Celebrating one year of

Yeovue News

free to all

26 November – 2 December 2009

Volume 2 No 47

Delivery is happening in Yeoville Bellevue!

There have been delivery protests in different parts of the country for years. But here, delivery has been happening consistently since November 2008 - delivery of Yeovue News, that is.

The people responsible are Joseph Setloboko, Sindi Mabaso, Tshepo Lebone and Thembi Makapela, young residents of Yeoville Bellevue, who have helped to make Yeovue News a household name.

Every Thursday, early in the morning - summer, autumn, winter and spring - they go out and deliver Yeovue News to the people of Yeoville Bellevue. Every house, every flat has received free copies of the paper every week. Small piles have also been left in shops and government offices for people to collect in passing.

What’s more, they don’t just deliver it. They promote it, discussing it with people, answering questions, getting ideas from the community on how to improve the paper. They take note of problems people experience in the neighbourhood and report these problems to the councillor, the SAPS or to the City Council.

In other words, they are ambassadors for the paper. They argue with security guards who will not let them leave the paper in blocks of flats. They complain to people who take the paper and throw it on the ground without reading it. They give advice to people on all sorts of issues.

There have been other delivery successes too. Two of our distributors, Sindi Mabaso and Joseph Setloboko, are a very happy couple - they took delivery of a beautiful baby this year. Sindi distributed Yeovue News up until just before she gave birth.

There have been other changes, too. Three of the distributors were also doing voluntary work at the Hillbrow Clinic. Thembi Makapela now has a full-time post, a very important step for her as she supports her sisters and is a single parent with a small child. Yeovue News wishes her well in her new career and thanks her for her contribution to the paper.

Joseph too has a full-time job. He works in administration for the Pension Funds Adjudicator, so he can no longer distribute the paper. But he still plays a management role, ensuring that it goes out every week. To him, too, a great thank you for the work he did in establishing Yeovue News, as distributor and as manager.

In South Africa, people have strong loyalties. Whether they back Chiefs or Pirates in the world of soccer, or the ANC or IFP in politics, South Africans are usually clear about who they support.

George Lebone, Yeoville Stakeholders Forum chair, has been clear about his support for Yeovue News from day one.

It is thanks to George that the paper is so widely known. While the four door-to-door distributors have always made sure that every house and every flat receives a copy, and while the editor ensures that the paper is emailed to over 300 people per week, ‘Uncle’ George makes sure that it is always available at meetings in the Yeoville Bellevue area and, most importantly, outside of Yeoville Bellevue.

Before such meetings, he will sit somewhere, taking back copies of the paper and putting them together into a sort of book of papers which he then takes with him to hand out to whoever is at the gathering he is attending.

The editor has therefore received calls asking about the paper and if something similar could be started in other areas.

It is important to the YSF that the paper succeeds, because the idea for came from the YSF. But George goes beyond simply protecting the vision of the YSF. His passion is heart-felt and personal and it is thanks to him (and to the distributors - see story on left) that the paper is so popular.
Happy birthday, dear Yeovue News, happy birthday to you

Great job. It encourages everyone who pays attention to what's going on in our area. Keep it up. Clement Muteb

Well done. I will contribute to the paper once I get a steady cash flow from my Rockey St property. George Zachariou

Keep up the good work. I will spread the word to those with jangling pockets. Dianne Regisford-Guyley

Keep it rolling, bro. Jeremy Burnham

Lesley and I have made a financial contribution to the anniversary issue. Adrian Purun

Yeovue News should carry on because it gives local info in a non-party political, but progressive way; because we are committed to making this a great place to live, play and work, and a publication helps with networking; because there are many local issues to address (safe play places for kids and youth, domestic violence, child abuse, policing and crime, energy efficiency and sustainable development, unemployment, xenophobia; because many of us have been banging on doors which have been firmly closed for a long time even though we have shared your commitment to this area - now there appears to be a shift in spirit, in political will and a new determination to sort long standing issues. Carry on the good work! Monique and David

