

# the new paper

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PHOTO: COURTESY OF LAND TRANSPORT AUTHORITY

## End of the road

A woman who rode an e-scooter on the road with her child has had her personal mobility device (PMD) impounded. The Land Transport Authority (LTA) said on Facebook that its Active Mobility Enforcement Officers stopped her at Edgefield Plains in Punggol. Noting that it is an offence to ride a PMD on the road, LTA said the rider's actions had put her and the child in danger.

## Food drive's unusual donor

Man who sponsored charity food initiative turns out to be an unlicensed moneylender  
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## Iran, a land of surprises

The views left our writer speechless, while the people's warm hospitality won her heart  
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## Hariss Harun heads to Spain

Lions star hopes to be a success and pave the way for other Singaporeans  
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MND announces two more grants to help town councils maintain and replace lifts in public housing

## \$100m boost to keep HDB lifts in top order

FOO JIE YING

One of the lifts broke down in a new block of flats in Bukit Batok on Wednesday, just days after residents had moved in.

The lift in Skyline II, a 33-storey Housing Board block, went up and down several times before stopping 20cm above the ground.

It is one of the many instances of HDB lifts malfunctioning recently.

To ensure that lifts are well-maintained and replaced on time, the Ministry of National Development (MND) yesterday announced grants of more than \$63 million for town councils.

A Lift Maintenance Grant (LMG) will give all 16 town councils \$600 for each of their lifts.

The LMG is expected to cost the Government \$13 million every year.

The LMG will help the town councils cope with higher lift-related servicing and maintenance costs, said MND.

There is also a matching grant, with the ministry matching half the amount the town councils put into a newly mandated Lift Replacement Fund (LRF).

From April 1, town councils must set aside a minimum of 14 per cent of their income for the LRF, on top of existing sinking fund contributions.

The matching grant is to ensure that there are sufficient funds for the town councils to replace existing lifts, said MND.

The matching grant is expected to cost more than \$50 million in the coming year, with the quantum likely to go up as town councils build up their LRFs over time.

Together with the recently announced Lift Enhancement Programme, which will cost an average of \$45 million a year, the additional funding for town councils will go above \$100 million every year.

This will double the current funding support for town councils under the annual Service and Conservancy Charge operating grants and quarterly Goods and Services Tax support, which amounted to \$20 million in FY15/16, said MND.

### RESPONSIBILITY

Calling the funding support a "substantial package", the ministry said: "Ultimately, town councils have a statutory responsibility to manage and maintain the common property in HDB estates."

In December last year, it was announced that the PAP town councils will pump in a total of \$45 million to make their lifts safer and more reliable, following the PAP Lift Taskforce's preliminary study that month.

Separately, the Workers' Party-run Aljunied-Hougang Town Council said it will spend about \$17.5 million over five years - funded mainly through the town council's sinking fund - to replace ageing lifts.

Said MND: "While the Government is extending significant financial support, town councils still need to do their part to plan ahead and take appropriate and timely steps to ensure that their long-term finances are sustainable."

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## lifestyle weekender

### FOOD

#### PROMOTIONS

##### Surf 'N Turf At Plaza Brasserie

Executive chef Ken Ang and his team at Plaza Brasserie, Parkroyal on Beach Road, will be presenting Surf 'N Turf dishes including Duroc Spanish pork collar, wagyu MBS3-4 d-rump, wok-fired barbecue pork ribs and steamed lobster in hua tiao sauce.

