

Talk of the Town



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Giving Our Furry Friends a **Space** In Our Town

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PETS PARK @ SEGAR GARDENS:

It's A Pawsome Time!

Our furry friends of Holland-Bukit Panjang Town now have a dedicated space to roam with the opening of a new Pets Park. Located within Segar Gardens, the enclosed park gives residents and their fur kids the opportunity to socialise and bond with their neighbours in a safe and pets-friendly environment.

“We noticed that there are actually a lot of dog owners amongst residents. They like to bring their dogs for walks but there are no dog parks nearby,” said Mr Raymond Ang, Chairman of the Zhenghua-Segar Residents’ Committee. He spearheaded the idea after residents and members of the Pets Interest Group he founded shared their desire for a space where their pets could exercise, run, and do obstacles off-leash safely.

Debbie and her dog Peanut, a two-and-a-half year old Pomeranian Husky (aka Pomsky) mix, were amongst the first to visit the pet park when it officially opened on 12 December 2020. Along with other residents and their beloved pets, they witnessed the unveiling of the signage by MP for Zhenghua constituency Mr Edward Chia,



and later spend the afternoon participating in frivolously fun ‘Best Dressed Pets’ and ‘Obstacle Course’ competitions.

Open to furry friends of all sizes, the park is a dream come true for many because of its location within the heartlands. “I think this is a very good opportunity for dog owners to gather together to socialise and share our experiences with each other. I would come and visit here because it’s near my house,” Debbie shared.

The Pets Park is a great addition to the community, and will need the pet owners to be responsible for their furry friends to ensure the shared space stays clean and welcoming for a long time to come. Being gracious towards other users - such as picking up after your pet and not bringing food into the park - is key to a pleasant experience for all. Mr Ang said he and his interest group members will be working closely with SPCA, the Town Council, NEA, and NParks to create greater awareness on good park etiquette, and hopes everyone will abide by them closely.



Sharing Spaces 🐾

Meet Dorcas Tan, one of the many community cat caregivers in Holland-Bukit Panjang Town who make the lives of our community cats better.



Hi Dorcas, when did you begin caring for community cats in your neighbourhood?

My sons and I started caring for the community cats around March last year just before the Circuit Breaker started, but we have actively visited cats the past seven years.

What do these neighbourhood cats mean to you?

The cats are in many ways like therapy cats. After a long day or hard day at school or work, petting them and taking care of them gives us some perspective to life and helps us to focus on the things that matter – showing care and love to others.

You are a Community Cat Caregiver, which differs slightly from a Cat Feeder. What's the difference between the two?

Feeders are people who feed community cats in a safe and hygienic manner. They pick up after the cats after their meals. Caregivers, in addition to feeding, also look after the wellbeing of the cats. They work together to attend to other needs of the cats. If a cat is injured, this could mean taking it to the vet, providing a temporary home for recovery, or even helping to foot the costs. Additionally, if a new cat turns up, we will try to find out if it is lost or needs sterilisation or we will try to find it a new home. We also educate pet owners on the proper ways to pet-proof their homes.

How can we care for our community cats properly without inadvertently becoming a nuisance to our neighbours?

The golden rule is to make sure you clean up after you feed the cats. This also will ensure pests like rats and cockroaches will not get attracted to the food. When feeding cats, follow these simple steps:

1. Feed away from high human traffic areas
2. Use a paper plate or container. Do not feed directly on the ground or from the can/tin.
3. Clean up after feeding. Water bowls have to be changed daily.
4. Check to see if the cat you're feeding has been sterilised; contact the Cat Welfare Society for help if it hasn't.

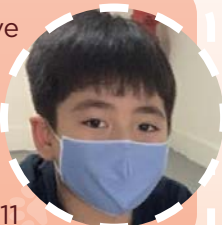


"Cats are mammals and so are humans. They should be treated well. We have to care for them and they also deserve to call this neighbourhood their home."

- Michael, 9

"Cats are living things that have feelings and emotions. They've never done anything wrong to make them deserve to live on the streets, so we should care for them."

- Christopher, 11



What is one advice you would like to share with pet owners?

Practice responsible pet ownership like sterilising the cats, adhering to the rule that a pet is for life and bring the cat wherever the residents move to. If they really need to rehome the cats then do so properly.

How do we foster greater harmony between community cats and residents in the neighbourhood?

The Bukit Panjang area has many people who love the cats and are quite tolerant. Furthermore the cats in the area are mostly sterilised and their numbers are in control. We hope that through engaging people in non-aggressive conversation or showing by example, everyone will see that these cats are intrinsic members of the community and they mean no harm. Parents can also encourage their children to show care to the community animals; just remember to cultivate the relationship from a safe distance at the beginning.



