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# Premier impressed with multi-million-rand water infrastructure project

Premier Alan Winde visited the site of the new water treatment works extension project in George early in July 2023. He applauded all those involved in this massive endeavour saying, "This entire project demonstrates how we in the Western Cape are looking to the future, preparing for the increased demand on essential services such as water, sanitation, and electricity. We have to keep up with the needs of our residents, especially in regions such as George, which is seeing a marked increase in people relocating to the area. At the same time, communities must take ownership and be proud of these kinds of infrastructure development projects so as to preserve them for future generations."

George Municipality received a Budget Facility for Infrastructure Funding (BFI) grant to the value of R1.107 billion from National Treasury for the upgrades. The progress achieved so far is impressive. "It shows how through carefully planned and expertly coordinated measures, we are able to deliver on our infrastructure development expectations to improve the lives of our citizens," added Premier Winde.

Apart from the 20 mega litre per day treatment plant extension to the new water treatment works the project consists of 11 other components, such as:

- The upgrading of the Garden Route dam outlet and supply.
- The refurbishment of the existing sludge discharge system.
- A new additional 30 mega litre raw water storage balancing dam will be constructed.
- Mass power blackouts have been a massive problem affecting water and sanitation infrastructure, among other critical services. But this project has taken this into account. Two 1100 kVA generators have been installed and commissioned at the Garden Route dam raw water pump station. During blackouts raw water will continue to be pumped uninterrupted to the water treatment works for processing.

Portfolio Councillor for Civil Engineering Services: Capital Projects and BFI, Jacquique Von Brandis, who joined the Premier on the site visit said: "This multi-year project will see R263 million in civil engineering construction works and approximately R220 million spent on mechanical and electrical works."



Premier Alan Winde is flanked on his left by Executive Mayor Leon Van Wyk and Civil Engineering Services Director, Jannie Koegelenberg and on the right by Portfolio Councillor for Civil Engineering Services: Capital Projects & BFI, Jacquique Von Brandis, Portfolio Councillor for Civil Engineering Services: Operating Aspects, Browen Johnson and various officials from Civils and the contractor on site.

# George hosts Netball World Cup 2023 Fan Park

George Municipality received the honour of being allocated a Netball World Cup Fan Park to be hosted at Rosemore Stadium in primary partnership with the Department of Cultural Affairs and Sport (DCAS) during the Netball World Cup tournament. The Fan Park allowed 2000 residents to participate on a daily basis in the family friendly netball world cup experience with viewing screens, music and stalls.

An official opening ceremony was held on the 28 July and the closing Ceremony on the 6 August 2023.

Portfolio Councillor for Community Services: Social Development, Libraries and Sport Brendan Adams expressed his delight at the opportunity to host the Fan Park. "I am thrilled at the level of awareness of the sport the World Cup Netball Fan Park has created within George and it is an incredible opportunity for the sport as a whole in South Africa. I am proud that George hosted a Fan Park."

### Trophy tour handover

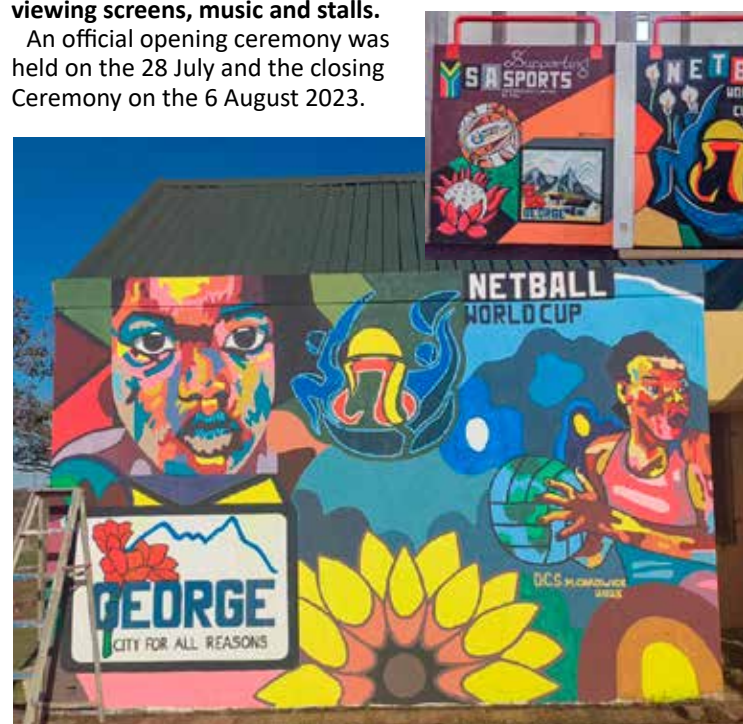
On Wednesday 5 July, the city of George was graced with the presence of the long-awaited Vitality Netball World Cup trophy. Letsatsi together with our very own Daantjie kat and Georgie, showed the crowd how to bring gees to the George fans by illustrating how to #Putyourhandsup in support of our own Spar Proteas netball team.

Litsatsi the Netball Meerkat Mascots' name means "Sun" to honour our bright future. Her colourful outfit covered with

South African beads represents our rich culture.

The trophy travelled around the country bringing awareness and celebrating in the pride of South Africa, being the first African country to host the Netball World Cup.

George was identified as a Legacy point on the whirlwind Trophy Tour having received funding for the upgrade of the Netball Courts at Rosemore Stadium and various schools received netball equipment after the trophy handover.



The Department of Correctional Services assisted George Municipality with maintenance at the Rosemore Stadium prior to the opening of the Fan Park on 28 August. One of their offenders put his incredible talents to work and painted these murals in support of the Netball World Cup 2023.

Western Cape MEC for Cultural Affairs and Sport, Anroux Marais and Executive Mayor Leon Van Wyk accepted the Trophy at a high energy, musical and fun event. Deputy Mayor Raybin Figland, Letsatsi the meerkat, the official mascot of the Netball World Cup 2023, MEC Anroux Marais DCAS, and Ald Leon Van Wyk who received the Netball Trophy on behalf of city of George and Cecilia Molokwane, President Netball Federation South Africa.

# Solar installations keep the lights on in George

George Mayor, Ald Leon van Wyk, visited the Drive-through MVR offices in Blanco following a solar installation which enables the building to be powered and remain online during Eskom loadshedding.

George Municipality has embarked on a drive to reduce their bulk purchase and carbon footprint through the installation of PV Solar Systems and Battery Energy



Elek: Mayor Leon van Wyk, Thabo Yiga, Project Manager of the Solar Plants at Electrotechnical Services and George Municipal Manager, Dr Michele Gratz, at the solar batteries at the Electrotechnical Services offices.

Storage Systems. The Executive Mayor visited two of the sites which have now been commissioned as part of the programme the city has embarked on.

A solar system of 3 kilowatts peak with a 5 kVA hybrid inverter and a 10-kilowatt hour (kWh) battery storage has been installed and commissioned at the Blanco Drive-through MVR. This system comprises of 6 panels, each with a rating of 500 watts. The solar panels are set to prioritise charging the battery first, and when its full, the panels supply electricity to the building.

When loadshedding occurs, the battery kicks in and supplies the building. The battery will last for at most 6 hours of loadshedding, before it must be recharged. In the absence of the sun, the batteries can charge from the grid at off-peak times when the cost of electricity is cheaper.

At the Electrotechnical Services building, a solar system of 20 kilo watts peak (kWp) with a 30 kVA hybrid inverter and a 60-kilo watt hour (kWh) battery energy storage has been installed and commissioned. The system comprises of 38 solar panels. The system's priority is set at charging the battery first through the solar, and when it is full, the solar panels supply power to the building, and is supplemented by the grid if necessary.

When loadshedding occurs, the battery kicks in and supplies the building with power. The battery is expected to last for a period of 4 hours during loadshedding before it must be recharged. In the



Blanco batteries: Mayor Leon van Wyk and Thabo Yiga, Project Manager of the Solar Systems at Electrotechnical Services at the batteries for the solar system installed at the Blanco Drive-through MVR.

absence of the sun, the batteries can charge from the grid at off-peak times when the cost of electricity is cheaper.

The Electrotechnical Services building houses the critical control centre which handles the load management for the town, as well as the remote switching of the network, this system is further integrated to a diesel generator, which is required as further back-up, to ensure that the Control Centre remains fully powered 24/7.

The battery technology for both sites is lithium iron phosphate (LiFePO4) with an average lifespan

of 15 years. The projects are co-funded by the Department of Mineral Resources & Energy and the George Municipality.

The service provider is HAMSA Consulting Engineers.

## 1 MWp Solar Farm for George progressing well

The completion date for the commissioning of the 1 MWp solar farm located in the George Industrial area has been set at January 2024. The Executive Mayor of George, Alderman Leon van Wyk accompanied by the Portfolio Councillor for Electrotechnical Services and Fleet Management Nosicelo Mbete officially celebrated the start of construction at the 1ha open land in April this year.

The Municipality is investigating various options to get the city and its residents freed of at least one stage, that is two hours of loadshedding. The implementation of this three-

pronged operational approach to significantly reduce our reliance on energy supply from Eskom has three focus areas: one being Energy Efficiency, another Own-Build Programme, and finally the procurement of energy from Independent Power Producers (IPPs). George uses at peak times up to 85MVA per day.

This 1MWp PV Plant is the first phase of Solar PV plants for George that will feed directly into the Municipal grid. The Solar plants being installed in George will provide own generation and reduce Eskom energy consumption.

This will also serve as large-scale generation to keep

future dispatchable Battery Energy Storage Systems charged. This will also assist us in achieving our goal of reducing internal electricity costs and increasing sustainability.

The renewable energy power that will be generated through this plant, will be connected to the grid to reduce the municipal bulk purchases and will only support the immediate George area. The 1MWp PV plant will consist of approximately 1728 PV Panels & 10 x 110kW inverters at a total cost of R 24 843 090.36. The plant is expected to generate in the order of 1780 MWh per year.



