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SOLAR PLANT PERFORMANCE

The Western Cape MEC for Local Government, Environmental Affairs and Development Planning, Minister Anton Bredell, Minister for Mobility Daylin Mitchell, Executive Mayor Leon Van Wyk, Deputy Mayor Raybin Figland, and a delegation including members of the George Mayoral Committee, Municipal Manager Dr Michele Gratz, and senior officials visited the 300 Kilo Watt peak Photovoltaic (PV) solar plant at the Civic Centre parking lot in August. This is the first solar project in a George Municipal property and was completed and commissioned last year September.



From left: Thabo Yiga (Candidate Engineer: Electrical), Dr Michel Gratz (Municipal Manager), Western Cape MEC for Local Government, Environmental Affairs and Development Planning Minister Anton Bredell, and Executive Mayor of George Ald Leon Van Wyk.

- 500 kW at the PV Gwaing Wastewater treatment facility
- 400 kW PV plant at the Denneoord New Water Works facility
- 20 kW PV + 40-kilowatt hour (kWh) battery storage for the Electrotechnical Services building
- 4 kW PV + 10 kWh battery storage for the Tourism building
- 2 kW PV + 10 kWh battery storage for Schaapkop substation
- 9 MWp bigger solar farm (location still to be finalised)

The PV Plant coupled with the SCADA system is certainly starting to help the Municipality already and perform efficiently, Mayor van Wyk said. "The next step is to move towards battery storage, while we will also be rolling out these plants across various Municipal installations in due course."

The installation of PV solar plants in municipal facilities and buildings is aimed at reducing Energy Consumption from Eskom and thereby cutting down on electricity costs while increasing sustainability.

They also visited the Supervisory Control and Data Acquisition (SCADA), a monitoring system which is basically an online web-based portal that allows remote monitoring of the performance of the PV plant in real-time. SCADA also allows viewing of historical production and other data such as the carbon dioxide emissions avoided.

The George Municipality is in a process of introducing seven envisaged solar projects that are to be rolled in three years to the following plants and buildings:

- 400 kilowatts (kW) PV at the Outeniqua wastewater treatment facility



Oversight delegation with MEC Bredell, MEC Mitchell, EM Van Wyk, DM Raybin Figland, Members of MAYCO, MM Dr Gratz, senior officials and service providers

George Municipality leading by example

Minister Anton Bredell Western Cape MEC for Local Government, Environmental Affairs and Development Planning, on a recent visit applauded George Municipality for setting a leading example within the Western Cape by ensuring adequate long-term planning and investment in those resources - that is water, sewerage and electricity - which are required to keep our economy working.

MEC Bredell joined Daylin Mitchell, Western Cape Minister for Mobility, Executive Mayor Leon Van Wyk, Deputy Mayor Raybin Figland and a delegation including members of the George Mayoral Committee, Municipal Manager Dr Michele Gratz, senior officials and contractors in August 2022 on an oversight visit to the 20 Ml/d extension to the New Water Treatment Works (New WTW).

Executive Mayor Leon Van Wyk viewed the foundation and steelworks construction taking place and was impressed by a three-dimensional presentation which gave insight into the finished product. "The presentation highlighted the complexity of this multi-year project which will see R263 million in

civil engineering construction works and approximately R220 million spent on the mechanical and electrical works," he said.

George Municipality received a Budget Facility for Infrastructure Funding (BFI) grant to the value of R1.107 billion from National Treasury and the BFI projects and sub-projects have shown significant progress and expenditure in the 2021/22 financial year, with the remaining funding tranches to be provided over the next thirty-six (36) months.

George Municipality provides water services to over 212 120 people from 62 722 households (STATSSA 2017) across 28 wards including the coastal areas of Kleinkrantz, Wilderness, Victoria Bay, Herolds Bay and Gwaing in the city of George area. The objectives of the project are to ensure the ability to provide adequate potable water for the current population and for future developments, to provide security of water supply, to support social and economic development and to reduce water pollution.

The project consists of 12 components, some of which will be executed in more than one construction phase.

Tourism Month launched in George

Minister of Finance and Economic Opportunities, Mireille Wenger, Minister of Mobility, Daylin Mitchell, Premier of the Western Cape, Alan Winde and the Mayor of George, Leon van Wyk, kicked off the

start of Minister Wenger's Tourism Month Tour in George, on the Garden Route.

Leon Van Wyk, Executive Mayor of George Municipality said he was excited to be able to host the Premier and the Minister

of Finance and Economic Opportunities and accompanied the team to the Wonki Factory and Redberry Farm.

Mayor Van Wyk said: "We believe that this was a most interesting outing for our

visitors from the Western Cape Government, we would certainly like to see many more tourists coming to visit George and explore the myriad tourism opportunities we have to offer within our municipal area."



Redberry Farm



Wonki Ware

Nominated in Top Five Green Economy Change Champions Event

George Municipality is proud of our Electrotechnical team whose Wheeling Project has been nominated under the top five green sustainability initiatives in the Green Economy Change Champions event by GreenCape and the Friedrich Naumann Foundation for Freedom (FNF).

The top five initiatives have been shortlisted, based on the impact on service delivery, innovation, sustainability and replication potential and have been showcased at an event hosted online. The Electrotechnical Services Deputy Director: Planning and Design, Daniel Greeff said, "The wheeling project is the first step towards a competitive energy market. Looking into the future, this may lead to an energy model where different energy generators supply power to the end-users making use of the existing Municipal infrastructure. This will also provide an opportunity for more renewable energy sources to be introduced to the Municipal grid. The result would be a reduction of dependency on carbon-based fuels as well as relieving the burden on Eskom to generate."

The Director of Electrotechnical Services, Bongani Mandla said,



"The rollout process started as a Council-approved pilot project. Implementation of the pilot was a success and wheeling of energy is taking place through the George municipal network. It is essential to acknowledge the teams which were involved in bringing this project to where it is now, as the directorate we are indebted to these officials who went beyond the call of duty to drive this pioneering project."

Winner Announced 18 October 2022:

George Municipality congratulates the winner Overstrand Municipality. <https://www.greencape.co.za/>

George "On the Map"

To celebrate Tourism month, George Tourism put every tourism business in George, Wilderness and Uniondale on the map - the Google Map that is - literally!

In the first Tourism Month post-pandemic, George Tourism made a strategic decision to invest in upgrading access to our destination's tourism service providers. One means to this end is to ensure that every tourism business that is registered with the local Tourism Office, is successfully uploaded onto Google Maps.

Joan Shaw, Tourism Manager said, "Although we have long encouraged our products to do this, the area remained

sorely under-represented on this platform, so we have tackled the issue head-on and tasked an intern in our office, Chulezwa Vena, to upload listed activities, restaurants, and accommodation onto Google Maps."

The accommodation service provider then also links directly to Booking.com (if registered with the site) and Google Maps displays the listed price of



Joan Shaw, Tourism Manager and Chulezwa Vena

the accommodation establishment, making it quick and easy to book your accommodation online. In the past month, more than 500 products have

been uploaded to Google Maps, making a huge impact on the platform.

If your business is not registered with the local tourism office,

please register - call Lindi Harley on 044 877 0045 or e-mail membership@visitgeorge.co.za.

WARD COMMITTEE MEMBERS INDUCTED

The newly established Ward Committees for George consisting of 274 ward committee members from 28 wards underwent an induction into council and their responsibilities in a series of orientation and training sessions throughout the greater George. The first induction session was held at the George Civic Centre in July.

According to Dr Kosie Haarhoff, the deputy director for George Municipality's Strategic Growth and Development, the George Municipality concluded the process of the Ward Committee's establishment in February this year. "The legislation for Local Government obliges municipalities to provide support to the ward committees and to build their capacity.

"To be effective ward committee members must know and understand their work environment, it is therefore

imperative that ward committees are capacitated to fulfil their roles democratically," said Dr Haarhoff.

"The latter must be preceded by a comprehensive induction and training programme aimed at empowering Ward Committees to ensure their meaningful participation in municipal affairs. The induction will capacitate ward committee members in that they will have a better understanding of the municipal operational environment and their role within a democratic environment. Furthermore, ward committee members would get a better understanding of the intergovernmental framework, budget and resource allocation and community development," he added.

The first induction was held at the George Civic Centre. The Ward Committees were orientated about the

Municipality's directorates. Directors introduced their portfolio councillors, presented their directorates' organisational structures, their responsibilities, and the core business and gave an overview of their annual budgets.

Other induction sessions took place at the George Civic Centre, Conville Community Hall, Thembaletu Community Hall and Pacaltsdorp Community Hall and covered training in the following areas:

- Functions of Local/Provincial and National Government
- Legislation on Public Participation and Ward Committees
- Roles and responsibilities of the Speaker, Ward Councillor, Ward Committees, and the Community
- Ward Committee Meetings Code of Conduct
- Overview of the IDP and the role of Ward Committees in the IDP Process.



Members of Electrotechnical Services in front from left are: Amy September, Thomas Scheepers, Giovanni Hurling, Heinrich Wesso and Etienne Maybe.

Back row from left: Edward Nqumse, Aida Lucas, Portfolio Cllr Nosicelo Mbete, Ehlridge August, Ald Leon van Wyk and Bongani Mandla (Director Electrotechnical Services).

57 UPS INSTALLATIONS

Executive Mayor of George, Alderman Leon van Wyk accompanied by the Portfolio Councillor for Electrotechnical Services Cllr Nosicelo Mbete, the Director of Electrotechnical Services, Bongani Mandla, and the Electrotechnical Services team visited one of the Uninterrupted Power Supply (UPS) installations on traffic intersections to mark the completion of the UPS installation programme.

As of August 2022, 57 intersections with traffic lights have been installed with UPS units in George. The remaining intersections will be

installed once the current road construction has been completed.

These units, which are eco-friendly and energy-saving, automatically kick in and operate the traffic lights should the electricity supply be interrupted for any reason with an average duration of 4 hours, before the battery needs recharging. This means that traffic intersections in George are free from Eskom's load shedding and unplanned power outages for the durability of the batteries, thereby allowing seamless traffic flow.

