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Municipal Manager appointed

The George Council approved the appointment of Dr Michele Gratz as Municipal Manager on a five-year contract during the Special Council meeting held on Thursday, 14 April 2022 after following the recruitment and selection process as determined by Municipal Regulations.

In proposing the appointment, Executive Mayor Leon van Wyk referred to the critical role played by Dr Gratz as Acting Municipal Manager in the turnaround process since the beginning of January 2021, of stabilising the administration, making key appointments, ensuring that capital projects were executed on time and that grants were spent in terms of their conditions.

Following an engagement with National Treasury in April 2021, the application for the successful Budget Facility for Infrastructure Grant of almost R1,2 billion was launched.

Service delivery standards have improved and continue to receive ongoing attention. The Executive Mayor emphasised the increase in total spending by the Municipality that has commenced from almost R2,2 billion in the year ended 30 June 2020 to a budget of over R3,6 billion for the year commencing on 1 July 2022.

In congratulating Dr Gratz on her appointment, Alderman Van Wyk referred



Municipal Manager, Dr Michele Gratz

to the common objectives for the five-year term, being the next phases of the turnaround to effect internal operational efficiencies, improvement to services, tackling the refurbishment of infrastructure, mitigating the risks of unreliable electricity supply through renewable energy and ensuring an enabling environment for increased economic activity.

Clean Audit achieved

George Municipality received an unqualified audit opinion with no findings on the annual performance report for the year ended 30 June 2021. This is what is known as a “clean audit report”.

Executive Mayor, Ald Leon Van Wyk offered his congratulations to the Municipal Manager, Dr Michele Gratz, the Chief Financial Officer, Mr Riaan du Plessis, the Finance team, Internal Audit and all the Directorates who put in a huge effort to ensure that this milestone was achieved.

The Auditor-General commended the management for the audit outcome of the municipality which improved. “The outcome in the prior year was an unqualified audit opinion with findings on predetermined objectives which improved to unqualified opinion with no findings. This is mainly attributable to the efforts made by management to improve controls around indigent debtors and the overall improvement of the control environment at the municipality.”

Portfolio Councillor for Finance, Dirk Wessels congratulated the entire administration on the achievement. “This clean audit highlights to the public of George, that the Council and the municipality are working with care with taxpayer’s funds. George is one of the few



Chief Financial Officer, Riaan Du Plessis

financially stable municipalities in South Africa.”

Municipal Manager, Dr Michele Gratz was thrilled with the outcome and lauded the immense team effort involved. “The improvement on the previous year’s audit outcome is a fitting reward for the Administration’s hard work and commitment to good governance, clean administration and ensuring that George Municipality is financially sustainable.”

This favourable audit result was a result of a huge team effort by the Municipality and was guided by the exceptional leadership of the Municipal Manager said CFO, Riaan Du Plessis. “The result confirms the efforts made by the municipality’s officials and management to address the findings raised by the Auditor-General in the prior year

reports. The commitment and efforts of our staff are acknowledged and greatly appreciated.

Despite this excellent result, there remain further improvements that will be made to continue our drive to modernise the municipality’s administration and to ensure we optimise our ability to effectively deliver services. This result is encouraging and motivates the officials to continue in their efforts to establish George as the leading secondary city.”



Explaining the functions of the portable dam to the Executive Mayor Leon van Wyk is Fire Chief, Neels Barnard with Kishugu helicopter pilot Niel Mostert.

Fire management demonstrates aerial capabilities

George Municipality continues to address the safety of the city of George in terms of fire management. Our Fire and Rescue Services are faced with semi-desert, mountainous terrain on both sides and over the mountain, as well as large tracts of agricultural land, pine plantations, alien vegetation, coastal fynbos, indigenous forest and winding inaccessible roads connecting towns and villages over long distances.

The George Municipal Council a while back, approved a multi-faceted approach by the department to acquire key equipment and additional vehicles over a few financial years to systematically address different aspects of fire and rescue management.

The Fire Fighting team recently hosted a demonstration of the aerial capabilities of the acquired resources at the Garden Route’s first dedicated emergency firefighting airstrip located on municipal property above Denneoord and which opened in December 2017.

The airbase consists of a runway, helipad, firebase, taxiway and a water refilling point. In collaboration with Kishugu, a demonstration was given with the helicopter doing precision pick up of water in a “bucket” using the George fire department portable dam. Water drops were demonstrated according to wind directions and topography and a precision drop was done to demonstrate the versatility of the helicopters as a firefighting resource, as well as how they can assist with the supply of water to the portable dam. The 14 000-litre portable dam is used as an artificial water source from which a helicopter bucket can scoop water or fire vehicles can be filled.

Executive Mayor Leon Van Wyk and Municipal Manager Dr Michele Gratz were given a brief overview of the Risk Assessment done regarding the Witfontein plantations and the collaborative plan to reduce this risk by the George Fire Department, Cape Nature, Department of



Kishugu helicopter pilot Niel Mostert with Ald Leon Van Wyk

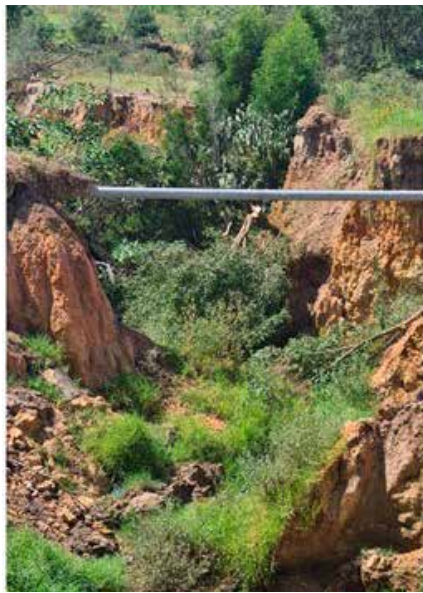
Environment, Forestry and Fisheries (DFFE) and other roleplayers.

The Mayor and MM were given a tour of the 10 km of Fire Breaks and paths that have been established on municipal property above Denneoord. Fuel reduction-controlled burns are planned for approximately 170 hectares of the veld around Denneoord /Garden Route dam and 298 hectares of veld above the plantation in the SANPARKS area.

The correct weather conditions are required for control burn conditions and the public is assured that more than adequate resources are available to conduct control burns safely with minimum risk. The first control burn was undertaken in March this year on a 3-hectare block of veld above Denneoord.



The Gwaiing donga before the remedial works.



The danga prior to the remedial works and how it currently looks with the remedial works under way. The suspended steel pipe is an existing cable sleeve and the rehabilitation is being done with the sleeve and cable intact.

Gwaiing Wastewater Treatment Works donga repairwork in final stages

Remedial work at a donga (a dry gully, formed by the eroding action of running water) that formed at the Gwaiing Waste Water Treatment Works due to stormwater run-off is underway because it was encroaching on infrastructure at the works.

The donga formed near the final effluent discharge to the Gwaiing River and is one of two in the area. The requirement for remedial action at the first site became

critical for the protection of the chlorine contact tank located on the edge of the donga. The second donga will be repaired as part of the next project for the upgrading of the inlet and outlet structures at the works.

Excavated gravel materials from civil construction sites that had been stored at the Outeniqua Waste Water Treatment Works as well as excavated materials from current street construction projects

have been used to fill up the donga. The material is being compacted to at least the density of the surrounding soil to avoid creation of a weak spot that will just erode again. Some pipework had to be relocated and redirected to allow construction to proceed.

The project is currently at an advanced stage and the completion of construction is expected towards the end of April 2022. The challenges faced in geotechnical

remedial works such as this one, is firstly to provide access for the construction machinery and secondly to create a safe work environment by trimming the side slopes so that slip failures would not occur and cause danger to persons or equipment. After these aspects are catered for, the project would not pose many challenges except that working in wet conditions is near impossible due to slippery conditions inside the work area.

UNIONDALE: Nuwe Bestuurderslisensie Toetssentrum

George Munisipaliteit het uitstekende nuus vir die inwoners van Uniondale en omliggende gebiede. 'n Nuwe bestuurderslisensie toetssentrum word hier ingerig.

