



A REVITALISED NEE SOON TOWN

Read all about the improvement works taking place in our Town.

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CHINGAY 2015 @ NEE SOON GRC

Get ready to soak in the festive atmosphere as the Parade comes to Nee Soon this year!

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TRANSPORT ENHANCEMENTS

More reasons to celebrate as travelling just got easier for residents!

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The Nee Soon Link

义顺情缘

Rangkaian Nee Soon

நீசூன் இணைப்பு

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Paying Tribute to Our Pioneers



1,500 Pioneer Generation (PG) seniors gathered at the hard court opposite Khatib MRT station for an entertaining night of cultural performances and a seven-course dinner on Nee Soon Cultural Day 2014. The youth volunteers even went the extra mile to hand-deliver the invitation cards to the PG seniors, welcoming them to partake in the activities organised by the five Youth Executive Committees (YECs) of Nee Soon GRC. Our MPs were also present to show their support for this meaningful event. Flip to the next page to read all about the youths' involvement in this event!

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Let the Action Do the Talking

Known for her swift responses to emails, The Nee Soon Link received an almost instantaneous “Sure!” response quickly followed by “Sat, 10.30am?” and an SMS: “Blk 848 coffee shop – another interview earlier too” from Dr Lee Bee Wah when approached for an interview.

During the session, at least ten residents came over to talk to her. Clearly, the Vice-Chairman of Nee Soon Town Council keeps her weekends occupied. Here are excerpts from our chat...

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Paying Tribute to Our Pioneers



Experiences of the Youths

Many of the youth volunteers present at Nee Soon Cultural Day 2014 acknowledged that Singapore's achievements today are the results of our pioneers who paved the way ahead. Ms Ng Jing Rong, 20, of Nee Soon East Community Centre (CC) YEC, shared that "As Singapore celebrates SG50, I thought it is a nice gesture for us — the descendants who benefited from their hard work and contributions — to show our appreciation."

Some admitted sheepishly to the lack of experience in interacting and engaging the elderly. Their inability to speak dialect was also a barrier to communication. Mr Leon Pay, 27, of Nee Soon South CC said he was not "too fluent in Hokkien", and he does not understand any other dialects. Fortunately other volunteers were present to help. He also improvised by using a mixture of English and Chinese to talk to the PG seniors present. Contrary to Leon's expectations, the conversations flowed freely and there was no lack of common topics or interests.

When it came to the operational details of the event, careful attention was paid. For example, buses were hired to commute the elderly to the venue and back. There was much coordination work. Mr Wong Jin Fong, 23, of Nee Soon East CC YEC said, "A lot of time was spent on planning ... and bringing the elderly to the event venue without creating traffic congestion". Jing Rong recounted having to borrow a wheelchair for an elderly woman who was unable to stand for long, and accompanied her all the way, from waiting for the bus, to boarding it.

These acts of thoughtfulness did not go unnoticed. Mr Saion Bin Shariff, 67, a resident of Nee Soon South said, "I'm heartened to receive the invitation from the volunteers. They came and approached me at my home and shared details of the event. They even arranged transport for me." Mdm Seetoh Lai Keen, 72, of Nee Soon East quipped, "The youth are very friendly, and one of them even spoke to me in dialect for me to understand the details of the event better."

As a ground up initiative spearheaded by the youths in Nee Soon, Ms Yvonne Chia, 25, Chairman of Nee Soon South CC YEC summed up the event's significance: "Life's greatest joys stem from being grateful for the people around you. When you look back to see [how far] you have come, you acknowledge the achievements [of our pioneers and] continue to help the next generation to grow and prosper."

向建国一代致敬

义顺文化日2014当天，1,500位建国一代年长者齐聚卡迪地铁站对面的硬地场所，一同欣赏文化艺术表演，享用七道美味佳肴，欢度美好愉快的一夜。这项由义顺集选区属下五个青年执行委员会联合举办的活动，更是得到青少年志愿者的热情参与，亲自将请柬送到受邀的建国一代年长者手上。本区诸位国会议员也莅临现场，以实际行动支持本次盛会。

青少年表达感激之情

许多出席义顺文化日2014活动的青少年志愿者都同意，新加坡之所以能取得今时今日的成就，必须归功于建国一代辛勤付出所打下的基础。来自义顺东民众俱乐部的黄靖融（女，20岁）说：“前人的刻苦耕耘、努力付出让我们这一代受益不浅。我想，今年正值我国迎来SG50（新加坡独立50周年），也是我们表达谢意的最佳时机。”

有些志愿者腼腆地承认，自己很少和年长者打交道，不通方言更是妨碍他们和年长者交流的其中一个因素。义顺南民众俱乐部的白仰泰（男，27岁）就表示自己福建话不太流利，也不懂得其他方言，幸好有在场的志愿者给他伸出援手。亏他脑筋动得快，参杂使用英语和华语，跟其他出席的建国一代交谈。出乎他的意料，谈话不但进展顺利，还发现大家其实都有很多的共同话题和兴趣呢！

举办方对活动的各项细节更是处处留心、毫不马虎。租用巴士载送年长者往返活动地点就是一个例子。这里头可得花不少心思来协调，正如义顺东民众俱乐部的黄锦丰（男，23岁）所说：“我们在策划方面下了不少功夫，在载送年长者到活动地点的同时，还考虑到如何避免交通堵塞。”靖融还说起当天，有位老太太没办法长时间站着，她就帮忙借来轮椅，还陪着老太太一起等巴士，最后送老太太上了车。

志愿者的贴心，让人深受感动。义顺南居民Saion Bin Shariff（男，67岁）就说道：“从他们手上接过请柬的一刻，我心里充满了温暖。他们不但亲自上门拜访，还热心介绍了活动详情，甚至帮忙安排了来回交通。”住在义顺东的司徒太太（女，72岁）也觉得年轻朋友们都很友善，其中一个还用方言给她讲解，让她更清楚活动的内容。

对于这一次由义顺青少年策划主办的活动，我们引用义顺南民众俱乐部青年执行委员会主席谢瑗郡（女，25岁）所说的话作为总结。“对身边的人怀抱感恩的心，是人生最大的快乐。回首来时路，我们除了要感念前人的付出和汗水，也必须承先启后，扶助新一代，让他们得以茁壮成长。”



Let the Action Do the Talking

Nee Soon Link (NSL): Good morning Dr Lee. You have many labels – “Feisty”, “Bulldozer”, “Fighter” etc. But you are also a trained engineer, a politician, a mother and daughter. Who is the real Dr Lee Bee Wah? What defines her?

Lee Bee Wah (LBW): I think it is a combination and it depends on the situation. A group of NUS final year civil engineering students just interviewed me, as their senior, and as an engineer. But they also know I’m a politician, so they asked me about policy development in the construction industry as well. In the community, I’m a problem solver and a voice of residents. At home, I am a wife, mother and daughter. I don’t think the labels can be separated. It reflects the different roles we play in life.

NSL: You are known for pushing many new ideas. Does it upset those who have to implement them?

LBW: I focus on the outcome. I do it for the good of residents and not to benefit myself. I think we have individuals who can see that. In fact, members of the civil service tell me that despite me being aggressive, they enjoy working with me. Together, we get things done fast and they see how they are benefiting the residents. It motivates them to be part of the team and their job is meaningful.

NSL: Do you worry that everyone comes to you expecting to solve their problems?

LBW: I am an MP, and I should be the voice of my residents. I am happy to champion causes for people because I feel it is the right thing to do. If they don’t come to me, that’s when I worry. When someone comes to me with their problems, I take it positively and try my best. But if it cannot be done, I don’t want to sugarcoat the situation. I will tell my residents honestly it cannot be done.

NSL: But it means you might say things that make people unhappy?

LBW: It is not necessary to say things just to make people happy but cannot deliver. Be sincere, passionate and residents will know. Let the action do the talking. Deliver the goods. Get the problem solved. I connect with residents, use Facebook for feedback. Some residents offer good ideas. I want residents to be able to contribute to part of the solution. Everyone can have a say.

NSL: You are very vocal in Parliament. What are some of the significant issues you remember?

LBW: I fought four years in Parliament for the lift connecting the overhead walkway to Khatib MRT station before I succeeded.

There was also a six-month deferment on car ownership curbs to allow second-hand car dealers to clear their stock. Another was a long covered walkway from Blk 858 all the way to the MRT which I remember because I had to deal with so many agencies involved. I also tabled a motion on cleanliness. These are all concerns my residents raised. But, of course, as an MP, you need to do your homework as well. Parliament is not just a talk show. As an MP, you need to do your ground work, and go in with substantiated evidence.

NSL: Dr Lee, tell us more about your growing up years.

LBW: My parents were rubber tappers and I am the eldest among seven siblings. I would tap rubber every morning before going to school. To support myself, I would tutor kids in the village and sell some stationery in school. We worked very hard and had to find our own ways to survive. I think it’s due to it that I developed this “never-say die attitude”. It is also the reason why I put extra effort to help children from low-income families gain better education. I believe education is the best way out of the poverty cycle.

NSL: How did that background influence what you do today?

LBW: I distribute rice at MPS. Growing up, we would return home after classes to see if there was porridge. If there was, then we look for soy sauce. But if there was no porridge, it meant we had to wait for dinner. This is why I distribute rice at MPS. I want families to at least have three meals a day.

