

Nyari NEWS

July 2015

Chairman Ghassmi Presenting his report

Photo Courtesy of Dr Neal Aggarwal



The incoming [new] committee

Photo Courtesy of Dr Neal Aggarwal



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Another great AGM!

The Nyari AGM was the huge success that it always has been year after year. Fully and carefully created, audited and presented accounts were discussed at the meeting and explained to the members in attendance. Nyari's finances are in fairly good shape and should see us through another year if ALL members pay their dues on time. We thank the many members who have paid up the entire year in advance and those members who have contributed extra in cash and kind to support us through all our projects that we've carried out this year to better our estate and lives.

We had a small turnout which is disappointing considering that we have more than 230 households in Nyari now. Most of the committee was unanimously voted back in to another year of service. Some members left while some 'new' blood has joined us and we look forward to working with them. We extend a warm welcome to all new and old members; come see how we run Nyari!

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Estate finances are in POOR shape. Reserves currently are NOT GOOD ENOUGH to give us even a short breathing space if we were to lose all income. These reserves serve to cushion all our members against a catastrophe made or of nature's doing. Please read the appeal below and respond by paying your dues ASAP. If you have already paid please assist by asking your neighbours to pay their dues.

Estate Finances

Greetings to all members and thank you for continuous support of the Nyari executive committee who have been discharging their work and setting high benchmarks to make Nyari one of the best residential estates in Nairobi.

It has become necessary for me to write to you regarding foreseeable challenges that the society may experience in the near future. As you are all aware, your monthly subscriptions go towards the payments of salaries of 35 staff comprising 1 manager, 1 maintenance officer, 2 gardeners and 31 guards. In addition the society maintains on a regular and ongoing basis street lights, cable replacements, road markings, painting of amenities bumps and buildings, repair, maintenance and replacement of CCTV cameras, monthly payments of internet charges for the cameras, repair and maintenance of radios & communication systems, repair and maintenance of the rapid response car and motorbikes as well as maintenance of the road network to list but a few of the jobs done. Other payments made by the society include insurance for the staff, annual communication license fees, auditor payments, purchase of uniforms and maintenance of the police post.

All the above is done via the low subscription fee of Kshs. 4000 per month paid by our members. Many of us have friends and acquaintances who live in gated communities and are aware of the fee structures they have nearly all of them being far, far higher than ours. Our Nyari subs are one of the lowest in the city.

Currently, we have about 20 residents who do not pay at all and have opted not to join the society. Add to this the approximately 20 houses that are currently vacant. This non-paying load places additional pressure on the limited funds we have.

At the point in time we are eight months through the year with only 30% of the residents having made full payment or part contribution towards this year's subscription. If the current trend continues,

the committee will be forced to limit the number of guards and this will have a direct bearing on our security. In addition all maintenance work will be halted and police patrols will be minimized. I am therefore requesting all members to settle their dues at the earliest. As you will appreciate, we cannot work on credit and the society does not have any other source of income.

I would like to acknowledge and thank the members below (by house number) who have made their contributions for the year and have cleared their outstanding dues:

16 NC, 199 NC, 106 NC, 136 NC, 157 NC, 34 NC, 239 B, 164 NC, 38 NC, 31 NC, 68 NC, 26 NC, 79 NC, 181 NC, 133 NC, 13B NC, 17 NC, 39 NC, 151 NC, 78 NC, 192 NC, 258 NC, 166 NC, 249 NC, 32 NC, 195 NC, 128 NC, 30 NC, 21 NC, 132 NC, 199 NC, 117 NC, 236 NC, 19 NC, 12 NC, 72 NC, 58 NC, 14 NC, 70 NC, 179 NC, 94 NC, 113 NC, 147 NC, 8 NC, 185 NC, 138 NC, 94 NC, 36 NC, 165 NC, 120 NC, 177 NC, 139 NC, 183 NC, 156 NC, 61 NC, 172 NC, 97 NC, 7 NC, 94 NC, 20 NC, 236 NC, 176 NC, 217 NC.