Vernon Petersen, Waarnemende Direkteur van Beskermingsdienste en waarnemende George Verkeershoof sê die dae dat Uniondalers and mense van omliggende gebiede vir jare baie kilometers moes af lê om hul aansoeke te doen, is verby.

Die plaaslike mense sal nou op hul deurdrumpel aansoek kan doen vir onder meer leerlinglisensies, hernuwing van bestuurderslisensies en aansoeke om professionele bestuurderslisensie permitte.

Gedurende 2021 het Petersen, Piet Junies, Senior Superintendent: Lisensies samesprekings met die dorpsbestuurder van Uniondale, Duppie du Preez en assistent-

rekenmeester Madhaven Isaacs gehou om die moontlikheid te bespreek rakende die inrig van 'n nuwe sentrum. By die sentrum sal leerlinglisensieklasse aangebied word, die hernuwing van bestuurderslisensie asook professionele bestuurderslisensie-permitte.

Die hele span was dit eens dat die gerief vir Uniondale lank reeds nodig is en het met groot entoesiasme begin werk aan die plan.

Intussen is kantoorspasie geskep vir die nuwe sentrum by die Uniondale munisipale kantore. Die kantore is reeds beveilig vir die oogtoetsmasjien en die gemeenskapsaal is ingerig vir die aanbied van die leerlinglisensieklasse.

Petersen sê die Nasionale Departement van Vervoer het reeds die finale goedkeuring vir die Bestuurderslisensie Toetssentrum Graad E verleen. Die munisipaliteit wag slegs op die administratiewe proses om by die Wes-Kaapse departement van Vervoer afgehandel te word sodat die deure van die nuwe perseel geopen kan word. Intussen word die opening van die toetssentrum reeds beplan.



Die Uniondale gemeenskap-saal word ingerig as 'n lokaal vir leerlinglisensie-klasse. INLAS: Die oogtoetsmasjien is reeds ingerig by die Uniondale bestuurders-lisensie-toetssentrum.



Welcoming the ladies on the job from Cleansing are from left Jody Stuurman (Administration), Karin Stoffels (Project Coordinator), Zimkhita Mzilikazi (new appointee), Yolanda Mali (Administration - on truck), Suzette Andrews (new appointee), Sivuyile Mtila (Senior Manager), Renay Engelbrecht (new appointee), Geraldine Wolmarans (new appointee) and Janine Fernold (Manager).

History made at George Municipality

George Municipality is thrilled to have appointed four female refuse collectors to the Cleansing department, Community Services. The four general assistants, all aged between 22 and 35, were appointed in February 1st. They have been appointed to do collection and disposal of waste from residential areas and businesses to the refuse transfer station.

Allen Paulse, Director Community Services confirmed these are the first women ever to start these specific jobs at George Municipality. "We are all very proud of them. They are in their second week of on-the-job training and are doing brilliantly. They are working hard and really earning their way. Paulse said the women underwent interviews and physical tests before they were selected as the

successful few out of interviewees.

"We are so proud of our new appointees. The women have already done amazing work. We also thank the rest of the staff for welcoming the ladies on the job," said Paulse.



The women that made history this month at George Municipality are from left, Zimkhita Mzilikazi, Geraldine Wolmarans, Renay Engelbrecht and Suzette Andrews.

Water Restrictions

The George Municipal Section 80 Civil Engineering Services approved the implementation of Water Restrictions in January 2022, similar to those found in paragraph 2B of the George Municipal Drought Management Policy. Chairperson of the Portfolio Committee, Cllr Browen Johnson noted that an emergency as contemplated in Section 2(4)(b) of the Water Services By-law to limit or restrict the use of water currently exists in George as the water treatment works cannot meet the current potable water demand. George Municipality has over the past year, following extensive pipe bursts throughout the year, as well as the infrastructure damage caused by 22 November and 06 December 2021 flashfloods, reported to the public that the use of drinking water per day in George is currently higher than the amount of water that is being purified by our water treatment works.

DRINKING WATER DEMAND IS UP

During last year the Annual Average Daily Demand for drinking water was 32 MI per day and the current water treatment works output per day is about 38MI. This is produced daily by the Old Water Treatment Works and the New Water Treatment Works which are both operating optimally.

BUT THE GARDEN ROUTE DAM IS FULL?

Residents should note that although the GARDEN ROUTE DAM LEVEL remains almost full, this is RAW WATER storage and not POTABLE or DRINKING WATER supply. The raw water needs to be treated at the George Old and New Water Treatment Facilities before it goes to the main potable water storage reservoirs for distribution into the reticulation system. The current water demand is higher than the production rate at these facilities.

FORWARD PLANNING

Forward planning is in place and the remedial and capacity (20MI) extension projects funded by the BFI grant will extend the water treatment capacity for George and will be implemented in two phases over three years. The construction for the 20MI Water Treatment Works has commenced. The full construction period will however stretch over several years. The overall funding required to ensure potable water security in the George system is R1.197 billion and the funding will be provided over the next forty (40) months for the full phases of the Potable Water Security and Remedial Works projects. There are currently 8 sub-components in various stages of procurement and implementation. George Municipality has also applied for R238m in disaster funding for remedial work required to repair infrastructure damaged during the floods of November/December 2021. Water restrictions to save on drinking water being used for other purpose, have therefore been implemented in the George Water Distribution and Reticulation network, excluding Uniondale and Haarlem

until further notice. The immediate measures to be adhered to are as follows:

1. The mechanical or automatic irrigation/watering devices or sprinkler systems for gardens is prohibited.

2. Gardens may be watered from 01 May to 31 August during the following period only, i.e. between 17:00 to 19:00:
Even numbered households ONLY Mondays and Thursdays
Uneven numbered households ONLY Tuesday and Fridays
If a garden hose is used, it must be hand-held;

3. The irrigation or watering of all sports fields is prohibited. Exemption from restrictions in the following instances only: golf course greens, bowling greens, and cricket pitches which may only be watered between 19:00 and 21:00.
4. The washing of vehicles with a garden hose is prohibited, except by a commercial enterprise whose business it is to wash cars.
5. The cleaning of ANY area by mechanical means or hosepipe using water is prohibited; The use of a bucket is however permitted.
6. The filling of swimming pools is prohibited.
7. Where own water from a borehole or reservoir is used, the appropriate notice shall be displayed on the premises, e.g. "OWN WATER".

Contraventions of the Water Restrictions can be reported on 0800 424477 and will be followed up by George Municipal Law Enforcement.

Any person who contravenes these restrictions is guilty of an offence and is, upon conviction, liable to a fine as published in the annual tariffs list, or six months imprisonment.

In terms of Section 5 of the By-law, any person may apply in writing for the exemption from the provision of any notice published in terms of the By-law, and the Council may grant an exemption and impose conditions in respect of such an application. The Policy grants permission to the Directorate Civil Engineering Services to approve applications for exemptions.

Application forms for an exemption can be obtained from the office of the Directorate: Civil Engineering Services, Old Town Hall, on the corner of Market and York Streets.

Alternatively, applicants can contact Ms G van Niekerk on 044 – 801 9354 / gvanniekerk@george.gov.za to request that a copy of the application form be emailed to them.

The Directorate Civil Engineering Services will consider all applications. A written exemption shall be provided where approved.

Report all water leaks to our Civil Engineering Department on 044 801 9262/66.



Water Demand Reduction in action

To help alleviate the demand for potable water, the George Municipality started with two water demand reduction campaigns: the installation of 2litre plastic “coke” bottles in its toilets flushing systems in its facilities and replacement of the traditional taps in beaches with push-down taps.

These two campaigns are taking the efforts of reducing the water demand further and putting the George Municipality in a position of leading by example.

The Municipality collected more than 1000 2litre plastic bottles to install in its 54 facilities ranging from municipal buildings, offices, recreational facilities, community halls and libraries. Thanks to a recycling

company, based in the George Industrial area, Henque Waste, for sponsoring the Municipality with more than 800 bottles.