GEORGE LOCAL MUNICIPALITY COUNCILLORS

 <div>Ald Leon Van Wyk Executive Mayor PR (DA)</div>	 <div>Cllr Raybin Figland Executive Deputy Mayor PR (DA)</div>	 <div>Cllr Sean Snyman, Speaker, Ward 28 (DA)</div>	 <div>Cllr Marlene Barnardt, Chief Whip, Ward 4 (DA)</div>	 <div>Portfolio Cllr Brendon Adams, Community Services Social Development, Libraries and Sport, Ward 17 (DA)</div>	 <div>Portfolio Cllr Charlotte Clarke, Community Safety, PR (DA)</div>	 <div>Portfolio Cllr Browen Johnson, Civil Engineering Services, Operating Aspects, Ward 23 (DA)</div>	 <div>Portfolio Cllr Henry Hill, Planning & Development, PR (DA)</div>
 <div>Portfolio Cllr, Ald Basil Petrus, Human Settlements, Ward 8 (DA)</div>	 <div>Portfolio Cllr Nosiselo Mbete, Electrotechnical Services & Fleet Management, PR (DA)</div>	 <div>Portfolio Cllr Christiaan Neethling, Corporate Services & HR, PR (VF+)</div>	 <div>Portfolio Cllr Jean Safers, Community Services: Parks, Refuse & Environmental, Ward 1 (DA)</div>	 <div>Portfolio Cllr Jacquiquie Von Brandis, Civil Engineering Services: Capital Projects & BFI, Ward 26 (DA)</div>	 <div>Portfolio Cllr Dirk Wessels, Financial & Strategic Services, PR (DA)</div>	 <div>Cllr Daniel Cronje, Ward 2 (DA)</div>	 <div>Cllr Erika Brown, Ward 3 (DA)</div>
 <div>Cllr Monique Simmers, Ward 5 (DA)</div>	 <div>Cllr Jayzee Jantjies, Ward 6 (DA)</div>	 <div>Cllr Vulindlela Mruqhli, Ward 7 (ANC)</div>	 <div>Cllr Thembinkosi Lento, Ward 9 (ANC)</div>	 <div>Cllr Zukile Gom, Ward 10 (ANC)</div>	 <div>Cllr Sifiso Ntondini, Ward 11 (ANC)</div>	 <div>Cllr Eric Mdaka, Ward 12 (ANC)</div>	 <div>Cllr Simphiwe Toto, Ward 13 (ANC)</div>
 <div>Cllr Melvin Roelfse, Ward 14 (DA)</div>	 <div>Cllr Bonisile Hani, Ward 15 (ANC)</div>	 <div>Cllr Theresa Jeyi, Ward 16 (GOOD)</div>	 <div>Cllr Donovan Gultig, Ward 18 (DA)</div>	 <div>Ald Iona Kritzinger, Ward 19 (DA)</div>	 <div>Cllr Neville Louw, Ward 20 (GOOD)</div>	 <div>Cllr Siphelo Manxele, Ward 21 (ANC)</div>	 <div>Cllr Marais Kruger, Ward 22 (DA)</div>
 <div>Cllr Justin Fry, Ward 24 (DA)</div>	 <div>Cllr Jarques Esau, Ward 25 (ANC)</div>	 <div>Cllr Richard Hector, Ward 27 (GOOD)</div>	 <div>Cllr Ebrahim America, PR (DA)</div>	 <div>Cllr Vivian Desmond Carolus PR (PBI)</div>	 <div>Cllr Johan Du Toit, MPAC Chairperson, PR (ACDP)</div>	 <div>Cllr Enrico Figland, PR (VF+)</div>	 <div>Ald Virgill Gericke, PR (PBI)</div>
 <div>Cllr Maria Greeff, PR (PBI)</div>	 <div>Cllr Cathleen Jansen PR (PBI)</div>	 <div>Cllr Khayaletu Lose, PR (DA)</div>	 <div>Cllr Rosa Louw, PR (GOOD)</div>	 <div>Cllr Given Junior Masase PR (GOOD)</div>	 <div>Cllr Faith Mdaka, PR (ANC)</div>	 <div>Cllr Luvuyo Ncamile, PR (EFF)</div>	 <div>Ald Gert Niehaus, GIPTN Chairperson, PR (VF+)</div>
 <div>Cllr Jerome Clive Petersen, PR (PBI)</div>	 <div>Cllr Thandiswa Qatana, PR (DA)</div>	 <div>Cllr Charlene Titus, PR (GOOD)</div>	 <div>Cllr Sedric Smart, PR (PA)</div>	 <div>Cllr Gert Van Niekerk, PR (VF+)</div>	 <div>Cllr Pheliswa Qampi, PR (EFF)</div>	 <div>Cllr Regina Windwaai, PR (DA)</div>	

Adopting a spot in the George Municipality

Georgians can now “Adopt a Spot”, which means the process through which applicants approach the George Municipality to adopt a piece of Municipal-owned land for maintenance and beautification within a specific timeframe, at no cost to the Municipality. The public is allowed to apply to adopt public open spaces, private open spaces, and nature reserves across a vast area within municipality boundaries.

The programme has been approved by Council and applies to all land zoned “Open Space” or “Undetermined” and

helps in establishing a partnership between the Municipality and the applicant. The purposes of the partnership agreements are to make use of, control, or manage a public open space to maintain and enhance its functionality as a form of contribution to the management and maintenance of such an open space. However, it does not grant the right of use, control, or management over a specific area to the exclusion of others.

The potential spots include but are not limited to: i.e illegal dumping sites; recreational parks and facilities; public

squares and parking areas; rivers, wetlands, flood plains, ridges and mountains, any dilapidated area zoned for such purposes, any unused road reserves and road medians; public or municipal servitudes; and any such other properties as the municipality may identify from time to time.

There is no cost to Adopt a spot from George Municipality, however, it is expected that the “adopters” will assist in the maintenance and upkeep of the site.

The Adopt a Spot program aims to overcome the challenges of ecological

degradation, illegal land use, illegal dumping, criminal activities and lack of safety in public open spaces. The public and all interested parties are hereby invited to approach the Municipality to adopt a piece of Municipal-owned land for any of the purposes mentioned.

The policy and the application form are available on the municipality website.

Enquiries or requests for more information on the process may be directed to Nosidima Vumindaba at nvumindaba@george.gov.za or on 044 802 2900 at the Parks and Recreation department.



Before: George Municipality cleansing department and members of the public cleaned the previously illegal dumping spot on the corner of Nelson Mandela Boulevard and Gcakani Street.



After: The community beautified the spot by creating a garden.

GO GEORGE pak vandalisme met mening

van-da-lis-me opsetlike of kwaadwillige vernietiging of beskadiging van openbare of private eiendom

'n Google-soektog na die woord vandalisme vul die skerm met onderwerpe soos:
Wat veroorsaak vandalisme?
Wat is die impak van vandalisme op die gemeenskap?
Hoe kan ons vandalisme voorkom?
Hoe kan ons vandalisme en graffiti stop?

Daar is geen duidelike antwoorde nie, maar gemeenskapsleiers wêreldwyd hou aan grawe vir oplossings vir hierdie pandemie van sinnelose beskadiging van eiendom en die afbreek van infrastruktuur wat die gemeenskap bedien.

Op eie bodem is munisipale eiendom, insluitend die busse en fasiliteite van die GO GEORGE-busdiens, die konstante teiken van vandale wat busse met klippe bestook, busskuilings met graffiti ontsier of skuilingpanele wat ontwerp is om passasiers teen gure weer te beskerm, breek.

Deur al bogenoemde vrae te vra, poog die GO GEORGE-bestuurspan om die gemeenskap in geheel, gemeenskapsleiers en -organisasies, rolmodelle en beïnvloeders te betrek om aktief na die plaaslike situasie te kyk.

Gemeenskapsbeïnvloeders sluit aan by die stryd

'n Paneel van ses bekende gemeenskapsbeïnvloeders het reeds ingestem om "die gesig" van hierdie anti-vandalismeveldtog te word en hul gewin in te gooi by die poging om die gemeenskap te betrek, oorsaaklike faktore te identifiseer en oplossings te soek. Hulle is Morné Pietersen (bestuurder, Eden FM), Lloyd Bosman (atleet), Moses Williams (akteur en komediant), Lizette da Silva (George Herald-redakteur), Peter Jaftha (bestuurder, Heartbeat FM) en Zane Kirchner, voormalige Springbokrugbyspeler en hulpafrigter van die SWD-Arende. Plakkate met persoonlike boodskappe van elk van hierdie veldtogambassadeurs is regoor die dorp opgerig.

Veelvoudige benadering nodig

Die gebrek aan begrip van die waarde van eiendom is tydens die bespreking geopper, asook die gebrek aan respek.

"As iemand nie respek het vir 'n bushalte wat vir hul gemeenskap se gerief voorsien is nie, hoe sal hulle ooit respek vir ander mense en gesagsfigure hê?" het Lizette da Silva gevra.

"Ons kan skole byvoorbeeld vra om eienaarskap van nabygeleë bushaltes te neem, terwyl kinders in die proses geleer word om respek te hê vir fasiliteite wat aan hulle voorsien word met

swaarverdiende belastingbetalersgeld, en hoe om verantwoordelikheid te neem vir die instandhouding daarvan."

Peter Jaftha het saamgestem met die konsep om gemeenskappe in hul direkte omgewing te betrek: "Mense in kleiner gemeenskappe ken mekaar en die uitdagings wat in hul gebied in die gesig gestaar word en sal meer geneig wees om betrokke te raak om 'n probleem op te los wat hul gemeenskap en sy fasiliteite afgradeer."

Zane Kirchner kon weens werksverpligtinge nie die eerste dinkskrum bywoon nie, maar het sy verbintenissen met die veldtog bevestig. "Ek sien uit daarna om oplossings te help vind en die gemeenskappe waarvan ek deel is betrokke te kry by die voorkoming van vandalisme, asook maniere om dit stop te sit," het hy gesê.

Morné Pietersen het opgemerk dat baie vandale buite formele strukture soos skole val, wat dit moeilik maak om hulle te bereik en hul houding te verander. "Hoewel daar 'n belangrike opvoedkundige komponent is in die benadering wat gevolg word, sal ons ook met buurtwagte moet saamwerk en hulle bemagtig om ons gemeenskapsvennote te word in voorkoming van vandalisme sowel as die aankeer van misdadigers. Hulle is die mense wat uitkyk vir klandestiene bedrywighede ná donker, wanneer die

oortreders op hul aktiefste is."

Hierdie punt is ondersteun deur Lloyd Bosman wat 'n onderwyser is en ervaring het van die waarde van elektroniese monitoring via CCTV-kameras by skole, ten opsigte van bewyse, asook om oortreders af te skrik.

Moses Williams as vermaaklikheidster en aktiewe sosiale media-inhoudskepper het insette gelewer oor die gebruik van platforms soos TikTok om die jeug te bereik. Hy was voorheen betrokke by die skryf van 'n draaiboek vir anti-vandalisme-sketse wat deur die GO GEORGE-passasiersdiensbeamptes by skole opgevoer word en sal steeds bystand verleen met aktiwiteite wat die uitvoerende kunste betrek, soos die huidige kletsrymkompetisie vir hoërskole.

Beloning vir nuttige inligting

Informante moet die GO GEORGE-inbelsentrum onmiddellik by 0800 044 044 skakel wanneer hulle vandalistiese bedrywighede sien. Ideaal gesproke moet wetstoepassingsagente die vandale op heterdaad betrap, maar fotobewyse sal ook baie nuttig wees.

Enige individu of organisasie wat bereid is om betrokke te raak of advies oor die aanspreek van vandalisme te deel, word uitgenooi om 'n boodskap by die Inbelsentrum te laat of 'n e-pos aan info@gogeorge.org.za te stuur.





A proud Mayor Leon van Wyk (middle) with different roleplayers and stakeholders in the bicycle project. From left are Amy Kearns (Economic Development: George Municipality), Ntombizakhe Nobebe (Economic Development: George Municipality), Tim Mosdell (Ben Bikes - Bicycling Empowerment Network) Tabitha Staines (Entrepreneur), Nomzamo Entile (Entrepreneur), Feroza Stanfliet (Entrepreneur), Unam Entile, Ald Van Wyk, Jerome Solomons (Entrepreneur), Nadia Lottering (Entrepreneur), Gustaviano Appels (Entrepreneur), Elridge Vaaltyn (Entrepreneur), Fezile Mbambo (Director of Land Transport Integration and Oversight), Rosina Munro (George Economic Development) and Onke Majombozi (Entrepreneur).

Bicycles to boost George’s economy

George Municipality’s Economic Development Department, in partnership with the Western Cape Department of Transport and Public Works, is rolling out a bicycle project of in George as part of promoting non-motorised transport firstly, for young entrepreneurs and, George law enforcement officers.

