

Sunninghill Community Ratepayers

Yesterday at 10:12 ·

Dear Sunninghill family

I say that because that is what we are, a family. Families have at times their issues, they love, they fight but what families always do, and what makes families unique is that when family members are in trouble or in need they rally together and help.

I am so humbled and proud to be the Chairman of Sunninghill Community Ratepayers Association. Being the representative of a unique suburb such as this is something that I find hard to put into words. A suburb is made up of a collective of or community of people. Sunninghill is a unique suburb because of that, a unique community of residents and business PEOPLE make this suburb of ours as wonderful as it is. I have been involved in community work for some 20+ years and it is not always easy. Dealing with people, their anger and frustration, their need to at times lash out can be demoralising and make you wonder why you do what you do. But then when the chips are down, when you need help, when tragedy strikes and you get the kind of response we have received in the past few days you once again realise how wonderful people are and how incredibly rewarding it is to work with and serve them.

I will once things have settled try and draw up a more detailed list – here are just a few things that transpired – over and above those who dealt with the evacuation, feeding the EMS staff etc. I am talking right now about our Sunninghill family

- Serengeti Trustees welcomed the Sunninghill Community Ratepayers “need” to assist with open arms. I am grateful to them for treating me as one of their own and including me in all the WONDERFUL HARD AND EMOTIONAL WORK they have been doing.
- Resident sent messages, emails made phone calls to me and our office, desperate and I literally mean desperate to assist. You could feel the pain they felt for those poor residents of Serengeti Sands who were victims of the fire.
- Resident and businesses contacted me offering to house people and animal’s – willing to open up their homes (in this day and age) to people they knew nothing about.
- They offered to cook, they offered to take any pets, they offered clothes, baby food, and toiletries they BEGGED to know what to do. We could not tell them right then and there because we did not know the need at that time. But they would not accept that and so in stepped URBAN SPACES REALTY – Cindy opened up her shop and so the flood of donations of all sorts began. To say that after a day Cindy and her staff could hardly move is not an exaggeration. All these items Cindy has been, (bless her), sorting into categories and will be distributed this week.
- We realised that some of the tough challenges that residents would have to face would be financial and so we decided to start a FIRE FUND to assist. Well as I was still reeling from the generosity from the above – I again had the wheels knocked out from under me. No sooner had we announced the fund and money came pouring in. We thank each and every person for their generosity, some of who don’t even live in Sunninghill. Please keep this up I can assure you your donations will make a huge difference to those who have lost so very much. No amount is too big or small and money can be deposited into the following account:

SUNNINGHILL COMMUNITY

FIRST NATIONAL BANK

BRANCH 250-355

ACCOUNT 5882 0013 159

REF: FIRE FUND *****please ensure you put this reference.

- Residents effected were given accommodation by the insurance company until Monday (tomorrow). THEN in stepped CITY LODGE. City Lodge Morningside have given complimentary accommodation to those who cried out for help for the coming week. On behalf of the Trustees of Serengeti Sands, the residents of the complex, the residents who were left homeless and the Sunninghill Community Ratepayers Association we thank you from the bottom of our hearts. You have made an enormous difference and given these residents time to try and sort out their lives, free from worrying where they were going to stay and the financial stress. We would also like to thank Ann-Magret and Sunninghill Guest Lodge who have offered to take over from Friday for those who need an additional few days at the most generous discounted rates. Another member of our Sunninghill family stepping in to help

That is all for now family. We will keep you posted and again to all our Sunninghill family – thank you; thank you; thank you.

Linda Gildenhuis

Chairman

Sunninghill Community Ratepayers Association