Push taps replace conventional
Another initiative that is aimed at reducing water demand from George’s reservoir is the replacement of traditional taps with push down taps in George facilities, including at beaches.

Push taps switch off automatically, this takes away the possibility that someone may leave the tap running. Push taps offer more control over the flow of water as users wash their hands for less time, impacting less water consumption in a long run.

Water-Saving messages on the move...

The Refuse Removal services have joined the George Municipality’s awareness campaign on water saving by using their trucks to spread the word in and around George. All refuse trucks have been branded with decals containing the message of saving water. These trucks drive past all households and businesses in George collecting refuse weekly.

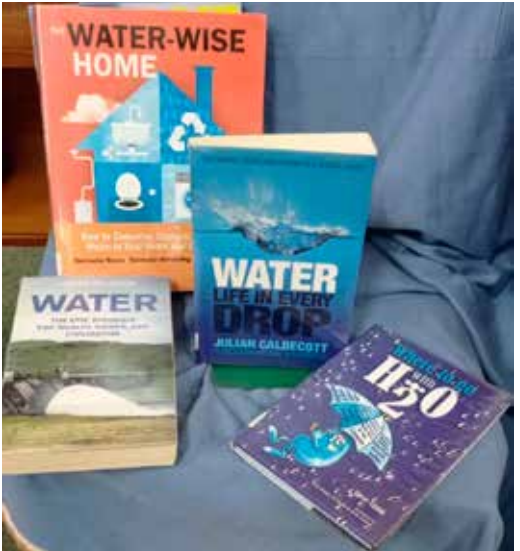


To witness the display of the branded trucks were, from left to right: Mr Allen Paulse (with the bag in hand) (Director of Community Services), Ms Karin Stoffels (Project Coordinator: Street Cleansing), Mr Sivuyile Mtshali (Senior Manager of Environmental Services), Mr Wessel Robertson (Head Cleansing), and Portfolio Councillor Jean Safers (at the Back of the truck) (Environmental Services Cleansing).

Water Week Awareness: 20 - 26 March 2022

George Library Manager, Rachel Williams thanked all library officials for throwing their weight behind the awareness campaign around Water Saving in George in the run up to National Water Week and Water month. In the photographs are the awareness exhibits set up by George and Pacaltsdorp libraries.

Under the theme: “Groundwater- making the invisible, visible”, the National Water week activities address the current and future water challenges the country is facing. Water must be protected, conserved and used in a sustainable manner as South Africa is a water-scarce country. National Water Week 2022 runs from 20 to 26 March and is aimed at educating the public about their responsibility in water conservation initiatives, raising awareness around the need to protect and conserve the country’s water resources.



Upcycling programme builds skills

A youth ambassador from the George Municipality Youth Office in conjunction with the Pacaltsdorp Community Business Association is leading a group of young women from Pacaltsdorp in implementing an upcycling programme with the aim

of building skills and generating income. The group of twelve committed members have started making goods from recycled material (cans, plastic bags and other materials) in order to build skills and generate an income.

The Pacaltsdorp Community Business Association (PCBA), provides assistance with skills transfer and business mentoring. Melonique Morris, Youth Ambassador for George Municipality is the direct link between the group and the George

Municipality Youth Office. According to Jonel Kerspuys, Coordinator of the Youth Office, since the group started, they have spread awareness around the importance of recycling in their community, at the local crèches and schools.



Everyone involved at recycling day with Klouter Kabouter and Soete Uurtjies creche. With the community workers, personnel and children from the creches, officials from George Municipality are Ward 16 Cllr Theresa Jeyi (left) and Brendon Adams (middle) Portfolio Councillor: Community Services - Social Development, Libraries and Sport and Ward Councillor for Ward 17.



Finished products that will be sold at the market days.

This resulted in a showcase of materials at a modelling show recently held in New Dawn Park, Pacaltsdorp. The PCBA have assisted them to set up a stall at their Community Market Days where they will sell some of their upcycled stuff. The group intends to work hard and connect with like-minded organisations, to make and be the change in their community.

George Dam - Kariba Weed Biological Control

The George Municipality continues to address the Kariba Weed found at the Katriver inflow of the Garden Route Dam. In February, Petrus Crous, an Outeniqua Canoe Club member (OCC) and Tyrone April (Superintendent Parks: George Municipality) released a thousand *Salvinia weevils* (*Cyrtobagous salviniae*).

This is a follow up on the December 2021 release of approximately 1200 weevils at the Katriver inflow. The *Salvinia* weevils target the Kariba weed (*Salvinia molesta*), a free-floating invasive fern. The *Salvinia* weevils are a highly effective biological control mechanism of Kariba Weed. The adult weevils are 2mm long and black. Young larvae feed on the buds and roots while older larvae tunnel into the plant causing leaves to die back and drop off. Since the weevils eat the plant, a significant reduction in the amount of dead plant material

is expected once the weevils have established.

Matthew Paper (Junior researcher, Centre for Biological Control (CBC) Department of Zoology & Entomology at Rhodes University) and Petrus Crous (OCC) surveyed the dam to assess the most recent distribution of the Kariba Weed.

Prior releases in February and December 2021 have shown positive signs of *Salvinia* weevils causing Kariba weed dying back To that end the municipality continues to

strengthen cooperation between all parties involved in the localised rearing facility that will ensure a stable supply of *Salvinia* weevils in future.

The management of the Kariba weed at the Garden Route Dam is an ongoing process and the municipality is continuously assessing the options available to control the spread and density. “

The *Salvinia* weevils are a highly effective biological control mechanism of Kariba Weed.



Petrus Crous, Outeniqua Canoe Club Member assisted Tyrone April, Superintendent for Parks and Recreation at the George Municipality with the release of 1000 *salvinia* weevils.

Dumpsite turned into a beautiful garden



A team from George Municipality Cleansing department transformed an illegal dumping site at the entrance of Thembaletu, corner of Gcakani Street and Nelson Mandela Boulevard, Thembaletu into a beautiful garden. In the before picture one can see the stacks of refuse bags filled with refuse from the site. In the after photo recycled tyres were used to create a seating space and beautified with plants.



New grader truck

The George Municipality received a brand-new grader in February.

The new grader truck will be used as the front-end loader at the landfill site, and at the waste transfer station for the maintenance of the facilities. The benefit of procuring this machinery will cut down on hiring costs and improve proper management and maintenance of the facility.



FLTR: (Standing): Allen Paulse (Director: Community Services) and Dr Michele Gratz (Municipal Manager) Sitting: Cllr Jean Safers (Community Services Portfolio which includes Cleansing and Environment). Sitting on top: Ald Leon van Wyk

Operation Kleinkrantz, Hoekwil and Touwsranten a resounding success!

George Municipality launched the first of its ongoing Operation Cleanup's for 2022 with 4 days dedicated to Kleinkrantz, Hoekwil and Touwsranten. This operation was meant to have taken place in November 2021 but was postponed following the severe flash floods experienced in George.

Ward 4 Councillor, Marlene Barnardt expressed her gratitude towards the various directorates who participated in the operation. " I visited Kleinkrantz several times and would like to commend the whole of Community Services who did a great job of clearing and cleaning streets, pruning trees and so on. I was very pleased to see the areas being given the necessary attention they deserve," said Cllr Barnardt.

Community Services: Cleansing, Social Services, Parks and Recreation

A number of illegal dump sites were cleared as well as streets cleaned of weeds and swept by a team of EPWP workers together with a JCB. Social Services together with the Department of Health and South African Police Services (SAPS) visited the area to provide information on

available services. Residents were assisted with referrals to the relevant government departments for their needs. Discussions were held with residents around the dangers of illegal dumping as part of George Municipality's ongoing awareness campaign.

Kleinkrantz Creche and Sonneblom Creche in Touwsranten are two of the 28 creches that are assisted by the George Municipality. Our officials visited them to review their daily activities with the toddlers, to look at maintenance issues and equipment requirements. Where possible the George Municipality will assist and/or refer the matter to Early Childhood Development section of Basic Education Department for further action.

Parks and Recreation cut grass in municipal open spaces and sprayed herbicide on pavements for weeds. Parks and Recreation staff spent some time clearing and cutting grass around Sonneblom Creche. Another team focused on trimming trees in Kleinkrantz area.

