



# CHARTWELL

## COUNTRY ESTATES

MARCH 2021 NEWSLETTER

## WHY WE LOVE CHARTWELL



Back in the day before Fourways was Fourways, and the skies were polluted by all the lights, we used to sit under the beautiful African skies and admire the moon and stars. The other night, by chance we went outside and saw the full moon. It was a marvel how bright and beautiful it was. The picture above just reminds me of what a great area we live in, to be able to have such incredible skies like this.

Please send in your pictures and stories of why you love Chartwell.

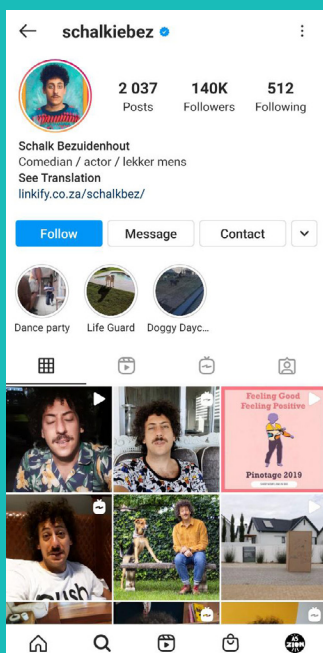
# SOMEONE TO FOLLOW



## SCHALK BEZUIDENHOUT

If you are in need of a laugh or a positive view on the world from a comedic point of view, Schalk Bezuidenhout's instagram page (@schalkiebez) is the perfect place to look.

@schalkiebez is a Johannesburg based stand up comedian and actor. During lock down Schalk started creating humorous Lock down videos, where he chatted about whatever was on his mind, his daily activities or just a response to what was happening in the world around us. These videos have been providing entertainment for anyone watching over the lock down period, and still carry one weekly.



# Aunty Maureen tells:

## “Harpo” the Hippo comes to visit By Maureen Dalglish

“Harpo” the Hippo comes to visit. It isn't possible!

Someone had too much to drink!

Perhaps it was an escaped cow!

OH NO!!

It was possible and “Harpo” really did find his way upstream and has been spotted on a couple of occasions either on someone's lawn or on the river bank.

He is not hurting or interfering with anyone and seems quite happy to do what hippos normally do – that is to graze on the bank and then slide down into the water for a while until he is hungry again.

The tantalizing question is “Why did Harpo leave his colleagues and venture out on his own?”

Mark McClue, who spends much of his life either in canoes or checking on sewage spills at the river, gave a wonderful presentation to the Sweepstake players the other night – he projected and showed us the waterways from Hartebeespoort Dam all the way to Fourways and outlined

how the Klein Jukskei River meanders through some very varied vegetation and therefore some various creatures' habitats. A family, or pod, of hippos being among them.

The question remains, however, why did “Harpo” venture out on his own? Apparently he is a young male and it is possible that he is either looking for a mate or he has been ousted from his pod because he is competition to the other males.

As Chartwell is a Conservancy, “Harpo” is most welcome to come and go along our river as he pleases and we humans must treat him with respect and not irritate or annoy him and cause him to retaliate because then someone could be hurt...

The River Guards have been warned to watch out for him and not stand in his path between the grass and the river. Rick Currie suggested that he wear some reflective tape but refused to be the person to stick it on him. Ha Ha Ha!

The conclusion then is “Welcome Harpo”- you are safe with us in Chartwell – we will respect you and you in turn will please respect us.



# 'THE COMMUNITY GARDEN PROJECT'

By Hannah Warren

If you are running low on ideas to spruce up your pavement garden or wanting to redecorate and plant new interesting plants, here is a fascinating and worthwhile idea that will not only benefit the beautification of your property, but the well being of the community surrounding us.

Imagine a community where anyone can go and pick fruit and vegetables at any time, free of charge. That was the thought when Rob Eriksen-Miller, a long time Chartwell resident and CCE Board member, came up with the ingenious idea to feed the community from a distance. In 2020 Rob, alongside his director of agriculture, Unity, created a veggie garden on the verge outside his property. It is filled with luscious veggies. Some of the veggies Unity plants are lettuce, spinach, tomatoes, carrots, green peppers, chilli and pumpkin. Unity cultivates the veggies and plants so that people who are in need of a meal and cannot afford it and even those who can, can come pick a handful of fruit and veggies to make a wholesome meal for them and their family.

