



CHARTWELL COUNTRY ESTATES

FEBRUARY 2021 NEWSLETTER

CCE SECURITY PROJECT



Chartwell Country Estates (CCE) has earmarked the corner of 1st road and Seven oaks as a hotspot for criminals entering and exiting Chartwell. The CCE has formulated a plan to fence off this open piece of land with access control that will include a pedestrian turnstile and motor vehicle gate to allow security vehicles access onto the land below Cedar creek estate. The pedestrian turnstile will allow us to monitor who is coming into Chartwell and will give us the ability to lock the turn style if there is an incident in Chartwell which will limit the exit points for Criminals. Once the security fence has been erected we will embark on a landscaping exercise to clean that corner up and deal with the soil erosion during the rainy season. This CCE security project has been done in conjunction with the Sweepstakes, who has generously donated the funds to achieve most of the project.

THE GREATER LANSERIA MASTER PLAN UPDATE

By Ryan Woodley

The Greater Lanseria Master Plan as outlined by Cyril Ramaposa is well underway. CCE Board members attended a briefing with planners to understand the goals and impact on the residents of Chartwell.

Very little has been left out of the plans for building the newest smart city, from the fastest fiber infrastructure to Gautrain stations, special economic zones, and thoughtful green policies. All of this is great but how does this affect the residents of Chartwell?

There are plans for certain infrastructure upgrades in and around Chartwell Country Estates and Farmall. Initial plans cover rectifying waterworks and possible road upgrades.

As it says in the plan "An important aspect of the city economy is its infrastructural investment, not simply in how it is funded and delivered but also the inclusion of myriad up-stream and down-stream aspects of its economic chain. Much of the contemporary thinking regarding urban sustainability recognizes this as well as the more obvious aspects of energy-efficiency and the striving for carbon-neutral systems."

The CCE is focused on making sure these plans benefit the community without taking away from what makes Chartwell so special. Watch out for news right here as plans unfold.

Check out the plan for yourself!
<https://www.chartwellcountryestate.co.za/whats-new/>

Aunty Maureen tells:

Chartwell's Funny Bunnies

By Maureen Dalglish

Most people who have come to live in Chartwell have some latent desire to farm ... be it vegetables, flowers or livestock!

Often the desire is never pursued, but in some cases the young energetic farmer has allowed his enthusiasm to overshadow common sense only to end up costing him lots of money ... and moreover, in this particular case, much embarrassment.

His plan was to breed rabbits for the pet shops.

Firstly, a huge portion of his land was levelled and the floor was concreted. Drainage furrows ran along the outside and the wire mesh cages were well-fitted with gates. Trees were planted for shade, taps were fitted to each drinking bowl and bright lights were erected for security. All was now ready for his farming venture. From an advert in Farmers Weekly magazine he bought his first 20 rabbits, the sexes of which were unknown. The 20 settled in well and fairly soon became 40, then 60, then 80 and more.

He hadn't worked out a marketing strategy yet! The cages were filling up rapidly and his food bill was rising daily. He was overwhelmed by his success and in fact he panicked! The only solution that came to mind was to open the cages and let the rabbits run free.

This they happily did – they gorged themselves on the neighbours' vegetables and anything else that was green in the area.

Residents nearby were furious at this irresponsible behaviour and

threatened to sue him for damages.

A couple of weeks later at the Chartwell AGM he stood up and apologised – his excuse being that he thought it would be cute to have lots of pretty bunnies hopping around Chartwell. The Chairman of the meeting demanded to know how he intended to rectify his madness – and some suggested to try to catch the rabbits and to have them neutered – but trying to catch a rabbit was a hopeless exercise.

The domestic rabbits eventually mixed with the local hares of the area and even today, 40 years later, odd looking bunnies are seen in Chartwell – some with long ears and patchy fur and some others with very peculiar markings, even stripes... So the question – what is a typical Chartwell bunny?

CHARTWELL SWEEPSTAKES

What an exciting evening! Three Draws for December, January and February when we were unable to meet due to lockdown restrictions.