From left: Roland Appels (Sub-Contractor from MTDJ Projects), Thabo Yiga (Project Manager: Electrotechnical Services), Cllr Nosicelo Mbete (Portfolio Councillor for Electrotechnical Services), Daniel Greeff (Deputy Director Electro for Planning & Design), previous Director for Electrotechnical Services, Bongani Mandla and Menno Sulsters (Main Contractor from SEM Solutions Pty Ltd).

## Newly Installed Solar Energy Plant at OWWTW energised

The installation and energizing of the a 400-kilowatt peak (kWp) solar PV system at Outeniqua Wastewater Treatment Works (WWTW) in Pacaltsdorp has been completed, achieving another milestone towards the Municipality's goal of energy resilience.

The system, according to Thabo Yiga, the project manager in the George Municipality's Electrotechnical Services, consists of 738 panels, with each panel rated at 545 Watts. "Then we have the inverters that convert the DC power from the panels into AC electricity that's required by the loads. We have a total

of eight (8) inverters, with each inverter rated at 50 kilo Watts (kW)," Yiga said.

The expected annual energy yield is 678 680 kWhs, and at a rate of R 1.60 per kWh, the cost of the annual energy generated is R1 085 888.

In addition, the PV system will have a weather monitoring station equipped with four sensors to measure parameters such as irradiance, wind speed and wind direction, humidity, ambient temperature, PV panels temperature, etc.

This data will be displayed on the SCADA system, for remote monitoring (in near real-time).



From left: Jandré van Zyl (VE Reticulation – Electrical Contractors), Deon Esterhuysen (Electro-Technical Services: Manager Project Execution), Alderman Leon van Wyk (Executive Mayor of George) Councillor Nosicelo Mbete (Portfolio Councillor for Electrotechnical Services & Fleet Management), Danie Greeff (Electro-Technical Services: Deputy Director – Planning & Design) and Jacques van Zyl (Lyners Consulting Engineers).

## Tractor loaders to combat illegal dumping

George Municipality procured two Tractor Loader Backhoe (TLB) vehicles through the Urban Infrastructure Development Grant (UIDG) funding for cleansing of illegal dumping sites.

The vehicles will improve the response time of the Municipality in clearing dumping sites. There are presently approximately 230 illegal dumping sites located throughout the municipal area.



Photographed with the brand-new vehicles are from left, Dawie Adonis, Director: Community Services; Dr Michele Gratz, Municipal Manager; Ald Leon van Wyk and Sivuyile Mtila, Senior Manager: Environmental Services.

# GEORGE LOCAL MUNICIPALITY COUNCILLORS



**Ald Leon Van Wyk,**  
Executive Mayor PR  
(DA)



**Cllr Raybin Figland,**  
Executive Deputy  
Mayor PR (DA)



**Cllr Sean Snyman,**  
Speaker, Ward 28 (DA)



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



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



**Portfolio Cllr Marais  
Kruger, Community  
Services: Community  
Safety, Ward 22 (DA)**



**Portfolio Cllr  
Jacquique Von  
Brandis, Planning &  
Development,  
Ward 26 (DA)**



**Portfolio Cllr Theresa  
Jeyi, Community  
Services: Parks, Refuse  
and Environment,  
Ward 16 (DA)**



**Portfolio Cllr Johan  
Stander, Civil  
Engineering Services:  
Capital Projects & BFI  
PR (DA)**



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



**Portfolio Cllr Brown  
Johnson, Civil  
Engineering Services:  
Operating Aspects  
Ward 23 (DA)**



**Portfolio Cllr Jean  
Safers, Human  
Settlements,  
Ward 1 (DA)**



**Portfolio Cllr Nosicelo  
Mbete, Electrotechnical  
Services & Fleet  
Management, PR (DA)**



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



**Cllr Daniel Cronje,  
Ward 2 (DA)**



**Cllr Erika Brown,  
Ward 3 (DA)**



**Cllr Monique  
Simmers, Ward 5 (DA)**



**Cllr Jayzee Jantjies,  
Ward 6 (DA)**



**Cllr Vulindlela Mruqhli,  
Ward 7 (ANC)**



**Ald Basil Petrus,  
Ward 8 (DA)**



**Cllr Theminkosi Lento,  
Ward 9 (ANC)**



**Cllr Zukile Gom,  
Ward 10 (ANC)**



**Cllr Sifiso Ntondini,  
Ward 11 (ANC)**



**Cllr Eric Mdaka,  
Ward 12 (ANC)**



**Cllr Simphiwe Toto,  
Ward 13 (ANC)**



**Cllr Melvin Roelfse,  
Ward 14 (DA)**



**Cllr Bonisile Hani,  
Ward 15 (ANC)**



**Cllr Donovan Gultig,  
Ward 18 (DA)**



**Ald Iona Kritzinger,  
Ward 19 (DA)**



**Cllr Christo Alexander  
Ward 20 (PA)**



**Cllr Siphelo Manxele,  
Ward 21 (ANC)**



**Cllr Justin Fry,  
Ward 24 (DA)**



**Cllr Jarques Esau,  
Ward 25 (ANC)**



**Cllr Marchelle Kleynhans,  
Ward 27 (DA)**



**Cllr Ebrahim America,  
PR (DA)**



**Cllr Charlotte Clarke,  
PR (DA)**



**Cllr Vivian Desmond  
Carolus PR (PBI)**



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



**Cllr Enrico Figland,  
PR (VF+)**



**Cllr Maria Greeff,  
PR (PBI)**



**Cllr Khayaletu Lose,  
PR (DA)**



**Cllr Rosa Louw,  
PR (GOOD)**



**Cllr Faith Mdaka,  
PR (ANC)**



**Cllr Luvuyo Ncamile,  
PR (EFF)**



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



**Cllr Jerome Clive  
Petersen, PR (PBI)**



**Cllr Hermen Philander,  
PR (GOOD)**



**Cllr Pheliswa Qampi,  
PR (EFF)**



**Cllr Thandiswa Qatana,  
PR (DA)**



**Cllr Sedic Smart,  
PR (PA)**



**Ald Gert Van Niekerk,  
PR (VF+)**



**Cllr Roxaan Vorster,  
PR (GOOD)**



**Cllr Regina Windwaai,  
PR (DA)**



**VACANT  
PR (PBI)**



**VACANT  
PR (PBI)**





From left: Jannie Koegelenberg (Director of Civil Engineering Services), Councillor Jacquique Von Brandis (Portfolio Councillor: Civil Engineering Services: Capital Projects & BFI), Councillor Browen Johnson (Portfolio Councillor Civil Engineering Services: Operating Aspects), and Alderman Leon van Wyk.

# Generators to protect infrastructure

The George Municipality continues to intensify efforts to protect Municipal facilities through the installation of generators at the various pump stations - to protect its infrastructure and ensure the uninterrupted delivery of services to the citizens.

Alderman Leon van Wyk who recently visited the Garden Route Dam to witness the two largest generators that the Municipality has installed to date said that George is grateful for these two generators, thanks to the Bulk Facility for Infrastructure grant awarded by National Treasury to George Municipality in 2021. "There are two 1250 kVA generators, and we need these two generators to power

our pump stations to pump raw water from the dam to our water treatment works when loadshedding or any other power outage occurs. Together these two generators use 500 litres of fuel an hour, being two of a number of generators providing backup energy for essential services."

Deon de Jager, the Deputy Director for Water and Sanitation in the Civil Engineering Directorate confirmed that the Municipality has secured the services for the installation of generators for a three-year period.

"The municipality currently has a three-year tender in place for the supply and installation of standby generators for

municipal facilities such as sewer and water pump stations," he said.

**Backup emergency generators have been installed at the following sewer pump stations in the last year, funded by the Municipality:**

- Central Pumpstation (Wilderness) = 30kva generator
- Fancourt PS = 30kva generator
- Herolds Bay PS = 150kva
- Proefplaas PS (George) = 300kva
- Rooi Rivier (George) = 200kva
- Tamsui PS (George) = 50kva
- Thembaletu PS No.1 = 200kva
- Thembaletu PS No.2 = 60kva
- Touwsranten PS E (Wilderness) = 20kva

- Touwsranten PS A (Wilderness) = 100kva
- Touwsranten PS D (Wilderness) = 60kva
- Serpentine (Wilderness) = 100kva

"An emergency backup generator project is Provincially funded, and the scope of works is essentially the provision of backup power to sewer and water pump stations to ensure uninterrupted operation during load shedding, therefore, avoiding sewage spills and subsequently preventing pollution to the environment, as well as securing potable water supply. The total project cost is R11 million and will provide four new sewer/water generators benefiting the entire George Municipal Area," de Jager added.



Altus Griesel (Electrotechnical Services); previous Director for Electrotechnical Services, Bongani Mandla; Dr Michele Gratz, Municipal Manager; Mayor Leon van Wyk; Corne Martin (Electrotechnical Services); Cllr Nosicelo Mbete, Portfolio Councillor for Electrotechnical Services; and Johan Schoeman (Electrotechnical Services) at Madiba Drive.

# Pilot project to power traffic lights

George Municipality has piloted the use of Solar Panels to charge the batteries as well as supply excess energy to powering of the Traffic lights at two of its intersections.

The first pilot is at the intersection of Madiba Drive and Knysna Road. George Municipality is using this process to save

power, recycle old resources in installing the panels and further the green process.

The second pilot was commissioned after various tests and preparations.

This intersection has a 3kW inverter, two lead acid 100Ah batteries as well as two 425-watt solar panels at the Witfontein Road intersection, Blanco.

# SMART Water Meter Installation Project

George Municipality continues to improve customer service delivery while reducing costly water losses, with the installation of over 2600 SMART water meters in the Blanco, Bos en Dal, Heather Park, Heatherlands, Groeneweide Park, Dormehlsdrift and George South areas. The existing water meters have reached their end of life and need to be replaced to ensure accurate meter readings and detection of water leaks within the homeowner's property.