I mentioned education. Once I was at the MND carpark and a young man ran after me. “Ms Lee, do you remember me?” After we spoke, I recalled. He was an ITE student who needed help to enter Polytechnic. So I gathered all the data, put my case to the Polytechnic, and he got in. Of course, he had to qualify for entry first. I just facilitated. Today, he interns at one of the offices in MND building.

Another would be our national sprinter and hurdler, Dipna. She couldn’t get into NTU because of some administrative errors. I gather the information, went to all the channels to check and found out the mistake along the way. Dipna was eventually accepted and graduated from NTU in 2010.

When it comes to education or three meals, I don’t give up trying to help those who deserve it.

NSL: Why did you choose engineering?

LBW: I was influenced by my A-levels Math

teacher. He wanted to be an engineer but was too poor. Engineering was a four-year course, while Mathematics was three. So I worked very hard to support myself for university. I gave tuition and earned about \$700 a month; enough to pay the fees and I gave my parents the rest.

I entered engineering with the ambition of helping improve things for people and thinking ahead of future needs. Look at childcare centres. When the new BTOs were built, I prompted MND to build the infrastructure for childcare centres as well. We can’t wait until people move in before we decide to build one – there will be a time lag. So we had childcare centres for Blocks 446 and 448, and 423 and 425. This is where my training helped.

NSL: What motivates you to continue in your work?

LBW: I was diagnosed with colon cancer in 2003. I am fortunate to be fully cured, but it was a wake-up call. What I have today is significantly better than that in my childhood days. I am contented. Now, it is time for me to give back.

I have an exceptionally supportive family. They know I enjoy what I do, and my husband has been my pillar of strength. My residents have been giving me overwhelming encouragement. At the end of the day, my conscience is clear and I am clear about what I am doing. I am able to help my residents with their support and with my family’s support.

NSL: What does Dr Lee Bee Wah want to be remembered for?

LBW: Best MP! Not that I want it to be a comparison. But I want it to be my personal benchmark. I want to be remembered as someone who looks after us, someone whom you can confide in, and someone whom you can relate to. I want to contribute positively and always do my best!



Biar Tindakan Yang Menguturkan Kata

Terkenal dengan respon beliau yang pantas kepada emel, Nee Soon Link menerima respon "Sudah tentu!" hampir serta-merta diikuti dengan cepat oleh "Sabtu, 10.30 pagi?" dan SMS, "Kedai kopi blok 848 – satu lagi temubual awal sebelumnya juga" daripada Er. Dr Lee Bee Wah ketika dihubungi untuk temubual.

Semasa temubual kami, sekurang-kurangnya 10 orang penduduk datang untuk bercakap dengannya. Jelas sekali, Naib Pengurus Majlis Perbandaran Nee Soon ini sibuk pada hari hujung minggu beliau. Berikut adalah petikan daripada perbualan kami:

Nee Soon Link (NSL): Selamat pagi Dr. Lee. Anda mempunyai banyak label – ‘Berani’, ‘Jentolak’, ‘Pejuang’ dan sebagainya. Tetapi anda juga seorang jurutera yang terlatih, ahli politik, ibu dan anak. Siapakah Dr Lee Bee Wah yang sebenarnya? Apakah yang mendefinasikannya?

Lee Bee Wah (LBW): Saya rasa ia adalah satu gabungan dan ia bergantung kepada keadaan. Sekumpulan pelajar kejuruteraan awam tahun akhir Universiti Nasional Singapura (NUS) baru sahaja menemubual saya, sebagai senior mereka, dan sebagai seorang jurutera. Tetapi mereka juga tahu saya adalah seorang ahli politik, maka mereka bertanya kepada saya tentang pembangunan dasar dalam industri pembinaan juga. Dalam masyarakat, saya adalah seorang penyelesaian masalah dan suara penduduk. Di rumah, saya adalah seorang isteri, ibu dan anak. Saya tidak fikir label ini boleh dipisahkan. Ia mencerminkan peranan yang berbeza yang kita mainkan dalam kehidupan.

NSL: Anda terkenal kerana mengetengahkan banyak idea-idea baru. Adakah ia membuatkan mereka yang harus melaksanakannya berasa tidak puas hati?

LBW: Saya fokus kepada hasilnya. Saya melakukannya demi kebaikan para penduduk dan bukan untuk manfaat diri saya sendiri. Saya rasa kita mempunyai individu yang dapat melihat perkara tersebut. Malahan, para anggota perkhidmatan awam memberitahu saya bahawa walaupun agresif, mereka seronok bekerja dengan saya. Bersama-sama, kami melaksanakan tugas dengan pantas dan mereka melihat bagaimana ianya memberikan manfaat kepada penduduk. Ia mendorong mereka untuk menjadi sebahagian daripada pasukan dan tugas mereka menjadi bermakna.

NSL: Adakah anda khawatir bahawa semua orang datang bertemu anda mengharapkan untuk menyelesaikan masalah mereka?

LBW: Saya adalah seorang Anggota Parlimen, dan saya perlu menjadi suara penduduk saya. Saya gembira untuk memperjuangkan tujuan dan hak mereka kerana saya rasa ia adalah perkara yang betul untuk dilakukan. Jika mereka tidak datang kepada saya, itulah masanya saya akan merasa bimbang. Apabila seseorang datang kepada saya dengan masalah mereka, saya mengambilnya secara positif dan cuba melakukan yang terbaik. Tetapi jika ianya tidak dapat dilakukan, saya tidak mahu memberikan gambaran manis bagi keadaan. Saya akan memberitahu penduduk saya secara jujur bahawa ianya tidak dapat dilakukan.

NSL: Tetapi itu bermakna anda mungkin mengatakan perkara-perkara yang membuat orang tidak gembira?

LBW: Tidak perlu untuk mengatakan sesuatu hanya untuk membuat orang gembira tetapi tidak dapat menyelesaiannya. Bersikap ikhlas, bersemangat dan penduduk akan tahu. Biarkan tindakan yang berkata-kata. Kotakan apa yang dijanjikan. Selesaikan masalah. Saya berhubung dengan penduduk, menggunakan Facebook untuk mendapatkan maklum balas. Sesetengah penduduk memberikan idea-idea yang baik. Saya mahu penduduk agar dapat menyumbang kepada sebahagian daripada penyelesaian. Semua orang boleh menyuarakan pendapat.

NSL: Anda lantang bersuara di Parlimen. Apakah isu-isu penting yang dapat anda ingat?

LBW: Saya berjuang selama empat tahun di Parlimen untuk lif yang menghubungkan laluan jejak batu tersebut MRT Khatib sebelum saya berjaya. Terdapat juga penangguhan enam bulan ke atas sekatan pemilikan kereta bagi membolehkan peniaga kereta terpakai untuk menghabiskan bekalan mereka. Satu

lagi adalah laluan pejalan kaki berbumbung yang panjang dari Blok 858 langsung ke MRT yang saya ingat kerana saya terpaksa berhadapan dengan begitu banyak agensi yang terlibat. Saya juga membentangkan usul berkenaan kebersihan. Ini semua merupakan keprihatinan yang penduduk saya bangkitkan. Tetapi sudah tentu, sebagai seorang Anggota Parlimen, anda perlu melakukan kerja rumah anda juga. Parlimen bukan sekadar pertunjukan bual bicara. Sebagai seorang Anggota Parlimen, anda perlu melakukan persediaan asas anda, dan menjalankan tugas dengan bukti yang disokong.

NSL: Dr Lee, beritahu kami lebih lanjut tentang tahun-tahun anda membesar.

LBW: Ibu bapa saya adalah penoreh getah dan saya adalah anak sulung di antara tujuh orang adik-beradik. Saya akan menoreh getah setiap pagi sebelum pergi ke sekolah. Untuk menyara diri saya sendiri, saya akan mengajar kanak-kanak di kampung dan menjual alat tulis di sekolah. Kami bekerja keras dan terpaksa mencari jalan sendiri untuk terus hidup. Saya fikir disebabkan itulah saya membina sikap "jangan pernah putus asa" ini. Ia juga adalah sebab mengapa saya memberikan usaha yang lebih untuk membantu kanak-kanak daripada keluarga berpendapatan rendah mendapatkan pendidikan yang lebih baik. Saya percaya pendidikan adalah cara terbaik untuk keluar daripada kitaran kemiskinan.

NSL: Bagaimanakah latar belakang tersebut mempengaruhi apa yang anda lakukan pada hari ini?

LBW: Saya mengagihkan beras di Sesi Bertemu Rakyat (MPS). Semasa membesar, kami akan pulang ke rumah selepas kelas untuk melihat jika ada bubur. Jika ada, kami akan mencari kicap. Tetapi jika tidak ada bubur, ia bermakna kami terpaksa menunggu sehingga waktu makan malam. Inilah sebabnya mengapa saya mengagihkan beras di MPS. Saya mahu setiap keluarga untuk dapat makan sekurang-kurangnya tiga kali sehari.

Saya ada sebutkan tentang pendidikan. Pernah pada suatu masa, saya berada di tempat meletak kereta Kementerian Pembangunan Negara (MND) dan seorang lelaki muda mengejar saya. "Cik Lee, adakah anda ingat saya?" Selepas kami bercakap, saya teringat. Dia adalah seorang pelajar Institut Pendidikan Teknikal (ITE) yang memerlukan bantuan untuk memasuki Politeknik. Jadi saya mengumpulkan semua data, mengemukakan kes saya kepada Politeknik, dan dia diterima masuk. Sudah tentu dia harus memenuhi syarat untuk kemasukan dahulu. Saya hanya memudahkan urusan. Hari ini, dia adalah seorang pelatih di salah sebuah pejabat di bangunan MND.

