

MYKampung

Published by Marsiling-Yew Tee Town Council | MCI(P)110/11/2018 | Issue No. 6



03
The Heartland Shopping Experience



10
Safeguarding Children from HFMD



15
Hari Raya Puasa: Season of Bonding and Sharing

Marsiling-Yew Tee
Town Council



08 Honouring Our Cleaners



Notes from the Editorial Team

One may expect a Town Council newsletter to be a simple source of latest events and developments, but at Marsiling-Yew Tee Town Council, we do much more than that. Those of us in the brand new MY Kampung editorial team have worked hard to bring content that add value and are relevant to our readers.

We present to you the latest issue, packed with stories revolving around the different dimensions of life in Marsiling-Yew Tee. Here is a brief overview of what you may expect as you leaf through the pages:

- Learn more about shopping in our heartlands on Page 3.
- Keep up-to-date with three key takeaways from last year's National Day Rally on Page 5.
- Be inspired to taste honest-to-goodness food found in four eateries on Page 6.
- Find out how our cleaners were paid tribute to during Cleaners' Appreciation Day this year on Page 8 and 9.

Also in the issue, we feature various events and celebrations which bring out our community spirit over the last few months. We also bring to you highlights of all National Day celebration events held throughout our GRC on Page 14. As we look back on SG53, let this be a reminder to move forward as a tight-knit community and nation!

This newsletter is brought to you by *kampung* neighbours, for *kampung* neighbours. We in the editorial team feel honoured to be onboard, and will dutifully keep you updated on current happenings. Happy reading!



THE HEARTLAND

Shopping Experience

These neighbourhood malls are conveniently located but can be easily overlooked. For the benefit of those of you who have moved here recently, we bring you around to see what goods and services these malls offer. Let our shopping trail begin!

LIMBANG SHOPPING CENTRE

Located at 533 Choa Chu Kang Street 51, Limbang Shopping Centre houses 33 shops, a food court, a wet market and a supermarket. Hardware shops abound, selling household items ranging from water hoses to nail clippers. Madam Wong Chuey Eng, a shop owner, said: "Residents usually buy lighting accessories, shower heads and taps." Clinics, Traditional Chinese Medicine shops, childcare centres, and a bookstore further strengthen the mall's reputation as a self-contained "mini kampung".



YEW TEE SQUARE AND YEW TEE POINT

A stone's throw away from Yew Tee MRT are Yew Tee Square and Yew Tee Point. Yew Tee Point offers a variety of services, ranging from beauty and healthcare to fashion, lifestyle and education. At Yew Tee Square, students can be seen at McCafe chatting leisurely over some beverages. Wilson, a Secondary 1 student, said: "I enjoy playing games on my mobile phone as there is free WiFi network here. That's the best part of eating at McDonald's!"



MARSILING MALL

Relocated from Woodlands Town Centre, some 50 hawkers have found a new home in the vibrant Marsiling Mall, which opened its doors in December 2017. Nestled along 4 Woodlands Street 12, this air-conditioned mall has a multi-storey carpark and a hawker centre. At the hawker centre, you will be spoilt for choice with 70 food stalls offering various cuisines.



888 PLAZA

There is no need for residents in Woodgrove to venture far for amenities as 888 Plaza houses it all. Located at 888 Woodlands Drive 50, between Admiralty and Woodlands MRT stations, 888 Plaza offers a variety of goods and services. You can find shops selling stationery, groceries, clothes, as well as baby products, computer accessories, bicycles, and bridal gowns. There are also two food courts here, which are perfect to end your shopping spree at.



Town Improvements

We are constantly upgrading public infrastructures to make living in Marsiling Yew-Tee GRC more enjoyable. Below are highlights of the recent round of improvements:

The newly renovated ramp and existing staircase at Block 123 Marsiling Road which we maintain has been decked with vibrant artwork with help from our creative residents. Residents now get to view a lineup of beautiful illustrations showcasing unique elements of Singaporean culture while enjoying ease of access. The artwork is a PAssion Arts initiative by the People's Association and coordinated by Marsiling Grassroots Organisations.

We upgraded three facilities in Stagmont Park - the multi-generational fitness corner, playground, and elderly fitness corner.

LED directional signs, completed in January 2018, illuminate the vicinity of Blocks 631 to 692B in Choa Chu Kang. Residents can find their way around the estate easier at night. Additionally, the old fountain near Block 632 Choa Chu Kang North 6 has been transformed into a community plaza.

