

Letters from McGregor Residents regarding the Fireworks on New Year's Eve

.. Wednesday, January 05, 2011 7:04 PM

Subject: Recent Fireworks Display in McGregor

McGregor News has received numerous complaints regarding the fireworks display in the village on New Year's Eve.

Most of the complaints concerned animals who had been traumatised as well as disturbing the peace of residents.

Below is a letter received from one of the villagers.

If you have any comments regarding the Fireworks Display which you would like to make please send them directly to news@mcgregor.co.za

Dear McGregor News

It was reported that a private fireworks display took place in the McGregor residential area during the New Year celebrations.

McGregor residents have battled to eliminate such events for very good reason and find it deplorable that newcomers to the village do not respect the status quo.

Fireworks are a legacy from the past and should be banned internationally. For a few moments of unnecessary and destructive pleasure:

- Animals both domestic and wild are terrorised
- Noise pollution disturbs others
- Residual waste products scatter in the environment
- The production and storage of fireworks is hazardous in all respects, and has no place in the present, more enlightened era and growing respect for this planet
- Fireworks burn money and resources which could be used more productively.

In short, fireworks are a primitive legacy and like many cruel and destructive cultural habits, have no place in civilised society.

Yours sincerely

Pat Werdmuller von Elgg
Houtbaai Farm / Cool Mountain Organic Products (registered)
P O Box 181
McGREGOR
6708

Thu 2011/01/06 06:08 PM

I add my objections to the firework display on New Years eve. My dog was left on his own in the house as I understood there were to be no fireworks. Not only was my dog dreadfully distressed but the thought of fire at this dry time of year is terrifying. The thoughtlessness of these people can not go without the objections of responsible people.

Yours sincerely, Val Wilson

Thu 2011/01/06 08:18 AM

Hi,

Regarding the fireworks.

Thankfully we are a few km out of the village, but I know that a friend of mine's dog took off when the fireworks started in the village and managed to force his way out of my friends fenced garden as he was in such a panic, it took my friend some time to find the dog and he was extremely traumatised.

I have seven horses, and sudden loud noises cause the herd to panic and run without thinking or looking where they are going. Had the fireworks been set off near to us and any of my horses had been injured or miscarried as a result of the noise I would certainly have sued whoever was responsible.

I do understand the 'fun' aspect of fireworks, but maybe properly organised displays where notice is given to people in the area would be a better plan. Can we instigate a bye law to control the use of fireworks in the village?

Kind regards

Deirdre Scott-Rogerson

Bellissima Stud

McGregor 6708

Atholl Hay Thu 2011/01/06 08:10 AM

Hi Anne

Thanks for circulating this. I absolutely agree with Pat.

To the best of my knowledge, fireworks may not be discharged without a permit. Was this reported to the police and if so, what action has been taken?

Thu 2011/01/06 07:35 AM

Dear McGregor News,

I agree entirely with the sentiments and the points raised by Ms Werdmuller von Elgg.

I would add that if anyone has cash to burn for instant gratification for a few people at a private function , they should rather consider donating this to some worthy cause, ie Feeding scheme for children or animal welfare.

They would be setting a better example for their families and friends.

I have no objection if my views/comments were made "public". There is no value in anonymity in matters such as this.

Regards

Dave Giraudeau

23 Mill Street

Wed 2011/01/05 10:15 PM

Why dont you mind your own business these people got married and wanted to enjoy their day if it involved fireworks then so be it i am sick and tired of the narrow minded and nasty people in this village who stick their noses in other peoples happiness get real put your dogs etc inside and chill out .The fire was contained so no fire risk.

frances-gaye inggs

Wed 2011/01/05 07:17 PM

I would like to see fireworks banned in our village.

Lizelle

Thu 2011/01/06 12:17 PM

Dear Pat,

I would hardly call 10 minutes' worth of some flares a 'fire works display.' It was my experience that by doing this some two hours before actual midnight, which is traditional, was in itself considerate. If fireworks are a 'primitive legacy of the past' is a matter of your opinion. The manner however at which abuse was directed at the residents in question was more offensive in this 'enlightened era' than the actual fireworks.

Nevertheless, wishing you a Happy New Year.

From Arjan, who actually lives in the village.