The SMART water meters are not pre-paid and will not disconnect consumer's water supply.

These meters enable a multitude of

benefits for both George Municipality and its citizens.

The meter reading and billing cycle is automated. Daily water usage and trend analysis can be monitored, and importantly leak and burst alarm notifications enable consumers to better control and manage their water consumption. The SMART water meters also enable George Municipality to react faster to water losses and provide a holistic view of the city's water usage.

**For more information on the SMART water meter project, please visit <https://www.george.gov.za/financial-services/accounts/smart-water-meter/>**

Meter information in permanent laser engraved text:

- Optical eye for reading and configuration
- Graphic flow indicator
- Type number (includes information on meter size, overall length etc.)
- Serial number and production year
- Configuration (with information on display resolution and encryption level etc.)
- Accuracy class 2 according to OIML R49
- Environment class: Electrical E1 or E2 and Mechanical M1 according to MID
- Environment class B and O according to OIML R49 (building/outdoor)
- Optional customer label, e.g. water company logo (15x38 mm)
- Bar code with serial number
- Expiry year of battery
- Temperature class according to OIML R49
- Meter size Q3
- Dynamic range
- Software version
- Pressure stage and protection class
- CE-marking acc. to MID

# Clean Audit Trophy Awarded

Ald Leon van Wyk and Municipal Manager Dr Michele Gratz were thrilled to be awarded a Clean Audit Trophy at the most recent Municipal Manager/Mayor Forum held in Saldanha Bay in June. George Municipality has attained a clean audit two years in a row for 2020/21 and the 2021/22 financial years.

“George Municipality has undergone a major turnaround in the past 2 years and the success of the turnaround strategy is reflected in the two consecutive clean audit outcomes.

Thank you to the management team and all officials involved for the commitment and hard work to achieve a clean audit, an outcome which very few municipalities achieve,” said Municipal Manager, Dr Michele Gratz.



In the photograph are from left Municipal Manager, Dr Michele Gratz, Ald Leon Van Wyk holding the trophy, Portfolio Councillor for Finance and Strategic Services, Dirk Wessels and Chief Financial Officer, Riaan Du Plessis.



## Burgemeester oorhandig sop potte aan sopkombuise

George Burgemeester, Rdh Leon van Wyk oorhandig sop potte aan sopkombuise Racheal Kemp van New Dawn Park, Wyk 16. Kemp het 'n sopkombuis vir die gemeenskap. Van links by die oorhandiging is Rdh Iona Kritzing, Burgemeester Van Wyk, Kemp, Rdl Brendon Adams en Rdl Marlene Barnardt.



Rosemary Michaels, ook 'n sopkombuis van New Dawn Park, Wyk 16 het ook sop potte in ontvangs geneem van links, Burgemeester Leon van Wyk, Rdl Brendon Adams en Rdl Marlene Barnardt.

## New driving licence and testing centre opens in Uniondale

A new Driving Licence and Testing Centre (DLTC) was officially opened in Uniondale by Alderman Leon van Wyk in May this year. He was joined by Cllr Justin Fry for Ward 24 and Councillor Jarques Esau for Ward 25, the Municipal Manager Dr Michele Gratz, director of Community Services Mr Dawie Adonis and officials from the National Department of Transport, the Western Cape Department of Mobility and George Municipality particularly Uniondale and surrounds.

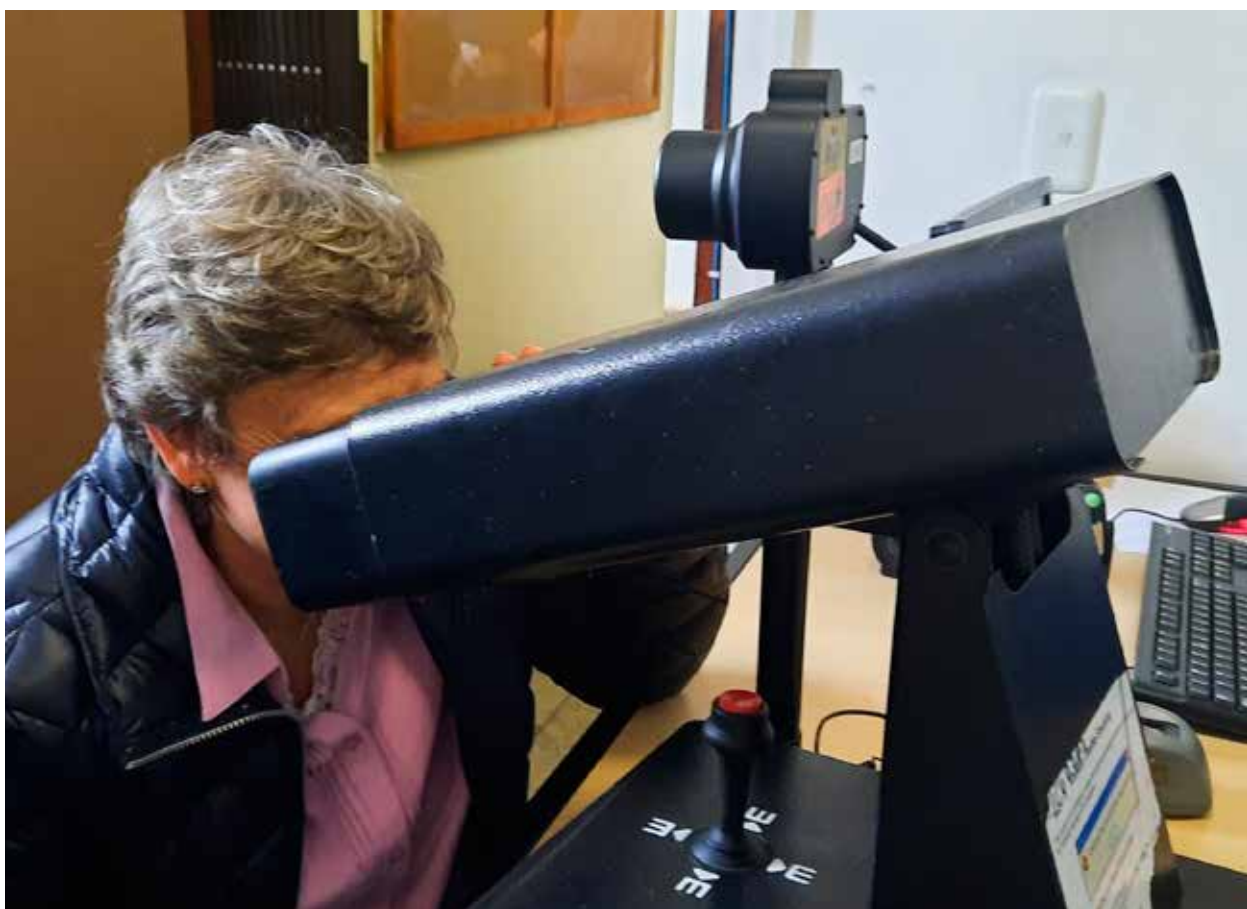
Representatives from key partners and stakeholders such as the Ward Committees, local schools, South African Police Service (SAPS), Department of Correctional Services (DCS), Churches, Uniondale Business Chamber and driving schools attended. Community Services

Director, Dawie Adonis, said that an assessment of all services required for the town was done and one of the key

needs was the establishment of a driving license testing centre since the community had to travel 110km to the closest town for the renewal of driving licenses and Professional Driving Permits (PrDPs) as well as applications for learners' licenses and the actual learners license testing.

“In March 2021, the George Municipality's Traffic Department approached the Western Cape Department of Mobility for the establishment of a Grade E Driving License Testing Centre and with the assistance of the Western Cape Government (WCG) and the National Department of Transport (NDoT), the facility was registered for Grade E – Conversions of driving licenses (old ID, foreign licenses)/ renewals of driving licenses cards/temporary licenses/ duplicate learners/driving licenses,” he added.

**The Uniondale Driving Licence and Testing Centre can be reached at 044 752 1024 during office hours.**



Dr Michele Gratz testing the eye-test machine.



Zahoor Brey (Contractor from Zabs Enterprises), Alderman Leon van Wyk (Executive Mayor of George), Dr Michele Gratz (Municipal Manager), Dawie Adonis (Director of Community Services) and Ruan Espach, (Urban Engineer Consultants Pty).

# Public safety

The George Municipality is taking proactive measures to keep its citizens safe by expanding its Closed-Circuit Television (CCTV) building. Alderman Leon van Wyk, and Municipal Manager, Dr Michele Gratz, visited the building as the extension and upgrading commenced.

With more than 600 cameras spread throughout the city, including Municipal Buildings, criminal activities and potential threats are being monitored to protect municipal property and identify unlawful actions.

This expansion is a crucial step towards making George a safer city for all.



## George helps Hermanus with water

George Municipality takes great pride in extending a helping hand to our fellow Western Cape towns that have been severely affected by the recent widespread flooding. The town of Hermanus has faced substantial water supply disruptions due to extensive flood

damage to their water infrastructure in September. Responding swiftly to this crisis, George Municipality dispatched a 35,000-liter water tanker and a 7,000-liter water tanker to support the affected communities. Our dedicated George Fire Officials,

namely Johan Troskie, Brad Boezak, and Loise Julies, worked tirelessly and Chief Fire Officer, Neels Barnard acknowledged their hard work with pride. In response to our assistance, Hermanus Mayor Ald Annelie Rabie conveyed numerous messages of gratitude to

Executive Mayor Leon Van Wyk. Ald Van Wyk expressed his pride in George's Fire Brigade, stating, "It is a profound honour for our Fire Services to provide aid during such catastrophic events. We stand proudly behind the George Fire Brigade!"