The children's playground in front of Block 346 Woodlands Ave 3 has been given a facelift, allowing residents to enjoy the new facility better. We also installed new Residents' Committee (RC) noticeboards, so that residents may receive important updates of the neighbourhood.



691A-B
692,A-B
690A-690D



Improvements Since National Day Rally 2017

Since Prime Minister Lee Hsien Loong delivered his National Day Rally speech on 20 August 2017, measures to manage the diabetes occurrence rates, improve quality of pre-school education, and facilitate the smart nation movement have gained traction. We take stock of these developments and share how these may affect you.

War on Diabetes

The Ministry of Health (MOH) introduced MediSave as an option for diabetic and pre-diabetic patients to better control and manage their conditions.

- ◆ Those with pre-diabetes conditions can use MediSave to pay for medical consultations starting from June 2018.
- ◆ Diabetic patients may use MediSave to pay for lancets and test strips when insulin injections are required.

Woodlands Polyclinic nurse Ms Koh Xin Ru, 26, shares with us her experience in dealing with pre-diabetic patients:

- a. It is a common misconception that diabetes is linked to consumption of sweet food.
"When I inform pre-diabetes patients of their test results, they are usually shocked and they'll say, 'but nurse, I don't eat sweet food.' Carbohydrates are also a factor, like rice. It may not taste sweet, but it can raise blood sugar levels."
- b. **B.E.A.T.** are four important alphabets to remember to prevent and reverse diabetes.
"Be aware; Eat right; Adopt an active lifestyle; and Take control. For those with pre-diabetes conditions, I'll emphasise on maintaining a healthy diet and exercising. Hopefully, they can take home these important lessons and reverse their conditions."



Information on a career in nursing can be found at www.caretogobeyond.sg

Pre-school Education

The pre-school education sector is set to receive a much-needed boost through a slew of new initiatives. These include:

- ◆ Building an additional 40,000 new pre-school places to address the shortage of such schools for kids aged four and below.
- ◆ More focus will be given to improving quality of K1 and K2 education standards.
- ◆ The setting up of a new centralised National Institute of Early Childhood Development.

Parents in Kranji and Choa Chu Kang can benefit from this first wave of initiatives as early as 6 months time. The MOE Kindergarten @ Kranji, opening mid-2019 in Kranji Primary School, will result in more vacancies for parents to enrol their children in. Parents will be delighted to know that children who are currently enrolled in two Early Years Centres at Choa Chu Kang will be automatically enrolled in this new kindergarten. The two Early Years Centres are PCF Sparkletots Preschool at Choa Chu Kang Blocks 543 and 786.

For more information, visit the MOE or PCF websites.
<https://www.moe.gov.sg/microsites/moekindergarten/>
<http://www.pcf.org.sg/PRESCHOOL-SERVICE/Early-Years-Centres/Content>



Smart Nation

In a bid to bring Singapore closer to the smart nation vision, the Parking.sg app was launched on 1 October 2017. Effectively replacing the use of parking coupons, the app allows users to avoid parking-related hassles, such as having to buy coupons or displaying the wrong dates on their coupons.

Marsiling resident Mr Rahmat Ismail, 55, said he started using the app last November. "It is so convenient. I can extend my parking times without having to run back to my car. This also means I no longer need to worry about getting parking summons anymore if I park beyond my initial allotted time," he said.

The app can be used for parking at six Housing Development Board and 11 Urban Redevelopment Authority-operated car parks in Marsiling-Yew Tee GRC.



Simple Joy in Original Food

Honest-to-goodness food can be found in the heartlands at affordable prices if you looked hard enough – and we did. Our search uncovered four proud food stall owners whose fare delight the residents of Marsiling-Yew Tee.



Ngo Hiang Prawn Cracker

"Spending my childhood catching fish and prawns got me hooked on this path," reminisced owner Mr Tan Eng Hong, 54. Born into a humble family, Mr Tan began preparing meals for his family at the young age of 13. He soon realised he had a flair for cooking and entered the food business with his wife Madam Ong Mun Heng, also 54, after they got married.

Their crispy and flavourful five-spice meat rolls, prawn fritters, and fried spring rolls scored them an invitation to participate in the Singapore Hokkien Festival in 2015. On their secret, Mr Tan said: "I add water chestnut to make the spring rolls crunchier." He added that the prawn fritters recipe was his wife's own.