Planning: Building Control

Two assistant Building Control officers, Eddie Koeberg and Mkhululi Nkeya were sent to review the areas and a number of illegal advertising boards were removed.

Civil Engineering Services

Civils teams updated roadmarkings and signage in all three areas. The sewer teams walked the main sewer lines to inspect for any spillage or leaks.

Electrotechnical Services

The Client Services team for



Electrotechnical worked their way through the Kleinkrantz informal settlement, addressing complaints and checking prepaid meters and ready boards. The streetlights team repaired a number of street lights in Kleinkrantz, the informal settlement, Kerk Street in Hoekwil and Touwsranten.

Protection Services: Traffic

Traffic Officers patrolled the area of Kleinkrantz, Hoekwil and Touwsranten and did speed enforcement in Hoekwil. The drunk driving kit was set up in Kleinkrantz and local residents were encouraged to test goggles that simulate the effects of drunk driving.



Dienste-uitreiking na Haarlem en Uniondale

George Munisipaliteit en nog belanghebbendes soos SASSA en die polisie het dienste na die inwoners van Haarlem en Uniondale geneem met jamborees. Die mini-jamborees (inligting en dienste sessies)is in opvolg van jamborees wat deur die George Munisipaliteit, departement Plaaslike Regering, tesame met ander rolspelers in Februarie 2022 te Haarlem en Uniondale gehou is.

Daar was 'n behoefte om meer mense in die landelike gebiede te betrek by veral dienste wat deur die munisipaliteit gelewer word, soos navrae van rekeninge, deerniskwessies, waglyste, eienaarskap van huise en meer.

Die dienste is in oorleg met die plaaslike amptenary van Haarlem, Uniondale en George gehou.

In Maart het sowat 250 inwoners van die Haarlem gemeenskap van die

dienste by die jamboree in die Haarlem gemeenskapsaal gebruik gemaak. En ongeveer 150 mense het die dienste te Lyonville gemeenskapsaal in Uniondale bygewoon.

George Munisipaliteit se amptenary het gehelp met navrae en aansoek met betrekking tot rekeninge, belastings en deernisaansoeke asook navrae oor behuisingswaglyste, titelaktes en eienaarskap.

Die departement van Maatskaplike Ontwikkeling het navrae hanteer in Haarlem rakende pensioene en toelaas. Die Polisie was in Haarlem teenwoordig om die sertifisering van dokumente te doen en om navrae te beantwoord. In Uniondale was die Munisipaliteit se afdelings van Menslike Nedersettings, stadsbeplanning, finansies, korporatief, omgewingsake en en die jeugsentrum teenwoordig om mense te help.



Mense van Uniondale daag op by die Mini-jamboree by Lyonville gemeenskapsaal. Amptenare van die departement van Maatskaplike Dienste help mense van Haarlem met navrae.

7 jaar van hoë-tegnologie diens aan George-gemeenskap

Sewe jaar gelede het die eerste geskeduleerde busse van George se eie openbare busdiens op 8 Desember 2014 om 05:00 uit die Yorkstraat-depot vertrek en Fase 1 van die George Geïntegreerde Openbare Vervoernetwerk (GIPTN) uitgerol. Vandag is 24 van die beplande roetes reeds geaktiveer en dek dit ‘n netwerk van 142 km wat die strate van George deurkruis.

“Hoewel daar baie uitdagings langs die pad was en ons baie graag verder gevorderd sou wou wees, met meer fases uitgerol, is ons is baie trots op wat ons tot dusver bereik het,” sê GO GEORGE-bestuurder, James Robb. “Afgesien van die toegewyde en hardwerkende arbeidsmag agter die busdiens, word die gevorderde vlak van tegnologie wat hierdie ingewikkelde stelsel aan die gang hou, voortdurend ontwikkel en aangepas om aan die behoeftes van ‘n topklas, geskeduleerde openbare busdiens soos GO GEORGE te voldoen.”

Intelligente vervoerstelsel
Die GIPTN het ‘n Intelligente Vervoerstelsel (ITS) wat intydse afstandsmoitoring van roete- en roosternakoming moontlik maak, asook verskeie ander operasionele gedragsaanwysers soos spoed, harde rem en -versnelling, en noodoproep van bestuurders.

Die stelsel vertoon waarskuwings ten opsigte van afwykings van enige van die voorgeskrewe grense en hou ‘n deurlopende rekord van die kilometers, luitertye, wagtye, ensovoorts van alle voertuie. Samelopend met voertuigopsoring, is busse ook toegerus met kameras op die voertuie wat gekoppel is aan ‘n opsporingstoestel wat die waarneming van die binnekant van die bus en die pad voor die bus moontlik maak. Die ITS-moniteringsfasiliteit



- ‘n Beter begrip van passasiers se reispatrone om beplanning te verbeter en te verseker dat buskedu-leringsbesluite in lyn is met passasiers-aanvraag.
- ‘n Meer datagedrewe verbetering van die Slimkaart-

is gebaseer in die GIPTN-beheersentrum, in dieselfde ruimte as die GO GEORGE-inbelsentrum wat intydse terugvoering aan inbellers kan bied, asook die funksionaliteit om ouer beeldmateriaal op te spoor om klagtes te ondersoek.

Vandalisme
“‘n Baie hartseer werklikheid van ons bedrywighede is die konstante vandalisering van ons busse en infrastruktuur,” sê Robb. “Die kameras aan boord is beslis nuttig in hierdie verband en moet as afskrikmiddel vir hierdie soort gedrag dien, maar ons sien steeds nie die afname wat ‘n mens sou verwag nie.”

Outomatiese tariefinvoering
Die outomatiese GO GEORGE-tariefinvoeringstelsel het die tussentydse papierkaartjie laat in 2018 vervang. Met meer as drie jaar in bedryf het die stelsel ‘n kontantlose skanderingsfunksie ontwikkel wat passasiers toelaat om die GO GEORGE-busdiens gerieflik te gebruik deur hul persoonlike Slimkaart te skandeer. Gekoppel aan die ITS, bied hierdie stelsel waardevolle insigte wat gebruik word om die gehalte van die GO GEORGE-diens vir die passasiers te verbeter. Sommige van hierdie insigte sluit in:

produkte met behulp van die stelsel om te verseker dat dit voldoen aan die behoeftes van passasiers.
• Ontwikkeling van strategiese ontplooiing van herlaaipunte en mobiele kioske na gebiede waar opklimsyfers hoog is, en herlaaifasiliteite laag.

Digitale brandstofbestuurstelsel
George Link, die voertuigbedryfsmaatskappy, het in 2018 drie dieseltenke met ‘n gesamentlike kapasiteit van 69 000 liter by die busdepot laat installeer. Die bestuur van die voorraad en brandstofverbruik deur ‘n digitale stelsel laai die data in sigbladformaat af en kan elke hervulling nagegaan word deur middel van die busvlootnommer, die drywer en brandstofjoggie se identiteit, en die hoeveelheid brandstof wat ingeneem is, en uit watter pomp. Hierdie konstante oog op die brandstofverbruik van elke voertuig sowel as op die bestuurder wat die bus op daardie skof hanteer, waarsku ook die bestuur van oortmatige verbruik wat ‘n meganiese ondersoek of die nagaan van die bestuurder se vaardighede in terme van brandstofekonomie kan vereis.

Exploring smart City opportunities

George Municipality recently partnered with the Africa Business Network of the Finland Chamber of Commerce, the German-South African Chamber of Commerce, the German-Finnish Chamber of Commerce and the Western Cape Economic Development Partnership to host a webinar exploring aspects of smart energy, smart building, smart infrastructure and smart mobility.

A smart city uses information and communication technology (ICT) to ensure operational efficiency, share information with the public and provide a better quality of government service and citizen welfare. The main goal of a smart city is to optimise city functions and promote economic growth while also improving the quality of life for citizens by using smart technologies and data analysis. The value lies in how this technology is used rather than simply how much technology is available.