Good luck. Toine Egggenhuizen

This letter is to appreciate the good work done by Yeovue News. It is very informative and serves the excellent work of educating the public. Let me also encourage all members of the public to inform others to also read Yeovue News. To all of us who have a copy of Yeovue News, after reading it, please do not throw it away. Give it to another person to read. An informed community makes a good community. Keep up the good work. You have my support. Pastor Humphrey Mogashoa

Yeoville Baptist Tabernacle (YBT) congratulates you for successfully completing a year. You inform and educate the community well on matters that each community member needs to know. The church wishes you many years of success and appeals to the community to support you. The good part is: Yeovue News is part of official Sunday News of our church. Prof Rev Humphrey Mogashoa (YBT Pastor) I have made a donation. Are you able to tell how many people read the paper? Busi Luphondwana Congratulations! It is particularly valuable because it provides useful information to the community. Alex Amero, ILO

Well done for getting this launched and sending it out every week. Keep it up. Muff Andersson

The work you are doing is an example to other communities. Andrea Lamyoh

Thanks for the newsletter. I find it very helpful to know what is going on - and a lot is going on!! Thanks for all the hard work over the last year. You have achieved a tremendous amount and I see many improvements. Meryl Feder

A tribute to the team of Yeovue News, who work so very hard, so creatively and with such passion, to keep the residents of Yeoville connected and informed. We encourage everyone, who may have a few pennies to share, to support this special project. Yeovue News makes it possible for us to say - we are proud residents of Yeoville Bellevue! Nicky and Jennifer Rebelo

I have made a small donation towards your costs. I hope that you get many more positive responses! Keep up the good work! Margaret Fish

I always read it. I think it's valuable. Fanie de Villiers

Nous souhaitons bon anniversaire a yeovue news et plein de succes dans les jours a venir. Bienvenu lingla Yeovue News has, for the past year, enabled people to air their views. Business, put money where your mouths are, help Yeovue News continue to enlighten and promote frank progressive engagement among residents. Mathodl Matsho

It has brought light and hope to the community. It has become the voice of the voiceless. We say halalala to Yeovue News. Lindelani Singo

Making peace with the environment is a major contribution towards building a nation. Yeovue News helps shape the way in which we understand one another in this community. We have a long way to go towards understanding that we all have rights to walk freely in the streets where Joe Slovo was raised, where Sonya Bunting and Brian Bunting lived, where Ronnie Kasrils grew up, where we now live. Freedom to live without fear is as fundamental as freedom of speech. Jessie Duarte

Congratulations to Yeovue News team for providing a much-needed resource to members of the Yeoville Bellevue community and for ensuring ongoing communication. Shaun O’Shea, CoJ

Absolutely fantastic means of keeping community informed about local issues. John Spiropoulos Yeovue News is now surely an integral part of the Bellevue East & Yeoville area & it is 1 year old now, serving its readers with quality information. Congratulations. Let's continue to support the people behind it, Maxwell Dube

I always look for each new issue as it comes out and I read it front to back. The back page contacts section hangs in my kitchen for reference and I have kept many back issues as an archive about my neighbourhood. I think Yeovue News is one of the most important contributors to giving this neighbourhood a sense of identity and cohesion. Thank you. Tara Polzer

I want to thank the community of Bellevue & Yeoville for making this paper their no 1. Special thanks to those who put adverts coz they keep it going. Happy anniversary. Joseph Setloboko

Happy anniversary ukhule n gro to pages n pages of enjoyable reading. Sue Mabale, Ekikaya

Viva Yeovue News, viva. Yeovue News gives light, information & knowledge to all who live in Yeoville Bellevue. It doesn't select where you come from, it treats people together as one from all African countries. Now we understand what is going on within us everyday. I thank the readers, editorial, advertising, distributors & writers. It was fantastic & phenomenal to have Yeovue News. Phambili, Yeovue News. I wish you many more years. Neo Setloboko

