

## Clapped out of the board....

(no translation available)

- Wat doen wij toch met eenzaamheid?  
Waar kan ik mijn zorgen kwijt?
- Er zijn mensen in je buurt!  
Die worden door ons (de Gemeente) ingehuurd!
- Natuurlijk vertel je het liever niet aan je burens,  
je ziet al die mensen al naar je gluren.
- Doe het dan maar anoniem,  
aan Cordaad, de Gemeente of tante Mien.
- Want hoe sneller je, je probleem deelt,  
hoe minder snel je, je daarna verveelt.
- Want er zijn altijd mensen, die om je geven,  
maar je moet ze wel in je netwerk verweven.

## Stille strijd

- Het hoofd te vol, het hart te leeg,  
verduisterd was je zicht.
- De woorden hol, de hoop, die zweeg,  
dus koos je voor het licht.
- Wat rest is slechts de eenzaamheid  
en zo vele vragen.
- Want in jouw eigen stille strijd,  
had ik je willen dragen.
- Dat je leed niet altijd ziet,  
is waar eenzaamheid ontstaat.
- Onzichtbaarheid betekent niet,  
dat het goed met iemand gaat.

## Information point digital government at the library

Residents of Valkenswaard can also contact the Digital Government Information Point in the Library at the Hofnar in Valkenswaard for free questions about the digital government. Arranging things with the government is increasingly done on the computer via the internet. For example, applying for rent or care allowance, looking for work, renewing a driver's license, or making an appointment with the municipality. Do you want to arrange something via the computer and could you use some help? Do you want to learn how to deal better with government websites? Or do you know someone who could use some help? Then go to the Digital Government Information Point in the Library. Here they listen to your question and think along with you. They

immediately give you information with which you can continue, or refer you to the right organization. You are welcome without an appointment. You do not need to be a member of the Library. The help is free of charge.

The information point can be reached during the opening hours of the Library. Telephone 085-7733287 [www.bibliotheekdekempen.nl](http://www.bibliotheekdekempen.nl)

## Website renewed

Our website: [www.wijkcommissiekerkackers.nl](http://www.wijkcommissiekerkackers.nl) has recently been renewed. Take a look and discover what the district committee is and does. The website is equipped with an extensive menu containing (in Dutch):

- **De Wijkcommissie**, with an explanation of who we are and what we do. Also explanation about our Street Contact Persons, the Walk-in House, the Door & Voor information evenings, our Publication Boards and the Buurtbieb cabinets.
- **Belangenbehartiging**, where we indicate what we stand up for and with which agencies we work together.
- **Agenda**, with all the activities of the district committee but also a number of events elsewhere in Valkenswaard.
- **Vraag en Aanbod**, gives an overview of the help we are still looking for, but also that we can give. See if there is something you can help with / be helped with.
- **Fotoalbum**, with some (old) photos from our neighborhood. If you also have a photo that fits well with that, please send it to our secretariat.
- **Nieuws**, the latest news from our neighborhood and from Valkenswaard, but also all (old) Newsletters of the neighborhood committee.
- **Nextdoor**, gives an explanation about this neighborhood app especially for the Kerkakkers district and possibly also the rest of Valkenswaard. There is also a link to download the app.
- **Contact**, with our contact details and a form.

The website is suitable for smartphones, tablets and desktop computers (PC). You can sign up for the digital version of our bimonthly Newsletter at the bottom of the pages of the website.

## What is citizen participation?

Citizens are the engine of the municipality in which they live. They are the soul of a neighborhood, life in the brewery, today and tomorrow, and hence it is normal for citizens to feel involved in everything that happens in their immediate environment. But the decision-making, the ideas and the implementation thereof take place in the boardrooms of the city council, the college of mayor and aldermen, the meeting rooms of the civil servants, or even further away, in The Hague.

