has an infinite value. Once the king can be taken or can't get out of check, the game is lost. In the last chess column, we looked at the chess tactic called the PIN. In this issue, we will continue chess tactics and look at the **knight fork**. A knight fork is a knight move that attacks two or more enemy pieces simultaneously.



Notes:

- The total value of Black pieces is 9.
- The value of White's pieces is 4.
- BUT the Black king is in check – it must get out of check (priority of check). This is a useful device as it means the enemy king must move and with the next move a player can gain material.
- The Black king moves out of check.
- White moves and captures the black queen.



White moves in the adjacent diagram:

- The knight takes the bishop on f6 putting the Black king in check.
- The Black king must get out of check – Black cannot take the knight because the Black pawn on g7 is pinned (the protective power of a pinned piece is imaginary).
- With his next move, White will capture the unprotected rook on d5.



White moves in the diagram to the left:

- A good player recognises the knight fork easily. White in this case brings about the knight fork pattern by playing 1. Rxh4. Black must take the rook or lose the knight 1...Qxh4 and now 2. Ng6 fork is a mistake because after 2...Qd8 3.Qxf8+ Qxf8 4.Nxf8 Kxf8, everything becomes equal.
- White makes a better move here with 2. Qxf8+ and after 2...Kxf8 3. Ng6+..it is a FORK now, and White is winning a piece after 3...Kf7 4.Nxh4.

According to Nigel Short who challenged Kasparov for the world title, men make better chess players because men think differently to women. Women are considered to be more emotional than men who think more analytically (left and right brain differences in men and women). This does not mean that women cannot be good chess players. Some strong female players also hold the unrestricted Grandmaster title and are stronger than South African men. The following top women players are not only good chess players but are beautiful as well – it would be a good idea to avoid playing against them. All three ladies are better than South Africa men!



Nazi Paikidze – USA Women's Champion. Rating: 2 455



Alexandra Kosteniuk – ex Women's World Champion works part time as a swim suit model and an actress. Rating: 2 561



Tatiana Kosintseva is a Russian Chess Grandmaster. Rating: 2 581

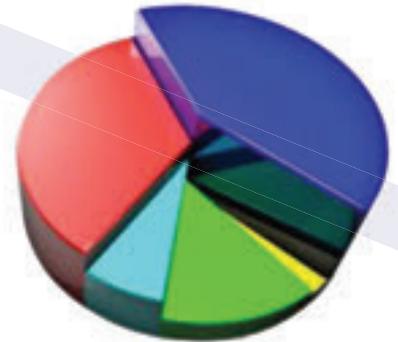


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11 THINGS YOU REALLY SHOULD STOP RECYCLING

Climate change is a hot topic and it's evident from melting ice caps to burning continents that the Earth is in need of rescuing. It's imperative that we recycle and make changes to our eco-habits, but we need to look at what we shouldn't be recycling, too.



1. Plastic Bags: You'd be surprised how many people add soft plastic bags to their recycling bin, or even bag their recyclables in plastic before disposing of them. The problem with soft plastic bags is that they can clog machines and slow down operations while workers remove the bags by hand. It's best to bring your own reusable bags with you when you're out shopping to eliminate the need for a plastic bag. You can also recycle soft plastic at many grocery stores.

2. Pizza Boxes: If it's got food stains or grease on it, it doesn't belong in recycling. Lucky for us pizza lovers, cardboard boxes



can be composted as can other food-soiled papers, so long as they're not lined with plastic. A good example is take-out boxes - check the bottom of the boxes to see if they are labelled as compostable.

3. Gift Wrap: Shiny, metallic wrapping paper and decorative ribbons do not belong in recycling. Glittery cards are also non-recyclable and can contaminate an entire bin of paper. When wrapping a gift, opt for an unlaminated paper, like brown paper, or use a simple gift bag and tissue paper.

4. Small metal bits: While bits



of metal like cold drink can tabs and aluminium sweet wrappers are technically recyclable, their small size makes them hard to detect and they often jam recycling machinery. To avoid this issue, keep the soda tab attached to the can or drop it inside the can when you're done.

5. Receipts: Although the thermal cash register receipts you receive from a grocery store or boutique are made from paper, they also contain Bisphenol A, aka BPA, the nasty cancer-causing chemical. When you recycle receipts, the BPA that they contain gets processed with other paper pulp and contaminates the recycled paper products that are being produced. If you don't need the receipt for bookkeeping purposes, it's best to tell the cashier "no receipt" when you're shopping, or throw it in the litter bin and wash your hands.