The spirit of change sweeping through Yeoville Bellevue has to be taken to the next level. We must build a Solidarity Economy that places the needs of people and the environment at the centre of development. The future of Yeoville Bellevue lies with the struggles and efforts of all in the community. Yeovue News is an integral part of this. Vishwas Salgar, Executive Director, Cooperative & Policy Alternative Centre

It has been an eye opener. Congrats on da progress. Priscilla Raphael

What kind of a community do you want to live in? Love your community as you love yourself. Keep it clean, help others who can't help themselves - this is what I learn by reading Yeovue News. Sindi Mabaso

What you are doing is absolutely great and essential. Best wishes and keep up the good work. Neil Fraser Halala, Yeovue News, the heart beat of our community. Through you, we know how to access services. We understand more about crime, environment, health, even how to bring stakeholders together to lobby for a better deal for our community. You open minds and keep the vibe going. There is much that must be said about you. Keep growing, keep us informed and talking. Halala!!! Marc Gbaffou

Happy birthday. I wish you many more. I go through the paper each Thursday - it's a great read. Keep on keeping on. Rethabileng Thamsa

Doing a great job. A true voice of the voiceless masses. Happy first anniversary. Lebo Mashego

It has been a great pleasure reading Yeovue News each week, so I was sad when it didn’t come out last week. I look forward to the special issue. Happy birthday. Naledi Lebea

Thanks to Yeovue News, our community can at last have conversations with itself about all the important things -- keep it up. Karl von Holdt
Proposed changes to Ward 67 boundary

For the 2011 election, the Demarcation Board has made proposals for changes to the boundary of Ward 67.

The top map shows the boundary as it currently is. Ward 67 is the blue area.

A corner of Yeoville between Kenmere and Joe Slovo Drive and between Page and the ridge, and Highlands (behind the water tower) and Randview (ie Beatty St) are not in Ward 67 though they are really part of the Yeoville Bellevue area.

The middle map shows the proposed new boundary. Ward 67 is the green area.

The plan is for a large part of Bellevue to become part of Ward 66 with Observatory.

What do you think? Is this a good idea?

Having part of Yeoville separated from the rest of Yeoville has already caused tensions between Wards 64 and 67 over the garden on Joe Slovo and Hendon.

With the new plan, Yeoville Bellevue are no longer treated as one entity in one ward. Maybe Yeoville, Bellevue, Highlands, Randview and the top part of Lorentzville should all be Ward 67, without Parktown, Killarney etc. Then Ward 67 would be from Joe Slovo to de la Rey and from Louis Botha/St Peters to the ridge. This will make planning much easier. Objections must be lodged before 10 December 2009. Contact the councillor on 083 2972936 or visit the Demarcation Board (http://www.demarcation.org.za) website for further details.

The present Ward 67 is the blue area in the first map on the left. The circles show areas that are not in the ward, but are seen by most people as part of Yeoville Bellevue.

The proposed Ward 67 is the green area in the middle map on the left. The circle shows the section of Bellevue that is to be taken away from Ward 67. Is this necessary and practical?

Yeoville Bellevue could be seen as one area with Highlands and Randview, ie from Louis Botha/St Peters Rd in the north to the Yeoville ridge in the south and from de la Rey in the east to Joe Slovo in the west (the blue dotted line). This will make it easier to have a development plan for the whole area.
A year in pictures

Each week, we have tried to include pictures that tell stories about our lives in Yeoville Bellevue. Some are celebratory, some are shocking, some are sad. But each one says a little something about Yeoville Bellevue and the people living here. Here we reprint some of those pictures. And, because this is the issue that celebrates Yeovue News’ first birthday, we are printing them in colour.

Now, where shall I stay this month? The regular accommodation listings outside Shoprite.

Before (for a long time) ......

...... and after. Thank you, Mr Singo.

Yeoville Recreation Centre - above on the left as it was, above in the process of becoming something very different. The original completion date is long gone - it will only be finished in 2010.

Democracy in action - elections, April 2009

The Soul Buddyz team from Sheikh Anta Diop invited Yeovue News to hear about their community work and to ask for help with their school. More in the next issue.

