



Yeovue news

your news your views

Free to all

24 November 2011 Volume 4 No 37

Fixing Yeoville bit by bit

On 6 August 2002, a resident in the area alerted council to problems with Santa Monica, 56 Webb St, a sectional title building that had gradually been hijacked and was occupied with people accused of engaging in various illegal and criminal activities.

Timeline

13/5/03: council evicted everyone and bricked up the entrance
26/5/03: people broke into the building and stole everything - doors, pipes, flooring, electrical fittings etc
20/7/03: an illegal carpentry shop was set up in the driveway of the building, using electricity from across the road
4/9/05: the wall that council put up in 2003 to close the building was broken down and the bricks were taken away
13/9/05: the council said they would act to re-take control of the building
2/2/06: the carpenter was gone and there was a guard with a dog
17/10/06: an article on the Joburg website said Santa Monica would be fixed up as part of the better buildings programme
13/7/07: the guard and dog were gone and the carpenters were back
11/10/08: a fire broke out in the building, probably in the basement, but also damaging other floors
16/10/08: legal team dealing with bad buildings said Santa Monica wasn't on their list
3/11: the Inner City Property Scheme (ICPC) service providers were appointed and one of the buildings on their list is Santa Monica. The ICPC is still busy getting organised and has not begun working on any buildings.
10/11: Yeovue News was surprised to see scaffolding outside Santa Monica. ICPC said they were not working on it. Some people said the building had been hijacked again and the new hijackers were fixing it up. Then we found out that the sectional title flats had been bought, one by one, by someone called Nolitha Majola.

We managed to find Nolitha using Google. We discovered that she lives in Yeoville Bellevue, in Webb St.

Nolitha is originally from Tembisa. She sold a house there and came to Yeoville

Bellevue by accident. She was supposed to go to Ennerdale but it didn't work out.

She decided to invest in the area. She discovered that Santa Monica was still registered in the names of the sectional title owners, even though council had promised to take over the building years ago. She was able to buy the units in Santa Monica slowly using the proceeds of the sale of her Tembisa house. Then she got money from TUHF to fix the building.

Construction should be complete by mid-December and all flats have already been booked.

This is one way that Yeoville Bellevue can be improved - individuals buying properties and fixing them up or building new properties and providing hopefully well-managed accommodation.

There are other routes too - such as the



Nolitha Majola and daughter Siza in the stairwell of Santa Monica

ICPC, social housing or cooperatives. The main thing is that the housing situation in Yeoville Bellevue must be addressed.

Key challenges are putting an end to hijacking and overcrowding, tenants paying their rents and services, land owners maintaining and managing their properties, proper relationships between tenants and landowners, provision of affordable housing (by state or private sector), and controlling land-use (no illegal spazas, liquor outlets, car repairs etc). If these challenges are addressed, Yeoville Bellevue can become a better place to live and a good place for homeowners to invest their money and live here.

Will Santa Monica show the way? The flats are not cheap, so it won't help the poor. But fixing the building will improve the area and that is a good thing.

Happy Events cc

Shop No: 3 Rockey Alley
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Yeovue News

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YEOVILLE STUDIO EXHIBITION

This is the final exhibition of the community-oriented research Yeoville Studio! Yeoville Studio is a research and learning project driven by the Wits University School of Architecture and Planning, in collaboration with the Yeoville Stakeholders Forum, the Yeoville Bellevue Community Development Trust and other local partners. After two years of research and engagement with Yeoville community, it is time to show some of our latest and finest work!

EXHIBITION OPENS:
10am-5pm on 26 November- 2 December
YEOVILLE RECREATION CENTRE, Raleigh Street
071 117 6522/ ssmayson@gmail.com

FIND YOUR WAY

RECREATION CENTER- MAIN EXHIBITION VENUE
WILL HOUSE THE FOLLOWING PROJECTS

- INTEGRATED TRADE- PILOT STALL DESIGNS
- YEOWILLE LOVE STORIES
- SHARING A FLAT IN YEOWILLE
- ROCKEY/ RALEIGH STREET TRADING
- TOMATO STORIES
- FINDINGS ON TRADE

4 YEOWILLE BUILDINGS
NO. 3 CAVENDISH ROAD

- LEAVING YEOWILLE
- UNCLE BEN'S- TIMES SQUARE AND EKHAYA RESTAURANT (OPPOSITE) PORTESQUE AND RALEIGH STREETS
- SPAZA STORIES
- MINORS STREET

ACTIVISTS IN YEOWILLE
YSCOT OFFICES
10 ROCKEY ALLEY, ROCKEY STREET

YEOWILLE BELLUE TOURS
THEMES: POLITICS, ARTS AND CULTURE, AFRICAN DIVERSITY, ARCHITECTURE
CONTACT: MAURICE SMITHERS 011 4870269 or THAMMY JEZILE 082 21737708

NATAL/ SAUNDERS STREETS PORTRAITS
CNR SAUNDERS AND KENMERE STREETS

This exhibition is a tribute to the people of Yeoville Bellevue, who have welcomed Wits students and staff in the last two years. We hope this exhibition reflects the richness and diversity of all our interactions and encounters, but also contributes to debates and ideas for a better Yeoville Bellevue for all!

LAUNCH ON SATURDAY 26 NOVEMBER AT 10AM. MUSIC AND REFRESHMENTS. OPEN TO ALL!

TOURS OF YEOVILLE BELLEVUE ON SAT 26 NOV & SUN 27 NOV FROM 2PM. BOOKING ESSENTIAL

Findings on trading in Yeoville Bellevue
summarizes the results of research done and subsequent recommendations



Life and Times of Activists
portrays 7 activists in Yeoville Bellevue, whose action is making a difference in the neighbourhood

Pilot stall designs
showcases a series of street vending stalls, designed with the participation of Rockey Raleigh street traders



Leaving Yeoville
portrays residents who used to stay in Yeoville Bellevue, at different times, and remember it.

What if Rockey Raleigh integrated street trading?
presents ideas and visions for integrated trading in Yeoville Bellevue, by a coalition of local activists from Yeoville Bellevue



Sharing a flat
tells the story of a flat in Yeoville Bellevue, where a number of people moved in and out on a monthly basis, and how they manage to live together.

Tomato Stories
reflect on why everybody is selling tomatoes on Rockey Raleigh Street



Four Building Stories
portrays 4 quite different buildings in Yeoville Bellevue – how they are managed and how they evolve.

Spaza Stories
portrays 6 spaza shops in the streets of Yeoville Bellevue, shows not all of them are survivalist, and reflects on how to improve the situation for both spaza and the neighborhood.



Natal-Saunders Street Portrait
features a series of photographs of the street taken by Wits students, and commented on by residents.

Traders Photovoices
presents the views of 11 street traders captured through their own photographs of their daily life in Yeoville Bellevue and beyond.



Love Stories
portrays 8 residents who have found, and sometimes kept, love in Yeoville Bellevue.

Interactive Rockey Raleigh street model
Where would you put vending stalls?
presents a small model of the street, with pavements, where participants can put or remove stalls.



Yeoville Bellevue Tour Maps
is a set of thematic guides on a variety of topics: Arts and Culture, Politics, Architecture, African Food.