📍 787B Choa Chu Kang Drive #01-241

Kota Bali Western Food

Mr Frankie Tan Jeck Boon, 40, has been running Kota Bali Western Food stall since 2010. Although he holds a diploma in engineering, his true passion lies in the food industry. His passion grew from watching his late father, who was the stall's previous owner. "(Before taking over the stall) I was only allowed to marinate the meat until my dad felt confident in my skills. He started to teach me how to prepare our special sauce only in 2005," Mr Tan mused.

Patrons indeed find the sauce special and irresistible. The chicken chop, which is also unique on its own as it serves the drumstick portion, is the stall's most popular dish. "Some even wanted the recipe, but I declined. The only thing I can say is that after I fry the chicken bone, I brew it with ingredients specified by my late father," he said.

📍 326 Woodlands Street 32



Yuliana Nasi Padang

The *ayam penyet* (smashed chicken) served at this stall is as authentic as can be, as its stall owner Madam Yuliana, 42, was born in Indonesia. Previously a restaurant cook with years of experience under her belt, she now wows the palates of residents with her freshly cooked chicken, accompanied by unique soup and sambal.

Madam Yuliana said: "I boil the chicken first before frying it. This way, the chicken retains the moisture yet remains crispy." The single mother reckons that 80% of her customers are Chinese. Given that she offers a variety of yummy fare, ranging from *mee rebus* (blanched noodles) to *tahu goreng* (fried tofu), it's no wonder the queue for Yuliana Nasi Padang is always long!

📍 Yew Tee Square Kopitiam Food Court

Yassin Kampung

This wonderful, *kampung*-style joint is run by Chinese-Muslim chef Mr Muhammad Yassin Ng, a 56-year-old who found his passion in whipping up traditional *kampung* dishes. Mr Yassin caters to a pool of regular customers who first enjoyed his cooking at an old coffeeshop in Woodlands Centre for 15 years. Mr Yassin only moved to a larger, cozier place at Marsiling Crescent on 1 March 2017. While customers enjoy his classic *Kampung 3 Rasa* Fish (Three-Flavoured Fish) for its exotic mix of sour, sweet and spicy taste, another specialty has become a new favourite – *Kampung Durian Chicken*. "We wanted to bank on the people's love for durian and create something unique. After three months of experimenting, we are proud to introduce a chicken dish that's enhanced by the taste of melted pure durian flesh," he said.

📍 210 Marsiling Crescent, #01-03



Off the Beaten Track

Hidden from the bustle of Marsiling-Yew Tee town are various pockets of tranquil spaces in Mandai that you can explore to enjoy a slower pace of life. We went on a walking trail to discover more about the area's scenic spots. Read on to uncover the hidden beauty of our town's park connectors and nature reserves!

Ulu Sembawang Park Connector

This 1.3km park connector starts at Seletar Expressway and ends at Mandai Road. As you stroll along the path lined with lush greenery, listen for the chirping of birds and observe the different shades of green as sunlight dances off the leaves of evergreen trees. A deserted bus stop at the side of the connector adds a rustic ambience to your walk through the Mandai nature reserve.

The park connector is accessible via bus service numbers 138 and 171.