To ensure that citizens feel more involved in what is happening in their municipality on the one hand and to create public support for municipal decisions on the other hand, citizens are asked for advice. This can be done via digital platforms, via advisory councils or consultation rounds. Citizen participation can be applied in different ways: for example, if a social problem needs to be mapped out, or if a municipality wants to get a better picture of what the citizens in their municipality are actually concerned with.

For the municipality it is a useful informative tool, and for citizens it is a way to contribute in a certain way to interactive policy-making. It is also a good way for both the 'citizen participation municipality' and the citizen to keep the lines of communication short and to pronounce dormant or advanced conflicts.

## Citizen participation ladder

The extent to which citizens are involved in the ups and downs of their municipality can be measured via the participation ladder. A municipality that is at the bottom of the participation ladder actively advises its citizens but does not involve them in the decision-making within a municipality. The ladder then goes up to consultation, then to advising, then to co-producing, to co-decision-making to the ultimate step of citizen participation: self-government. In this final phase, the entire agenda is shaped by citizens, decisions and decisions are taken themselves and the municipality works from an advisory role – a role that citizens fill lower down the ladder for the municipality.

## Practical meeting on pruning fruit trees.

On Saturday, March 5, the Valkenswaard fruit



grower Teun de Zeeuw prune the trees on our neighborhood fruit garden on Le Sage ten Broekstraat.

He is a very experienced fruit grower with great practical and theoretical knowledge about fruit cultivation. We can see him at work pruning and bending, explaining the how and why of the interventions.

Teun can answer all our questions about fruit trees

with knowledge of the facts and does so in a pleasant way! All interested parties from our district are welcome. We look forward to seeing you at these lesson on Saturday March 5 at 10:00 am in the fruit garden on the Le Sage ten Broekstraat.

## Visit Valkenswaard hiking trails

Valkenswaard is a real hiking municipality. Go with the whole family in search of the insect hotel on the Malpie, stroll with your dog all the fens, go on an adventure with your own route based on the many nodes for an active walk. Or choose one of the other routes on: [www.visitvalkenswaard.nl/actief](http://www.visitvalkenswaard.nl/actief)



## Biodiversity in our neighbourhood.

More and more people are tiling their garden. Half of all gardens in the Netherlands are already 'petrified'. That is easy for the resident, but nature is not so happy with it. There are fewer shrubs and trees that provide shelter for birds. Fewer flowers and plants for insects such as bees. And perhaps the most drastic consequence: rainwater can no longer enter the ground and ends up in the sewer. This ensures that in the event of heavy rainfall, the sewer pipes fill up and streets become blank.

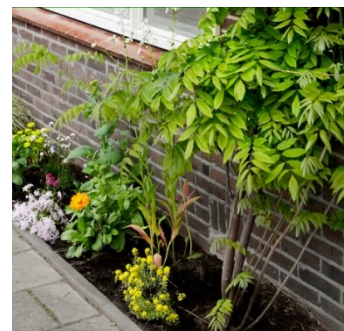
**Tip: Apartment dwellers:** green balcony or roof terrace. Turn the limited surface area of your balcony or roof terrace into a green oasis. That makes birds, bees and butterflies super happy. With plants in pots, climbing plants and some threads you create space for floral splendor, create a mini vegetable garden and provide shade. Your balcony, with plants, nest boxes and insect hotel, can be a place for wintering, breeding and food for birds and butterflies. Small climbing plants can grow from a pot and through wires on your balcony. There are different types of racks available to hang flower pots on the balcony railing, or to stack them. You can even garden on your balcony with strawberries, tomatoes, lettuce and radishes, for example. Various herbs are also good to grow on a balcony or roof terrace.

**Tip: Tile out, plant in.** Take a few tiles out of your garden here and there and replace them with plants. Every square meter is included. That has so many advantages! The rainwater can enter the ground more easily. In summer, your garden is cooler. Happy birds and insects will return to your garden.



You can also create a façade garden at your front or rear façade.