Executive Mayor Alderman Leon Van Wyk formally opened the webinar, which was moderated by Mr Jens Hauser HOD Competence Centre Sustainable Energy, German-South African Chambers of Commerce and Mr Paul Hoffman, Project Manager, Garden Route Development Partnership.

In his opening comments, the Executive Mayor provided a scene-set of George as an intermediary and magnet city in South Africa utilising its natural attractions and relaxed lifestyle in the Garden Route to position itself as a growing business centre. He sketched the key economic sectors and George’s 40% share of the Garden Route’s economy.

Some examples of how George already embraces elements of smart city concepts: it aims to secure 20-30% of its electricity from renewable sources within 3-5 years, the city is already fibre optic cable connected, utilises CCTV cameras for safety and security monitoring for public transport bus service, and a mobile app for service delivery complaints and communication.

A significant national insurer operates a large online contact centre, thousands of milk-producing cows have SIM cards monitoring their health, the fire services utilise drone technology and increasing use is being made of smart meters and telemetry in the electricity and water networks. It is hoped that these examples will help in facilitating interest and investment from Germany and Finland.

Ms Lauren Waring, Director Planning and Development noted that the webinar intended to explore the aspects of smart energy, smart building, smart infrastructure, and smart mobility; and to establish meaningful international

learning networks which will be key for the economic development of George and which are aligned to the strategic goals of the George Municipality.

International, national as well as local speakers covered topics which included: An overview on Smart Cities - the cities of the 21st century; Mobility as a Service - The End of Car Ownership? (MaaS Global); Technologies for a smarter

built environment (Siemens); Creating value out of municipal solid waste (Anaergia Africa) as well as case studies on Kone and the City of George.

The George Municipal Spatial Development Framework, 2019 (MSDF) is the spatial representation of the

Integrated Development Plan and coordinates and directs growth in the short, medium and long term, <https://www.george.gov.za/george-documents/spatial-development-framework/municipal>, and fully embraces the Smart City concept.

Smart City Growth is one of the strategies supporting the spatial planning approach in George and various policies and development guidelines are set to facilitate a compact, legible urban form, including a mix of land uses, a range of housing- and transportation opportunities and walkable neighbourhoods, whilst preserving open space, farmland, natural beauty- and critical environmental areas.

The MSDF policies and guidelines are further intent on strengthening and directing development towards existing communities and fostering distinctive, attractive communities with a strong sense of place. Processes relating to land development are designed to involve the community in decision-making and to support integrated and considered development.

The process to review the current George MSDF (2019) commenced in 2021 and the use of smart technologies is crucial in collating inputs received from various involved government departments and agencies and interested and affected parties.

Data layers, such as the environmental zones (per example the Coastal Management Line, Critical Biodiversity areas, climate change indicators and many others), Transportation Routes and Planning, Human Settlement development, commercial and industrial development, social- and community facility planning, engineering services planning are coordinated via a Geographic Information system (GIS) to aid spatial planning and to advise land use planning decisions.

The George Municipal GIS Public viewer contains some of the information and can be accessed on the Municipal Website. <https://gis.george.gov.za/portal/home/>



Ms Lauren Waring, Director Planning and Development



Backup battery project: Keeps the lights on

George Municipality has initiated a programme to resolve traffic complications during loadshedding or any other planned power outages. Several Uninterrupted Power Supply (UPS) units have already been installed at selected major traffic intersections in the city to power the traffic lights during outages. George Municipality Director Electrotechnical Services, Bongani Mandla confirmed that the capital budget has been made available to install the units at 40 pre-identified sites at major intersections across the city. “The measure is one of several sustainable energy solutions the municipality is introducing to

reduce the impacts associated with loadshedding, including traffic congestion and human resources such as traffic pointsmen.” The project which will cost approximately R2.5 million, makes use of batteries that are charged via our electrical supply. The UPS automatically kicks in and operates the traffic lights should the electrical supply be interrupted for any reason with an average duration of 4 hours, before the battery needs recharging. This will be a game changer at the major traffic intersections in George during peak hour loadshedding. The UPS housing

is IP65 rated which allows it to be water and dust proof. Executive Mayor Leon Van Wyk paid a quick visit to the team working on site recently to review the technology. In the photograph the Mayor is seen with from left Gerrit Carolus, Superintendent Streetlights; and to his right is Thomas Scheepers, Specialised Electrician Streetlights and Edward Nqumse, Acting Senior Manager Services. Mr Mandla commended the relatively small traffic lights team, who with a specialised skills set and commitment to service delivery address ongoing faults and maintenance at all traffic light intersections in the George area.

GEORGE LOCAL MUNICIPALITY COUNCILLORS



Ald Leon Van Wyk
Executive Mayor PR (DA)



Cllr Raybin Figland
Executive Deputy Mayor PR (DA)



Cllr Sean Snyman,
Speaker, Ward 28 (DA)



Cllr Marlene Barnardt,
Chief Whip, Ward 4 (DA)



Portfolio Cllr Brendon
Adams, Community
Services Social
Development, Libraries
and Sport, Ward 17
(DA)



Portfolio Cllr Charlotte
Clarke, Protection
Services, PR (DA)



Portfolio Cllr Browen
Johnson, Civil
Engineering Services
Ward 23 (DA)



Portfolio Cllr, Henry
Hill, Planning &
Development, PR (DA)



Portfolio Cllr, Ald
Basil Petrus, Human
Settlements, Ward 8
(DA)



Portfolio Cllr Nosiselo
Mbete, Electrotechnical
& Fleet Management,
PR (DA)



Portfolio Cllr Christiaan
Neethling, Corporate
Services & HR, PR
(VF+)



Portfolio Cllr Jean
Safers, Community
Services: Parks, Refuse
& Environment,
Ward 1 (DA)



Portfolio Cllr
Jacquiquie Von
Brandis, Civil
Engineering Services:
Capital Projects & BFI,
Ward 26 (DA)



Portfolio Cllr Dirk
Wessels, Financial &
Strategic Services, PR
(DA)



Cllr Daniel Cronje,
Ward 2 (DA)



Cllr Erika Brown,
Ward 3 (DA)



Cllr Monique
Simmers, Ward 5 (DA)



Cllr Jayzee Jantjies,
Ward 6 (DA)



Cllr Vulindlela Mruqhli,
Ward 7 (ANC)



Cllr Thembinkosi Lento,
Ward 9 (ANC)



Cllr Zukile Gom,
Ward 10 (ANC)



Cllr Sifiso Ntondini,
Ward 11 (ANC)



Cllr Eric Mdaka,
Ward 12 (ANC)



Cllr Simphiwe Toto,
Ward 13 (ANC)



Cllr Melvin Roelfse,
Ward 14 (DA)



Cllr Bonisile Hani,
Ward 15 (ANC)



Cllr Teresa Jeyi,
Ward 16 (GOOD)



Cllr Donovan Gultig,
Ward 18 (DA)



Ald Iona Kritzinger,
Ward 19 (DA)



Cllr Neville Louw,
Ward 20 (GOOD)



Cllr Siphelo Manxele,
Ward 21 (ANC)



Cllr Marais Kruger,
Ward 22 (DA)



Cllr Justin Fry,
Ward 24 (DA)



Cllr Jarques Esau,
Ward 25 (ANC)



Cllr Richard Hector,
Ward 27 (GOOD)



Cllr Ebrahim America,
PR (DA)



Cllr John-Patrick Buys,
PR (PBI)



Cllr Johan Du Toit,
MPAC Chairperson,
PR (ACDP)



Cllr Enrico Figland,
PR (VF+)



Ald Virgill Gericke,
PR (PBI)



Cllr Maria Greeff,
PR (PBI)



Cllr Lorraine Heyser,
PR (PBI)



Cllr Marchell
Kleynhans, PR (PBI)



Cllr Khayaletu Lose,
PR (DA)



Cllr Rosa Louw,
PR (GOOD)



Cllr Faith Mdaka,
PR (ANC)



Cllr Luvuyo Ncamile,
PR (EFF)



Cllr Gert Niehaus,
GIPTN Chairperson,
PR (VF+)



Cllr Thandiswa Qatana,
PR (DA)



Cllr Donovan Saptoe,
PR (GOOD)



Cllr Charlene Titus,
PR (GOOD)



Cllr Sedric Smart,
PR (PA)



Cllr Gert Van Niekerk,
PR (VF+)



Cllr Pheliswa Qampi,
PR (EFF)



Cllr Regina
Windwaai, PR (DA)



Die groep vertrek in vrolike luim by die Optima-sentrum met die meer ervare passasiers baie gretig om hul "verhewe" kennis te deel.

