

Council news round-up



Your weekly guide to the latest news

Issue 99

21 December 2018



This week's news from around the Council.

- **Be A Councillor**

The Council is holding two 'Be a Councillor' sessions in the New Year on Tuesday 8 January 2019 from 1pm to 4pm and from 5pm to 8pm for people interested in standing as a Councillor in the elections next May. During the sessions, we will explain out what the Council does, what the role of a Councillor is and the important skills that Councillors need to have. Click here to find out more and to reserve a place at either of the sessions, please contact the Elections team. Email: elections@sstaffs.gov.uk or call **01902 696231**.

- **My Account reaches 3,000**

This week, the number of My Account users exceeded its target and gained its 3000th registration. Well done to the ICT team.

- **Warmer Homes - funding now available for broken gas boilers**

Do you or anyone you know need help to replace an old or broken has boiler? Funding is available through the Council's Warmer Homes scheme so please get in touch. Funding is for South Staffordshire residents on limited household incomes with hard to heat homes or for residents who are vulnerable to the cold through ill health or age. Please apply now before the funding runs out.

Warmer Homes South Staffordshire.

Freephone **0800 193 1902** or email info@mea.org.uk

- **South Staffordshire Connect to return in January**

The South Staffordshire Connect dial-a-ride bus service will be returning to the areas of greatest demand in the district from Tuesday 15 January 2019. This local, bookable bus service will once again help many people who struggle to get out and about and it is aimed at residents who live away from regular bus routes or who find it difficult to use a standard bus.

The new Connect service will operate between 10am and 3pm on the following basis:

- **Locality 3** (Great Wyrley, Cheslyn Hay, Essington, Featherstone, Sharesill, Wedges Mills and Hilton) on Tuesdays and Fridays. This service will connect with Cannock Bus Station.
- **Locality 4** (Codsall/Bilbrook/Perton/Pattingham) on Tuesdays and Fridays.

Council news round-up



Your weekly guide to the latest news

Issue 99

21 December 2018



- **Locality 5** (Wombourne and the surrounding villages of Seisdon, Trysull, Lower Penn, Gospel End, Swindon and Himley) on Wednesdays and Thursdays.

Further information about how to access the South Staffordshire Connect service will follow shortly.

- **Leisure Centres - festive opening times**

Click [here](#) for your local South Staffordshire Leisure Centre opening times and programmes over Christmas and the New Year.

- **Green bin collections**

Green bin collections have now finished for the year and will recommence from Monday 14 January 2019. Click [here](#) to view your bin collection dates.

- **UK Youth Parliament**

Applications are now open for the 2019 Youth Parliament Elections in Staffordshire. The UK Youth Parliament provides opportunities for 11-18 year olds to encourage young people in their local area to make a difference on issues that matter to them. Four young people will be elected to represent Staffordshire at a national level and they will be in their role for one year, until February 2020. Applications close on Monday 7 January 2019.

For more information, please click [here](#).

- **Lottery's festive super draw**

Buy a lottery ticket for the South Staffordshire Community Lottery and as well as the chance to win a £25,000 jackpot you could win six 50% off tickets to see the Sleeping Beauty pantomime at Wolverhampton Grand Theatre. Play today at www.southstaffslottery.co.uk or call **01902 213777** to find out more.

- **VCSE Locality Forum - Volunteer Star Awards**

Earlier this month, the awards presentation took place for the 2018 Volunteer Star Awards - click [here](#) to see some of the pictures taken at the event. Congratulations to all the winners and thanks to our sponsors Heaven (health and beauty), Support Staffordshire, Jeremy Lefroy MP, the Co-op, Supported Futures, SCVYS, and South Staffordshire Housing Association.

Council news round-up



Your weekly guide to the latest news

Issue 99

21 December 2018



- **Coming soon - Big Energy Saving Week (21 to 28 January 2019)**

The New Year is when high winter energy bills start coming in and our Good Life Energy team is here to help residents and business check they are getting the best price for their energy and make them aware of any savings they can make. We would love Parish Councils and partners to support us by hosting our Energy Surgeries during Big Energy Saving Week, a national campaign taking place in January that encourages residents and local businesses to 'Check, Switch, Save'.

If you can host an energy bill surgery for residents or would like a no cost one-to-one energy review for your Parish or community buildings, please email the Good Life Energy team now. Email: a.munro@sstaffs.gov.uk to book a preferred location, date and time between Monday 21 January and Friday 25 January 2019.

Many residents and local businesses have already saved hundreds of pounds on their energy bills and have seen the benefits and been quick to praise the initiative. Local MP the Rt Hon. Gavin Williamson CBE gave his wholehearted support to the Good Life Energy Bill scheme earlier this year - read more at www.sstaffs.gov.uk/energy

- **Community safety advice**

When you're out shopping:

- Stay alert and be aware of what's going on around you.
- Keep valuables in your inside pockets of clothing or bags.
- Only carry the cash and cards that you need and always shield the PIN pad when entering your PIN.
- Avoid going back to your car to leave your shopping part-way through your trip. If you have to keep presents in the car, make sure they are out of view in the boot, the car is locked, and keep the receipts with you.
- Deter pickpockets and muggers. Don't overburden yourself with bags/packages. Be extra careful with purses and wallets. Always carry a purse close to your body and not dangling by the straps. Put a wallet in an inside coat or front trouser pocket, likewise with your phone and keys.
- Shopping with children? Make sure they learn to go to a store attendant or security guard if you get separated.
- Never leave your bag unattended on your trolley whilst shopping and don't leave it in your vehicle when returning your trolley.

Council news round-up



Your weekly guide to the latest news

Issue 99

21 December 2018



At home:

- Never keep large amounts of cash at home.
- Make sure you keep your doors and windows locked at all times.
- Keys should always be kept out of sight and not left in doors or in view of windows.
- Make your house look occupied; use a timer switch to operate lamps as it starts to get dark and leave a radio on.
- Don't open the door to anybody you don't recognise. Not sure? Then don't open the door.

- **5 Rating**

The following organisation has achieved a 5 Rating following its food inspection this week - Dunsley Hall Hotel in Kinver.

Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year

Remember that the Council offices will close at 12.30pm on Monday 24 December and will re-open on Wednesday 2 January 2019 at 9am

Everyone is encouraged to submit news items, please email: comms@sstaffs.gov.uk