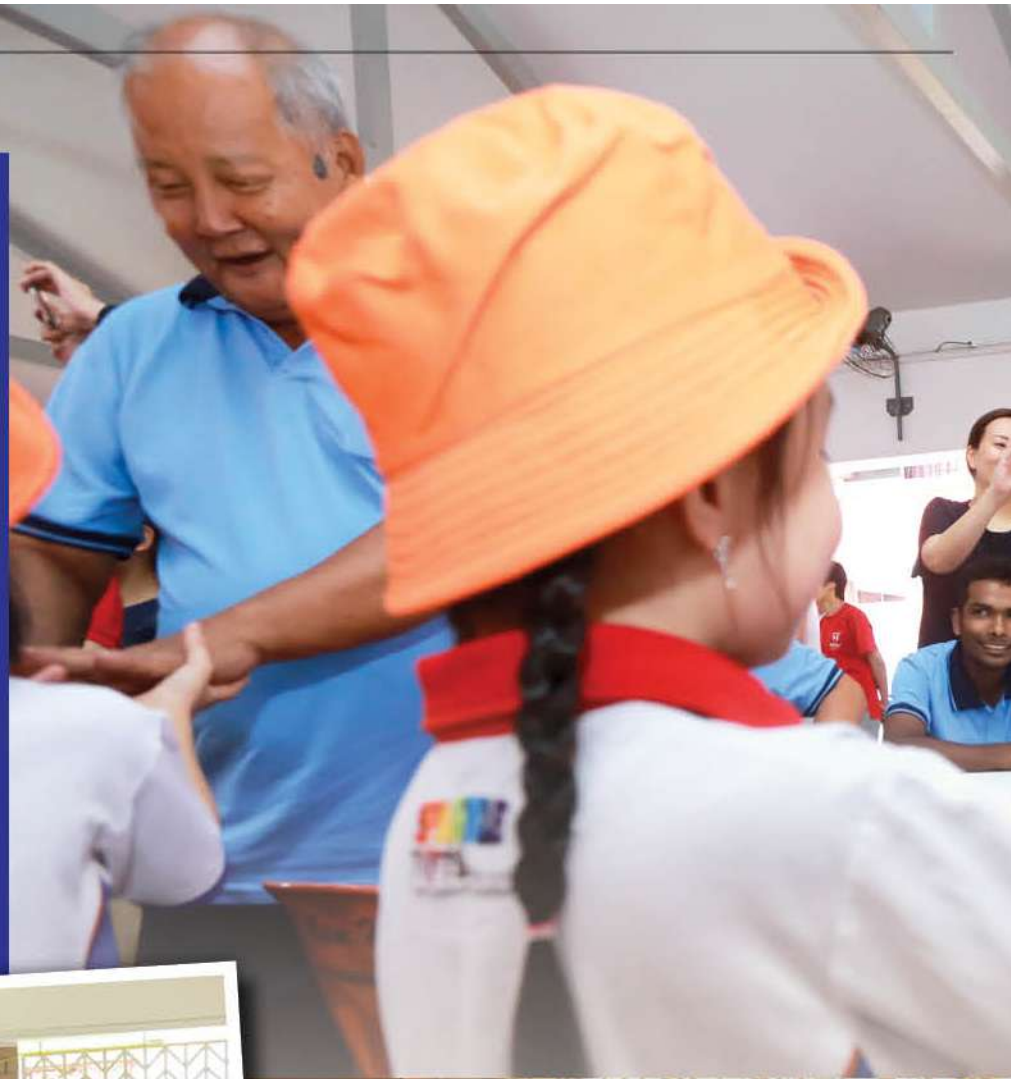


Mandai Park Connector

There is no need to venture far to be up-close and personal with Mother Nature. The 5km Mandai Park Connector starts from opposite the Lower Seletar Reservoir carpark and ends at the junction of Mandai Lake Avenue and Mandai Road. A go-to place for avid cyclists and joggers, the shimmering expanse of the reservoir's calm water and soothing breeze will surely brighten your day. You may even spot monkeys in the trees or on the footpaths. Bus service numbers 138 and 171 ply along Mandai Road, making the place easily accessible to everyone. You can also opt for a slow scenic drive down Mandai Road to enjoy the view of mature Rain Trees lining the roadside.



Celebrating Heroes Who Get The 'Dirty' Job Done



Every year, the Town Council pays tribute to its cohort of dedicated cleaners. They work tirelessly around our estate to ensure that surroundings are spotless and pest-free. In acknowledgement of their hard work, a series of feasts, litter-picking activities, and performances were held during Cleaners' Appreciation Day, throughout Marsiling-Yew Tee GRC earlier this year.

Of the many ways we can show our appreciation of these unsung heroes, one of the most important is imparting the significance of cleanliness to our residents. To dispel the myth that being a cleaner is a "dirty" job, our Cleaners' Appreciation events took an educational spin this year.

Our aim - change public perception starting with the young.

Collaborating with Children

How often do children get to mingle with cleaners and learn more about the "art" of cleaning? A simple, yet meaningful event on 23 April 2018 enabled the children from PCF Sparkletots Preschool to do both. It was part of the Anti-Littering Project, facilitated by PAP Community Foundation (PCF) in collaboration with the Town Council.

Children from the Sparkletots Preschool at Block 567 Choa Chu Kang Street 52 got the chance to ask cleaners





What Our MPs Have to Say:

Limbang MP Mr Lawrence Wong, who is also National Development Minister and Second Minister for Finance, said apart from cleaners, the Town Council staff also work hard to keep the town clean through managing cleaning contractors.



“I hope all residents will continue to support our Town Council as they are just as committed to making our GRC a better place for all of us.”

about their working experience. By learning their stories, the kids felt inspired to pick up environmentally conscious habits and remember all cleaners as heroes.

Children from the Block 543 PCF Sparkletots branch were joined by their peers from Block 567 for the main Cleaners' Appreciation event on 13 May 2018, where both groups expressed their appreciation to cleaners by singing English, Chinese, and Malay songs on stage and presenting handmade flowers.



