



# NORWOOD OAKLANDS RESIDENTS ASSOCIATION

INCORPORATING ORCHARDS, THE GARDENS AND CHELTONDALE

Dear neighbourhood,

## Newsletter – May 2020

We're deviating from the format our normal Mailchimp newsletter because there is simply so much to report on. We're living in unprecedented times, and Lockdown has impacted every single household in our neighbourhood. Those of us who are fortunate enough to be working are finding ourselves working longer hours in more stressful circumstances than ever before. And those of us who run or work in restaurants, hair salons, massage businesses, and a multitude of others don't know whether our businesses will survive. I hope that in these circumstances those of us who can afford to will give generously to those who cannot sustain themselves, and that all of us will choose kindness and compassion in our interactions with others.

### Norwood Pikitup Depot Closed

Two staff members at the Norwood Depot have tested positive for Covid. As a result the Depot will be closed for the next two weeks. Weekly clearing of bins (RCR) will still be operational.



### SERVICES OPERATING DURING THE NORWOOD DEPOT CLOSURE

- RCR will be operating daily
- Street cleaning not fully operational
- Illegal Dumping partially operational
- Informal settlements not fully operational
- S@S will be fully operational
- Garden Sites will be closed and will re-open on the 1st June 2020.



• [www.pikitup.co.za](http://www.pikitup.co.za)  
• Pikitup Offices: +27 (0) 11 712 5200 • [www.facebook.com/Pikitup](https://www.facebook.com/Pikitup)  
• Call Centre: +27 (0) 11 375 5555 • [@CleanerJoburg](https://twitter.com/CleanerJoburg)  
• Mandatory Separation at Source Programme: +27 (0) 86 562 874

### **Pretoria Street Bridge Park - Committee Lead: Trevor Lunt**

Illegal dumping in the park bordered by Pretoria Street and Hilson Street (between Oaklands and Highlands North Extension) has unfortunately increased. Trevor Lunt has led a number of clean ups in his personal capacity, which NORA has supplemented with volunteer clean up days, but we have unfortunately come to the conclusion that we need to restrict all but pedestrian access to the Park. Fencing the park will cost in the region of R70,000, and NORA has committed to covering R10,000 through existing reserves. We're appealing to everyone who can contribute to this initiative to please do so. Donations can be deposited into the NORA bank account, with the description: PretoriaStreet. Our bank details are:

Norwood Oaklands Residents Association

FNB - Cheque Account

Branch Code: 254 005

Account Number: 62623487619

### **Homelessness and Hunger**

We have received many requests on how best to help the hungry and destitute. We believe that this is best done through organisations that have been set up for this purpose, and have the proper infrastructure and controls to manage donations. CAP is working with the Angel Network, and you can get in touch with them at: [communications@capgroup.org.za](mailto:communications@capgroup.org.za) or WhatsApp 0823469665.

### **Shothole Borer Beetle - Committee Lead: Cindy Meltzer**

In this time of Lockdown Level 4 perhaps you have taken to our tree-lined streets to exercise and have noticed the state of our trees. Most of the London Plane and Oak trees that line the pavements have been infected by Polyphagous Shot Hole Borer (PSHB), but many of the indigenous trees seem healthy.

Two excellent resources that will answer all your questions on PSHB are:

Forestry and Agricultural Biotechnology Institute FABI: <https://www.fabinet.up.ac.za/>

and

Johannesburg Urban Forrest Alliance: <http://www.jufa.org.za/pshb.html>

Dr Wilhelm de Beer of FABI has stated that the most effective way to fight this beetle is through management. To this end we would like to establish an inventory of pavement trees to identify those infested by the borer and would like to work with City Parks to address the problem. Dead trees have to be removed by City Parks and properly disposed of.

As you walk, perhaps you could note which trees seem affected and send us a pic or description to Cindy on [cmeltzer@mweb.co.za](mailto:cmeltzer@mweb.co.za)

It is up to residents whether they will remove or treat trees on their properties. Treatments by Arborists is available under level 4. You can help affected trees by removing stress factors aggravating infestation including proper watering, mulching and protecting root base, checking for of other diseases, root or stem damage and removing competing vegetation surrounding the tree.

#### **Town Planning - Committee Lead: Brett McDougall**

Thank you to those who heeded our call to object to the Skybridge development over the Atholl-Oaklands offramp on the M1, which was advertised days before Lockdown. City of Johannesburg Development Planning are slowly opening up services, and we will soon know the way forward. Irrespective of their decision (to force the applicant to readvertise, or simply to extend the comment process), we will no doubt have to go to Tribunal on the matter and are very grateful that Steve Jaspán is representing us.

#### **Norwood Park and The Gardens Conservancy – Committee Lead: Brett McDougall**

We're doing as much as we legally can during this period to keep these spaces clean and to attend to repairs. We've also received an offer from an anonymous donor to fund the refurbishment of this sad, vandalized bench in Norwood Park. Submit your ideas – no matter how crazy! – to [noracommittee@gmail.com](mailto:noracommittee@gmail.com)



#### **Recycling – Committee Lead: Nadine Hocter**

There has never been a more important time to recycle. Understanding the recycling symbols on waste will help you decide what can be recycled. All plastic is numbered with a little symbol on the bottom of the container. There are 7 in total:

- #1 PET: When recycled PET plastic bottles are turned into many new and useful products. PET is too valuable to be thrown away so please be sure to recycle these if nothing else!
- #2 HDPE: High-density polyethylene (HDPE) is used for bottles, crates and drums, and is easily recycled.

- #3 PVC: is toxic and not easily recycled. Avoid purchasing.
- #4 LDPE: is commonly used in plastic bags and is not easily recycled. Avoid purchasing.
- #5 PP: This makes up stiff thin-walled packaging items. Can be recycled, but generally isn't. Avoid purchasing.
- #6 Polystyrene: AVOID!
- #7 Other: a catch-all for polycarbonate (PC) and "other" plastics. AVOID!

Now that waste recyclers are again working, here are a couple of tips to make their lives easier:

## HOW YOU CAN HELP RECLAIMERS



**1 SEPARATE RECYCLABLES**

Put your recyclables in a separate bag for reclaimers and dispose of any contaminated materials (tissues etc) in a clear, sealed bag so that reclaimers don't touch them. Please store your recyclables for 24 hours or disinfect them before you put them out.



**2 WATER AND SOAP**

Please consider leaving a solution of water and bleach, or soap and hand-sanitising products outside your house or near your collection point for reclaimers to wash their hands.



**3 DONATE WHAT YOU CAN**

Support reclaimers in your community with food, sanitiser, gloves or masks. The African Reclaimers Organisation has started a fund to raise money for food and supplies. Every bit helps.

**Contact Details and Subs – Committee Lead: Brendan Lombard**

If your mail address or telephone number has changed, please send your current details to [brendanlombard@yahoo.com](mailto:brendanlombard@yahoo.com)

We hate asking for subs in this economic climate, but if you are able to, please deposit the contribution you can afford into our bank account:

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Our subs allow us to continue cleaning, beautifying and fighting for our neighbourhood!

***We appreciate your ongoing support.***

***Your NORA Committee***