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# NUUSBRIEF
## Augustus 2019

Redakteur: Mikkie Weiss

Hartlik dankie aan al die eienaars en inwoners wat gereageer het op die vraag of hulle die Nuusbrief lees of nie. U is altyd welkom om voorstelle te maak hoe om hierdie kommunikasiekanaal nog beter te maak.

**Let asseblief daarop dat daar in September en Oktober geen Nuusbrief sal wees nie. Die spyskaarte sal apart uitgestuur word.**

# Argitektoniese en Estetiese subkomitee

In die verlede het die Estetiese subkomitee bymekaargekom soos en wanneer nodig en het bouplanne goedgekeur soos hulle ontvang is. Dit het egter meegebring dat die lede nie hul daaglikse programme behoorlik kon beplan nie, wat 'n negatiewe impak op die werk gehad het.

Klousule 8.5 van die Argitektoniese Riglyne en Boureëls bepaal as volg: *"Die Bestuurskomitee sal 'n aansoek skriftelik goedkeur of afwys binne 14 dae ná indiening en betaling van die aansoektarief."*

In die lig van bogenoemde het die Argitektoniese en Estetiese subkomitee op 24 Junie 2019 besluit dat hulle voortaan slegs op Maandae van 11:00 tot 13:00 sal vergader, waartydens alle argitektoniese en estetiese aangeleenthede bespreek sal word, wat die goedkeuring van bouplanne wat gedurende die vorige week ontvang is, insluit.

Hierdie reëling sal hopelik tot beter dienslewering lei.

# *Europese spreeus – oulike goedjies?*

# *Dink weer!*

*- Shane Gainer*

Die Europese spreeu word in groot swerms in en om Monte Christo gesien. Hierdie gespikkelde voël, wat van ver af swart voorkom, is ‘n indringerspesie wat in talle gebiede van ons land, die Weskaap ingesluit, voorkom. Gedurende hierdie tyd van die jaar soek hulle geskikte nesmaakplek as voorbereiding vir die broeiseisoen, wat vanaf September tot Maart duur. Hierdie spreeus verkies holtes om in nes te maak, daarom sal pype, luggate en dakopeninge hulle lok.

Daar word ook vermoed dat dié spreeu vir nesmaakplek meeding met ander voëls in suidelike Afrika wat in holtes nesmaak, en hulle verdryf, soos bv die Gryskopspeg (*Olive Woodpecker*). Nie eers die gewone dakmossie, wat ook ‘n probleem kan wees, staan ‘n kans teen die spreeus nie!

Die Europese spreeu word nie verniet in baie wêrelddele die ‘Rot-voël’ genoem nie. Hulle kan ‘n pes word as jy hulle nie verjaag of verhoed word om in jou huis se dak in te trek nie.

Waarom kan hierdie gesellige voëltjies dan nie jou huis met jou deel nie?

- Hulle is aggressief teenoor ander voëls en sal nie huiwer om die meer passiewe tuin/sangvoëls weg te jaag nie.
- Hierdie spreeus is monogaam en beweeg gewoonlik in swerms om te wei. Hulle kan voerplekke totaal oorneem en kos wat jy dalk vir ander voëls uitsit, gou opvreet. Hulle aptyt sal jou sak ruk!
- As hulle in jou dak intrek, beteken dit vir jou probleme, wat nie net tot die lawaai van die kuikens beperk is nie. Sowel hul mis, as die luise wat hulle dra, hou ‘n gesondheidsgevaar in. Spreeus is die grootste draer van luise in die voëlwêreld, en sommige huiseienaars moes al hul huise laat berook om van die voëlluise en -miete ontslae te raak.

**Voorkoming**

- As jy voëls wil voer, gebruik iets waarvan die spreeus nie hou nie. Jou troeteldierwinkel behoort jou te kan raadgee. Onthou: Spreeus eet enigiets wat mense eet, en hulle hou ook van voëlsaad en brood. Moet hulle asseblief nie doelbewus voer nie!
- Gebruik ‘n voëlvoerder met klein openinge, sodat hulle nie die kos wat vir inheemse geveerdes bedoel is, kan steel nie.
- Probeer om alle openinge na ruimtes in en om jou huis toe te maak, veral dié na jou dak. 'n Goeie wenk is om plastiekmaas in die geute te installeer.
- Vergewis jou van hul voorkoms en die geluid wat hulle maak, en jaag hulle van jou eiendom af weg so dikwels as jy kan deur jou hande te klap of ander geraas te maak. Spreeus is intelligente voëls (net soos hul familie, die Indiese Mynah), en sal gou besef dat hulle nie welkom is nie.
- Moet ONDER GEEN OMSTANDIGHEDE spreeus se mis sonder beskermende handskoene en masker hanteer nie, aangesien dit ‘n bewese gesondheidsgevaar vir mense inhou.

# Sop- en Sjerrieaand goed ondersteun

Die sop- en sjerrieaand wat op 10 Julie in die Klubhuis gehou is, was ‘n fees. Julia en Willie het hulself oortref met die heerlike sop en bykosse. Die restaurant was vol, en daar het ‘n gesellige gees geheers.