“Having children sing at the event was a nice way to show appreciation to the cleaners. We selected several songs in different languages to cater to the diversity of our cleaners' ethnicities,” shared PCF Sparkletots' Block 543 branch principal Ms Ivy Quek. “We also hope this adds more value to their education as they learn to embrace our preschool's core values, which are respect, responsibility, care, positive attitudes, and confidence,” she added.

Parent Mr Eric Ang, 40, agreed: “I think this is a good way for our children to start developing good habits at an early age.”

Best Cleaners Awards 2018

Another way of honouring our exemplary cleaners is to ensure the best of them are recognised through the Best Cleaners Awards 2018. One of this year's recipients, Madam Tan Choon Gek, 50, said: “Cleaning is an art. For example, you must know how much water to use when mopping the floor. If the floor is too wet, the elderly or children may slip and fall.”

Another award recipient, Madam Liow Miow Lian, 63, said: “I make sure that the lift is clean every morning, as many residents are using it.” Both Madam Liow and Madam Tan added that they hone their skills and expand their knowledge by attending courses.

Woodgrove MP Mr Ong Teng Koon commended cleaners for their hard work.

“Since we started Marsiling Yew-Tee GRC two and a half years ago, all of you have been very hardworking, helping us to keep the estate clean. Thank you for your patience and hard work. Celebrating Cleaners' Appreciation Day is an opportunity for us to show our appreciation for all of you.”



We want you

我们需要您

Kami Mahukan Anda!

நீங்கள் எங்களுக்கு வேண்டும்



Calling all residents of Marsiling-Yew Tee GRC!

Want the chance to be featured in our upcoming publicity materials? Now is the time! We want pictures of you and your family, friends or neighbours at gatherings or festivals. We want photos of all of you in your best outfits or ethnic costumes. More importantly, we want pictures of happy people. If you have any of these images, please send them our way!

With your submission, you will stand a chance to be featured alongside your MPs in a variety of collaterals to be displayed in upcoming festivities.

Send us your pictures and you may be among several lucky ones to be featured in our next publicity materials. Thank you in advance for your support! We can't wait to see all your happy, beautiful and charming faces!

SUBMISSION GUIDELINES:

- No offensive or nude images.
- You may send in as many pictures as you want, but they must be at least 4MB.
- By submitting your photos, you consent Marsiling-Yew Tee Town Council to use them for our collaterals.
- E-mail to feedback@myttc.org.sg with "MYTTC Pictures Submission" as your subject title.

呼吁所有马西岭-油池的居民!

希望与您喜爱的议员同时登上组屋区内展列的横幅, 海报或其他宣传平台上吗? 机会来了!

我们需要您与家人, 朋友或邻居在参加聚会或欢庆民族节日时拍的照片。我们更是欢迎居民们穿着民族服装的快乐合照。

您所提交的照片, 很可能幸运地被选中登载在马西岭-油池市镇会即将出版的各种传播媒介上。我们期待看到你们在照片上捕获的美丽时刻。有提交, 有机会喔! 别犹豫了, 请赶快寄给我们!

提交指示:

- 请勿提交冒犯性和裸露的照片
- 照片数目无限 (但照片需要至少4MB)
- 提交照片给马西岭-油池市镇会表示您允许照片中的所有图像在各种传播媒介上登载
- 请电邮至feedback@myttc.org.sg, 以 "MYTTC Pictures Submission" 为标题。

Perhatian kepada semua penduduk Marsiling-Yew Tee!

Inginkan peluang untuk tampil sebagai bahan paparan publisiti kami? Inilah masanya! Kami mahukan foto-foto anda bersama ahli keluarga, teman-teman atau jiran-jiran anda semasa di majlis perjumpaan ataupun majlis perayaan. Kami mahukan foto-foto anda berpakaian cantik ataupun berpakaian etnik. Yang lebih utama, kami mahukan foto-foto yang menunjukkan kegembiraan anda. Jika anda mempunyai foto-foto seperti ini, anda boleh menghantarnya kepada kami!

Dengan penyertaan anda, anda berpeluang untuk ditampilkan bersama anggota parlimen anda dalam pelbagai jenis kolateral yang akan dipaparkan semasa sambutan perayaan yang akan datang.

Hantarkan foto-foto anda dan anda mungkin di antara yang bernasib baik yang akan ditampilkan dalam bahan publisiti kami yang akan datang. Kami amat berbesar hati atas sokongan anda! Kami tidak sabar untuk melihat wajah-wajah anda yang riang!