GO GEORGE verkry insig van passasiers met gestremdhede

'n Onlangse busrit na die Garden Route Mall was soos verwag kon word 'n aangename uitstappie vir die jong volwassenes met gestremdhede wat aktiwiteite by die Optima-sentrum van die George Vereniging vir Persone met Gestremdhede (APD) in Pacaltsdorp bywoon. Dit was egter ook 'n uiters insiggewende terugvoergeleentheid vir die GO GEORGE-busdiens.

As deel van voortgesette betrokkenheid by die gestremdheidsektor het GO GEORGE die groep van 22 Optima-deelnemers en twee personeellede vergesel op 'n geskeduleerde busrit wat van 'n bushalte naby die sentrum vertrek het. Sommige van hulle het nog nooit voorheen bus gery nie.

Hierdie tyd is ook konstruktief gebruik om die jongmense in te lig oor die busfasiliteite wat gemik is op universele toeganklikheid vir passasiers, soos die tasbare plaveisel by die bushalte, die verhoogde platform om die instap in die bus te vergemaklik, klankwaarskuwings dat die skuins loopvlak ontplooi word en nog nie gereed is vir blinde passasiers of mense wat mobiliteitstoestelle gebruik om in te klim nie.

Algemene wenke oor die gebruik van die diens het ingesluit waar om te kyk vir die regte bus en roete, hoe om die Slimkaart te skandeer en die gebruik van die prioriteitsitplekke vir passasiers met spesiale behoeftes, asook om die knoppie te druk om die bus te versoek om te stop.

Terug by Optima ná die uitstappie het die GO GEORGE-span 'n informele terugvoersessie met die groep aangelê om hul ervaring te evalueer en inligting in te samel wat toekomstige ondersteuning en leiding oor die gebruik van die busdiens kan rig.

"Tyd saam met ons passasiers wat spesiale behoeftes het, laat ons altyd met baie om oor na te dink," sê James Robb, GO GEORGE-bestuurder. "Die stelsel is ontwerp om so gebruikersvriendelik as moontlik vir al ons passasiers te wees, maar dit sal



Xavier Esterhuizen is 'n ou hand as dit by busry kom en het geen hulp nodig gehad om sy rolstoel in die aangewese ruimte te parkeer en vas te maak nie.

vermetel wees om aan te neem dat ons aan alles gedink het en dat alle behoeftes aangespreek word. GO GEORGE waardeur en moedig terugvoer van alle kategorieë busgebruikers aan en poog deurlopend om die diens diensooreenkomstig te verbeter waar moontlik."

Enigiemand wat meer inligting oor die busdiens benodig, is welkom om die GO GEORGE-inbelsentrum by 0800 044 044 te skakel, die webwerf www.gogeorge.org.za te besoek, of die Facebook-blad te volg om op hoogte te bly van die jongste busnuus- en dienskennisgewings.

Infrastructure Skills Development Programme for George

The George Municipality Infrastructure Skills Development Programme (ISDG Internship Programme) took place for Planning, Geographical Information Systems, Civil and Electrical Engineering interns and officials at the George Bowling Club.



In front are from left Amelia Lombaard, Thabo Yiga, Jeffrey Davids (Principal Clerk: Electrotechnical Services), Michelle Lee, Henko Lourens, Zuko Vanqa, Bongani Langa and Alex Malgas. At the back are Marlene Matthews (Senior Manager: Electrotechnical Services), Ricus Fivaz (Manager: Land Development, Civil Engineering), Sinazo Nyume, Lindokhule Bukani, Sinako Johnson, Nathi Timakwe, Fakazile Vava, Winsley Meyer, Thandiswa Bambata, Ziphelele Nkabi, Adam-John Willems, Debby Edwards (Senior Administration Officer: Support Services, Civil Engineering), Mzoxolo Ntabeni and Donny Jurgens (Facilitator).



Former Infrastructure Skills Development programme (ISDG) interns, registered professionals with ECSA AND SACPLAN, that are employed at the George Municipality, various institutions and engineering companies are in front from left, Raywin Jacobs (Civil Engineering Services: George Municipality and Fakazile Vava (Planning and Development: George Municipality). At the back are Thandiswa Bambata (Department of Transport and Public Works Western Cape Government), Sinako Johnson (Aurecon/Zutari Civil Engineering Consultancy), Marlene Matthews (Senior Manager, George Municipality), Ziphelele Nkabi (Uhambiso Civil Consult (Pty) Ltd), Adam-John Willems (Electrotechnical Services: George Municipality) and Donny Jurgens (Facilitator).



Interns and Officials at the event are in front Lindokhule Bukani, Mzoxolo Ntabeni, Jeffrey Davids and Bongiwe Mgwali. At the back are Winsley Meyer, Michelle Lee, Ricus Fivaz, Sinazo Nyume, Amelia Lombaard, Bongani Langa, Johan Gouws (Mentor), Sikelelwa Gaxa, Donny Jurgens (Facilitator), Nathi Timakwe, Thabo Yiga, Henko Lourens, Mzabantu Mayekiso and Debby Edwards.

Accredited business training

The George Tourism Section offered accredited business training for small tourism businesses in George recently at the Civic Centre. The aim of the training was to empower businesses to grow and expand their business operations to become competitive in their field and increase their income. The George Tourism Section invites all small, medium and micro- enterprises (SMME's) in the tourism industry to be part of the Emerging Tourism Business Database. **Contact Melanie Martins on 044 801 9099 or send an e-mail to mmartins@george.gov.za to get listed on the Emerging Tourism Business Database.**

At the training are in front from left, Luwayda Trantraal, Nellie Reimann, Felicia Nqumse and Luvuyo Nyoka. Middle row, Melanie Martins, Myrtle Sacunda, Nosiphosethu Mabhulu, Enrico Apollis, Castro Fuba and Cecilia Kedama. At the back are Raoul Du Toit, Julius Hilani and Desmond Jandyck.





Cutting the ribbon at the Launch of the mini Library for the Blind at Pacaltsdorp Library are from left, Amgelika Sass from the South African Library for the Blind, Rachel Williams, Manager: George Libraries and Jade O'Ryan from the South African Library for the Blind.

George Libraries hosts successful Library Week

Mini Library for the Blind

Pacaltsdorp Library obtained a mini Library for the Blind during Library Week.

The launch of the mini library will open the door to knowledge and information for the visually impaired people of Pacaltsdorp and surrounding areas. In pursuit of a knowledgeable society and to ensure free and fair citizenship, this programme promises to eradicate information poverty, whilst cultural diversity and active citizenship is being encouraged and emphasized. Education and lifelong learning are hereby fostered.

This is also an opportunity for illiterate people to benefit from this free service that is being rendered.

The primary objective of



Wilkie Barkhuizen (left) from the Genealogical Society Rights in conversation with Cllr Jayzee Jantjies, Ward 6 at George Library.

this project is to provide access to reading materials through assistive devices and the provision of necessary technology that are available at Pacaltsdorp Library. Visually impaired people are thus becoming part of the information society and are given the opportunity to participate in the knowledge society.

Conville Library hosts Spelling Bee

A Spelling Bee was held by Conville Library with Conville Primary School for Library Week. The Spelling Bee is a sub-section of the literary world that is also used during the annual Funda Mzantsi competition.

Rachel Williams, Manager: George Libraries, said it was only Conville Primary that participated in this first competition. "It is our sincere

hope that more schools will take part in the Spelling Bee in future so that many different schools in our area can compete against each other. Williams said one of the perks of the competition is it allows children to develop an appreciation for words and language.

The aim being to increase children's self-confidence and enable them to perform in front of an audience.