**Onthou asseblief dat jy enige tyd vir Julia of Willie kan skakel in verband met spyskaarte, bevrore geregte, onthaalgeleenthede, en bespreking vir etes.**

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## Toegangspad

Ons toegangspad se seëllaag is op 22 Julie voltooi, maar aangesien die kontrakteur nie tevrede was met die resultaat nie, is ‘n tweede laag die afgelope week aangebring. Sodra die projek afgeteken is, sal ‘n kontrakteur aangestel word om die padlyne te kom verf.

## Oordrag van Klubgebou

Die oordrag van die Klubgebou na die Aftreeoord, wat by die Spesiale Algemene Vergadering in Januarie goedgekeur is, is op Vrydag, 12 Julie gefinaliseer. Ons dank aan die lede van die twee Bestuurskomitees vir hul harde werk om hierdie saak af te handel.

## AUGUSTUS - Het jy geweet?

*Die vroeg-Romeinse kalender was chaoties, en dié in beheer daarvan so korrup dat die jaar soms verleng of verkort is om sekere amptenare te bevoordeel en ander te benadeel. Toe Julius Caesar in 45vC die kalender hervorm, is die maand Julie na hom vernoem, en dié maand het 31 dae gekry.*

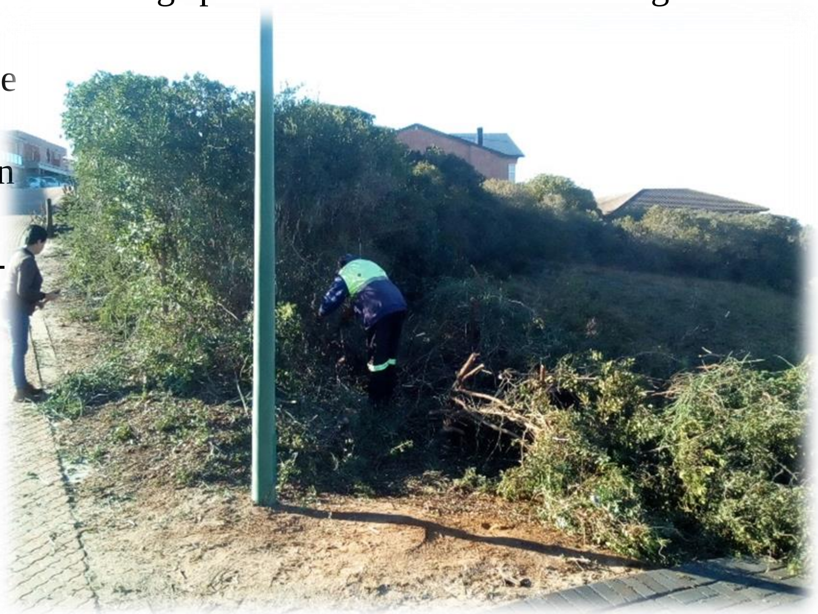
*Nadat Augustus keiser van Rome geword het, is daar besluit om hom en sy oorwinnings ook met ‘n maand te vereer. Dit moes egter dieselfde status as Julius Caesar s’n kry, dus is daar besluit dat die maand Augustus ook – soos Julie - 31 dae sou hê. Die ekstra dag is toe by Februarie ‘geleen’.*

# Ons Tuine en speelparke

Ons dank aan die Tuine-span (hier onder) wat so baie tyd opoffer om ons tuinuitleg te doen.

Die broodbome is nou klaar geplant, en die uitgeblomde laventel onder langs Blue Crane-weg is met *Iceberg*-rose vervang. Dié gewilde roos, wat 'n sterk groeier is, gee pragtige wit, pienk of wynrooi blomme in die somer en herfs.

Erwe 5408 en 5409 in Kingfisherstraat is onlangs professioneel ontbos en skoongemaak. Verskeie Melkhoutbome is nou sigbaar, insluitend 'n baie skaars Natalse spesie. Jare gelede het daar digte Melkhoutbosse langs die kus, veral in die Kaapse Skiereiland, voorgekom. Hoewel die Melkhout nie 'n bedreigde spesie is nie, is dit een van Suid-Afrika se *Beskermde Bome*, wat dit onwettig maak om dit te beskadig, verwyder of vernietig.



Die speelparke se swaaiskarniere is almal met nuwe skarniere vervang. Ons dank aan die inwoners wat die saak aangemeld het.

Alle elektriese laespanningkaste is ook onlangs van nuwe slotte voorsien.

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# NEWSLETTER
## August 2019
Editor: Milde Weiss

Many thanks to all the owners and residents who responded to the question whether they read the Newsletter or not. You are most welcome to make suggestions on how we can improve this channel of communication.

**Please note that there will be no Newsletter in September and October. The menus will be distributed separately.**

# Architectural and Aesthetics sub-committee

In the past, the Aesthetics sub-committee met when necessary, and approved building plans as they were received. This, however, prevented the members of this committee to plan their daily programmes appropriately, and had a negative impact on their work.