**WHERE:** Level 1 Parkroyal on Beach Road, 7500 Beach Road **MRT:** Nicoll Highway **WHEN:** Feb 18 to March 26 (except Mon to Tue), 6pm to 10pm **PRICE:** \$68++ an adult, \$41++ a child; add \$18++ for free-flow of house wine, beer & soft drinks **TEL:** 6505-5710 **INFO:** E-mail dining, prsin@parkroyalhotels.com

##### Sunday Roast At Pyxiemoss

Every second Sunday of the month, Pyxiemoss will be presenting owner and head chef Tim Ross-Watson's Sunday Roast. The rotating menu will feature dishes such as beetroot gazpacho with paneer (\$12++); in-house dry-aged slow-roasted beef (\$30++); roasted pork belly and crispy crackling paired with confit apple sauce (\$30++); tandoor roasted cauliflower paired with hollandaise (\$25++); and a classic Eton Mess (\$13++ for dessert. **WHERE:** 43 North Canal Road **MRT:** Clarke Quay **WHEN:** Feb 12, March 12, April 9, May 14; noon to 3pm **PRICE:** Selected items \$12++ to \$30++ **TEL:** 6532-2171 **INFO:** E-mail reservations@pyxiemoss.com

#### CHINESE NEW YEAR

##### Reunion Celebrations At Ah Hoi's Kitchen

Feast on the auspicious Wealthy and Harmony festive set menus (both \$388++ for six people) or the Prosperity (\$688++ for 10 people) and Longevity (\$888++ for 10 people) versions at Ah Hoi's Kitchen in Hotel Jen Tanglin. Dishes include smoked salmon or abalone yusheng with crispy fish skin, honey chicken, golden fried rice and double-boiled abalone soup with mushrooms, fish maw and dried scallops.

**WHERE:** 1A Cuscaden Road **MRT:** Orchard **WHEN:** Till Feb 11, noon to 2.30pm, 6.30pm to 10pm **PRICE:** \$388++ to \$888++ **TEL:** 6831-4373 **INFO:** E-mail ahhoiskitchen@hoteljen.com

#### VALENTINE'S DAY

##### Check-To-Check At Cheek By Jowl

Cheek by Jowl's Valentine's Day Menu is a five-course meal with dishes such as pickled Kingfish paired with creamy charred avocado and shrimp dressing, barramundi with charred lettuce, white onions and prawn; roasted lamb saddle with burnt eggplant, roasted salsify and a mixture of puff buns, wheat, quinoa and barley. For dessert, there is cocunut sorbet with fermented cherries and coconut ash mousse, garnished with a Szechuan and black pepper crumble, as well as a selection of petit fours.

**WHERE:** 21 Boon Tat Street **MRT:** Telok Ayer **WHEN:** Feb 14, 6pm to 10.30pm

## Soft-serve ice cream

REBECCA LYNNE TAN, FOOD CORRESPONDENT, THE STRAITS TIMES

Long queues intrigue me. I am, after all, a Singaporean.

Last Friday, I noticed hordes of people standing outside a small shop in Baghdad Street, in Kampong Glam.

It turned out they were waiting for soft-serve ice cream from Overrun.

You order at the counter and wait outside until your number is called. I waited about 15 minutes.

Its signature offering is chendol soft-serve topped with pandan jelly, desiccated coconut and a good drizzle of gula melaka (\$6).

A durian version, with a dollop of durian pulp, is priced at \$7.

I had the Thai Milk Tea soft-serve, Overrun's Flavour Of The Day (\$6, above), and it was velvety, creamy and sneakily sweet.

**WHERE:** Overrun, 18 Baghdad Street **MRT:** Bugis

**OPEN:** Noon to 8.30pm (Tuesdays to Thursdays), 2 to 9.30pm (Fridays), noon to 9.30pm (weekends), or until it sells out

**INFO:** bit.ly/2kY9E5I



PHOTO: THE STRAITS TIMES

FOR MORE LISTINGS, READ THE STRAITS TIMES TODAY

**PRICE:** \$98++ a person **TEL:** 6221-9111 **INFO:** E-mail info@cheekbyjowl.com.sg

##### Dining Choices At Mandarin Oriental

Indulge in a special Italian dinner by the pool at Dolce Vita, featuring Zuppa, smoked lobster soup and Brasato, slow-braised Australian beef cheek, among others. Enjoy a dinner buffet with barbecue delights in an alfresco garden setting at Melt Cafe. Or tuck into Cantonese cuisine — highlights include sauteed lobster with mushrooms in truffle oil sauce — at Cherry Garden.