103 NW, 91 NW, 84 NW, 83 NW, 112 NW, 54 NW, 108 NW, 95 NW, 236 NW, 57 UN, 30 UN, 40 UN, 41 UN, 7 UN, 61 NC, 48 UN, 35 UN, 62 UN, 7 GN, 32 GN, 41 GN, 50 GN, 26 GN, 49 GN, 52 GN, 25 GN, 27 GN, 35 GN, 6 GN, 47 GN, 48 GN, 33 GN.

To those who have made part payment, please bring your accounts up to date.

I cannot over-emphasize the gravity of the situation.

Please assist the committee to continue with their work. We are volunteers and we do all that we can to ensure the smooth running of the estate. Without your support, this is not possible. You can further assist us by talking to other residents who are not paying or not members of the society to help too.



Lake Oroville California (Left - 2011, Right - Today)

Environmental Matters

The pictures say it all. Above is the situation in California. A quick search on the internet can only bring tears. Global warming is real folks. We're losing the planet and if we don't do something about it soon -- we're going to lose it all. Contemplate these images and do your own research. Google is your friend -- try a few search terms -- try 'California Drought' and 'Global Warming.' Watch the documentary below.



Security

In the month of June we had an incident at Nyari West, Mr Mahmood's house No. 327. Six thugs jumped over the electric fence from Ngecha road. The fence was off at the time; someone had turned it off (an 'inside job as usual). Mr Mahmood suspected his workers organised this incident. The thugs were with the family for several hours (which you can imagine was very uncomfortable & frightening), tied them up and took away their laptops, money and mobile phones. They escaped by jumping over the fence onto Ngecha road.

Mr Mahmood's guard informed our Nyari office and Securex security. Nyari responded with police.

The following day the security committee visited the family. Since then we have intensified police patrols within the estate.

It is CRITICALLY important that you vet your staff thoroughly, be street and neighbourhood-smart and report any suspicious behaviour to the security office with no delay whatsoever.

Security is a combined, team effort. You can help us keep you safe by observing some simple guidelines:

1. Vet all staff, casuals and maintenance technicians
2. Beware of meter readers & others requiring entry into your home/compound.
3. Light your house with perimeter security lights - make sure you have no dark corners in which a person could hide.
4. Become more aware of your surroundings especially when coming home at night. Be 'street smart' when out and about.
5. Install a burglar alarm with passive infrared sensors and/or ultrasonic sensors.
6. Fit reed switches to your window grills and link these to your burglar alarm.
7. Install CCTV if you can. These days you can buy at reasonable prices CCTV units that you can monitor on your phone over the internet.
8. Keep a small dog (inside your house if you can) especially at night.
9. Avoid frequently changing staff/guards.
10. Minimize movement especially at night and limit yourself to essential trips.

Nyari's Augur Buzzards

The Augur buzzard (*Buteo augur*) is a 55–60 cm long African bird of prey. The taxonomy on this species is confusing, with some taxonomists considering this species, the Jackal buzzard, and the Archer's buzzard to be the same superspecies. Many taxonomists consider them all to be distinct, having different calls, different home ranges and variations in plumage. This is a species of mountains (most typically at about 2000 m altitude, but up to 5000 m), and adjacent savannah and grassland. It is resident and non-migratory throughout its range. In Nyari we have several pairs often seen flying over the lakes or hovering over our open fields.

The adult Augur buzzard is strikingly plumaged. It is almost black above with a rufous tail. The primary flight feathers are blackish and the secondaries off-white, both barred with black. Below the chin and around the throat is mainly white, and the rest of the underparts and the underwing coverts are rich rufous. The flight feathers from below are white, tipped with black to form a dark trailing edge to the wing.

The juvenile Augur buzzard is mainly brown above and rufous brown below and on the tail. It can be confused with wintering Steppe buzzard, but has broader wings and an unbarred undertail.