Parents with bad habits teach their children bad habits - is it okay to let your child shit in public, even if it is in a place that has been neglected by council for a long time?

Honouring World Aids Day 2009 & 16 Days of No Violence Against Women and Children at St Aidans, Yeoville
George, you have opened a restaurant called Malailaituka. What does the name mean? It’s a seSotho word which means ‘burning day and night, 24hrs’. What is the main aim of the business? Our aim is to sell local African food. I myself am from Nigeria but when I saw a branch of Malailaituka in town, I thought it would be a great business to have in Yeoville Bellevue. Malailaituka is a franchise, so it has a number of branches. What sort of food do you sell? We sell all kinds of local South African food like stamp, mahenya-henya and more.

You have very interesting tables in your restaurant. Where do they come from? Why did you choose tables like that? I get them here in South Africa, in Centurion. They bring an African feel to my restaurant.

Yeoville Bellevue has many places calling themselves restaurants but their main business is selling alcohol. Why do you think this is? I think it is that, for those people, the main target is to sell alcohol not food. We at Malailaituka, our main focus is on food, not on alcohol. As it is the business is doing well without alcohol so far. You are applying for a liquor license. What will make you different from these other places? Well, the thing is that we applying for a restaurant liquor license. The reason we applied for one is because customers would like to have a drink while they are have their meal. The restaurant will close at midnight when the food is finished.

There was once a restaurant owner in Rockey St who said that he wanted to have a jazz bar, but found he could only make money if he sold quarts. What do you think about that? What would you do if some of your customers told you that? Or if they told you that they would only come to your place if you played loud music all the time, with speakers outside for customers sitting outside?

Like I said “we are not a club but a restaurant” where people come to eat and relax, not a place where they will have a party and dance the whole night. Many people in Yeoville Bellevue and outside the area are negative about the place. Someone like you, for example, does not live here but you have opened a business here. Why did you choose to open in Yeoville Bellevue? You do not have to live in an area to have a business there. I lived in Yeoville for four years before I moved and think it the right place to invest in.

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And why do you choose not to live here? I bought a house elsewhere, instead of renting from someone else. What would need to change for you to decide to live in the area? If I have an opportunity to buy a house at a good price, I would buy it. I am married with three children and I would like them to live in Yeoville Bellevue. The centre you are in has recently been renovated by a company that is investing a lot in Yeoville Bellevue. They obviously believe in the economic future of the area. Do you? Yeoville Bellevue is a developing area. Things are changing in the area. People that ran away are coming back because they see the changes in Yeoville Bellevue.

There is an idea to make Yeoville Bellevue a pan-African destination, a place that celebrates the fact that the area has people from all over Africa living in it. Do you think this is a good idea? If so, what do you think needs to be done to make it happen? Security is the big thing. People are afraid of coming to Yeoville Bellevue because they fear for their lives and don’t feel safe here.

Do you have any message for people reading this who might be thinking about coming to your place? They will have quality food and good service at a reasonable price. Rethabiseng and Thandi had a meal at Malailaituka. What did they think of the food? Rethabiseng tells us what she thinks. I had rice and steak with spinach, chakalaka and coleslaw. The meat was well-prepared. The spinach and coleslaw were delicious. The chakalaka was okay. But the most important thing for me was that sitting there, I somehow felt I was not in Rockey St. That day was very quiet and peaceful. I was different. I liked the improvement. So my advice is: come to Malailaituka and try them out. I think you’ll like them.

Rethabiseng Thamae and aspiring journalist Thandi Ndlovu spoke to George Raphael about his new restaurant Malailaituka, in the upgraded Leandra Centre on the corner of Rockey and Bezuidenhout St. It was a beautiful day, so they were sitting outside at one of George’s huge rough wooden tables. But they had to move inside because the music from a shop upstairs was so loud that they could hardly hear each other speak.

Yo and Bella

What’s this? Yeovue News! Take a Copy!