GARIS PANDUAN PENYERTAAN:

- Dilarang menghantar foto-foto tidak senonoh atau lucu.
- Anda boleh menghantar seberapa banyak foto, tetapi foto anda sekurang-kurangnya mesti bersaiz 4MB.
- Dengan menghantarkan foto-foto anda, anda memberi keizinan kepada Majlis Bandaran Marsiling-Yew Tee untuk menggunakan foto-foto ini untuk kolateral kami.
- E-mel foto-foto anda ke feedback@myttc.org.sg dengan tajuk e-mel "MYTTC Pictures Submission".

மார்சிலிங்-இயூ டீ குழுத்தொகுதி குடியிருப்பாளர்கள் அனைவருக்கும் ஓர் அழைப்பு!

நாங்கள் தவளியிடவிருக்கும் விளம்பர ஊடகங்களில் இடம்தபற விருப்பமா? அப்படித்தென்றால் உங்கள் குடும்பத்தினர், நண்பர்கள் அல்லது அண்டைவட்டாரங்களுடைய நீங்கள் சமூக நிகைச்சிகளிலும் வினாக்களிலும் சசாந்து எடுத்துக்காண்ட புனகப்படங்கள் எங்களுக்கு சதனவ.

நீங்கள் ஆக அககிடு ஆனககளிசலா அல்லது எழில்மிக்க பாரம்பரிடு உனககளிசலா இருப்பது அவசிடம். அனதவிட முக்கிடமாக, அந்த புனகப்படங்கள் மகிசைசிமிக்கதாக இருக்க சவண்டும். அப்படிப்பட்ட புனகப்படங்கள் உங்களிடம் இருந்தால் அபைசூர்ந்து அவறறற எங்களுக்கு அனுப்பி னவக்கவும்.

உங்கள் படத்தை நீங்கள் அனுப்பி னேத்தால், எதிர்ரேம் னோக்களின்வபாது காட்சிக்கு னேக்கப்படும் பவேனகயாபை பதானககளில் உங்கள் நாடாளுமன்ற உறுப்பினர்கவளாடு நீங்களும் இடம்தபற னேய்ப்பு கிடக்கலாம்.

எங்களது அடுத்த விளம்பர தவளியீட்டுகளில் இடம்தபறும் அதிர்ஷ்டசாலிகளில் நீங்களும் ஒருவராக இருக்கலாம். உங்கள் ஆதரவுக்கு முன்கூட்டிசெ னேற்றி ததரிவித்து தகாள்கிசறாம். உங்கள் அனைவரது அகைகை, மகிசைசிமிக்குந்த புனகப்படங்களை காண ஆவலுடை காத்துக்காண்டிருக்கிறாம்!

சமர்ப்பிப்புக்காை வழிகாட்டிகள்:

- மனைத புனபடுத்தும் அல்லது நிர்வாணம் உள்ள படங்கள் கூடாது.
- உங்கள் ரெடுப்பபடி எத்தனை படங்கள் வேண்டுமானாலும் அனுப்பலாம், ஆனால் ஒவதோரு படமும் குனறந்தது 4MB அளவில் இருக்கவேண்டும்.
- உங்களது படங்களை சமர்ப்பிப்பதை மூலம் மார்சிலிங்-இயூ டீ நகர மைறறம் னகசெடுகளில் அவறறற பெபைடுத்த நீங்கள் ஒப்புதல் அளிக்கிரர்கள்.
- மினைசூசல் உள்ளககத தனலப்பில் "MYTTC Pictures Submission" எனக் குறிப்பிட்டு feedback@myttc.org.sg என்ற முகவரிக்கு அனுப்பினவயுங்கள்.

Safeguarding Children from HFMD

Early in 2018, Channel Newsasia reported that the number of Hand, Foot and Mouth Disease (HFMD) cases rose to 1,105 – the highest since June 2016. Mrs Jasmail Singh Gill, principal of Unity Primary School, shares how her school takes measures against HFMD.



What can we do to prevent HFMD?

We educate our children by emphasising on the importance of personal hygiene. Other than displaying health posters around the school to remind them, talks are also conducted to give specific instructions on maintaining personal cleanliness. We prepare our teachers through briefings because other than parents, they are the ones most likely to spot HFMD symptoms.



Are the measures effective?

Our children and staff have become more mindful about their social responsibility and how personal hygiene helps prevent the spread of infectious diseases. This has helped to reduce the number of HFMD cases effectively.



There are student health ambassadors in schools. How do you nurture these ambassadors and spread the awareness of HFMD?

