

VORNA VALLEY COMMUNITY

NEWSLETTER



Happy
NEW
Year



Hey! Is Your Garden
Harbouring Invasive
Species?

Read More on Page 2 & 3

Smile!

You're on Camera
Say cheese on

Page 4

It's A Home Today.

A Business

Tomorrow??

Be in the know...

Page 5



Locked Out of the
Groups?

Here's Why...

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Toxic & Tenacious: A Rogue's Gallery of Garden Invaders.

The Cestrum Quattro Criminals: Spot Them, Stop Them, and Send Them Packing!

Don't let the pretty, jasmine-like fragrance fool you — this night-blooming shrub is a wolf in sheep's clothing! Commonly called Inkberry or Poisonberry, it's the party guest that overstays its welcome, sprouting aggressively in forest margins, roadsides, and riverbanks. Its threat is a double-whammy: it forms dense thickets that choke out native plants, and all parts of the plant, especially the shiny black berries, are highly toxic to humans and livestock. Identify it by its clusters of slender, tubular greenish-white flowers that smell sweet at night, and its smooth, oval leaves. To evict it, suit up with gloves, dig out the entire root system, and bag all berries and plant material for disposal — do not compost. A follow-up with an appropriate herbicide on any regrowth is often needed to win this battle.



Cestrum Laevigatum

See a cluster of dark, juicy-looking berries that look good enough to eat? STOP! This is the fruit of the Green Cestrum (*Cestrum parqui*), and it's public enemy #1 for curious children and foraging pets. The entire plant is violently poisonous, but these enticing berries are the greatest risk, causing severe illness or even death if ingested. You'll find this plant lurking in neglected gardens, waste areas, and along waterways. The plant itself has lance-shaped leaves and greenish-yellow, tubular flowers. The egg-shaped, dark purple to black berries are the key identifier. Removal is urgent: carefully cut and bag every berry cluster first to eliminate the immediate danger, then dig out the woody shrub, ensuring you get the roots. Always handle with gloves and warn your family.



Cestrum Parqui Fruit

Toxic & Tenacious: A Rogue's Gallery of Garden Invaders.

The Cestrum Quattro Criminals: Spot Them, Stop Them, and Send Them Packing!

Meet the Green Gangster, the parent plant of those toxic berries. *Cestrum parqui* is a fast-growing, woody shrub that invades disturbed land, riverbanks, and pastures, forming monocultures that destroy biodiversity. Its threat extends beyond ecology; every part of it is loaded with deadly alkaloids, making it a major cause of livestock poisoning. You can spot this outlaw by its long, narrow leaves, its clusters of slender greenish-yellow flowers that smell... interesting (some say like burnt porridge or vanilla at night), and of course, its deadly dark berries. To take it down, you'll need persistence. For small plants, manual removal (with gloves!) is key — dig out every bit of root. For larger infestations, cut the stem and immediately apply a suitable herbicide to the fresh stump. Stay vigilant for seedlings!



Cestrum Parqui

This one shows up to the garden party dressed to impress, with gorgeous clusters of vibrant red or purple tubular flowers that hummingbirds love. But *Cestrum elegans* is an invasive diva! It spreads with abandon via seeds and root suckers, quickly dominating forest edges and gardens, crowding out shy native species. While its toxicity is considered lower than its cousins, it's still not a plant you want near edible gardens. Identify it by its hairy stems, oval leaves that are fuzzy underneath, and its showy, unscented flower clusters. Removal requires a tough love approach: prune off all flower heads first to stop seed spread, then dig out the entire root system, being sure to remove any suckering roots. It can be stubborn, so monitor the area and remove any cheerful-looking volunteers that pop up.



Cestrum Elegans

Our Watch is Growing: LPR Cameras Gaining Ground!

Momentum is building! We are thrilled to share that our LPR Camera Initiative is gaining serious ground, thanks to the buy-in and support of dedicated residents across our community.

Your belief in this project mirrors our Committee’s conviction: these features aren’t just an upgrade — they are a critical investment in the safety and future of our suburb.

This is your membership in action.

This is where your fees transform into tangible results, making our streets safer and our community stronger, household by household.

Watch this space. The future is looking clearer — and safer — every day.



VEHICLE INFORMATION

SOURCE: External

LOCATION: Cnr Le Roux and Bekker, Vorna Valley, Midrand

DETECTION DATE: 2026-01-15 14:58:17

LICENSE PLATE NUMBER: [REDACTED]

ENGINE NUMBER: [REDACTED]

VIN NUMBER: [REDACTED]

MAKE & MODEL: SUZUKI STATIONWAGON [REDACTED]

REASON: ROBBED FROM OWNER/COMPLAINANT

CASE NUMBER: [REDACTED]

POLICE STATION: MEADOWLANDS

DATE STOLEN: 10/01/2026

Resident's Corner

HOME OR BUSINESS?

The Quiet Shift in Our Suburb & Your Voice Matters

Our suburb is undergoing a quiet transformation. As more businesses move into our area, we are seeing houses being converted into shops, offices, and cafes, changing the very fabric of our streets.