6. Food Residue: Cleaning out food and beverage containers before you recycle them is just as important as placing them in the right bin. Food residue and liquids left in condiment containers, peanut butter jars and even



wine bottles can contaminate an entire truckload of recyclables. Containers don't have to be perfectly clean, but they should be rinsed and washed with soap if they're greasy.

7. Broken Crockery: We're all prone to breaking things. Unfortunately, broken plates, ceramics, porcelain, mirrors, light bulbs, cups, wine glasses and Pyrex have different melting points and chemical compositions compared to recyclable glass and belong in the trash.

8. Nappies: Yuck, and no! Hopefully, it's no surprise that dirty diapers and



sanitary products have no place in the recycling bin. Whether they are clean or dirty, they go in the trash. There are some compostable nappies, but most municipalities do not accept them in municipal compost bins.

9. Shredded Paper: This one may seem surprising. Shredded documents and small bits of paper are too small to be valuable to recyclers and fall through the cracks or can even clog equipment. The good news is that shredded paper can be composted! If composting isn't an option, you can collect shreds in a paper bag, staple it closed and place it into the recycling bin.

10. Coffee Cups: Most takeaway coffee cups are lined with a plastic film that makes them liquid-proof and, therefore, difficult to recycle. The plastic lid might be recyclable, but it will depend on what type of plastic is accepted by your local municipality. The paper heat sleeve that goes around the cup to protect your hand is really the only part of a takeaway coffee cup that is likely recyclable or compostable.

What about polystyrene? Many people



believe that polystyrene is non-recyclable. But that's actually not true. Unlike most single-use, coated paperboard foodservice packaging materials that are not recycled because the coating and paper cannot be separated economically, polystyrene materials can be reprocessed and moulded into new packaging products. The recycling of polystyrene is within everyone's reach and can be done easily with the help of the Polystyrene Packaging Council. Visit their website and click on their link: www.polystyrenepackaging.co.za/polystyrenerecycling.htm for more information.

Either way, a better option is to say "no" to disposable cups and bring your own reusable coffee cup with you when you're on the go.

11. Frozen Food Packaging: Freezer food boxes and ice cream cartons contain a plastic polymer to prevent freezer burn. Unfortunately, this plastic coating prevents the box or carton from breaking down in the recycling process and, as mentioned before, the coatings and board cannot be separated economically. Gable-topped milk and juice cartons are also made from a paper/plastic hybrid to prevent leaks, and shelf-stable cartons (sold in a rectangular box) contain additional plastic and aluminium layers, making them even more difficult to recycle. While some recycling companies/municipalities accept cartons for recycling, many do not, so it is best to check.

Hopefully, this list of recycling offenders has provided some clarity about what does and does not belong in your recycling bins. Refusing over-packaged items at source, in the stores, is also a good way to reduce your carbon footprint.

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FERRARI PORTOFINO

BY ALAN ROSENMEYER



There are certain automotive brands that achieve icon status, mostly for their performance achievements both on the track and on the road. For a true petrol head like myself, the dream becomes to experience and, even better, to drive one of these icons.

The late Enzo Ferrari claimed that he only built and sold road cars to finance his racing team. Today, the technology developed for the F1 team is applied to the very special road cars built by this brand.

My first ever Ferrari driving experience was in the Portofino. It was powered by a front engine 3.9L V8 masterpiece delivering 441kW and 760Nm to the rear wheels through a 7-DCT gearbox that can potter in traffic or deliver snappy angry gearshifts when using the crafted aluminium paddles in manual mode. All this power in a vehicle weighing only 1 545kg.

The Portofino is definitely two very separate cars in one. You can enjoy the sensory experience, from the folding hard-top that drops or lifts in only 14 seconds to convert from coupe to convertible, to the luxury provided by the standard infotainment system, sound system and premium interior. OR... you can press the auto button on the centre console and simply unleash the beast.

The test car was fitted with the optional carbon fibre steering wheel. This must be about the snuggest feeling steering wheel that I've ever experienced, with all the controls on the wheel, including indicators and the famous trademark red 'Manettino' switch that enables you to toggle between sport, comfort and track modes. Naturally, the effect is instant and each setting provides a vastly different experience.

For the buyer who wishes to use his Portofino on a daily basis, the comfort

FERRARI PORTOFINO

V8 441Kw/ 760Nm

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Top Speed: 320km/h+

Base Price: R4 766 700

Price as tested: R 5 312 911

mode allows relaxed commuting with the amazing ability to still accelerate at breath-taking rates when the opportunity allows. For myself, the experience of hearing the engine scream with the top down was unforgettable.

