

Thorn Valley Estate Times

NEWSLETTER : December 2011



December 2011

It's hard to believe that yet another year has flown by and here we are with Christmas just around the corner.

Holidays will soon be upon us, schools are out and the roads are getting quieter by the day.

The Thorn Valley Estate Home Owners Association would like to wish all members and residents of the Estate a peaceful and happy holiday period and best wishes to one and all for the New Year ahead.



Christmas

How did Christmas start? Since about 400 AD, Christians have celebrated the birth of Jesus. 'Christ' means 'Messiah' or 'Anointed One' - the title given to Jesus - and 'Mass' was a religious festival.

In the West today, the real meaning of Christmas is often forgotten as it has become a non-religious holiday where more children believe in Father Christmas than in Jesus.

Father Christmas' (or 'Santa Claus') has become the human face of Christmas. Pictures will be seen everywhere of the old man with long white beard, red coat, and bag of toys.

Children are taught that he brings them presents the night before Christmas (or in some countries on December 6th - St. Nicholas' Day), and many children up to the age of 7 or 8 really believe this is true.

In most countries, it is said that he lives near the North Pole, and arrives through the sky on a sledge (snow-cart) pulled by reindeer. He comes into houses down the chimney at midnight and places presents for the children in socks or bags by their beds or in front of the family Christmas tree.



Father Christmas is based on a real person, St. Nicholas, which explains his other name 'Santa Claus' which comes from the Dutch 'Sinterklaas'.

Nicholas was a Christian leader from Myra (in modern-day Turkey) in the 4th century AD.

He was very shy, and wanted to give money to poor people without them knowing about it. It is said that one day, he climbed the roof of a house and dropped a purse of money down the chimney.

It landed in the stocking which a girl had put to dry by the fire!

This may explain the belief that Father Christmas comes down the chimney and places gifts in children's stockings.

In English-speaking countries, the day following Christmas Day is called 'Boxing Day'.

This word comes from the custom which started in the Middle Ages around 800 years ago: churches would open their 'alms boxes' (boxes in which people had placed gifts of money) and distribute the contents to poor people in the neighbourhood on the day after Christmas.

The tradition continues today - small gifts are often given to delivery workers such as postal staff and children who deliver newspapers.

Thorn Valley Estate Times



Unlicensed Motorised Vehicles

Apologies that we have more to complain about but unfortunately there are a number of younger residents who love driving around the Estate roads on motorised bikes, quads etc.

Unfortunately these inexperienced road users think that all is safe as they are not on the open road, but they aren't counting on one or two of the Formula 1 drivers we have in the Estate

This is an accident waiting to happen, and recently a few pets were killed on our roads at personal loss to their owners and we sincerely hope that this is as far as it goes.

Fire Works

We remind all residents that the use of fireworks in the Estate is strictly prohibited for any New Year Celebrations.

Fines will be levied on any residents using fireworks.

We and all the neighbourhood pets, thank you in advance for your co-operation in this regard.

Hefty fines for illegal fireworks

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Pretoria - The Tshwane emergency services department has warned that residents who set off fireworks without written permission from the chief fire officer will face a fine or jail, according to a report on Monday.

The penalty includes a R5 000 fine and/or six months' imprisonment, reported the Pretoria News.

These sanctions also applied to people permitting the discharge of fireworks, said emergency services spokesperson, Johan Pieterse.

Children should not be allowed to set off any kind of fireworks without being supervised by an adult. Only one firework should be lit at a time, and those that do not discharge the first time should not be used," he said.

Pieterse said fireworks should be bought from licensed dealers of explosives and should only be used outdoors.

Never point or throw fireworks at people, do not keep them in your pocket, do not place in metal or glass containers before discharge, always wear eye protection and ensure that no part of your body protrudes over the fireworks," he said.

Estate Agent Accreditations

New accreditations are required for New Year ahead so please make certain your agent has applied timeously for next year.

If you wish to sell your property, please ensure that the Estate Agent you use is accredited to sell in the Estate. If accreditation is not obtained, the agent will not be permitted to market your property.

Re-cycling

The re-cycling initiatives agreed to by the Board where plastic bags shall be issued to each household shall commence in the New Year.

Residents shall be advised again in January where all re-cycling waste (but not wet waste, etc.) is to be placed in the one bag where no sorting the resident will be required.