Seorang lagi merupakan pelari pecut dan lari berpagar negara kita, Dipna. Dia tidak dapat memasuki Universiti Teknologi Nanyang (NTU) disebabkan beberapa



kesilapan pentadbiran. Saya mengumpulkan maklumat, pergi ke semua saluran untuk memeriksa dan dalam pada itu menemukan kesilapannya. Dipna akhirnya diterima dan lulus dari NTU pada tahun 2010.

Apabila ia menyentuh tentang pendidikan atau makan tiga kali sehari, saya tidak berputus asa untuk cuba membantu mereka yang layak menerima.

NSL: Mengapa anda memilih kejuruteraan?

LBW: Saya telah dipengaruhi oleh guru Matematik peringkat A saya. Beliau ingin menjadi seorang jurutera tetapi terlalu miskin. Kejuruteraan merupakan kursus empat tahun, manakala Matematik adalah tiga. Jadi saya bekerja keras bagi menyara diri saya untuk universiti. Saya memberi tuisyen dan mendapat kira-kira \$700 sebulan; cukup untuk membayar yuran dan saya berikan ibu bapa saya yang selebihnya.

Saya memasuki kejuruteraan dengan cita-cita untuk membantu memperbaiki perkara untuk orang dan berfikir ke hadapan bagi keperluan di masa hadapan. Lihat pusat penjagaan kanak-kanak. Apabila flat-flat Bina-Ikut-Tempahan (BTO) dibina, saya mendorong MND supaya membina infrastruktur bagi pusat-pusat penjagaan kanak-kanak juga. Kita tidak boleh menunggu sehingga orang berpindah masuk sebelum kita membuat keputusan untuk membina sebuah - akan terdapat jarak masa. Maka, kita mempunyai pusat-pusat penjagaan kanak-kanak untuk Blok 446 dan 448, dan 423 dan 425. Inilah masa di mana latihan saya telah membantu.

NSL: Apakah yang mendorong anda untuk terus dalam pekerjaan anda?

LBW: Saya telah didiagnosis dengan barah usus besar pada tahun 2003. Saya bernasib baik kerana telah sembah sepenuhnya, tetapi ia adalah satu panggilan yang mengejutkan. Apa yang saya punyai pada hari ini, adalah jauh lebih baik daripada zaman kanak-kanak saya. Saya berasa puas. Kini, sudah tiba masanya untuk saya memberi kembali.

Saya mempunyai keluarga yang sangat menyokong. Mereka tahu saya suka apa yang saya lakukan, dan suami saya merupakan tunggak kekuatan saya. Para penduduk saya telah memberikan saya dorongan yang amat menggalakkan. Pada akhirnya, suara hati saya adalah jelas dan saya jelas tentang apa yang saya lakukan. Saya dapat membantu penduduk saya dengan sokongan mereka dan dengan sokongan keluarga saya.

NSL: Bagi apakah Dr. Lee Bee Wah ingin diri beliau diingati?

LBW: MP Terbaik! Bukanlah saya ingin ia menjadi satu perbandingan. Tetapi saya mahu ia menjadi penanda aras peribadi bagi diri saya. Saya ingin diingati sebagai seseorang yang menjaga kita, seseorang yang anda boleh mengadukan hal, dan seseorang yang anda rasa dapat memahami anda. Saya ingin menyumbang secara positif dan sentiasa melakukan yang terbaik!



以行动来证明一切

李美花博士向来对于回复电邮都非常迅速。义顺情缘 (The Nee Soon Link) 向李博士要求进行访问时得到了她即时的回应。她很豪爽地立即通过电邮和简讯个别与我们敲定了星期六，早上10点30分于第848座的咖啡店见面。

访问期间，至少有10名居民走过来与她聊天。这位义顺市镇理事会的副主席显然是把她的周末档期排得相当紧密。以下是我们的访谈摘要：

义顺情缘：李博士，您好！您有很多称号，如勇者、积极、战士等。可是，您也是一名训练有素的工程师、政治家、母亲和女儿。哪一个身份才是真正的您？李美花博士的生活是由什么来定义的？

李美花：我想我的身份是结合了不同角色的一个综合人物，而什么时候扮演哪个角色将由情况而定。我刚以学姐和工程师的身份接受了一组新加坡国立大学（国大）的最后一年土木工程系学生的访问。可是，他们也知道我同时也是名政治家，所以他们也顺便向我讨教了一些有关建筑行业的政策发展动向。在社区内，我替大家解决问题，并代表着居民的心声。在家中，我是名妻子、母亲和女儿。我不觉得这些标签可以分别而论，因为它们反映了我们在生活中所扮演的不同角色。

义顺情缘：您一向以踊跃推出新事项见称。这是否会使实行者懊恼呢？

李美花：我只关注成果。我是为居民的利益而行，不是为了自己的利益。我相信有许多人是很清楚这点的。事实上，有许多公务员都告诉我说尽管我有时会气势汹汹，他们都很享受与我共事。我们齐心协力才能很快地把事项办好，并见证居民如何从中获益。这个过程激发我的团员，让他们觉得他们的工作是非常有意义的。

义顺情缘：您会担心每一位来找您的人都要求您帮助他们解决问题吗？

李美花：我是名国会议员，应当代表居民的心声。我很庆幸能为人民倡导事项，因为这是正确的。如果居民不来找我，我才担心。当别人来找我为他们解决问题时，我会积极看待，并尽心处理。如果我做不到，我也不想多加掩饰。我会很坦白地告诉我的居民我办不到。

义顺情缘：可是，这是否意味着您会说些让人不悦的话？

李美花：我认为不一定要说些取悦他人的话，而终究却不能兑现承诺。做人应该诚恳和热情。居民都能够见证，他们会知道的。我喜欢以行动来证明一切。向居民兑现承诺，为他们解决问题。我常利用面簿 (Facebook) 与居民联系，征询他们的反馈意见。有些居民倒是提出很好的意见。我希望居民都能一起贡献问题的解决方案。这样一来，大家都能有发表自己意愿的权利。

义顺情缘：您在国会非常善于发言。您还记得您曾经针对哪些重要课题发言吗？

李美花：我曾在国会为搭建一个连接卡迪地铁站有盖走道的电梯，提倡了4年。我还为二手车商倡导推行6个月汽车拥有权的延期来让他们有更多时间清货。还有另一事项是有关搭建一条从第858座延伸至地铁站的很长的有盖走道。我记得当时我为了此事需要与许多机构接触。除此之外，我还发表了有关洁净的议案。这些都是我的居民所提出的课题。当然，身为一名国会议员，你也应该做好本分。国会不是个演讲表演。身为国会议员的我们必须做好基层的调查工作，再将相关的证据呈献于国会。

义顺情缘：李博士，请与我们分享一些关于您成长岁月的点滴。

李美花：我的父母都是割胶工人，而我是7个兄弟姐妹当中最年长的。我每天早上上学前都会帮父母割胶。为了维持自己的生计，我还帮村里的孩童补习和在学校卖些文具。我们都很努力工作，并必须自谋生存之道。我觉得我是因此而练就这种“不向困难低头的态度”。这也是我为何那么积极帮助低收入家庭，让他们有机会接受更好的教育的原因。我相信教育是帮助人们摆脱贫苦困境的最佳途径。

义顺情缘：您的背景如何影响您今天的行为？

李美花：我在接见选民会上派米。我以往每次下课后，都会回家看是否有粥喝。如果有，我们会找酱油来配粥。如果没有，这表示我们必须等到晚餐才有饭吃。这就是我在接见选民会派米的原因。我希望让这些家庭能够每日至少3餐温饱。

刚才我提到教育。有一次，我在国家发展部的停车场内遇到一名年轻人。他问我：“李女士，您还记得我吗？”我们交谈后，我才想起原来他是一名需要帮助进入理工学院的工艺教育学院学生。为了他的事项，我收集了所有的数据，再呈献给理工学院，帮助他顺利获得进入理工学院就读的机会。当然，他必须靠自己的实力合格录取，而我也只是顺水推舟。今天，他成为国家发展部大厦中的其中一名实习生。

另一位是我们的国家短跑和跨栏健将宁娜 (Dipna)。她因一些行政上的错误，而不能进入南洋理工大学。我收集了资料，再通过不同管道，才发现到错误。宁娜 (Dipna) 最终被大学录取，并于2010年从南洋理工大学毕业。

不论是教育或三餐温饱等课题，我都绝对会不遗余力地帮助那些值得帮助的人。

义顺情缘：您为何会选择修读工程系？

李美花：我是受了我的A水准数学老师的影响。他一心想要当名工程师，却因太穷而无法圆梦。工程系是个为期4年的课程，而数学系却只需要3年。因此，我非常努力地工作，支付自己的大学学费。我教补习，每月赚取\$700。这些钱足够我支付我的学费，而其余的我就把它交给父母。

我修读工程系是希望能帮助人们改善生活，并为将来规划。你看托儿所就好。当预购组屋建成后，我提议国家发展部同时为居民兴建托儿所。我们不能等到居民搬入屋内才兴建，因为那就太迟了。因此，我们为第446、448、423和425座组屋提供了托儿所。这就是我以往所受培训有益之处的例子。

义顺情缘：您在工作上的推动力是什么？

李美花：我于2003年被确诊患上结肠癌。我很庆幸能痊愈，可我也从中得到启发。比起我小时候的生活，我现今所拥有的一切绝对是有过之而无不及。我很满足，所以希望能回馈社会。

我有一个非常支持我的家庭。他们知道我享受我的工作，而我的先生则是我的精神支柱。我的居民给予我非常大的鼓励。我问心无愧，很清楚自己在做什么。我在居民和家人的支持下，有能力帮助我的居民，为他们谋利。

义顺情缘：您希望人们如何纪念李美花博士？

李美花：最佳国会议员！我不是想与他人比较。我只希望这能成为我个人的基准。我希望人们心中的李美花是位照顾大家利益，能谈心，以及让人产生共鸣的人。我要积极为居民贡献，并定当全力以赴！



Keep Fit the Fun Way

Despite the light rain, participants of the Passion North Run 2014, held on 18 October, were in high spirits on that day. At the flag-off point, a sea of happy and excited faces greeted our MPs of Nee Soon GRC. Some of the participants were from neighbouring countries such as Malaysia and Philippines, as well as further regions like Hong Kong, China, Kenya, Nepal and the United States. As Mdm Ong Guat Lang, 84, and Anaqi Syazwan Bin Mohamed Asfahr, 2, would attest, age was definitely not a deterrent to joining in the run, and fun! A Halloween-themed carnival held at the end point of the run added to the festive atmosphere of the event.