What political flavour does it have? Ah! This is useful info!

Ag! Who cares! Who cares about my worries?

Cate 2009

Hey, Bro! Please don’t litter!

Yeoville online: www.hotelyeoville.co.za or www.yeoville.org.za. Read yeovue news online.
We focus here on Vuka Jozi, a consortium of young South Africans who have chosen the path of rejuvenating the city of Joburg as their business - and Yeoville Bellevue is fully part of it.

Their aim is to make money, but they realise that they will only achieve this through being part of the process of rebuilding the city, of making areas like Yeoville Bellevue safe, clean and economically vibrant. They believe strongly that Joburg can be a world class city.

They would like to help restore what more than fifteen years of neglect has destroyed and breathe new life into our suburbs. They say there is no reason why the people of Yeoville Bellevue should have shops that are dumps. The area can be a place we can all be proud of.

There’s a lot that can be done through working together. Vuka Jozi supports the idea of a City Improvement District and other forms of cooperation. They know they cannot go it alone. That is why they encourage others to invest in the area too. The pictures on this page tell the story of their investment of time and money in Yeoville Bellevue. They have a number of buildings in Rockey Raleigh St. The Nando’s building on the corner of Raleigh and Fortescue is one of them. The others are in Rockey St and include Solomon’s Building and the old Rumours Club building which they have renovated and now call Rockey Alley, and the Leandra Centre on the corner of Rockey and Bezuidenhout. Visit them. You will find shops you have not seen in Yeoville Bellevue for years. You will find cleanliness and quality. You will be surprised.
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Well done, Yeovue News

Obs Community Market
The Curve (Old Bowling Club)
Park St, off Observatory Ave)
12 noon ’til 5pm, Sunday 6 Dec
Stalls - buy your Christmas gifts
Good food – Entertainment – Activities for children

12:00 Steel drum performance
12:30 Steel drum performance
1:00 Baking competition Call Louise
072 236 5232 to enter
1:30 Permaculture talk
2:00 Talk by Cochise
2:30 Goal settings
3:00 Magic Show
3:30 Aging successfully
4:00 Steel drum workshop R10 pp
4:30 Chi-Kung

Entrance free
Parking R10 (best if you walk!)
Info - 072 424 0147

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organisations & institutions in yeoville bellevue

Community-based organisations
- African Diaspora Forum
  Claire Benit-Obafo - 083 9655444
- ANC Joe Slovo Branch (Ward 67)
  Eddie Magadodu - 082 8093227
- Congo Heart of Africa
  Bienvenu Ingla - 082 6675969
- Congress of the People (COPE)
  Ben Mabasa - 071 9756788
  Nolitha Mapila - 082 0309464
- Disabled Musicians Association
  Johannes Dube - 083 6897194
- Impumelo Cultural Group
  Bongi Kuhbeka - 082 7594987
- Ivorian Community
  Marc Gbafou - 083 5147367
- Kopamong
  George Lebene - 079 3894409
- National Association of Yoruba Descendants,
  Southern Africa
  Prince Adesina, National Youth Leader
  076 6928060
- Nigerian Union South Africa
  Prince Adesina Al-Amin, Secretary General, Gauteng
  - 076 6928060
- Observatory Ratepayers Association
  Louise Denyschen - 011 2746825
- Ward 67 Ward Committee
  Nomawazi Mohlaisa - 083 2972356
- Yeoville Community Policing Forum
  Mbuyiseli Khosa - 082 2657435
- Yeoville Environmental Organisation
  Joseph Setlobo - 072 1581030
- Yeoville Muslim Community
  Hussein Musa Baza-Awe - 083 9655636
- Yeoville Baptist Tabernacle Youth Dept
  011 687325
- Yeoville Boys School
  Lindelani Siro - 011 6489901
- Yeoville Community School
  Martha Mente - 011 6489163