Mayor Leon van Wyk said at the launch of the project, that if you look at some of the most successful cities in the world, they make use of bicycle transport. “This allows us to take a step forward in our economy. Geographically, George is quite level, and this should make it easy for people to make use of bicycles.

“I think of Wilderness during the summer season. There are a lot of businesses that can make use of bicycle tours and not only in Wilderness but in other areas in George as well. This opens us up for more tourism and business endeavours,” Van Wyk said.

George Municipality’s overall objective is to promote sustainable socio-economic empowerment using non-motorised transport, in this case, bicycles. The Municipality has partnered with the Western Cape Department of Transport by donating 100 bicycles to disadvantaged communities and businesses in George and Uniondale and our local law enforcement.

These bicycles will especially stimulate economic growth in Uniondale.

The Municipality has signed a memorandum of understanding with the department and will be signing a service-level agreement.

Municipal officials will be using bicycles in the George CBD, and at the beaches particularly during the bumper festive season experienced at the George beaches during the summer months.

George Municipality requested entrepreneurs to apply for bicycles for business ventures. The recipients will receive business training at the Municipality in conjunction with SEDA. The purpose of the project is to build the economy, support entrepreneurs and help everybody to prosper in George.

Mr Fezile Mbambo, Director of Land Transport Integration and Oversight: Western Cape Department of Transport (WCDOT), said the bicycle project is part of the province’s overall transport strategy. “Our transport system does not only start and end with busses and cars, but also with non-motorised transport like bicycles.”

Bicycles are not only a means of transport but promote a healthy lifestyle. This strategy is also to ease transport for schoolchildren. He said with fuel prices skyrocketing, the programme can be rolled out to the police. He says the elderly sometimes cannot get their medication because they cannot pay transport money.

Province made the decision that promotion of bicycle transport was a necessity.

Jerome Solomons, an entrepreneur from Uniondale’s business will use his bicycles to pick up and deliver medication for the elderly and disabled people at an affordable price. Solomons says his prices will be cheaper than using public transport and will save you time and effort at the same time.

Nomzamo Entile already has a tourism business in Thembaletu. She received 15 bicycles to expand her township tours with a cycling tour.

Gustaviano Appels from Pacaltsdorp received ten bicycles. He will extend his courier services, teach children how to ride and teach them road safety.

YOUTH DAY

‘Youth in Sport is a youth out of the Court’

Several events were held in the George Municipal areas to commemorate national Youth Day on 16 June 2022. The Youth office hosted the Youth Day celebrations in collaboration with the Department of Cultural Affairs and Sport in the form of a sports day at New Dawn Park Sports field. Local schools and community-based teams participated in the following sports codes, soccer, netball, indigenous games, rugby clinics, and softball.

The Department of Health was on-site to deliver family planning, blood pressure and HIV testing. Local entrepreneurs, through the Pacaltsdorp Community Business Association, used the opportunity to market and sell their products. According to the George Youth office, the event was well attended, and this created a good impression about the interest of youth in its development since this was the first Youth Day celebrations after the advent of the COVID-19 pandemic.

The event was themed around the

concept that a Youth in Sports, is a youth out of the courts. The success of the event can be greatly attributed to the buy-in from all the stakeholders that participated in the organizing of Youth Day celebrations.

‘Sober Youth, are youth out of rehabs’, - Uniondale, Haarlem & Snyberg

Meanwhile, Youth offices in the Uniondale and Haarlem areas partnered with the South African Police Service (SAPS) and a non-governmental organisation called RYCO Platforms NPC and hosted the National Youth Day celebrations in Haarlem, Uniondale and Snyberg.

The theme of the celebrations was, “Sober Youth, are youth out of rehabs”.

The Programs consisted of motivational speakers, rap, poetry, spiritual dance, modelling, and indigenous games. The women in Uniondale started the day with a march against drug abuse supported by different stakeholders and community members.



Youth Day 2022 in George



Youth Day 2022 Netball in George



LEFT: Executive Deputy Mayor Raybin Figland



Spiritual dance in Haarlem



Personnel from George Municipality Law Enforcement with some of the bicycles that the department received to do patrolling in George. From left are Winston Carelse, Farrel Abrahams, Jason Rondganger, Daniellia Laws, Roland Hardnick, Jennevie Martin, Angelique Abrahams, Pumlanie Gladile and Qui-Whynn Massou.

Urgent Electrification Projects

The electrification of 99 homes in Area 8C, Zone 6, Thembaletu have been finalised as part of urgent electrification projects in the Upgrading of Informal Settlements Programme.

A large portion of the 2021/22 available budget of R1,1 million was prioritised by Council for the urgent electrification projects.

The cost per structure for electrification is approximately R20 000 which includes a prepaid meter.



Residents receives their own electrical prepaid meter, in their own name with power supply of 40 amps. In the photograph are from left: In front are from left Cllr Zukile Gom, Ward Councillor of Ward 10, Glen Leonie (Electrotechnical Superintendent) and Mayor Leon van Wyk. At the back are from left, Frikkie de Jager (VE Electrical), Ralton Abrahams (BDE Consultants), Roland Appels (MTDJ Projects), Portfolio Councillor for Electrotechnical Services, Nosiselo Mbete; Kurwin Joubert (Electrotechnical Services) and Cllr Khayaletu Lose switching the power on in Zone 6.
TOP: Mayor Leon van Wyk with a member of the community at the switching on of electricity in Zone 6.



Mayor Leon van Wyk (with red jersey) at the Glenwood substation that had a breather and transformer maintenance with Bongani Mandla, Director of Electrotechnical Services (back left) and Cllr Nosiselo Mbete (Portfolio Councillor for Electrotechnical Services) and in front from left are Johan van der Berg (Specialised Electrician High Voltage Electrotechnical Services) and Jacques Lawrence (Senior Manager: Substations Electrotechnical Services).

Power Transformer Maintenance

George Municipality's Power Transformers at various substations recently underwent extensive maintenance and refurbishment to guarantee long-term life expectancy.

Mayor Leon van Wyk said: "This work illustrates the importance of preventative measures and making sure that key infrastructure is well maintained. We've started with the critical infrastructure to ensure we do whatever we can to prevent power failures. Our citizens might have noted major equipment failures taking

place in other cities around the country; the maintenance done was precisely to make sure we not only prevent such occurrences in George but also prolong the working lives of our major equipment.

Bongani Mandla, Director of Electrotechnical Services said it is a key objective that we ensure that our infrastructure is kept at a well-maintained standard to ensure we don't inconvenience our citizens. Power transformers are manufactured on request and delivery time



Municipal Manager, Dr Michele Gratz, Ald Leon van Wyk, Minister Anroux Marais (Western Cape Department of Cultural Affairs and Sport), Portfolio Councillor Brendon Adams (Community Services: Social Services, Social Development, Libraries & Sport), and Dr Lyndon Bouah (Chief Director for Sport and Recreation in the Western Cape Department of Cultural Affairs & Sport).

R800 000 FOR SPORT

The Western Cape Minister for the Department of Cultural Affairs and Sports (DCAS), Ms Anroux Marais presented George Municipality with an R 800 000 ceremonial cheque for the development and installation of steel structure pavilions for the Thembaletu and Touwsranten sports fields during a special handover ceremony earlier this year.

George Municipality is one of three municipalities whose applications for funding from DCAS were granted. Minister Marais officially handed over the cheque to the executive mayor of George, Ald Leon van Wyk and said that the R 800 000 that has been awarded to George will be split in half. "The R 400 000 is for the Thembaletu Sports field pavilion and another R 400 000 for the Touwsranten sports field."

"George is fast becoming popular with sports tourism events, and this contribution from the DCAS will certainly add value

to sport, tourism, and the economy of George.

"I hope that the spectators from Thembaletu and Touwsranten will own and take care of these facilities for their communities and the future."

Provincial Government allocates these funds based on received applications from the various municipalities in the Western Cape. The annual application process takes place between July and September, the Department would then award three applicants to share the fund of about R 2 million for sports infrastructure upgrade or development.

Amongst the attendees of the handover were the Portfolio Councillor for Community Services: Social Development, Libraries & Sport Cllr. Brendon Adams, senior management of the George Municipality, officials from DCAS, Eden Sport Council and Eden Netball representatives

George is fast becoming popular with sports tourism events, and this contribution from the DCAS will certainly add value to sport, tourism, and the economy of George.



Ald Leon van Wyk, Executive Mayor of George, (in red jersey) with from left, Cuan Edick (Senior Superintendent: Substations Electrotechnical Services), Jacques Lawrence (Senior Manager: Substations Electrotechnical Services) and Letsema Ndlovu (Specialised Electrician: High Voltage Electrotechnical Services) at the Heather Park substation that was newly refurbished against corrosion.

for new units or critical spares may at times exceed 12 months, therefore unintended failures result in sustained power outages to community's and suburbs. The average Distribution Power Transformers costs approximately R7 - 12 million rand, excluding consequential damages to commercial or residential consumers. It is therefore of high importance that all high value, long lead-time assets are properly maintained, as well as ensuring future operational and capital costs are budgeted

for the total life of the asset. A conditioned-based assessment was performed to determine the useful life of all Power Transformers, through a contractor appointed by George Municipality. All high priority works were completed this year at a cost of approximately R 2.5 million. The remaining medium and low-risk units are scheduled for refurbishment for the rest of 2022 - 2024 financial years respectively.

67 Minutes for Mandela Day

Mandela Day activities for the George Municipality, were led by the Executive Mayor, Ald Leon Van Wyk, and members of the Mayoral Committee when they donated several items to the Phambili Women’s Refuge.

The items were officially handed over to a thrilled Acting Manager Ms. Colleen Stoffels and on-site Social Worker Ms. Karen Arendse. Ms Stoffels noted that the contribution and will go a long way in providing meals and other needs for the women and children who currently occupy the shelter. Located in Rosemoor, Phambili Women’s Refuge provides shelter for women and children who have been subjected to gender-based violence.

Office of the Municipal Manager

Dr Michele Gratz, Municipal Manager was heartened by the efforts of the various directorates noting that every little bit helps in some way. “There are so many needy organisations out there and to me it is important that our officials are actively involved within the communities they live and work in. No contribution is ever too small, as every little thing makes a difference in a person or animal’s life.” Officials from the Office of the MM donated items to the SPCA charity shop. This charity shop located in the CBD and functions as not only an important fund-raiser for the SPCA, but also enables the community to buy quality second hand clothing, kitchen items, toys and books at reasonable prices.

Worker’s Collection Point

36 men waiting for a job at the

Workers’ Collection Point situated on Industrial Avenue in George, were surprised with a cup of soup and bread thanks to two officials of the George Municipality’s Economic Development, Rosina Munroe and Amy Kearns.

The Workers’ Collection Point is a central point for private individuals and businesses who wish to collect workers who have registered with the facility.

Disaster and Emergency Services George Municipality Disaster and Emergency Services hoisted a banner in remembrance of the late President Nelson Mandela in front of the George Fire Station on 18 July 2022.

Building control and Planning

Officials in the Building Control section of the Development and Planning Directorate opened their hearts and donated soup packets to four soup kitchens in the areas of Themba lethu, Pacaltsdorp, Parkdene and Rosemoore. The soup ingredients that the officials donated to the soup kitchens are 2x 3kg carrots, 2x 3kg potatoes, 2x 2.5kg Butternut, 2x 3kg onions, 1x 2kg Rice, 2x box soya mince, 2x soup mix, 3x spaghetti, 6x soup powder and 2x beef/chicken stock.