Launch of the Elderly Fitness Corner

Our MP for Nee Soon GRC, Assoc Prof Muhammad Faishal Ibrahim launched a new elderly fitness corner at Block 633, Yishun Street 61. The fitness corner offers a broad range of equipment.

Speaking to the Nee Soon Link, Mdm Ang Siu Kee, 68, said she exercises daily from 6.30 to 8.00am in the morning. She enjoys brisk walking as well as doing *xiang gong* (a form of *Qi Gong*) with her friends. The fitness corner will provide a community space for elderly residents like Mdm Ang to keep fit and forge new friendships with those living near them.





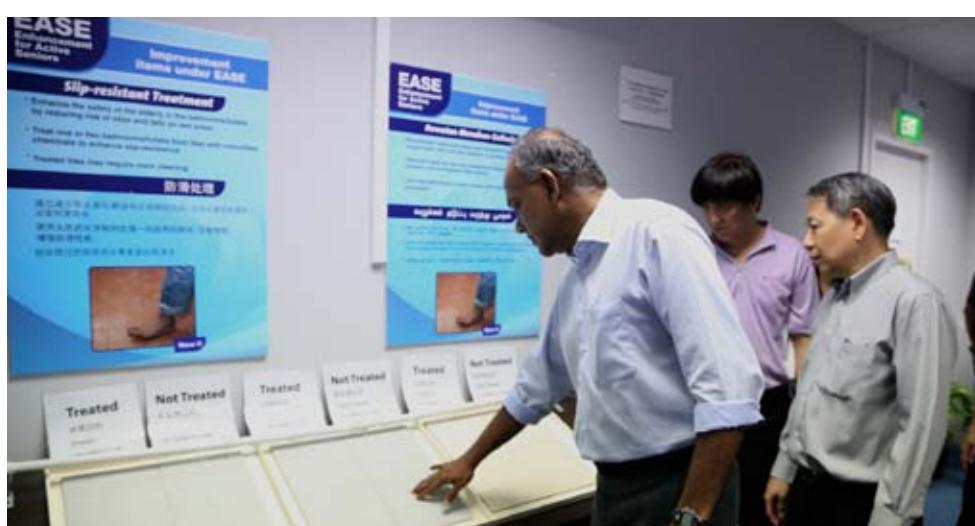
Working Towards a Revitalised Nee Soon Town

Neighbourhood Renewal Programme Enhancement

Nee Soon Town is being revitalised! Through the Neighbourhood Renewal Programme (NRP), block and precinct improvements continue throughout Nee Soon.

Active engagement of our residents are key to the NRP's implementation. 75% of eligible flat owners in the neighbourhood have to support the programme through a poll before works are carried out. You make it happen!

And there's more. On 10 September 2014, it was announced that the programme would be enhanced. More flats and more budget will be made to cover an expanded scope of work in the financial year 2015. 100,000 more flats throughout Singapore can expect to benefit from the programme.



Home Improvement Programme

Facing maintenance issues such as spalling concrete and leaking water pipes in older flats? Say yes to the Home Improvement Programme (HIP) when your block qualifies for it. The HIP is a highly subsidised programme by the Government to help flat owners deal with such matters at a low cost.

Optional improvements are also available to make homes safer for our elderly through the Enhancement for Active Seniors (EASE) programme. Flat owners living with elderly relatives can choose to install items such as grab bars, or opt to have slip-resistant treatment for the floor tiles of their toilet.

All of these benefits were explained by our MP for Nee Soon GRC, Minister K Shanmugam when he visited residents of Blocks 112 to 120 at a recent HIP polling exercise.

Ms Sri Heyriani Mohb Omar, 29, was visibly excited when she heard about the news. She said, "If we were to do it on our own, it would be quite costly... I feel that it's quite affordable and I don't need to take out a single cent from my own cash [reserve] and I can pay by CPF." She is looking forward to replace her current squat toilet with a toilet bowl, which will be safer and more comfortable for her six-year-old daughter to use.

SG 50 狂艺 CHINGAY @ Nee Soon GRC

28 March 2015

"Most of the time, we admire the splendour of Chingay floats through TV screens. In 2015, we bring the floats to the Nee Soon GRC heartlands for residents to see up close and personal. This will be the first time Chingay @ Heartlands is organised in Nee Soon GRC. Fringe carnivals and events will also be held for all to join in. Don't miss it!"

Mr Jack Soh, JP, BBM
Organising Chairman (SG50 Chingay @ Nee Soon GRC)

Organised by Nee Soon GRC



#ChingayNeeSoonGRC



<https://www.facebook.com/sg50chingaynsgrc>



sg50chingay.nsgrc@gmail.com

Canberra

Destination Time: 6:40 PM*

Roads utilized in route:

Sembawang Drive/ Admiralty Drive/
Admiralty Link/ Canberra Road/
Admiralty Lane

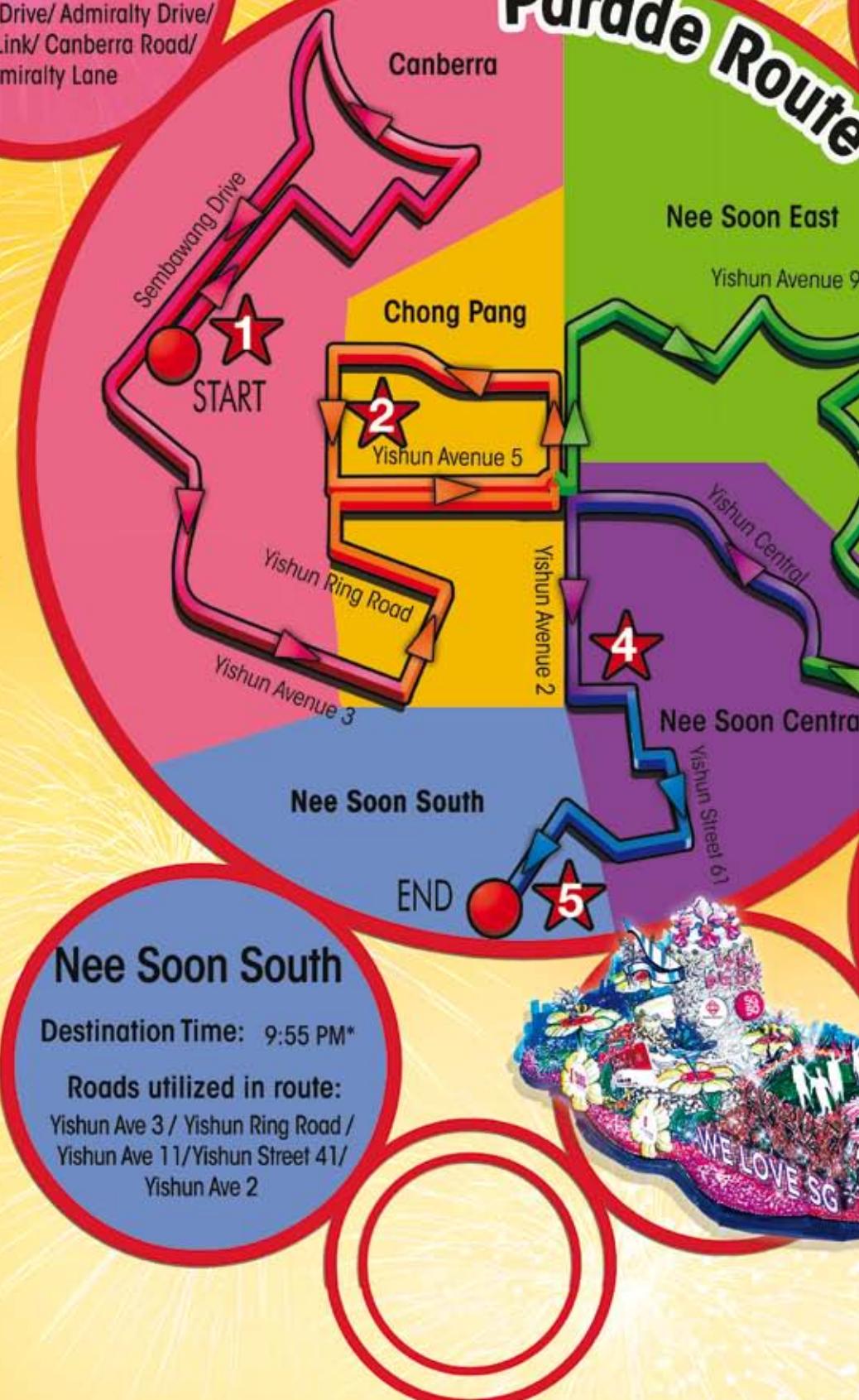


Chong Pang

Destination Time: 7:40 PM*

Roads utilized in route:

Sembawang Road / Yishun Ave 3 /
Yishun Ave 5 / Yishun Ave 2 /
Yishun Ring Road



Nee Soon South

Destination Time: 9:55 PM*

Roads utilized in route:

Yishun Ave 3 / Yishun Ring Road /
Yishun Ave 11/Yishun Street 41/
Yishun Ave 2

Chingay 2015

Event Highlights: Featuring Variety Shows and Exciting Performances !