Mayor van Wyk visited the completed street upgrade accompanied by Portfolio Councillor for Civil Engineering Services: Capital Projects & BFI Jacquique Von Brandis, the Portfolio Councillor for Civil Engineering Services: Operating Aspects, Browen Johnson and the Director of Civil Engineering Services, Mr Jannie Koegelenberg.

## Gravel road upgraded

Residents living adjacent to the 240-meter dirt road linking Fountain Avenue and East Street in Pacaltsdorp are overjoyed with the upgrade of the dirt road to a paved one.

According to Lionel Daniels the deputy director for Streets and Stormwater, the situation worsened during heavy rains to a point where it became unbearable. "We have prioritised the upgrade for the 2022/23

financial year, and the road was upgraded to a concrete interlocking paved road," said Daniels.

"As part of the upgrade, the steep cross fall towards the properties was flattened with the introduction of a retaining structure on the Southern side of the road and the associated drainage issues were also addressed as a result thereof," Daniels added.





Daantjie Kat (Danny Cat), the Road Safety Mascot for Traffic Services, finally arrived in a traffic vehicle after the children called him a few times at the top of their lungs. He sang and demonstrated to the children to buckle up with their safety belts when in a vehicle.



At the ribbon cutting are from left, Janine Wells, George Traffic Chief, Dr Michele Gratz, Municipal Manager, Cllr Charlotte Clarke, Portfolio Councillor for Community Safety, Mayor Leon van Wyk cutting the ribbon, Sivuyisiwe Ngongo, Road Safety Officer at Road Safety Management at the Western Cape Mobility Department and Dawie Adonis, Director of Community Services.

# Junior Traffic Training Centre opens

The George Junior Traffic Training Centre was a scene of great joy and much laughter when it opened its doors to the public for the first time. The centre which is intended to enable children to learn more about general road safety aspects, was officially launched in May with groups of very excited toddlers from Heeltyd Speeltyd, Esethu Kwakhanya and Pacaltsdorp creche enjoying Daantjie Kat (Danny Cat). Ald Leon Van Wyk and Municipal Manager, Dr Michele Gratz spent a happy morning assisting toddlers on tricycles along the various ramps and Stop Streets. The Mayor thanked the department for this initiative and the efforts that went into getting the centre opened and launched. "It is very important to know when and where we cross the road and at what time. This is a big opportunity to educate our youth and we encourage schools

in our area to make use of this facility so that we all benefit from this centre", said Ald Van Wyk. As the day progressed the children were trained on various road safety aspects such as buckling up when getting into a vehicle, crossing the road when safe and how to educate their parents to do the same. The George Junior traffic centre has specifically incorporated a footbridge to teach children the correct method of using and when to use it. A road map with various landmarks including road signs painted by Carl Thomas, an official at George Municipality gives children a fun way to learn about road safety measures. Director for Community Services, Dawie Adonis, applauded and thanked previous employees and political figures who had all played a part in bringing the junior traffic centre to life.



Mayor van Wyk spent a happy morning assisting toddlers on tricycles along the various ramps and Stop Streets.



## Illegal dumping site cleared and beautified

George Municipality Cleansing Services recently spent some time cleaning up the illegal refuse dumping site in the Kleinkrantz Informal Settlement. According to Tanja Botha, Acting Manager - Cleansing and Environmental Health, after the cleansing the teams beautified the site. The area is now being developed by the local community into a playground for children. The Cleansing Department assisted with the planting and painting of tyres. Several black bags full of refuse were also removed by the department. Botha said the community was pleased with the results and grateful for the municipality's participation and assistance in fighting illegal dumping in Kleinkrantz.

# 3 blue flag beaches, 1 pilot and a Green Coast

George Municipality was the proud recipient of three blue flags at the national launch hosted by George Municipality at Salina's

Wilderness last week. Wilderness, Herold's Bay and Victoria Bay beaches were awarded Blue flag status, a pilot blue flag was awarded to Leentjiesklip beach and Gwaiing Beach and River Mouth has been awarded a Green Coast Award for the 2023/24 festive season.

The Green Coast Award, officially launched in 2017, is an annual award programme that recognises inclusive and sustainable management at less developed coastal sites with high biodiversity value.

Executive Mayor Leon Van Wyk the keynote speaker for the event, accompanied by Ward 4 Cllr Marlene Viljoen, Municipal Manager Dr Michele Gratz and Director for Community Services, Dawie Adonis took receipt of the flags and certifications at the launch. Blue Flag is an international coastal management programme that accredits beaches that meet standards of excellence in water quality, environmental management, environmental education and information as well as safety and services.

In South Africa the programme is implemented by the Wildlife Environmental Society of South Africa (WESSA). The Blue Flag season runs from 1 December 2023 to 31 January 2024. Compliance includes high standards of water quality monitoring, public safety and lifeguard services, and well-maintained coastal amenities. South Africa has participated in the Blue Flag programme since 2001. Municipal Manager, Dr Michele Gratz in thanking everyone who attended the event noted that participation in the Blue Flag and Green Coast Awards is an honour. She also thanked attending George Municipal officials for the hard work and effort they have put in toward the hosting of the event as well as the preparation of the beaches so soon after the damage caused by the storm surges in early September this year.



George Mayor Leon Van Wyk hoisted the official blue flag for Wilderness Beach, here he is with Helena Atkinson, WESSA CEO; Tevya Lotriet Senior Sustainability Programme Manager at WESSA and Dr Michele Gratz, Municipal Manager for George.

## George Community Safety Forum launched

George Municipality hosted the successful launch of a Community Safety Forum with representatives attending from across the board including, the Department of Community Safety the South African Police Service, Department of Social Development and the Garden Route District Municipality. Executive Deputy Mayor, Cllr Raybin Figland who opened the proceedings said the launch symbolised a significant milestone in our combined efforts to tackle the increasing crime rate in our City.

He said the Municipality is committed to partnering with all law enforcement agencies, neighbourhood watches, the community and other departments to ensure our city remains a safe haven for all residents and visitors.

Figland said in the last financial year a huge investment was made in security infrastructure such as CCTV cameras. He said it is the intention to allocate more funding for the recruitment and training of more law enforcement officials to assist in reducing crime within the next financial year.

Vuyani Mbaqa from the Directorate Community Police in the Western Cape Department of Community Safety referred in his presentation to how local government plays a key role in safety, crime and violence prevention and explained how local law enforcement, targeted programmes for youth, traffic and disaster management are just some of the many ways local government impacts on the community and can strengthen it to reduce crime. Community Safety Forums are designed to create a platform for coordination, integration, and implementation of multi-sectoral crime prevention and community safety initiatives, within the context of the National and Provincial JCPS priorities, in serving as a central catalyst for collaboration towards local crime prevention strategies.



The panel at the launch of the Community Safety Forum for George are from front left, Cllr Charlotte Clarke, Portfolio Councillor for Community Safety at George Municipality, Dr Michele Gratz, George Municipal Manager and Adv Han-Marié Marshall from Police Oversight and Community Safety in the Department of Community Safety. At the back are Nkosiyabo Lose, Project Coordinator of Community Safety Forums at Garden Route District Municipality, Col Lionel Kennedy from Garden Route District, South African Police Service, Cllr Raybin Figland, Executive Deputy Mayor of George, Lee-Anne Meiring, Facilitator at the event and Manager: Development Facilitation at Planning, Human Settlements and Development, George Municipality, Vuyani Mbaqa from the Directorate Community Police in the Western Cape Department of Community Safety and Mzwandile Hewu, Chief Director of Community and Partnership Development from the Department of Social Development.

## Aids Candlelight Memorial Ceremony

George Municipality held an Aids Candlelight Memorial ceremony earlier this year to raise awareness around HIV/Aids and break down the stigma around this illness.

Cllr Enrico Figland, Member of the Community Development Committee in Council, noted that the Memorial, is not only an opportunity to remember the people we have lost, but also to honour those who have dedicated their lives to helping people living with and affected by HIV and continue to mobilise our communities in solidarity.

"The International AIDS Candlelight Memorial is a campaign to mobilise communities and raise social consciousness about HIV and AIDS started in 1983. With almost 8.5 million people living with HIV today since June 2022, the International AIDS Candlelight Memorial serves as an important platform for global solidarity, breaking down barriers of stigma and discrimination, and giving hope to new generations," Figland said.

The event was held at the Lawaakamp Community Hall with members from the community who assist people affected by HIV/Aids or people who have directly been affected by the virus. Teachers and learners from Tyholora Primary School were also invited to the event as part of the community outreach.



Officials and members from the public and representatives from Tyholora Primary School with hampers that were issued to vulnerable families.

## Four new firefighting vehicles

The George Municipality is proud to show off the new additions to its firefighting fleet and the Executive Mayor Leon van Wyk accompanied by the Portfolio Councillor for Community Safety, Charlotte Clarke, received the fleet in a special handover event that took place in May.

Also present at the official handover of the vehicles were Senior Manager of Environmental Services Sivuyile Mtila who represented the Community Services' directorship, the Manager for George Municipal Fire and Rescue / Disaster Management Cornelius Barnard, Santa Sternsdorf, the Station Commander Training, and the newly appointed Divisional Commander for George Fire and Rescue Services Johan Brand.

"I am delighted to be receiving these vehicles that have been specifically manufactured for us by a local manufacturer," said Mayor van Wyk as he received the vehicles from a local business owner, Brandon Woolley.

At the George Fire Station, Santa Sternsdorf, the Station Commander Training, described each of the four new additions in the George Municipality's fleet. "Engine 1 (Scania) is our major pumper, a vehicle for structural firefighting. A Toyota Land Cruiser with a skid unit with a state-of-the-art Polypropylene Unit allows us to increase the water to a 600-litre tank." "A rescue vehicle, with a Polypropylene canopy, with the jaws of life and all the needed equipment that we need for mass rescues. "Finally, the Polaris 4x4 vehicle allows us to diversify Rescue and firefighting, a good off-road vehicle to add to the fleet," Sternsdorf added.