We keep our young ambassadors well-informed of their duties, which include reminding their peers to maintain good personal hygiene. Physical and Health Education lessons also cover similar health topics.



What measures can be taken when HFMD occur?

Teachers will conduct daily visual and temperature checks in the morning. They constantly remind students to maintain good habits, like washing hands regularly and refrain from sharing food if feeling unwell. Students with HFMD are not allowed to come back to school until they are cleared by a doctor. Parents are also alerted and advised to take necessary precautions.

3 SIMPLE WAYS TO HELP PREVENT Hand, Foot and Mouth Disease



Wash your hands

Wash often and thoroughly, especially after using the bathroom, and before meals.



Clean and disinfect frequently touched surfaces

Wash surfaces with hot, soapy water. Apply a solution made by adding 2 tablespoons of bleach to 4 cups of water, then rinse and dry.



Avoid close contact

Avoid hugging, kissing, or sharing cups or utensils with infected people.

Community Gardening Sows Joy among Residents

When it comes to planting vegetables, Mr William Tee and his wife Ms Tiffany Kong have a green thumb. But, living in a high-rise building comes with its limitations. The 42-year-olds found it hard to do gardening without having a plot of land. Imagine their joy when a notice was put up earlier this year, inviting residents to be a part of the Woodgrove Block 358 Community Garden.

"We signed up immediately," said Mr Tee. Since 1 March 2018, some 80 residents, including Mr Tee and Ms Kong, have become proud owners of their own gardening plots, each measuring 1m by 3m. Now, the couple can plant a variety of greens such as sweet potato, spinach, and red lady's finger for their own consumption. "We watched the vegetables grow from seeds. Nothing beats the feeling of enjoying our own harvest," said Ms Kong.

Madam Tan Siew Khim, 55, used to miss *kampung* life – a time when she could grow her own vegetables. Since young, she had always loved growing different plants. "Maintaining it requires lots of hard work. Pulling weeds is the most tedious part, but it feels good to have this

sense of satisfaction once we harvest our greens," related Madam Tan, who grows Brazilian spinach, lady's finger, sweet potato, and some herbs with her husband Mr Yeoh Thian Seng, 58.

Meanwhile, Mr Ng Heng Ghee, 47, favours planting trees, like papaya and lemon. "Trees need less maintenance compared to vegetables, which you must check at least twice a day," he said. Mr Ng shared that watering trees once every few days would suffice. "I keep the soil moist by laying compost," he said.

The community garden is managed by Woodgrove Zone 8 RC. Its chairperson Ms Cincelia Tan said the project was well-received as many residents were happy to sign up for it. "It's a full house now, and we have 37 people on the waiting list," she said. Ms Tan related that Woodgrove MP Mr Ong Teng Koon had proposed community gardening as a solution to illegal gardening. "We had to remove residents' illegal plants because it became a breeding ground for mosquitoes. Some of the residents petitioned against it but when we approached them with the idea of community gardening, they were happy to take up a plot," she said.





Brewing Hope and Community Spirit

The salted vegetable tofu soup prepared by Woodlands Secondary School students warmed the belly, as well as the heart of 80-year-old Marsiling resident Madam Lily Chang. Madam Chang was one of 800 beneficiaries of the Share-a-Pot programme held on 19 April 2018 organised by Woodlands Health Campus (WHC) and Woodlands Secondary School.

Miss Tan Ke-Xin, the principal of Woodlands Secondary School, explained that the inspiration for this community programme was the elderly residents, whom she noticed were living alone and were not careful about what they eat.

She said: "The partnership with Woodlands Health Campus is a meaningful one as it gives our students the opportunity to serve and interact with our pioneer generation - to listen to their stories and gain a better appreciation of their sacrifices towards nation-building. Apart from fostering a strong community spirit within each participant, we also hope that this helps our youths bridge the generation gap between themselves and our elders."

From start to finish, the school's Secondary 2 cohort played an active role. They identified a suitable location and target audience, purchased the equipment and ingredients needed, and developed activities for participants while being supervised by their



teachers, and staff from the WHC community engagement team.

Student Thanosh Jayashankar said: "I learned how to be more respectful, caring, and responsible. Our pioneers have helped us build Singapore, and I find it meaningful to give back through preparing soup and teaching them how to stretch and exercise."



"My 30-year old nephew seldom cooks for me. These students are good!" Madam Chang said.

Madam Chang and other seniors gathered at the RC centre at Block 123 Marsiling Road to sample nutritious soup and also participate in simple exercises and activities. This joint collaboration is supported by the North West Community Development Council.