1 Canberra Community Day 2015 & SG50 Chingay @ Canberra

Location:

Open space in front of Blk 319, Blk 320 & Blk 341 Sembawang Close

Time: 2.00pm – 7.00pm



2 Chong Pang Chingay Nite 2015

Location:

Open field in front of Blk 126 Yishun St 11

Time: 6.30pm – 9.00pm



3 Nee Soon East Celebrates SG50 Chingay

Location:

Field opposite Blk 336A Yishun St 31

Time: 7.30pm – 9.30pm



4 SG50 Chingay @ Nee Soon Central

Location:

Open field opposite Yishun Swimming Complex (along Yishun Ave 2)

Time: 7.30pm – 10.00pm



5 SG50 Chingay @ Nee Soon South

Location:

Opposite Khatib Mrt

Time: 7.30pm – 10.30pm

Thousands of residents soak in the atmosphere of Chingay each year.

The ever-colourful Parade, put together by the People's Association, earmarks the Chinese New Year celebrations with an explosive procession. Celebrations in recent years saw the parade held at the F1 Pit Building.

While Singaporeans and visitors alike enjoy the spectacle of mobile floats on display this February, residents in Nee Soon GRC can look forward to getting close to the action as the floats of Chingay 2015 make their way to the heartlands of Yishun.

Some residents expressed their excitement for the upcoming event. “This is brilliant!” exclaimed Mr Chin, a resident of Chong Pang. “Children and adults will enjoy the view and this will also let friends interact and take photos”. Another resident, Mdm Salmah enthused, “The Chingay procession brings members of various communities together. I’m definitely looking forward!”

The inaugural Chingay @ Nee Soon GRC will be held on 28 March 2015.

Organising Chairman, Mr Jack Soh shared, “Most of the time, we admire the splendour of Chingay floats through TV screens. In 2015, we bring the floats to the Nee Soon GRC heartlands for residents to see up close and personal. This will be the first time Chingay @ Heartlands is organised in Nee Soon GRC. Fringe carnivals and events will also be held for all to join in.” Mr Jack encourages residents not to miss it.

Let's look forward to SG50 Chingay @ Nee Soon GRC!

Two New Bus Services 811P and 812P for Residents in Yishun



**Bringing You
More Buses, Better Rides**

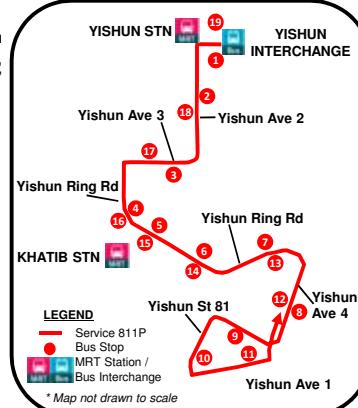
Peak Period Short Service

811P

New Peak Period Short Service from Tuesday, 20 Jan 2015

新高峰时段短程巴士路线从2015年1月20日(星期二)起开始穿行

- Overlaid on Service 811, Service 811P will ply between Yishun Interchange / MRT Station and Yishun Ave 1 (via Yishun Ave 2, Ave 3, Ring Rd, Ave 4 and St 81) to better serve residents' travelling needs
- Operates during weekday peak hours (exclude Public Holidays)
 - Morning Peak: 6.00am to 8.00am
 - Evening Peak: 6.00pm to 8.00pm
- Service 811P will charge distance fares, similar to Service 811
- 为了迎合居民的乘车需求,路线811P号将与811号支线平行,穿行于义顺转换站/地铁站与义顺1道之间(途经义顺2道,3道,环路,4道和81街)
- 于周一至周五(公共假期除外)的繁忙时段穿行:
 - 早晨繁忙时段: 6时至8时
 - 傍晚繁忙时段: 6时至8时
- 路线811P号的车资与811号支线相似,两者都按距离收费



* Map not drawn to scale

Yishun Interchange to Yishun Avenue 1 (Loop)

Road Name	Bus Stop Description	Bus Stop No.
① Yishun Ave 2	Yishun Interchange	59008
② Yishun Ave 2	Opposite Blk 757	59069
③ Yishun Ave 3	Blk 776	59339
④ Yishun Ring Rd	Blk 794	59321
⑤ Yishun Ring Rd	Blk 798	59561
⑥ Yishun Ring Rd	Blk 624	59421
⑦ Yishun Ring Rd	Blk 630	59431
⑧ Yishun Ave 4	Opposite Naval Base Primary School	59449
⑨ Yishun St 81	Blk 873	59481
⑩ Yishun St 81	Orchid Park Condo	59499
⑪ Yishun Ave 1	Blk 871	59501
⑫ Yishun Ave 4	Naval Base Primary School	59441
⑬ Yishun Ring Rd	Blk 858	59439
⑭ Yishun Ring Rd	Blk 846	59429
⑮ Yishun Ring Rd	Opposite Blk 798	59569
⑯ Yishun Ring Rd	Naval Base Secondary School	59329
⑰ Yishun Ave 3	Blk 773	59331
⑱ Yishun Ave 2	Blk 763	59061
⑲ Yishun Ave 2	Yishun Interchange	59009

For more information, please call Bus-Plus Services Pte Ltd's hotline at 6556 3246 from Monday to Friday (excluding Public Holidays), 7am to 7pm, or email us at feedback@busplus.com.sg

有关巴士路线询问,请拨打热线 6556 3246 |j|Bus-Plus 客户联系中心热线联络,或发电邮到 feedback@busplus.com.sg



Land Transport Authority



**Bringing You
More Buses, Better Rides**

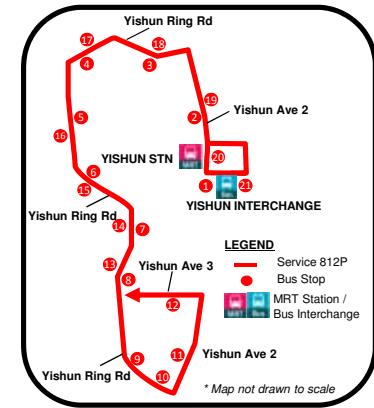
Peak Period Short Service

812P

New Peak Period Short Service from Tuesday, 20 Jan 2015

新高峰时段短程巴士路线从2015年1月20日(星期二)起开始穿行

- Overlaid on Service 812, Service 812P will ply between Yishun Interchange / MRT Station and Yishun Ave 3 (via Yishun Ave 2, Central and Ring Rd) to better serve resident's travelling needs
 - Morning Peak: 6.15am to 8.15am
 - Evening Peak: 6.00pm to 7.15pm
- Service 812P will charge distance fares, similar to Service 812
- 为了迎合居民的乘车需求,路线812P号将与812号支线平行,穿行于义顺转换站/地铁站与义顺3道之间(途经义顺2道,中路,环路)
- 于周一至周五(公共假期除外)的繁忙时段穿行:
 - 早晨繁忙时段: 6时15分至8时15分
 - 傍晚繁忙时段: 5时15分至7时15分
- 路线812P号的车资与812号支线相似,两者都按距离收费



* Map not drawn to scale

Yishun Interchange to Yishun Avenue 3 (Loop)

Road Name	Bus Stop Description	Bus Stop No.
① Yishun Ave 2	Yishun Interchange	59008
Yishun Central	Express	-
② Yishun Ave 2	Blk 154	59091
③ Yishun Ring Rd	Yishun Primary School	59101
④ Yishun Ring Rd	Blk 121	59121
⑤ Yishun Ring Rd	Blk 137	59131
⑥ Yishun Ring Rd	Blk 731	59301
⑦ Yishun Ring Rd	Blk 760	59311
⑧ Yishun Ring Rd	Blk 774	59081
⑨ Yishun Ring Rd	Blk 794	59321
⑩ Yishun Ring Rd	Blk 798	59561
⑪ Yishun Ave 2	Blk 790	59051
⑫ Yishun Ave 3	Blk 776	59339
⑬ Yishun Ring Rd	Opposite Blk 774	59089
⑭ Yishun Ring Rd	Yishun Junior College	59319
⑮ Yishun Ring Rd	Jiemin Primary School	59309
⑯ Yishun Ring Rd	After Chong Pang Community Club	59139
⑰ Yishun Ring Rd	Opposite Blk 121	59129
⑱ Yishun Ring Rd	Opposite Yishun Primary School	59109
⑲ Yishun Ave 2	Blk 220	59099
⑳ Yishun Ave 2	Northpoint Shopping Centre	59072
㉑ Yishun Ave 2	Yishun Interchange	59009

For more information, please call Bus-Plus Services Pte Ltd's hotline at 6556 3246 from Monday to Friday (excluding Public Holidays), 7am to 7pm, or email us at feedback@busplus.com.sg

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Land Transport Authority

On 20 January, residents in Yishun welcomed two new bus services, 811P and 812P, under the Peak Period Short Service (PPSS) programme. The PPSS is part of the Bus Services Enhancement Programme, where private bus operators are commissioned to run shorter bus services to complement the existing feeder services helping alleviate crowding and reduce waiting time.