For these businesses to operate legally, they often require the property to be officially re-zoned from residential to commercial use. This process mandates a formal application that, by law, must include community notification and seek resident input.

Unfortunately, the system meant to inform us is broken. The Gauteng Development and Planning website, where these applications should be listed, is outdated and unreliable. Consequently, the crucial step of notifying and consulting our community is frequently bypassed altogether.

To combat this, as the VVRA, will proactively seek out any re-zoning notices we find directly and publish it on our VVRA website.



But we need your eyes and ears. Stay vigilant. Your awareness is our first line of defence in protecting the character and legality of our suburb.

Together, we can ensure growth happens with the consent and consideration of the community it impacts.

STAY INFORMED. VISIT VVRA.ORG.ZA. HAVE YOUR SAY.



The Great Disappearing Act: Why Your Whatsapp Chat Group Access Went Poof!

Once upon a time, here in our very own Vorna Valley, there were two neighbours with beautiful gardens.

One neighbour, let's call her Sophy, paid her annual membership to the Vorna Valley Resident's Association.

The other, Neil, decided his voice was loud enough on its own.

When a major, week-long water outage struck our neighborhood, the Committee sprang into action. Escalated the issue to the powers that be, engaged the stakeholders one on one and mobilised efforts to get water tankers closer to homes.

Neil, however, had been locked out of the crucial WhatsApp group where collection points were announced, updates shared, and mutual aid coordinated. He missed the real-time information, the offer of extra water for those in need, and the consolidated timeline from the provider. He faced the disruption alone, left to call the overwhelmed city hotline by himself.

This isn't a story of exclusion, but one of investment. Sophy's membership fee wasn't just a payment; it was a key. It unlocked a powerful, collective response — a response that provides tangible aid during crises, champions our shared well-being, and turns individual vulnerability into community strength.

Your membership is that key. It's the difference between facing an outage alone and having a prepared, resourced community behind you. It funds our emergency readiness, our collective advocacy with utilities, and the direct action that keeps our neighborhood functional and supported.

Your Committee works for its paid members. To re-join the conversation and ensure you're supported in the next challenge, please ensure your membership is current. Contact our Treasurer, at treasurer@vvra.org.za to get your key back.

Let's build the next chapter, together.

Join our Community Membership Today!

Find out more on our website - vvra.org.za

Market to Your Community - Your Clientele

Dear Valued Community Members,

Thank you for your ongoing membership support, which directly funds vital neighbourhood initiatives.

To further boost our collective impact, we offer local businesses the chance to advertise in our monthly VVRA community newsletter.

Full Page - R750
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Advertising here provides direct access to engaged local residents, building community connection and customer trust. Best of all, 100% of advertising income is reinvested into our neighbourhood, funding everything from security and park upgrades to events and beautification projects.

Grow your business while growing our community. For more information, contact communication@vvra.org.za
 Let's build a stronger, thriving suburb – together.

Unscramble the 9 letter word below and send your answers to communication@vvra.org.za

C A T E C A K R R

Hint: A plot of land, usually oval.

Congratulations to Julia Mmushi

for being the first to solve last month's conundrum!!!

Last Month's Solution: FLAPJACKS



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**Hi! There's a drippy sound coming from the thingy...
- Tenant**

**Help, I can't find the key for my gate & my dog ran out on the street. Come quickly!
- Tenant**

**Urgent: No light in the kitchen, not sure if it's loadshedding or the bulb? Send someone.
- Other Tenant**

Income not "coming in" like the complaints do?

"Midnight Maintenance Melodramas?"

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Grass cutting
Municipal pools
The Joburg Zoo
Libraries
Recreation centres
Joburg open spaces
City owned Parks
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pkubheka@jhbcityparks.com
wafrika@jhbcityparks.com
Fallen trees : ☎011 712-6600
Or trees@jhbcityparks.com

Pikitung 🗑️

These include :
Refuse removal (Household)
Clearing public bins
Illegal dumping
Call: ☎0860 562 874 option 4
Illegal dumping WhatsApp to 082 779 1361
Emergency

SERVICES / JMPD 🚒🚑🚔

These include :
Fires
Noise control
Ambulances services
By law infringements
Traffic enforcement and licensing
Call JMPD 011 758 9620 or 011 375 5918 and state
emergency
Call Fire: ☎(011) 375-5911

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These include :
Billing related matters
Statement inquiries
Payment arrangements
Call: ☎0860 562 874 option 1
Email: regionRevenue@joburg.org.za
Municipal statement www.joburg.org.za
Under e-services, other queries must
be logged at a walk-in centre

HEALTH-RELATED ISSUES 🏥🇿🇦

These include :
Health department
Environmental health
Call: ☎011 375 5555 and ask for
Environmental Health
Contact the Regional Office on ☎011 681-8082 or
visit them at their offices, 2nd Floor at Eureka
House, 92 Marlborough Road, Springfield

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