**Tip: Make your flat roof green.** Do you have a shed, carport or extension with a flat roof? Make it a green roof (sedum roof). A green roof has an insulating effect, extends the life of your roof and makes Valkenswaard a bit greener again.



**Tip: Capture rainwater** If you collect rainwater, you prevent it from flowing straight into the sewer. You use the collected water to spray your garden plants. This also saves valuable drinking water. The municipality of Valkenswaard has a subsidy scheme for this. Information about this can be found on the website via [www.valkenswaard.nl/afkoppelen](http://www.valkenswaard.nl/afkoppelen)

**Tip: Sow wildflowers.** Bees and butterflies in the Netherlands are struggling. You do them a great favor by sowing wildflowers. This creates an exuberant display of colour and makes your garden attractive to our buzzing and fluttering friends. For example, sow some flowers in the tree mirror of the tree in front of your house.



## Smoke detectors now also mandatory in existing homes

Finally, it is now also mandatory for existing homes to have a well-functioning smoke detector on every floor. This has been the case for new construction since 2003. As of 1 July 2022, every rental or owner-occupied home must have smoke detectors on every (residential) floor and also in "confined spaces through which an escape route runs". In short, all the corridors and the stairwell that you have to go through to be able to flee from the house.

You will be warned by these smoke detectors if smoke enters that escape route. You then only have a very short time to go outside through that smoke. If you wait too long, the smoke will be too dense and probably there is already fire in the hallway or stairs. In order to be able to detect the smoke quickly, the smoke detector must be mounted in the right place. Not too close to a wall and not at the top of the ridge of a sloping ceiling. The smoke can't get there. The instructions for use in the package give instructions on where to place the smoke detector. There are

smoke detectors for sale that you have to connect to the mains, but especially for existing homes there are also models that work on a battery. Cheap models have a 9 Volt battery for  $\pm 1$  to 2 years, but for a few euros extra there is a battery for 5 or 10

years. After 10 years at the latest, the smoke detector is outdated and/or contaminated and must be replaced.

There are easy self-adhesive mounting plates for sale that hold the smoke detector in place with a magnet. For this you do not have to get started with a drill, etc. There are also models that can be interconnected, so that they all give an alarm if there is smoke in 1 place. Useful if it is a large house or if you are hard of hearing. Then you can then apply an extra one to your bedroom. You can also connect via WiFi on your smartphone with a luxury version.

Go to, for example, to the Action or Kruidvat store for the simple models. Stores such as Praxis and Karwei also sell the more extensive versions.



Also consider the purchase of a carbon monoxide (CO) detector to place near your central heating boiler or geyser and certainly if you use a wood stove or fireplace.

## Addresses

Some addresses and phone numbers:

- **Secretariaat Wijkcommissie Kerkakkers:**  
Dr. Ariënsstraat 20, phone 06-4123 4138  
secretariaat@wijkcommissiekerkakkers.nl
- **AED defibrillator: always call first 112**  
also see [www.ehbo-stnicolaas.nl](http://www.ehbo-stnicolaas.nl)
- **De Biezenrijt (Lunet),**  
Dr. Schaepmanstraat 52,  
24 hours a day (on the facade,  
next to the front door)
- **Sportcentrum Fitt,** van Linschotenstraat 18A  
opening hours: [www.fittvalkenswaard.nl](http://www.fittvalkenswaard.nl)
- **Nettorama,** Kardinaal de Jongstraat 17,  
opening hours: [www.nettorama.nl](http://www.nettorama.nl)
- **Wijkagent Kim Pijs,** phone 0900-8844
- **Automaatje** 06-2086 2803 mo+th 9:00-12:30h  
automaatjevalkenswaard@cordaadwelzijn.nl
- **Inloophuis** (if Corona allows it again) Kardinaal de Jongstraat 6, every 1st and 3rd Monday of the month from 10:00 – 11:30 am
- **Door & Voor** theme evening in De Horizon Amundsenstraat 5, (if corona allows it again) every 2nd Wednesday of the month at 8:00 pm.