George Municipality is proud to show off the new additions to its firefighting fleet.



George Municipality is proud to show off the new additions to its firefighting fleet.



# Funda Mzantsi Championship turns 13 in George

The Funda Mzantsi Championship turned 13 this year and was held for the 10th year in George with 11 books being read in all 11 official languages. The focus this year is on indigenous language enhancement and South African authors.

Executive Deputy Mayor, Raybin Figland officially welcomed all the dignitaries, participants, sponsors and guests to the event at the Eden Community Church. Figland said South Africa unfortunately has one of the highest rates of illiteracy in the world, but the turnaround starts with initiatives such as this championship. He said Funda Mzantsi makes a difference in the lives of so many people and he is proud that George is the host city of such a prestigious event.

The event is a collaboration between the Department of Correctional Services (DCS), National Library of South Africa and George Municipality. A total of 299 inmates representing all nine provinces, book clubs from Universities, public schools and the community participated in the championship.

According to Rachel Williams, Manager: George Libraries, the main involvement in Funda Mzantsi is to develop creative minds and to foster a love and respect for other human beings and cultures. George Municipality assists with the logistics in George especially with venue allocations for school learners and visitors.

"We market and showcase George's tourism activities and attractions during the visitors stay. George libraries aim is also to foster literacy, language development, cultural awareness and inclusivity of blind readers by means of literacy and books also in braille and daisy players.

The libraries are a safe and harmonious environment where youngsters and the rest of the community can indulge in recreational reading processes," Williams said.



The delegates at the 13th Funda Mzantsi Championship are from left, Odwa Mzwai from Liberty Life (Sponsor of the event), Piko Mbambo, Chief Deputy Commissioner for Community Corrections in the Department of Correctional Services, Major-General Norman Modishana, Garden Route District Commissioner of the South African Police Service, Delekile Klaas, Regional Commissioner of the Western Cape Department of Correctional Services, Executive Deputy Mayor of George, Cllr Raybin Figland, Cllr Clifffie Bayman, Deputy Mayor of Mossel Bay Municipality and Marcus Maphile of the National Library of South Africa.



Funda Mzantsi Championship is a whole vibe; the different book clubs have their own 'war cries' and sings and dances to the crowd's delight.

## Peace officers graduate

The Western Cape Minister of Police Oversight and Community Safety, George Mayor and the Garden Route District Municipality Mayor attended the graduation ceremony of ten Peace Officers from George in May. Minister Reagen Allen thanked the George Municipality and the Municipalities in the District for collaborating on this programme.

George Mayor Leon van Wyk noted that one of our priorities is to provide safety to our citizens and with youngsters available to the safety divisions such as Law Enforcement and the police, our objective is closer to being reached.

This PO-programme forms part of the Western Cape Safety Plan (WCSP), which prioritises the strengthening of Municipal Law Enforcement capacity across the Western Cape, particularly to enhance urban/rural safety and combat crime within communities.

The officers were trained between 27 March and 12 May 2023 at the Bnei Akiva campsite in Mossel Bay. The training provided individuals with the capability to demonstrate and understand the role and function of a Peace Officer and Traffic Warden. Along with the Safety and Security Sector Education and Training Authority (SASSETA) Certificate, graduates also received a 12-month Expanded Public Works Programme (EPWP) contract/internship within the respective municipality.



The ecstatic graduates with the gentlemen in suits from left, George Executive Mayor, Alderman Leon Van Wyk, Western Cape Minister of Police Oversight and Community Safety, Reagen Allen and Garden Route District Executive Mayor, Alderman Memory Booyesen.



## SA's Internal Auditor of the Year Award

George Municipality's Chief Audit Executive (CAE), Mr. Jean-Pierre Rossouw, is the recipient of the coveted National Award for Internal Auditor of the Year for 2023 in South Africa, along with the Excellence in Internal Audit (Public Sector) Award. These prestigious accolades were presented to Mr Rossouw by the Institute of Internal Auditors South Africa (IIASA) at a Gala Dinner held in Johannesburg in August.

Dr Michele Gratz, Municipal Manager, congratulated Mr Rossouw on his remarkable achievements, stating, "George Municipality takes immense pride in having JP as a part of our management team. His outstanding performance within a short span of time has set a benchmark for internal auditing within the province. These accolades are a testament to his dedication and expertise.

"This recognition underscores the commitment to excellence within George Municipality and the broader field of internal auditing," she said.



Attendees of the Youth Summit that focused on economic funding and mentorship opportunities.

# Youth summit on economic funding and mentorship opportunities

The Economic Development Division of the George Municipality hosted a two-day Youth Summit in June as part of the commemoration of the nationally celebrated Youth Month. The focus of the two days was on economic funding and mentorship opportunities that young people can access.

The first day was attended by 17 youth-

owned Companies and the second day by 15 youth-owned Companies. Fifty-nine (59) attendees attended on day one and 45 on day two.

According to Dr Kosie Haarhoff, the George Municipality's Deputy Director for Strategic Growth and Development, the summit was a success. "We are confident that the youth who attended the summit

came back armed with a wealth of information for their businesses and will grab the growth opportunities that are out there."

"Some great news that was shared during the summit is that Youth Stakeholders such as The South African National Roads Agency Limited (SANRAL) and the Landbank of South Africa have set aside

targets for youth in their procurement processes," Dr Haarhoff added.

"We also had an Entrepreneur from the United States of America, Justin Cheesman, who has invested and specialises in start-ups in South Africa. Cheesman shared his experiences with the audience and information to provide support through training and capacity building.

## Celebrating World Environment Day

George Municipality Environmental Department celebrated World Environment Day by visiting Heidedal Primary School and educating learners on plastic pollution.

According to Nosidima Vumindaba, Manager: Environmental Services, World Environment Day is commemorated annually to increase public awareness about environmental challenges and facilitate action towards environmental protection. This year's theme for World Environment Day is "Beat Plastic Pollution".

To celebrate the significance of this day and spread awareness, George Municipality Environmental Services interns in collaboration with Garden Route District Municipality interns did a presentation in

line with the plastic pollution awareness at Heidedal Primary School.

This campaign aims to bring awareness to the adverse impacts that plastic pollution has on the environment and human health while providing solutions to how this issue can be combatted. The presentation was coupled with issuing pamphlets about illegal dumping and explaining the impact that illegal dumping has on plastic pollution.

"George Municipality advocates creating a greener and pollution-free environment. We need to work together to tackle the illegal dumping issue and stop littering and recycling. "We encourage educating the younger generation about environmental issues from a young age," Vumindaba said.



Nosisa Bulose, Intern at Parks and Recreation, George Municipality at Heidedal Primary School.



From left: Cllr Brendon Adams (Portfolio Councillor for Community Services: Social Development, Libraries and Sport who is also the Councillor for Ward 17), Cllr Jean Safers (Portfolio Councillor for Community Services: Parks, Refuse & Environment, Sivuyile Mtila (Senior Manager for Environmental Services), Nosidima Vumindaba (Manager for Parks and Recreation), and Theo Arries (Ward Committee member for Ward 17).

## New outdoor gym equipment officially opened in Conville

The George Municipality officially opened new outdoor gym equipment that is situated in a play park at Suikerbakkie Street, Conville which was donated by the National Department of Sports, Arts, and Culture (DSAC) as part of its roll-out for the 2022/23 and 2024/25 financial years. George is one of more than 70 recipients of outdoor gyms nationally.

The Portfolio Councillor (Cllr) for Community Services: Parks, Refuse & Environment Jean Safers, accompanied by the Portfolio Councillor for Community Services: Social Development, Libraries and Sport Brendon Adams who is also the Councillor for Ward 17 handed over the gym equipment on 11 August 2023.

Also, present were George Municipality's Senior Manager for Environmental Services Sivuyile

Mtila and Manager for Parks and Recreation Nosidima Vumindaba.

Cllr Safers thanked the representatives of DSAC for their generous donation.

"This donation will make a significant difference to all residents living in this ward. By working together, we are bringing tangible benefits and changes to adults and children alike with initiatives such as these. Our children and youth need such options that aid in boosting physical activity," Councillor Safers said. "Intergovernmental initiatives such as these are what is needed to help obliterate social ills amongst the youth and hopes to see many collaborative efforts in the future."

The Councillors and officials that attended the handover treated the approximately 40 children that were cheerfully playing in the park

with a demonstration on how to use the gym equipment, and Ward Councillor Adams also gave each of the children a pack of chips.

Theo Arries one of the citizens who lives with a disability came to witness the official opening of the new gym equipment and said he's excited that he has a place that he can comfortably use for exercising.

In a written handover document of the DSAC, the department indicated that the donation of the gym equipment is inspired by the National Development Plan (NDP) recognition of the importance of sport and recreation as tools to promote wellness and social cohesion.

The Strategic objectives of DSAC aim to create an enabling environment for communities across the country by availing adequate facilities for basic exercise and sporting activities.



On the photos are some of the principals of different ECD centres in George. Front row: Zukiswa Nkone (Working on Fire), Vuyelwa Pityana, Neziswa Moyakhe, Nickelwa Mafalala, Lemise April, and Charlene Engelbrecht. Back row: Nomawabo Poti, Nozibele Maqabanga, Nompumelelo Mkhonqo, Noxolo Peterson, Julia Futha, Asive Dobela, Wildene Borchers, Nozipho Ngqoshana, Pascal Joseph (Working on Fire), Zimasa Ndoni, Nolindelo Tembiso, Wandiswa Nkonjane, Liesel Joseph, Diana Maart, Rosemarie Mehlo, and Rachel Tamboer (Working on Fire).

# Fire safety for ECD's

The George Municipal Community Development Unit hosted a Fire Safety Workshop at Lawaaiikamp with the principals of the various Early Childhood Development Centres (ECDs) in July.