The winner of the Spelling Bee competition is Gabrielle Ememameh, grade 7 from Conville Primary School). With her is Library Assistant, Nompumelelo Dladla from Conville Library.

World Read Aloud Day

George Library joined the world celebrating World Read-aloud day and reached out to schools throughout George, to develop and foster a love for reading and books, especially with children.

World Read-aloud day is a world-wide event. Ms Rachel Williams, Manager: George Libraries said the Library Service was inundated with requests by schools and crèches who were desperate to participate in the programme on this day. The

result was that the programme was rolled out over two weeks.

Reading and especially the importance of Reading Aloud for entertainment and recreational purposes, is being emphasized during this week. "When you read aloud, especially to children, you are opening doors and windows whereby their horizons are broadened, they hear new words, gain a better understanding of the

world that they find themselves in, and it allows people to embrace and stand up for literacy as a foundational Human Right," Williams said.

George Libraries joined in with Nali'bali – a national reading-for-enjoyment campaign to spark children's potential through storytelling and reading. Nali'Bali is an isiXhosa word that means here is the story. Nali'bali is built on the simple logic that a well-

When you read aloud, especially to children, you are opening doors and windows whereby their horizons are broadened.

established culture of reading can be a real game-changer for education in South Africa. Literacy skills are a strong predictor of future academic success in all subjects – and children who regularly read and hear engaging stories, in languages they understand, are well equipped and motivated to learn to read and write.

The theme of the story this year was, A party at the park,

written by Mabel Mnensa and illustrations by Rico.

By means of this story children become aware of music and musical instruments, chanting, singing and dancing and simply to have a great time with friends and family. The emphasis is on joy and happiness, the importance of spending time with loved ones and to join in on fun filled activities and events.

Librarians Shonise Jansen of Haarlem Library, Elmine Vorster from George Library, Rachel Williams, Garelene Muller, Cynthia Nongogo, Anet Kortman, Sylvia Kibido and Sandie Lingani and Malibongwe Luyenge all visited schools this week to roll out the World Read-Aloud programme.

The value of Reading Aloud is that it is a fun activity that allows children to escape into another world, it stimulates and enhance good listening and communication skills and it exposes children to new words and thoughts, which develop cognitive and language skills.



Rachel Williams, Library Services Manager at Olympia Special School on World Read Aloud Day.



Short Term Urgent Electrification project - IKAPA

The electrification of 27 homes in Ikapa Informal Settlement was finalised in December as the last of three Short Term Urgent Electrification projects that were prioritized by Council (March 2021) using the available budget for the 2020/21 Financial year. The cost per structure for electrification is between R10 000 – R13 000 which includes a prepaid meter. Each resident receives their own electrical prepaid meter, in their own name with power supply of 40 amps. In the photograph are from left: Kevin Grunewald, BDE Consulting Engineers; Portfolio Councillor for Electrotechnical Services, Nosicelo Mbete; home owner Ms Nosango Silangulana; Ward Councillor Thembinkosi Lento and Director for Electrotechnical Services, Bongani Mandla.

New Station Commander Training

The George Municipality has recently bolstered its Fire Brigade with new appointments. Leading the pack is Santa Sternsdorf, who has moved up the ranks from platoon commander to Station Commander Training, at the George Fire Station. Affectionately known as the “lady driving the big trucks”, Sternsdorf will now focus on training within the George Fire and Rescue Department. Armed with 21 years of experience in the field of firefighting, Santa is ready to impart her wealth of knowledge and expertise to up and coming firefighters as a Graduate Member of International Fire Engineers (IFE) and a qualified Instructor, Assessor, Moderator, and Intermediate Live Support Paramedic.

Seven new junior firefighters

The George Municipality wishes to congratulate and welcome the seven newly appointed junior firefighters that will serve in the Fire and Rescue Service to the Wilderness Fire Station. The new recruits started their duties earlier this year, and are now rotating between George, Thembaletu and Wilderness to get training and exposure with senior staff.



Back row from left: Kenneth Johnson, Jeandre Bernardo, Richard Bruiders, Thabiso Keketsi (all junior firefighters and Santa Sternsdorf (new Station Commander Training)). Front row from Left: Hein Pienaar, Garth Claassen and Frederick Le Grange.



The representatives from the 125 Nutritional Centres across George attended an Appreciation Service at Lawaaiikamp Community Hall. Here they are proudly showing off their appreciation certificates for a job well done.

Appreciation Service for Nutritional Centres

The George Municipality Community Development Section hosted an Appreciation Service dedicated to the Nutritional Centre representatives. There are currently 125 active centres across the George Municipal area.

The ceremony took on a formal programme and certificates of appreciation were

handed over to all the representatives of the nutritional centres. Candles were lit during the programme in memorium of those who lost their lives in the past two years.

The Executive Deputy Mayor of George, Cllr Raybin Figland, did the official address at the event and thanked all

the good Samaritans from the centres for all their hard work and dedication to their communities. The function was well attended and appreciated by all who were present. Portfolio Councillor for Community Development, Brendon Adams, did the official opening and welcoming at the event.



Participants from all over the Western Cape were recognised by WOW. Willbedene Jordaan, George Municipality Acting HIV and Aids Coordinator (right) and another award winner, Sister Caria Booysen from Dysselsdorp Clinic at the event.

WOW award

George Municipality Acting HIV and Aids Coordinator, Willbedene Jordaan was awarded with a bronze certificate, for the brilliant work she has done to promote wellness within the community.

The Western Cape on Wellness (WOW) was implemented by the Department of Health in 2017 and champions were identified and trained to promote wellness. The initiative aims to enable people to make healthy lifestyle choices throughout their life course. This programme addresses the ongoing rise in preventable non-communicable diseases (NCDs) or chronic illnesses such as obesity, diabetes, high blood pressure (hypertension), heart diseases and certain cancers.

George Municipality's HIV Section raised awareness on the Wellness (WOW) programme in our communities by doing awareness campaigns at nutritional centres (soup kitchens), churches and other organisations to promote healthy lifestyle choices. They focused on teaching community members the basics of what a healthy diet is (how to prepare a healthy snack), the importance of exercise and did BMI, High blood and diabetic tests. They also hosted pamper sessions and held motivational talks and educational activities.

Penalty for contraventions of zoning provisions

George Municipality would like to highlight a recent Supreme court case which upheld the argument that municipalities are entitled to levy penalty rates based on the Municipal Structures Act where a property (home) is being used to conduct a business, if the use is in contravention of the property's zoning provisions. Municipalities are entitled to levy penalty rates based on the Municipal Structures Act which is the umbrella act under which the Rates Act falls.

Director for Planning and Development at George, Lauren Waring said that her directorate is aware that there are many businesses being operated from residential zoned properties and, where the purpose and nature of the use has changed completely, these owners will find themselves in contravention and can face contravention levies, penalties, fines and even imprisonment.

The zoning of a property determines the primary use and other ancillary uses that the property may be utilised for. The zoning also determines the restrictions or parameters within which the applicable use rights may be exercised or if the consent of the municipality is required for the use. If a property is used outside its zoning, the municipality can change the category of use to unlawful or uncategorised use and increase the municipal rates in accordance with the new category.

If you are contemplating setting up a business in a residential area or from your home you need to understand all the relevant provisions regarding the zoning of your property to ensure that you are complying with the bylaws. Zoning schemes

bylaws stipulate what type of buildings and what type of activities can occur in a particular property.

In technical terms, a zoning scheme is a legal document that records all land use rights on properties in its area of jurisdiction. It also includes provisions pertaining to restrictions on such rights and how they can be exercised. Within a zoning scheme, there are certain land uses and activities that can be taken as a right and certain land uses and activities that are only permitted with the local authorities consent. If the land use or activity is not stated, then it is not allowed on that property.

For minor deviations from the provisions of the zoning scheme, one may apply for a Departure. For major deviations for a change in land usage or change in the type of building, one requires a Rezoning.