Meet The Community Cats



Snowball (aka Huhu)

- Friendly to anyone with food
- Loves rubs and pets



Ginger-Star

- Cute & friendly
- Loves food



Wawa

- Elderly cat that's slower to warm up to strangers
- One of the sweetest, most affectionate, grateful cats around



Melly

- Playful, curious, and mischievous
- Likes to catch birds and mice
- Pays "house visits" to residents



Cinammon (aka Fiefie, Meow, Hello, and Bagel)

- Currently being fostered by Dorcas
- Big personality; centre of attention
- A purring machine
- "Talks" when she's hungry, angry, or curious; loves to sleep



The Cat Welfare Society provides financial support for the sterilisation of pet cats. Please email catsnip@catwelfare.org to enquire on the scheme.



3 Common Areas We Should Be Keeping Clutter-Free Together

Remember, these spaces aren't extra storerooms for our personal items.

Corridors



Corridor clutter can impede life-saving efforts by emergency response crews as the lack of space prevents equipment like ambulance stretchers from passing through.



Do's

- Ensure that there is a 1.2m width clearance necessary for ambulance crew and wheelchair-bound people to move through
- Dispose of unwanted bulky items properly instead of piling them outside. Tip: Contact the Town Council @ **1800-766-9100** to arrange for complimentary bulky disposal service limited to the first 3 items per month



Don'ts

- Clutter corridors because they are (i) fire hazards, (ii) cause obstruction, and (iii) potential breeding grounds for pests
- Install personal fixtures like laundry or plant racks on the corridor walls or common areas

Riser Compartments



Blocking dry/wet riser compartments with personal items/belongings mean that SCDF personnel will need to spend precious time moving them away during emergencies in order to access fire safety equipment such as hoses and breaching inlets.



- Keep riser compartments free of items such as brooms, dustpans, and shoes



- Use riser compartments as a drop-off point for parcels
- Place items in front of riser compartments that could prevent fast & immediate access

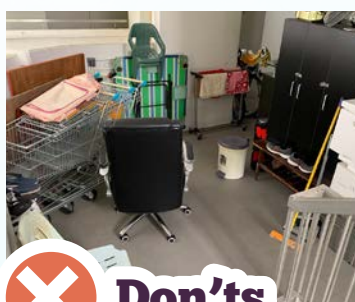
Staircases



As lifts should not be used during a fire situation, staircases are our only means of evacuation. Obstruction at staircases can greatly hamper our escape, especially when large volumes of people need to get out of a building quickly.



- Keep the staircases and landing areas clutter-free at all times



- Block access to staircase
- Place obstructive items like sofas, bicycles, large potted plants at staircases and landing areas

RESIDENTS SERVING RESIDENTS

Get to know some of HBPTC's appointed Town Councillors, and why they do what they do!

Jason Salim
Ulu Pandan Resident
Estate Committee



FUN FACTS:



A historian by training; currently works as a risk analyst in a consulting firm



An avid student of international relations and Southeast Asia



Enjoys reading, collecting antique books, hiking, travelling, and scouring Singapore for good food

Hi Jason, congratulations on your new appointment as a Town Councillor. Any thoughts on your new role?

I am immensely honoured to be appointed as Town Councillor. I am grateful for the trust given to me by Town Council Vice-Chairman Mr Christopher de Souza. I will work with my fellow councillors to be a strong voice for Ghim Moh, Farrer Gardens, and Sunset Way residents. I will rely on my fellow residents, who frequently provide valuable feedback on their neighbourhoods, in carrying out my new responsibilities.

What motivates you to serve your community?

Currently, I am still with the Project Committee and look forward to serving residents with my knowledge and experience.

Ho Yew Keong
Cashew Resident
Project Committee



FUN FACTS:



Married, dad to two girls aged 11 and 17



Runs a stationery wholesale company with his brothers



Chairperson of Cashew Zone 4 Residents' Committee



Volunteers with the army; currently in his 27th year

Hi Yew Keong, you're serving as a councillor for the 3rd term. How has the journey been?

In my 1st term, I was with the Finance Committee where I was exposed to how the Town Council manages its finances and budget towards the interests of the residents it serves. In my 2nd term, I was with the Project Committee and from there I learnt first-hand what it was like to look for vendors and be part of town improvement works. Currently, I am still with the Project Committee and look forward to serving residents with my knowledge and experience.


What are some of your best memories as a councillor?

I fondly remembered how our Finance Committee's chairman used to order in dinners for us before the meeting started as we came straight from work and did not have time to eat. It felt heartwarming knowing that we looked out for each other's well-being.