The demo car as driven is finished in 'Rosso Scuderia' as I believe a Ferrari should be. The base price for the Portofino is R4 766 700. The test version, as driven, with MANY extras, is now available for the price of R5 312 911. All cars in the range include a 7 year service plan.

For more information, contact Scuderia South Africa on 011 706 6900.

Use this code to watch our video review: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=QOgBqf63VDs>





VERTICAL GARDENING WITH SOUTH AFRICAN INDIGENOUS PLANTS

BY CAROL KNOLL

A vertical garden that changes in appearance seasonally as flowers and fruit materialise, adds to a wall's appealing aesthetic value.

Freelance ecologist Tania Anderson designs ecological gardens. She recently designed and planted a magnificent vertical garden for a house in Parktown North. This green wall garden is entirely south facing. The plants were chosen by the designer with input from the client to suit the shady aspect and attract insects and birds.

The client wanted the wall to be relatively easy to maintain and so many of the plants were purchased from a nursery specialising in indigenous plants.



The green wall system used was the Vicinity Modular System which has honeycomb pockets and strong porous bags with adjustable strings to hold the plants. The latter are easily removed when necessary. The frame was installed by DesignNature while Tania planted up and placed the bags. The soil mix, comprising plenty of compost, topsoil and vermicast (earthworm castings), is lightweight and drains well. As the wall is too sheltered for adequate rainfall, a drip irrigation system was installed. This has to be adjusted seasonally to ensure adequate irrigation. Liquid organic fertiliser is provided through fertigation.

SUITABLE PLANTS FOR VERTICAL GARDENS

Tania emulates natural habitats in her designs and the plants are a cleverly arranged mix of shade-loving species, giving the overall feel of a rocky grassland but focusing on herbaceous and bulbous plants, along with ferns. A grass species she knew could tolerate regular drip irrigation is *Andropogon eucomis*, the lovely glittering Snowflake Grass.

Insects seen on or expected to be attracted to this suburban green wall with its unusual choice of largely locally indigenous species are solitary bees, wasps, moths, hawkmoths, Brown-veined Whites (butterflies) and honeybees, amongst many others. Bees are particularly attracted to flowers with ultra-violet markings and green flowers such as the *Eucomis autumnalis* (Pineapple Flower) on the wall. Painted Lady butterflies are attracted to the *Lobelia anceps* (Swamp Lobelia), while Crab Spiders may find camouflage in the yellow petals of *Hypoxis hemerocallidea* (Star Flower). Carpenter bees, which are quite common in suburban Johannesburg, favour *Chlorophytum bowkeri* (Bowker's Chlorophytum).

Gaps have been left in the vertical garden with the hope that small birds will use these as nesting sites... and there may possibly be visits from rain spiders. These negative spaces initially highlight the diverse shapes of the plants which may eventually grow into them.

Some other plants on this diverse and picturesque living wall are *Streptocarpus* species, the small spotted



Drimiopsis maculata, *Plectranthus madagascariensis* with its white-edged leaves, the small yellow-flowered Ifafa Lily, *Cyrtanthus pondoensis*, and *Carissa bispinosa* (Num-num) favoured by fruit-eating birds.

Several *Crassula* species can be singled out: *C. expansa* (Fragile Crassula), *C. multicaeva* (Fairy Crassula) and *C. spathulata* (Creeping Crassula) with its tiny white flowers. *Curio rowleyanus* (String of Pearls) makes a wonderful showing, along with the pink and white flowered *Delosperma* sp.

Haemanthus albiflos (White Paintbrush) is another shade-loving bulbous species appropriate for this sheltered living wall.

Tania advises that plants should be bought small and allowed to grow into spaces. The Vicinity bag holds 3L, but 2L plants are suggested to start.

Article courtesy of Random Harvest Nursery
For the full blog, visit:
www.randomharvest.co.za/en-us/News-Blog/Random-Harvest-News-Blog/entryid/5252/living-green-wall-vertical-garden-for-biodiversity





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 - Tank Colour
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 - Keep sunlight out, which prevents algae growth.
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Full Load Qty: 18



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(W)1840 x (H)2022
70kg
Full Load Qty: 18



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▶ Slimline tank dimensions



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Kalahari Red

Buffalo Brown



THE ROBOTICS AND COMPUTER CODING DEBATE

To many, robotics and computer coding are reserved for techies, geeks and sci-fi movies. Yet, nowadays, these terms are fast becoming the norm in society and households alike. There are differing opinions of just how important mastering the skills of being technologically proficient is – here we present two entirely different viewpoints for you to consider.