Internal audit and Risk

George Municipality’s Internal Audit and Risk Management offices visited the SPCA in Pacaltsdorp for their 67 minutes of goodwill. The group took with them four big bags of dog food, one small bag and some toys and accessories for the dogs.

They also spoiled the workers at SPCA with some biscuits. After handing over the gifts, the officials walked around the dog area and

played with the dogs in their cages.

Civil Engineering Services

The Civil Engineering Services Directorate chose to support the Rosemoor House for Battered Women and Children. They collected clothes, toiletries, toys and food for delivery.

Community Services

Officials donated blankets and dog food to the SPCA on Mandela Day and other officials got their hands dirty and helped the cleansing teams in Blanco to clean up the litter in the area.

Finance

Finance officials donated blankets and dog food to the People’s dispensary for sick animals in Rosemoor as well as food and toys to Kingdom Kids Creche located in Blanco.

Corporate Services – Human Resources, Social Services and Uniondale

The Corporate services and HR management team all contributed towards food parcels and blankets that were delivered to Parkdene Creche and Golden Valley creche in Blanco.

The Social Services division cleaned the house and garden of a senior citizen in Themba lethu and later held a soup drive for the People living on the Streets.

Officials in Uniondale representing all of the directorates in George, jointly organized a soup drive for children and adults in the community as well as a paint drive to update refuse bins and a clean-up in the community.



Building Control and Planning officials donate soup parcels in Rosemore.



Municipal Manager Dr Michele Gratz with officials Tracy Du Plooy, Aphiwe Jack and Veronica Badenhorst handed over a number of items to the SPCA charity shop.



Ald Leon van Wyk, Cllr Browen Johnson (Portfolio Cllr Civil Engineering Services) and Cllr Jackie Von Brandis (Port Cllr Civil Engineering Services: Capital Projects and BFI) handed the items to a delighted Colleen Stoffels and Karen Arendse.



George Municipality Community Services staff cleaning George Road, Blanco on Mandela Day are from left to right: Diandre Jonkers, Norma-Afrika Madela, Christina Cunningham, Phillipina Mtshombela, Nontobeka April , Annaline April, Ntiya-Ntiya Portia (correct) and Thando Mjikwa. Agter: Karin Stoffels, Samuel Nokwayi, Celeste Africa and Zolani Maseko

NEIGHBOURHOOD DEVELOPMENT PARTNERSHIP PROGRAMME

The George Municipal Spatial Development Framework has identified various proposed activity nodes within the spatial structure of George. One such mixed-use, the nodal area is located along Nelson Mandela Boulevard, at the entrance to the greater Themba lethu area.

“We are very excited that funding from the Neighbourhood Development Partnership Programme will be made available for essential upgrades in the Themba lethu CBD. The technical and financial planning process is key to shaping the CBD to provide for the necessary trading space where businesses and community activities can flourish,” said the Executive Mayor of George Ald Leon van Wyk. “The CBD is also the hub for public transport connectivity to residential areas and the broader city. Citizens, therefore,

need to be able to access all the necessary amenities within this new precinct.”

The development of the node is supported in various preceding studies, including the Themba lethu Urban Upgrade Report. Limited private investment in the development of the node has compelled the George Municipality to seek public funding to facilitate a catalytic project within the Themba lethu Node 1 area.

After various engagements and presentations, the National Treasury: Neighbourhood Development Partnership Programme (NDPP) indicated in-principle, support for the development of the node. The main objectives of the NDPP include the provision of inclusionary economic opportunities, creating high-quality public spaces and linking various role players/ funders within catalytic projects.

The current phase of this project relates

to the identification of projects which will be the most sustainable, and beneficial to the resident community of Themba lethu, and to coordinating the placement of such components on-site. Detailed project streams relating to an identified project pipeline and engagement with role players will be prioritized. A vibrant, sustainable, and well-managed node is envisaged.

The first phase of the project will entail the development of a detailed investment plan and area management strategy for the node, as per the requirements of the NDPP. The focus is thus on the identification and packaging of realistic, sustainable project components to bring the Themba lethu CBD to life – to the benefit of the receiving community, with maximum leveraging of other public- and private investments.

Initial investigation has identified elements such as market areas, traders’

facilities, public transport facilities, hive industries and community spaces. Project pipeline proposals will be technically and financially investigated and will be workshopped with stakeholders. The process will also include detailed site plans and cost to prepare the project elements for implementation, to secure capital funding from the NDPP and other sources.

The focus will thus be on setting up implementable projects. Funding related to technical assistance to compile the Investment Plan and set up the Management Structure was confirmed by the NDPP. A tender process is being followed to appoint an appropriate service provider that can guide the technical and financial process and can initiate a consultation with interested and affected parties, including relevant community forums.

Thembalethu's new 66 kV Substation

The new 66/11 kV 40 MVA electrical substation which is currently under construction in Thembalethu, will not only improve reliability and provide adequate capacity of electrical supply to the area but is also one of the largest of its kind in the Southern Cape and a major bulk infrastructure milestone for the city. The new substation will alleviate load on the substations that are currently supplying Thembalethu and serves as an important catalyst for investment funding from both the state and business.

“George Municipality is a key growth area for many investors, but it requires certain very expensive bulk infrastructure to support the growth. The allocation of supportive funding from the national Department of Mineral Resources and Energy to build this substation signals trust in the local authority to facilitate growth and service delivery. In turn, the municipality can provide the kind of infrastructure required for outside manufacturers and business to invest and for housing supportive facilities to be developed across the municipal area,” said Executive Mayor Leon Van Wyk.

Adequate capacity will be provided

Municipality Director for Electrotechnical Services, Bongani Mandla said when completed, the substation will provide power to Thembalethu and other suburbs east of the N2 that are currently supplied from substations across the highway. The overall impact on the city's grid will be adequate capacity for a growing city and more reliable supply to especially the eastern areas,” said Mr Mandla.

Construction Update

Construction on the Thembalethu 66kV substation will run across three financial years. The first phase, costing about R30-million, is funded two thirds by the municipality and the rest by the Integrated National Electrification Programme grant (INEP) of the national Department of Mineral Resources and Energy. The entire project is costed at an estimated R58 million.

Background

The planning for the substation goes as far back as 20 years ago, when the Ballots Bay 11 kV substation in the southern part of Thembalethu was established. This 11 kV substation project at the time also made provision for a 66 kV substation. The electrical masterplans for George indicated that a 66 kV substation would be needed in the future. An Environmental Impact Study (EIA) was finalized in 2008 to gain approval for the 66 kV powerline routes to the various proposed substations in George which included the powerlines to Thembalethu.

In 2011, the new 132 kV Schaapkop substation was established to provide sufficient capacity after the existing ESKOM bulk supply had reached capacity in George. The bulk municipal electrical supply to Thembalethu also reached capacity and had to be increased to enable the electrification program to continue. Funds were provided for the first phase of the establishment of the municipal 66 kV substation and the 66 kV power line from SS Protea in Pacaltsdorp to Thembalethu was built in 2014/15. This power line is energized at 11 kV



to supplement the capacity and will be energized at 66 kV to supply the new 66 kV substation once it is completed.

During a UISP* (Upgrading of Informal Settlements Programme) community presentation in Thembalethu on July 2014, the public was updated about an analysis completed to determine the impact of the additional electrical load on the existing Thembalethu electrical network as a result of the electrification projects that had been completed. At this stage the first section of the 66 kV power line between Protea substation and Thembalethu's 66/11 kV substation would have to be established

and operated on 11 kV before any further electrification can take place. Further urgent upgrades included the establishment of the municipal 66/11 kV substation.

The electrification of the formalised, as well as informal areas in Thembalethu, cannot continue without the upgrading of the bulk services in Thembalethu. The establishment of the substation is a key project in this regard. Subsequently, the 66 kV power line section between Thembalethu and the Glenwood Substation in Knysna Road has also been completed to place the new Thembalethu 66 kV substation on a ring feed.

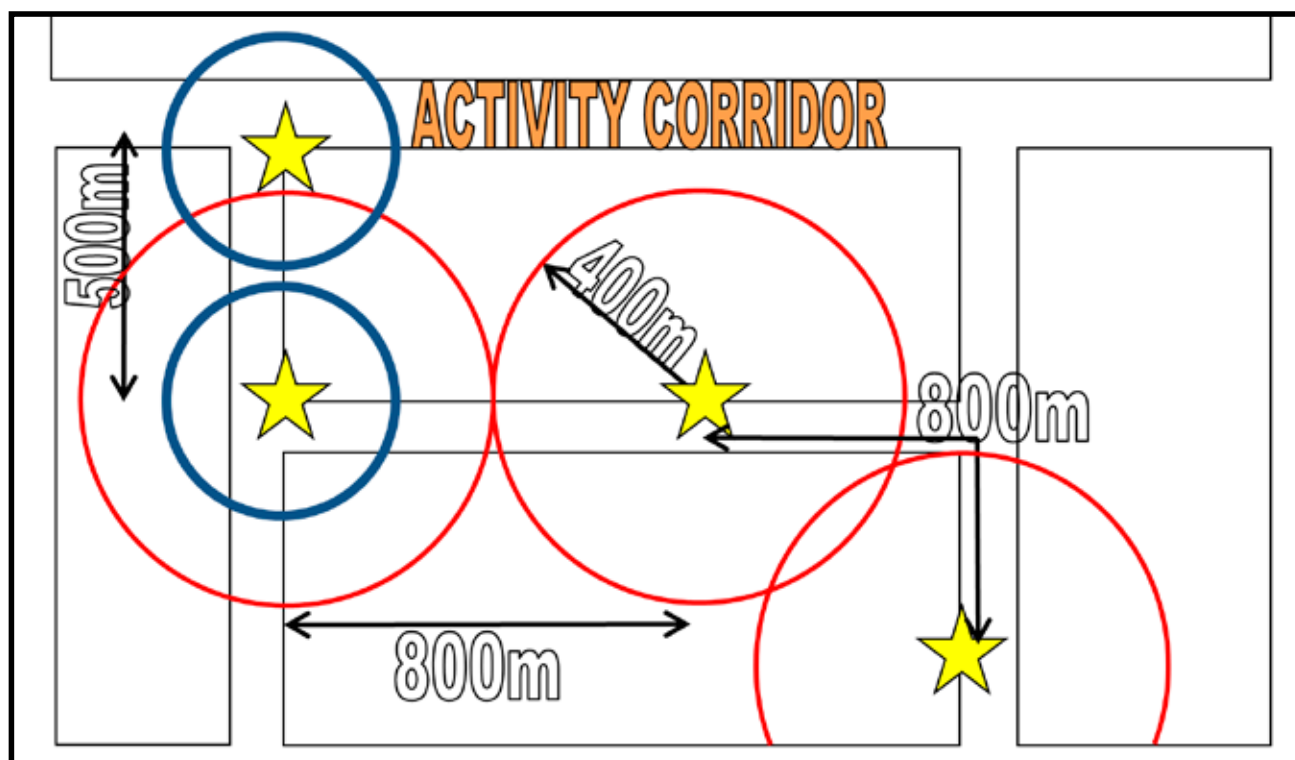
Rectification of illegal house shops campaign

The George Municipal Council approved a revised Policy On House Shops And Other Residential-Based Retail Concerns in November 2021. The revised policy establishes sustainable land use management guidelines to allow the operation of house shops or similar micro-enterprises from residential properties, with specific focus given to low-income residential neighbourhoods such as townships, subsidy housing areas, and informal settlement areas - to ensure their short-term economic sustainability while also facilitating the long-term spatial strategy for these neighbourhoods.