The Workshop was aimed at equipping the Early Childhood Development (ECD) Centres on how to be fire-safe at school and on how to evacuate when their workplace is on Fire. The acronym, ECD refers to

children aged from birth to nine years old. An ECD centre can be a crèche, a daycare centre for young children, a playgroup, or a preschool or after-school care facility.

According to Sophia Fanelo, the George Municipality's Community Development Manager, the principals of the ECDs were taught practical fire safety and prevention skills such as evacuation floor plan utilisation,

crawling under the smoke, stop drop and roll exercises and how to use Fire extinguishers. Ms Fanelo reflected that the training was successful, and that the participation of the trainees was positive.

# Retaining walls and access improved at 58 properties

Executive Mayor of George, Leon van Wyk and Portfolio Councillor for Human Settlements and George Municipal officials visited a home in Preekstoel Street, Blanco where the Directorate of Human Settlements has improved access to the property. A retaining wall has been built and the Directorate did earth moving, installed gutters and downpipes to

channel and to re-route run-off during rainfall. Similar work to improve access and build retaining walls has been completed at another 58 properties in Rosedale, Touwsrante and Blanco since the start of the current financial year. Each property was assessed and dealt with to ensure suitable solutions and to alleviate problem areas.



East distribution zone site visit, from left: Councillor Jacquique von Brandis (Portfolio Councillor for Civil Engineering: Capital Projects and BFI), Alderman Leon van Wyk (Executive Mayor of George), and Janie Koegelenberg (Director of Civil Engineering Services).

# Pacaltsdorp, East and West Water Supply Zone

A multi-million-rand water storage expansion project aimed at ending sporadic water supply interruptions in Pacaltsdorp is due to start soon.

The project will have a 14,5 megalitre (ML) reservoir and pump station in the West distribution one, and a 3 ML reservoir, elevated tower, and pump station in the East distribution zone.

In September, the Executive Mayor Leon van Wyk accompanied by the Portfolio Councillor for Civil Engineering: Capital Projects and BFI Jacquique von Brandis, and the Director of Civil Engineering Services Janie Koegelenberg visited the sites for the East and West water supply distribution zones for Pacaltsdorp which is located south of the main centre of George and south of the N2. The current population is

approximately 20,000 people using an average of 3,5 million litres of purified water per day. Andre Scheepers, the project manager for Budget Facility for Infrastructure in the Civil Engineering Services Department says Pacaltsdorp is estimated to grow to approximately 150,000 residents over the next 45 years, which will then use 21,5 million litres of purified water per day.

Jannie Koegelenberg, Director of the Civil Engineering Services Department, noted that the Pacaltsdorp water supply area will soon have two distribution zones, West and East, each with its own dedicated reservoirs for adequate storage, elevated towers for pressure assurance, and pump stations to provide assurance of purified water supply for the next 50 years.



From left at the access stairs to the home in Preekstoel Street, Blanco are Cllr Basil Petrus, Portfolio Councillor of Human Settlements, Madoda Bokwe, Clerk of Works at Human Settlements, Planning and Development, Charne Flores, Project Administrator at Human Settlements, Planning and Development and Mayor Leon van Wyk.



In the photograph from left in the front row are: Roland Appels (Sub-Contractor from MTDJ Projects), Councillor Khayaletu Lose, Cllr Nosicelo Mbethe (Portfolio Councillor for Electrotechnical Services in the George Municipality), Cllr Thembinkosi Lento (Ward 9 Councillor), Alderman Leon van Wyk (Executive Mayor of George), Deon Esterhuysen (Manager: Projects Planning and Design), and Joubert Theart (Zutari – Civil Consulting Engineers). Back row: Kevin Grunewald (BDE – Electrical Consulting Engineers), Jandre van Zyl (VE Electrical Contractors) and Daniel Greeff (Deputy Director Electro for Planning & Design in the Electrotechnical Services Directorate).

# George switches on electricity for ‘Telkom’

**The first 100 informal settlement dwellers of the area Telkom have been given access to electricity. Alderman Leon van Wyk, officially switched on the electricity, in an event that also signifies the end of illegal connections.**

“We are happy to be switching on electricity to informal settlements in this area today,” said Mayor van Wyk. “It’s a whole programme that we are running with this switch-on being the first 100 informal settlements units, and probably another 400 thereafter. The initiative aims to improve safety by reducing the risk of electrocution from loose wires hanging around. At the same time, it brings electricity to the informal shack dwellers who can now buy it through a prepaid meter system.”

Mayor van Wyk says this switch-on is a significant step towards making life a little easier for our community members living in informal settlements. “We look forward to the positive impact it will have on their

daily lives,” he added.

The immense growth in informal settlements has caused damage to the overall electrical infrastructure due to ongoing illegal connections, which in some instances resulted in the loss of lives. The Electrotechnical Department has drafted minimum criteria that will be adhered to for the electrification of informal areas in the future to formalize the provision of electrical services to informal settlements.

Since May 2014, up to April 2023, approximately 1600 informal structures have been added to the network at a cost of around R17 million.

The cost per structure for electrification is between R10 000 – R13 000, which includes a prepaid meter. Following Council approval, the Electrotechnical Directorate embarked on the electrification construction work. The construction started at the Telkom informal area and is spreading through the Sityebi-Sityebi Informal area and thereafter Edameni.



In the photograph from left are: Councillor Khayaletu Lose, Alderman Leon van Wyk (Executive Mayor of George), Zukile Motseki (Resident), Councillor Nosicelo Mbethe (Portfolio Councillor for Electrotechnical Services), Councillor Thembinkosi Lento (Ward 9 Councillor) and Daniel Greeff (Deputy Director Electro for Planning & Design in the Electrotechnical Services Directorate).

# George Municipality receives recognition from NSRI for support given

**The NSRI hosted an appreciation event at their base in Wilderness where they acknowledged the George Municipality and other members of the community, their partners and loyal supporters.**

Station commander Michael Vonk and his team hosted the event. Dr Michele Gratz, George Municipal Manager, thanked all George Municipal staff involved for the great teamwork. “In the handing over of the award, mention was made of the good collaboration between the municipality and various role players including the NSRI. Municipal law enforcement Section was lauded in ensuring safety of the beaches”. I would

like to thank each and everyone who has worked very hard on the beaches,” Dr Gratz said.

Cllr Marlene Barnardt, Ward Councillor for Ward 4, which includes Wilderness and Kleinkrantz, said the NSRI’s recognition is a feather in the cap to each and everyone at the Municipality who work hard during the year and during the festive season in making all efforts to keep beaches and the public safe.

The Municipality keeps all the beaches under its control, clean, and safe as well as alcohol and firework-free. Our traffic officers assist with parking and traffic flow, especially during peak season.



Cllr Melvin Roelfse, Elizabeth Swelindawo, Rosina Gordon, Eva Jansen, Edward Ganza, Deputy Director: Corporate Services, Magdalena Oktober, Cllr Brendon Adams, Portfolio Councillor for Community Development and Willma Heydenrycht.

# Appreciation day for nutritional centre volunteers

**George Municipality held an appreciation day for the custodians of the municipal soup kitchens and nutritional centres for the amazing work they do in our communities.**

Deputy Executive Mayor of George, Cllr Raybin Figland, said these people running the nutritional centres are the true heroes of our communities.

“We are here to celebrate and give thanks to those who dedicate their time and efforts to feed some of the most vulnerable people within the jurisdiction of our Municipality and we cannot thank you enough for the undertaking of this mammoth task to serve,” Figland said.

Figland said nutritional centres or as we used to refer to them soup kitchens, play a critical role in any community by providing meals and sustenance to those who are in dire need.

The Municipality currently has 119 centres that have been operational for more than 25 years.

Sophia Fanelo, Manager: Community Development, said this selfless project of people who use their own time and mostly their own products to provide to hungry people in our communities is so close to her heart as she was once one of those children who was fed by a soup aunty.



In the photograph, Cllr Brown Johnson, Ward Councillor for Ward 23, Cllr Barnardt and Dr Gratz receive the certificate of recognition with Jonathan Britten for NSRI.

# IDP open day held for Ward Committees

George Municipality conducted an Open Day Integrated Development Plan (IDP) feedback session with Ward Committees of all 28 Wards within its jurisdiction recently; these sessions served as a platform for Ward Committee members to voice their concerns, aspirations and expectations, while also providing an opportunity to assess progress on projects that fall under municipal, provincial and national mandates.

Integrated Development Planning is a cornerstone of effective local governance. It involves the systematic assessment of the municipality's development needs, the formulation of clear objectives, and the allocation of resources to meet these objectives. George Municipality recognizes the pivotal role that community input plays in shaping the IDP and ensuring that it aligns with the needs and desires of its diverse population.

According to Dr Kosie Haarhoff, Deputy Director: Strategic Services, the IDP feedback sessions held with all 28 wards were marked by a robust spirit of community engagement.

One of the standout features of George Municipality's approach to IDP feedback sessions is its recognition of the importance of projects that may not fall within its direct purview but are instead the responsibility of national or provincial departments. The



Officials from Civil Engineering Services assisting the Ward Committee Members at the IDP Open Day.

recent sessions saw George Municipality engaging with representatives from these national and provincial departments to provide updates on the progress of such projects.

Whitney Prins, Manager IDP and Ward Committees, said the George Municipality, in terms of its public participation programme, decided to take a two-part approach. The first leg of the approach was to have engagements with Sector Departments that deal with projects that are not a municipal mandate. The IDP team also provided feedback on operational and capital projects highlighted in the IDP. All six Directorates of the George Municipality had service desks at the open day in the George Civic Centre and George Banquet Hall.



Assisting the Ward Committee Members from Community Services are from left, Wessel Robertson, Yoland Mali, Gerald de Villiers and Abongile Nontshikiza.