KEEPING PACE WITH TECHNOLOGICAL ADVANCEMENTS AROUND THE WORLD

There is no denying the fact that, if we do not embrace the latest technological waves of change, we will be left behind while the world around us progresses at a rate we cannot comprehend. Mixo Ngoveni, one of the co-founders of Geekulcha agrees and adds that we need to inspire the youth of SA to think beyond their classrooms, environments and households because the jobs of tomorrow will be created through science, technology, engineering and mathematics (STEM) and will be very different to the traditional job roles that we know today.

“Artificial intelligence (AI) and robots are gradually being integrated into our world and I don't mean that in a negative way. These platforms are reshaping the way we look at work, systems and even play. Behind the scenes of AI and robotics are human beings - we need to programme, code and engineer these platforms to do what we require. Our challenge is to instil a way of understanding these platforms into our youth so that they are prepared for the jobs of tomorrow and a future that we cannot even begin to fathom,” says Ngoveni.

Geekulcha is an organisation which was spearheaded to create a platform for young, skilled and creative tech minds to connect with each other, share knowledge, collaborate on projects, network with industry leaders and put newly acquired skills to work. Established in March 2013, with a mandate to empower young minds through information and

communication technology (ICT) skills development and training, Geekulcha now has over 11 200 techies and innovators across Africa. According to Ngoveni, SA has a wealth of youngsters who have the hunger to learn but have minimal access to these tech platforms.

“Over the years, I have witnessed incredible accounts of young people from underprivileged communities creating amazing solutions to address everyday challenges that were inspired by STEM education. Now, more than ever, we need backing from government, the private sector and communities to support STEM education because we cannot be left on the back foot of this worldwide movement,” he adds.

February 2020 was earmarked for the start of the Department of Basic Education's (DBE) pilot coding and robotics curriculum but it has been pushed back due to unforeseen circumstances. Learners and parents from Grades R to 3 will have to wait a few more months for the DBE to kick off the new coding and robotics curriculum across South African Schools, but it will hopefully still take place this year. The new curriculum is set to lay a foundation of development and keen interest towards coding and robotics from a young age. This programme will see 50 schools participating in the pilot project.

THE NEED FOR A BALANCED APPROACH TO TECH EDUCATION

Taking a cautious approach to the campaign to produce more tech-savvy school graduates, Simon Crane, Deputy Head - HeronBridge College, however,

emphasises the need for greater emotional intelligence and a holistic view of the drive to upskill the learners. This is what he had to say:

What will be required from the school children of today when tomorrow comes? I don't think we can answer that with any degree of certainty. We are, as teachers and parents, preparing children for an unknown and uncertain future. The only real certainty is that things are changing at an ever-increasing pace and we can't really predict what is ahead.

Schools are on a treadmill, chasing the next hot topic, but like the pot of gold at the end of the rainbow, the closer we think we are to the target, the more it tends to elude us. And so, what does a good school aim for and where should we set our sights?

My feeling is, after 28 years of teaching in the UK and in South Africa, that there are certain aspects that are certain to be required from society in the future and just about all of these are actually far less about content and far more about character-driven traits.

For instance, we will always need people who can work independently. People who don't need micro-managing and who have initiative are vital to our world. But, we will also always need people who can work as part of a team. People who can delete ego from their personalities and who work selflessly for the good of others.

A particular skill that needs to be taught to our school pupils is the ability to understand that sometimes they will be required to lead and at other times to follow. Being able to adapt to varying circumstances and to mould oneself to



the requirements at that specific time is vital today and I believe will continue to be prized even more highly ahead.

In my job as a Deputy Head, there are times in the day when I am required to lead and there are times when I need to step back because I am not the most skilled or knowledgeable person in the room. Having the humility to step back, despite whatever job title one holds, is a critical skill within any workforce.

Being resilient and having moral courage and integrity is very important. We need to encourage our boys and girls to stand for something and to have the commitment to see things through. We need them to learn how to win with humility and grace and we need to have them practise the skill of losing with dignity. It is a fact that we

will all lose and win at times in our lives. Not many people are able to do both of these well.

Robotics and coding are watchwords today and I'm not marginalising the content, but there will be other watchwords ahead that we haven't heard of yet. Today's hot topics will likely be lukewarm or tepid one day.