The sorting occurs at the recycling plant and reports are issued advising how much has been recycled and a certificate issued.

The "buy-in" of the residents is critical to the success of the project.

Security Guards Christmas Gratuity

As with previous years, the Association has approved a nominal token of gratitude to all of the security staff who serve at Thorn Valley as a token of the wonderful service and incident free Estate that we all cherish so much.



BUILDER'S HOLIDAYS

The annual Builder's shut down this year will occur from 10th December – 10th January during which period no access for any construction activity will be permitted.

Social Events Over The Holiday Period

The holiday season is a great time to meet and socialise with friends, but sometimes these events cause a lot of disturbance to other residents, so please be mindful of your neighbours, control your guests and comply with the rules.

Thorn Valley Estate Times

To speed up guests obtaining access to the Estate, it is recommended that the attached Guest List is completed and submitted to the Estate Security at least 48 hours before the function.

This will enable automatic entry without need for the Guards to buzz the residence for consent.



The Modderfontein Library is open weekly Monday – Friday, but it is hoped to open on one Saturday a month shortly. It has an extensive stock of children's and adult's books.

The 'Friends of the Modderfontein Library' believe that the future survival of the library depends on increasing its membership and building on its stock of current books.

To date they have raised nearly R2,000 by book sales, which will be spent on new books.

The next sale will be held on 5th November 2011 from 09:00 to 13:00 outside the Library. In addition, they have received donations of books from Exclusive Books, Eastgate, and from members of the community.

If you wish to dispose of unwanted books, the Library will be happy to receive them. They will either be put on the shelves, or offered for sale, or passed on to other less privileged libraries.

Early in 2012 the 'Friends' intend to organise a 'Story Time' hour for children after school hours. Nannies caring for young children will be welcome at the Library. Details will be published later.

We encourage all residents in the area to investigate what the Library can offer them and their children.

Enquiries may be directed to the Librarian, Oupa Mona (011) 608 0421, or to Andre Carr 072 462 6168

New Post Office

For your convenience, Greenstone Mall has a new Post Office situated close to Absa in the banking mall. This facility is open Monday to Friday 08h30 – 16h30 and Saturdays 08h00 to 13h00. For further enquiries, they can be contacted on (011) 609-2340.



Speeding And Dangerous Driving

Complaints are still being received about dangerous and reckless driving on the Estate.

We appeal to all residents to observe the speed limit, stop at Stop signs and generally to show consideration for others.

Pets

Complaints about pets are continuously received by the Association, including:

- The incessant howling or barking of dogs, where the owners make no attempt to control this obvious nuisance factor.
- Residents taking dogs for walks within the Estate but making no attempt to clean up the inevitable dog mess.
- Members are kindly requested to clean up after their pets.
- Finally, a number of complaints have been reported regarding stray dogs or dogs being walked by residents without restraint by a leash.

Thorn Valley Estate Times

Stoneridge Drive Gate House Intercom

Just to caution that one of the two Intercoms at the Stoneridge Driver Gate House is not working and may be problematic to repair as it is old technology no longer in the market place and no back up service for spares or repairs.

We are trying all avenues to attempt to repair but may not be successful. As a worst case scenario, this equipment may have to be replaced and we are uncertain whether this can still be arranged this year. We respectfully request your patience and cooperation with this matter.



A BYRNE ASSOCIATES

Should you have any queries in respect of any matter regarding the Association, the Managing Agents, ABA, are contactable at Tel 011-706-9700; Fax 011-706-9709; or e-mail leandra@abyrne.co.za.

Members are requested to :

submit any type of formal query or complaint in writing at the time it happens, in order that it is on record, as will be the response thereto.

always include a reference in all communications and in any payment to the Association by placing the prefix TVEHOA followed by the Stand Number.

keep ABA updated with current contact details, as well as those of tenants, if applicable.

A reminder that new tenants must be handed a copy of the current Conduct Rules, which they must sign and return to the Managing Agents.

Tobie the Estate Manager is contactable on 078-883-6578.

ABA will close during the core Christmas holiday period.

EMERGENCY CONTACT

Over the holiday period apart from the Estate Security numbers, the Estate Manager's details are recorded above, or alternatively an e-mail to austin@abyrne.co.za will result in a prompt response to the matter at hand.

Please quote Stand Number, Name, Phone Number and E-Mail address to ensure timeous response.



We wish all residents a very happy, peaceful and safe holiday season.