The residential business survey conducted by the George Municipality's Town Planning Department in March 2022 revealed that of the 308 house shops recorded in the George Municipal area, including Blanco, Pacaltsdorp, Thembalethu, Wilderness, Haarlem, and Uniondale, only five (5) are legal in terms of the Town Planning law. This has therefore necessitated a vigorous drive on rectification of illegal house shops in the greater George area.

As part of the rectification process, all owners and/or operators of illegal house shops or 3rd party retail concerns, including those who have previously been served a notice, have been granted an amnesty period of 3 months to rectify their operation and avoid the payment of any penalties or fines.

“The amnesty will only be granted if the operator can present proof of the shop's existence prior to the implementation of the new zoning scheme on 1 September



2017 and accepts the General Conditions of Approval for house shops. The granting of amnesty shall not be construed as an indicator of support for their illegal businesses, or that their application will be approved,” said, Clinton Petersen, the Senior Manager in the George Municipality's Town Planning Department.”

Petersen confirmed that the Municipality has already commenced the process of issuing notices directly to all unauthorised house shops in George. “The notice that we have issued is a ‘First Notice’, which basically informs and warns the property owner and the house shop operator that they have utilised the land outside the zoning scheme prescripts and without the approval of the municipality. The notice furthermore advises that they must rectify the contraventions (the illegal activity and/or building works)

within 30 days of the date of notice being served.

The notice will also request the owner/operator to contact and visit the Town Planning department to discuss options in rectifying the contravention,” Petersen said.

If the property owner and/or house shop operator does not adhere to the municipality's ‘first notice’, the municipality will issue a second notice allowing the owner and/or operator a further 14 days to address the contravention.

Should the owner and/or operator adhere to the above-mentioned notices, he/she will be assisted by the Planning department and advised on the requirements of submitting the necessary land use applications. They will also be advised that the submission of such an application does not give them the authority to continue operating the illegal shop and further, that

submission of the application does not guarantee that their application will be successful.

Petersen says that the owner and/or operator will then be provided one (1) month to submit the required land use application. “Should the second notice not be adhered to, or the land use application is not be submitted, the matter will be handed over to the Department of Legal Services and Compliance for the instituting of further legal action. The Legal Department will issue a final compliance notice allowing the owner and/or operator a final opportunity (14 days) to address the contravention, failing which, said Department will be instructed to either lay a criminal charge with the SAPS or appoint an attorney to institute civil

proceedings against the owner and/or operator,” he added.

The municipality may deviate from the above procedures and institute legal action if the activity and/or structure pose an imminent danger to life or property, or if illicit activities are suspected to be taking place on the property and pose a threat to the health and wellbeing of the community concerned.

The owners can contact the official who issued the notice on the phone number, or the email address provided thereon. They can also visit the offices on the 5th floor, municipal building, 71 York Street. For enquiries, the public can contact our office on Tel: 044 801 9477. They also send an email to town.planning.complaints@george.gov.za to register a service request. There will be a town planner on duty each day to assist with these queries.



Some of the women attending the event in Pacaltsdorp.

Women's Day 2022

George Municipality's Gender and Disability Section held a Women's Day event on National Women's Day at Eagle's Nest Ministries.

Members from the Gender Forum organisation also attended the event with the theme: Gender equality for a sustainable tomorrow. Cllr Charlotte Clarke and Cllr Erika Brown from George Council were speakers at the event as well as pastor Charlotte Roberts, a well-known clergywoman in George.



Ward 3 Cllr Erika Brown speaking and thanking all who made the day possible.

Food Garden Project on track

The George Municipality's Food Garden Project continues with 506 sustainable and established gardens currently in operation. New life was breathed into the project during the Covid pandemic to ensure communities could help sustain themselves with job losses and have regular fresh produce on families' tables and enjoy a healthy lifestyle. The programme kicked off with 80 gardens in November 2020, which expanded to 265 by the end of the summer planting season in 2021 and now stands at 506.

- The current breakdown of gardens is as follows:**
- Haarlem – 42 existing
 - Conville - 56 existing
 - Lawaai kamp - 18 existing
 - Blanco - 30 existing
 - Rosedale - 104 existing
 - New Dawn Park - 54 existing
 - Waboomskraal - 20 existing
 - Thembaletu - 90 existing
 - Touwsrante – 92 existing

Jonathan Fortuin, who is the co-ordinator of the Food gardens in the Community Development section, said "We are excited about the project's potential as an income generator and inspired by the communities' sense of pride in bringing food to the table of their own homes and those of neighbours." Food gardens are being integrated with other social projects such as municipal soup kitchens and creches.

"One of our inspiring stories is a Pacaltsdorp resident, Rodwill Alaart, who took over his brother's, Paulen, vegetable garden after he passed away." Rodwill Alaart gardens to honour his big brother's memory and to keep up his good work. "I cannot let the soil just be useless. I decided to call the garden "The garden of Eden".

He says he works the garden on his own and does a bit everyday to keep going until he can reap the fruits of his labour. Alaart says he cannot wait to have enough crops to assist more creches and soup kitchens. He says he believes gardening is our future to sustain ourselves. Fortuin said that Rodwill Alaart's garden in New Dawn Park is one of the most successful they currently have and he already supplies fresh produce to one of the creches in the neighbourhood.

The project continues to be run by co-ordinators who identify possible gardeners in communities and oversee the establishment of small vegetable gardens in their backyards. The co-ordinators guide the process from soil preparation to harvest and visit regularly to mentor and check on the gardeners needs and progress. The aim is that the gardens will become sustainable



New Dawn Park resident Rodwill Alaart is running one of the most successful vegetable gardens with the help of George Municipality and is already providing one of the creches in New Daw Park with fresh produce.

throughout the year according to the seasons and that gardeners will ultimately not only put food on the tables of their own families, but also have extra to share, sell or barter with.

George Municipality continues to distribute seeds to participating gardeners in Blanco, Touwsrante, Rosemoor, Thembaletu, Rosedale, Conville, Borchards, Geelhoutboom, Waboomskraal, Haarlem, Uniondale and Pacaltsdorp. Each garden is expected to yield a crop to feed 5 to 10 people, depending on a range of factors including garden size and growing conditions.

Persons in vulnerable communities interested in starting food gardens can contact the project coordinators on details below. George Municipality welcomes involvement and support from business, NGOs and individuals who can assist in the long-term sustainability of the project. Ongoing needs include seeds, compost, pesticides, gardening tools and rainwater tanks.

Enquiries: Jonathan Fortuin 044 802 2900



Ald Leon van Wyk, Councillors, George Municipality, Garden Route District Municipality officials and other stakeholders during a cleanup in Lawaai kamp.

World Cleanup Day yields 250 bags

George Mayor, Councillors and the Municipality's Cleansing team together with other government stakeholders removed 250 bags of rubbish from four dumping sites and areas in the communities as part of a Cleanup Project held in celebration of World Cleanup Day.

The George Municipal EPWP workers, officials from the Environmental Department, Department of Agriculture and Rural Development EPWP workers, Garden Route District Municipality and former offenders from the Department of Correctional Services joined to clean up our communities in Thembaletu, Lawaai kamp, Zone 9, Rosedale and Parkdene along the N2 highway. Officials distributed pamphlets from door to door to inform and educate the public on the ills of illegal dumping and involved schools as well. World Cleanup Day unites millions of volunteers, governments and organisations in 191 countries to tackle the global waste problem and build up a new and sustainable world.

ILLEGAL DUMPING

The municipality needs your help to combat illegal dumping:

1. Please spread the news in your community that dumping of waste is dangerous and a health hazard. Waste should be collected in refuse bags and placed for collection on waste removal days. Builders rubble and waste not suitable for bags must be dropped at the municipal refuse site on the R102 (airport road).
2. If you can provide names, vehicle registration details or addresses of alleged perpetrators and are willing to make a statement in this regard, please report it to Law Enforcement at 044 801 6350 or gmun@george.gov.za. You don't need a photograph of the perpetrator, but it will strengthen the case for a warning or fine to be issued.
3. If you notice dumped waste, please report for collection to 044 802 2900.



Nontsikilelo Mooi from the Department of Agriculture and Karin Stoffels from George Municipality Environmental Services with some of the black bags after a morning cleanup in Lawaai kamp



Back Row from left: James de Waal, Xoliswa Kortman, Buhle Mnonopi, Siphokazi Khani, Mbalentle Sishuba, Azazole Mhana, Sinoxolo Dingiswayo, Thandeka Dibela, Sakhile Kibido, Linamandla Matyamu, Zukhanye Madlavana and Kholosa Maseti. Front Row (sitting): Mzwandile Dibela and Rachel Williams.

National Book Week

George Mayor, Ald Leon van Wyk, reiterated how reading books open us all up to new information, which can lead to new opportunities and in most cases a better life. The importance of literacy and reading for information, entertainment and education, was once again emphasised during an event celebrating National Book Week at Thembaletu Library in September.

Mayor Van Wyk joined in the activities by addressing a group of library patrons, which included a group of youngsters, known as the Yearboneers, scholars of Thembaletu Primary School, members of the public, members of Ilitha Book Club from Ilitha Centre of the Blind and several other book clubs. The impact

of reading was demonstrated by Mzwandile Dibela, who is a blind person, as he explained the braille alphabet to onlookers.

The importance of access to information and libraries was laid bare by library patron Nosipho Sidlayiye who is a blind person and who has obtained her matric recently. She credited access to audio devices that are made available to blind people at the numerous libraries in town for her success.

The community of Thembaletu was further acknowledged for their contribution to our literacy society as Thembaletu has a huge number of writers like Nkosinathi Menziwa and others whose books are available at our libraries. The artwork of local artists from Thembaletu was also on display.

George becoming a sought-after film destination

With great beauty comes great responsibility is a twist on the old saying “With great power comes great responsibility”. George Municipality is well aware of the beauty of the natural resources we are surrounded by, and for that reason care was taken in setting up and formalising the George Filming Policy approved in 2021. The policy combined with ongoing promotion of the destination as an ideal filming location has meant that George is getting increasing requests for filming permits, from local as well as national producers.

The municipality recognises the valuable contribution of filming to the economic and cultural environment of George and surrounds and the policy aims to create a film-friendly environment while at the same time balancing the film industry requirements against community and environmental considerations to ensure the responsible use of public resources and the maintenance of community amenities.

George Municipality has signed a Memorandum of Agreement with the Garden Route Film Office to

market locations, promote the destination and train local staff and students to become well versed with the film industry, to foster a better understand of the requirements and the service levels expected from this industry. The return on investment can be extremely lucrative, and although nominal fees are charged for permits, to ensure the sustainable and legal use of the locations, the main benefit is to the George business community.

Film crews can spend several million rand a week in a location, and this money is poured straight into the community for services such as accommodation, transport, arts and crafts, hiring of equipment and casual staff. A production company recently spent in the region of R3 million during their three weeks stay in George, which included a filming day on Victoria Bay beach. This economic injection into George’s economy was applauded by the Executive Mayor, Leon van Wyk. “We are privileged to have hosted a film production unit with a crew of 70 based in local accommodation for

three weeks making use of our scenic locations. Local individuals who acquire technical skills on film sets are then retained by film crews during future visits” he said.