We need to teach and focus heavily on skills that endure. Manners are important. The ability and the will to work in alignment and cooperatively with others is important. The ability to communicate effectively with others, both verbally and in writing is important. We need to teach our children that they exist in community with others. We need them to understand their place in the world

and that they have neighbours less fortunate than themselves. We need them to have a deep care for others, a deep care for the vulnerable and an inherent respect for all life.

We can overlay these benchmarks with robotics, coding, devices and whatever matters today, but the underpinnings must be sure and sound and have a rock-solid foundation. Otherwise, the thin surface layer of today's fad is nothing more than, to quote Shakespeare's *Macbeth*, "a tale told by an idiot, full of sound and fury, signifying nothing."

So here you have two completely different perspectives. Perhaps an approach that includes a bit of both will provide the right balance?



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Pet sitting: Make it easy for yourself when going away. I will care for your pets in the comfort of your home while you are away. I have been doing this for the last 10 years and have references in and outside the

estate. Call me: Michiel on 071 016 0913 / 082 448 5844 (www.MyPetCare.co.za).

DOMESTIC SERVANTS

Josephine (Jo) is looking for domestic work on Tuesdays. She is very reliable and hard working. She currently works in the estate and can be highly recommended. For a reference, contact AnneMarie on 082 328 1500. You may also contact Jo directly on 071 134 8562.

Lillian, my domestic worker, is looking for work in the estate. She is available on Tuesdays, Thursdays and Fridays. She is very reliable and hard working. For a reference call Etienne on 082 878 3373 or speak to her directly on 067 746 0741.

Lynettie is seeking work on Saturdays in the estate. Please call her on 081 565 3743.

Maria is 'n Ndebele vrou wat werksaam is by ons in Irene Farm Villages. Sy kommunikeer goed in Afrikaans maar ongelukkig nie in Engels nie. Sy is op soek na addisionele werk en is beskikbaar indien iemand haar in diens wil neem. Sy sal beslis 'n aanwinst

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Tessa has been working for me for 7 years. We are relocating to Cape Town. I am looking for a new employer for her who is kind and will look after her - Monday to Friday (not sleep in). She has a Diploma in Baby and Toddler Care. She's trustworthy and hardworking. Excellent with cleaning and ironing. English speaking but understands Afrikaans. A little bit of an introvert, soft spoken but friendly. Please contact me, Annemari, on 082 769 5344.

GARDENER

Philimon has been working for us for more than 5 years and is also working for other families in the estate. He has Wednesdays available to take on work. He is also good at doing all kinds of odd jobs around the house and he does waterproofing of roofs in the estate. For more details and a reference please phone Susan on 082 851 5711, or contact Philimon directly on 083 540 9365.



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Let your child fulfil their potential in a friendly, spacious environment. Safely situated within Cornwall Hill Country Estate. Small classes ensure individualised attention. Bilingual, 18 months - 4 years of age. Please contact Suzette: 083 564 3298 or lilliputearlylearning@gmail.com

LITTLE EINSTEINS PLAYSCHOOL

- ★ Established in 2003
- ★ Cornwall Hill Estate
- ★ Ages: 2-6 years
- ★ Phenomenal Grade 0 year
- ★ Highly qualified Educators
- ★ Small group teaching
- ★ Contact: Sharon Rosema
082 904 8157

PHOTOGRAPHY

LOOKING FOR A PHOTOGRAPHER?

See my portfolio here at www.ivanmullerphotography.com. If you like what you see, contact Ivan at 082 454 8487 or ivanmuller@icon.co.za. I have a large format photo quality inkjet printer that can print on canvas and fine art paper up to size A0. I am also available for any type of location photography.

HOME SERVICES, BUILDING & MAINTENANCE

ALTOKLEEN (1979)

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EIS is a BBBEE compliant company, established in 1997. We are a full service electrical contracting company, with over 20 years' experience in the electrical industry. We do COC's, All Electrical Maintenance and Construction, Specialised Lighting, Air Conditioning, Solar PV Installations. Tel: 012 662 0787 • Fax: 086 541 0685 Cell: 079 503 0944 • Email: estelle@e-i-s.co.za Website: www.eiselectrical.co.za

HOME SERVICES, BUILDING & MAINTENANCE

MAHANRU WINDOW CLEANING SERVICES

Eco friendly. We clean windows with purified water through a waterfed pole system. Residential homes and office blocks up to 3 storeys. We also clean solar panels, canopies, awnings and skylights. Contact Ruan 081 530 3807 or Magda 065 873 6338.

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