Public services and facilities
- Johannesburg Development Agency
  Seipati More - 011 6878680
- Region F Stakeholder Management and Liaison
  Zaahe Magwaza - 082 4679411
- Urban Inspectors
  Yeoville North:
  Fikile Mdlalose - 083 4448517
  Yeoville South:
  Basetsana Bogopane - 083 3811359
Bellevue/Bellevue East:
  Lettie Rasebeka - 083 3811435
- Ward 67 Community Development Worker (CDW)
  Neo Setlobo - 083 9537053
- Ward 67 Councillor
  Nomawazi Mohlaisa - 083 2972356
- Yeoville Bellevue Community Development Initiative
  Maurice Smithers - 082 3737705
- Yeoville Community Clinic
  Kenmere Rd, corner Hopkins St
  Tel: 011 6487979
- Yeoville Police Station (SAPS)
  23 Kenmere Rd, corner Yeo St
  Tel: 011 4875900
- Yeoville Post Office
  Kenmere Rd, between Raleigh St and Hopkins St,
  inside the arcade
  Tel: 011 6489103
- Yeoville Public Library
  49-51 Raleigh St
  Tel: 011 6484804
- Yeoville Recreation Centre
  (closed for upgrading until further notice)
- Yeoville Swimming Pool
  Corner Raleigh St and Kenmere Rd
  Tel: 011 6489359

Other contact numbers
- Black Sash
  Tel: 011 11 8348361/5
  For advice and help with your rights
- City Power
  Tel: 011 4907000
- Emergency Connect
  Tel: 011 3762911
- Emergency Management Services
  Tel: 011 4076374
- Hijacked Buildings hotline
  Tel: 011 3766404
- Joburg Connect
  Tel: 011 3755555 (ask for reference no.)
  joburgconnect@joburg.org.za
- Toll-Free Presidential Hot-line
  Tel: 17737

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yeovue.news@yeoville.org.za 082 3737705
Yeoville News often writes about the challenges we face as a community because of the abuse of alcohol. But are we talking enough about the other side to this abuse? This is the fact that many young people turn to alcohol and drugs because they have nothing better to do with their time - or at least they think they have nothing better to do. Sport is universally known as a means of keeping young people active and away from the temptation of dangerous practises. So how are we doing in Yeoville Bellevue? Over the last year, we have reported on swimming and netball, and of course, we have been very involved in working to get the sportsground in Bedford Rd ready for use as a field for the students at Yeoville Boys and Yeoville Community School, but also for community sports teams.

Busi Luphondwana, a great supporter of the paper, vocally and financially, runs swimming lessons at the Yeoville Swimming Pool. Knowing how to swim is very important because it really does save lives. Water Safety and swimming lessons for children, job seekers and adults take place on Mondays, Wednesdays and Fridays from 2pm - 5pm and on Saturdays from 11am. There is a registration fee of R50 for all training. Further costs, where applicable, can be discussed with Busi on 011 6427971 or 082 446 4339 or via bhelestate@gmail.com

Four local soccer teams have so far registered with the Yeoville Sportsground Management Committee (YSMC) to use the ground for training. These include Yeoville Supersport, Hlanganani Football Club, Yeoville Black Stars and Yeoville Highlanders.

As can be seen from the picture below, the field is not in good condition and teams have to play in very dusty conditions. But the YSMC is still working on establishing a fully-fledged sports facility which could even look like the artist’s drawing at the bottom of the page. What is needed is for everyone to work together to achieve this. The YSMC invites suggestions from anyone in the community on how we can move forward in our quest to establish a proper sports ground which can be used by our young people especially to keep fit and enjoy themselves.

Another sport that is being played in Yeoville Bellevue, thanks in part to the efforts of Never Chapera (above) of the Johannesburg Central Netball Organisation and Training (JCNOT). He has hosted at least two tournaments on the Yeoville municipal courts this year.

He says the aim is to enable the youth of the inner city to participate in netball because involvement in sport helps young and old to maintain a healthy and positive lifestyle. As we noted in the introduction, getting children interested in sport is a very important way of keeping them from being tempted into less useful habits such as drinking and taking drugs.