Jagathishwaran Rajo
Zhenghua Resident
Publicity Committee



FUN FACTS:

 Works at the NTUC-Administrative Research Unit with a focus on labour relations

 Joined the People's Association in 2008 as a grassroots leader at Zhenghua Division; served at Youth Network and IAEC

 CCC Secretary for Zhenghua Constituency

Hi Jaga, can you share with readers what the Publicity Committee is involved with?

The Publicity Committee aims to communicate the Town Council's works through mass communication activities, publication of newsletters, and other outreach materials platforms.

How long have you been volunteering for?

I have been volunteering for about 12 years and I strongly believe that my current role in grassroots complements my new role as a Town Councillor. From time to time, grassroots leaders hear feedback particularly on town improvement from residents and we could bring these ideas to the Council for consideration. Moreover, I am a resident within the Town itself and can provide valuable suggestions to make it more liveable for everyone.


You recently just got married too. Our heartiest congratulations to you and your wife! With marriage and this new position, how are you handling all these major life changes?


Thank you! I am a firm believer that family is a subset of the community and I am passionate about community building. I feel that I can strike a balance between family, community, and work and it also makes me a complete man with personal development skills complementing all three roles.


Norazidah Mohd Tajudin
Bukit Panjang Resident
Publicity Committee




FUN FACTS:

 A retired Police Officer with 27 years in the force; currently working as a Security Assessor

 64 years old, married with two children and four grandchildren

 Appointed Chairman of Bukit Panjang CC MAEC in 2002

 Still serving at Bukit Panjang CCC, Bukit Panjang CCMC, and Bukit Panjang CSC

Hi Nora, how long have you been volunteering for?

I first joined Holland-Bukit Panjang Town Council as a Town Councillor on 1 February 2003. It has been almost 18 years!

What do you find most fulfilling as a volunteer?

During meetings, I met many members from other committees and from the various presentations, I learned a lot about the various functions of the Town Council. It gives me insights to their achievements, problems, and events. The most fulfilling thing is to be able to gain knowledge and experience. I am happy to be a Town Councillor and looking forward to representing and serving residents for many years to come.




Did You Know?


Town councillors are appointed by the Chairman, and at least two-thirds of them must be residents living in the HDB estates within Holland-Bukit Panjang town.

Edwin Pang
Bukit Timah Resident
Estate Committee



FUN FACTS:

 Works in the healthcare industry

 Enjoys giving back and treasures deeply the close friendship forged in the course of his professional and community work

What are your responsibilities as the Chairman of the Estate Committee, and what you personally hope to achieve during the term?

My role as the Chairman is to ensure that my committee can work effectively with our Town Council and managing agent to upkeep our town and fulfil our roles and responsibilities whenever possible. I personally hope that our residents will continue to enjoy a proper and clean estate during this term.

What motivates you to continue serving?

Personally, it is when I am able to contribute to an estate where neighbours can step out and enjoy the space without much concern. As a town councillor, you are enabled to directly contribute to that vision. The opportunity to be able to do a little more for my neighbourhood within our common space was a blessing. I hope that I can continue to contribute as long as I am able to.

What does Bukit Timah mean to you?

Bukit Timah is a great place for both couples looking to raise a family as well as folks in their golden years. Its a nurturing and caring community for all.



Useful Telephone Numbers

Community and Functional Services	Hotline
Essential Maintenance Service Unit (EMSU)	1800 275 5555
Animal & Veterinary Services (AVS - Cluster of NParks)	1800 476 1600
ComCare Hotline <i>under Ministry of Social and Family Development (MSF)</i>	1800 222 0000
Community Mediation Centre	1800 2255 529
HDB Car Park Enforcement / Illegal Parking	1800 338 6622
Housing & Development Board (HDB)	1800 2255 432
Land Transport Authority (LTA)	1800 2255 582
National Crime Prevention Council	1800 924 5664
National Environment Agency (NEA)	6225 5632
National Parks Board (NParks)	1800 471 7300
Non-Emergency Police Hotline	1800 255 0000
Police Emergencies Hotline	999
Public Utilities Board (PUB)	1800 2255 782
SCDF Ambulance and Fire Service Hotline	995
Neighbourhood Police Centres	
Bukit Panjang Neighbourhood Police Centre	1800 892 9999
Bukit Timah Neighbourhood Police Post	1800 468 9999
Clementi Neighbourhood Police Centre	1800 872 9999
Queenstown Neighbourhood Police Centre	1800 471 9999
Community Clubs	
Bukit Panjang Community Club	6506 0900
Bukit Timah Community Club	6466 2912
Senja-Cashew Community Club	6219 4561
Ulu Pandan Community Club	6463 7333
Zhenghua Community Club	6310 6702