The George Municipality's zoning scheme allows certain residential business activities as a right on Single Residential properties. These include home occupations

(professional practices with no more than 3 people employed), places of instruction up to 6 learners at a time, and a bed and breakfast (not more than 2 guest rooms). Other uses such as a house shop (small retail business), guest houses and creches are permitted with the Consent of the

municipality.

Any business that is run from home and does not fall under these land uses / activities, are not permitted on residential properties. The zoning by-laws state that such businesses can only be conducted in areas zoned for business or industrial purposes and not in residential areas.

These business activities will require



you to apply for either a departure or a rezoning.

How to apply for a rezoning or departure

The Land Use Management Application form is used when submitting a planning application. The form needs to be completed in full and accompanied by the relevant supporting information and documentation. It is important to note that submitting this application does not necessarily mean it will be approved.

Businesses in residential areas tend to generate traffic, parking, noise, and other problems, with some being known to be used as fronts for illicit activities. The concerns and objections of residents will be considered with each application. The land use application process can take, on average between six and nine months, depending on the level of public participation needed, whether objections are received against

the application, and which authority decides on the application. Any business that cause disturbances to neighbours such as vehicle repair workshops, night clubs, manufacturing enterprises, etc will generally not be permitted in a residential area.

George Municipality has an internet-based land use application system to enable the electronic submission and processing of land use applications. This system will be soon be moving to an on-line platform.

All application forms, application submission requirements and public participation requirements are available on the George Municipality's website at <https://george.gov.za/town-planning/Applications>. All completed applications are submitted via email to planning.applications@george.gov.za and applicants will receive SMSs on the progress made on their applications.

“ The zoning of a property determines the primary use and other ancillary uses that the property may be utilised for. ”



At the meeting between George Municipality and DDP Valuers (Pty) Ltd were in front from left, Hein Diemont (George Municipality), Mimi Conradie (George Municipality), Cheryl Langeveldt (George Municipality), Anita Scheepers (George Municipality), Corné Louw (DDP Valuers (Ptyd) Ltd) and TJ Frates (DDP Valuers (Ptyd) Ltd). At the back are Morne Coetzee (DDP Valuers (Ptyd) Ltd), Louis Kruger (ESRI), Gert Botha (DDP Valuers (Ptyd) Ltd), Hercules Giorgino (African Surveyors), Henry Mitchell (George Municipality) and Clark Lesibanie (George Municipality).

NEW GENERAL VALUATION ROLL PROCESS COMMENCES

The valuation of an estimated 54 000 properties in the greater George area commenced as part of the General Valuation process of the George Municipality.

The George Municipality uses a service provider, DDP Valuers (Pty) Ltd that uses

an array of information-gathering methods including analysing aerial photographs, site visits and neighbourhood drive-throughs.

The process will be completed towards the end of 2022. The final General Valuation Roll will be published for comment in February/March 2023. At

the same time, stakeholders will be given the opportunity to lodge objections, if deemed necessary. The objection process is followed by a valuation appeal process.

Ratepayers must verify their valuations, as it would affect the rates they pay on their own properties as well as the overall

rate calculations for the city. It is a great opportunity for citizens to engage with the Municipality to ensure that their properties are correctly valued.

For more information contact: Anita Scheepers at George Municipality Valuations on 044 801 9111.



Conville Swimming Pool, a proud host of the SA Regional Level 3 Swimming Gala with 350 participants from all over the Western Cape.

Conville Pool Sparkles

George recently successfully hosted the SA Regional Level 3 Swimming Gala at the Conville Swimming Pool. Executive Mayor, Ald Leon van Wyk, officially opened the Swimming Gala, welcoming hundreds of participants, and visitors.

“At present, George is fortunate in attracting many visitors who are participating in numerous sporting and other events, such as this major provincial swimming gala,” said Ald van Wyk. “We are looking forward to hosting many more events of this calibre, and we are committed to ensuring that our sports facilities are of a high standard.”

“We would like to congratulate our staff for having risen to the occasion when George had to jump in to be the host of the swimming gala’s, especially considering that the Municipality had a very short time to prepare for the event,” mayor Wyk added.

“Over the next few weeks, we will be welcoming thousands of school learners who will be participating in different events

that have attracted entries from across the country who will be utilising our various facilities,” he said.

“Following the successful Cape Town Cycle event, a comment was made that we should be hosting a similar event here in George. This comment echoes our philosophy to regularly hold events in George that will generate tourism spending for our local economy and add to employment levels.”

In his conclusion, Mayor van Wyk encouraged sports federations to make George a place of choice for events, every weekend to attract visitors to help build tourism occupancy rates. “George is already hosting many cycling and running events. Nothing stops us from turning some of these events into iconic annual events of national significance through some tweaking.

“Many of our citizens are passionately involved in diverse activities or hobbies that could be developed into regular events or learning experiences, such as crafts, artists, bridge, winter schools.”



Ald Leon van Wyk was accompanied by the members of the executive mayoral committee and municipal manager, Dr Michele Gratz.

Entrepreneurship Training

George Municipality held an Entrepreneurship Training Programme, for women and youngsters in Uniondale. The objective of the training is to encourage the spirit of self-employment among entrepreneurs and to develop small and medium enterprises.

The training aims to encourage new venture establishment and expansion of existing businesses in our rural areas. Finally, the training aims to instill and inculcate entrepreneurial skills in potential entrepreneurs and

help develop the same in existing entrepreneurs. According to Rose Munro, Coordinator of the Project, from the Economic Development Unit, the Entrepreneurship Training is also a launching pad for young entrepreneurs who will take part in a Bicycle Business Project that will be rolled out to communities in Uniondale and other in the George area. Potential Youth Entrepreneurs were invited to submit business plans recently in this regard and those with viable business plans will be elected to take part in the project.



Attending the 3-day course are in front from left: Nadia Lottering, Catherine Cleophas, Feroza Stanfliet, Ashline Jacobs, Zemonize Witbooi and Beverley Antonie. At the back are Andrico Lottering, Jerome Solomons, Lesego Maruping (Facilitator appointed by SEDA), Edwin Esau, Denroy Majolla and Rosina Munro (Economic Development Officer: George Municipality).

Protea Transformer's Lifespan extended

The Protea Transformer that feeds power to Pacaltsdorp, Hansmoeskraal and Syferfontein has undergone R2.5 million worth of maintenance in the 2021/2022 financial year.

According to the director of the George Municipality's Electrotechnical Department, Mr Bongani Mandla, a transformer is the most critical component within the electricity distribution network, its function is to increase the voltage, also known as stepping up the voltage, or they can decrease the voltage also known as stepping down the voltage.

Mandla confirmed that maintenance was necessary for this transformer as one of its components is rusting. “The trigger for this maintenance, which is funded from George Municipality's capital budget and loans, was excessive corrosion on the main tank,” he said. “The Unit was sent to an external service provider and upon intrusive inspection, it was detected that

the active components and accessories needed to be refurbished or replaced.”

The average lifespan is approximately 30-50 years dependent on application, loading and environmental conditions. The average lead time for a new power transformer is nine to fifteen months. This refurbishment project will extend the usable life of this transformer by approximately 30-40 years.

The Portfolio Councillor of the Electrotechnical Services directorate, Nosicelo Mbete visited the site as part of her series of visits to Electrotechnical Service capital projects. During her visit, Cllr Mbete commended the department for prioritising the installation and commissioning of this transformer, as it will help improve the reliability of supply to the Pacaltsdorp, Hansmoeskraal and Syferfontein areas.

The 10 MVA Protea Transformer has been successfully commissioned.



(FLTR) Mr Bongani Mandla (Director for Electrotechnical Services), Mr David McKenzie (Specialised Electrician), Cllr Nosicelo Mbete (Portfolio Councillor for Electrotechnical Services), Mr John Cornelius (Chief Engineering Technician), Mr Cuan Edick (Senior Superintendent- Sub-station).



(FLTR) Cllr Nosicelo Mbete (Portfolio Councillor for Electrotechnical Services), Mr Thembanzi Mzekeli (Testing and Protection Manager), Mr David McKenzie (Specialised Electrician), Mr John Cornelius (Chief Engineering Technician), Mr Cuan Edick (Senior Superintendent: Sub-station)