

Local Spotlight

# GHAZALI STREET



By Muna Al-Fuzai

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**W**hen an authority decided to shut a vital highway in Kuwait - Al-Ghazali Road - with a stroke of a pen, it made people angry, because they were forced to spend hours on the roads due to the resulting traffic jams. This is surely a big mistake and the responsibility of the Ministry of Public Works and the Traffic Department. Closing any street for development is acceptable, but doing it without preparations will lead to complaints, so it is necessary to have alternative plans before proceeding, while the opening of additional routes is essential.

Traffic to and from Kuwait City is heavy all the time and on all roads. The contractor said the closure will last for a year, until the development of Al-Ghazali Road is complete. We have become accustomed in Kuwait to poor planning by officials and disregard for the people, so this project may end up taking two years. This is possible, and I really wonder what it will be like until the end of this mess.

Shuwaikh Industrial area is usually one of the busiest locations in town, let alone after the closure of this vital artery. The important question is - what are the alternative routes provided to users of the road? I

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am not surprised with the action they took, since they haven't taken into account the problem of flying gravel that has shattered the windshields of many cars.

The problem is not with the large number of cars, but the poor planning and road system. The United Arab Emirates has a wonderful system, so why not learn from the systems they have adopted? Some reports mentioned the opening of alternative routes, but two days ago, I was stuck there for an hour and a half, where the cars did not move due to the severe congestion caused by the mix of cars, trucks and buses. It's very annoying when you are stranded in the car in the middle of the road for long hours.

The Ministry of Public Works announced it will open a new tunnel on Jahra road opposite Kuwait Club with a length of more than half a kilometer after almost two weeks. The opening of the main bridge on Airport Road should be by March. I advise everyone to be extra careful when using the new roads as a result of changes in the level of traffic and speeds.

There is a need for urban planning, with a focus on expanding the integrated network of roads. Tunnels and bridges must be ready to adapt to the increase in vehicles and future growth. Also, cooperation between the ministries of public works, interior, transportation, electricity and water and the road engineering department is a must.

Congestion exists in all countries of the world, but it becomes a problem in the absence of preparation and planning.

PHOTO OF THE DAY



A walking track or pathway cuts through a local community garden in residential Shuwaikh in this 2016 file photo. Recent rain has encouraged a flourishing of fresh grass, greenery as well as the popular native plant, Al-Nowair in local parks and public spaces.— Photo by Yasser Al Zayyat

IMPRINT

# AIN'T LOVE GRAND?



By Nejud Al-Yagout

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**W**e judge ourselves and others very harshly. We believe we should behave in certain ways, and when we stray from society's obligations, we feel guilty, anxious and afraid. What if we cut ourselves some slack? When we begin to love ourselves, suddenly all that we perceived was wrong in others begins to dissolve too. Many people spend limitless energy being upset at those they love for being late, for canceling plans at the last minute or for not being there. And we end up punishing ourselves for doing so as well.

When we practice self-love, though, we give others permission to be themselves. We cut the cord of expectations and let them be. We get angry at others for not making time for us, but time is an illusion. It is always this moment when a person is in your life. Why condemn the moment for something that has passed or is yet to come? Who are we to vent to others about them, consequently, or hold grudges? Who is that is holding a grudge? Have you asked yourself who it is? And who is aware of it?

We are all free to be with who we want, when we want. If we allow ourselves to spend time with those we cherish when we choose to, then others should be given that freedom as well. We resonate at a higher frequency when we are happy. Why pressure anyone to spend time with us? Why stop adoring them when they do not reciprocate this desire? Love, true love, means allowing others the space to come in and out of your lives as they please. There are no rules. Why do our egos set such stringent boundaries? Why do we punish others for not behaving the way the ego wants them to behave? Ego is not love. Ego will never

be love. Ego can never be love.

People "misbehave" all the time. And it may hurt, but when we evolve, we begin to understand that there is a consciousness governing all that is in place. There is nothing to judge. And in this awakening, we begin to practice love without trying. Suddenly, we begin to love without expecting anything in return. And, amazingly, when we stop judging others, they transform, we transform.

There is nothing we need to do to awaken to this reality. All is exactly as it should be. And this is a promise: When we open up to love, it will come running to us,

forcefully. The universe will reward us with kind souls who are open and ready for love. And this is not done for reward, ever. It is something that arises naturally within us when we are ready. When it is done for reward, we are still operating at a low frequency, but this is accepted too, as part of our journey, as a result of conditioning. But when reward takes a backseat and love reigns, magic begins. We

are finally ready to love unconditionally.

How sexy is it to love someone exactly the way they are? Where society sees flaws, we see beauty. Where society sees erratic behavior, we see possibility. Where society defines someone's character, we see the natural flow. Where society sees fear, we see the potential for a love so potent, we are ready to surrender.

Love is too open for rules, labels and expectations. Way too open. And love can never be confined to a day, a time or a place. Love is too grand. Tell me, ain't love grand?

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Nejud Al Yagout - Photo by Djinane Alsuwayeh