With the introduction of Service 811P and 812P, residents can expect a more comfortable and seamless experience commuting between Yishun Interchange and the nearby MRT stations. Service 811P will connect Yishun Interchange / MRT Station and Yishun Ave 1 (via Yishun Ave 2, Ave 3, Ring Rd, Ave 4 and St 81), while Service 812P will ply between Yishun Interchange / MRT Station and Yishun Ave 3

(via Yishun Ave 2, Central and Ring Rd). Residents will pay the same distance fares as for the feeder services 811 and 812, respectively.

Member of Parliament, Dr Lee Bee Wah who graced the launch of Service 811P took the opportunity to help in the distribution of pamphlets to spread this piece of good news to the residents. Later that day, she also announced this transport enhancement on her Facebook page saying, "Residents have been telling me that they have difficulty in boarding Bus 811 during peak hours. I am glad that LTA has taken action and provided Bus 811P during peak hours (morning from 6 to 8, and evening from 6 to 8) to supplement Bus 811." Both Service 811P and 812P will operate on weekdays excluding public holidays.

Greater Connectivity Coming Your Way

Soon, Nee Soon residents can expect a better commute experience when travelling to town or the Central Business District and Marina Bay.

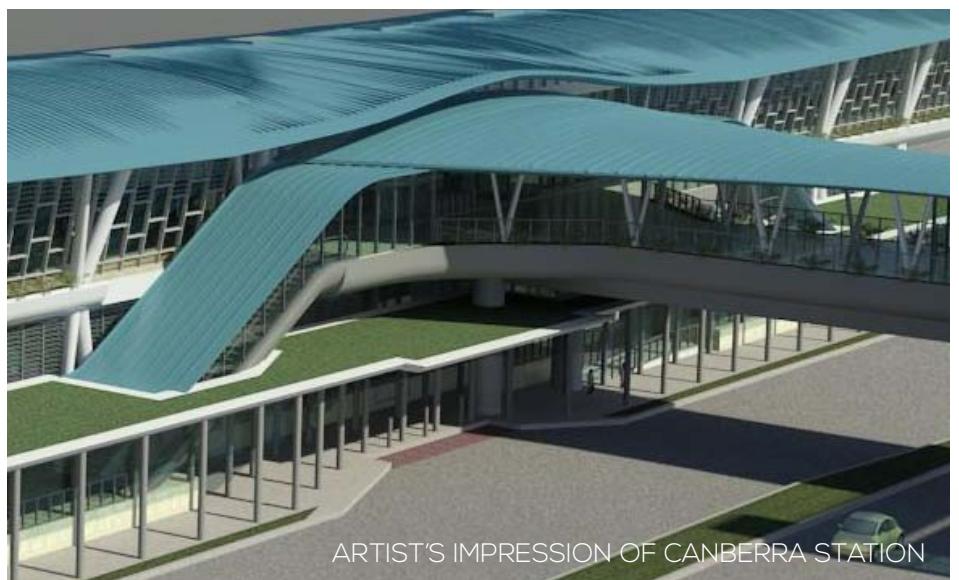
Come 2019, a brand new MRT station along the current North-South Line will be built. Located between Sembawang and Yishun Station, Canberra Station will directly connect commuters living in the nearby estates such as Sembawang Springs to the MRT network. Travelling time to the city and Jurong East Interchange will be reduced by up to 10 minutes. Works are expected to begin in mid-2015.

Also in the pipeline is the construction of the 43km long Thomson-East Coast Line (TEL). Works for Springleaf Station, one of the 31 new stations slated to be along TEL, commenced in the first quarter of 2014 and is expected to be completed by 2020. With this enhancement in rail connectivity and shorter travel time, getting to work will be easier.

While some inconveniences may be unavoidable with the construction works, the two stations will bring tremendous value to residents upon their scheduled opening.



ARTIST'S IMPRESSION OF SPRINGLEAF STATION



ARTIST'S IMPRESSION OF CANBERRA STATION

Opening of the New Yishun Ave 8



The new Yishun Ave 8 that links Yishun Ave 1 and 6 has been completed, and has been open to traffic from 17 January this year. The two new signalised road junctions of Yishun Ave 1/8 and Yishun Ave 6/8 are also in operation.

Motorists currently accessing Seletar West Link via Yishun Ave 1 may now use this new road as an alternative. In addition, Seletar West Link has been widened from one lane to three in each direction. Yishun Ave 8 also provides an alternative route for motorists to get to Tampines Expressway (TPE) or Central Expressway (CTE), and will help to ease traffic congestions along Lentor Avenue.

These road improvements cater to the expected increase in traffic when new developments are completed in the area within the next few years.





Nee Soon Plays Its Part in Clean and Green Singapore

In conjunction with the annual Clean and Green Singapore campaign, various tree-planting activities were conducted around Nee Soon last November.

At the GRC level, our MPs for Nee Soon GRC were out in full force on 2 November to commemorate this meaningful campaign. They joined over 1,000 residents at the Nee Soon East Courtyard for an Active-Ageing Carnival, followed by the planting of trees and unveiling of a commemorative plaque.

The tree selected — Calliandra Emarginata, also commonly known as the Cat's Tail or

the Red Powderpuff (红粉扑花)— is a well-known butterfly magnet, with its sweet nectar gathered on its brilliant red flowers. Despite its small stature, this plant attracts attention through its unusual form and spectacular display of boldly coloured flowers.

Other tree planting activities were also carried out on 8 November 2014 at Blk 367 Yishun Ring Road, and on 16 November 2014 at Blk 297 Yishun Street 20.

Nee Soon resident Mr Sriram Balasubramanian, 36, said, "I think each of

us have a very important role to play... even a small gesture like this, a few people coming together [to] plant a few trees... we are doing some good." Housewife Ms Mary Lou, 37, echoed his sentiment and chipped in for the Clean and Green Singapore campaign. She said, "If everybody cooperates, the community or our place will be clean." She does her part by separating the newspaper from the general trash for recycling and sweeping the common corridor outside her house to keep it clean.



CGS Cleaner Award

If you can, for a minute, imagine the amount of work that is required to maintain our estate and keep it in tip-top condition—this includes sweeping the void decks and common corridors, cleaning the lifts, as well as clearing the amount of rubbish for over a hundred households. This is certainly no mean feat! As part of the Clean and Green Singapore (CGS) campaign last year, recipients of the Best Cleaner (HDB Estates) award, Mr Mak Weng Fatt (top photo), 68, and Mr Sumeh Bin Talib (left photo), 67, were recognised for their exemplary conduct and hard work. Mr Mak is a familiar face at Admiralty Drive estate, evidently, as seen from the waves and smiles which he received from residents who greeted him as he goes about doing his job. One of the residents, Mdm Fatimah Ali, 64 affirmed Mr Mak's quality of work, and said that the common corridors are often kept clean and free of litter. Mr Sumeh, whose area-of-charge is the Nee Soon Central Community Park, starts his day by sweeping the jogging path in the park before raking the dry leaves and clearing away rubbish. Mr Tan Si En, 18, who exercises at the park regularly said, "The environment is good... for me, it is quite clean."





Deepavali Celebrations

Warm, resonant music at the Hard Court at Block 310 Canberra Road echoed the festive mood, as residents gathered on Saturday, 1 November, in celebration of Deepavali or the "Festival of Lights". Attendees were welcomed with festive gifts of home-made curry powder and instant Uppuma (a thick porridge made from dry, roasted semolina).

As a symbol of good luck, the event ceremoniously commenced with the lighting of the diya (oil lamp) by the Organising Committee and Residents Committee (RC) Chairman. The oil lamp was then placed in the centre

தீபாவளி கொண்டாட்டங்கள்

தீபாவளி அல்லது “தீபத் திருநாள்” கொண்டாட்டத்திற்காக 1 நவம்பர் சனிக்கிழமை அன்று புளோக் 310 கேன்செர்ரா ரோடில் உள்ள ஹார்ட் கோர்ட்டில் மனதற்கு இதமான, எதிரொலிக்கின்ற இசையானது விழாக்கால குதாகலத்தை மேலும் அதிகரித்தது. விழாக்காலப் பரிசாக வீட்டில் தயாரித்த கழிவேப்பிளை பொடி மற்றும் உடனடி உப்புமாவை (வறுத்த சேமியாகவும் கொண்டு தயாரிக்கப்பட்ட கெட்டியான கஞ்சி) வழங்கி அனைவரும் வரவேற்கப்பட்டனர்.

அதிர்ஷ்டத்தின் சின்னமான தீபம் (என்னைய விளக்கு) ஏற்றப்பட்டு, ஏற்பாட்டுக் குழு மற்றும் குடியிருப்பாளர்கள் குழுவின் (RC) தலைவரால் இந்த விழா தொடர்க்கப்பட்டது. அழகாக வடிவமைக்கப்பட்ட வண்ணமயமான ரங்கோவியின் (வண்ணமேற்றப்பட்ட அரிசி, மாவு, மணல் மற்றும் பூவிதழ்களைக் கொண்டு செய்யப்பட்ட வண்ணமயமான கோலம்) நடுவில் இந்த என்னைய விளக்கு பிறகு வைக்கப்பட்டது.