“Film Promotion, as with Tourism Promotion does not have a direct return on investment for the George Municipality but is rather strategically marketed to stimulate business for the local tourism and film-related businesses. As Tourism Manager, Joan Shaw puts it “We promote the destination to make the town tills ring! The beauty is that everyone can benefit as the requirements are diverse ranging from accommodation, transport, and catering to engineering, artist, and event actors for bit parts.”

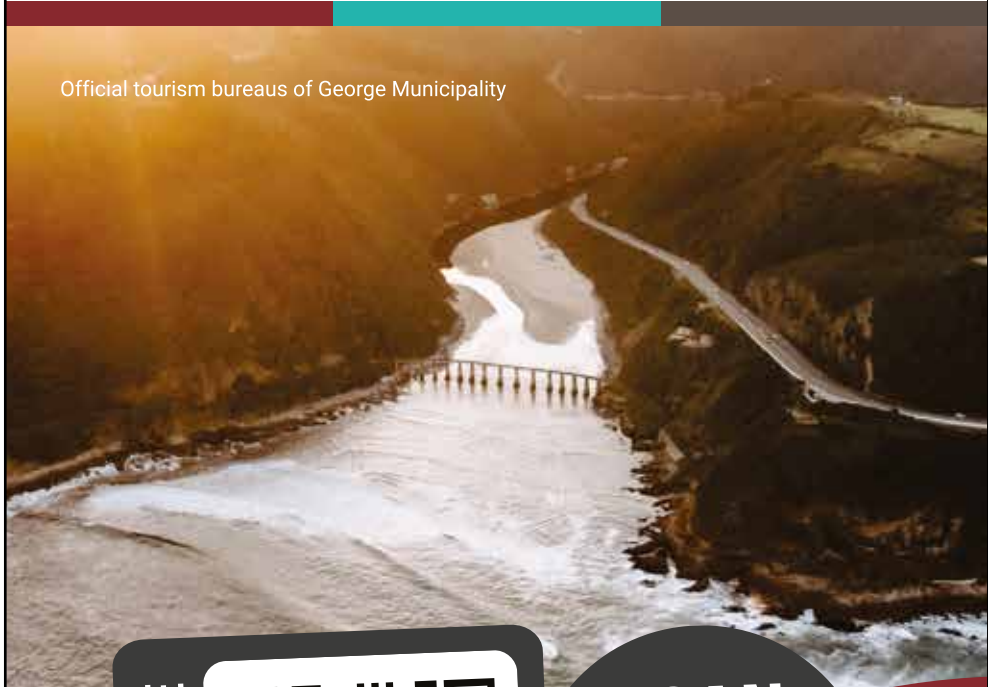
If you wish to register a location of your business as a provider to future film productions, please register on www.gardenroutefilmcommission.com, register, and upload your product details. For more information or assistance kindly contact Heloïne America, at the George Tourism Office on 044 801 9293. Find the GM Film Policy on www.george.gov.za

GEORGE
WILDERNESS
UNIONDALE



Some things cannot be explained, only experienced. Explore our natural paradise and make magical memories.

Official tourism bureaus of George Municipality



BROCHURE



SCAN
ME

visitgeorge.co.za

MAKE MAGICAL MEMORIES IN GEORGE, WILDERNESS AND UNIONDALE

Here’s a list of activities you can enjoy:

- 4x4
- Abseiling
- Animal Parks and Rehabilitation Centres
- Art Galleries, Classes and Routes
- Beaches
- Big Tree
- Bike Park
- Birdwatching
- Boat Rides
- Botanical Gardens and Guided Tours
- Bubble Ball (children)
- Bumper Boats (children)
- Canoeing
- Canyoning / Kloofing
- Coffee and Chocolate Pairings
- Craft Your Own Gin Class and Pairings
- Culinary Cooking Classes
- Dine with a Local
- E-Bike Rides
- Farm Stalls
- Fishing
- Game Drives (only for guests at specific accommodation)
- Go Cart Track
- Golf Courses
- Guided Cultural and Historical Tours
- Helicopter Rides
- Horseback Rides
- Indoor Play Centres (children)
- Kayaking
- Kloofing
- Learn to Surf
- Local Guided Day Trips
- Markets
- Microlight Flights
- Miniature Train Rides
- Museums
- Oyster Shucking, Show and Tell Experience
- Paragliding
- Pedal Go Carts (children)
- Picnic Spots
- Pony Rides (children)
- Power Van Railway Experience
- Quad Biking
- Rock Climbing
- Scenic Drives and Lookout Points
- Segway
- Spa and Wellness Emporiums
- Stand Up Paddle Boarding (SUP)
- Strawberry Picking

- Township Bicycle and Cultural Tours
- Trails for hiking, MTB and running
- Trampoline Park (children)
- Treetop Aerial Obstacle Courses
- Tuk-tuk Tour
- Wine Farms and Tasting Rooms

LOCAL HIDDEN GEMS IN NATURE

• **Island Lake**
Day visitors can picnic under wooden gazebos and enjoy the river with your own floaties and water activities. Fishing and boating is welcome with applicable permits.

• **George Dam**
Soak in gorgeous views of the George dam and forest as you enjoy a walk or mountain bike route.

• **Wilderness Lagoon**
Part of the Touw River and situated in the centre of town, at the lagoon you can enjoy a stroll along the boardwalk, braai and swim.

• **Gwaing Beach**
Gwaing river mouth and beach is an unspoilt area with braai facilities and ablutions.

POPULAR LOCAL HIKES

- Pepsi Pools and Cradock Peak in George
 - Giant Kingfisher Trail (waterfall hike) in Wilderness
 - Anglo Boer War Fort hike in Uniondale
- Find useful trail information at georgetrails.org.za

VISITOR INFORMATION CENTRES

Find things to do, upcoming events, restaurants, tour operators and shuttles, places to stay and local travel advice at:
George Tourism: 124 York Street, George Central, George, 6529, +27 44 801 9295
• info@visitgeorge.co.za
Wilderness Tourism: 198 George Road, Wilderness, 6560, +27 44 877 0045
• info@visitwilderness.co.za
Uniondale Tourism: Virtual assistance +27 44 518 003
• info@visituniondale.co.za

Make memories that will last a lifetime. Be inspired at visitgeorge.co.za.

Leerder wen GO GEORGE rap-kompetisie

Olwethu Sayidini, ’n leerder van Hoërskool Pacaltsdorp, is onder luide en vreugdevolle applous aangekondig as die algehele wenner van die GO GEORGE Anti-vandalisme Rap-kompetisie vir hoërskole wat op Woensdag 10 Augustus 2022 in die George Kunsteteater gehou is. Sy treffende koorlirieke sal nog lank bly draai in die gehoor se geheue: “Please stop the vandalism, it is not a pranksterism, you don’t want to end up in prison!”

Die naasweners is albei van Hoërskool George: Graziel Heathcote (tweede plek) en Likho Ntshohgontshi (derde plek). Die drie weners is gekies uit 10 finaliste wat deur agt hoërskole in George ingeskryf is.

Die kompetisie het deel gevorm van 'n gefokusde veldtog deur GO GEORGE om aandag te vestig op die kommerwekkende sosiale kwessie van vandalisme, en spesifiek die vandalisering van GO GEORGE-infrastruktuur (busse en skuilings) wat teen hoë koste tot voordeel van die gemeenskap verskaf word.

Deelnemers moes voldoen aan spesifieke kriteria soos die gebruik van die woorde GO GEORGE en vandalisme, benewens die vereiste dat die inhoud op geen manier aanstootlik moet wees nie en geskik moet wees vir verspreiding. Die oorspronklike lirieke waarmee die deelnemers vorendag gekom het, was inspirerend en kragtig en het verwys na die negatiewe invloed van vandalisme op hul gemeenskappe en die busdiens, asook die gevolge vir die oortreder. Die boodskappe sal versterk word deur die media te gebruik waarop die jeug reageer, soos Facebook, TikTok en Instagram.

George se uitvoerende burgemeester, raadsheer Leon van Wyk, het die pryse aan die drie weners oorhandig. Hy het die belangrikheid daarvan om vandalisme te voorkom, beklemtoon.

"Ons is deeglik bewus daarvan dat GO GEORGE en die munisipaliteit se anti -vandalisme - dryfkrag gebore is uit die noodsaaklikheid om 'n einde te maak aan die plaag van vandalisme in ons dorp en in ons gemeenskappe," het hy gesê. "Vandalisme is nie 'n poets of 'n speletjie nie; dit is 'n kriminele oortreding wat blywende gevolge vir die oortreders kan



Wenner van die GO GEORGE Anti-vandalisme Rap-kompetisie, Olwethu Sayidini. Eerste naaswenner van die GO GEORGE Anti-vandalisme Rap-kompetisie, Graziel Heathcote, Tweede naaswenner van die GO GEORGE Anti-vandalisme Rap-kompetisie, Likho Ntshohgontshi. George se uitvoerende burgemeester, raadsheer Leon van Wyk, het die pryse aan die drie talentvolle weners van die rap-kompetisie oorhandig. Saam met hom op die verhoog is, van links, Olwethu Sayidini (wenner), tweede naaswenner Likho Ntshohgontshi, en eerste naaswenner Graziel Heathcote.

hê. Ek is werklik bemoedig deur wat ek vanaand gesien en gehoor het – vandalisme moet ten alle koste ontmoedig word. Ek glo hierdie kompetisie verteenwoordig 'n baie relevante en kragtige vorm van uitdrukking wat deur ons jeug gebruik word en wat die mag het om hul portuurgroep te beïnvloed."

Die wenner van die kompetisie het Beats Solo3 draadlose oorfone ontvang, die tweede pryswenner 'n stel Skullcandy draadlose oorfone, en die wenner van die derde prys is huis toe met 'n JBL flip 5 Bluetooth - luidspreker. Elke finalis het 'n geskenksak met koopbewyse of produkte van verskeie borge ontvang, waaronder Margot Swiss, Watsons Vleis, Coca - Cola, Root Café, Nando's, RocoMamas, Spur en Panarotti's.



Die rap-kompetisiefinaliste wat hul wysheid en talent met 'n waarderende gehoor gedeel het, was van links, voor: Jade van Hart e (Eden Tegniese Hoërskool), Jamil Pretorius (Hoërskool Outeniqua), Franwill Frazenberg (Van Kervel-skool), Kirstan Keffers (Hoërskool Parkdene) en Liyema Nsasane (Hoërskool George); van links, agter: Jerome Appels (Olympia-skool), Baynalekhem Misland (Hoërskool Outeniqua), Liko Ntshohgontshi (Hoërskool George), Graziel Heathcote (Hoërskool George), Jerico Manies (Olympia-skool) en Olwethu Sayidini (Hoërskool Pacaltsdorp).



Allen Paulse, Director: Community Services, Mayor Leon van Wyk and Cllr Jean Safers (Portfolio Councillor for Community Services: Environmental Services) having a jolly good time being lifted in one of the very sturdy tractor load backhoe's.



Allen Paulse, Cllr Jean Safers, Mayor van Wyk with the out of the ordinary blue in colour tractors from Landini. Normally, most heavy duty vehicles are painted yellow, initially because of safety and visibility on the road but companies are bringing in more colours into play.

Delivery of vehicles worth close to R8 million

George has taken delivery of new vehicles worth close to R8 million including two tractor load backhoe's, a FTR 850 Compactor, fitted with auto

lubrication system for the hydraulics and moving parts (Compactor Bin), prevents excessive wear and reduces downtime by ensuring all moving parts are lubricated,

as well as 4x4 blue coloured tractors. The tractor load backhoe will be used for excavation and the cleaning of illegal dumping, tractors will be used in grass

cutting and gravel roads with a brand-new compactor for refuse removal. The bakkies will be used for lighter duties and are replacing older bakkies.