Executive Mayor of George, Alderman Leon van Wyk (middle) with Portfolio Councillor for Civil Engineering: Capital Projects and BFI Jacquique von Brandis, and the Director of Civil Engineering Services Jannie Koegelenberg with building plans at the sites for the East and West water supply distribution zones for Thembalethu.

# New Thembalethu East reservoir

**The Thembalethu East Zone will receive a new 8 ML reservoir, a 1 ML elevated tower and a new pumpstation by June 2025. In addition, Thembalethu West supply zone, which has an existing 3 ML reservoir and 1 ML tower, will be receiving a formal pump station by early 2025.**

The Executive Mayor Leon van Wyk accompanied by the Portfolio Councillor for Civil Engineering: Capital Projects and BFI Jacquique von Brandis, and the Director of Civil Engineering Services Jannie Koegelenberg visited the sites for the East and West water supply distribution zones for Thembalethu.

Thembalethu is located southeast of the main centre of George and south of the N2. The current population is approximately 55,000 persons using 8 million litres of purified water per day and is estimated to grow to approximately 90,000 over the next 45 years, which will then use 11 million

litres of purified water per day.

The Thembalethu water supply zones receive bulk purified water through two existing pipelines of approximately 12 km in length each, originating from the George Main reservoirs situated close to the water treatment plants. The bulk pipelines provide water to various parts of George before it reaches Thembalethu.

Andre Scheepers, Project Manager said as a long-lasting solution to the above water supply and storage challenges, the Thembalethu water supply area has been separated into three distribution zones, Zone 9, West Zone and East Zone. Zone 9 is directly supplied from an existing 250-diameter bulk pipeline.

The West and East supply zones will by June 2025, each be receiving their dedicated reservoirs (for adequate storage), elevated towers (for pressure assurance) and pump stations to ensure a purified water supply for the next 50 years.

# Cleanup operation at Schaapkop River, Thembalethu

**The George Municipality environmental and cleansing teams in conjunction with various other stakeholders held a clean-up operation at Schaapkop River, Thembalethu as part of the International Coastal Clean Up Day.**

According to Tanja Botha, Acting Manager - Cleansing and Environmental Health at George Municipality, International Coastal Clean-up Day is officially celebrated annually on 16 September 2023.

She said 85 people made a massive difference in the environment by doing their part and collected an amount of 311 black bags full of refuse as well as 41 blue bags with recycling items.

With George Municipality, officials

from the National Department of Forestry, Fisheries and the Environment, the Western Cape Department of Environmental Affairs and Development Planning, the Garden Route District Municipality and Cape Nature all helped to make this day a success.

Botha gave a shoutout to stakeholders from the private sector included John Dory's and Spur who also donated refreshments to the teams.

Dawie Adonis, Director: Community Services said he is very proud of the officials and the extra mile they go to keep our environment clean and always as part of the outreaches educate our communities about the harmful effects of littering and illegal dumping.



Various stakeholders taking part in the cleanup operation on the day. In front are officials from George Municipality, Grace Notshokovu (Project Coordinator at George Municipality, second from left), Dawie Adonis (Director: Community Services), Tanja Botha (Acting Manager: Cleansing and Environmental Health at George Municipality, and Cllr Siphelo Manxele, Ward Councillor of Ward 21 (on far right).

# Phase 1: Meul Sewage Pump Station upgrade

The George Municipality is proud to announce that the phase 1 upgrade of the Meul Sewage Pump Station, which is valued at approximately R31.67 million, has been completed. In recent years, this pump station, which is one of George’s most critical pump stations experienced frequent and costly breakdowns that threatened the integrity of the sewage system it serves, as well as the surrounding environment.

Executive Mayor, Alderman Leon van Wyk flanked by Portfolio Councillor for Civil Engineering Services: Capital Projects & BFI, Jacquique Von Brandis and Portfolio Councillor for Civil Engineering Services: Operating Aspects, Browen Johnson recently visited the newly refurbished pump station, which is situated in Parkdene, to see the work that has been done. “We would like to commend the Civil Engineering Services for the upgrades we’ve seen here as well as the repairs to the pump station that include the refurbishment

of the internal of the pump station. We’ve also seen a new Motor Control Centre (MCC) room, a generator room, and a permanent backup generator, as well as a new valve chamber to the rising main and sump modifications,” said Mayor van Wyk.

“Thanks to the National Treasury’s Budget Facility Infrastructure (BFI) award to George last year which makes this upgrade a reality.” According to the George Municipality’s Civil Engineering Services Director, Jannie Koegelenberg the Meul pump station upgrade provides more energy-efficient pumps with higher capacity that meet future flow needs, as well as provide additional reliability by adding an emergency power generator to keep the installation operational during loadshedding, amongst other critical upgrades. This upgrade comprises three main components which are civil engineering construction, mechanical refurbishment and upgrading, and a new electrical and control installation.

“The mechanical component includes new pumps, pipework, valves, screens, and equipment, while the electrical upgrade comprises electronic and instrumentation refurbishment and new bulk electrical works, a new motor control centre, a permanent standby generator, instrumentation, and related cables,” Koegelenberg added.

Phase 2 of the upgrade will follow shortly and will include mechanical equipment at the inlet works to remove screenings and grit automatically, and the replacement of a portion of the rising main. Site access and security will also be improved as part of the upgrade.



Councillor Jacquique Von Brandis (Portfolio Councillor: Civil Engineering Services: Capital Projects & BFI), Councillor Browen Johnson (Portfolio Councillor Civil Engineering Services: Operating Aspects), Alderman Leon van Wyk, and Jannie Koegelenberg (Director of Civil Engineering Services).



At the switching on of a High Mast light in Ellen Vena Street, Lawaaikamp are from left Cllr Vulindlela Mruqhli, Ward Councillor for Ward 7, Bongani Mandla, previous Director: Electrotechnical Services, Mayor Leon van Wyk, Cllr Nosicelo Mbete, Portfolio Councillor for Electrotechnical Services and Fleet Management and Edward Nqumse from Electrotechnical Services doing the switch on.

## Safety considered with high mast light installations - Borchersds, Lawaaikamp and Parkdene

George Mayor, Ald Leon van Wyk and councillors as well as officials happily ignored the rainy weather while out and about to officially switch on three of a total of 12 High Mast lights which have been installed in the Borchersds, Lawaaikamp and Parkdene area.



At the switching on of a High Mast light in Nel Street, Borchersds are Mayor Leon van Wyk and Cllr Nosicelo Mbete, Portfolio Councillor for Electrotechnical Services and Fleet Management.

High Mast lights were put up in Nel Street, Borchersds, Ellen Vena Street, Lawaaikamp and in Circular Drive, Parkdene. Ald Van Wyk said the high mast lights that were installed in the Borchersds, Lawaaikamp and Parkdene areas will serve to improve the security of the communities and will give light over an area of about a 50-to-60-meter radius. He said he hopes every person in those communities now will feel safer with these installations that switch on independently as soon as it gets dark.

Ald Basil Petrus, Ward Councillor for Ward 8, thanked all involved for putting up the high mast lights and with this giving a helping hand to combat crime. He said it will also assist the community to keep a close eye on cable theft and vandalism of the Municipality’s resources and property.

According to Bongani Mandla, previous Director for Electrotechnical Services, the main purpose of these

installations is to address inadequate area lighting, as some of these high-density areas had low to no lighting. “The absence of adequate lighting often leads to high risk associated with safety at night as well as potentially increased criminal activities. The George Municipality submitted several funding requests to address this very need and was ultimately successful in securing funding approval from the Municipal Infrastructure Grant (MIG) for the installation”, Mandla said.

Another four High Mast lights are in the process of being installed and switched on in Parkdene, two more in Borchersds and three in the Lawaaikamp area, which will mark a total of 30 High Masts installed in the past few months.

Mandla said his plea is for the community to continue to protect this essential infrastructure against theft and vandalism for the greater good of the community.

# Gwaiing Wastewater Treatment Works Upgrade

The Gwaiing Wastewater Treatment Works current upgrade is nearing completion and it involves maximising and upgrading the existing structures’ capacities to increase the design flow capacity from 7.3 megalitres per day to 11 megalitres per day.

The works is located next to the landfill site adjacent to the old airport road, and is already at full capacity. Substantial development has already taken place within the drainage area. Proposals for further rapid development in this area are

under review, and a process was started in October 2020 to prepare a plan for the incremental upgrade at the Gwaiing Wastewater Treatment Works to cater for current and future development. The provisional capacity extension plan was finalised in 2021 already, and a contractor was appointed in April 2022 for the current Phase 1A for approximately R24 million.

According to Jannie Koegelenberg, Director: Civil Engineering Services, “This current phase will add much needed capacity to address the short-term flow

requirements until the next phase of the capacity extension can be implemented.”

He said a master plan for the Gwaiing Wastewater Treatment Works is in process to plan for the incremental expansion of the works to meet the medium term (28MI/day) and long term (50MI/day) requirements. This allows the Municipality to plan and budget timeously as demand increases. It is anticipated that the next phase of the upgrading of the works will commence in 2024/25, subject to funding availability.



New Motor Control panel to control new equipment at plant.

# High mast lights switched on in Thembalethu

**Ald Leon van Wyk and councillors as well as Municipal Manager, Dr Michele Gratz, officially switched on two of a total of 18 High Mast lights which have been installed in the Thembalethu area.**

High Mast lights were put up on the corner of Balfour and Ntaka Streets, Zone 1 as well as in Asazani, Silvertown in Thembalethu.

The main purpose of these installations is to address inadequate area lighting, as some of these high-density areas had low to no lighting.

“The absence of adequate lighting often leads to high risk associated with safety at night as well as potentially increased criminal

activities. George Municipality submitted several funding requests to address this very need and ultimately became successful in securing funding approval from the Municipal Infrastructure Grant (MIG) for the installation of 30 High Mast lights within 6 months”, said Dr Gratz.