NATIONAL DAY Celebrations



Limbang National Day Dinner

3 August, 7pm to 10pm
Hard court at Yew Tee Close
(Opposite Block 627 Choa Chu Kang Street 62)



Marsiling National Day Dinner

4 August, 7pm to 10pm
Marsiling Community Sports Park, 100 Admiralty Road



Yew Tee National Day Dinner

11 August, 6.30pm to 10pm
Hard court at Yew Tee Close (Opposite Block 627 Choa Chu Kang Street 62)



Woodgrove National Day Dinner

18 August, 6pm to 10pm
Woodlands Mega Sports Park, Woodlands Ave 1



Marsiling Observance Ceremony

9 August, 8am to 10.30am
Marsiling Community Sports Park, Woodlands Street 13



Limbang-Yew Tee Joint Observance Ceremony & Run

9 August, 7.30am
Choa Chu Kang Stadium, 1 Choa Chu Kang Street 53

Hari Raya Puasa: Season of Bonding and Sharing

In Marsiling-Yew Tee estate, two residents celebrated Hari Raya *kampung*-style by inviting neighbours – and Woodgrove MP Mr Ong Teng Koon – into their homes for a sumptuous buffet. In this article, Mr Rizal Rasudin, 38, and Mr Megat Muhammad Firdaus, 32, share with us why they believe that this gesture helps build a more cohesive society.

Feel-Good Festivities

At Block 365 Woodlands Avenue 5, there was a joyous ambience at Mr Megat's open house. Friends, relatives, and neighbours smiled from ear to ear while enjoying the music and food. Being a hospitable host, the primary school band director also played the accordion to entertain his guests and MP.

"We have good music, good food, and good friends. What else do we need?" said Mr Ong.

Mr Megat shared that he was glad Mr Ong could attend the celebration despite his hectic schedule. On the open house, Mr Megat said: "I want to bring back the *kampung* spirit. All our neighbours share common spaces. Even if the common space is very small, it takes the person inside [the house] to bring them together. This small space feels very big when we come together as a family."

His friend, Mr Afi Hanafi, agreed. "Neighbours are your immediate relatives. If there is anything that happens inside your house, they will come to help," he added.



A Time for Bonding

Over at Block 886B Woodlands Drive 50, resident Mr Rizal welcomed his huge "family" into his home for a Hari Raya feast. But this "family" was unusual in that it consisted of people who are not related to him by blood. In fact, most of Mr Rizal's guests were neighbours as well as grassroots volunteers and community leaders, such as Mr Ong.

"Festivities are about sharing and giving. It's about family too and all of them here are my family," Mr Rizal said.

Mr Rizal's wife, Madam Farhanah Amran, also shared the same sentiment. She said gathering for festive occasions builds strong bonds among friends and neighbours, making them feel like one family. Likewise, their family also gets invited to their friend's homes for Lunar New Year celebrations.

Celebrating festivals together opens the doors for mutual support and cohesiveness in the community, Mr Rizal added. "If you need help, no matter the age, anyone can help you. We look out for each other," he said.



Spot the Difference!

The photos show the new playground and facilities at Block 346 Woodlands Ave 3. Can you spot the five places where the two photos differ? Circle them in the entry form and you could win a \$30 NTUC Fairprice voucher!




CONGRATULATIONS
to the four winners of
the April 2018 Puzzle:

Clara Choi
Lee Bee Ching
Lee Chai Mun
Ragavan Nair S/O Rama Samy



ENTRY FORM

Name: _____
Address: _____
IC No.: _____
Contact No.: _____

Send your entry to: Marsiling-Yew Tee Town Council, Block 306A Woodlands Street 31, #02-00, Singapore 731306
Closing date: **7 January 2019**

Marsiling-Yew Tee
Town Council

Main Office
Block 306A Woodlands Street 31,
#02-00, Singapore 731306

Branch Office
Block 563 Choa Chu Kang Street 52,
#01-198, Singapore 680563

-  6430 7800
-  6362 4822
-  feedback@myttc.org.sg
-  [/marsilingyewteetc](https://www.facebook.com/marsilingyewteetc)
-  www.myttc.org.sg

Operating Hours
Monday to Friday: 8am - 5pm
Saturday: 8am to 1pm
Sunday and Public Holidays: Closed

For Payment/Collection
Monday to Friday: 8am - 4.30pm
Saturday: 8am to 12.30pm
Sunday and Public Holidays: Closed