Making Market Street Accessible for all

The upgrade of Market Street established in 1836, extends from York Street to Hope Street and includes a full rebuild and upgrade of the full road reserve and the asphaltting of the pedestrian walkways that include the paving of the furniture zone. (The furniture zone is the area for all street furniture (benches), streetlights, waste bins etc. and acts as a buffer between the roadway and the pedestrian sidewalk.) Of the five (5) phases the final two are progressing well with completion set for February 2023.

Additional grant funding was gazetted in March 2022 and savings elsewhere on the GIPTN overall 2021/22 budget allowed for phases 4 and 5 of the Market Street upgrade to proceed to construction earlier than planned.

An important requirement of the GIPTN funding agreement with the Municipality is that all road upgrades on GO GEORGE bus routes must be upgraded in terms of Universal Accessibility (UA) as well. What this means is that any individual (whose mobility, communicative ability, or understanding is reduced) should be able to access and use a pedestrian walkway, a bus stop and so on, freely and independently.

George Municipality has made huge strides in drafting the necessary UA design criteria and is currently one of few that have produced a design criteria document. Retrofitting a street such as Market Street in terms of UA is not an easy task with provision having to be made for both property and street universal accessibility access, while maintaining the longitudinal slope along Market Street's walkways.

The science of universal accessibility is not exact due to the variability of existing roads that must be adapted to, and a number of lessons learnt during the construction of Market Street will be carried forward to future road projects.

Executive Mayor Leon Van Wyk visited Market Street following an ad hoc inspection undertaken by UA specialists to assess the implementation of UA along Market Street. "These improvements for universal accessibility allow for wider pavements and will go a long way in ensuring mobility and access for all users; those making use of wheelchairs and people with other disabilities.

Although this has been a challenging project that included the repositioning of streetlight poles to allow for universal access compliance, these challenges have been adequately managed by our highly skilled civil engineering services department.

This is a world class improvement along one of the most important and most used stretches/sections of road for our GO GEORGE bus services. These improvements are most welcome and will go a long way in servicing all residents," said Ald Van Wyk.

The UA specialists noted that significant progress has been made by the Municipality and solutions were provided for any shortcomings which were identified during the inspection. Further regular inspections are planned to ensure that the ongoing construction achieves the maximum level of UA compliance given the complex urban environment that is being upgraded.



From the left are Ryno Schraader, (Zutari Provincial Consultant); Cllr Gert Niehaus (Chairperson GIPTN Section 79 Committee); Cllr Jackie Von Brandis (Portfolio Cllr Civil Engineering Services: Capital Projects & BFI); Cllr Browen Johnson (Portfolio Cllr Civil Engineering Services); Ricus Fivaz, (Municipal Project Manager) and Ian Scott (Zutari Provincial UA Consultant).



Executive Mayor Leon Van Wyk and Ricus Fivaz, Municipal Project Manager show off the newly refurbished sidewalk along Market Street.

Back up generation for our sewer pumpstations

George Municipality manages and maintains a water and sewer infrastructure consisting of 116 sewer pump stations and 28 water pumpstations. Ongoing loadshedding implemented by ESKOM over the past few years has raised concerns with regard to maintaining the supply of potable water and sewer services.

The public often forget that during loadshedding the municipal sewer pumpstations and water treatment works are put under immense pressure and traditional storage capacities are not adequate to compensate for extended loadshedding.

In a bid to ensure the provision of adequate potable (drinking) water and to reduce water pollution, 13 large-scale generators have been installed at our most critical installations including high risk identified sewer pumpstations as well as at the Old and New Water Treatment Works that treats raw water received from the Garden Route Dam into potable (drinking) water.

The tenders received for the purchase and installation of two (2) 1100kVA generators to be installed at the Garden Route Dam raw water pumpstation are being evaluated. This installation will mean that during loadshedding or any other power outage, raw water can continue to be pumped to the Water Treatment Works for processing for drinking water supply.

Executive Mayor Ald Van Wyk noted that these generators need to be constantly re-fuelled with diesel as the municipality attempts to keep operations going under conditions where Eskom is unable to provide electricity for up to eight hours per day.

A recent Energy Summit hosted provided insight into the state of Eskom. "I was recently privileged to attend an Energy Summit where the Eskom CEO, Andre de Ruyter spoke about the power station fleet that had been operated at maximum capacity for too long. This means that maintenance needs to be undertaken to avoid complete breakdowns.

New generating capacity will have to be



Installing a 300kVA backup generator at one of the sewer pumpstations.

built over the next 15 years," said Ald Van Wyk.

The purchase and installation costs of such large-scale generators is high, and these are not just ordered off the shelf. To date the municipality has installed generators at our sewer pump stations at a cost of approximately R13 million.

The generators are diesel operated and have weather and vandal proof covers for protection.

All of the backup generation is equipped with anti-vandalism and anti-theft devices and each is linked to the municipal telemetry and SCADA system for remote monitoring purposes.



Director for Electrotechnical Services, Bongani Mandla.

AMEU Award 2022

George Municipality has been announced as winner of the Top Performing Municipality (Category B Municipality) by the Association of Municipal Electricity Utilities (AMEU) on 4th October. The 68th AMEU Convention hosted in the first week of October ended with a gala dinner and the award was presented to Electrotechnical Services Director, Bongani Mandla as part of the AMEU President’s Legacy Awards Programme.

The award celebrates the Electrotechnical Services department of a top performing category B municipality with the focus on revenue management, repairs and maintenance, infrastructure capital expenditure, electrification amongst other areas. The participating municipalities were compared on a number of aspects where performance had to be indicated. These aspects included non-technical losses, which are measured by subtracting the technical losses from our total Losses. George Municipality performance in this regard equated to 4.87%.

Other aspects reviewed were revenue collection, electrification of formal houses as well as un-proclaimed areas, indigent customers with access to Free Basic Electricity, Unplanned Outages that are restored to supply within industry standard timeframes and capital expenditure.

TOP PERFORMING LOCAL MUNICIPALITY (CATEGORY B MUNICIPALITY)

An award celebrating a top performing category B municipality with focus on revenue management, repairs and maintenance, power purchase, BBBEE procurement spend, training and development, infrastructure CAPEX spend and electrification

Road Resealed in excellent time – putting grant funding to good use

The resealing project for CJ Langenhoven Road between Davidson Road (Provincial Hospital) has been completed, a full month earlier than the predicted mid-October. This is a testament to our Civil Engineering Department who undertook the remedial project at short notice after receiving a significant portion of the Provincial budget in the form of Grant Funding (80%) with the proviso that the spending is completed before the end of December 2022.

CJ Langenhoven Road and York Street are both Proclaimed Roads within the Municipal Road Network, and the budget and maintenance of these roads is provided for by the Western Cape Government: Transport and Public Works who is the Road Authority of both Roads. The Market/ York Street intersection has also reopened allowing for bi-directional traffic flow, another roads upgrade project which is progressing well despite initial delays.

Investment in road infrastructure contributes to growth and productivity

Our roads make a critical contribution to economic development and growth and, in turn, bring about all-important social development. “A well-planned and well-maintained road network is vitally important for development in that they provide access to employment, social, health and education services. George Municipality’s investment in road infrastructure directly contributes to growth and productivity in that roads are a critical component of the production process of many goods and services,” said Director for Human Settlements, Planning and Development, Ms Lauren Waring.

Access to main tourist attractions

Joan Shaw, Tourism Manager for George is thrilled that both roads CJ Langenhoven and York Street which are exceptionally important tourism routes are being updated. “The two roads form part of the main arterial network giving visitors access to not only many tourist attractions, but to the hub of the city of George - that is the home of many regional facilities including the George Airport, George Provincial Hospital and the Medi-Clinic, Home Affairs Offices, the Garden Route District Municipality, to name a few. York street also houses many of the banks and foreign exchange facilities.

These roads also give access to many of the main tourist attractions such as the George Golf Course, Fancourt Hotel and Estate, Red Berry Farm, Herold’s Bay, Gwaing River mouth, the historical hub of the city centre, and many other first-class accommodation establishments, restaurants, and attractions, including unique shops.

It is vital that such these and other routes, are in tip-top condition for the upcoming festive season, along with the rest of our facilities”, said Ms Shaw.

York Street Resealing

The rehabilitation of York Street Northbound lanes with the approximately 1000m section in question, located between Nelson Mandela Boulevard in the south and Courtenay Street in the north is close to completion and the George Civil Engineering Department will simultaneously address any storm water and kerb repairs that are needed.

The works on the York Street Southbound lanes are due to start towards the end of October with the aim on completion by early December 2022.

George Municipality apologises for the inconvenience and appeals to road users to be patient and exercise caution during the project. Please look out for and adhere to temporary road signage and roadworks personnel.



Alderman Leon Van Wyk paid a visit to view the completed CJ Langenhoven Street together with Acting Director for Civil Engineering Services, Lionel Daniels. CJ Langehoven Street is not only part of the main arterial network giving visitors access to the CBD and many tourist attractions, but also part of the GO GEORGE route.



There will be height differences between the two lanes while milling and asphalt construction work is in progress. Drivers, cyclists, and pedestrians must exercise

extreme caution, especially during wet conditions and when visibility is poor and at night. Vehicles with low profile tyres and motorcyclists must take extra care.

Stormwater and streets upgrade for Thembalethu

Residents of Zone 9, in Thembalethu, will benefit from upgraded stormwater infrastructure and paved streets before the end of this year as the George Municipality embarked on a vigorous development drive in this area.

The existing stormwater infrastructure in the vicinity of Mbewu, Spetose and Dick Streets is radically structured with an upgrade that will be followed by the paving of several streets. “There was a need to redesign the water system because of the encroachment of property in open public spaces.

This roadway will be paved after the work has been completed,” said the Executive Mayor of George, Ald Leon van Wyk during his visit to the constructed areas.

The Executive Mayor of George, Ald Leon van Wyk, accompanied by the Portfolio Councillor for Planning and Development, Cllr Henry Hill had nothing but praise for the ongoing infrastructural improvements during his recent visit to the construction areas. “I am elated to see the work that

is being carried out in these three streets in the Thembalethu area,” said Mayor van Wyk. “A fair amount of redesign work has been carried out in Mbewu Street, respectively, this is to ‘catch’ water from Nelson Mandela Boulevard and ensure that the stormwater flow will be directed safely into the river courses.”

The upgrading of stormwater and street will affect the following areas:

- Mbewu Street Area: Sections of Nelson Mandela Boulevard, Mbewu Street, Liwani Street and Tabata Street.
- Spetose Street Area: A section of Spetose, Nkohla and Magqazana Streets.
- Dick Street Area: Sections of Dick, Spotose, Qhawa, Magqazana, Mehlo, Nogwaja, Sampisi and Mngoma Streets are affected. .

“The works being carried out in these streets will ensure quality service delivery to all who live in them,” Ald van Wyk concluded.



Mr Chris Venter from (WSJ Civils), Ald Leon van Wyk (Executive Mayor of George), and Cllr Henry Hill (Portfolio Councillor for Planning and Development).



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The works being carried out in these streets will ensure quality service delivery to all who live in them.