Ticket 025 won by **Eve Quin**

Ticket 097 won by **Cobus Visser**

Ticket 08 won by **Maureen Dalglish**

And an excellent presentation on tattoos given by Tattoo Artist, Wayne Pictor. Tattoos from 300BC, tattoos given to seamen, and to prisoners and then more modern tattoos done with needles instead of sharpened bone.

The 20 minute talk became an hour and only ended when Wayne was dragged away from all the questions. As promised to all those contemplating a tattoo – Wayne's contact number is 061 522 4983.

NB: Never have a tattoo whilst under the influence of liquor – it lasts for life!!

InScent K9

By Ryan Gibbs

Ryan Gibbs is a long time resident of Chartwell. After a recent spate of crime in the area, which unfortunately affected Ryan and his family personally, it came to light that Ryan has his own tracking dog that has been incredibly trained. We asked Ryan a few questions to get to know him better and get a deeper look into his dog training history and how helpful a well trained dog can be when trying to track down criminals. Ryan has also shared some good tips and interesting related stories he has picked up over the years.

QU: About you and your family? How long have you lived in Chartwell? And any special memories you have of living in the area?

ANS: Our family has lived together in Chartwell for almost 20 years and has always enjoyed the country lifestyle of Chartwell while being close to the convenience of the city.

QU: A brief story about your dogs and their training?

ANS: K9 brothers Diego and Bagheera (two Australian Shepherds cross Labrador Retrievers) were not bred as a working bloodline, but even as puppies they showed a lot of potential to take on the many challenges of the working K9 industry. With incredibly high drive and very capable noses they had the necessary aptitudes to be trained up as working dogs and have excelled in their discipline of Mantrailing. We have a unique bond with each other and our K9 partners that makes us an effective team in training and out in the field. The dogs go wherever we go, and we have been lucky enough to have the experience of flying in helicopters, working through the bush in big five territory, searching over mountains, and going on the best road trips with our K9 partners. Their next trip is set for the Eastern Cape where we will be working with anti-poaching units in

two prestigious reserves. The adventure never ends!

QU: When did you learn to train dogs? Is it a passion and how did you figure out it was something you wanted to do?

ANS: In 2017 my brother and I found Diego and Bagheera but had not yet decided that we wanted to train them up as working dogs. Initially we just wanted them as pets but being adventurous at heart and spending a lot of time outdoors we decided that we wanted to get involved with Search and Rescue using the dogs to find missing people. We joined K9 SARA Gauteng and met Jackie De Sousa from Detection Hut who introduced us to Mantrailing and The Kocher Method. From day one we were hooked, and it has been one epic adventure from there on.

QU: Do you train other people's dogs as well as your own?

ANS: Yes, we do, but it is not as simple as just training other people's dogs. The method requires just as much handler training as it does K9 training, if not more. It is critical for the handler to build a bond with their dog and to learn about their dog's behaviour in addition to learning the intricacies of Mantrailing for them to become a successful team. My brother and I have started our own business called InScent K9 where we offer specialised workshops/seminars and private training in The Kocher Method.

QU: Do you have a training partner?



ANS: Our mentor and INBTI (InterNational Bloodhound Training Institute) Instructor Jackie De Sousa taught the method to us and has guided us through our training. Since then, we have trained and operated with several other organisations like Kilo 9 Kennels, Wild Response, and Phalaborwa Natural Heritage Foundation in conservation projects, as well as Ground SAR, Off Road Rescue Unit, Community Policing Forums and SAPS in search and rescue operations.

QU: What sort of training do you do? (search and rescue, tracking...)

ANS: Our training is very specialised, and we aim for a minimum of three sessions per week on the Mantrailing component alone. This type of training involves controlled



exercises for the dogs to develop their abilities and for the handlers to have a better understanding of trail behaviour by observing their dog's reactions and indications in controlled environment exercises. The complexity of this training evolves with the K9 and Handler's abilities, but we always keep up with the foundations. Initially we focused on training to aid and assist in search and rescue operations, but later in our career we were exposed to anti poaching and conservation operations in the Greater Kruger region.

