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Dear homeowners and neighbours

We wish to thank all residents who assisted in ensuring a smooth transition to the use of the newly installed wave reader access system. The wave readers are now fully operational, and the old tag system has been decommissioned. This is indeed a major milestone as it dramatically reduces access to the estate of non-residents. Any residents still wanting to enroll, please see our [website](#) for details.

The pedestrian gates are now also fully operational, and we request residents to please furnish their walk-in visitors with entry codes (pins) using the Gatekeeper app to enable access to the estate.

In the unlikely event that the resident access system is offline (i.e backup batteries not working , boom malfunctioning or any other unforeseen circumstances), it is not practical for all residents to be signed in by the guards. To reduce pressure on the process, we printed a small vinyl sticker which residents should please stick to their windscreens to allow security guards to identify residents. Stickers can be obtained by Mr. Smit in the admin room.

Please note that this is a backup process and will only be used when systems are offline. Residents who don't want to make use of the sticker will be required to sign in as a normal visitor to the estate under these circumstances.





HOME IMPROVEMENT
GUIDE
for
Alterations and Additions
to
Homes



MINOR, MAJOR WORKS AND PROPERTY SALES

Oakwood Estate is a highly sought-after community and properties tend to sell extremely fast. It is important to note that properties need to at all times adhere to the standards set out in our constitution and home improvement guide. As soon as a property becomes available on the market, it is the owners' responsibility to ensure that the estate manager is made aware of the impending sale. This would allow time for a quick property inspection and any potential corrections to the property prior to the transfer of the property to new owners. We implore homeowners to please assist us in this regard.

Oakwood estate is a true jewel of the Northern suburbs, and we as a community are all proud to be associated with it. To ensure it remains a jewel going forward, any renovations or alterations made by homeowners need to align to the standards set out in the home improvement guide. Please make every attempt to follow the well-documented process in the guide to reduce any potential confusion. As documented in the constitution, it remains the responsibility of the HOA to: *"promote and enforce acceptable aesthetic, environmental and architectural styles and design criteria for the development in order to achieve a harmonious development thereof; control any exterior alterations, changes of colour finishes or design of all buildings erected on erven within the development"*.

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By all means, let's work together - Thabo Mbeki

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LEGAL AND COMMUNICATIONS

We are pleased to announce that all trustees have signed a Professional Code of Conduct document and remain committed to making a positive difference in Oakwood Estate. Further to this, the Privacy Policy of Oakwood Home-Owners Association will soon be added to the Oakwood website for ease of reference.

The HOA remains committed to improve communications within Oakwood and again request residents to please follow the set-out process below if you wish to ask a question, raise a complaint, or need assistance:



OAKWOOD HOA



- 1 Contact the Estate Manager, Mr. Jaco Smit via oakwood@inpg.co.za

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- 2 If no reply after 2 business days OR unsatisfactory reply: Contact the managing agent (IPG) by forwarding above email to admin@inpg.co.za. Please clearly state the reason for the escalation.



- 3 If no reply after 2 business days OR unsatisfactory reply: Contact the HOA by forwarding above email to oakwoodhoa@outlook.com. Please clearly state the reason for the escalation.

Our website is regularly updated with useful information. Most recent additions include FAQ's regarding the security systems, the process to be followed when selling/letting your home in Oakwood as well as the addition of our Privacy Policy based on the POPIA act. Please be sure to check back regularly.



PARKS AND GARDENS

Dogs & diapers



We understand that this is obvious to most people, but unfortunately it needs to be reiterated that owners need to ensure they clean up their dog droppings whilst out walking as well as ensure that all dogs are always on leashes. Residents have also complained about used diapers discarded in parks without the necessary care to wrap them in appropriate bags.

Chameleons



Please assist in informing your children to refrain from entering the vegetation behind the Lombard Park so as not to disturb the chameleon sanctuary we are trying to establish there. The Cape Chameleon is listed as critically endangered on the Red List of Threatened Species by the Union for Conservation of Nature.

Bees



Over the past few months, we had multiple reports of wild beehives in drain holes, residents' trees, jungle gyms and roof voids which had to be urgently removed by trained beekeepers. Bees are crucial to the pollination of the plants we eat and play a critical role in our planet's biodiversity. Simply put, our planet will struggle to survive without bees, and they need our help. In the light of this, we started a Bee Sanctuary in the restricted section of the bottom park/water catchment area along Okavango Road near the BP Petrol station. We partnered with an Oakwood resident who is a registered Beekeeper to help us with this project. This section will be demarcated for the hives of the bees and warning signs will be erected to warn residents to refrain from entering this area. Bees go about their business of foraging for pollen without feeling threatened by us and will not generally attack anyone if their homes are not disturbed. Therefore, it is crucial that all residents inform their children of the hives and tell them to NOT enter the restricted area and tamper with the hives as they will be stung. We will now effectively be giving the bees a home in which to build their hives, which will limit the need for them to locate shelters in residents' homes and gardens where they could be a danger to our community.

„
if you truly love nature, you will find beauty everywhere- Vincent van Gogh
„

Park upgrades

Park upgrades are on the cards, and we have identified the Jourdan Park as the first to get a little facelift. We have an amazing array of birds in the reeds, and we will be demarcating this area as a bird sanctuary. Some reeds will be removed to expose some of the water for ducks etc. to home themselves, but most of the reeds will be left undisturbed for the birds to flourish and nest. We are in the process of obtaining quotes and proposals for indigenous landscaping to add value to our parks and natural heritage. Once finalised and adjudicated, we will commence installation.

Oakwood is a Garden City, and we pride ourselves on the beauty of our trees and gardens. We will therefore be planting a few larger trees in some parks and install more benches for residents to relax on while enjoying our beautiful parks. Any residents who wish to sponsor a bench with paving will have the opportunity to select the location and have a personalized plaque fitted to the bench with any appropriate message they wish to add. The cost of a bench, the paving and installation is in the region of R12 000. Please contact the estate manager if you wish to enquire about becoming a sponsor.

ESTATE MANAGER UPDATE

We are in the fortunate position to have a dedicated admin office for our estate where our estate manager resides daily. The office is rather bare and needs sprucing up, so if anyone has a loose carpet, some leftover paint, indoor plants, etc. please get in contact with Mr. Smit. It would be greatly appreciated. We have already managed to provide the necessary furniture and appliances. The admin room has recently been painted and waterproofed.

If anyone has access to older photographs of the estate, please can you send a copy to Mr. Smit per email as he wishes to create a memory wall of the estate in the admin room as it evolved since its inception in 2008.

Unfortunately, one of the tasks on Mr. Smit's plate is to ensure the estate remains an aesthetically pleasing environment for all. This requires him to reach out to homeowners to ensure verges are kept neat, painting is up to date etc. Mr. Smit wishes to thank all residents and homeowners who provide their co-operation and understanding with regards to communication sent out to them in this regard.

With the arrival of the summer months, we do notice that our gardens and front verges require more attention than in the winter. Please assist us by maintaining your verge and outside gardens to ensure that we all contribute to an appealing environment within the estate.

Should there be any questions or queries please do not hesitate to contact Mr. Smit. He will gladly help where needed to ensure that there are no misunderstandings regarding any matters in this regard.

We wish to thank you all for working with us and look forward to continuing serving as your HOA committee.

Kind regards