Newly built fence at the Old Thembalethu Cemetery

Executive Mayor Leon van Wyk accompanied by Cllr Erica Brown, Deputy Chair Section 80 Community Services (left); Cllr Jean Safers, Portfolio Councillor for Community Services: Parks, Refuse and Environment; Sivuyile Mtila, Senior Manager: Environmental Services and Nosidima Vumindaba, Manager: Environmental Services visited the Old Thembalethu cemetery in Ward 9 to see the finished product of a newly installed palisade fence valued at R450 000 that was put up to enclose the cemetery. The sides of the cemetery will not be fenced at this stage as it is surrounded by houses. Steel gates were installed at the front and back of the cemetery for access for maintenance work etc. Two fishtail gates were positioned at two places in the fence for people to gain easy access and prevent vandalism. The fishtail gates (as seen in the picture) are designed to be easily accessed by people but not roaming animals like cows, horses etc. The premises are being treated with herbicides to keep unwanted vegetation at bay. Mayor van Wyk said that he is happy with the work being done by Community Services directorate and this is an area in the community that should be, and deserves to be respected. “It is only fitting that the area is secured,” he said.



Representatives from the various creches and the facilitators from Working on Fire at the venue.

Fire safety training

21 George Municipal creches personnel received fire safety training presented by Working on Fire (WOF) recently at the Lawaaikamp Community Hall.

According to Rosemarie Mehlo, social auxiliary worker for George Municipality, the important information relayed to the educators included how to act during a fire, and what the first thing actions should be when a fire breaks out.

Tips were shared on how to prevent fires, and how to keep the creche facilities fire-safe.

Members from Working with Fire

discussed fire safety plans with the creche educators and assisted them with the drawing up of these plans.

According to Mehlo, the educators found the session very valuable and insightful. The Community Development Office would like to thank Working on Fire for this initiative. Rayganah Rhoda from Working on Fire, said that the organisation has been targeting and working with schools in fire-prone areas for the past few years to educate children on fire hazards and empower the learners on key fire awareness messages.



Members from the different stakeholders that form part of the Local Drug Action Committee at the training session.

Training for Local Drug Action Committee

Members of the Local Drug Action Committee, of which George Municipality's Community Development section is a part, received training recently presented by the Provincial Department of Social Development and the Central Drug Authority (CDA).

According to Janine Adams, Social Worker at the Community Development section, the training revolved around the specific functions of the LDAC as well as the roles and responsibilities of each partner.

The LDAC consists of various role players including governmental departments, NGO's and members of civil society. The Municipality fulfills the role of co-ordinating the LDAC. LDAC structures are the committees at a local level that coordinate and report the activities.

These committees consist of stakeholders from different government departments, the private sector, NGO's and others with the aim of prevention and combating of substance abuse and illicit drug trafficking within the municipalities' jurisdictions.

The LDAC is a platform which is used to discuss the various issues surrounding substance abuse and how it can be addressed.

It is a multi-disciplinary committee that meets once a quarter. The members all have one common goal and that is to reduce substance abuse as well as the demand for it. This can only be done if all sectors work together to eradicate this evil that is consuming our communities and youth. The LDAC aims to develop strategies that will rebuild communities from the bottom up.

George team returns triumphant

The George Municipality's sports team that participated in the Garden Route Sport and Recreation Day in September in Riversdale, came back victorious with the team grabbing two gold medals.

The two gold medalists are Grant November for golf and Randy Wesso for table tennis. The netball team also went through to the semi-finals and won 9/7. The George netball team was supposed to play in the finals, but the game did not take place due to logistics, but based on the goal average, the George Municipal netball team was the top team.

The Executive Mayor of George, Alderman Leon van Wyk congratulated the team for their success.

"We are thrilled to hear that you went out there and represented George Municipality. Congratulations to the officials who attained Gold and to our netball team who reached the final. Well done to all competitors. You have made us proud!"

The Garden Route Sport and Recreation Day is an annual sports event that is hosted by Sport and Recreation Services of the Western Cape Department of Cultural Affairs and Sport involving government officials in the various districts of the province as well as in the metropole to try their hand at soccer, mini-cricket, volleyball, tug of war, chess, athletics, and many other codes.



George team returns triumphant from Riversdale.



Grant November, gold medalist for golf.



Randy Wesso, gold medalist for table tennis.

ARBOR WEEK

The Mayor of George, Ald Leon van Wyk councillors and officials took to the streets of George – Pacaltsdorp, Knysna Road and Thembaletu - to plant trees in celebration of Arbor Week.. A total of 150 trees of various species will be planted across the municipal area including Wild Plum, Kei Apple, and Wild Peach trees. All the plastic coverings of the trees will be recycled.

The theme for Arbor Month as declared by the Department of Forestry, Fisheries and Environment is "Forests and sustainable production and

consumption". The trees were donated by the Department of Forestry, Fisheries and Environment.

George Municipality Environmental Services: Parks and Recreation calls out all interested parties, organizations, schools etc who would like to participate by either the donation of trees, and/or in the planting of trees to indicate their availability / interest and would like further details. Please contact Ms Nosidima Vumindaba at email address nvumindaba@george.gov.za or call 044 802 2900.



At the tree planting in Knysna Road opposite Pine Lodge are from left, Mayor Leon van Wyk, Monica Vaccaro from Landmark Foundation who assisted with planting, Cllr Brendon Adams and Cllr Browen Johnson. At the back are Nosidima Vumindaba from Parks and Recreation, Tyron April from Parks and Recreation, Cllr Henry Hill, Cllr Jean Safers, Portfolio Councillor for Community Services: Parks, Refuse and Environment and Allen Paulse, Director: Community Services.

New vehicles worth R11 million

George Municipality Electrotechnical Services and Community Services have taken delivery of a small fleet of vehicles worth about R11 million including a heavy-duty 24-meter aerial platform cherry picker, a purpose-built crane, tipper trucks and an aerial platform specifically for cutting trees.

Mayor Leon van Wyk, who went to check out the new fleet, is very impressed with the new tipper trucks and mobile aerial platform that was bought for the Community Services Directorate. The mobile aerial platform was specifically bought for the pruning and cutting of trees and vegetation and will be extremely useful going forward.

Mayor Van Wyk said the money was well spent by the Electrotechnical Services Directorate on six bakkies with custom-made roof racks and a heavy-duty 4 x 4 cherry picker and a heavy-duty crane that extends to 24 and 22, 5 meters.

This equipment is of high quality and will be in use for a good many years.



Ald Van Wyk in the new mobile aerial platform to be used by Community Services for cutting trees and at the waste transfer station. At the back are two brand new tipper trucks for street cleansing. From left with the Mayor is Nosidima Vumindaba, Manager: Environmental Services, Sivuyile Mtila, Senior Manager: Environmental Services, Cllr Erica Brown, Deputy Chair Section 80 Community Services and Cllr Jean Safers, Portfolio Councillor for Community Services: Parks, Refuse and Environment.



Ald Van Wyk standing in the 24-meter Arial Platform cherry picker with Cllr Nosicelo Mbete and Bongani Mandla next to him. The cherry picker is used for maintenance of High Voltage lines (66 000 volts), and is capable of servicing all infrastructure components at heights. The outriggers have modified footings and angles including a chassis filled with concrete for stability and rigidity. This platform is the highest Arial platform device fitted to FTR 850 4x4 built by Isuzu SA.



Ald Leon van Wyk, Cllr Nosicelo Mbete (left), Bongani Mandla, Director of Electrotechnical Services and Jacques Lawrence (Senior Manager: Substations Electrotechnical Services) with new LDV 1 ton bakkies with heavy-duty roof racks and diff locks with raised bodies for most terrain applications.

HELP STOP VANDALISM

Vandalism is a crime. Please report people tampering, painting, breaking or stealing municipal property with the SAPS and George Municipality Law Enforcement (044 801 6350 during work hours or 044 801 6300 (After Hours) as soon as you see it happening.



Die leerders wat almal die swem oorlewingskursus by die George swembad in Conville suksesvol voltooi het, met Caville Abrahams (NSRI) en Leveinia Botha (voor) asook Granville Campher, Bestuurder van Sport: George Munisipaliteit, Allen Paulse, Direkteur: Gemeenskapdienste en Wyksraadslid Brendon Adams, Portefeuljeraadslid van Sport na afloop van die program.

George Munisipaliteit en NSRI span saam om verdrinkings te voorkom

George Munisipaliteit en die NSRI het vir die afgelope jaar en 'n half in samewerking met Conville Primêr 'n swem oorlewingsprogram gehou, om verdrinking te voorkom.

Luidens statistieke van die NSRI, verdrink ongeveer 1484 mense elke jaar in Suid-Afrika, 450 daarvan is kinders en nog meer word gestremd gelaat as gevolg van 'n nie-fatale verdrinking. Volgens Caville Abrahams, van NSRI, maak dit 'n mens van vooraf bewus van die groot gevaar wat water inhou – ongeag van ouderom en ervaring , jy moet ten alle tye versigtig wees wanneer jy naby water is!

Die doel van die program is om kinders wat geen swemervaring of glad nie kan swem nie, te leer om hulself te help wanneer hulle in gevaar is, naby of in die water. Die program is ook daarop gemik om kinders gemaklik te maak rondom water. Indien 'n kind per ongeluk in die water val, hy/sy hulself uit die moeilikheid help.

Volgens Abrahams bestaan die program uit vier kategorieë naamlik: Asembeheer, Oriëntasie, Dryf en beweging na veiligheid. As al hierdie komponente saamgevoeg word en suksesvol aangeleer is kan die student vir meer as 5 meter tot by veiligheid beweeg of hom/haar self bo die water hou tot dat hulp kom om te help.

Die program is in 13 lesplanne opgedeel en daar is alreeds 48 studente wat deel uitgemaak het van die program. Sewentien van die Conville Primêre Skool het die kursus suksesvol voltooi.

George Sportafdeling beoog om meer



Van die Conville Primêre Skool leerders wat uitblink het in die swem oorlewingskursus by die George swembad in Conville suksesvol voltooi het, is voor van links, Edwardo Jansen, Aden-John Jansen, Timothy Voster en Lenaldo Meyer. Agter hulle staan Carin Potts en Bronwyn Voster. Van links agter is Ainsley Kennedy (NSRI instrukteur), Caville Abrahams (NSRI instrukteur), Wyksraadslid Brendon Adams, Portefeuljeraadslid van Sport, Allen Paulse, Direkteur: Gemeenskapdienste, Granville Campher, Bestuurder van Sport: George Munisipaliteit en Leveinia Botha (Sport).

kinders oor die volgende paar jaar bekend te stel aan die program in verskeie gemeenskappe en skole in George.

Granville Campher, bestuurder: Sport by George Munisipaliteit, sê waterveiligheidsprograme is hulpmiddels om lewens te help red. “Maar onthou’n Kind word nooit verdrinkingbestand nie, hou altyd toesig oor kinders rondom water en skakel onmiddellik 112 rapid response in enige noodgeval.”

Campher het gesê die afdeling is van plan om die voetspoor van water sport in George te vergroot , sodat ons die gemeenskap kan bemagtig en toegang tot die sport kan uitbrei. Daar is reeds samesprekings aan die gang met verskillende rolspelers om die moontlikheid van 'n swemklub wat gebaseer is by die Conville Swembad te stig. Hier sal 'n gulde geleentheid wees om kinders van 'n jong ouderdom af blootstelling in die sport te gee.



New lifeguard tower for Gwaiing beach

A brand new lifeguard tower was installed at Gwaiing beach after the initial tower was destroyed in a deliberate fire by individuals, who also vandalised the ablution facility at the beach area during March and April last year. The new fibreglass structure costing R140 000 is a patent design for a local company who has the sole mandate to produce these towers.