

## **April Update – Part Two**

Israel Independence Day celebrations at Matzuva on Tuesday evening were an outstanding success. This year



the celebrations were organized by members of the Nofey Matzuva community village now renting apartments on the kibbutz while their future homes are being built. Events took place on the lawn to the north of the dining room building with a stage area to the west. A lot of work was put into evening and the audio visual was shown following traditional presentations by the many toddlers from the various kindergartens, a dedicated torch lighting ceremony took place highlighting community services at Matzuva, kibbutz teenagers playing instruments, a breathtaking firework display from the roof of the dining room building, releasing of white balloons attached to a flare into the evening sky in support of the kidnapped IDF soldier, Gilad Shalit. This was followed by community singing and dancing and, of course, the food stalls providing a variety of meats and vegetables served with pitta bread as well as a variety of ice creams and drinks. A very enjoyable evening for young and old.

Moving on to the mundane but nevertheless exciting physical developments at Matzuva.

Television: The link up to digital TV with the YES Satellite TV company is now nearing completion with installation of satellite dishes, installation of points in apartments, training sessions. Most residents chose a large package of stations while others chose a smaller package of stations of analogue quality at a reduced price. There are a number of 'teething problems' but hopefully they will be resolved by May 11<sup>th</sup> when both channels will become finally operational for YES clients.

Swimming Pool – the pool is being renovated with the shallow end being raised to meet ministry stipulations enabling it to be licensed pool. This action will save a considerable amount of water in addition to retiling work and other improvements. An entrepreneur will hire the pool for six years and guidelines for usage are stipulated in the swimming pool contract. There is no longer free access to the pool and people will have to pay for a relatively inexpensive season ticket or family ticket or pay for each individual visit to the pool.

The road running from south to north in the kibbutz passing below the moadon (clubhouse) is nearing completion along with a pleasant sidewalk/pavement running its entire length. There are small car parks along the way for residents and now we await the final asphaltting of the surface.

Matzuva Community Centre – As mentioned in earlier updates the old dining room/kitchen complex is to become a community centre in, hopefully, the not too distant future. The plan was submitted at a meeting held with the mayor of the regional council and work is now in the final planning stage. It's early days and we need to finance the project with donors and/or organizations in Israel and abroad. If any one of our alumni has a spare million dollars we can promise him or her that their name/s will appear on a special plaque dedicated to the donor and in neon lights on the building. Any takers?

Building Plots – There are 4 plots near the 'children's farm' area and 3 buildings that once housed the ulpanists and the classrooms up for marketing. First option is for 2<sup>nd</sup> or 3<sup>rd</sup> generation kibbutz kids to purchase and renovate/rebuild and/or extend the plots that are approximately an 1/8<sup>th</sup> of an acre in size. The option is on offer for kibbutz kids for 90 days after which they will go on general sale. These 7 plots are of course within the kibbutz residential area and prospective residents will have to become members after acceptance by a kibbutz absorption committee.

Nofey Matzuva – Houses of 31 of the 41 families in Stage A are in various stages of construction and the main infrastructures are in place with underground electric cables to each home. The infrastructure second stage is now being tendered for (street lighting, asphalt, sidewalks, etc.).

Stage B – the contractor looks to be working around the clock according to the pace of progress in the area south of the kibbutz approach road (with the "ulpan" olive grove lining it) right down to the Kabri-Shlomi road and its an enormous hive of activity. Consequently, there is a tender out to move the automatic gate to the kibbutz closer to the main road.

Pre-kindergarten & kindergarten buildings are being renovated in order to absorb the many children living at Matzuva today. All the asbestos roofs have been replaced in the educational complex.

Matzuva Country Lodging (opposite the tennis courts) – the rental contract has been extended for a further 18 months. In September 2010 it will revert back to the kibbutz and is earmarked to become another housing project for kibbutz members and teenager housing.

Noam Netzer – the kibbutz auditor and manager representing Danny Ivri, the trustee of the court will be entering hospital for a kidney transplant and will be replaced by his brother Amos who is also an auditor.

We thank Noam for supplying the update on infrastructures and wish him a successful transplant and a speedy recovery.

Bomb Shelters – All the 32 communities who form the Mateh Asher Regional Council have now had their bomb shelters renovated and refitted. Matzuva is the last in the line of kibbutzim, moshavim and Arab villages to benefit from this project. As readers who have spent time at Matzuva will know that all the northern communities form part of the “Confrontation Line” near the Lebanese border. It is essential that we will always be prepared for any eventuality.

Quality of the Environment – We see this as an essential aspect of our lives in a rural community. There is a lot of sensitivity to the parking vehicles on lawns, dogs - strays and those running free without their owners, litter, asbestos, waste disposal, etc. It is doubtful if we will have the finances for creating our own solar energy infrastructure but it is a thing we would aspire to. Other kibbutzim have installed solar panels producing electricity and consequently receive royalties back from the Israel electric company. At the moment there is an abundance of building waste to be disposed of and we face an enormous problem regarding the water shortage in Israel that means for us no water for our lawns and heavy penalties for exceeding water quotas. As a farm we will be forced to use treated effluent water on certain crops with restrictions on fresh water quotas. A team to address various environmental issues is to be formed with Sara Delfen, a member of the kibbutz committee, coordinating activities.

Finally, we've discovered data on some ex-volunteers at Matzuva in the archives and Carol Sisso (nee Booth – ex Ulpan) will assist in preparing the material for publishing on the website. I'm sure the results will be of interest to many.

Until the next update in May – keep well and keep posted.

Regards  
Baruch