**WHERE:** Mandarin Oriental, 5 Raffles Avenue **MRT:** Promenade **WHEN:** Feb 14 **PRICE:** Dolce Vita (6.30pm to 10.30pm): \$158++ to \$188++ a person; Melt Cafe (6.30pm to 9.30pm): \$108++ a person (\$148++ includes free-flow champagne, wine, beer & cocktails); Cherry Garden (6.30pm to 10.30pm): \$296++ (seven-course set for two) **TEL:** 6885-3500 **INFO:** E-mail mosin-dining@mohg.com

##### Say Ti Amo At Zafferano

The evening at Zafferano commences with a selection of canapes at the Terrace Lounge. In the main dining room, guests are served antipasti of Sicilian red prawns and buffalo ricotta perfumed with lemon zest, followed by Hokkaido scallop tartare with Russian caviar, pomegranate jelly and gold flakes. Housemade fettuccine with duck breast ragu is before the mains, which is a choice of Norwegian trout or sous-vide US prime beef tenderloin. The highlight is the dessert bar, featuring a chocolate

fountain, macarons and traditional Italian desserts.

**WHERE:** Level 42 Ocean Financial Centre, 10 Collyer Quay **MRT:** Raffles Place **WHEN:** Feb 14, 5.30pm to 11.45pm **PRICE:** \$218++ (\$198++ for first 20 seats) a person (add \$48++ for wine-pairing) **TEL:** 6509-1488 **INFO:** E-mail info@zafferano.sg

##### Couple's Combo At Morganfield's

Find your perfect match at Morganfield's with the Couple's Combo. Mix and match a half slab of signature Sticky Bones in any flavour (Hickory BBQ, Smoked Peppercorn, Garlic BBQ, Spicy Asian BBQ or limited time-only Honey Rum) with a protein of your choice (Blackened Salmon, Tequila Spiked Chicken or Herb Roasted Chicken) and three Southern-style sides.

**WHERE:** 01-645 Tower 4, Suntec City, 3 Temasek Boulevard (Promenade); 02-23 The Star Vista, 1 Vista Exchange Green (Buona Vista); 01-51A VivoCity, 1 Harbourfront Walk (Harbourfront) **WHEN:** Till March 5, 11am to 11pm daily **PRICE:** \$49.90++ (add \$10++ to upgrade to chargrilled 250g ribeye steak) **TEL:** 6736-1136 (Suntec), 6694-3635 (Star Vista), 6225-0501 (VivoCity) **INFO:** morganfields.com.sg

##### Anti-Valentine's Day Party At Lucha Loco

Lucha Loco is organising its annual signature Hearts Go Loco, an anti-Valentine's Day party for single adults. This year's edition promises to be a night of fun with games encouraging

interaction, music and a loco fiesta. Activities include a kissing booth, pinata bashing with an ex-partner's photo, a sextist senorita and senior contest and Love Letters, where guests can have their Polaroid photos taken, write messages on them and pin them on the wall or slip them into someone's pocket. **WHERE:** 15 Duxton Hill **MRT:** Tanjong Pagar/Outram Park **WHEN:** Feb 14, from 8pm **PRICE:** Payment by coupons (\$10 & \$15) for beverages & tacos from the Taco Stand **TEL:** 6226-3938 **INFO:** E-mail info@luchaloco.com

##### Soulmate Candlelight Dinner Hotel Ref @ Pearl's Hill

Executive chef William Ang has created a Soulmate Candlelight Dinner with two main courses: oven-roasted barramundi and rack of lamb. Other items on the menu are scallop mushroom duxelle with mozzarella; flame salmon trout with lemongrass shoyu vinaigrette; chicken provencale with lobster; cherry tomato basil; and vineyard bisque and baby abalone infused with saffron soup. Dessert is rosa palova with lychee cream, compedak creme brulee and a trio of berries.