QU: Where do you do your training?

ANS: We train in a wide variety of urban and wilderness environments from multistorey buildings, office parks,

shopping centres, to the forests in Swaziland, Magaliesberg mountains, and big 5 reserves in the bushveld of the Greater Kruger. Although we have regular training venues for most of our sessions, we do our best not to train in the same area too frequently, we want as much exposure to new environments for the dogs and handlers in training to prepare them for the real thing. We need to train for every possible distraction, environment, and challenge the dogs and handlers might face, to give them the best possible chance of a successful mission. If we have not trained for it, we will not deploy for it. We are always looking for new and challenging environments to train at.

QU: What is your preferred method of training? Do you use any specific training equipment?

ANS: Our preferred method of training is a method called The Kocher Method. We love this method because this is the best game the dogs can play, and they have the best time doing it. The method teaches the dogs to follow the scent of a human. What differentiates a trailing dog from a tracking dog is that the trailing dog is allowed to follow the human scent naturally, rather than being trained in a head down or tracking position. In other words, the dog is taught to follow the scent, but is allowed to do it instinctively rather than mechanically, following the freshest scent trail. The dogs are also taught to scent discriminate, meaning that they will follow the scent of a specific human and not just any human. This is achieved by presenting the dog with a target odor in the form of a scent article. This trailing behavior is taught to the dogs through game play and fun. During the game, the dog receives an article with a specific human's scent on it. This person then hides, and the dog must find them. If the dog is successful in finding the person, they receive a reward. The reward is the most important piece of equipment we use, and the dog gets to choose what it is. We also use well designed harnesses that do not restrict the dog

while trailing, and a 7m-10m Biothane lead that we make ourselves to suit our needs.

QU: The best age and breed of dog to train?

ANS: It is best to start developing a dog from a young age, building their drive, shaping behavior, as well as socialisation and exposure to a wide variety of environments, situations, and people. Mantrailing is not limited to any specific breed. The bloodhound's attributes make it a proficient dog for the task but there are many other breeds that make excellent working dogs. No breed or individual dog is automatically a great trailing dog and you must be prepared to move on from an individual dog if it does not perform. Before taking on a new dog and handler for training we always assess the dog's suitability for Mantrailing before accepting them into our program. It is also advised to avoid breeds that sight hunt.

QU: Your fondest memory or funny/ Interesting story you have about/ during training dogs?

ANS: On a recent operation in Pretoria, Diego and Bagheera were deployed to assist on a missing persons operation where together they successfully found the victim alive three days after he went missing from his home in Wonderboom. Collectively, Diego and Bagheera trailed a total distance of 10km through the Wonderboom Reserve to where the victim was found. The search was challenging

with little to no leads, but Diego and Bagheera worked together, leading us to the victim in time and saved a life. An unforgettable experience that keeps us motivated to keep doing what we do.

QU: 5 tips or pieces of advice for people who would like to start training their dogs?

ANS:

- 1.** Build a strong bond with your dog and earn their trust.
- 2.** Socialise your dog to all environments and a wide variety of people and situations.
- 3.** Learn to read your dog's behavior, understand them, and learn as much as you can about your individual dog as well as their breed. Working bloodlines DO NOT always make good pets, they are not bred to sit around and look pretty, they are bred to work and be stimulated, ALL THE TIME. If you do not have time for a dog, do not get one.
- 4.** Learn as much as you can about the effective training methods that have been developed in the many years of working dogs and find one that works for your individual dog. Dogs are not machines that you can turn on and off when it is convenient for you, behavior must be shaped, and drive must be channeled.
- 5.** If you are not capable of achieving the above, find a trusted professional who can help you. Not all dog trainers are good trainers.



KAYA SAND DUMPSITE AND BURNING

A reminder to all Chartwellians that it is illegal to burn any rubbish or refuse on your property.

The CCE has been in discussions with various communities surrounding Chartwell in connection with the illegal landfill site in Bloubosrand, and the Blou statement was issued after a meeting was held at the Douglasdale Police station on the 22nd February 2021. The following article was put together by Bokka Du Toit, on the topic of the Kaya Sand dumpsite.

