MARCH 2022

VR NEWS

Van Riebeeckshof
HOME OWNERS ASSOCIATION



IN THIS ISSUE

Levy Increase
Van Riebeeckshof Valley NPC
Vleiland
Picking Up After Your Dog
Forest Clean-Up
Beggars



Forest clean-up



Forest clean-up



VRHOA LEVY INCREASE 1 MARCH 2022

After 3 consecutive years of no levy increase, the Trustees of the van Riebeeckshof MHOA have decided to increase the levy by 5%. This decision was driven by inflationary pressures. This means that as from 1 March 2022, the following levy increase will apply for the 2022/23 financial year. The monthly levy will increase as set out below:

- Free standing Erf - R255
- Gated communities - R127

A 5% discount is applicable if the levies for the period March 2021 to February 2022 are paid before 31 March 2022. The annual discounted amounts payable are:

- Free Standing Erf - R2 907
- Gated communities - R1 448



VAN RIEBEECKSHOF VALLEY NPC

The Van Riebeeckshof MHOA forms part of wider geographical area. This is comprised of the following:

- **Van Riebeeckshof;**
- **Oude Westhof;**
- **Welgedacht;**
- **Kanonberg;**
- **Protea Valley; and**
- **De Uitkijk.**

Although the COCT provides services to all the above areas, a non-profit organization was created in 2019 to enhance such services. The focus is primarily of enhancing the overall security and natural environment of the area.

The Van Riebeeckshof Valley NPC is legally constituted to facilitate and provide community driven urban management coordination for the Van Riebeeckshof Valley. The organization plays a major coordination role as well as having dedicated resources to appropriately respond to local problems and provide top-up municipal services where necessary. The Van Riebeeckshof MHOA forms part of the Van Riebeeckshof Valley NPC and contributes to the overall funding of its activities. Some of the focus areas that should be noted are:

- **Security** – The VRH MHOA forms part of an integrated License Plate Recognition (LPR) security camera system that has been installed along van Riebeeckshof Road. Such a camera system identifies motor vehicles that have been listed as "stolen" or "involved in criminal activity". The footage is monitored on an ongoing basis. Should such a suspicious vehicle be identified, the security vehicles in the area (ADT) are alerted to respond.
- **Environment** - The intention is to develop the Van Riebeeckshof Valley geographical area into a tree-filled area by adding to the existing trees that have been planted along van Riebeeckshof Road. Over the last year, the COCT has donated 30 indigenous trees. The VRHV NPC has arranged for the planting and ongoing maintenance of such trees. A concerted effort has been made to also maintain and prune the existing trees along van Riebeeckshof Road.
- **Littering** - There are numerous taxi-stops along van Riebeeckshof Road and littering by passengers and pedestrians are unsightly and project an unkept image of the area. For this reason, a contractor has been appointed to pick up litter and remove this to a municipal dumping site. We wish to encourage residents to carry a small refuse bag for personal use (empty water bottles or "doggy poop") with them when walking in the area. These can be disposed of in the refuse bins along van Riebeeckshof Road.



VAN RIEBEECKSHOF "VLEILAND"

The "Vleiland" is used to describe the wetland area forming an enclosed central area along the van Riebeeckshof Road.

Background

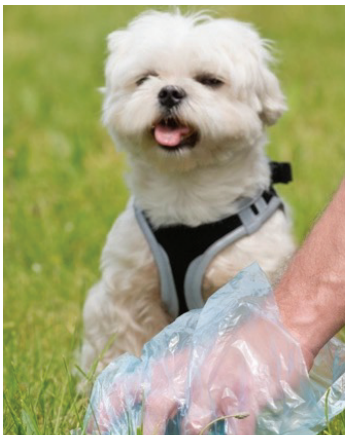
- The area forms a central focus in VRHV;
- Part of the Tygerberg aquafer system;
- Many endangered flora found in the "Vleiland";
- Previously a builder`s dumping ground with squatters;
- The VRH Wetlands Nature Conservation Association formed to manage the area;
- Area enclosed with the assistance of COCT.

Recent developments

- The Wetlands Association has recently accepted MHOA`s and individuals interested in conservation as Trustees to manage the Wetlands Association.
- Trustees have been appointed to plot out future developments and conservation activities in the area.
- Future conservation initiatives will be communicated when finalized.



PICKING UP AFTER YOUR DOG: WHY IT'S IMPORTANT



Picking up after your dog isn't exactly the most enjoyable chore. Let's face it — it's gross! It can be tempting to skip this task but doing so is not only bad for the environment and public health — in many places, it's also illegal. Keep reading for all of the reasons you really do need to pick up your dog's poop and read on to learn how to clean dog poop from grass.

Why Picking Up After Your Dog Matters

1. It is required by Law
2. Dog poop Is NOT a fertilizer
3. Its no fun to clear it from your shoes
4. It's an environmental pollutant
5. It carries diseases
6. Is smells bad
7. It's Common Courtesy - It's simply the right thing to do.

MAJIK FOREST CLEAN-UP

There is a group of amazing individuals who on a regular basis volunteer to collect rubbish in the Majik Forest. A whatsapp group was created and we will welcome more volunteers who are willing to assist in keeping our area & surroundings neat & clean.

Beginning of each month the coordinator will post the clean-up dates for the month on the group inviting everyone to join.

For the month of March 2022, the clean updates are:

- **Saturday, 2 April 9h00-10h00**
- **Thursday 7 April 17h00-18h00**
- **Tuesday 19 April 07h30-08h30**
- **Sunday 24 April 9h00-10h00**

If you want to be part of the group, please open this link to join the whatsapp group: https://chat.whatsapp.com/K7JwSxH4KF-c10nnrLf68OF



DON'T SUPPORT BEGGARS

Many traffic intersections in our cities are occupied by beggars and pedlars of wares/services, who pursue a captive audience when the lights turn red.

The definition of harassment involves a person not being able to escape unwanted demands or threats. Demanding a driver's attention while trapped at a robot falls under this definition. Few people are aware that it is illegal to loiter at traffic intersections. The National Road Traffic Act (duties of pedestrians) states that, "A pedestrian shall not walk on a roadway except for the purpose of crossing from one side to the other or for some other sufficient reason".

There seems to be a perception in South African that begging and selling goods / services constitutes a "sufficient reason" to be there. This perception is reinforced by a lack of will from law enforcement agencies to remove the offenders. Beggars and sellers of wares make people feel unsafe at traffic lights, particularly at night. People tend to forget that begging is an age-old profession and an art, and beggars in South Africa have a veritable gold mine at their disposal - a wealthy segment of the population made up of people who enjoy their comforts and who want to steer clear of poverty, but at the same time feel a sense of guilt because of their privilege. Beggars exploit this to the maximum, providing an opportunity for "caring" folk to give away a few rand from the comfort of their cars to ease their consciences. Unfortunately, beggars distract us from the true poverty in the country.

Many people want to give to the needy, but some don't feel comfortable going into impoverished areas, so they end up offering their change to professional drifters who hang around shops, restaurants and other places where money changes hands. To prevent bin scratchers entering the neighbourhood, the best thing to do with all of your food & food waste, is to properly store and dispose of it in a trash can or compost bin. Please do NOT leave it on the black bins.

If someone really wants to help those in need then the responsible way, make a donation to MES by clicking on this link https://mes.org.za/donations/

Alternatively, contact the Western Cape Emergency Services on (021) 480-7700 or 112 (from a mobile phone) to have the beggar / vagrant removed.