**WHERE:** 175A Chin Swee Road **MRT:** Outram Park **WHEN:** Feb 11, 7pm to 9pm **PRICE:** \$168 nett for two, includes free-flow house red wine or Moscato **TEL:** 6827-8288 (or SMS 9111-7137) **INFO:** E-mail reservation@hotelref.com.sg

##### Foie Gras And Rose Petals At Caffe B

The risotto proscocio in Cafe B's five-course Valentine's Day set menu

is topped off with pan-seared foie gras and embellished with rose petals. The salmon tartare with avocado and mango is drizzled with a tangy mix of extra virgin olive oil and lime and served with black sea salt. The pan-seared tuna is coated with pistachios, breadcrumbs and aromatic Italian spices, while the seared wagyu beef striploin is served alongside butternut squash gratin, wild mushroom fricassee, green pea puree and mirin-infused veal jus.

**WHERE:** B1-15/01-83 The Shoppes at Marina Bay Sands, 2 Bayfront Avenue **MRT:** Bayfront **WHEN:** Till Feb 14, noon to 3pm, 6pm to 10pm **PRICE:** \$250++ (\$200++ from Tue to Feb 10) a couple, includes wine-pairing **TEL:** 6887-3311 **INFO:** E-mail contact@caffeb.com.sg

##### World Vision's Mission

Humanitarian group World Vision is organising a Valentine's Day event with food, wine and entertainment. Food such as sauteed spaghetti with laksa paste, stuffed chicken rice balls and French pastries will be served and each guest will receive a box with three vials of wine, one of which is the 2008 Sommet Salve Bordeaux red, accompanied with tasting notes. **WHERE:** Beast & Butterflies, M Social Singapore, 90 Robertson Quay **MRT:** Clarke Quay **WHEN:** Feb 14, 7.30pm **PRICE:** \$100 a person (register at bit.ly/visionfebl4) **TEL:** 6922-0119 **INFO:** E-mail faith.chua@worldvision.org.sg

##### Valentine Vendetta For Singles

At Valentine Vendetta, a singles' party in its sixth year, guests can win up to \$10,000 worth of prizes. There will be ice-breaking activities, including games targeted at singles, such as The Best Proposal.

**WHERE:** Skyline, Level 45 Singapore Land Tower, 50 Raffles Place **MRT:** Raffles Place **WHEN:** Feb 14, from 6pm **PRICE:** \$35 (book online at valentinevendetta2017.eventbrite.sg) or \$45 (at the door), includes two drinks **INFO:** www.vday.sg

##### Hidden Door Concepts' Offerings For Couples, Singles Or Friends

From five-course menus to pizzas and party platters, Hidden Door Concepts has it covered for couples, singles or friends. Sear Steakhouse is serving a five-course set menu (\$85++ a person), Angie's Oyster Bar has a Couple Valentine's Day Platter (\$65++ a person) and Empire is offering an XO XO Truffle Platter (\$75++ for two, with Karat Sparkling 24 at \$26++). Other options include Kitchennette's Triple Waffle Stack Brunch (\$30+ for sharing), Lower East Side Taqueria's Los Amigos Platter (\$66+ for sharing) and Nickeldime Drafthouse's A Pizze My Heart (\$18+).

**WHERE (MRT):** Sear, Angie's Oyster Bar, Empire: Level 45 Singapore Land Tower, 50 Raffles Place (Raffles Place); Nickeldime: 01-06 Novena Gardens, 273 Thomson Road (Novena); Kitchennette: 01-11, 1 Goldhill Plaza (Novena); Lower East Side Taqueria: 19 East Coast Road (Dakota) **WHEN:** Feb 11 to 14 **PRICE:** \$18++ to \$85++ **TEL/INFO:** 6221-9555, hello@50rp.com.sg (Sear, Angie's); 9336-1443, empire@hiddendoor.com.sg (Empire); enquiries@hiddendoor.com.sg