Clause 8.5 of the Architectural Guidelines and Building Rules determines as follows: *"The Management Committee will approve or reject a request in writing within 14 days after it has been handed in and the necessary fees have been paid."*

Taking the above into account, the Architectural and Aesthetics sub-committee decided on 24 June 2019 that in future, they will only meet on Mondays from 11:00 to 13:00. During these meetings, all architectural and aesthetical matters will be discussed, including the approval of building plans that had been received during the previous week.

Hopefully, this arrangement will result in better service delivery.

# European starlings – cute little birds?

# Think again!

The European starling can be seen in huge flocks in and around Monte Christo. This speckled bird, appearing black from a distance, is an invasive species found in many areas of our country, including the Western Cape. During this time of year, in preparation for the September to March breeding season, they are looking for suitable nesting sites. These starlings prefer to nest in hollow places, therefore pipes, air vents and roof openings will attract them.

It is suspected that this bird competes for nesting space and chase away other birds that also use hollows for nesting, such as the Olive Woodpecker. Even the common house sparrow, which can also become a problem, is no match for the starling!

It is no wonder that the European starling is known as the 'Rat bird' in many parts of the world. They can become a pest if you do not scare them away or prevent them from moving into the roof of your house.

So why can't these chatty little birds share your living space?

- They are aggressive towards other birds and won't hesitate to chase away the more passive garden or songbirds.
- Starlings are monogamous and usually move in flocks when they feed. They can totally take over feeding sites and quickly devour feed that you put out for other birds. Their appetite may empty your wallet!
- If they move into your roof, you have problems. Apart from the noise of the chicks, their droppings and the lice they carry constitute a health risk. Starlings are the number one carriers of lice in the bird world, and some homeowners had to fumigate their houses to get rid of the bird lice and mites.

**Prevention**

- If you want to feed birds, use something starlings don't like. Your pet shop might advise you in this regard. Remember: starlings eat anything humans eat, and they also love bird seed and bread. Please do not feed them on purpose!!
- Use a bird feeder with small openings, thus preventing them from stealing food intended for indigenous birds.
- Try to close off any openings leading to spaces in and around your house, especially those giving access to the roof. Another innovative way to keep them out of your roof is to install plastic mesh in the gutters.
- Familiarise yourself with their appearance and call and chase them away as often as possible by clapping your hands or making some other noise. Starlings are intelligent birds (just like their family, the Indian Mynah) and will quickly realise they are not welcome.
- UNDER NO CIRCUMSTANCES should you handle starling droppings without protective gloves and a mask, as this has been proven to be a health hazard.

# Soup and Sherry evening well attended

The soup and sherry evening, held on the 10th July in the Club, was quite an event. Julia and Willie treated the diners to scrumptious soups and side dishes. It was a full house, and everyone enjoyed the evening.

**Please remeber that you may contact Julia or Willie at any time regarding menus, frozen dishes, catering or bookings for meals.**

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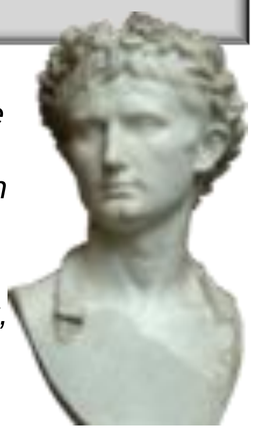
## Access road

The top layer of our access road was completed on 22 July. However, the contractor was not happy with the result, so a second layer has been added this past week. As soon as the project has been signed off, a contractor for painting the road lines will be appointed.

## Transfer of Clubhouse

The transfer of the Clubhouse to the Retirement Village, which had been approved at a Special General Meeting in January, was signed on Friday, 12 July. We thank the members of the Management Committee for their hard work to finalise this matter.

## AUGUST – Did you know?



*The early Roman calendar was chaotic, and those in control were so corrupt that the year was sometimes lengthened or shortened to promote certain officials or prejudice others. When Julius Caesar reformed the calendar in 45BC, the month of July was named after him, and was given 31 days.*

*After Augustus became emperor of Rome, it was decided to acknowledge his victories by naming a month after him as well. However, it had to have the same status as the month named after Julius Caesar. This problem was solved by giving the month of August the same number of days as July, i.e.31. The ‘extra’ day was borrowed from February.*

# Our gardens and play areas

We are very grateful towards our Garden Sub-committee (pictured below) for the time and effort spent on our garden design.

The cycads have all been planted, and the old lavender bushes next to Blue Crane road have been replaced by Iceberg roses. This popular rose is a strong grower and bears beautiful white, pink or burgundy flowers in summer and autumn.

Stands 5408 & 5409 in Kingfisher Street had recently been professionally cleaned, and several Milkwood trees are now visible, including a very rare species indigenous to Natal. In the past, dense Milkwood forests existed along the coast, especially in the Cape Peninsula. Although the Milkwood is not endangered, it is one of South Africa's *Protected Trees*, which makes it illegal to damage, move or destroy them.

The hinges at all the play areas have been replaced. Thanks to the residents who reported the matter.

All electrical low voltage boxes have also been fitted with new locks.