I chatted to Unity and got some key tips on how to cultivate the perfect veggie patch. Hopefully his passion and enthusiasm will encourage other Chartwell residents to join what we would like to call 'The Community Garden Project'.

## Unity's tips to cultivate and maintain a thriving garden:

- Plant the seeds into trays with healthy soil. (Bare in mind certain types of seedlings take a few weeks to germinate.)
- While the seedlings are growing, prepare the veggie patch ground by turning and aerating the soil. (Chartwell is not known for having the most fertile soil, so add some compost. There are many stable yards around the area that are willing to donate some manure.)
- Water the seedlings and let them grow until they are 5- 10 cm tall.
- Once they have grown transfer them into your veggie patch.
- Unity recommends keeping some seeds from the veggies you have produced, as they can be replanted

for the next harvest. He says these seeds normally produce the best veggies.

- The best time to start planting is the summer time.
- Know what climate the veggies need (most of them will need sun or semi shade.)
- Keep the soil damp, so water every 2 or 3 days, but be careful not to over water.
- Unity says the plants are aware of your presence and grow better when given attention.
- Get a scarecrow to scare off the birds trying to eat your veggies. (Unity's scarecrow, Smart, is made out of recycled materials and old clothes, as can be seen in the picture.) He also recommends moving the scarecrow around every now and then so the birds don't get too used to it being in one place.

We are going to be tracking this initiative around Chartwell. So please send through photos and stories of your veggie patches, so we can post it on our social media and publish them in the future newsletters.



# CCE RESPONSE TO CITY OF JOHANNESBURG 2021/22 BUDGET AND IDP

## FROM THE CCE

***This is a letter from the CCE in response to city of Johannesburg budget proposal. We encourage all residents to go online and read their proposal. All residents are welcome to send their own feedback through to City of Johannesburg and give input.***

Over the past 18 months the board of the Chartwell Country Estates residents association has participated in numerous consultation sessions with COJ officials, local councilors and other residents associations in the greater Fourways area regarding the status of infrastructure delivery in our area.

It has become very clear to us and the residents of Chartwell that the COJ and its various operating entities (Jhb Water, JRA, JMPD, City Power, City Parks and Pikitup) have not maintained the services required, and in many aspects have actually regressed in the quality and standards of services provided. This backward slide in service delivery is also mirrored in the experiences of the business sector in the greater Fourways area, and is further evidence that the City is unable to justify increasing its service charges and rates given the declining quality of the services rendered.

It is worth noting that the COJ is actually listed as a land owner of several properties within Chartwell Country Estates and Conservancy, and has proven itself to be a poor landowner by not maintaining the properties it owns (cutting grass, securing the boundaries with fences/walls, protecting residents from illegal land occupation). The CCE hosted a tour of the area in 2019 by the local ward councilor and a representative of the Johannesburg Mayors Office to point out these properties. The COJ

has not responded to our requests to become a CCE member thereby allowing the CCE to assist in maintaining these properties on behalf of the COJ. It is thus curious as to how the COJ explains why it is appealing to our residents to be good citizens by paying for services and rates and taxes when it is unable to do the same for its land in Chartwell.

We have read the draft IDP as presented and have noted the various capital projects planned for our area (region A, ward 96) and must advise that our own experience with these projects indicate numerous delays (Northern Works wastewater treatment plant and the current Farmall Pump Station problems, JRA road upgrades, Jhb Water Talavera Pipeline upgrade) in project completion and implementation. The CCE and various residents as well as neighboring residents associations (Chartwell North Estates, Cedar Lakes, Cedar Creek, Farmall etc.) have all agreed on the poor services and apparent lack of competence in the maintenance of infrastructure and communication to residents and those affected by outages, damage to pipelines, potholes and road damage – to name only a few instances.