The adult Augur buzzard has white underparts and underwings. The female has black on the lower throat. Juveniles are brown above and buff below, the underparts later becoming white. There is a melanistic form of Augur buzzard, all black, except for grey and black-barred flight feathers and a chestnut tail. About 10% of birds are melanistic, but the proportion rises in forested areas with high rainfall to as much as 50% in some areas. There is a 'well known' resident of Karura Forest that some of our members have asked about from time to time.

Pairs have noisy aerial displays, including outside the breeding season. The large (up to 1 m wide) stick nest is built in a tree or on a crag, and is often reused and enlarged in subsequent seasons. When in season a large nest in the tall trees at the bottom of Dr and Mrs Aggarwals plot on the lake is often occupied. Over the past 18 years a consistent pair of Augurs and perhaps even their offspring have raised young there. Two creamy or bluish white eggs are laid and incubated by the female only, although food is brought to her on the nest by the male.

The eggs hatch in about 40 days, and after a further 56–60 days they young can attempt flight. At 70 days they become independent of the nest, but young birds may then be seen with the adult pair for some time.

The diet of the Augur buzzard is mainly small ground mammals, but snakes, lizards, small ground birds, insects, and road-kill are also



Augur buzzard (*Buteo augur*) as they are often seen above Nyari

Photo: Wikimedia Commons

taken. They have been key in Nyari in keeping our environmental pests (mostly rats) in check. Unfortunately in recent years some members have resorted to baiting their fences with poison which will probably kill off our Augusts should they ingest the poisoned rats. Typically, the raptor drops on its prey from a perch or hover. This hover is one of the joys of many a drive in Nyari. Look over the lake or above one of the open fields and you can often catch a glimpse of a pair just as in the photo above screeching that truly East African call that will put you almost at once right back into nature and send your mind scurrying off to the peace of Nakuru National Park or the wide open plains of Tsavo.



Nyari Image Gallery

A collection of photographs taken by Mr David Hastie in his garden in Nyari

House Sparrow



Variable Sunbird



House Sparrow

Maintenance

Cats are destructive

Cats! When I lived in New Zealand I tried time and again to find a Kiwi - the national bird - in the wild. In all my time there I never did find any and only saw one in a zoo in Auckland. The reason? 1,420,000 cats - domestic cats.

And we're noticing a trend in Nyari too. Many members have taken to keeping cats and they're killing off our bird life. We currently have 167 species of birds on our bird list (maintained by Dr Aggarwal) and as you can see from these photos here they're going to dwindle fast if we keep increasing the number of cats in our estate. Also some members have taken to having pest control companies seed their fences with 1080 poison which has led to death of the natural predators (snakes, owls and birds of prey) as well as to the deaths of several members dogs.

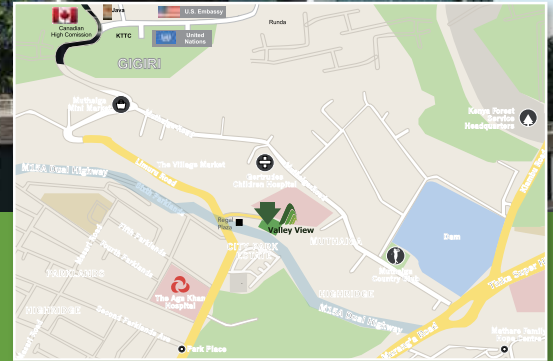
At one time we had thousands of rats in our fences, eating up the wiring in our cars and coming into our kitchens contaminating food and the environs. Today we have nearly ZERO rats - why? Because of the squirrels, owls and snakes that have been making a slow but sure comeback. These predators KILL and eat rats - cats do not contrary to what most people think. Cats may kill a few rats but they also kill a large number of birds, snakes and squirrels. Please don't bring any more cats into Nyari.