வெளியூவும் மற்றும் சட்டத்துறை அமைச்சரும் நீ குன் குழுத்தொகுதிக்கான நாடாளுமன்ற உறுப்பினருமான திரு கே. சன்முகம் அவர்கள் கைவ மிகுந்த இந்திய இரவு உணவு விருந்திலும், பஸ்ரே ஆடல் பாடல் நிகழ்ச்சிகளிலும் குடியிருப்பாளர்களுடன் மகிழ்ச்சியடன் பங்கேற்றார். முன்னோடித் தலைமுறையினருக்கான தொகுப்பு குறித்த நன்மைகளை விளக்கும் ஒரு குறும் காணால் தீரையிடப்பட்டது. இதில் தமிழ் பேசும் முதியோர் குடியிருப்பாளர்களைக் குடியிருப்பாளர் குழு உறுப்பினர்கள் ஈடுபடுத்தினர்.

of an elaborately designed rangoli (coloured pattern made with coloured rice, flour, sand and flower petals).

Minister for Foreign Affairs and Law, and our MP for Nee Soon GRC, Mr K. Shanmugam joined in and mingled with residents over a sumptuous Indian buffet dinner and various song and dance performances. The RC members also engaged Tamil-speaking elderly residents on the Pioneer Generation Package by screening a short video explaining its benefits.

Jiu Huang Yeh Festival



Temples in Nee Soon GRC were abuzz with activities as preparations for the annual Jiu Huang Yeh Festival (also known as the Nine Emperor Gods Festival) were underway. Devotees joined our MP for Nee Soon GRC, Assoc Prof Muhammad Faishal Ibrahim on a procession around Chong Pang city, after receiving Jiu Huang Yeh from Sembawang Beach. The reception marked the beginning of nine days of festivities and celebrations.

The festival was more than just elaborate rituals, processions and lion dance performances. The community participated in charity events such as distributing food rations to 5,000 residents and a vegetarian dinner for over 800 residents of Nee Soon. Residents were joined by our MPs, Assoc Prof. Faishal and Dr. Lee Bee Wah across the nine days. All of these were possible thanks to generous donors and well-wishers who wanted to extend the blessings and joys of the occasion with their neighbours.

The sending-off of Jiu Huang Yeh on 3 October at Sembawang Beach was attended by our MP, Minister K. Shanmugam who had just returned from New York from the United Nations (UN) General Assembly. As posted on the Minister's Facebook, he was "jet-lagged... but re-energised by the ceremony and the warm reception from our residents who were at the beach."

Indeed, this multiracial and multireligious affair has become a part of Nee Soon's colourful culture and heritage!



九皇爷诞辰庆典

为了欢庆今年的九皇爷诞辰，义顺集选区内庙宇纷纷紧锣密鼓，准备盛大的庆祝活动。本区国会议员费绍尔副教授也加入善信行列，在三巴旺海滩恭迎九皇爷，接着出巡忠邦区，为连续九天的热闹活动和隆重庆典掀起序幕。

多姿多彩的传统仪式、人山人海的出巡游行，以及紧张刺激的舞狮表演下，有着更深厚的内涵底蕴。长达九天的节日庆祝中，本区国会议员费绍尔副教授和李美花博士与义顺民众同欢共乐、共襄盛举；整个社区有钱出钱、有力出力，举办了多场慈善活动，包括捐赠食物给义顺区内5,000名居民，以及举办素宴，让800多位居民受惠，居民们都深深感受到节日的祝福和快乐。

本区国会议员尚穆根部长刚从纽约出席联合国大会回国，就马不停蹄、参加了10月3日，在三巴旺海滩举行的送皇爷仪式。部长难掩兴奋之情，在脸书发贴说道：“虽然还没能适应时差... 不过在海滩上受到居民的热情和隆重的庆典感染，我马上就充满了精力。”

这一场常年盛事融入多元种族、多元宗教元素，已经成为义顺民众丰富多彩、宝贵共享的文化财富，与义顺密不可分了！

Upcoming

Brisk Walking

22 Mar. 7.00–9.00am. Blk 137 Yishun.
29 Mar. 7.00–9.00am. CPCC.
Contact: 67588258 (Chong Pang CC)

Kite Flying with Evangel Family Church

21 Mar. 4.00–6.00pm. TBC.
Contact: 62570446 (Nee Soon East CC)

Canberra Day 2015

28 Mar. 1.00–10.00pm. Open area in front of Blk 320 Sembawang Close.
Contact: 67556369 (Canberra CC)

Chingay 2015 @ Nee Soon GRC

28 Mar. Various locations in Nee Soon.
Contact: 67533121 (Nee Soon South CC)

Health Screening

28 and 29 Mar. 9.00am–1.00pm. Canberra CC Theatrette. Contact: 67556369 (Canberra CC)

Look Out for

Brisk Walking

5 Apr. 7.00–9.00am. Blk 137 Yishun.
12 Apr. 7.00–9.00am. Blk 137 Yishun.
19 Apr. 7.00–9.00am. Blk 137 Yishun.
26 Apr. 7.00–9.00am. CPCC.
Contact: 67588258 (Chong Pang CC)

Adora Green Welcome Party

11 Apr. 4.00–7.00pm. Adora Green open space, Yishun Ring Rd. Contact: 67537402 (Nee Soon Central CC)

Nee Soon Central Zone 4 Senior Citizen Dinner

18 Apr. 7.00–1.00pm. TBC.
Contact: 6753402 (Nee Soon Central CC)

Program Bijak Belanja (Financial Literacy Workshop): Planning Your CPF

19 Apr. 9.30am–12.30pm. Canberra CC Theatrette. Contact: 67556369 (Canberra CC)

Health Talk

26 Apr. 11.00am–12.30pm. Canberra CC Theatrette. Contact: 67556369 (Canberra CC)

CHONG PANG



Mr K Shanmugam
Minister for Foreign Affairs and Minister for Law
MP for Nee Soon Town GRC
Adviser to Nee Soon Town Council

Meet-the-People Sessions
Every Tuesday at 7.30pm (*except public holidays*)
at Block 107 Yishun Ring Road #01-207 Singapore 760107
Tel: 6752 3039
Email: k.shanmugam@mlaw.gov.sg
Facebook: K Shanmugam Sc
Youtube: K Shanmugam

NEE SOON CENTRAL



Assoc Prof Muhammad Faishal Ibrahim
Parliamentary Secretary, Ministry of Health and Ministry of Transport
MP for Nee Soon GRC
Chairman, Nee Soon Town Council

Meet-the-People Sessions
Every Monday at 7.00pm (*except public holidays*)
at Block 609 Yishun St 61 #01-235 Singapore 760609
Tel: 6752 2532
Email: muhammad_faishal@moh.gov.sg
Facebook: https://www.facebook.com/muhammad.faishal.ibrahim1

CANBERRA



Dr Lim Wee Kiak, PBM
MP for Nee Soon GRC

Meet-the-People Sessions
Every Monday at 7.30pm (*except public holidays*)
at Block 319 Sembawang Close #01-14 Singapore 750319
Tel: 6754 2141
Email: limweekiak@gmail.com
Facebook: Dr Lim Wee Kiak

NEE SOON EAST



Mr Patrick Tay Teck Guan, BBM
MP for Nee Soon GRC

Meet-the-People Sessions
Every Monday at 7.30pm (*except public holidays*)
at Block 227 Yishun St 21, #01-520 Singapore 760227
Tel: 6755 1946
Email: patricktay@yahoo.com
Facebook: Patrick-Tay

NEE SOON SOUTH



Er Dr Lee Bee Wah
MP for Nee Soon GRC
Vice-Chairman, Nee Soon Town Council

Meet-the-People Sessions
Every Monday at 7.00pm (*except public holidays*)
at Block 850 Yishun St 81 #01-94 Singapore 760850
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Email: mp4nss@gmail.com
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What is Your Favourite Icon of Singapore?

SAFTI.

Lee Zhi Xiong



“City Hall building.”

Lee Keng Yong



“Singa The Lion.”

Tan Yu Qi



“Merlion.
The big one at
Sentosa Island.”

Ms. Suriani Bte
Saleh, Mr Ambran
Bin Asdi and Mr
Salleh Bin Ahmad



“The Esplanade
is my favourite
icon of
Singapore —for
its architecture
based on a fruit
many of us,
Singaporeans,
like. And for it
being a home
for the arts
scene.”

Lee Zhi Jing



辣椒螃蟹
(chilli crab).

Lee Zhi Tao



“The Merlion,
standing guard
and protecting
our home.”

Mr. and Mrs. Jim Tan



The Multitasker: Balancing Family, Work and Community Service

As Dr Phua strode into the Nee Soon Central Community Centre for this interview, he broke into a big smile and his eyes shone warmly. His unassuming mannerism and penchant to crack a few jokes immediately put one at ease in his presence. This is, perhaps, one of the reasons why he is highly sought after by soon-to-be married couples to officiate their solemnisation ceremony.

In 1999, Dr Phua took up the position of the Chairman of Nee Soon Central Community Centre Management Committee (CCMC) at the request of then Member of Parliament of Nee Soon Central, Mr Ong Ah Heng. As the Chairman of Nee Soon Central CCMC, he was qualified to take on the role of a solemniser, which he agreed to and was subsequently appointed by the Registry of Marriage to be a licensed solemniser. When he first started out, Dr Phua was given a standard text which every solemniser could use as a guide to officiate the ceremony. "There was no training, just do freestyle," Dr Phua joked.