The CCE has also participated in 2 virtual meetings with the Gauteng development advisors for the new Lanseria Smart City development plan and given input and constructive suggestions. Whilst the initial visible infrastructure works is centered on the new road interchange at the old Lion Park fourway stop, we were recently informed on the 12th March of the suspension of the R114 Road Works suspension due to the fact that Gautrans has not paid the contractor for the past 5 months. This project has caused significant inconvenience – initially believed to be short term –

to all residents and road users in the northern Fourways area. Third Road, which passes through Chartwell is used as a detour by many road users to avoid the now halted R114 road works. With the lack of maintenance this road has become virtually impassable in sections. It is highly regrettable that the COJ, its operating entities and fellow government departments are now viewed as impediments to property development and infrastructure upgrading to most residents.

The CCE is unable to explain to area residents and members how the COJ can be both demanding payment for poor service delivery and outright incorrect billing statements as well as refusing to pay contractors for work done on infrastructure projects. The question is often posed – “what has happened to the funds collected by the COJ from residents?”

The fact is that the property values in our areas have been negatively affected for the past 5 years due to the COJ service delivery issues - despite the recent increases in municipal property valuations which several of our residents objected against.

The CCE has also had to review its own service offering to residents. As a non-profit company serving the interests of residents in Chartwell, we have changed the pricing for membership fees to effectively reduce the costs of membership to owners, tenants and businesses in our area. We have prioritized security, water and power infrastructure as our main areas of focus. In each of these areas, the failure of COJ entities to adequately protect residents and ensure safe and consistent water supply and electricity has compelled the CCE to use its own limited resources to bridge the gap left



by the COJ.

The CCE does wish to make a few constructive suggestions to the COJ to help with revenue collection and improve citizen participation in the programs of the City. These are as follows:

- Full or Partial Write-off of service payment arrears for residents with Jhb Water/COJ bill queries ;
- Additional walk-in COJ centre in Fourways to resolve queries ;
- An operational COJ Call centre / mobile application to report service problems or outages ;
- COJ Assistance with old Eskom power distribution infrastructure
- COJ membership of CCE for city-owned properties in Chartwell ;
- COJ to assist with JRA maintenance for JRA gravel and tarred roads in Chartwell and Farmall.

None of our CCE board members are remunerated, and every cent we spend is sourced from our own resources. We do not have the option of borrowing from banks or the state to fund the critical activities needed. We provide these services to all residents, even those not currently paying CCE membership fees.

We do not know what the COJ is proposing in terms of increases to the rates and service charges and hence the CCE cannot support any proposed changes to the COJ budget which is not funded appropriately. Any above inflation linked increases in costs to our residents will not be supported, and actively campaigned against. The CCE would have preferred to give a direct comment on the proposed COJ increases, but is unable to in the absence of price increase information.

## MORE PHOTOS OF UNITY'S GARDEN



## CHARTWELL ROAD SAFETY

### Basic Chartwell road rules

RESPECT every road user  
Most vulnerable road user has right of way.

### SPEED LIMITS!

Tar roads- Max 60 km/hr  
Dirt Roads- Max 40 km/hr  
When passing a horse rider- 10 km/hr





INSTAGRAM

@chartwell\_country\_estates

FACEBOOK  
Chartwell CCE

OUR WEBSITE

# BUSINESS DIRECTORY

<p><b>Symbolic Ware (PTY) LTD</b> Manufacturers of: metal &amp; plastic name badges; cufflinks; tie slides; key rings; medals; school badges. Tel: 011 792 8777 Email: <a href="mailto:info@symware.co.za">info@symware.co.za</a></p>  <p><b>SYMBOLIC WARE</b> THE BADGE PEOPLE</p>	<p><b>Maureen Dalglish Real Estate</b> Professional Principal Agent (NQFS) Tel: 083 228 1753 Office: 011 708 328 3297 Email: <a href="mailto:dalglishm@mweb.co.za">dalglishm@mweb.co.za</a> Website: <a href="http://www.dalglish.co.za">www.dalglish.co.za</a></p> 

## CLASSIFIEDS

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<p><b>The Fitness League Gym Class</b> Venue: the dance studio, Runnymead Road Day: Monday and Thursday Time: 8:30 am Contact Maureen on 083 228 1753 FUN FITNESS FRIENDSHIP</p>	
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