Valley View

O F F I C E P A R K



Living in Muthaiga, Runda, Gigiri, Nyari? Looking for office space?

FEATURES & DESIGN

Within close proximity
Lush green surrounding
Away from TRAFFIC



1. Roof top revolving restaurant
2. 550 parkings
3. Situated off Limuru Road along the new M15A Highway
4. Top of the range finishes
5. 6 high speed elevators
6. Professional gym with heated swimming pool
7. Uninterrupted view of Muthaiga Valley
8. Back up generator
9. On site borehole
10. Intercom & high speed fibre connectivity
11. State of the art CCTV surveillance



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Durzban, Roundup & other ills



21st March, 2015 - France banned the use countrywide of Monsanto's Roundup herbicide after extensive testing in which the World Health Organisation found Roundup to contain cancer causing glyphosate. Many of our members don't know this and we often come across front yards where this chemical has been sprayed and has left a dead, burned out piece of land that we try to get away from as quickly as possible.

This is a huge, huge blow to Monsanto who had already announced Roundup ready crops which they've genetically modified to withstand the herbicide thereby giving farmers the ability to spray this on their farms, kill off the weeds while leaving the crops to grow unhindered. This led to widespread use of the herbicide in corn and soyabean fields around the world, Kenya included.

The International Agency for Research on Cancer says that it has evidence that exposure to Roundup aids in the formation of non-Hodgking Lymphoma in humans.

Similarly Durban - an organophosphate - while very effective in killing ticks also kills indiscriminately - ALL insects in your garden. The animals and plants in your garden live in harmony with each other and need to be present as an ensemble for the proper health of your garden. So we recommend that you stop using Durzban, Malathion and other organophosphates and watch this space for future organic gardening articles.

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reach more than
285 households

Full PageKShs. 10,000
Half PageKShs. 5,000
Quarter Page.....KShs. 2,500

Nyari Self-Reader Pilot Project

Nyari has been selected to participate in a pilot roll-out of self-reader electricity meters. Please read below and inform yourself as to the procedure that we will be following. This is a good thing, a very good development for us. It will mean that we don't have to allow any meter readers into our compounds which greatly enhances our security. It also eliminates the errors that members have experienced in the past that have led to them being billed exhorbitant amounts. Also gone will be the days of estimated bills with a very high 'catch-up' bill coming at the end of several months.

Kenya Power is going to hold one more meeting with us and then they are going to replace your meter, FOR FREE, with a meter that is much simpler and easier to read. We will keep you posted on this but expect it to happen quite soon.

SELF READER



- You will have an opportunity to submit your readings - where you may not be available when the meter readers come to read your meter safely.
- You will learn more on your electricity consumption and be able to manage your power expenditure.

An SMS will be sent to you once you have registered giving you the dates that you will need to send your reading and where to send the reading

For any further information - Call 0703-070-707 or 0732-170-170
www.kenyapower.co.ke

BE A SELF-READER

We are giving you the opportunity to read your own meter. You have been selected to participate in the 1st pilot Phase and will now be able to manage your bill by signing up as a Self-Reader

BENEFITS

The Benefits of submitting your own meter readings are:-

- Your monthly bill will be accurate as it will be an actual reading.

REGISTRATION

We will register you using your

- Account Number
- Mobile Number

OR

Go to Kenya Power Website and

- Register as an I-Open Reader
<https://contactcentre.kplc.co.ke/KETOOPEN>
- Open I-Open and Register as a self-reader




You will need to ensure that you submit your meter readings 3 days from the message notification date.

NOTE :- For every month that your meter is not read, we must estimate your power by using your last 12 months' electricity consumption

Your Meter



HOW TO READ YOUR METER

Check the kind of meter available in your premises from the pictures below and read instructions on how you can read your meter





Depending on the make of your meter - read only the white digits,

Ignore the small digits marked by the red lines

SELF METER READING

For any further information - Call 0703-070-707 or 0732-170-170