But Dr Phua actually invests much thought into his role as a solemniser. One of the things which he sees important in his task is to ensure that beyond carrying out the act, the couple understand and remember the meaning and commitment of saying their vows at the solemnisation ceremony. He said, "I create the feeling or atmosphere where they feel relaxed, I will say one or two jokes ... Once a person is relaxed, he or she will remember things. If the person is very nervous, then his/her [mind] will be a blank." Before the ceremony ends, he will take the opportunity to impart some words of wisdom to the newly-weds, reminding them to continue to respect their parents

and their parents-in-law.

Dr Phua's role as a solemniser is just one of the things which he does as a grassroots leader. He first got involved in helping out in his neighbourhood when he had just moved to Yishun New Town in end 1987. Dr Phua shared candidly, "At that time, I don't know what are RC, CCC or CCMC because there were no such things in the *kampung*". In fact, Dr Phua's connection with the Nee Soon estate runs deep, having grown up in Phua Village, one of the many *kampungs* which was located in the northern part of Singapore in the past. Shortly after moving into his new house, Dr Phua received a pamphlet looking for volunteers to serve the residents living near him. Piqued by a sense of curiosity, he indicated that he was willing to help out. Soon he received a call to be an observer at the existing RCs, and that was how he had his first taste of grassroots work. Subsequently, he was called to take on more roles, including the Chairman of the newly formed Nee Soon Central Zone 6 Residents' Committee (RC) and Assistant Secretary of the Citizens' Consultative Committee (CCC).

Having served in the Nee Soon community for over 20 years, Dr Phua recalls with fondness the many activities he was involved in, such as the door-to-door collection of old newspapers to raise funds to build the RC, which lasted from around 8am to 4pm with only a break in between for lunch—a real test of stamina. Someone even once asked, "Why are RC members like *karung guni* (rag and bone men)?" Yet, for Dr Phua, the door-to-door collection of newspaper was the best time to get to know the residents personally, and also facilitated



bonding among RC members through the hard work. This sense of connectedness with the residents and chemistry with his fellow RC members encourage him to continue to serve in the constituency.

In addition to the multiple hats which he wears as a grassroots leader, Dr Phua's job as a Senior Consultant at the Radiation Protection and Nuclear Science Department, National Environment Agency keeps him equally busy in the work of enforcement and licensing of irradiating apparatus. Deeply interested in the way things work, he chose to pursue his PhD in Physics at Iowa State University. It was also in America that he met his wife. "The spouse is very important. She must come with the understanding of what I do."

Dr Phua is thankful that his wife, a full-time housewife, has supported him by helping him to manage the household and take care of the two children, two boys who are now grown up. While his schedule is usually packed and he hardly has any free time, Dr Phua says, "If I have any free time, I must prioritise and give it to my family." When the boys were young, he used to bring them to East Coast Park to play in the outdoors while he and his wife caught up on each other's lives. It is this delicate balancing act that brings together his family, work and community service in perfect union.



Seseorang yang mengendalikan pelbagai tugas: Mengimbangi Keluarga, Kerja dan Khidmat Masyarakat



Sambil Dr Phua melangkah masuk ke dalam Balai Rakyat Nee Soon Central untuk temubual ini, beliau memberikan senyuman lebar dan matanya bersinar mesra. Perwatakannya yang bersahaja dan kecenderungan untuk berjenaka segera membuatkan sesiapa sahaja berasa selesa apabila berada bersamanya. Inilah kemungkinannya, salah satu sebab mengapa beliau sangat-sangat dicari oleh pasangan yang ingin mendirikan rumah tangga untuk merasmikan majlis akad nikah mereka.

Pada tahun 1999, Dr Phua menjawat kedudukan sebagai Pengerusi Jawatankuasa Pengurusan Balai Rakyat (CCMC) Nee Soon Central atas permintaan Anggota Parlimen bagi Nee Soon Central pada masa itu, Encik Ong Ah Heng. Sebagai Pengerusi CCMC Nee Soon Central, beliau layak untuk mengambil peranan sebagai seorang jurunikah, yang mana beliau bersetuju, dan kemudiannya dilantik oleh Pejabat Pendaftaran Perkahwinan sebagai jurunikah yang berlesen. Semasa kali pertama beliau bermula, Dr Phua diberikan teks standard yang boleh digunakan oleh setiap jurunikah sebagai panduan untuk merasmikan majlis tersebut. "Tidak ada latihan, lakukan saja dengan gaya bebas," Dr Phua berseloroh.

Namun begitu, Dr Phua sebenarnya melaburkan banyak masa dalam memikiran tentang peranannya sebagai jurunikah. Salah satu perkara yang beliau anggap penting dalam tugasnya adalah untuk memastikan bahawa selain daripada menjalankan tugasnya itu, pasangan tersebut memahami dan mengingati erti dan komitmen dalam mengatakan ikrar mereka pada majlis akad nikah. Beliau berkata, "Saya mewujudkan perasaan atau suasana di mana mereka merasa tenang, (jadi) saya akan membuat satu atau dua jenaka ... Apabila seseorang itu tenang, dia akan dapat mengingati. Jika mereka gementar, (fikiran) akan menjadi kosong." Sebelum majlis berakhir, beliau akan mengambil kesempatan untuk menyampaikan beberapa kata-kata hikmat kepada pengantin baru, mengingatkan mereka untuk terus menghormati ibu bapa serta mertua mereka.

Peranan Dr Phua sebagai jurunikah hanyalah salah satu daripada tugas yang beliau lakukan sebagai seorang pemimpin akar umbi. Beliau mula terlibat dalam membantu kejiranannya apabila beliau baru sahaja berpindah ke Bandar Baru Yishun di akhir tahun 1987. Dr Phua berkongsi secara berterus terang, "Pada masa itu, saya tidak tahu apa itu RC, CCC atau CCMC kerana ia tidak wujud di kampung". Malah, hubungan Dr Phua dengan estet Nee Soon sangat mendalam, kerana telah membesar di Kampung Phua, salah satu daripada kampung yang banyak terdapat di bahagian utara Singapura pada masa lalu. Tidak lama selepas berpindah ke rumah barunya, Dr Phua menerima risalah yang mencari sukarelawan untuk berkhidmat kepada penduduk yang tinggal berdekatan

dengannya. Disebabkan oleh rasa ingin tahu, beliau menyatakan kesediaannya untuk membantu. Tidak lama kemudian beliau menerima panggilan untuk menjadi pemerhati di RC yang sedia ada, dan begitulah bagaimana beliau mendapat pengalaman pertamanya dalam kerja akar umbi. Selepas itu, beliau telah dipanggil untuk menjawat lebih banyak peranan, termasuk Pengerusi Jawatankuasa Penduduk (RC) Zon 6 Nee Soon Central yang baru ditubuhkan dan Penolong Setiausaha Jawatankuasa Perundingan Rakyat (CCC).

Setelah berkhidmat dalam masyarakat Nee Soon untuk lebih daripada 20 tahun, Dr Phua mengimbas kembali dengan rasa bahagia aktiviti-aktiviti yang banyak yang telah beliau libatkan diri, seperti pungutan surat khabar lama dari pintu ke pintu untuk mengumpul dana bagi pembinaan RC, yang berlangsung dari sekitar 8 pagi hingga 4 petang dengan hanya berehat untuk makan tengah hari – ujian stamina yang sebenarnya. Pernah juga ada seseorang yang bertanya, "Kenapa anggota RC seperti orang karung guni?" Namun, bagi Dr Phua, pungutan surat khabar dari pintu ke pintu itu adalah masa yang terbaik untuk mengenali penduduk secara peribadi, dan juga memupuk ikatan di kalangan anggota RC melalui kerja keras tersebut. Rasa keakraban dengan penduduk dan persahabatan dengan rakan-rakan anggota RC menggalakkan beliau untuk terus berkhidmat di konstituensi tersebut.

Selain daripada pelbagai peranan yang beliau mainkan sebagai pemimpin akar umbi, pekerjaan Dr Phua sebagai Perunding Kanan di Jabatan Perlindungan Sinaran dan Sains Nuklear, Agensi Alam Sekitar Kebangsaan membuatnya sama sibuk dalam kerja-kerja penguatkuasaan dan pelesenan radas penyinaran. Dengan minatnya yang mendalam tentang bagaimana benda berfungsi, beliau memilih untuk meneruskan PhD dalam bidang Fizik di Universiti Iowa State. Beliau juga telah bertemu dengan isterinya di Amerika. "Pasangan kita adalah sangat penting. (Dia) harus mempunyai pemahaman (tentang apa yang saya lakukan)." Dr Phua berterimakasih kerana isterinya, seorang suri rumah sepenuh masa, telah menyokong beliau dengan membantu menguruskan rumah tangga dan menjaga dua orang anak lelaki mereka yang kini sudah dewasa. Walaupun jadual beliau biasanya padat dan jarang mempunyai sebarang masa lapang, Dr Phua berkata, "Jika saya mempunyai masa lapang, saya mesti (membuat keutamaan) dan memberikannya kepada keluarga saya." Semasa anak-anak lelakinya masih kecil, beliau selalu membawa mereka ke East Coast Park untuk bermain di luar sementara beliau dan isteri mengejar masa untuk meluangkan masa bersama. Tindakan mengimbangkan masa secara teliti seperti inilah yang dapat menggabungkan keluarga, kerja dan khidmat masyarakat secara sempurna.