The 'BURNING' issue of the Kaya Sand dumpsite

Brief summary of the situation – compiled by Bokka du Toit.

One of the largest 'illegal' dumpsites in Gauteng has remained a 'burning issue' for many years and it is still burning, literally and now rapidly expanding with the addition of highly toxic waste. An average of at least 40 dump trucks ranging from the larger registered waste removal companies to the 'cheap' privately owned rubble removal operators arrive in Kaya Sand daily to dump their waste. Waste disposal has become a thriving business for the reckless WASTE LORD criminals, mainly foreign nationals, that have taken the Municipal function of WASTE MANAGEMENT into their own hands – and for profit only. It is a win-win situation for both the private waste contractors (registered or un-registered) that conveniently dump their waste at a fraction of the official cost being charged at other 'legal' municipal facilities that are available in the region- and ultimately for the WASTE LORDS.

The old Kaya Sand landfill dumping site that was officially closed some years ago was re-opened by the opportunistic WASTE LORDS that control the three primary access points to this large track of quarry land. Two additional dumpsites were recently (January 2021) opened along

the North-Western border of this site in Orleans Rd. The management style of this criminal operation is to BURN the new waste as it is delivered and it is then 'levelled out' by appointed 'unemployed' labour from the local settlement. The increased influx of dump trucks caused the proliferation of other related businesses like shebeens and food vendors that also include SEX trafficking.

At any time of the day or night an average of at least five to six huge burning bon-fires can be found here that expels great volumes of toxic smoke that is compressed into the larger valley along the river of the dump site. Depending on the weather conditions and the wind this toxic smoke is distributed throughout the Kaya Sand, Fourways and Chartwell sub-regions.

It is important to note that the Johannesburg Northern territories have a number of official Industrial/ Manufacturing zones that create a large volume of toxic waste material that ranges from oils, lubricants, plastic, polystyrene, fibreglass and many other hazardous materials that are all found dumped at Kaya Sand. In some cases this toxic waste can be identified and traced back to their places of origin being the manufacturers. When confronted with this evidence they simply claim that their appointed and paid waste 'contractors' deal with their waste material once it leaves their premisses and it is of no concern to them, or their responsibility where it ends up.



During the month of February 2021 I have managed to bring this matter to the attention of both the relevant Ward Councillor (Ward 95) Mr. Sbusiso and the region's JMPD Superintendent Phamla. Both these concerned officials visited the dumpsite on various occasions and this resulted in an important landmark meeting that was held at the Douglasdale SAPD on 22/2/21 that was initiated by both these officials.

The meeting was chaired by the region's new SAPD commander Brigadier Arikum, the Douglasdale Station Commander Lt.Col. Kriel, PIKITUP regional manager, Dept. of Health senior officials, JMPD law enforcers and representatives from the Johannesburg's Mayoral committee. After a presentation was given by myself on the situation and operation of the dumpsite it was unilaterally agreed upon by all parties in attendance that the site, and as a matter of urgency, had to be finally closed down. The challenges and legal implications presented in following through with this planned action were discussed in great detail. Immediate action was commanded by Brig. Arikum that required a 'zero tolerance' approach to be adopted by both the SAPD and the JMPD that included impounding the vehicles of offenders, restricting access to the site and arresting the offenders. Brig. Arikum also said that the 'Green Scorpions' could be included in dealing with this matter should that be required. JMPD and Douglasdale SAPD would immediately dedicate two patrol vehicles to initiate this action. All participants at the meeting would meet again on 3/2/21 at the Douglasdale Police Station to evaluate the progress made and to adjust a 'checks and balances' strategies where required in the final closure of this site.

As a concerned and directly affected local resident I will be critically monitoring and evaluating this unfolding process in direct consultation with Clr. Sbusiso and Superintendent Phamla. It is my suggestion that an interim and overseeing steering committee is formed by one representative from each of the active and affected community organisations in this 'smoked out' Zone A and E area of the North-western Johannesburg sub-region.

Bokka du Toit (073 450 5151)

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