The 18 High Mast lights installed and switched on in Thembalethu are part of the first phase project of a total of 30 High Mast lights, with the remaining lights being allocated as follows: five to Parkdene, four to Lawaakamp and three to Borchersds. The MIG total allocation of R17 million was supplemented with R2 million of municipal own funding.



At the switching on of a High Mast light are from left Edward Nqumse, Acting Manager: Services at Electrotechnical Services; Dr Michele Gratz, Municipal Manager; Cllr Nosicelo Mbetse, Portfolio Councillor for Electrotechnical Services and Fleet Management; Mayor Leon van Wyk doing the switch-on, Cllr Thandiswa Qatana, Bongani Mandla, previous Director for Electrotechnical Services and Christian Steyn from MDL Engineering Projects.



Front row, from left: Martin Botha (Town Planner); James Vollenhoven (Assistant Building Control Officer); Delia Power (Deputy Director: Planning and Environment), Fakazile Vava (Town Planner), and Eddie Koeberg (Assistant Building Control Officer).

Back row, from left: Luthando Fatyela (Assistant Building Control Officer), Priscilla Burgoyne (Environmental Officer, also accredited EMI), Clinton Petersen (Senior Manager: Town Planning), Lauren Waring (Director: Human Settlements, Planning & Development and Property Management), Fickerie Toyer (Manager: Building Control), Khuliso Mukhovha (Town Planner), Robert Janse van Rensburg (Town Planner), absent Robin Hector (Assistant Town Planner); Mkhululi Nyeka (Assistant Building Control Officer); and Stephen Saunders (Building Control Officer).

## Eleven officials successfully complete training as peace officers

**Congratulations were in order when 11 officials from the Town Planning and Environmental Management Division as they received their certificates of proficiency for completing their training as Peace Officers in terms of the Criminal Procedure Act, 1977 (Act 51 of 1977).**

According to the George Municipality’s Director of Human Settlement, Planning and Development and Property Management, Lauren Waring, Section 334 of the Criminal Procedure Act 1977 (Act 51 of 1977) allows the Minister of Justice to declare certain categories of people to be peace officers, with certain powers.

“A peace officer may exercise his or her powers in the area of jurisdiction of the local authority, who made the appointment. A peace officer may also exercise some of his or her powers on “public premises under the control of the local authority which appointed him,” Waring said.

“These Peace Officers are responsible for enforcing approved municipal bylaws relevant to their departments as well as the National Building Regulations. The bylaws applicable include, but are not limited to land use planning by-laws, zoning scheme bylaws, building regulations and related building control bylaws, outdoor advertising bylaws and environmental legislation. Once these officials received SAPS clearance,

they will be sworn in by the SAPS Commissioner.”

Waring added: “The appointment of peace officers is one of the priorities the Directorate identified to improve the efficiency in the management of land development activities. This goes hand in hand with an application for approval of fines as submitted to the Chief Magistrate, as well as 5 additional posts to be filled by the end of the year to raise the capacity of the departments to enforce the planning and construction-related by-laws.”

Illegal land use and construction activities negatively impact municipal services at the expense of the law-abiding citizen. Landowners who engage in illegal activity act irresponsibly by not allowing the municipality to

exercise oversight over their activities and protect the public interest.

The municipality spends more than R7 million per annum on redressing illegal activity, which adds to the losses these perpetrators incur on the municipal coffers. The Directorate is committed to its task of ensuring quality living environments and fiscal sustainability is upheld. The work of these Peace Officers will contribute to the achievement of this objective.

Citizens are encouraged to report suspected illegal land use and construction activities by using the My

“These Peace Officers are responsible for enforcing approved municipal bylaws relevant to their departments.”

## Women’s Day event with entrepreneurship as a theme

**George Municipality Gender and Disability subsection, Community Development Directorate held a women’s day event recently with 241 women in attendance at the Conville Community Centre with entrepreneurship as a theme.**

According to Ejustley Boshoff, Coordinator of the Gender and Disability subsection, the objectives were to network, motivate and give woman access to information to start their own businesses, to become entrepreneurs.

Boshoff said they’ve had a few success stories coming from the event with unemployed women that were linked with other entrepreneurs that will assist them in future with their ventures and give them opportunities that will provide possible employment.

South Africa commemorates Women’s Month as a tribute to the thousands of remarkable women who marched to the Union Building in Pretoria in 1956. They protested the Pass Law and the restriction of movement for people of colour. Organisations and individuals give tribute to the pioneers of the women’s movements, women in leadership positions and businesswomen.



Ejustley Boshoff, Dolphina Lamprecht with flowers she received at the event, and Cllr Thandiswa Qatana.



Carly Adams, Angelique Vezasie, Sorica Campher, Ejustley Boshoff, Cllr Thandiswa Qatana, Ennie Mudau, Nozipho Stone and Estelle Fredericks at the Women’s Day event at the Conville Civic

# Wêreld Hawelose Dag

George Munisipaliteit het 'n byeenkoms vir hawelose mense gehou ter viering van Wêreld Hawelose Dag. Die doel van die byeenkoms was om mense wat op die straat bly, moed in te praat en hoop te gee vir die toekoms.

Die program is aangebied deur George Munisipaliteit se Gemeenskapsontwikkelingsafdeling in samewerking met , Cremhog (Christian Rehabilitation Ministries to the Homeless of George), die Provinsiale Departement van Gemeenskapsontwikkeling, Youth for Christ Kidstop, Stop Trafficking en SAHARA (Smoking & Alcohol Harms Alleviation & Rehabilitation Association).

Estelle Botha-Fredericks, Maatskaplike Hulpwerker in Gemeenskapsontwikkeling, het met 'n kersseremonie die hawelose mense geleentheid gegee om diegene in herinnering te bring wat afgesterf het terwyl hulle haweloos was.

Andre Olivier van Cremhog het gesê luidens die 2022 sensus is daar 55 000 hawelose mense in Suid-Afrika. Hy sê dit beteken 1 uit elke 1000 mense is haweloos en daar is is op die oomblik ongeveer 200 mense wat haweloos is, in George.

Olivier het almal gevra om hul samewerking te gee by Cremhog en ook met voorstelle te kom oor hoe die organisasie hul lewens kan verbeter.

Jonathan Fortuin van Gemeenskapsontwikkeling, George Munisipaliteit het die hawelose mense aangemoedig deur



die vraag te vra. "Is jy haweloos omdat jy nie 'n dak oor jou kop het nie, of is jy haweloos omdat jy nie 'n droom het nie?"

Fortuin het die mense uitgedaag om te droom en te werk aan 'n beter toekoms, want daar is hulp.

Hy het benadruk dat nie net sekere mense gebroke, seer of hopeloos is nie, maar selfs mense wat mooi aangetrek is of wat 'n glimlag op die gesig het.

Hy het ook gevra dat die hawelose mense help om George te beveilig en skoon te hou. "Besoeke moet in die aand in die Stad kan rondloop, ongedeerd. Hulle moet kan teruggaan na hul tuistes en wonder wat doen George anders dat hulle nie geroof is nie," het Fortuin verder gesê.

Die hawelose mense het al as deel van die byeenkoms 'n warm bord kos gekry en broodnige toiletware.



Estelle Botha-Fredericks steek 'n kers aan in herinnering aan diegene wat oorlede is terwyl hulle op straat geleef het.



From left to right: Magmooda Sylvester (Sommer-Net-Ons-ATKV representative), Desmonique Hector (Current Youth Peer Educator), Mrs Loraine Carolus (Pacaltsdorp Primary School -PPS), Jonel Kerspuys (George Municipality)

## International Literacy Day

International Literacy Day (ILD) was celebrated by the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO) on 08 September 2023, with the reminder that literacy is a basic human right and a necessary foundation for learning.

To commemorate the ILD, the George Municipality's Youth Development Division Section, in association with the Sommer-Net-Ons- ATKV branch, provides support at the Pacaltsdorp Primary School (PPS) to learners to help them read better to have a greater understanding of what they are learning.

This takes place through the supportive role provided by one of the Youth Expanded Public Works Programme (EPWP) Peer Educators to the ATKV at the school. The aim of the pro-

gramme is to create a love for reading amongst the learners. The Sommer-Net-Ons-ATKV branch trains these young people, for them to provide effective support at the school. Two of the previous Youth EPWP Peer Educators, have been absorbed by PPS, after their contracts as Municipal Youth Peer Educators expired.

International Literacy Day (ILD) celebrations have taken place annually around the world Since 1967, to remind the public of the importance of literacy as a matter of dignity and human rights, and to advance the literacy agenda towards a more literate and sustainable society. UNESCO is a specialized agency of the United Nations aimed at promoting world peace and security through international cooperation in education, arts, sciences and culture.

## Rural Got Talent Show Finals

The Rural Got Talent Show finale was held recently to showcase the different talents of the Uniondale and Haarlem youth. Christal Jansen (Youth Development Office Coordinator: Uniondale), said that the judges chose one winner, Clark October from Haarlem for his brilliant performance in spiritual dancing and three runners up.

The first runner up was Johané Beukes from Uniondale for her Amapiano dancing. Second was Schouran Cornelius from Haarlem for his rap styling and third was Admonique Damons from Uniondale for contemporary dancing.

All of the winners received stationery gift sets sponsored by the Youth Development office of George Municipality.

Jansen said there are rarely activities held in these

towns for youngsters and often peer pressure leads to substance abuse.

"The competition was a way for the youth to express their emotions as many deal with difficult life and home situations," Jansen said. She said most of the youth involved in the competition were grateful for the opportunity. Jansen thanked the communities of Uniondale and Haarlem who supported the competition. She said without an audience the competition would not have been possible. She asked the rest of the community to please support their programmes and in turn support the youth.

For more information regarding youth programmes in Uniondale and Haarlem, phone Jansen of Robyn Parks on 044 752 1024.

